

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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July 2004

Old Town Takoma Parking Garage Would Be Public-Private Partnership

By Virginia Myers Kelly

John Urciolo is thinking outside the box — or, more precisely, outside the striped parking lines on the spots in his parking lot in Old Town Takoma Park. Meant to exclusively serve patrons of the strip of merchants in the buildings he owns, from Summer Delights to Everyday Gourmet and Pizza Movers, the lot winds up full of vehicles from people with business across the street or even blocks away. Urciolo, along with the Old Takoma Business Association, says more parking is needed. So rather than building a parking facility for just his tenants, he is proposing to build one in partnership with the City useable by all Old Town.

Urciolo says he first approached Takoma Park about parking four years ago. Now, the City Council is considering his proposal for a three-level, 156- to 158-space parking facility. Cars would enter the structure from Carroll Ave. through the existing alley. They would exit onto Eastern Ave., behind Pizza Movers. The existing row of businesses would be left intact, though the wooden "deck" on Laurel would probably be

replaced with new businesses.

While no firm costs on the facility have been determined, Sara Daines, Takoma Park's director of community and economic development, says the price tag was estimated at \$950,000 last September. Final figures would fluctuate with the type of facade built and with inflation.

The City and Urciolo have not come to a final agreement, but he expects to break ground within a year and, in fact, says he may abandon the idea altogether if the project takes any longer. Once begun, construction of the facility would take approximately one year.

As currently proposed, Urciolo would build the lot, bearing all costs. Upon its completion, the City would take over and begin to pay Urciolo back for what would become a municipal facility. Enforcement of parking meters would be a City responsibility, as would maintenance such as striping and snow removal.

Takoma Park has already paid, through state funds, for engineering and traffic studies; the City would also finance parking meters and other start-

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New City Manager



Takoma Park's new city manager, Barbara Burns Matthews, starts work July 12. See story, page 3.

Independence Day Celebration Comes On July 5 This Year



Photo by Clyde Lassell

At the grand age of 115 years, Takoma Park's annual Independence Day celebration rolls out of Takoma Junction Monday, July 5 at 10 a.m. With more than 50 units, the opening parade marches through the red-white-and-blue-bedecked streets in the morning, leading to an evening filled with music, prizes, and fireworks.

The celebration is a community event based largely on volunteer energy and donations, so organizers strongly urge supporters to purchase Independence Day raffle tickets and help out in other ways.

The parade forms at 9 a.m. and departs from its launch point at Ethan Allen Ave. (Rt. 410) and Carroll Ave, at 10 a.m. Perennial

favorites return to the Takoma parade year after year, so look for the Trinidad & Tobago Steel Band, dcMotors, the Mecca Temple #10 drum and bugle corps and drill team, and the Lawnmowers Against Global Warming.

Evening events will be held at the Takoma Park Middle School's Lee Jordan Field on Piney Branch Road, and will feature a variety of musical performances. Lemonface, a teenage power-pop band, appeals to the youngsters. The Takoma Park Community Band will play patriotic selections for the holiday. The climax of the evening plays comes in a shimmering sky,

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Old Town Joins Main Street Revitalization Program

By Diana Hoover

Takoma Park has been designated a participant in the Main Street Maryland Program, a comprehensive program to revitalize downtown business areas. Along with three other cities in Maryland, the Takoma Park received the honor April 20 in Frederick, at the Preservation Maryland Conference. The Main Street Maryland Program, created in 1998, is based on concepts developed more than 20 years ago by the National Main Street Center, a project of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Says Bob Atwood, president of the Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA), "It's a big honor. There are only 1,400 Main Street designations across the country. There are only 16 in Maryland, and now we're one of them."

The Main Street program uses a four-point approach to downtown revitalization. The principal goals: enhancing the physical appearance of the commercial district by rehabilitating historic buildings and promoting new construction; building consensus and cooperation among the community's groups and individuals, marketing the traditional commercial district; and strengthening the town's existing economic base.

In meetings and site visits sponsored by OTBA and the Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development, business owners will get a chance to discuss the challenges they face. "Through technical assistance and organizational development, businesses will be able to improve the area

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CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

MONDAY, JULY 5 - OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 6 - PRESENTATION, INTERVIEWS, SPECIAL SESSION & WORKSESSION

Presentation:
- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

MONDAY, JULY 12 - Reception for departing City Manager Richard Finn and new City Manager Barbara Burns Matthews (Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.)

MONDAY, JULY 12 - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION

Presentation:
- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

MONDAY, JULY 19 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION

Presentation:
- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

MONDAY, JULY 26 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

Presentation:
- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project
Public Hearing:
- (tentative) Rent Stabilization

TUESDAY, JULY 27 thru SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 - Council's 2004 Summer Recess



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, May 17 - Special Session:

Resolution #2004-18 was adopted unanimously, proclaiming May 27 as Rachel Carson Day (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Monday, May 24 - Regular Meeting:

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-12 was accepted unanimously, authorizing second amendment to the FY04 Budget (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

Resolution #2004-19 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

Resolution #2004-20 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Facade Advisory Board (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

Resolution #2004-21 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Noise Control Board (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

Resolution #2004-22 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Personnel Appeals Board (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

Monday, June 7 - Regular Meeting:

Resolution #2004-23 was adopted unanimously, recognizing Senator Ida Ruben for her support of the community center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-13 was accepted unanimously, adopting a Stormwater Management Budget for FY05, beginning July 1 and ending on June

30, 2005 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-14 was accepted unanimously, adopting the tax rate for FY05, beginning July 1 and ending on June 30, 2005 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-15 was accepted unanimously, approving and adopting a budget, including FY05-09 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY05, beginning July 1 and ending on June 30, 2005 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-16 was accepted unanimously, adopting the FY05 Police Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-17 was accepted unanimously, adopting the FY05 AFSCME Employee Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-18 was accepted unanimously, adopting the FY05 Management and Non-Union Staff Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-19 was accepted unanimously, adopting the FY05 Part-Time and Seasonal Staff Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-12 was accepted unanimously, authorizing second amendment to the FY04 Budget (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Monday, June 14 - Special Session:

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-20 was accepted unanimously, amending membership provisions of the Facade Advisory Board to eliminate the term limit for the Historic Takoma representative on the board (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

Single Reading Ordinance #2004-21 was adopted unanimously, authorizing a contract for a Citizen Survey (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

Resolution #2004-24 was adopted unanimously, authorizing Program Open Space (POS) FY05 allocations (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

Recycle Electronics Oct. 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.

Need a Passport?

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

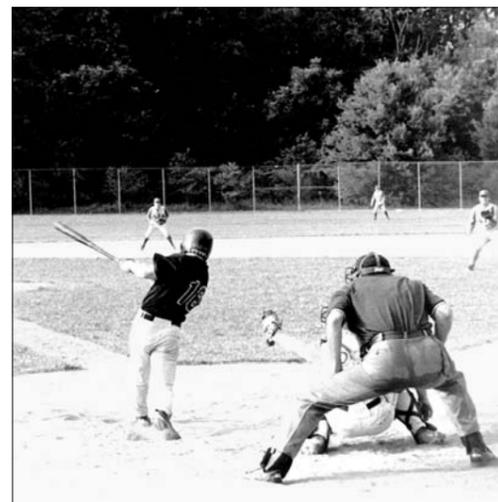
Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
12 noon - 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 301-891-7204.

Thunderbolts Home Schedule

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts are a college-age baseball team that plays at the Montgomery Blair High School Baseball Stadium off University Blvd. All games start at 7 p.m. Check out the Web site at www.tbolts.org, and support Takoma Park's truly local baseball organization.

DATE	OPPONENT
Thursday, July 1	Germantown
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



New City Manager Ready to Meet Takoma Park

By Elizabeth Mosely
Communications Assistant

Barbara Burns Matthews is preparing to begin her new role as city manager for Takoma Park.

Matthews, who will replace the current city manager, Richard Finn, on July 12, says her first move will be getting acquainted with people. "My top priority is building relationships by getting to know key leaders, the mayor and staff," said Matthews.

For 18 years, Matthews has worked in local government, most recently as city administrator of Manchester, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis.

The City followed an extensive six-month process before it selected Matthews. A Citizen's City Manager Search Committee was formed, and a consultant was contracted to assure that all community needs were identified and that the process was inclusive. The nationwide search yielded over 75 résumés, with five selected as finalists. The Council, the committee and City department heads ultimately

interviewed three candidates.

"The committee feels that this is an exciting and challenging time for the City and that Ms. Matthews is the right person to assume this leadership role. We welcome her and her family to Takoma Park," said Nancy Cohen and Dan Robinson, co-chairs of the Search Committee.

"We are delighted to have Barbara Matthews joining the Takoma Park staff as our new city manager," said Mayor Kathy Porter. "In addition to her extensive city management experience, the City Council was impressed with her commitment to citizen service."

"I am here to serve the community," Matthews said. "I want to know what is important to [the residents]."

