

Takoma Park

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

NEWSLETTER

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June 2004

Community Center Saga: What Changed and Why

By Larry Rubin

Although many Takoma Park residents are raising funds to complete the City's Community Center, the planned building does not include features that persuaded community groups to give it the go-ahead in the first place. But the price tag has gone from \$6.7 million to \$8 million-plus.

What's more, when it cut back the center, the City Council did not initiate widespread discussions of the type that led to the original design.

Among the linchpins of the plan that captivated community groups after almost two years of sometimes acrimonious and divisive meetings were a proposed gymnasium, which has now been put on hold, and a Takoma Park-style Victorian façade that will now be only partially completed.

Also cut for now is an outdoor plaza and landscape configurations to protect residents of the adjacent Hodges Heights neighborhood from being unduly disturbed. The planned parking area has been down-sized, and Community and Government Liaison

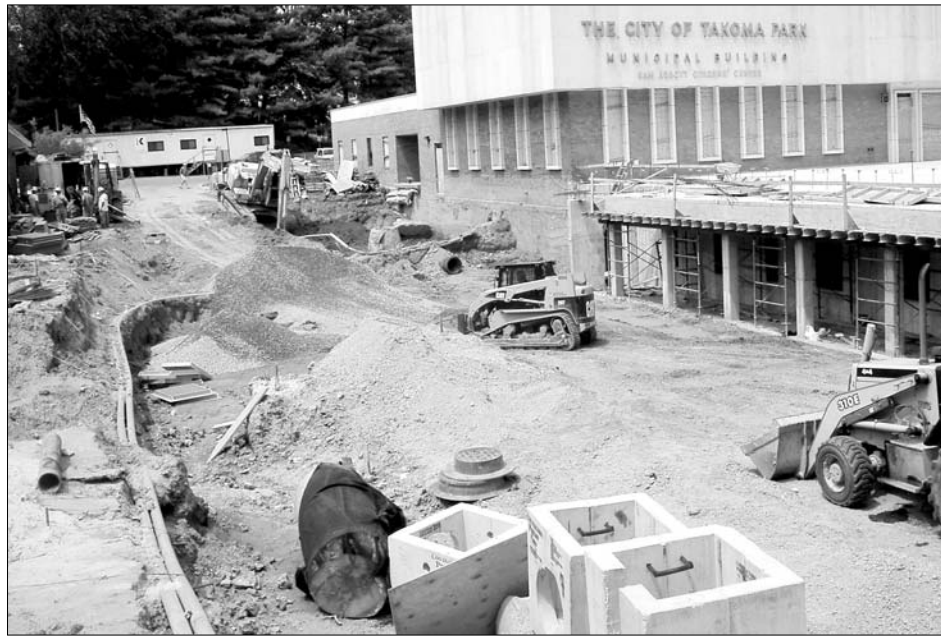


Photo by Clyde Lassell

The Municipal Building on its way to becoming the Community Center.

Suzanne Ludlow reports that if the new community center were to be fully utilized at any one time, cars could easily overflow into nearby streets. Instead of being moved downstairs, holding cells for police department prisoners will

remain on the same floor as space set aside for community activities.

All these cuts, and more, will stand until some \$3.5 million to \$6 million can be found over and above the currently budgeted \$8 million.

I served on the City Council during the stormy years of community consensus building. To find out what changed since then and why, I re-read hundreds of pages of documents and spoke with many City leaders. I discovered that the City Council was not technically obligated to use other than routine procedures to make drastic changes to the Community Center.

As to why we're now paying more for less, the short answer is: the City Council has been under the gun to complete the project within budget while facing rising costs and the necessity to pay big bucks for additional construction because the Municipal Building sits in a floodplain – a factor overlooked in the original plans.

In the Beginning

For a more complete answer, we have to start at the beginning:

In the fall of 1998, as he does every year, State Delegate Peter Franchot asked the Takoma Park city manager if the City wanted to go after state funds for anything. He said he was optimistic

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Is Controversial CVS Sign Dead, or Just Dormant?

By Diana Hoover

A controversial CVS sign at 100 Carroll Street, N.W., has been turned off since Jan. 20 – but will it be turned back on one of these days? The CVS Corp., based in Woonsocket, R.I., is not saying.

Mike DeAngelis, a CVS corporate spokesperson, told the *Newsletter* May 14, "I understand the red illuminated sign has been turned off." Asked whether the giant retail pharmacy operator was considering changing the sign permanently, DeAngelis said, "It

is discussed regularly, but we have not made a decision."

A storm of protest greeted the installation in December 2003 of the sign with red scrolling letters advertising store specials. Many Takoma Park and Takoma D.C. neighbors contacted the company, arguing that the flashing sign wasn't an aesthetically pleasing fit in the historic Old Town business district. The Takoma Park City Council adopted a resolution in February asking "that CVS be a good neighbor by permanently removing the above-referenced sign."

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Puppets Rise Up for Peace and Justice, Made by Takoma Park Artist/Activist

By Ethan Goffman

A giant, smiling Bill Clinton extending a beefy hand. A 15-foot-long Nike shoe stomping on the U.S. Constitution. A larger-than-life, corporeal embodiment of capitalism. A woman's face caught in a frozen gasp at the horror of war, taken from Picasso's *Guernica*. These are only a few of the oversize puppets made in Takoma Park, in a driveway on Beech Ave., by puppeteer and activist Nadine Bloch.

Prominent in demonstrations around the country, the puppets' latest Washington appearance was this April, in the

March for Women's Lives and the anti-World Bank/IMF protests. Towering above the crowd, they appeared as goddesses in a rainbow of colors: blue for water, green for agriculture, and red, yellow and military-dress for justice.

As a peace and justice activist, Bloch explains, "You want to figure out ways of making your message accessible and understandable and welcoming and fun to people." And giant puppets are ideal tools for street theater, for crystallizing complex issues into visual symbols. Bloch explains that the arts provide "a better chance of getting people to understand your message, especially when it involves very complex messages, global trade and corporate greed and poisoning our environment and the connections between all these."

Bloch has been creating puppets for protests for so long that she cannot remember when she made the first one. Maybe there is no single moment. She began some 20 years ago working with the Bread and Puppet Theater of Vermont, which started the contemporary use of large puppets as political theater.

A notable moment in Bloch's evolution as a puppet maker occurred in

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CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JUNE 1 - PRESENTATION, INTERVIEWS, PUBLIC HEARING, SPECIAL SESSION & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

Public Hearing:

- Proposed FY05 Budget

MONDAY, JUNE 7 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARING, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Resolution recognizing Senator Ida Ruben for her support of the Community Center

- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

Public Hearing:

- CDBG Outreach

TUESDAY, JUNE 8 - Tree Commission Meeting / Hearing (Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.)

MONDAY, JUNE 14 - PRESENTATION, SPECIAL SESSION & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

THURSDAY, JUNE 17 - Meeting of the Noise Board (Municipal Building Council Chambers at 7 p.m.)

MONDAY, JUNE 21 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARING, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

Public Hearing:

- Speed Hump Request - Elm Avenue

SUNDAY, JUNE 27 through WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30 - City Council attending Annual Maryland Municipal League (MML) Convention

Vacancies on Council-Appointed Committees

Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA). The 12-member commission is empowered to adjudicate and mediate complaints for violations of Chapter 6, Housing, Article 4, Landlord-Tenant Relations; to rule on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and to decide appeals from the City Manager's decision to deny, suspend or revoke a rental housing license. One term (expires 6/30/05); one term (expires 6/30/06).

Facade Advisory Board. The 7-member board provides design and historic advisory assistance for building and business owners located in the commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides recommendations to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission regarding permit applications. Two terms (expire 4/30/07).

Free Burma Committee. The 7-member committee is charged with overseeing implementation of and adherence to the Free Burma Act. Three terms (expire 3/31/05); three terms (expire 3/31/06).

Noise Control Board. The 7-member board is charged with assisting and advising the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance, and adjudicating noise disturbance complaints. One term (expires 3/31/05).

Nuclear Free Committee. The 7-member committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the Nuclear-Free Zone Act. Two terms (expire 3/31/05); one term (expires 3/31/06).

Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee. The 12-member committee is charged with providing input and advice to the Council and the City's public safety agencies about how the City can better meet the ongoing needs and concerns of residents in the area of police services and public safety. Two terms (expire 9/30/04); two terms (expire 9/30/05).

Safe Roadways Committee. The new 7-member committee advises the City on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic, and transit services. Two terms (expire 9/30/05); two terms (expire 9/30/06); two terms (expire 9/30/07).

Interested applicants are encouraged to send a letter of interest and résumé or statement of qualifications to the City Clerk Cathy Waters at 7500 Maple Ave. or via e-mail to cathyw@takomagov.org. Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk at 301-891-7206.



To receive a copy of the legislation or to learn more about a particular resolution, contact Cathy Waters, the City Clerk, at 301-891-7206 or cathyw@takomagov.org.

