Old Town Parking Garage

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-up costs.

Continued on page 10

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

Continued on page 10
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 darylb@takomagov.org.

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.

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Takoma Park Newsletter

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).

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.
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 resumes, 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

Takoma Park Mediation Program Board members Linda Walker, John Urciolo, Wolfgang Mengler 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, crcmcs@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 a 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 of the dynamics of a culturally and ethnically diverse community. Ability to work effectively with a variety of people with diverse 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.

Deadline for Submissions: July 12
Next Issue: July 23

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.cityoftakomapark.org.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinions, will be considered for publication. Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material.

Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1092-92 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.

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance. The Newsletter is printed on recycled paper. Call 301-891-7101, ext. 5678 with delivery complaints.

To contact the editor e-mail: tpnwrites@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 required electrical work and/or 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 by the landlord, specific indications 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 unit 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 and the rent 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 the 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, they paid a proportional fee for the air conditioning during the summer months may seek to have the a/c restored voluntarily by the landlord, or 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@takomagov.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.

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 a COLTA 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@takomagov.org.
1. **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. An other 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 example, 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

2. **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 Hixon, 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.

3. **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 301-991-7232 to discuss your project. Just maybe, your search for funding can end here.

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**Community Center Budget, Year to Year**

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**Expenditures**

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<th>FY 02</th>
<th>FY 03</th>
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**Fiscal Year Activity**

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**Project Net**

| Project Net | $27,641 | $327,465 | $27,641 | $27,641 | $27,641 | $27,641 |

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**Community Development Block Grants**

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 301-991-7232 to discuss your project. Just maybe, your search for funding can end here.

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**.apply now for community development block grants**
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 New Hampshire Ave.
OR
Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7151 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

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
Non-Resident $175/week
for week #3 $200
for week #4 $200
Fee if paying for entire summer:
T.P. City Resident $900
Non-Resident $930
(Not including week #3)

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

Creative Adventure Summer Camp Dates

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 5 - 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

Creative Adventures Summer Camp Dates

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

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 301-270-5295 or e-mail at Daley20@comcast.net.

Fees:
Non-Resident            $175
City Resident $150

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

Photos by Carey Dillon

Catching some air at a Ward Party Skate Park

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 at the Takoma Park Babe Ruth.
The EPA Web site links to green power producers in other states, so tell your family and friends to have a look, too. To pick the type of renewable power and the information and producers you can connect, visit the EPA Web site at www.epa.gov/greenpower/.

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 Bassi 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. Bernardette’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 fortunate who are still reveling 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.


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 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).

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/.

Transportation

Natural gas and gasoline prices are rising, too, and not likely to come down soon, so it makes sense to also review your 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 Nunes is chair of the Energy Subcommittee of the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment. Catherine Tunis is chair of the committee.
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 14 at 11:30 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim was exiting his vehicle in front of his home when he was approached by a subject who exited a 1992 red Honda Accord that had pulled up in front of his car. The victim handed over his wallet and a knife to the subject. The victim ran into her home and the subject fled in a Honda. The victim was not injured.

Auto and Related Theft

Columbia Ave., unit block: On May 15 at 5 p.m. and May 16 at 3:30 a.m., a 1995 Toyota 4Runner SUV was stolen.

Wildwood Ave., 7000 block: Between May 23 at 9 a.m. and May 24 at 9:10 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., 7000 block: Between May 25 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 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 with the subject pointing a knife at her. The victim ran into her home and the subject fled in a Honda. The victim was not injured.

Reminder...It’s the Law — All Fireworks Illegal in Montgomery County!

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.

Swimming Safety

• Never force a child to learn to swim. If he or she is afraid, they’re not ready to learn.

Baby Sitters

The TPVP conducts classes regularly to train future babysitters. Graduates of the most recent class, including 3rd Row L to R: Sacha Langer, Bryan Smalis, Jacob Weisman, Larry Weissman, 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 Keller, Nick Luckhart and Jeremy Gradwohl. Tim Medlin, Dave Hooker and Jim Jarboe, TPVPD, Sandy Egan and Officer Mary Jo Mitchell, TPVPD 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.

• Always keep a fire extinguisher 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, fences, etc.