While Matthews is devoted to serving the people of Takoma Park, she's particularly excited about the high level of community involvement, which she says is the biggest difference between Takoma Park and Manchester. At the same time, Matthews said,

the two communities share several similarities.

"Both communities are suburban, having almost the same population size. They have smaller business districts competing with much larger business districts, and they have a strong sense of history and tradition."

Matthews said she also hopes for energetic participation and input from the City's staff. "I would like to have a collaborative, very participatory process with staff. The first thing they can do is help me get educated on key issues," she said. In fact, Matthews noted she is requiring City department heads to send her a biography and the department's key issues before she arrives.

In addition to her financial management background, Matthews, a Virginia native, has worked in all areas of municipal operations, including economic development, budgeting, and labor relations. She has a bachelor's degree in economics and government from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in public affairs from Indiana University.

Takoma Park Mediation Center Merges With Montgomery Group

The Takoma Park Mediation Center is joining forces with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County to more effectively and consistently provide dispute resolution services. The two groups have worked together for years, and the combined organization will serve constituencies in Takoma Park, Silver Spring and other areas throughout Montgomery County.

The combined group will carry on a number of functions without charge, including, neighborhood problem-solving and conflict management skills training, community conferencing and meeting facilitation. It will help neighbors solve problems over such matters as noise, parking, property lines, trees and landlord-tenant disputes.

Merle Rockwell will serve as the executive director of the combined program. Takoma Park Mediation Program Board members Linda Walker, John Urciolo, Wolfgang Mergner and Joanne Galindo will serve on the new board, and Takoma Park Police Officer Diana Dean will serve on its advisory board.

The name of the new group is the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County. It will be located at 421 Saint Lawrence Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20901, and is always glad to receive tax-deductible contributions. Contact information: 301-585-6200, crcofmc@aol.com, www.crcmc.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Community Organizer

The Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Initiative is a community-based crime-prevention project in the area where Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and the city of Takoma Park meet. The community organizer works with variety of community stakeholders to coordinate crime prevention and youth development activities, and assists with administrative responsibilities.

This position is expected to be filled in July. It may be part-time or full-time, depending on funding available and other factors.

Typical Duties

The incumbent's primary responsibilities are to coordinate the CSAFE Community Mobilization and Youth Crime Prevention Strategy Elements. Community Mobilization includes creating partnerships that assist community groups in addressing crime and related issues; link community groups, law enforcement, and others in efforts to reduce crime; and assist individuals and families to connect with resources. Youth Crime Prevention goals include coordinating community stakeholders to increase the number and diversity of community members involved in youth crime prevention efforts; identifying the assets of the community; developing linkages between services for children, youth, and families; and identifying and advocating for resources to meet public safety and child and family well-being goals.

This involves work with diverse groups of community members including individual residents, business associations, civic and neighborhood associations, non-profits, police, government officials, and others. Some of the work takes place during evenings and weekends.

Secondary responsibilities include assisting the CSAFE program director with record keeping, report

writing, correspondence, and other administrative tasks.

Activities include: meeting coordination and facilitation; attending community meetings; making presentations; surveying community members; leading and supporting community-based problem-solving efforts; providing referrals; developing and promoting community events; relationship-building; record keeping; documentation; reporting; and other relevant activities.

Qualifications

Education: Bachelor's degree in public administration, social work or related field from an accredited college or university preferred.

Experience/Other Skills: Bilingual in English and Spanish. At least two years of progressively responsible experience in community organizing, social services coordination, or related work. Proficiency in computers: e-mail, word processing. In-depth understanding and appreciation of the dynamics of a culturally and ethnically diverse community. Ability to work effectively with a variety of people with divergent needs and priorities. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledge of CSAFE Area desired but not required. Any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job.

To Apply

Send cover letter and resume to John Brill, CSAFE Program Director, Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD, 20912, or by e-mail to johnb@takomagov.org, or by fax to 301-439-0973. Contact John Brill at 301-439-0971 with questions.

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Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the *Newsletter*, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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

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

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

County Enforcement Restricts Window Air Conditioners in Rentals

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

In recent months a number of Takoma Park landlords have received violation notices or citations from Montgomery County because the wiring in their buildings was not in compliance with the Property Maintenance Code - Housing and Building Standards. Approximately 125 properties throughout the city have been affected.

Section 26-6 (a) (6) of the County Code indicates that each individual conditioning unit, regardless of its current rating, must be served by not less than an individual 20-amp circuit using No. 12 copper wire which terminates in a single receptacle. This section of the Code, adopted by the City in June 2003, raises a number of questions and concerns as confirmed by recent calls to the City's Landlord-Tenant Office.

Landlords whose buildings do not have single dedicated outlets for window a/c units, must decide what they can do, within the parameters of the Code, to allow their tenants to continue receiving the cooling benefits that air conditioning provides. Tenants as they face the hot and humid days of summer want to know what remedies are available to them if they no longer have air conditioning.

Landlords can rewire their buildings to comply with the County Code requirement, which would allow for the continued use of the window a/c units, or they can have the units removed. Tenants, faced with the loss of air conditioning, may file a complaint with the Office of Landlord and Tenant Affairs for review by the Commission on Landlord and Tenant Affairs (COLTA).

The City has contacted landlords and their agents encouraging them to continue to provide air conditioning to their tenants. Two ways of offsetting the cost of upgrading the electrical service were identified.

- If there are 40 or fewer units in the building, the landlord could apply for a low interest loan through the Montgomery County Small Properties Rehabilitation Program for funding to cover the costs of the required electrical work and/or other building upgrades. For program information contact Cedric Brown, program manager, at 240-777-3664.
- If the property is subject to rent stabilization, the landlord could submit a Capital Improvement Petition which, upon its approval, could allow for rent increases above the annual allowance in units where the new service is provided. Capital Improvement Petition information and application forms may be obtained from Jean Kerr, Takoma Park housing specialist, at 301-891-7216.

The remedies available to tenants and landlords affected by the recent enforcement actions of the county vary from one property to another and are governed in large part by the lease arrangements made by the two parties. In reviewing their options, landlords and tenants should be aware of the following.

- Where removal of the a/c unit is the option exercised by landlords who pay electricity charges and the lease indicates that a/c is provided (or the landlord owns the a/c unit), the landlord may be required by order of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) to restore the a/c or reduce the rent for the affected rental unit. A complaint would have to be filed by the affected tenant before a COLTA order would be issued.
- In instances where the lease is silent on the provision of a/c but the rental unit had a window a/c unit when the tenancy commenced and the landlord is responsible for electricity charges, the landlord may be required, subject to a subsequent

COLTA order, to restore the a/c or to reduce rent. A complaint would have to be filed by the affected tenant before a COLTA order would be issued.

- Tenants in buildings where their lease allowed for a tenant supplied a/c unit if they paid an additional fee for the air conditioning during the summer months may seek to have the a/c restored voluntarily by the landlord, seek a voluntary rent reduction from the landlord for the loss of the previously available service, or file a complaint with COLTA.

For more information on these options (and how to submit a COLTA complaint), please contact Moses A. Wilds, Jr. at the Landlord-Tenant Office by calling 301-891-7215 or by e-mail at MosesW@takoma.gov.

Housing Mailbox: What is COLTA?

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

This is the first of a recurring column that will answer city residents' questions about landlord-tenant issues, rent stabilization and affordable housing in Takoma Park.

What is COLTA?

The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) is a quasi-judicial body empowered by the Takoma Park City Council to resolve disputes arising under the Landlord-Tenant Relations Law. COLTA also renders decisions on rent increase petitions filed by landlords seeking to charge rents above the City's maximum allowable legal rent level. COLTA decisions are issued in the form of an "Opinion and Order," usually within 30 days of the hearing, and are binding on both parties. Parties adversely affected by a COLTA Opinion and Order may appeal the decision to the Montgomery County Circuit Court.

COLTA's membership includes tenants, landlords and owners of rental property in Takoma Park. COLTA currently has 10 members of its legislatively prescribed 12-member full composition. COLTA hearings are open to the public and are held primarily on Tuesday evenings in the City Council Chambers beginning at 7 p.m.. For additional information on COLTA please see Article 6 of the Takoma Park Code and/or call 301-891-7215.

Do you have a question about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant or a landlord in Takoma Park? Questions may be submitted in writing to Moses A. Wilds, Jr., Landlord-Tenant Coordinator at 7500 Maple Ave., or via e-mail to MosesW@takomago.org.

Home-Buying Fair July 17

The Fannie Mae Foundation and the Washington Wizards are sponsoring a Home-Buying Fair on Saturday, July 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center. You can meet realtors, lenders and other home-buying specialists who will be focusing on the "how-tos" of home buying, such as qualifying for a mortgage, establishing or re-establishing good credit and finding affordable loans. Don't miss out on all this great information.

In addition, the Fannie Mae Foundation is sponsoring an essay contest for first-time potential home buyers on "What Owning a Home Means to Me" Three winners will receive \$2,500 each for closing costs associated with buying a first home. The winners will be announced at the fair. For further details, call 1-888-752-7170 or visit their Web site at www.fanniemaefoundation.org.