Monday, April 26 - Regular Meeting:

Resolution #2004-14 was adopted unanimously, expressing condolence to the family and friends of Lenore Robinson (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-15 was adopted unanimously, recognizing the 2004 Municipal Government Week (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Monday, May 3 - Special Session:

Resolution #2004-16 was adopted unanimously, recognizing former Old Town business owner Travis Price (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Monday, May 10 - Regular Meeting:

Resolution #2004-17 was adopted unanimously, establishing a Community Outreach Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Single Reading Ordinance #2004-11 was adopted unanimously, as amended, authorizing a contract for design and engineering services for the Gateway/Wayfinder System Project (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Walk the Walk With Councilmember Bruce Williams

Join Councilmember Bruce Williams and the City Council for a Ward 3 Council Walk on Sunday, June 6, 3-5 p.m. Ward 3 residents: watch for flyers describing the exact route, or check the City's Web page for more details.

The Council Walks create an opportunity for the Council to see, first-hand, issues being faced by the community. Residents are encouraged to meet the Council at any point along the route, and join them for the walk to discuss concerns and suggestions they would like to have addressed by the City.

For further information contact Jessie Carpenter, assistant city clerk, 301-891-7267.

Got Electronic Stuff to Recycle? Save This Date: October 2

The City will host an electronics recycling event Saturday, Oct. 2 – so mark the date in your calendar. Accepted items will include computers, monitors, scanners, keyboards, modems, laptops, televisions, typewriters, fax and answering machines, phones, VCR's, radios, stereos and tape players. Most electronic equipment contains potentially hazardous metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium and chromium. These materials need to be handled properly and not released into the environment.

The event is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The time and location may change. The *Newsletter* and City Web page will have event information posted several months prior to the event.

If you have any questions, contact Daryl Braithwaite, 301-891-7615 or daryl@takomagov.org.

COLTA's Corner

By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently decided on a rent increase petition decision that was appealed to the circuit court and remanded back to COLTA.

8213 Roanoke Avenue (2002-39L)

On April 16, COLTA issued a written decision on an appealed rent increase petition that the landlord is authorized to take rent increases on all units (11) ranging from \$38.36 to \$61.03 for capital improvements to the property. COLTA ordered that the landlord shall refund any and all capital improvement rent increases collected from the tenants from 8/1/02 - 3/7/03 and that the increases shall not be effective until the first of the month following the date the landlord refunded any such rents collected. COLTA also ordered that these rent increases be consistent with each



tenant's lease. COLTA further ordered that the landlord shall provide written accounting to the Commission of the rents collected from the tenants and any refunds pursuant to the petition between 8/1/02 and 3/7/03.

Tool Librarian Muses On Tools and What They Mean

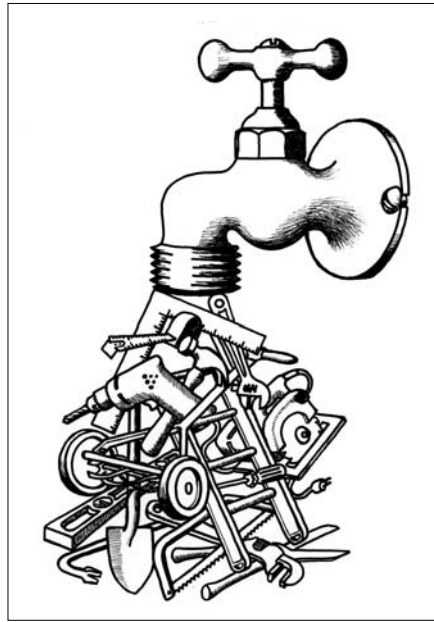
By Walt Rave
Tool Librarian

When I was young and first moved away from home, one of the many decisions I had to face was what tools to have on hand, now that I no longer had access to my dad's well-equipped shop. Even though I lived in a cramped efficiency, I still assembled things, and had the occasional toaster that stopped working. Additionally, I always liked enhancing (modifying) existing products so they either looked neater or worked better or both.

So what tools are to be chosen so that you are not helpless when the first thing breaks down or just needs adjustment? When I look back over the years as to what I have needed over and over as well as what I have lent out, the answer comes to these:

Twelve-foot tape measure; circuit tester light; straight (cross cut) saw; hacksaw; block plane; 3/4 inch wood chisel; small Phillips head screwdriver; medium #2 Phillips head screwdriver; medium flat blade screwdriver; six-inch

adjustable wrench; seven-inch vise grips; claw hammer; channel lock pliers; medium file; 3/8 inch electric drill;



Drawing by Walt Rave

1/8 inch through 3/8 inch twist drill bits; four-inch C-clamps; needle-nose pliers; electric wire cutters.

Things like adjustable wrenches, screwdrivers, and vise grips might reside in your motor vehicle since the likelihood of something coming loose on a vibrating vehicle is pronounced. Bicycles need frequent attention too.

Incidentally, terms like "Channel Locks" or "Vise Grips", though being company names, are generally applied to any groove joint pliers, or compound action locking pliers respectively. It's the same thing as calling any photocopied papers "Xeroxed."

Some tools can be gratifying in bringing out your artfulness. Various electric drill attachments, a belt sander, or a moto-tool are great in this way. A moto-tool especially responds to any "English" that you put on it. I can't think of a tool that more does than that one does when you apply "English." Though there are different brands of moto-tools, they all tend to be called Dremel-tool due to the prominence of the manufacturer. Literally hundreds of bit styles are available for this device, enabling you to grind, sand, drill, or mill. The only drawback is that it all

happens on a rather small scale. For me, the simple list of tools I've given you was just the start. They were the seeds. Things kept coming up where I needed more and more electric tools. Also, in time, I wanted to do heavier duty stuff—stuff where the mass of the material was greater and the end product was more substantial. Tools became indispensable. What they enabled me to do largely defined who I was. They gave me a can-do attitude where I could make almost anything. The physical world that surrounds me was subject to my whims. That is power.

A degree of such a healthy attitude can belong to you, or at least the independence from just throwing something out and buying a new one (which is probably not as well made as the old one).

But be very clear: The person who keeps things going or makes them in the first place will never enjoy society's respect. But with the use of some tools and an inquisitive mind, he or she will know down deep inside who is worthy of respect.

Community Center Saga: Massive Citizen Involvement

Continued from page 1

tic about the availability of funds for centers to serve youth.

City officials shot back a request for a combination gymnasium and computer lab. They knew the gym in the basement of the Takoma Park Fire Station would be permanently closed due to an unsafe ceiling and that many community groups were calling for a lab where Takoma Park kids could sharpen their computer skills after school.

A short time later, the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee conducted focus groups across the City that reported an acute need for youth educational and recreational activities in Takoma Park. The same conclusion was reached by participants in community meetings held by the City Council and almost all city-wide groups.

Later, a survey completed by 535 respondents listed gymnastics, team sports and other youth recreation activities as top City needs, and also cited the need for more senior citizen activities

and more space for community arts and theater programs.

Over the next two years, the state set aside funds totaling \$1.5 million for a Takoma Park community center, and U.S. Representative Al Wynn, who then represented the City, came up with almost \$250,000 in federal funds for a computer lab.

Meanwhile, in 1999, the City established the Community Center Steering Committee with some 100 volunteers. Among other subcommittees, the group set up one that discussed the location and design of a possible center and another that explored whether or not there were already enough area facilities to meet the needs identified by residents groups.

Where to Put It

Ray Scannell, a long-time coach of youth sports, was an active member of the Existing Facilities subcommittee. He recalls: "We investigated the many county public school gyms in our area

and confirmed that there were many constraints to using them for City purposes, and that the constraints were not likely to change in the near future."

For example, the county insisted that the needs of Takoma Park were no more important than the needs of any other group, so it could not guarantee City youngsters time to use county gyms—even if the City paid. And paying for all the time needed would be a "budget-buster," according to Scannell.

In fact, no area facility—county or private—could guarantee Takoma Park the time or space needed by its youth. "And we also needed space for senior citizen activities, arts programs and computer-learning classes," said Scannell.

In the end, the Community Center Steering Committee unanimously urged the City Council to make "every reasonable effort" to build a community center. The committee also voted 14 to 3 that a multi-purpose gym should be included.

The most contentious challenges facing the Steering Committee were finding a spot for the center and assuring an attractive appearance. The Location and Design subcommittee identified 23 evaluation criteria, settled on 11 possible sites, and explored the idea of splitting the project between two separate locations.

To aid the subcommittee, the City Council hired an architectural design firm. Its plans for free-standing structures—the most feasible with a price tag of \$4.5 million—became the center of debates that swirled around Takoma Park for almost two years. A citizens group, the Green Team, vigorously

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Call 301-891-7101, ext. 5678 with delivery complaints.

To contact the editor e-mail: tpnewseditor@takomagov.org

Community Development Block Grants: It's Time to Apply

The City is accepting proposals for the use of funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Proposal applications can be obtained from the City's Economic and Community Development Department in the Municipal Building. The deadline for submitting Program Year 31 applications is 5 p.m. Aug. 30. For more information call 301-891-7232 or visit the ECD Web page at <http://207.176.67.2/ecd.index.html>

The CDBG program aims to develop viable communities by funding activities that provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. Grants are awarded to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improving community facilities and services. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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Puppets Rise Up for Peace and Justice

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1991 when "I built a pair of giant women that each had chest plates with a breast and a mastectomy scar" for a breast cancer awareness event. Based on poet Audre Lorde's image of an army of one-breasted women, the puppets were banned from the main stage by the event's organizer, a pharmaceutical company. Today, the head of one of these puppets proudly dominates Bloch's living room.

