

# Takoma Park

## NEWSLETTER

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. . ."

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.cityoftakomapark.org

August 2004

## Council Passes \$15 Million Budget

By Bob Guldin  
Editor

The Takoma Park City Council passed a Fiscal Year 2005 budget of \$15,383,186 on June 21, a 9.75 percent increase from Fiscal 2004. The Council made a number of final adjustments in revenues and expenditures to fund certain small but well-supported programs. In the end, as required by law, a balanced budget emerged.

To help boost revenues for the year, two City-owned lots on Piney Branch Road near Flower Ave. will be sold. Official estimates are that the sale will bring in \$400,000. That income will help to cover \$400,000 in construction costs for the new Community Center.

The City also put \$100,000 in a reserve for possible legal fees in case the City decides to go to court to oppose aspects of the proposed expansion of Washington Adventist Hospital. Those funds may or may not ever be expended, but they do indicate that the City takes the hospital expansion seriously.

The City's biggest cost is staff salaries and benefits. While the number of City staff actually decreased over the

last year and now stands at 135 full-time equivalent, staff costs still increased. City employees received a 2.5 percent pay increase in the current fiscal year, and health insurance costs increased by 13.9 percent.

The City eliminated three staff positions over the last year by combining the positions of City treasurer and City clerk, and by eliminating two housing inspector positions. The City does, however, have to pay Montgomery County to do the rental housing inspections formerly done by City staff.

Additional changes the Council made in its budget-balancing exercise:

- It cut one police position for half a year, saving \$24,626.
- It restored \$13,500 in funding for the Tool Library.
- It doubled from \$25,000 to \$50,000 a property tax rebate program for low-income homeowners.
- It allocated \$20,000 for an outreach program to non-English-speaking City residents.

The City is also expending more than \$5 million during FY2005 for construc-

*Continued on page 10*

## City to Borrow \$2 Million To Speed Street Repairs

The City Council voted July 6 to borrow \$2,005,000 so Takoma Park can more quickly repair those streets that are most in need of work. The City has "locked in" a rate of 3.34 percent on a seven-year loan from Sun Trust Bank.

Most councilmembers wanted to move quickly to take advantage of current low interest rates – which are now rising.

Assistant Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite explained to the Council June 1 that "with the loan, you do the big repairs – the high-ticket items – up front, so they don't experience the inflation of later years." Because the loan will allow the City to move more quickly, Braithwaite told the *Newsletter*, "each street is getting done sooner than it would

on a pay-as-you-go basis, with the most urgent repairs done earliest."

But the loan did arouse considerable controversy. Before the final vote, 17 residents sent e-mails to the City clerk in opposition to the borrowing. Two councilmembers, Joy Austin-Lane (Ward 1) and Terry Seamens (Ward 4), expressed serious reservations about the wisdom of taking out the loan, and voted against the motion. The Council approved the loan by a vote of 5-2.

The City expects to allocate \$500,000 per year for street repairs over the next ten years. Most of that money will go for loan repayment, with the remainder available to supplement street repairs. Although this is a short-term loan, there will be no impact on tax rates, as the City has annually allocated \$500,000 from existing revenue for street repairs.

Councilmember Heather Mizeur noted that 22.5 percent of the City's streets are rated in failed, very poor or poor condition. The City has 33 linear miles of streets.

Mayor Kathy Porter said, "The proposal is not going to increase the amount that's expended each year for roads. This gets the absolute worst roads done."

The plan is to begin spending the \$2 million in FY 2006 (which starts July 1, 2005), and use all the loan funds over a two-year period.

— Bob Guldin

## Willow Street Yoga Awakens Spirits, Minds and Bodies



Suzie Hurley: "It's more than twisting yourself into a pretzel."

By Mitchell Tropin

Suzie Hurley, the director of Takoma Park's Willow Street Yoga Center, discovered yoga in an unlikely place: a Royal Air Force base about two hours outside of London. The wife of a U.S. Air Force officer, Hurley came to the small town of Woodbridge with a strong interest in meditation, but wanted to explore something that involved physical movement. Growing up, she had been quite a jock, playing basketball, soccer and field hockey. "I liked to move my body and I wanted to investigate spiritual discipline, so yoga seemed a natural," she says.

The spiritual aspects of yoga appealed to her interest in meditation and the physical movement appealed to the athlete in her. It was 1977 and finding yoga instructors was not easy in a small English town. Undaunted, Hurley taught herself using books. At that point her interest was mostly in the physical side of yoga—hatha yoga.