COLTA's Corner



COLTA Case Decision Summary: April-June

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

Torrence v. Ellman

On April 23, COLTA issued a decision that (1) any lease provision that requires more than a one-month notice to vacate is invalid; (2) a tenant wishing to vacate a rental unit at the end of a lease term must give a landlord prior to the rent due date a one-month written notice of their intent to vacate; (3) a landlord is obligated to offer a tenant the opportunity to renew their lease for an

additional one year term two months before the end of the lease term or issue a notice to vacate for cause, specifying the material breach of the lease for which the tenancy is terminated.

Tetty v. Dechaine

On May 21, COLTA issued a decision that (1) a Landlord satisfied the notice provisions of Md. Code Ann., Real Prop. Art. Sec. 8-203(g)(1) which is incorporated by reference into Section 6-411 of the Takoma Park Code when the Landlord forwarded a first-class mailing to the last known address of the tenant, within 45 days after the termination of the tenancy, a written list of the damages claimed ... together with a statement of the cost actually incurred and (2) when a Landlord transfers a leased property, the successor in interest is liable to the tenants for the failure to return the security deposit with accrued (4% per annum) interest.

Kass v. Champion

On May 24 COLTA issued a decision that the Commission lacks jurisdiction

over the subject matter of a complaint which does not allege a violation of the City Landlord-Tenant Relations Law.

Fuerth v. 8322 Roanoke, L.L.C.

On June 9, COLTA issued a decision that (1) the Commission lacks authority to remedy an apparent defective tenancy when the tenant fails to file a complaint within one year of learning of the problem; (2) mold in a rental unit that did not result from a violation of the lease, the City's Landlord-Tenant Relations Law, or the Property Maintenance Code does not constitute a defective tenancy as defined in Section 6-102(a)(13) of the aforementioned law and (3) while the Commission may find that a landlord failed to make good faith efforts to remedy a case of mold infestation reported by the tenant, the lack of sufficient evidence to conclude that the landlord's breach of a contractual or statutory duty to the tenant caused the defect results in the denial of the relief requested by the tenant.

Celebrate July 5, Independence Day

Continued from page 1

as the renowned Zambelli Fireworks Internationale once again brings a fabulous Independence Day display to Azalea City.

Mayor Kathy Porter will lead off the morning parade, joined by many local officials, including U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen, Maryland State Sen. Ida G. Ruben, Delegates Peter Franchot and Sheila Hixson, and Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan.

Close behind them, you'll see a lineup of cowboys and carriages, preschoolers and scouts, dancers, musicians, and Kung Fu masters. Together they form marching, vibrant evidence of "Building Community," the theme of this year's events.

The raffle drawing is another exciting event in the evening program, as winners are selected for a list of appealing prizes. The prizes in this year's raffle include tickets to games of the Washington Redskins, the Wizards and the Mystics. Also on the roster of ten

prizes are accommodations at the elegant Hotel Monticello in Georgetown, a shopping spree at Westfield Mall and tickets to the National Aquarium in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

For information about July 5 street closures, parking and detours, see "Parade" article on page 9.

Raffle ticket sales are a major element in the annual funding of Takoma Park's Independence Day events. The all-volunteer group that organizes the activities works to raise thousands of dollars each year, and needs your help. Volunteers will be selling tickets door-to-door in many Takoma Park neighborhoods soon, or visit www.takomapark4th.org for information on purchasing tickets. Donations may also be

mailed to the T.P. Independence Day Committee, 109 Sheridan Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.



Photo by Clyde Lassell

2003 July Fourth Parade participant

Apply Now for Community Development Block Grants

By Ivy Thompson
Community Development Specialist, and
Michael Galindo

What can we do and how can we fund it? That's a thought that often enters the minds of residents, community activists and non-profit leaders who are considering community projects.

Here's a constructive thought - consider applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the City of Takoma Park. The CDBG program is a federal grant program that is intended to provide one-time funding to support projects that aid low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums or blight, or meet some special urgent need. The City is seeking applicants for CDBG funds totaling \$25,050. Proposals are due by 5 p.m., Monday, Aug. 30.

CDBG funds have been used to fund a plethora of projects throughout the City. If you have walked or driven along Lee Avenue, you may have noticed the beautiful landscape and the improved street lighting at night. City staff worked with residents and property owners to address the critical crime prevention and safety issues along the block. Today we have a beautiful, safe and walkable street for residents and neighbors alike.

Perhaps your fourth grader took a tour of the Thomas Siegler Carriage House and learned about the history of transportation in Takoma Park through the use of a 19th century art book produced by Historic Takoma. Members researched and developed a curriculum and book detailing the City's history and role as a stop along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line. CDBG funds were used to develop and print the book for classroom use.

Student nurses in their last year at Columbia Union College are preparing to provide basic healthcare services twice a month to elderly residents at Takoma Towers. This program, supported by CDBG funds, provides residents with consistent health care. It also helps identify those residents at risk for more serious health conditions, and provides inter-generational interaction between the students and the residents.

Or maybe you and your child use the shortcut through Takoma Piney Branch Woods Park to get to the middle school or the park itself. CDBG funds and volunteer manpower were used to construct and define the pathways, pull invasive plants, such as honeysuckle, and fix the fence. Now there is a safe and fun pathway connecting the Takoma Park Middle School to Maple Avenue.

Those are just a few examples of how CDBG funds are used every day to improve the lives of Takoma Park's diverse residents.

Past recipients of Community Development Block Grant funds include: CASA de Maryland (neighborhood organizing); Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (ADA renovation); Helen Smith Girls Home (kitchen renovation); Takoma Park Family Resource Center (rent); Essex House Computer Center (renovation); Sophia House (women's shelter).

So if your organization has a project that needs additional funding, contact Ivy Thompson in the City Department of Housing and Community Development today at 301-891-7232 to discuss your project. Just maybe, your search for funding can end there.

Community Center Budget: A Year-to-Year Summary

The Takoma Park Community Center - a multi-purpose recreational and educational facility now under construction - has gone through many changes over the years. And those changes are still happening, as readers of the *Newsletter* know.

The chart below gives one accurate way of looking at the project's finances: a year-to-year picture. Another good picture of the budget - with more information on which contractors have received funds, and on completed and pending change orders - can be found on the City's Web page at <http://207.176.67.2/clerk/agenda/items/2004/cc060704a.pdf>.

Why does the Community Center budget keep changing? For one thing, as is the case in many construction projects, unexpected situations such as the newly identified flood plain keep arising.

These unknowns have increased costs and required reprioritization of parts of the project.

For another thing, the funding picture sometimes changes for the better. This spring, the City found out that \$125,000 in Maryland Project Open Space funds could be used for the Community Center, which helps with the budget shortfall. The City continues to actively seek additional funding from local, state, federal and private sources.

At the City Council's June 7 meeting, Mayor Kathy Porter said that these charts represent "an accurate budget now based on the best information we have."

Councilmember Marc Elrich observed, "This is not the final word on the Community Center." But, he added, "This budget will get the Community Center mostly finished."

— Bob Guldin

Community Center Budget, Year to Year

Revenues	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05
State of Maryland	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	0	0	\$300,000
Montgomery County	0	0	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
Federal	0	\$249,450	0	0	0	0
Bond Proceeds	0	0	\$2,000,000	0	0	0
Program Open Space	0	0	0	0	\$332,365	\$125,000
Stormwater Fund	0	0	0	0	\$200,000	0
General Fund						
-- Year-End Transfer	0	0	0	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
-- Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0	\$76,696	\$76,696
-- Reserve -- Office Changes	0	0	0	0	\$300,000	0
-- Reallocated CDBG	0	0	0	0	\$383,950	\$125,000
-- Sale of City Lots - Piney Branch	0	0	0	0	0	\$400,000
Fiscal Year Totals	\$500,000	\$749,450	\$3,100,000	\$500,000	\$2,093,011	\$1,976,696
Expenditures (includes FY04 encumbrances)	0	0	\$252,175	\$565,516	\$2,739,001	\$5,334,824
Fiscal Year Activity	\$500,000	\$749,450	\$2,847,825	-\$65,516	-\$645,990	-\$3,358,128
End Year Carryover		\$1,249,450	\$4,097,275	\$4,031,759	\$3,385,769	\$27,641
Estimated FY05 Expenses						
Construction Costs	\$4,002,691					
Agreed to Pending Change Orders	\$147,086					
Level III Build-out	\$331,933					
Pending Change Orders	\$403,114					
Level II Build-out	\$450,000					
Total	\$5,334,824					
						Proposed FY05 Budget \$5,237,465
						Project Net \$27,641

(Prepared 6/4/04)

RECREATION

Creative Adventures

Looking for a little adventure this summer? Creative Adventures Summer Camp offers endless opportunities for discovery and adventure. Each week brings new fun, and more adventures and experiences: arts and crafts, games, sports, nature activities, special events, trips like going to a baseball game, seeing a play, Capital Children's Museum, Hershey Park, swimming and much more. We have two locations this year. The fee includes all field trips, special events and a camp T-shirt. Seven weeks. No camp on July 5.