Making a puppet is a group project, and each puppet is unique. Bloch explains the many factors that go into "deciding what we want to build... an analysis of what the message is, where we want to use it — are we in a shopping mall, are we trying to get it into

Congress, do we want to use it on the street." In Seattle in November, rain is an issue, while if arrest is likely, or a puppet is to be destroyed as a theatrical event, that too is a factor. Also important are "the resources available, whether it's people power, money, time, and energy."

One-breasted women

The actual process of making puppets may involve a clay cast or a wooden frame, as well as one or several layers of papier-mâché. Bloch's giant, one-breasted women were made from a clay mold that turned out numerous copies for different events. Recent puppets, not meant for multiple uses, have been made with a cardboard frame. Bloch also attempts to use recycled and

environmentally friendly materials.

This preference reflects Bloch's long involvement with environmental organizations, particularly Greenpeace. While she remembers being an artistic child, it was in the environmental movement that her interests in art and activism merged. Previously, she had piloted inflatable rafts and scaled buildings—including the Sears Tower—to protest environmental destruction. In 1990 she first moved to Takoma Park to work for Greenpeace as a trainer for non-violent direct action. Currently, she is a freelance consultant, working on education, strategic planning, and creative action development.

In the 1990s, Bloch became increasingly involved with globalization issues. She is quick to point out that it's not globalization, but corporate globalization, that she opposes. And, she explains, "The demonstrations in Seattle against the World Trade Organization only mark the beginning of North Americans' noticing the anti-corporate-globalization struggle. There have been massive protests against organizations like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund for many years, with most of the energy coming from the global south.

tation... because they have to pay back the World Bank loan or the IMF loan at the expense of their social services."

Bloch's work has encountered potent resistance. Several times, police



Photo by Ethan Goffman

Nadine Bloch with her work

For Real Local Baseball, Root for the Thunderbolts

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts are a college-age, wooden-bat baseball team whose players are recruited locally and nationally. They play at the Blair High School Stadium on University Blvd. Five former Thunderbolts players are now in the minor leagues. Players from outside the area stay with host families for the June and July season. All of the team's home games have kids' races, raffles, trivia contests, music and great college baseball in an old fashioned setting. The Thunderbolts are celebrating their fifth season this year.

Home Game Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT
Wednesday, June 2	Bombers
Thursday, June 3	Germantown
Saturday, June 5	Bethesda
Thursday, June 10	Arlington
Friday, June 11	Reston
Wednesday, June 16	Baltimore
Thursday, June 17	Fauquier
Saturday, June 19	Fauquier
Sunday, June 20	Herndon
Thursday, June 24	Bethesda
Friday, June 25	Herndon
Tuesday, June 29	Arlington
Thursday, July 1	TBA
Saturday, July 3	Reston
Friday, July 9	Herndon
Sunday, July 11	Reston
Tuesday, July 13	Bethesda
Thursday, July 15	Baltimore
Friday, July 16	Fauquier
Saturday, July 17	Arlington
Thursday, July 22	Fauquier
Sunday, July 25	Herndon
Wednesday, July 28	Bethesda
Thursday, July 29	Baltimore

All games start at 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium, 51 E. University Blvd., Silver Spring, in the Four Corners Area

Check out the Thunderbolts Web site at www.tbolts.org.

Thunderbolts Baseball Camps

The Thunderbolts are offering two baseball camps for boys and girls ages 8 to 14 on July 6-9 and July 12-16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nolte Local Park, 200 Denver Ave., Silver Spring. Instruction is by Fred Rodriguez, former member of the Chicago Cubs organization, with 25 years of experience conducting camps. For more information check out the Thunderbolts Web site at www.tbolts.org or call Tony Daley at 301-270-5299 or e-mail Daley20@comcast.net.

Police harassment

A giant Trojan horse, dominant at the 2002 globalization protests, was marked, "World Bank Aid, Return to Sender." Bloch explains the significance: "What happens with these poor and impoverished countries is that they're offered this bill of goods, and really what comes along with it is devas-

raids have destroyed the puppets. The year 2000 was the worst, marked by raids in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. "They devastated our resources," Bloch exclaims. "They destroyed puppets, they took our tools, they threw out organic produce, I mean, just ridiculous." Bloch has also had FBI agents watching her house before major protests, albeit friendly ones who

identified themselves. Such measures prompt Bloch to react, "It's interesting that the powers that be are threatened by our what I call paper and spit and string puppets. And I think that one of the reasons is that we're speaking truth to power."

Despite the harassment, and the movement's recent lack of visibility, Bloch believes that "the anti-corporate-globalization movement is winning. We have changed the nature of the dialogue."



WAH Offers Health Workshops

Washington Adventist Hospital will offer two workshops in early June. The first, on back care and achieving relief from back pain, will be held Wednesday, June 2, 7:30 p.m. at the hospital. Advance registration is required: call 1-800-542-5096.

A five-session seminar on learning to believe in yourself: discovering the pathway to happiness, well-being and personal joy, will start on Thursday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. To register, call 1-800-542-5096.

CUC Radio Station WGTS Improves its Geographic Reach

WGTS, the radio station of Columbia Union College, has improved its signal and can now broadcast to a much wider area in and around the Washington region, the college announced recently.

The station, at 91.9 FM, plays inspirational, family-friendly Christian music. The station and the college are affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Station general manager John Konrad said, "The new signal reaches about 2.5 million more listeners than our previous signal, giving us a coverage area with about 4.5 million total people. Based on the calls and e-mails we're getting, we're already adding grateful new listeners from southern Pennsylvania and throughout northern Virginia."

Previously, WGTS had one of the weakest FM signals in the market, reaching only half the Washington metro area. The station's signal was 29,500 watts, but its antenna was only 50 meters above the average terrain. The station's new antenna in Alexandria, Va., is 23,500 watts but is 186 meters high. Konrad explained, "Most people believe that the more power a radio station has the further it covers. However, an FM signal is more like a straight beam, so it is actually the height of the tower that matters most."

WGTS had attempted to increase its coverage area since about 1980. Due to FCC rules, proximity to other frequencies, and contention from other stations, it took until Feb. 26, 2004, to get the go-ahead to flip the switch. Its signal now matches other full-power stations in the region.

Greenhouse Blossoms

Over five years ago, teachers, parents and students at Takoma Park Middle School had a vision...to build a greenhouse at the school. Many in our community and beyond came forward with generous donations of time and funding to make this happen. In addition, the school received grants from Howard University and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Now, on Wednesday, May 26, the school is celebrating this community effort and those who helped to make it happen. The event will take (or will have taken) place at the school, 7611 Piney Branch Rd., from 3 - 4 p.m. For more information call 301-585-5405.

Jazz Countries: Ethnic Improvisations

The 9th annual Takoma Park JazzFest is almost here. Block out Saturday, June 12 on your calendar, and get ready for an intriguing variety of unique jazz styles this year. Held on Lee Jordan Field as well as inside Takoma Park Middle School, Piney Branch Rd., 11 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call 301-439-4902 or check www.tpjazzfest.org

Need a Passport?

Apply now for your passport at the Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
12 noon - 4:30 p.m.

For more information,
call 301-891-7204.

Lenore Robinson, 1944-2004: An Appreciation

On April 19, Takoma Park lost one of its most beloved and dedicated citizens when Lenore Robinson died unexpectedly in her sleep. While most will remember her as the genius behind the Takoma Park Folk Festival of today, she was in truth a dedicated worker for many groups of people. A fundamentally humble person, she would have been surprised and perhaps a bit embarrassed that the City of Takoma Park should pass a resolution to honor her and that her passing should be remarked in so many local papers.

Lenore Naimer was born in Vineland, N.J., in 1944 but spent her childhood in Brooklyn, growing up with her younger sister Bev and cousins who were a close extended family. Family was Lenore's first "community" and would remain of prime importance all her life.

After earning degrees from Brooklyn College and New York University, Lenore taught school in London, in the South Bronx, and in Israel (where her mother had been born). During the 1969 teachers' strike in New York City, she met Larry Robinson on a bus. They were both there to protest the strike as racist. Six months later, they were married and moved to the Washington, D.C., area. After other adventures, including two years on kibbutzim in Israel, Lenore and Larry Robinson both worked at the National Education Association in Washington while raising their two children in Takoma Park. They also pursued other interests: Larry plays guitar, banjo, and mandolin, and Lenore was an enthusiastic folk dancer. They both were part of the Fabrangen Cheder Jewish community.

Survivors include her husband Larry; two children, Shira and Daniel; and a sister, Beverly.

As Sue Romer said at Lenore's funeral, "Lenore loved, *loved*, being part of community. She would facilitate and enable her communities to be useful in any way possible." Lenore worked on many aspects of the Fabrangen Cheder and the Jewish Folk Arts Festival. She worked on the Washington Folk Festival and the Institute of Musical Traditions concert series. She took part in peace vigils and other demonstrations for liberal causes. She enjoyed international folk dance and square and contra dance. She loved her town and her music.

The interests of town and music came together in 1978 when the legendary Mayor Sam Abbott proposed the first Takoma Park Folk Festival to benefit the Takoma Theatre. Larry Robinson was one of the people Abbott called to organize that festival. Larry was well known both as an activist and an accomplished folk musician. That first festival, organized in only six weeks, was a success, netting both cash and publicity to keep the theatre going. That first festival had great music—but no dance. Lenore overcame her shyness to join the committee the next year to make sure the next festival included participatory dance.