But she soon discovered some in-

credible dividends from executing various yoga positions or asanas. "I found that the positions were different than anything I had known from sports and they seem to alleviate mental and physical tension, freeing up energy," Hurley says. "I had four children by then, ranging from 12 years to six months old, and I needed a lot of energy. I also noticed that problems seem to roll off my shoulders more easily," she says.

She started teaching yoga classes in 1981. The first class consisted of seven students from the Officer Wives' Club, but Hurley knew it was going to be her life's calling. The class soon expanded to 30. When her first husband was relocated to a U.S. Air Force base in Fayetteville, N.C., Hurley resumed teaching there, finding that many had misconceptions about yoga. She encountered people who did not realize "it was more than twisting yourself into a pretzel and munching on sprouts."

*Continued on page 10*

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Again, Takoma Park leads in social change.

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Look out for it when buying plants.

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Temporary wetlands are important ecological habitats.

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### Celebrating The Fourth on the Fifth

Great weather greets parade and fireworks.

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## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**TUESDAY, JULY 27 thru SUNDAY, SEPT. 5**  
- Council's 2004 Summer Recess

**MONDAY, SEPT. 6** - City Offices CLOSED in  
Observance of Labor Day

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 7** - WORKSESSION

**MONDAY, SEPT. 13** - PUBLIC HEARING &  
REGULAR MEETING  
Public Hearing:  
- (tentative) Rent Stabilization

**MONDAY, SEPT. 20** - WORKSESSION

**MONDAY, SEPT. 27** - REGULAR MEETING

### City Offices Close Aug. 20

City Offices will close at 10:00 a.m. on  
Friday, August 20, for Employee Appreciation  
Day. The Police Department will remain open.  
The Library will be closed all day.

## Vacancies on Council- Appointed Committees

The City Clerk invites you to apply to be appointed  
to the follow official City committees. See the end  
of this announcement for details on how to apply.

**Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA).**  
The 12-member commission is empowered to  
adjudicate and mediate complaints for violations of  
Chapter 6, Housing, Article 4, Landlord Tenant  
Relations; to rule on petitions for rent increases  
above the rent stabilization allowance; and to  
decide appeals from the City Manager's decision  
to deny, suspend or revoke a rental housing  
license. Spanish-speaking individuals are espe-  
cially encouraged to apply.

**Facade Advisory Board.** The 7-member board  
provides design and historic advisory assistance  
for building and business owners located in the  
commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides  
recommendations to the Montgomery County  
Historic Preservation Commission regarding permit  
applications.

**Noise Control Board.** The 7-member board is  
charged with assisting and advising the City on  
noise control issues, including administration and  
enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance, and  
adjudicating noise disturbance complaints.

**Nuclear Free Committee.** The 7-member commit-  
tee is responsible for overseeing the implementation  
of and adherence to the Nuclear-Free Zone Act.

**Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee.** The  
12-member committee is charged with providing  
input and advice to the Council and the City's  
public safety agencies about how the City can better  
meet the ongoing needs and concerns of residents  
in the area of police services and public safety.

**Safe Roadways Committee.** The new committee  
advises the City on transportation-related issues  
including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle  
safety, traffic, and transit services.

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



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

### Monday, June 21 - Regular Meeting:

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-22 was accepted  
unanimously, authorizing installation of speed  
hump(s) and/or traffic calming devices on Elm Ave.  
(VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich,  
Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-23 was accepted,  
approving short-term tax-exempt financing for the  
purpose of funding the rehabilitation of City streets  
(General Obligation Bond 1-2004) (VOTING FOR:  
Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Williams; NAY: Aus-  
tin-Lane, Seamens).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-13 was adopted  
unanimously, adopting a Stormwater Management  
Budget for FY05, beginning July 1, 2004 and ending  
on June 30, 2005 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich,  
Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-14 was adopted  
unanimously, adopting the tax rate for FY05, begin-  
ning July 1, 2004 and ending on June 30, 2005 (VOT-  
ING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich,  
Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-15 was adopted  
unanimously, approving and adopting a budget,  
including FY05-09 Capital Improvements Program  
(CIP) for FY05, beginning July 1, 2004 and ending on  
June 30, 2005 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane,  
Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-16 was adopted  
unanimously, adopting the FY05 Police Pay Plan  
(VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich,  
Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-17 was accepted  
unanimously, adopting the FY05 AFSCME Employee  
Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry,  
Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-18 was accepted  
unanimously, adopting the FY05 Management and  
Non-Union Staff Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Aus-  
tin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-19 was accepted  
unanimously, adopting the FY05 Part-Time and Sea-  
sonal Staff Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-  
Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-25 was adopted unanimously,  
authorizing an Agreement with MFS Telecommuni-  
cations Company (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-  
Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-21 was adopted  
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,  
Seamens, Williams).