Grades: 1 - 5 (as of September '04)
 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: T.P. City Resident \$100/week
 Non-Resident \$110/week
 Fee if paying for entire summer T.P.
 City Resident \$650
 Non-Resident \$700

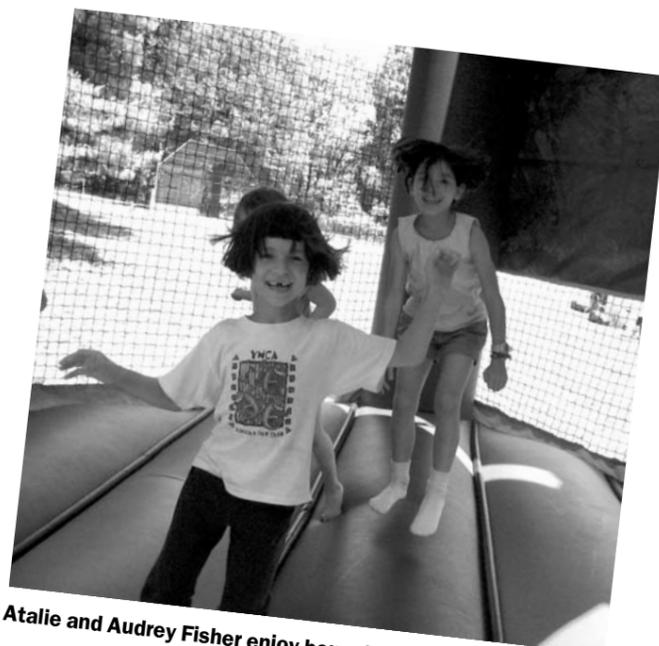


Catching some air at a Ward Party Skate Park

Photos by Carey Dillon



Skye, pictured left, is enjoying a Ward Party sponsored by the Rec Department with her mom, brother and friend.



Atalie and Audrey Fisher enjoy bouncing on the moon bounce

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

Extreme Horizons

Attention Middle Schoolers: This is Not a Camp, It's an Adventure!

Interested in challenging new horizons and exploring your possibilities? Then this is the place for you. 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.) No camp July 5.

Grades: 6 - 8 (as of September '04)
 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

Overnight Camping

Breakout of the same old summer routine at the Takoma Park Recreation Department's Overnight Camping Adventure. Our staff will accompany the campers to this beautiful retreat where they stay in cabins in the woods. Activities include: swimming, hiking, fishing, team building, sports, field trips and much more!!! Participants will meet at the Municipal Building at 8 a.m. on July 12. Space is limited, so sign up early.

Grades: 6 - 9 (as of September '04)
 When: July 12 - 16 (Week 3)
 Location: Camp Summit Lake in Emmitsburg, Md.
 Fee: \$200 (includes all meals, activities and transportation)

Extended Care Options 2004

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Activities include games, outdoor play, and sports. 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 a.m. - 9 a.m.)
 Per Week: T.P. City Resident \$30
 Non-Resident \$35
 Fees for after care (4 p.m. - 6 p.m.)
 Per Week: T.P. City Resident \$30
 Non-Resident \$35

Recreation Help Wanted

The Recreation Department is looking for a responsible hardworking person to open and close its recreation facilities. Other duties include customer service, and light building security.

Must be able to work weekends and evenings. For further information call 301-891-7225.

Thunderbolts Kids Camp

The Thunderbolts, a local college-age baseball team, are offering two baseball camps for boys and girls ages 8 to 14. The camps will be held 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 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 at Daley20@comcast.net.

"The Odyssey" with Ritchie Porter

By Jillian Hershberger
Children's & Youth Services
Coordinator

School-age children and adults are invited to a special near-end-of-summer holiday performance of "The Odyssey" by local theatre artist Ritchie Porter. The program will be presented in the Children's Room of the Library on Tuesday evening, August 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Porter's May 20 appearance at the Library for "Treasure Island" was a standing-room-only event, where even the standing room was quite a squeeze. Both performances are being paid for with a grant from the Washington Redskins, with the cooperation of the Friends of the Library, to support and encourage summer reading.

Last year's performance by Porter of "The Odyssey" was a remarkable tour de force which captivated teenagers and adults and well as younger children. Those with no prior knowl-

edge of Homer's great epic were enthralled by the adventure, whereas the more sophisticated among the audience were treated to a hilarious Monty Python-esque interpretation involving homey props from the toy box and the kitchen cabinet. Porter is repeating the performance this summer at the fervent request of the Children's Librarian, who loved it and thinks it is an ideal program to span the age groups.

A veteran of the Washington theater scene, Porter teaches upper school drama at Stone Ridge School in Bethesda. He has appeared in theater productions at Arena Stage, the Source, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Lumina Theatre Group. He has toured nationally with the Kennedy Center's Programs for Youth and Families. Porter lives in greater Takoma Park and is a Takoma Park Library patron.

Please join us for this special treat. Preregister at the Desk or by calling 301-891-7259.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS IN JULY & AUGUST

Programs in July & August

Summer Quest 2004 : "Unidentified Flying Adventure"
June 14 through Labor Day (see story)

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

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!

"Tapestry" performance

with Arianna Ross
Thursday, July 22, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

"The Odyssey"

with Ritchie Porter
School-age kids through adult
Tuesday, August 17, 7:30 p.m. (See story)

Twilight Treasure Tent

with Tina Hudak
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evening at 7 p.m.
August 2, 3, 4, 5 (see story)

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



Save Energy As You Save Money

Continued from page 12

The EPA Web site links to green power information and producers you can contact at www.epa.gov/greenpower/buyguide/md.htm. Look at the site and pick the type of renewable power and the supplier that is right for you. This site links to green power producers in other states, too, so tell your family and friends to have a look, too.

Transportation

Natural gas and gasoline prices are rising, too, and not likely to come down soon, so it makes sense to also review your home heating efficiency and the fuel efficiency of your vehicles (see www.epa.gov/greenvehicles). Plus, there are always the really green options: walk, bicycle, or use public transportation.

Albert Nunez is chair of the Energy Subcommittee of the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment. Catherine Tunis is chair of the committee.

LIBRARY

Tapestry performance with Arianna Ross

Thursday, July 22, 7:30 pm

"When laughter comes from within, the body will smile." This is the quotation that graces the cover of Arianna Ross's storyteller's brochure, detailing the workshops and programs that she has developed from her rich and varied experiences in traveling around the world.

Arianna Ross has trained in theater, dance, voice, and photography in the United States. Her international experience includes story-gathering in countries as diverse as Egypt, Ireland, Indonesia, and Spain. She has spent three years studying acrobatics, music, martial arts, and performing with Bansi Kaul's troupe Rang Vidushak all over India. She was featured this past year on National Public Radio. She is deeply concerned for nurturing the bonds that connect us all in her storytelling.

Her programs allow for active participation from the audience and are suitable for the whole family. Please join us. Call 301-891-7259 to pre-register. And thanks, as always, to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for supporting these family programs.

Twilight Treasure Tent with Tina Hudak

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evening, 7 p.m.

August 2, 3, 4, 5

Tina Hudak, aka Scheherazad, will be reading aloud to kids 6-9 and their families each evening for a week. Discover secret treasures from the collection as Hudak, a children's librarian and media specialist (formerly with the Takoma Park Maryland Library and now at St. Bernadette's) shares small literary gems each night. A treasure chest will be opened at the conclusion of each evening with small mementos to take home. Each evening will feature different stories. Come be a part of the slow-down movement creeping across the nation.

"Unidentified Flying Adventure" – Summer Quest 2004

This unique, interactive summer reading game plan for school-age children designed by staff artist Dave Burbank with assistance from Jillian Hershberger, children's librarian, is fun, it's free, and it is even good for you. Beginning June 14 and running through Labor Day, readers can mark their progress across the library bulletin board as their reading bunnies move from challenge to challenge.

Those who leave town can pick up a postcard at the front desk to send word back (or perhaps draw a picture) of their adventures. Those fortunates who are traveling out of the country will have to buy their own stamps, but we really want to hear from you. Send us a card directed to 101 Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. We will put them up on display.

Techno-savvy readers can send us a blog at <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/library/children/summerquest/index4.html>

Though reading is its own reward, the Washington Wizards are offering two complimentary tickets to a designated Wizards game to those kids (ages 9-15) who read 10 "chapter books" as a part of their summer reading during July and August. Check with the librarians for details when you sign up for Summer Quest.

You Oughtta Be in Pictures – Before August 1

Filmmakers of all ages are urged to submit their film to the Takoma Park Film Festival before the August 1 deadline.

This event, a collaboration between the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Columbia Union College and local film aficionados and instructors, has been widely praised by participants, attendees and local media as a highly successful community building and artistic endeavor. It has enabled Takoma Park residents to see a rich variety of award-winning and creative films and discuss them with their creators at a neighborhood event, free of charge. It has also given amateur and student film-makers as young as ten an opportunity to share their work with a receptive audience.