Taking perhaps only one year off from 1979 to 2004, Lenore Robinson became increasingly indispensable to the Takoma Park Folk Festival. While her children Shira and Daniel were growing up and she was working for the NEA, Lenore adopted the Folk Festival as another member of her family. When she retired from the NEA, she dedicated even more time to the festival and to making it a permanent part of our town's calendar. For the past two years, Lenore worked nearly full time to organize the festival and to encourage others to participate. She mastered every aspect of festival planning, evolving into program chair, food chair, and finally, chair of the entire festival. In her quiet, self-effacing way, she persuaded untold numbers of people to volunteer their time, talent, and expertise. She kept track of all the details. She inspired everyone to do his or her best, while never attracting attention to herself. She had unlimited tact, patience, and perseverance—and always dedication to the goal of putting on the festival. The Takoma Park Folk Festival grew from one stage and one food booth to seven stages (eight in 2004!), dozens of food vendors and community tables, and thousands of people in joyous attendance each September. Without charging admission, it also raises thousands of dollars for local organizations that benefit youth, continuing the fund-raising-festival tradition that goes right back to the days of Sam Abbott.

Now the Takoma Park Folk Festival team is regrouping in the wake of Lenore's passing. They have vowed that the festival will take place on September 12 as scheduled and that it will be dedicated to Lenore Robinson's memory. Interested people are encouraged to volunteer their time and skills?and what better way to commemorate Lenore and all she believed in than by volunteering for the festival she loved so dearly? The festival has new contact information: voice 301-589-0202, fax: 301-576-5454; info@tpff.org, and www.tpff.org.

— by Kathie Mack



Photo by Bevi Chagnon

Creative Adventure Summer Camp Dates

- Tremendous Trips June 21 - 25
- Week 1 June 28 - July 2
- Week 2 July 6 - 9 (No camp July 5)
- Week 3 July 12 - 16
- Week 4 July 19 - 23
- Week 5 July 26 - 30
- Week 6 August 2 - 6
- Week 7 August 9 - 13

Extreme Horizons Summer Camp Dates

- Week 1 June 28 - July 2
- Week 2 July 6 - 9 (No camp July 5)
- Week 3 July 12 - 16 Overnight Camp
- Week 4 July 19 - 23
- Week 5 July 26 - 30
- Week 6 August 2 - 6
- Week 7 August 9 - 13

Overnight Camping

Grades: 6 - 9 (as of September 2004)

Breakout of the same old summer routine at the Takoma Park Recreation Department's Overnight Camping Adventure. Our staff will accompany the campers where they stay in cabins in the woods. Activities include: swimming, hiking, fishing, team building, sports, field trips and much more! Space is limited so sign up early.

When: July 12 - 16 (Week 3)
 Location: Camp Summit Lake in Emmitsburg
 Fee: \$200 (includes all meals, activities and transportation)



Summer 2003 camper

Tremendous Trips

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September 2004)

Something new is happening this year! Sign up for one trip or register for all. Minimum enrollment must be met.

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Location: Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave.
 Fee: \$20/trip

- June 21 The Water Park and Mini-Golf** in Gaithersburg
- June 22 Duckpin Bowling/Roller Skating** in Silver Spring/Rockville
- June 23 Port Discovery/National Aquarium** in Baltimore
- June 24 Jeepers and a Movie** in Greenbelt
- June 25 Splash Down Water Park** in Manassas, Va.

Extreme Horizons

Grades: 6 - 8 (as of September 2004)

Interested in challenging new horizons and exploring your possibilities? At Extreme Horizons, you'll go on three fabulous field trips every week. We've been to Six Flags, tubing, ropes courses, go carts, batting cages, and much more. This year is going to be even more exciting with even more new activities and trips planned. Limited to 26 participants. Fees include camp T-shirt, field trips and special events. Six weeks of day camp, and week #3 is an overnight camp (see below.)

When: Monday - Friday, June 28 - August 13
 Time: Camp Hours, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m. (additional fee)
 After Care: 4 - 6 p.m. (additional fee)

Location: Takoma Park Elementary School, 7511 Holly Ave.

Fees: T.P. City Resident \$160/week for week #3 \$200
 Non-Resident \$175 for week #3 \$200

Fee if paying for entire summer:
 T.P. City Resident \$900 (Not including week #3)
 Non-Resident \$930

Extended Care Options 2004

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: Creative Adventures, Extreme Horizons, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball Camp, Basketball and Soccer Camp.

Fees for before care (7 - 9 a.m.)
 Per Week: T.P. City Resident \$30
 Non-Resident \$35

Fees for after care (4 - 6 pm)
 Per Week: T.P. City Resident \$30
 Non-Resident \$35

Creative Adventures

Grades: 1 - 5 (as of September 04)

Looking for a little adventure this summer? Creative Adventures Summer Camp offers endless opportunities. Each week brings new fun, more adventures and experiences: arts and crafts, games, sports, nature activities, special events, trips like going to a baseball game, Science Center, water park, swimming and much more. We have two locations this year. Seven weeks.

When: Monday - Friday, June 28 - August 13
 Time: Camp Hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Before Care 7 - 9 a.m. (additional fee)
 After Care 4 - 6 p.m. (additional fee)
 Locations: Takoma Park Elementary School, 7511 Holly Ave.

-OR-
 Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
 Fees: City Resident \$100/week
 Non-Resident \$110/week

Fee if paying for entire summer
 T.P. City Resident \$650
 Non-Resident \$700

RECREATION

Boxing Workout

16 and Older

This non-contact course teaches students offense and defense techniques. Learn discipline and gain confidence through a fun, fat-burning, and high-impact cardiovascular workout. Gear is provided. Co-Sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Ten weeks. Instructor, Larry Johnson.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays, June 7 - Aug 11
 Time: 7 - 8 p.m.
 Location: TP Rec. Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave
 Fee: \$70

No class on July 5.

Outdoor Soccer Clinic

Grades: 6 - 8

Knock the ball around a bit at Lee Jordan Field. Reward an overlap with a lovely thru ball. Six sessions.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, June 2 - June 14
 Time: 3:30 - 5 p.m.
 Location: Lee Jordan Field, 7611 Piney Branch Road (behind Takoma Park Middle School)
 Fee: T. P. Resident \$10
 Non Resident \$15

Takoma Park T-Ball Program

K - 1st Grade

We emphasize the fundamentals in this t-ball program. Participants will be assigned to individual teams after registration. Participants will be called by league director or coach after team assignments are made by Thursday, June 3. We need volunteer coaches and parental involvement for this program to succeed. Schedules will be handed out at each field on Saturday, June 5. Eight weeks.

When: Saturdays, June 5 - July 31
 Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.
 Location: Jequie Park, Spring Park, Hodges Field
 Fee: T.P. Resident \$35
 Non Resident \$40

No program July 3.

Fun Day Trip #14

Participants will meet at Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave., and Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. Children may bring non-perishable snacks. Trip is subject to change due to weather; an alternative trip will be planned.

Date: Tuesday, June 15
 Location: Swimming at The Water Park, Gaithersburg
 Time: 1 - 6pm
 Fee: T.P. Resident \$10
 Non-Resident \$15

Counselor-In-Training Program

Grades 9 & 10 (as of September 2004)

The City of Takoma Park will offer it's first Counselor-In-Training Program for young teens interested in gaining knowledge of working with young children, personal growth, leadership and work experience. Students will have the opportunity to learn from professional camp employees at all levels, and learn how to be an effective camp counselor. Fee includes CPR and First Aid certification, on-the-job training, special events, speakers and field trips. Must attend pre-training week and work at least two weeks over the summer. To register, pick up an application at the Recreation Office and return no later than June 1. Minimum of 4/week.

Mandatory Pre-Training: June 21 - 25
 Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Training Location: Municipal Bldg, 7500 Maple Ave.
 On The Job Training: June 28 - August 13
 Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Fee for 2 week commitment: T.P. City Resident: \$150
 Non-Resident \$200

Skate Club — Session II

Improve your Ollie, 360, rail slide, and grind through mini clinics and lessons with local high school skaters. Take field trips to Skate Parks in Gaithersburg, Potomac Mills, Leesburg, Columbia and more. Seven weeks.

When: Saturdays, June 12 - July 31 (No program July 3)
 Time: Times will vary depending on skate site
 Departure: From the Municipal Building
 Fee: T.P. City Resident \$50
 Non-Resident \$60

All participants must pick up an itinerary packet at time of registration.

Tai Chi For Healthier Lives — Session II

Tai Chi helps the weak to become strong. The strong to become gentle. The stiff to become agile and the mind and body to harmonize as one. A long-term commitment will lead to success. Zen Master David Chen at your service. Co-Sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Ten weeks.

Date: Thursdays, July 1 - Sept. 2
 Times: 7 - 8 p.m. Beginners
 8 - 9 p.m. Intermediate
 Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
 Fee: T.P. City Resident \$55
 Non-Resident \$60



Up, Up & Away! Summer Quest 2004

The Summer Quest Rabbit (a.k.a. the SQ Bunny) again heeds the call to adventure, courageously facing danger and surmounting obstacles through the skillful application of reading skills! This summer's expedition will take Takoma Park SQ bunnies climbing through the clouds.