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-24 was accepted  
unanimously, authorizing FY04 Budget Amendment  
No.3 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry,  
Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Single Reading Ordinance #2004-25 was adopted  
unanimously, authorizing the purchase of police  
vehicles (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry,  
Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-26 was adopted unanimously,  
expressing condolence to the family and friends of  
Sergeant Jacobs (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane,  
Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-27 was adopted unanimously,  
recognizing Private Pedersen as recipient of "Officer  
of the Year" award (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-  
Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-28 was adopted unanimously,  
effecting a reappointment to the Commission on  
Landlord Tenant Affairs (VOTING FOR: Porter,  
Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-29 was adopted unanimously,  
effecting a reappointment to the Facade Advisory  
Board (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry,  
Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-30 was adopted unanimously,  
effecting a reappointment to the Free Burma Commit-  
tee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich,  
Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-31 was adopted unanimously,  
effecting a reappointment to the Nuclear Free Com-  
mittee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry,  
Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

### Tuesday, July 6 - Special Session:

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-23 was adopted,  
approving short-term tax-exempt financing for the  
purpose of funding the rehabilitation of City streets  
(General Obligation Bond 1-2004) (VOTING FOR:  
Porter, Elrich, Mizeur, Williams; NAY: Austin-Lane,  
Seamens; ABSENT: Barry).

Resolution #2004-32 was adopted unanimously,  
authorizing the new City Manager's contract (VOT-  
ING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur,  
Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

### Monday, July 12 - Regular Meeting:

Resolution #2004-33 was adopted unanimously,  
expressing appreciation to departing City Manager  
Richard Finn (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane,  
Elrich, Mizeur, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

Resolution #2004-34 was adopted unanimously,  
expressing appreciation to the members of the citi-  
zens City Manager Search Committee (VOTING FOR:  
Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Williams; AB-  
SENT: Seamens).

Resolution #2004-35 was adopted unanimously,  
supporting same-sex marriage (VOTING FOR: Por-  
ter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Williams; ABSENT:  
Seamens).

Resolution #2004-36 was adopted unanimously,  
adopting the City's Emergency Management Plan  
(VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur,  
Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

Resolution #2004-37 was adopted unanimously,  
supporting self storage building proposal (exStorage  
Corporation - 1353 Holton Lane) (VOTING FOR:  
Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Williams; AB-  
SENT: Seamens).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-22 was adopted  
unanimously, authorizing installation of speed  
hump(s) and/or traffic calming devices on Elm Ave.  
(VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich,  
Mizeur, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-24 was adopted  
unanimously, authorizing FY04 Budget Amend-  
ment No.3 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry,  
Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-38 was adopted unanimously,  
effecting appointments to the Noise Control Board  
(VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich,  
Seamens, Williams).

Resolution #2004-39 was adopted unanimously,  
effecting appointments to the Safe Roadways Com-  
mittee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry,  
Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

## Council Supports Gay Marriage, And a Good Time Is Had by All

It's not all that often that the Takoma Park City Council gets a standing ovation, but that's what happened July 12, when the Council unanimously passed a resolution in favor of same-sex marriage.

The resolution was introduced by Bruce Williams and Heather Mizeur, two openly gay members of the Council. And it gave the Council and the community an opportunity to display a well-known Takoma Park characteristic – overtly and proudly taking a progressive position ahead of the curve.

Mizeur explained that she had a number of reasons for introducing the motion: “the ugly debate in the Senate” on a constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage; the fact that nine couples in Maryland, supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, have filed suit seeking the right to marry; and that many friends and constituents have asked for such an affirmative move by the City. Mizeur explained that she had polled the members of the Council before introducing the motion, so it was clear from the start that the measure would pass.

Eighteen people, both gay and straight, testified in favor of the motion. One, a toddler, explained shyly, “I have two mommies,” but did not elaborate.

Another, George Taylor, a local Presbyterian minister, declared, “You are witnessing Takoma Park at its very best tonight” – a sentiment that seemed to be shared by the audience.

While the City does not have the right to marry people – Maryland law reserves that power to the counties – the City will file an amicus curiae brief in support of the nine couples who are suing for the right to marry in Maryland.

The City has for several years provided benefits for domestic partners of employees (both gay and straight), and has maintained a domestic partnership registry.

Takoma Park is the first municipality in the state to pass a resolution in support of same-sex marriage, and its initiative garnered considerable media attention, including an article on the first page of the *Washington Post* Metro section and a story carried by the Associated Press.