To apply, pick up an application at the Takoma Park Library, or you may find it on the Library page of the City Web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org/library. Anyone with a present or past connection to Takoma Park or the surrounding area is eligible to submit their film. The festival will be scheduled sometime in November. You may also call Ellen or Jillian at the Library for more information (301-891-7259).

THE CRIME REPORT

The following report is excerpted from the blotter of the Takoma Park Police Department, prepared by Sgt. Richard Cipperly. It is not intended to include all reported crimes and arrests.

Robberies

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On May 7 at 9:15 p.m., a strong armed robbery occurred. The victim was exiting his car in a parking lot to use an ATM machine when he was approached by a subject. The subject began asking questions of the victim while a second subject approached the victim, punched him and took his bank card. Both subjects fled the scene on foot. The victim sought medical attention at a hospital.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On May 8 at 9 p.m., an attempted armed robbery occurred. The victim was near a bus stop when he was approached by three males who demanded money. When the victim refused, one of the subjects threatened him with a small knife. The victim received a cut on a finger. The subjects fled without any property.

New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block: On June 3 at 7:34 p.m., a strong armed robbery occurred. A subject entered a business and after speaking to an employee for a short time, grabbed the cash register and attempted to flee. A customer attempted to stop the subject and was slightly injured in the ensuing struggle. The subject managed to escape with the register and its contents and was seen fleeing in a white 1996 Dodge van.

Baltimore Ave., 7300 block: On June 5 at 11 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. The

victim was exiting her vehicle in front of her home when she was approached by a subject who exited a 1992 red Honda Accord that had pulled up in front of her car. The victim handed over her purse after the subject pointed a knife at her. The victim ran into her home and the subject fled in the Honda. The victim was not injured.

Auto and Related Theft

Columbia Ave., unit block: On May 14, between 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., a 1990 Toyota Corolla was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On May 14, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., a 1997 Dodge Intrepid was stolen.

Carroll Ave., 7500 block: Between May 15 at 5 p.m. and May 16 at 3:30 a.m., a 1995 Toyota 4Runner SUV was stolen.

Wildwood Ave., 7300 block: Between May 23 at 9 p.m. and May 24 at 8:30 a.m., an attempted auto theft occurred. A window of the 1996 Honda Civic was forced open in order to gain entry. The steering column and ignition were damaged in the attempt.

Maple Ave., 7700 block: Between May 28 at 8 p.m. and May 29 at 11:40 p.m., a 2002 Dodge Intrepid was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: Between June 1 at 8 p.m. and June 2 at 5:30 a.m., a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: Between June 5 and June 6, a 1992 Plymouth van was stolen.

Lee Ave., 100 block: On June 6, between 11:30 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., a 1998 Chrysler Cirrus was stolen.

Manor Circle, 200 block: On June 6, between 12 noon and 3:40 p.m., a 2000 Jeep Cherokee was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: Between June 6 at 11 p.m. and June 7 at 6:47 a.m., an attempted auto theft occurred. A door of the 1995 Dodge Caravan had been left unlocked. The ignition was damaged in the attempt.

Glenside Drive, 1200 block: On June 7, between 10:50 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., a 1998 Ford Escort was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: On June 8, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., a 2003 Dodge Caravan was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: On June 9 at 10:14 p.m., a 1992 Honda Civic was stolen.

Burglaries

Carroll Ave., 7000 block: Between May 22 at 5 p.m. and May 23 at 1:15 p.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A door was forced open and damaged in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 6500 block: Between May 25 at 8:35 p.m. and May 26 at 6:40 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. Unknown subject(s) broke a window in order to gain entry. Property was reported stolen.

Auburn Ave., 700 block: On June 2, between 8 a.m. and 2:40 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A basement window was broken in order to gain entry. Property was reported stolen.

ARRESTS

Darwin Ave., unit block: On June 3 at 10:22 p.m., criminal citations were issued to two adult males and one adult female for possession of drug paraphernalia.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On June 4 at 5:27 a.m., an adult female was arrested on an open warrant from Pennsylvania for failure to appear on a charge of possession of CDS.

Carroll Ave. and Long Branch: On June 4 at 9:55 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, driving without a license and willfully disobeying a lawful order and direction of a police officer.

Ethan Allen Ave. and New Hampshire Ave.: On June 5 at 1:52 a.m., an adult female was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to control speed to avoid collision and failure to stop at red signal.

Flower Ave., 7600 block: On June 5 at 4:46 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, violating license restrictions and speed greater than reasonable.

Ethan Allen Ave., 200 block: On June 6 at 12:05 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with theft under \$500 after merchants reported a subject shoplifting.

University Blvd., 1300 block: On May 18 at 3:28 a.m., an adult male was charged with burglary, theft and malicious destruction of property. A Takoma Park officer noticed a broken window at a business. A short time later, another officer arrested a subject that fit the description of the perpetrator as seen on a surveillance camera.

Reminder...It's the Law – All Fireworks Illegal in Montgomery County!



The Firehouse Report

As of May 31, 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 452 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,045 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,497 this year. Totals for 2003 were 552 and 1,039 respectively, for a total of 1,591, representing a decrease of 94 incidents.

Swimming Safety -

Don't Get in Over Your Head

- If you don't know how to swim, take lessons to learn. If you do not swim well, stay where you can touch bottom. Remember, kids — swimming skills can get rusty over the winter.
- Never force a child to learn to swim. If he or she is afraid, he they're not ready to learn.
- Learn, practice, and remember how to float.
- Only swim in areas where there is a lifeguard or an adult watching. Use the buddy system. Never swim alone.
- Always obey the lifeguard and follow posted swimming rules. No rough play or showing off.
- If you hear thunder or see lightning, get out of the water. Never swim at night.
- Swim in areas that are safely away from diving boards, slides, piers, boat launches, and docks.
- Avoid chewing gum or eating while swimming. You could choke.
- Never let infants swallow a lot of pool water. It could cause seizures. Learn CPR.

Let's have fun this summer ... but be careful around water at all times.

Baby Sitters

The TPVFD conducts classes regularly in how to be a safety-conscious baby-sitter. Graduates of the most recent class, standing 3rd Row L to R: Sacha Langer, Bryan Smalls, Jacob Weisman, Larry Weisman, Hellen Kozel and Abby Cember.

2nd Row L to R: Julian Smith-Jones, Monique Griffin, Anika Rice and Clara Kelly. Sitting 1st Row L to R: Alex Kapiamba, Tyler Kelly, Nic Luckhart and Jeremy Gradwohl.

Tim Medlin, Dave Hooker and Jim Jarboe, TPVFD, Sandy Egan and Officer Mary Jo Mitchell, TPD assisted with the class.

The next class will be in September 2004. Contact the City Recreation Department if you're interested in taking the class.

FREE CPR CLASS offered by the Takoma Park VFD will be held on July 10. Contact the Rec Department if you are interested.



Safety Tips When Grilling

- Always use flame-resistant barbecue mitts and barbecue tools with long, heat-resistant handles.
 - Keep barbecue grills in a level position at all times.
 - Place grills at least five feet away from any combustible material.
 - Place your grill so that sparks and smoke won't fly toward buildings, furniture or people.
 - Use only enough charcoal to last for the time it will be needed.
 - Douse the coals thoroughly with water after grilling.
- It's against the law to use any type of cooking device on a balcony.

Takoma Park Lions Club

Mike Bigler Re-elected King Lion

At the June 22 Installation Night Dinner, Mike Bigler was sworn into office as the King Lion of the Takoma Park Lions Club. Other 2004-05 officers were: Jim Jarboe, First Vice President; Jack Mitton, Second Vice President; Paul McGarvey, Third Vice President; Sherman Cohen, Secretary; Steve Mann, Assistant Secretary; Mike Hall, Treasurer; Jack Mitton, Assistant Treasurer; Carlos M. Alfaro, Lion Tamer; Jorge Alfaro, Tail Twister; Keith Van Ness, Director; Jerie O'Connor, Director; Carlos O. Alfaro, Director; and Ray Messick, Membership Committee Chair.

Lions Receive Honors

At the 82nd Annual Multiple District 22 Convention in Ocean City, Md., the Takoma Park Lions Club received the prestigious 2003-04 Five Star Award. This award included the following categories - Publicity, Community, Youth, Club Bulletin, Blood, Eye Glasses Collection, Visitation and the District Governor Exceptional Award. The club has received this honor numerous times over the years.

How to Avoid Scam Artists And Theft by Deceit

Whether it's called a scam, flim-flam, or "taking advantage of someone," these schemes are just theft by deceiving the victim. In past years, such schemes have seemed to increase in summer and residents continue to learn the hard way that something that sounds "too good to be true" usually isn't true.

Takoma Park Police report that scams involved suspects and victims of every race, gender and age. All too often, the victims' embarrassment leads them to not report the crimes.