Library assistant and in-house artist Dave Burbank continues his innovative interactive reading game for readers and gamesters for the sixth summer, supported by the friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Here is how the adventure might start.....

Wandering through the carrot patch while walking the dog, you see a most peculiar sight.

Dangling down out of the clouds is a large tube. Now what the heck could that

be? You investigate more closely and hear a rushing noise. Hmmm. You tilt your head back to see where the hose is coming from. It goes up and up and up and disappears into the clouds.

Foop! What was that noise? You glance down only to discover that your pup-dog has been sucked up that hose! You can see a lump in the tube quickly being pulled up and out of sight. Hey! Hey! HEY! He's gone. That does it.

You're going to get your dog back.....

The development of each summer's game has included refinements based on what worked well, or not, the year before.. This year's adventure will be able to be played either interactively, with frequent visits to the Library, or in a more streamlined way for those who will be travelling.

"Feather by Feather"

Bird carvings by Robert A. Wasmer will be on exhibit at the Takoma Park Maryland Library in June.

A Professor of Biology at Columbia Union College, Dr. Wasmer has been carving birds since 1994, specializing primarily in songbirds. His carvings have won awards in competitions at the local, regional and national and international levels, including the Mid-Atlantic Wildfowl and Wildlife Festival in Virginia Beach, and the Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition held in Ocean City, Md. In his carvings, he strives to give outward expressions to his inward awareness of the diversity and beauty of birds.

Library Job Opening

The City Library has an opening, effective on or about July 1 for a part-time library assistant. This is a 20-hour position requiring some evening, weekday and Saturday hours. Includes benefits. Requires a book-oriented individual with an associate's degree or equivalent from an accredited two-year college or technical school, or any combination of training, education and experience which provides skills required to perform essential functions of the job. The preferred candidate will have familiarity with public libraries and computers, will be able to work independently, and will enjoy working with the public.

To apply, send a resume and letter of interest to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Ave., 301-891-7258, ellenr@takomagov.org. This position is open until filled.



LIBRARY PROGRAMS IN JUNE & JULY

Summer Quest 2004

Summer reading program for young readers
June 14 through Labor Day

Summer Session of the Twosies

for two-year-olds with parent/caregiver
group size limited; preregistration
required

Registration opens June 1
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
July 7, 14, 21, 28

Tapestries with Ariana Ross

Tuesday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.
(see story)

Neighborhood Circle Time

Open to all preschoolers & their adults
each Tuesday at 10 a.m.
Informal sing-alongs, poetry, finger games,
and nursery tales.

Occasional participant-leadership necessary
All ages; no preregistration required!

Call 301-891-7259 to preregister for programs or for more information.



Reviewer's Corner...

A Detective Tale of the Old Left

One reason we read is for validation, the reassuring realization that, hey, maybe I'm not so weird after all.

That's how I felt after reading *Just the Way You Want Me*, the second novel by Nora Eisenberg. The story centers on Betsy Vogel, who, just before her 40th birthday, discovers her dead father's body is not where it's supposed to be and sets out on a cross-country mission to find it. Betsy and I don't share that particular problem—fortunately, my parents are exactly where they're supposed to be. Rather, like Betsy, I find myself shockingly close to 40 without a clear plan, somehow still working on stuff that I thought would be settled by, say, 25, or 33, tops. Okay, okay, I know Betsy Vogel's not real, but I nonetheless was relieved to find a novel corresponding to my own mental state.

Even if self-realization isn't your bag, you'll find other reasons to like *Just the Way You Want Me*. For instance, the book taught me a lot about the McCarthy-era Left. Betsy's dad, Sam Vogel, became notorious in the 1950s for refusing to name names before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Eisenberg expertly explores the personal shockwaves of Vogel's principled political decision. Sam becomes a hero to his comrades but destroys his family in the process. Facing yet another stint in jail, Sam goes underground, leaving his family in limbo and increasingly paranoid under constant FBI surveillance.

Betsy doesn't grow up idolizing her absent father's politics. Instead, she craves normality. "The more regular and predictable," Betsy says of other kids' parents, "the more thrilling to me. Throughout childhood, I picked my best friends as much for their parents as for themselves. I favored conventional girls from conventional families, worshiping their sweater sets, their mothers' baking and bridge, their father's accounting and merchandising and dentistry." However, Betsy's abnormal childhood eventually catches up to her and forces her into a cross-country odyssey to unravel her family's secrets.

Just the Way You Want Me starts out a bit predictably by covering some well-traveled territory—the emptiness of hip urban life—so the novel's transformation of super-average Betsy into a super-sleuth comes not a moment too soon. But once the story really got moving, Eisenberg's well-developed characters and descriptions of Lefty life in the 1950s and '60s kept me searching right along with Betsy.

Just the Way You Want Me (207 pages), by Nora Eisenberg, was published in 2003 by The Leapfrog Press, Wellfleet, Mass.

— Steve Albright

Just the Way You Want Me is available at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Steve Albright is a library patron and avid reader, who from time to time reviews fiction for the Library page in the Newsletter.

THE CRIME REPORT

The following is excerpted from the blotter of the Takoma Park Police Department, prepared in part by Capt. George Hubbard, who retired May 1, and in part by Sgt. Richard Cipperly. It is not intended to include all reported crimes and arrests.

Robberies

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On April 20 at 2:34 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim was approached by three subjects while in his car in a parking lot. One subject pointed a handgun at the victim and demanded his wallet. A second subject punched the victim. The victim handed over property. The first subject then entered the victim's vehicle, which was running, and drove away while the other two subjects drove off in a large black SUV. The victim's car was recovered nearby a short time later. The victim was not injured.

Maple Ave., 7500 block: On May 5 at 3:38 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim, a male, was followed into an apartment building hallway by three subjects. Two of the subjects displayed handguns and began beating the victim. They removed property from the victim and fled the scene. The victim did not seek medical attention. One of the subjects may be known to the victim.

Sex Offense

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On April 24 at 12:10 p.m., an indecent exposure occurred. A woman was approached by a man who exposed himself to her before fleeing the scene. The victim was not injured.

Burglaries

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On April 11, between 7:30 p.m. and 10:40 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry to the home was gained by forcing the front door open, damaging the lock. Property was taken.

Carroll Ave., 6900 block: On April 14, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., a commercial burglary occurred. An unknown tool was used to pry open an office door. Property was reported stolen.

Ethan Allen Ave., 600 block: On April 15, between 9:30 a.m. and 5:48 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the home was gained. Property was reported stolen.

Carroll Ave., 6900 block: Between April 16 at 7 p.m. and April 17 at 7:35 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. The front glass door of the business was smashed in order to gain entry. Property was reported stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 6500 block: Between April 16 at 5 p.m. and April 17 at 7:36 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A rear glass door was smashed in order to gain entry. Cash was reported stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block: On April 22 at 3:10 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. The front door of the home was forced open, damaging the frame, in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Houston Court, 8200 block: Between April 23 at 10:45 p.m. and April 24 at 8:30 a.m., an attempted residential burglary occurred. A door of the home was damaged in the attempt.

Flower Ave., 7600 block: On April 24 at 4:17 p.m. in the 7600 block of Flower Avenue, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unlocked door. Property was taken.

Ethan Allen Ave., 400 block: On April 26, between 10 a.m. and 4:35 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A window pane in the front door of the home was broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block: On April 26, between 6:30 a.m. and 11 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A door of the residence was forced open. Property was taken.

Flower Ave., 8200 block: On May 6, between 6:40 a.m. and 4:40 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the apartment was gained. Property was stolen.

Auto and Related Theft

Maple Ave., 7500 block: Between April 11 at 9 p.m. and April 12 at 10 p.m., a 1995 Mazda 626 was stolen.

Maple Ave., 7700 block: Between April 13 at 9 p.m. and April 14 at 6:30 a.m., a 1999 Mazda 626 was stolen.

Hilton Ave., 7200 block: Between April 22 at 9:50 a.m. and April 25 at 4:10 p.m., a 1994 Honda Accord was stolen.

Beech Ave., 400 block: Between April 25 at 12 noon and April 26 at 5:10 a.m., a 1994 Honda Accord was stolen.

Circle Ave. and Cockerill Ave. intersection: Between April 27 at 11 p.m. and May 1 at 3 p.m., the driver's side door lock of a 1986 Honda Acura was damaged in an unsuccessful auto theft attempt.

ARRESTS

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On April 11 at 5:10 a.m., traffic citations were issued to an adult male for driving under the influence of alcohol, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, displaying a registration plate issued to another, unauthorized display and use of registration plates, driving an uninsured vehicle and negligent driving. The subject was stopped after officers witnessed him driving erratically.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On April 16 at 12:25 p.m., an adult female was charged with destruction of property. A subsequent computer check produced an open warrant from Montgomery County for failure to appear in court.

Carroll Ave. and Philadelphia Ave.: On April 20 at 9:20 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with theft over \$500, auto theft, unauthorized use of a vehicle and false statement.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On April 27 at 2:30 p.m., an adult female was arrested and charged with theft after a merchant reported a shoplifting.

Ethan Allen Ave. and Woodland Ave.: On April 29 at 9:34 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence.