— Bob Guldin

## New City Manager Meets the Folks



**New City Manager Barbara Burns Matthews meets active citizens at a reception July 12 – her first day on the job. Here Matthews (left) chats with Belle Ziegler and Ernie Weisman, both stalwarts in the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee.**

## Free Compost Bins Available from County

Montgomery County wants you to recycle your yard waste and grass. In fact, they're so keen on the idea that the county is giving away compost bins.

You can use the bins to turn all kinds of vegetable organic matter into compost you can use on your garden. That includes lawn and plant trimmings, leaves, and vegetable food waste.

The compost bins are available at the county's main waste transfer station at Route 355 and Shady Grove Road or at

county regional services centers.

The regional services center closest to Takoma Park is at 8435 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring. Phone 301-565-7300 for information. For the county's Solid Waste Division, call 240-777-6400.

Another way to recycle and reuse yard waste is “grasscycling,” or simply mowing your lawn in such a way that the lawn clippings can be left on the lawn to decompose. The results: less work for you, less fertilizer to buy, and less solid

## New Disease, Sudden Oak Death, Affects Other Plants Too

By Brett Linkletter  
City Arborist

Sudden Oak Death, a disease new to the United States, is caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. This disease is responsible for widespread tree mortality in central and northern California and has also been detected in nurseries in Oregon, Washington, California and British Columbia on the West Coast. The disease was first identified in 1993 in Germany and the Netherlands on rhododendrons. Though the disease has not yet made its way to the East Coast, it eventually could, so it is important to know what to look for when buying plant stock.

The common name “Sudden Oak Death” is now known to be somewhat misleading. The browning of all the foliage on large trees appears suddenly, but it may take several years after the trunk infection started before the foliar symptoms appeared. It also affects many plants besides oaks. Rhododendrons, some viburnums, some buckeyes, sequoias, bigleaf maples are a few of the trees and shrubs that have been identified so far. Also, not all oaks seem as susceptible as others. The oaks we refer to as the “red oaks” such as Northern red oak, pin oak and willow oak, are all very highly susceptible. “White oaks” such as white oak, overcup oak and swamp white oak do not seem vulnerable.

Symptoms on affected trees and shrubs vary considerably by species and it is difficult to differentiate plants infected with Sudden Oak Death from those infected by other pathogens. In some hosts, only leaf infections occur, resulting in irregular lesions and spots. In others, cankers occur on large branches and main stems. Tree and shrub mortality usually occurs from cankers, which are diffuse and develop rapidly. Bark may discolor, appear water-soaked, and bleed dark liquid at the margins. Dark lines often occur in the inner bark. Discoloration only goes a few millimeters into the wood. Death to the plant may occur within several months to several years after initial infection. The disease also makes the host more vulnerable to

Hypoxylon canker and Armillaria root rot, which are very common in this part of Maryland and are often fatal.

The spread of Sudden Oak Death (or *Phytophthora ramorum*) likely occurs through infected plant material, rainwater and soil. Plants with foliar symptoms may play an important role in the transmission of the disease to bark canker-infected plants. Data suggest foliar-infected plants support spore production, and foliar infection may precede bark canker infection. Moist, cool, windy conditions are believed to spread the pathogen by dispersing spores from the leaves of foliar-infected plants.

The full host range of *Phytophthora ramorum* is not known and it is likely that several more species of trees and shrubs will be added to the list. If you suspect a plant is infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*, contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5920. An inspector will visit the site and take a sample for testing in their Plant Pathology Laboratory. If you'd prefer, City Arborist Brett Linkletter can take a look before you contact the state. He can be reached at 301-891-7612.

**Deadline for  
Submissions:  
August 16  
Next Issue:  
August 27**

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Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, will be considered for publication. Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material.

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](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org)

# Building Wealth Begins With Homeownership

By Linda Walker  
Affordable Housing Manager

How often have you thought about buying a home in the past couple of years? Now may be the time to take advantage of a low interest loan program that is being promoted by the State of Maryland. "More House4Less" is the state's new campaign to help home buyers obtain low interest mortgages, and settlement assistance. Here are a few questions that may point you in the direction of becoming a homeowner via the Community Development Administration's (CDA) Maryland Mortgage Program.

**Do I have to be a first time home buyer to get a CDA Loan?** No. Borrowers who have not owned a principal residence in the last three years are also eligible for CDA loans.

**Are there income requirements to qualify?** Yes. In both Montgomery and Prince George's counties, the maximum income levels are \$85,400 for a family of one or two and \$98,210 for three or more.