• 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.

ARRESTS

Darwin Ave., until bloc: 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 failing to appear on a charge of possession of CDS.

Carroll Ave., and Long Branch: On June 7 at 1:35 a.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 peace officer.

Ethel Allen Ave., and New Hampshire Ave., 7200 block: On June 8 at 9:55 p.m., an adult female was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, driving without a license and willfully disobeying a lawful order and direction of a peace officer.

On June 14 at 5:09 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 peace officer.

On June 16 at 2:45 a.m., an adult female was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, driving without a license and willfully disobeying a lawful order and direction of a peace officer.

On June 17 at 4:20 a.m., an adult female was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, driving without a license and willfully disobeying a lawful order and direction of a peace officer.

On June 18 at 4:08 a.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 peace officer.

On June 18 at 5:37 a.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 peace officer.

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.

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Takoma Park Lions Club

Mike Bigler Re-elected

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; Jere 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, 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.

Elderly persons and families should start 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, catch a dishonest bank caller, or arranges 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 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.

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 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.

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. Off-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.

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 boast officer know what your neighborhood is doing to cel-

brate “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.
Garage Would Give Old Town New Look

Do Fence Me In . . . Horticulture Club Gives “Beautify Takoma” Awards

Main Street Revitalization Program

Donate Your Old Cell Phones

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 monitoring devices 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 overused 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.

Heis, however, confident the partnership is the best way to approach additional parking in Takoma. “It’s a good deal for everybody,” he says. He envisages 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 restauranteurs 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 Americain, 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 Takoma needs more parking, immediately, 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.”

Don’t 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 Prensky, Carol Cutini, Maribeth Oakes, Historic Takoma, the Takoma Park Folk Festival and the City of Takoma. The awards were presented June 10 alongside the new fence on Philadelphia Avenue.

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 road through our community.”

“Our thanks also to neighbors Jon Lickerman, Dana Moffett, Jim and Adriana Kocornik-Mina, Kathy Jentz, Jeannie Alexander, Michael Dabernstein, Bob and Kevin Ringman, Susan Harris and Joy Austin-Lane and City official 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 OjuIu, and Freddy Sorrell.”

The new fence replaces a chain link fence that was constructed to prevent children from crossing nearby TP Elementary School from running into Philadelphia Avenue. Last year the Horticulture Club took it upon themselves to raise funds for a new 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 fund-raising program was initiated and contributors came forward, including local realtor and former City councilmember Hank Prensky, 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 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 gardens given over to 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 $8 million were slim. With this unexpected problem re-

Sen. Ida Ruben, left, with Mayor Kathy Porter

but also showed gratitude for her long-term 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 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 in Maryland’s House of Delegates – 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.”

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

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 Airs, 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 Park City TV

July 2004

Programming Schedule

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Programmed subject to change without notice.
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 bustled 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 histori- cal 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.

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 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 Blue Entertainment Television joined the list of corporate helpers. Rain has also been a problem, ham- pering the JazzFest for all but two years.

Compared to the energy, enthusiasm, scope, and long- evity of Takoma Park’s folk fest, the JazzFest is a small and somewhat over- looked cousin. “Yes, Takoma Park is a great folk town,” observes Lorentz, “but it’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 tradi- tions.

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 sup- plier? Most people did nothing and con- tinued to have their electricity supplied by Pepco under “Standard Offer Service” (SOS). Considering that the Maryland Public Service Commission reduced Pepco’s 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 genera- tion 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 use the shade 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 com- pact fluorescent light bulbs and be sure any new appliances, especially refrigera- tors 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 appli-ances may cost a bit more to start, but will save you money over their useful life. Compact fluorescent bulbs are available in a variety of shapes and sizes 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 incandes- cent bulb while producing the same 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, 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 fixtures—they are much more efficient than the standard T-12s. There are also white coatings that can be applied to existing lighting fixtures. (See http://www.energystar.gov/products.

Green Power

Green power—electricity that is gener- ated by renewable sources such as wind or solar power—will now be a relatively more cost effective 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 net environmental benefit will be less. For the past four years, green power producers could not effectively compete in Maryland with PEPCO rates frozen at reduced levels.

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