Piney Branch Road, 7600 block: On May 1 at 9:49 p.m., three male juveniles were arrested when officers responded to an alarm and found them inside a school, attempting to exit with school property. Each was charged with 2nd degree burglary, malicious destruction of property and theft over \$500.



The Firehouse Report

As of April 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 364 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 815 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,179 incidents this year. Totals for 2003 were 439 and 813 respectively, for a total of 1,252, representing a decrease of 73 incidents.

Free Visual Smoke Alarms

The Takoma Park VFD still has them available. Please check with your relatives, friends and neighbors who may be hearing-impaired and who could use a free visual smoke alarm. If so, please contact Joe Coyne at the firehouse: 301-270-8209. In the interest of your safety.

It's a fact...

Working Smoke Alarms and an Escape Plan Go Together.

Blood Donors...We Thank You!

On behalf of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Takoma Park Lions Club, we want to thank all of you who donated to our April 26 Blood Drive. A total of 22 pints were collected. Thanks to the following for their assistance: Stan Herrmann and Dave Hooker, TPVFD; and Ray and Doris Messick, Keith Van Ness and Gloria Mitton, Takoma Park Lions Club.

Free CPR Training Available

The Takoma Park VFD will soon be offering free CPR training classes for the citizens of Takoma Park. If interested, please contact the Recreation Department to sign up. Classes will be limited to 15 students.

Safety Tips for the Seniors

Falls Prevention - Protect Yourself Indoors and Outdoors

- Use the highest allowable wattage bulbs in all light fixtures and lamps.
- Never walk into a dark room; all rooms should have a light switch or lamp by the door.
- Be able to reach a light switch or lamp from bed or a favorite chair. Have a flashlight nearby.
- Use light-colored or reflector tape on stair treads. Textured tape helps prevent slips.
- Have light switches at each end of stairs.
- Secure scatter rugs with double-sided tape or tacks, especially in the kitchen and bath.
- Run electrical cords against walls, and never under rugs or across doorways.
- Only carry what you can safely carry.
- In bedrooms, look out for scattered clothing, shoes and blankets or untucked sheets.
- Wear well-fitted slippers or shoes with non-slip soles. Knitted slippers have less traction.
- Watch for slick sidewalks.
- Wipe up spills right away. Use detergent to cut greasy residue.
- Use a sturdy step stool with handrails to reach high cabinets. Long tongs help reach high items.
- Keep walkways, especially stairs, clear of toys, magazines, newspapers, or yard and garden equipment.

Takoma Park Lions Club

Congratulations to Edna Fiske!



At the April 20 Takoma Park Lions Club dinner, Edna Fiske of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary was presented with the 2003 Takoma Park Lions Club Member of the Year.

Edna has been an active member of the auxiliary for 57 years, most of those years serving as the auxiliary's president. When there is a department event, i.e., membership meeting, Fourth of July parade or picnic, you'll find her there assisting with the preparing and serving of food.

Don't Take a Vacation From Safety

Making vacation plans for the coming summer months? Put property protection tips on your "to do" list as you get ready for any outing, whether a weekend in the country or a week at the beach.

- Get an automatic timer for at least two lights and a radio to create an appearance of occupancy.
- Either stop delivery of newspapers and mail, or arrange for a neighbor to pick-up and hold these items.
- To maintain a "lived in" appearance, arrange for a neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally and for the lawn to be mowed if you will be away for an extended period.
- Register in the Police Department's Vacant House Check program, if you will be away three days or more. (see box at right)
- Don't "hide" an extra key outside your home; give a copy to a trusted neighbor. Supply an itinerary with phone numbers where you can be reached in an emergency.
- If you will be away an extended period and leaving your vehicle parked on a public street, advise the Police and request "courtesy" from the 72-hour parking limitation and discuss this with neighbors.
- If you will have a house-sitter, review home security rules with them.
- Lock all windows and doors. Double check basement and garage doors before you leave.
- If you have time before your trip, consider a Home Security Survey, offered free by the Police Department.

Don't take a vacation from security. Keep your vacation free from stress



Cpl. Fred Roush (center) conducted a four-day bike training for TPPD officers, which included specific patrol skills and more than 100 miles of cycling.

Fireworks Illegal In Montgomery County

With Independence Day looming over a long three-day weekend, the temptation for a few private fireworks may be strong. Remember, all fireworks, including gold label sparklers, are illegal to possess or discharge in Montgomery County. Snap-and-pop noise makers, snakes, and party poppers are the only exception to this law.

It doesn't matter where the fireworks are purchased or how they are brought into Maryland, whether by mail or public carrier. The possession or discharge of fireworks for use in the State of Maryland is illegal, subject to misdemeanor charges and fines not to exceed \$500.

Although many people mistakenly believe that sparklers are safe, sparklers burn at 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit (nearly hot enough to melt gold)! Each year, fireworks in the United States cause approximately 12 deaths, 2,000 serious eye injuries, and 5,000 other injuries, including amputated fingers.

A private fireworks display at a residence is not allowed, although a public display can be allowed with proper permits and insurance. For more information, contact the Montgomery County Fire/Explosive Investigations Section at 240-777-2255.

POLICE NEWS

Safety On the Road Too

- Minimize the amount of cash carried; use traveler's checks and credit cards. Keep a record of their numbers in a separate and safe place in case they are lost or stolen.
- Always lock your car when it's parked, even for a brief rest stop, keeping valuables out of sight. Remove all bags and other valuables, if you are stopping overnight, and take them into the motel.
- If you use a car top carrier or bike rack, try to have someone stay with the vehicle.
- If you are traveling alone and need to take a sleep break, park near or in the reserved police space at an official rest stop.
- Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries, flares and a first aid kit.
- Make sure your children know the name, address and telephone number of the hotel or place where you are staying. Consider writing this on a card they can carry in their pockets or backpacks.
- Ask your hosts or the hotel about safety of the neighborhood in which you are staying and areas to avoid.
- Don't look vulnerable or lost. Walk with a purpose and stay alert to your surroundings. (Just like at home.)

Vacant House Check and Home Security Survey



To increase your peace of mind while on vacation or out-of-town business, the Police Department offers Vacant House Checks. Officers will visit your house daily and inspect for signs of suspicious activity. No one should be staying at the house. The minimum period of absence is three days. Contact Communications at 301-270-1100 for details. (Multiple-family dwellings can not be serviced in this program.)

Many Takoma Park Police officers are trained in the inspection of homes for security concerns. An officer will survey your residence for issues that may be making you or the house vulnerable and will make suggestions for improving your personal and property security. The service is free. Renters need permission of their landlord to conduct the survey. Contact the COP Team at 301-891-7124 to arrange a Home Security Inspection.

Parking Permits Offered by Mail

Parking permits for designated permit-parking areas throughout the city expire on June 30. To ease the process and to encourage early registration, the Police Department will offer permits by mail, as well as through in-person purchasing.

Residents need only complete the attached form and return it, with payment, to the Police Department. Photocopies of the current vehicle registration card for each vehicle and a driver's license for at least one owner must be submitted with this form. These attachments must show a current Takoma Park address in the requested permit area.

A decal and year sticker for each registered vehicle will be mailed back within three business days of receipt. Two visitor parking permits will be included for each address. An additional \$1 will be charged for permits sent by mail.

Citizens in several neighborhoods throughout the city requested that street parking be limited to residents, to ease a problem of commuter parking on residential streets.

The Permit-by-Mail program is available only to residential addresses. Be sure to include day and evening phone numbers in case any questions arise in processing.

Those operating a business in the permit areas should submit the names of employees on a company letterhead with their request. Not more than three employee permits are allowed. A home-based business must show evidence of a currently-operated business, which is current on payment of personal property taxes.

A limited number of Area B permits (one year only) are available to residents who live farther than .75 miles from the Takoma Metro station. Nine (9) Area B permits are available only through in-person application at the Police Administration window, on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning Monday, June 28, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The space for Area B parking was decreased last year due to Metropolitan Trail construction. At the time, nine permits had been distributed and the Council agreed to continue offering this number in the future. Applicants will need to show all normal identification and vehicle registration.

Questions regarding permit parking can be answered at 301-891-7102 during regular business hours.

The form below also may be accessed on-line under "current Topics" at www.cityoftakomapark.org.

Permit-Area Parking

(please print legibly)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: Takoma Park State: MD Zip Code: _____ - _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

- A photocopy of the current registration card for each vehicle is attached.
- A photocopy of the current Driver's License for at least one resident is attached.

Vehicle #1 _____ (license plate #) One-year permit (\$12.50) Two-year permit (\$20)
 Vehicle #2 _____ (license plate #) One-year permit (\$12.50) Two-year permit (\$20)
 Vehicle #3 _____ (license plate #) One-year permit (\$12.50) Two-year permit (\$20)
 Postage and handling for Permits by Mail, add \$1.00.

List additional vehicles on a separate sheet. Current registration showing the address in the permit parking area must be attached for each.

Two Visitor Permits will be included per household that purchases a permit.

Return this form to TPPD, Permit Parking, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Permits will be mailed within three business days of receipt.

TPPD USE ONLY: Area 1 Area 1A Area 2 Area 2A Area 3 Area 4

Community Center Saga: Massive Citizen Involvement

Continued from page 3

argued against giving up valuable green space for a building, as did a wide range of neighborhood and environmental groups.

Out of these debates grew a plan dubbed Option A2—a proposal to build the community center onto the Municipal Building, utilizing space already mostly covered by pavement.