Police caution that schemes started by strangers on the street and offering cash benefits seldom are legitimate. This is especially true if the plan involves a "good faith" match of valuables or cash. Officers recommend that such overtures be ignored. The suspect may ask their victim to help cash a lottery ticket, to catch a dishonest bank teller, or arrange tickets home for family emergencies.

If a suspect persists and asks for a match of cash from a bank, the approached victim could go to a bank. Once alone and inside, call the police and provide as complete a description of the suspects as possible. Do not return outside to confront the suspects until the police arrive.

Scam artists often work in pairs, although the initial

approach may be by a single individual. After the potential victim is talking with the suspect, a second person, an accomplice, walks by and is "talked into" the scam. This puts the victim at ease by making it



If a stranger approaches you with a scheme that requires you to provide "good faith money," be suspicious. Call your local enforcement agency. (Source: AARP)

appear as if someone else is agreeing to the proposal. Cash is the preferred "good faith" requested from the victim, but some victims lose both money and jewelry.

Other scams common at this time of year are offers to do small household repairs. While doing a small, inexpensive repair, the thief "discovers" other, more expensive, work they claim needs immediate attention. Elderly persons are often targets.

A resident should ask to see the City permit required for any solicitation going on in the City. Most

reputable companies and many good repair workers are licensed by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission. Major work should be accomplished by licensed plumbers and electricians and usually requires a county work permit. If a question exists about the need for a repair, residents can request advice from Housing and Code Enforcement, 301-891-7119.

Tuesday, August 3: National Night Out Against Crime

Time is short, but residents are encouraged to celebrate neighborhood and crime prevention by planning a local event for National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 3. Safe neighborhoods through community involvement has been a goal of this national program since its inception more than 20 years ago.

A key element in crime prevention is a community that knows its neighbors and demonstrates concern for them and safety. The Sector Specialists of the Community Oriented Policing Team stand ready to assist in planning an event that addresses the concerns of each neighborhood. Call them now for help in planning an event — small or more expansive.

Some ideas for your neighborhood's celebration:

- A block party or barbecue - in the front yard or neighborhood park - is a great way to get to know your neighbors.
- Conduct a door-to-door recruitment drive for your citizen patrol.
- Demonstrate the ease of using an engraving tool to mark property; an important safeguard for personal property protection
- Arrange a mass registration of bikes: registration is free at the Takoma Park Police station.
- Request a demonstration from the canine unit.
- Learn how speed-measuring devices operate and traffic stops are conducted.
- The ideas are endless; let your beat officer know what your neighborhood is doing to celebrate "National Night Out."

Contact Sgt. Kurt Gilbert at 301-891-7124 or talk direct to your Sector Specialist: Victor Sector, Officer Tina Smith, ext. 5615; William Sector, Officer Cindy Conrad, ext. 5682; or X-ray Sector, Officer Joe Butler, ext 5629 at 301-891-7101.

National Night Out is a locally celebrated national recognition of crime prevention and neighborhood action to create better and safer neighborhoods.

POLICE NEWS

Parade and Fireworks Parking and Detours

The following are street closures and parking restrictions for Takoma Park's Independence Day parade and fireworks Monday, July 5.

The parade begins at about 10 a.m., concluding at approximately 12:30 p.m. The route starts on Carroll Ave. at Ethan Allen Ave., follows Carroll Ave. south to Maple Street, N.W., and then turns north on Maple Street. The route then follows Maple as it comes back into Maryland (becoming Maple Ave.) until its end at Maple and Sherman avenues.

Closures

Beginning at 8:00 a.m., Maryland Route 410 will be re-routed, and several other streets will be closed.

All streets, with the exception of Maple Ave., will be re-opened after the conclusion of the parade. Maple Ave., between Sherman Ave. and Route 410, will remain closed until 3 p.m.

Detours

- Westbound Route 410 (Ethan Allen and Philadelphia avenues) will be closed at the intersection with Jackson Ave.. Traffic will be diverted north on Jackson, and then left/west onto Sligo Creek Parkway. Vehicles may turn south at Maple Ave. to Ritchie (right/west) to Piney Branch Road and back to Route 410
- Eastbound Route 410 will close at Piney Branch Road, following the same route in reverse: Piney Branch to Ritchie, left on Maple, right on Sligo Creek Parkway, right on Jackson, to left on Ethan Allen.
- Buses and trucks are not allowed on Sligo Parkway. Buses and large trucks should use New Hampshire north, making a left onto University Boulevard and left on Piney Branch to return back to State Route 410.

Parking Restrictions

To accommodate staging, detours, and participants, parking will be restricted from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

- Both sides of Jackson Ave., from Ethan Allen to Sligo Creek Parkway
- Both sides of Ritchie Ave. from Maple to Piney Branch Road
- Both sides of Maple Ave. from the D.C. line to Ritchie Ave.
- All lots behind the Municipal Building and the City Library
- Grant, Lee and Sherman avenues from Hancock to Carroll (both sides)
- Hancock Ave. from Grant to Sherman (both sides)

Fireworks Closures

The evening program of musical entertainment and fireworks will be held on the ball field of the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road, running from approximately 7:30 to 10 p.m. Although the road will not be closed, traffic delays and congestion should be anticipated through 11 p.m.

Takoma Park Police remind residents that parking is extremely limited at the school. A small area will be reserved for handicapped parking and the pull-off on Piney Branch Road will be reserved for emergency vehicles. On-street parking will be restricted between 7 and 11 p.m. on Darwin, Grant, Holly and Chestnut avenues. No parking signs will be enforced to allow for vehicle traffic on these streets.

In case of rain, the evening program will be held the next clear night.

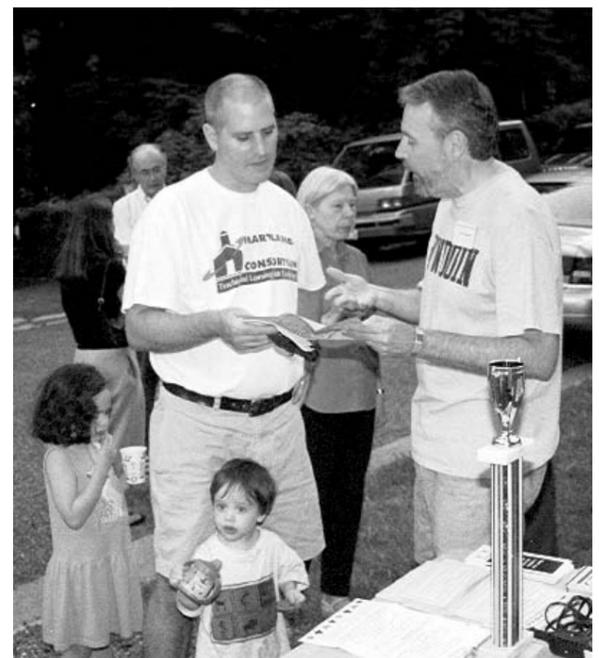


Photo by Carol Bannerman

Neighborhood Safety Contact Sean McCormally (right) hosted a 2002 National Night Out event by setting up a table of safety literature in his front yard for Dogwood Avenue neighbors. Patrol officers and detectives also attended.

Garage Would Give Old Town New Look

Continued from page 1

up costs with state money. The initial state money, \$100,000 from a Community Legacy grant, was used for engineering and traffic studies. The second round of state funds, \$300,000, is an interest-free loan, as the Community Legacy program changed from grants to loans. It will be used for construction costs and to purchase equipment such as meters or mechanisms to run a meterless system. The City would pay off the state loan and any advance construction costs from Urciolo with parking fees collected at the lot. "In theory," says Daines, "it should be self-sustaining."

Such issues, however, remain in question. Urciolo and the City Council have agreed to clarify whatever financial arrangement may occur and to develop a timeline for the project in the near future. The parties must address whether or not the facility would pay for itself, a concern presented by Ward 5 Councilmember Marc Elrich at a recent public meeting. He also pointed out that, if new businesses are created as Urciolo plans, those businesses could use most of the newly created parking, and in fact, county regulations would require parking for the new businesses. Urciolo plans to bring

in a full-service restaurant, two retail establishments, and, in the basement, a community theater seating about 75 people.

The degree to which parking is needed comes into question as well. While merchants and residents in the neighborhood bordering Old Town have asserted the need for more space, others call for further quantification. Dan Robinson, head of the Old Takoma Business Association's parking committee, says the amount of available parking in Old Town is "murky." A recent study, showing a 71-space deficit, was conducted for both the Maryland and D.C. portions of Takoma. Robinson's committee will evaluate underused, ill-used, and over-used parking exclusively in the Maryland Old Town area.

Urciolo has different concerns: He worries the City currently has no reliable parking enforcement mechanism in place, an issue that will become more important as it turns to revenues to pay off construction.

He is, however, confident the partnership is the best way to approach additional parking in Takoma. "It's a good deal for everybody," he says. He envisions a partnership involving all the merchants in Old Town as well as the

City, and has high hopes for the restaurant and theater. For the former, he plans to have outdoor seating, in which the front of the restaurant would be open to the sidewalk. Parking, he says, is essential to any "really good, full-service restaurant," adding that two restaurateurs have expressed interest but refused to come in without additional parking.

The community theater, says Urciolo, would also draw the area together—he suggests teen movie nights coordinated by Video American, with ice cream from Summer Delights and pizza from Pizza Movers. "It's a way to market to everybody," he says. The theater space could be used by local groups like Lumina Theater and the Dance Exchange, where Urciolo is a board member.

"I believe in this area," says Urciolo, who grew up in Takoma, D.C. "I believe that we need this." With an eye on the new development in Silver Spring, which he says has already affected business in Old Town, he insists if Takoma is to stay viable, more parking must be added.

"You've got to make it so people want to stay in this area," he says. The parking plan carries "benefits to me, but at the same time it really is a joint venture that we're working on together for common goal and survival."

Donate Your Old Cell Phones

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department is currently assisting a local non-profit organization called "Secure The Call" by collecting old cell phones. These cell phones are reprogrammed and redistributed to those who need a cell phone for the purpose of calling 911 in an emergency.

There are over 45 million old cell phones sitting in drawers and closets in America. Please, put yours to good use by donating it to the TPVFD. We will see that it gets to those who need it!

Drop your cell phones off at the fire station on the corner of Carroll and Philadelphia avenues. Knock on either door and someone will be glad to take them off your hands.

Think Globally,
Shop Locally;
Support Takoma
Park Businesses

Do Fence Me In . . . Horticulture Club Gives "Beautify Takoma" Awards

By Susan Harris

The Takoma Horticulture Club has awarded its 2004 "Beautify Takoma"

Awards to the major supporters of the new split-rail fence along Philadelphia Avenue between Maple and Holly avenues.

The winners are Hank Prenskey, Carol Cutini, Maribeth Oakes, Historic Takoma, the Takoma Park Folk Festival and the City of Takoma Park. The awards were presented June 10 alongside the new fence on Philadelphia.

According to the copy of the award that now resides in the main lobby of the Municipal Building, "Together with the Horticulture Club, they

made Philadelphia Avenue more livable and more beautiful by funding a new fence and landscaping for this primary route through our community."

"Our thanks also to neighbors Jon Lickerman, Dana Moffett, Jim and Adriana Kocornik-Mina, Kathy Jentz, Jeannie Alexander, Michael Dubenstein, Bob and Kevin Bingaman, Susan Harris, and Joy Austin-Lane and City officials

Al Lott and Rick Finn for their support of the project. And kudos for its expert implementation go to Mike Welsh, Wardwick Taylor, Kimley Mannix, Omot Ojulu, and Freddy Sorrell."

The new fence replaces a chain link fence that was constructed to prevent children from nearby TP Elementary School from running into Philadelphia

Avenue. Last year the Horticulture Club targeted this fence for replacement in its "Beautify Takoma" program. When it was learned that the cost was more than the Hort Club could afford by itself, a fundraising program was initiated and contributors came forward, including local realtor and former City councilmember Hank Prenskey, realtor Carol Cutini, and Historic Takoma.

Next, neighbors and Hort Club members volunteered at the TP Folk Festival and received a contribution to the beautification project in return. Maribeth Oakes and other neighbors wrote personal checks. Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane then asked the city of Takoma



Photo by Kathy Jentz

From Left: Susan Harris, Hank Prenskey, Mike Welsh, Dorothy Barnes, Sabrina Barron, Carol Cutini

Main Street Revitalization Program

Continued from page 1

to be more inviting to customers," according to Sara Daines, director of the City department. "This is a grassroots effort that will mean continued involvement by businesses and property owners, but we will also need the help of volunteers. This is not just the state coming in and telling people what to do or doing it for them but, instead, giving them the resources they need to make their vision of the area a reality. This is a community effort."

Residents interested in volunteering for the Takoma Park Main Street program may contact Mary Stover of OTBA at 240-253-4229 or at marystover@takomaonline.com

The Main Street program does not provide grant money. However, on Feb. 9, the City Council made a three-year financial commitment to the Main Street effort. It will match up to \$25,000 for three years, to a total of \$75,000. This allowed staffer Mary Stover to be

hired, and will aid in program coordination and operating costs.

Other funds will be raised by OTBA businesses through dues, fundraising events, and, hopefully, grants from local, state or federal government.

OTBA will also apply for the DC section of the Old Town area to receive Main Street designation. "When it is all approved," according to Atwood, "it will run from the 4th Street theater on the DC side through Old Town to the Junction."

The timing of the Main Street program is good, because the City and the state of Maryland have already planned streetscape improvements along Carroll and Laurel avenues between the Junction and the District line, to be implemented over the next year. Those improvements, says Daines, will "support the mission" of the Main Street effort.

For more information about the Maryland Main Street Program, see www.dhcd.state.md.us/mainstmd/index.asp.

Park to pitch in the final funds needed, Rick Finn agreed, and the project was a go. City Gardener Mike Welsh and his crew did an outstanding job constructing the new fence, which includes an inner fence that provides continuing protection for children.

In its continuing efforts to encourage and reward citizen beautification efforts, the Horticulture Club has also agreed to donate bulbs to seven public spaces. Those are:

Long Branch Community Center's new hillside garden;

Spring Park, recently cleaned up and newly planted;

Friends of Sligo Creek;

Maple and Sherman avenues—pocket garden maintained by Jeff Trunzo;

Bright Light Academy, a private school;

The Circle on Gist Avenue, Silver Spring, a fabulous community garden one block south of Fenton;

Eastern Avenue, for entrance to long pedestrian walkway between Eastern and Spring Park.

For more information, see www.takomahort.org.

Sen. Ida Ruben Honored for Helping Takoma Park

By Elizabeth Mosely
Communications Assistant

The City of Takoma Park honored Maryland State Sen. Ida G. Ruben June 7 for her outstanding and continuing support for City projects and activities. Ruben's most recent accomplishment was obtaining \$300,000 in state funds for the new Takoma Park Community Center during a difficult legislative session.

A reception was held in Sen. Ruben's honor at the Municipal Building, where community leaders and residents congratulated and thanked the senator.

While funding for the Community Center has been provided by the City, the state of Maryland, Montgomery County, and the federal government, the City encountered an unexpected problem requiring construction of a large flood protection system costing over \$700,000. This pushed the total construction cost to over \$8 million. With this unexpected budget hit and a dismal fiscal year, prospects for obtaining more funds for the center seemed bleak, but Ruben proved the impossible could be done.

"Ida is living proof that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. She's come through for Takoma Park over and over despite the difficulty of circumstances," said Howard Kohn, chair of the Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center.

Following the reception, the City Council adopted a resolution of appreciation, and presented a personalized plaque that acclaimed Ruben as Takoma Park's "District 20 Diamond."

"A resolution isn't enough. A thank you isn't enough, but we want you to know how much we appreciate the service you give us every day," said Councilmember Heather Mizeur during the Council meeting.

The City Council not only praised Ruben's efforts in getting the state funds,

but also showed gratitude for her long-time commitment to the community. Ruben, a Democrat, has represented District 20, which encompasses Takoma Park and the surrounding area in Silver Spring, for 29 years. Initially, Ruben was a state delegate, and since 1987 has been a state senator. She has helped the City receive state funding for street projects



Sen. Ida Ruben, left, with Mayor Kathy Porter

and revitalization activities, and has helped the City gain a role in site plan review and other planning functions in Montgomery County.

"The Community Center is going to be very special for the community and the kids," Ruben said to the Council.

"They are going to make us proud of what you turn out from the Community Center, and it will make us look good because Takoma Park is a very special place."

Although Ruben graciously accepted the accolades, she also acknowledged her District 20 counterparts - Delegates Peter Franchot, Sheila Hixson, and Gareth Murray - who also helped to obtain \$1.5 million in state funding for the Takoma Park Community Center between 1999 and 2001.

"In not so many months from now, these hallways, built anew, will be alive with the laughter of children," said Councilmember Doug Barry. "This place will be a jewel and we have you - in large part - to thank. And it will serve this community for a long time to come and I'm sure we'll all be very proud of the results at the end of the day."

Takoma Park City TV Events in July 2004

Things are heating up at City TV this month. These Special Events showcase some of Takoma Park's favorite musicians and new performers we guarantee you'll love. Watch Channel 13 in July to see a few performances from the Tastes of Takoma. In early July, catch Joanne Juskus and the Kelly Bell Band, a blues group from Baltimore. Mid-July the Satin Doll Trio; Ron Warren; Katie and Marlon; and Acro Aairs, a gymnastics group - all from the Tastes of Takoma - will have you singing along with them. City TV will also air performances from the ninth Takoma Park JazzFest, held June 12. Performances include: the Dave Kline Band and Sin Miedo; One Step Up: Oklahoma Twisters and a jam session, where local musicians came together to produce great music. So, don't miss these performances and other superb programs too. Go online to the City's Web site to obtain specific programming information including show listings and times.