The City Council voted to pursue this option as its first choice, although it was the second choice of the Steering Committee, which favored building the community center “and a new, expanded Library” on the “parcel of land currently occupied by the Library,” with a “multi-purpose gym located as a free-standing structure burrowed into the hillside near the current Piney Branch pool.”

A Victorian Façade

City Council then hired Structural Solutions, which determined that the Municipal Building was, indeed, sound enough to support some additions—but it cautioned against building a third floor.

Enter Lawrence Abell and Associates, a firm hired in late 2000 to flesh out Option A2 along with the Liaison Committee for the New Community Center, which replaced the Steering Committee but retained its chair, Recreation Committee leader Howard Kohn.

Abell designers consulted with residents’ groups, local activists, community environmentalists and historic preservationists. They spoke with neighbors living near the proposed site, and heard from a large number of Takoma Park residents involved in the arts.

After Larry Abell presented his plan, community members who had been at each other’s throats for months joined together to back it.

The Abell design avoided the pitfalls cited by Structural Solutions. It called for a learning center to connect the Municipal Building with the City Library to its left, and a gym to be built onto its right. The front of the building would be extended to create new space for a variety of artistic and community activities, including programs for seniors and the very young. It would also provide badly-needed meeting space for community groups. Surrounding neighborhoods would be protected from an overabundance of cars because parking space would be added underground behind the building and under the new gym. A ramp running from street level to beneath the gym would lead down to the entrance of a renovated police department facility, including prisoner holding cells. Land surrounding the structure would be contoured to protect sur-

rounding neighborhoods.

Best of all, in the opinion of many, was a proposed façade that would connect the entire structure – Municipal facilities, library and all. It would be designed in a Victorian style and modeled after the old Takoma Park Hotel. Its appearance would guarantee the completed building would not undermine the City’s aesthetic environment.



Artist's rendering of the original Community Center design, no longer in effect

The plan was adopted by City Council at an estimated cost of \$6.7 million. We hoped that the state would put up an additional \$500,000 for a total of \$2 million, and that the county would kick in another \$2 million.

As part of the City’s \$2.7 million share, the City Council passed a \$2 million bond bill, estimated to cost most Takoma Park homeowners \$25 to \$40 annually.

The Abell firm was hired to help oversee bringing the community center to life.

Building in Phases

During the same period, in order to spend state funds before the deadline for using them expired, the Council, myself included, voted to build the expansions of the Municipal Building in “phases” rather than wait until everything was in place to complete the project all at once. This approach would also allow us unfettered use of the Municipal Building while construction was going on—otherwise the place would be inaccessible due to construction taking place on all sides.

We decided that phase one would include moving all government administrative offices to the second floor, above and away from the hopefully noisy and constantly used community activity facilities. We earmarked \$300,000 for this project from City funds, because no other jurisdiction is allowed to finance such renovations.

And we decided that gym construction would be in “phase two,” mainly because its estimated cost was about \$1.1 million, less than the \$1.5 million that the state had pledged, and we did not want to be obliged to return the balance.

There was no serious consideration of the possibility that the entire project could not be completed seamlessly. We assumed the City would get money for the gym—and for everything planned—from government sources and private individuals.

But the next year, after I retired from the Council, funding the entire project be-

came less certain. Contractors’ bids came in higher than expected – and the City had to face the floodplain problem.

The Floodplain Surfaces

When representatives from the Abell firm presented applications for work permits to Montgomery county, they were told the accompanying storm water plan seemed to encompass unusually high quantities of water. County officials asked for a floodplain investigation, and this was carried out by an Abell engineer. It turned out that water flowing to the Municipal Building site from the higher ground surrounding it on three sides has an annualized one-in-one-hundred chance to create what the federal and county governments consider to be a flood.

Therefore, county agents demanded that the City put in floodplain amelioration structures costing \$2.1 million dollars. However, after nine months of discussions and negotiations, the county agreed to a project that City Manager Rick Finn estimates will cost about \$1.1 million.

The plan—which has been questioned by members of the Takoma Park Environmental Committee – calls for large underground tanks to contain and slow water flowing into the already-existing stormwater pipes under Maple Avenue. It also calls for some water to be absorbed and dispersed into the ground, and for some to be diverted above ground into Sligo Creek.

Why was the floodplain problem not anticipated? The team working on the project assumed that water diversion pipes already in place under the Municipal Building were enough to handle stormwater flow. The Municipal Building floodplain was on no federal or county map, and municipalities are so rarely asked to investigate their own floodplains, City officials did not expect Montgomery county to require this of Takoma Park – although it is within the county’s purview to do so.

Furthermore, the Abell company was originally hired only to design the site. It wasn’t until an engineer joined the team that anyone had the expertise to examine the problem.

The bottom line: the floodplain mitigation project absorbed funds that could have been spent on the gym or other parts of the original community center plan. Developing a plan acceptable to the county also delayed construction for nine months, and put in jeopardy prices agreed to by contractors.

During the nine-month delay, the City Council made a series of decisions aimed at keeping the project within a budget that grew from \$6.7 million to about \$8 million.

In May 2003, it decided in a worksession to put the gym on hold “until an additional \$1 million is identified.” Council considered this to be an administrative

Opinion — We’ve Got to Do Better

In most communities, the shifts we are experiencing in construction of our Community Center would be met by little more than shrugs of the shoulder. After all, there were no shenanigans for personal gain and there have been no more SNAFUs than are normal in most big building projects.

But the residents of most communities do not share the high expectation of effective involvement that is held by Takoma Park residents. We pride ourselves in being a city of activists, so I suggest we as a community address at least the following questions as we look forward to Phase Two of the Community Center project – or to any future large construction:

- What are better methods to accurately assess community needs?
- How do we assure that the entire community – not just activists – buy into major projects?
- How do we assure that projects stay on course to meet real community priorities, and are not driven by “use it or lose it” deadlines set by other jurisdictions or contractors?
- Can Takoma Park do more to get its needs met directly by county, state and federal governments?

Through City Council action and citizens oversight committees, let’s address the issues raised by these questions.

—Larry Rubin

decision rather than a policy change because of the “phase” plan that had been adopted two years earlier.

Then, between February and July of 2003, councilmembers chose from a series of cost-cutting option packages presented to it by City staff. Many of the original elements that made the plan so attractive to the community were put on hold.

Office vs. Community Space

But it wasn’t until the Council meeting of February 17, 2004, that the full impact of their decisions was brought home to Councilmembers through a rendering of the trimmed-down community center project.

As a result of this awakening, Councilmembers pledged to stay on top of all further changes, and appointed Councilmember Bruce Williams, a general contractor, as the Council liaison to the contractors. Now each week, Williams presents an update to the Council.

Council members are optimistic about raising funds to complete the current phase of the project, and are convinced of the lack of merit of a pending court suit calling for suspension of construction until a review is made by independent parties.

Nevertheless, monies needed to meet the original community expectations are yet to be found.

When phase one is completed, how much of the enlarged building will be used for community purposes and how much for government administration? It depends on how you define such uses.

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Community Center Saga: A Floodplain Adds \$1 Million

Continued from page 10

Going by the labels on the current plan, administrative space will be expanded by 8 to 12 percent, and room for community activities will increase up to 237 percent. Using definitions in the building code, administrative space could be considered to increase by 160 to 180 percent and community-use space by 133 percent. Labels on the current plan do not guarantee specific space use, and the definitions in the building code are often too abstract to be meaningful.

According to Ray Scannell, "Our planning committee never had a serious priority for the use of space by municipal offices. It was our assump-

Many of the original elements that made the plan attractive to the community were put on hold.

tion and intention that all new space would be community use space – although we knew that in order to expand the building, air ventilation and other systems would have to be rebuilt or undergo major repairs."

Scannell expressed dismay because he "doesn't know if, when costs escalated so greatly, anyone on the Council read the reports by the original citizens groups to determine if the project still met community priorities."

Beverly Tucker-Griffin, who lives near the Municipal Building site, has two children nine and twelve years old who will use the spaces for recreation still included in the new Community Center. But, she says, "I'm outraged that we didn't make the gym our top priority. Kids need structured activities like sports and need a structure in which to conduct their sports activities."

Larry Rubin was a member of the Takoma Park City Council from 1993 to 2001.

Tool Library to Move, Just a Little

City Manager Rick Finn told the City Council at its May 17 meeting that in order to accommodate Community Center construction needs, the Tool Library trailer – now located behind the Municipal Building – will have to be moved a short distance.

Probably, the trailer will be moved about 25 feet, away from the Municipal Building, through the current traffic barrier toward Grant Ave. After a short time, the trailer would be moved back to its previous location. The Council directed City staff to consult with neighbors in the adjoining Hodges Heights neighborhood on the projected move.

The Floorspace Debate: Which Numbers to Use?

One of the most confusing things about the Community Center is the widely divergent estimates of how much the new construction will increase community space (like recreation or public meeting rooms) vs. how much it will increase administrative space for City employees.

We spoke to Councilmember Bruce Williams, a general contractor who has been designated to report to the Council every week on how Community Center construction is coming. Williams wrote up a very detailed analysis of the floorspace question, available as a 24-page document at the City's Web site at <http://207.176.67.2/clerk/agenda/items/2004/040704-s.pdf>.