Takoma Snapshots in July includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Walking City Council: Ward 3
- Takoma Park Loves Ida Ruben
- Take Me Out to the Ballgame
 - Babe Ruth League
 - Thunderbolts

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 checkout 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 (pickup) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are now available in DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to cabletv@takomapark.org for more information.

Takoma Park City TV July 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		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Haiti a Suivre		Haiti a Suivre	Coffeehouse
10:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
11:00 PM							
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots				

Programming subject to change without notice.

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

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

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

More Eclectic than Ever, JazzFest Busts Out

By Ethan Goffman

In its ninth season, the Takoma Park JazzFest has a new look. "Only this year have we really busted out of jazz," says Dave Lorentz, festival president. JazzFest producer Bruce Krohmer explains that they are attempting to "mix up as many genres as possible ... I'm trying to make the JazzFest as big and all-inclusive as I can."

Krohmer explains, "We always tried to mix everything up and do as many genres as possible, which is sometimes hard, and if you can, you do some stuff that's historical or educational." Although this year's theme, "Jazz Around the World," is a bit of an overstatement, the festival did include Latin jazz, Western swing, Caribbean rhythms, gypsy folk themes, and other improvisational music influenced by jazz. Krohmer, in his second year as sole producer, implemented the broadened scope, although the change had been discussed for several years.

In 1993 Krohmer answered a notice that Lorentz had placed in the *Takoma Park Newsletter*; leading to the first JazzFest in 1996. Lorentz had an earlier three-year stint producing a jazz-classical mix with members of the Takoma Park orchestra, as part of the Takoma Park Folk Festival. In 1991, however, the folk festival organizers

announced a new rule: folk-music only. Lorentz recalls that he responded, "The hell with you guys, I'm gonna go start my own festival."

In those first years, the festival tended to lose money, although recent sponsorship by Starpower has made life easier. This year Black Entertainment Television joined the list of corporate helpers. Rain has also been a problem, hampering the JazzFest for all but two years.

Compared to the energy, enthusiasm, scope, and longevity of Takoma Park's folk festival, the JazzFest is a small and somewhat overlooked cousin. "Yes, Takoma Park is a great folk town," observes Lorentz, "but that's not all that we have here. We got classical people. We got jazz people." And Krohmer believes that the instrumental explorations of jazz round out the Takoma Park music scene. In a town with a strong, diverse artistic community, Lorentz and Krohmer agree, it's important to recognize many traditions.

And jazz is certainly integral to America; Krohmer describes it as "our national music, the only music that was really formulated totally in America, and it's being pushed to the side these days."

This year's festival was held on June 12 alongside a baseball tournament — two

sion invented by "the fieldworkers in the Depression, black and white," thrown out of work. Krohmer joined in on the last tune, adding a classic jazz sax to the twangy mix. Dancers bopped near the bandstand and the crowd had grown to intermediate size, although dispersed over a large field, and among the booths at the back.

The Dave Kline band followed, a soaring electric violin playing European folk melodies over a perky, funky rhythm section. Finally the Statesmen of Jazz took the bandstand, a grand old lineup of classic jazzmen led by Warren Vaché, and featuring Houston Persson on sax and Silver Spring legend

Keter Betts on bass. The set ended with a rousing version of "Sweet Georgia Brown."

Afterwards, the organizers were happy with the quality of the music, the upbeat mood, and the gentle day, but not with the size of the crowd. Lorentz estimates the crowd size at 300 to 400 people, far fewer than they'd hoped to attract. Along with JazzFest Secretary Juanita Kus, he speculates as to why—a popular jazz festival in Harrisburg, Pa., a simultaneous Silver Spring musical event announced at the last minute, a lack of publicity. Although, he says, we "try to get all the publicity we can," the JazzFest board lacks both money and volunteers to get their message out. "We would like to do more," states Kus, "but we just don't have the people resources."

Yet the show goes on, improvising and evolving, with Krohmer taking over more responsibility for running the event. "My goal is to get better each year," Krohmer explains. "I think this is a jump from last year, and I hope to make a big jump next year ... You've got to take risks."



Photo by Ethan Goffman

Latin band Sin Miedo, adding a Pan-American flavor to JazzFest.

great American traditions side-by-side in the 21st century. As a further good omen, lovely blue skies and a moderate breeze presided. An initial journey into jazz history was preempted, however, as blues guitarist Ben Andrews broke his wrist and had to cancel.

Zesty straight-ahead jazz opened up the festival, with One Step Up, the winner of the midwinter Band Brawl—a battle of the bands. It was followed by a jam session featuring JazzFest old-timers. In the distance, children in bright uniforms tossed balls high into the air, warming up for the next game. The season's last few cicadas were in intermittent attendance; one flew lazily along, bumped into a tree. Like the cicadas, the crowd was sparse, although grooving intensely to the music.

Next up on the big stage was Sin Miedo, a Latin group from DC, including congas and timbales, and showing off jazz's Pan-American, and Pan-African, sides. The Oklahoma Twisters followed, sporting major Texas hats and playing Western swing, which Krohmer describes as a fu-

There are also white coatings that can be applied to existing roofing.

And don't forget the standard methods of saving energy. Caulk around windows and doors, and also at any point where pipes and wires enter your house. This will keep insects out, too. Cut pieces of foam meat trays to fit behind switch plates and electrical outlets on outside walls. Close your fireplace damper. Get timers or motion detectors for your security lights. And turn off all lights and appliances when they are not in use.

You can save a lot of energy, and money, by setting your computers to go into a low-power sleep mode after a period of inactivity. A touch of the mouse or keyboard "wakes" the monitor within seconds. It is easy to enable the sleep capabilities of your computers. See <http://www.energystar.gov/powermanagement/index.asp> for instructions and a power savings calculator.

For more ideas on energy efficiency in your home see the Website of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

(www.aceee.org/consumerguide/chkst.htm) and Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings (www.aceee.org/consumerguide/index.htm). Or you can visit the City of Takoma Park's Web site (www.cityoftakomapark.org) for more conservation tips. If you have a small business, join Energy Star for Small Business for even more help: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_index.

Green Power

Green power—electricity that is generated by renewable sources such as wind or landfill gas—will now be a relatively more cost efficient option vis-a-vis SOS, which is electricity generated mostly by coal and other less environmentally friendly means. Green power may still be more expensive than brown power, but the cost difference will be less. For the past four years, green power producers could not effectively compete in Maryland with PEPCO rates frozen at reduced levels.

Continued on page 7

With Electric Rates Rising, Consider Energy Conservation (Again)

By Albert Nunez and Catherine Tunis

Remember electricity deregulation? Remember those pictures of big light bulbs in the paper four years ago telling you that you could now choose your energy supplier? Most people did nothing and continued to have their electricity supplied by Pepco under "Standard Offer Service" (SOS). Considering that the Maryland Public Service Commission reduced Pepco's electricity rates by 7 percent at that time, staying with SOS for the electricity generation portion of your service was the choice most everyone made.

But all that is about to change. The freeze on Pepco's rates expires July 1. Pepco expects the total price for electricity generation and delivery to rise by 15 to 16 percent. This means it is a very good time to review your options and perhaps make some changes in how you buy and use electricity.

We recommend that you look carefully at 1) energy efficiency and 2) green power.

Energy Efficiency

Higher electricity prices mean that any energy efficiency measures you take now will be more cost-effective. In the heat of summer, work to keep your home cool. Protect large trees that shade buildings and cool the air. That's one of the most important things we can do in Takoma Park. Large trees can lower your electricity use for air conditioning by 40 percent. Some additional easy changes: use compact fluorescent light bulbs and be sure any new appliances, especially refrigerators and air conditioners, are Energy Star certified. The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency worked together to create the Energy Star label. The Energy Star label helps businesses and consumers make better informed energy-efficient product buying decisions.

Energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances may cost a bit more to start, but will save you money over their useful life. Compact fluorescent bulbs are available in many sizes and shapes to fit nearly every light fixture. While compact fluorescent bulbs are initially more costly to buy than incandescent bulbs, they last up to ten times longer. Plus they save so much electricity over the life of the bulb that you come out way ahead. They use 25 percent as much electricity as an ordinary incandescent bulb while producing the same amount of light. And fluorescent lights don't have to be harsh—go to a lighting store for the best advice and products. (Do not break fluorescent bulbs. Take them to household hazardous waste days when they burn out, to keep the small amounts of mercury in the bulbs from contaminating our food chain.)

If you are installing new lighting fixtures, look at T-8, T-5, and even T-2 fixtures and bulbs—these are much more efficient than the traditional fluorescent tubes. For appliances, look at the EER or SEER ratings. For more information on Energy Star appliances and lighting, see www.energy.state.md.us or www.energystar.gov/products.

Get a cool roof by choosing light-colored roofing material. Dark roofing will absorb the sun's rays creating heat and increasing your cooling bills. Even a gray roof absorbs much more heat than a white one. Choose white shingles for new roofing,