Williams emphasizes, "When I came up with my figures, I went through it room by room," designating each room in both the existing building and the new building design either administrative space or community space. (Some space, like janitors' closets or loading docks, he put in a third category, "building support.")

Williams' results, which appear on pages 17 and 24 of his report, show an 11 percent increase in administrative (including police) space, and a 237 percent increase in community space. That comes to 14,307 square feet for administrative, and 22,114 square feet for community. When the gym and supporting space are built, that community space will rise to 30,052 square feet – an increase of 358 percent.

Williams admits, "There's any number of ways to interpret these figures." For example, "conference and meeting rooms – when they're on the community level, they're community space. If they're up in the administrative offices, then yes, they're administrative."

Williams says he's surprised that other observers have come up with figures showing a big increase in administrative space and only a small increase in community space – but he suspects they may be using building code designations that don't give an accurate picture of how the space will actually be used. For example, the code puts kitchen and child care areas into the business category.

In order to get an accurate picture of current building use, Williams did some detailed investigation. Not content with floorplans, he poked around the basement and second floors of the Municipal Building, and was surprised by what he found. "Like on the top floor, there are rabbit warrens of administrative offices – some of them I didn't even know were there." Getting out his tape measure, he computed how much floorspace is now used for administration. Then he used that number to compute the percentage increase in administrative floorspace.

For those who come up with drastically different percentages, Williams asserts, "You've got to put your facts on the table and show how you did it."

— Bob Guldin

Takoma Park City TV Events in June 2004

City TV has some hot new thrilling shows playing this month. First, listen to the eccentric sounds of Klezcentricity, who performed during the Street Festival. This three-member group plays wild and authentic Yiddish American Music. And later this month, the Street Festival performance of Cravin' Dogs is sure to have you howling. Also, our Folk Festival show includes performances by Alicia Deeny, a pop vocalist with a Latin twist; husband and wife duo, Laurie Rose Griffith and Peter Mealy who have made great strides in the contemporary acoustic industry; and The Brindley Brothers, known for their rock 'n' roll-infested tunes. Don't miss these performances and other great programs too. Go online to the City's Web site to obtain specific programming information including show listings and times.

Takoma Snapshots in June includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: Don't be a Victim of Identity Theft
- Rock the Block: Ward Parties
- Rebuilding America

City TV will be covering the day of musical performance at the annual Takoma JazzFest to be held June 12 from 11-7 at Takoma Park Middle School. Look for these shows airing later in the summer!

Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board.

The City Web site is the best source for detailed, updated program information about City TV; go to: www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable. Remember that all Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS Tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are now available in DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

Takoma Park City TV June 2004 Programming Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Chinese News						
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	PreSchool Power!	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Informa	Coffeehouse	NASA Programming		Haiti a Suivre
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Music da camera	Government Focus	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	CaribNation		Takoma Park Folk Festival	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Media Watch on Hunger
NOON					Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)		
1:00 PM	Earth Café	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			Takoma Park Folk Festival
2:00 PM	Media Watch on Hunger		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming		Music da camera			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	PreSchool Power		Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Haiti a Suivre	
5:00 PM	Music da camera	Takoma Park Snapshots	Government Focus	Haiti a Suivre		Takoma Snapshots	
6:00 PM	Chinese News						
7:00 PM	Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Informa	Estrellas de Montgomery	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (LIVE)						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival	The World Today (Chinese)	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM							
10:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Haiti a Suivre		Haiti a Suivre	Coffeehouse
11:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots				

Programming subject to change without notice.

Takoma Park City TV
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7118

Email: cabletv@takomagov.org
Web: www.cityoftakomagov.org/cable

Wildlife Habitat: One Yard at a Time

Mike Goodno
Planning Intern

You may know that Takoma Park is an official "Tree City, USA" and that we have a tree ordinance to protect the City's urban forest. What you may not know, however, is that two programs are available to help you restore wildlife habitat in your own yard. While walking around the City, take notice of the yard signs. (Not the anti-traffic poster boards and the still standing "No War On Iraq" signs.) Rather, look for the signs that certify a yard as providing natural habitat for wildlife. Those yards are doing something extra for local wildlife.

Two organizations, the National Wildlife Federation and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service, can help you transform your yard into an inviting sanctuary for wildlife. The National Wildlife Federation began its Backyard Wildlife Habitat program in 1973 as an alternative to "conventional" landscaping – that is, yards dominated by lawn, ornamental plants, and dependence on chemicals and supplemental watering. It was also begun as a response to the damage inflicted upon once rural or wild areas by the spread of suburban development, which has resulted in the disappearance of many wild species from our area.

The Backyard Wildlife Habitat program seeks to promote a more sustainable and natural method of landscaping and gardening that serves as habitat for wildlife. It encourages everyone – homeowner, teacher, community leader – to



plan their landscape with the needs of wildlife in mind, and gives them the tools they need to make it happen.

Four steps lead to certification in The Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. The first step is an assessment of your yard or garden space, looking for habitat elements that already exist. Secondly, you

must provide four basic elements: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Thirdly, participants are encouraged to practice resource conservation including the elimination of chemical use in your yard, and the reduction of mowing,

watering, and general maintenance. Lastly, with the submission of an application, if all requirements are met, your property will be certified and entered into a National Registry of officially certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat sites. A yard sign is available for \$18.90.

While the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program is national in scope, Wild Acres is a Maryland program promoting habitat conservation. The Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Service will certify interested residents who provide food, shelter, water and space for wildlife. Upon completion of an application, Maryland Wild Acres

will send you a backyard wildlife information packet with fact sheets on: building bird boxes; what to feed birds; how to attract butterflies and hummingbirds; and building a backyard wildlife pond. You will also receive a Maryland Wild Acres certificate; a colorful sign (with a donation of \$15 or more) that lets everyone know that your backyard is a part of Maryland's Wild Acres; and any future information on backyard conservation.

Both organizations' Web sites are filled with information to assist you in this endeavor. Materials include wildlife fact sheets, nest box plans, landscaping and habitat suggestions, online newsletters, tips and projects, as well as information on plants and how to attract specific types of wildlife to your own habitat. And you don't have to choose – it's perfectly legal to participate in both programs at the same time.

For more information, please contact Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service's Wild Acres Program, 410-836-4573, customerservice@dnr.state.md.us, www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wildacres.html, or the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, 703-438-6100, info@nwf.org, www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat.

Is Controversial CVS Sign Dead, or Just Dormant?

Continued from page 1

Even more importantly, D.C. Ward 4 Councilmember Adrian Fenty contacted regional CVS officers in January and explained to them neighborhood concerns about the new sign. Fenty may have more clout on the issue because the CVS store and sign are located in Fenty's Council district in D.C., though just a few yards from Takoma Park, Md.

Fenty told the *Newsletter* May 13 that he is still working on the issue. "I support my community in their efforts to keep visual clutter reduced and to also maintain the historic appeal of the Takoma/DC neighborhoods," he said.

Fenty reported that he had met CVS Area Vice President Gordon Howard in April at the opening of the new CVS pharmacy at 6514 Georgia Ave., N.W. Fenty shared residents' concerns about the sign, and Howard agreed to meet with Fenty and a few community representatives to begin negotiations. Fenty said he hoped that meeting would occur before June 1. Fenty added that a larger community meeting to resolve the issue may be held later.

Permanent removal of the now-dark sign would probably please many



Photo by Clyde Lassell

CVS sign last winter, with flashing red letters

Takoma Park residents. Takoma Park City Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane, who represents Ward One adjacent to the CVS, said she would like the sign to come down. "The CVS signage is out of character with the neighborhood. It's too tall. I'd like to see the sign in character more with the neighborhood. It's been awhile, and I haven't heard. I'm eager to find out."

City resident Kevin Sturtevant added, "I hope they leave it off; I hope they take it down. Right in Old Town, I think it looks tacky."

Vendors, Donors, Shoppers— Independence Day Flea Market June 5

Get ready for the Fourth of July on June 5. That's right, the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee is holding a yard sale and flea market Saturday, June 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Takoma Park Maryland Library grounds, 101 Philadelphia Ave. (Rain date: June 6.) The goal is to help cover expenses for the annual parade and fireworks that will be held this year on Monday, July 5.

Vendors are invited to participate in the flea market, and donors are kindly requested to spring-clean your house for a good cause. Donations of quality items in good and clean condition for the are needed for the yard sale. Knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, furniture, collectibles, household items, bicycles, toys, appliances (only if they work), exercise equipment, office equipment, and more are welcome. (No clothes, please.)

All donations should be brought to the Municipal Building lobby, 7500 Maple Ave., on Friday, June 4, between 6 and 9 p.m. If you need help with large items, or for further information, call 301-270-8121 or 301-270-6876.

Vendors who would like to sell at the flea market are also welcome. Anyone interested in reserving a space should call 301-270-8121 or 301-270-6876. Spaces, approximately 10' x 10', will be available to Takoma Park residents at \$10, all others \$15.

Whether you are donating, setting up a booth, or just stopping and shopping, your support will be greatly appreciated. Volunteer fundraising and participation are crucial to the survival of this cherished Takoma Park tradition, now in its 115th year.



Long Weekend Or Vacation?

Takoma Park Police will check your house daily for signs of suspicious activity. Contact Communications at 301-270-1100 for details