**What type of home can I purchase?** Townhouses, detached or semi-detached homes and condominium units are eligible under this program with a maximum purchase price in Montgomery County and Prince

George's County of \$290,319. Loans are available for owner-occupants only.

**Is closing cost assistance available with a CDA loan?** Yes, the Downpayment and Settlement Expense Loan Program (DSELP) can be used in conjunction with the CDA mortgage. Normally, it is up to \$3,000 with a 0 percent interest rate, but a special offer of \$5,000 for the next month now is available.

**Is homeownership counseling required?** Yes, CDA requires all borrowers to receive homebuyer education via approved counseling services.

**Do I need good credit to get a CDA loan?** Yes, acceptable credit is required, but a participating lender will be able to help you analyze your credit standing.

**How do I start the process?** If you have already found a house you want to buy, then you will need to contact a participating CDA lender to be approved for the program.

For further information, you may contact Linda Walker, affordable housing manager, at 301-891-7222 or visit Maryland's Community Development Administration's Web site at [www.morehouse4less.com](http://www.morehouse4less.com). Questions can also be posed by e-mail to [SingleFamilyHousing@dhcd.state.md.us](mailto:SingleFamilyHousing@dhcd.state.md.us).

## Rent Stabilization Law: Opportunity to Comment

The Takoma Park City Council will begin its review of the rent stabilization law (Takoma Park City Code Chapter 6 Housing, Article 5 Rent Stabilization) to evaluate the current requirements of the ordinance this fall. We encourage you to become a part of this discussion.

The City's rent stabilization ordinance, enacted in 1981, is an important part of the Council's ongoing efforts to provide diverse and affordable housing opportunities within the community. The ordinance regulates how often a tenant's rent can be increased and establishes limits on the amount of rent that can be charged by a landlord.

There are many ways you can become a part of this discussion. You can contact your councilmember. You can submit your comments to the City in writing or by email. You can attend one of the Council meetings set aside for this discussion. You can testify at the public hearing.

### Tuesday, Sept. 7 (Tentatively Scheduled) City Council Worksession

Overview of the current requirements of the rent stabilization ordinance

### Monday, Sept. 13 (Tentatively Scheduled) PUBLIC HEARING

Opportunity for the public to comment on the current rent stabilization ordinance

### Monday, Sept. 20 (Tentatively Scheduled) City Council Worksession

Presentation of proposed revisions to the rent stabilization ordinance

Each of these meetings will be held at the Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. All Council sessions are open to the public and can also be viewed on Takoma Park's Cable TV (Channel 13).

Updates on the status of the Council's review will be included in the *Takoma Park Newsletter* and posted on the City's Web site, [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org). For more information, please contact the

City of Takoma Park  
Landlord-Tenant Office  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
301-891-7119 or [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org)

## Homeowners' and Renters' Tax Credit Program

You may be entitled to some money back, but the deadline is September 1, 2004! The Maryland Tax Credit Program was developed in 1975 and sets a limit on the amount of property taxes a homeowner or renter must pay based upon his or her income (renters indirectly pay property taxes in their rent). For further information and an application, please contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222 or access the State of Maryland's Website at [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us) and proceed to "forms and applications."

## COLTA's Corner



By Jean Kerr  
Housing Specialist

The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved several capital improvement petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park. The following are the approved petitions:

### 111 Lee Ave. (2004-3L)

On June 11, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$11.01 to \$53.95 on four units at the property. The improvements included hardwood floors, cabinets, tiles,

plumbing, plaster and paint.

### 650-662 Kennebec Ave. (2004-27L)

On June 16, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$6.24 on a unit at the property. The improvements included a new front storm door and laundry tub brass faucet.

### 7106-7108 Maple Ave. (2004-29L)

On June 1, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$5.15 on a unit at the property. The improvement was replacement of garbage disposal.

### 7300 Flower Ave. (2004-32L)

On June 24, capital improvement petition was approved for \$12.30 on all the units at the property. The improvements were for tree removal and roof replacement.

### 125 Lee Ave. (2004-36L)

On June 28, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$15.47 on all the units at the property. The improvement was for electrical upgrades.

### 610-612 Kennebec Ave. (2004-38L)

On July 7, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging

from \$4.81 to \$30.82 on eight units at the property. The improvements included new cabinets, tub and kitchen faucets, kitchen floor, new counter top, bathroom ceiling and walls, and locks.

### 7106-7108 Maple Ave. (2004-40L)

On July 5, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$15.39 on a unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the pipes and general repairs.

### 7106-7108 Maple Ave. (2004-41L)

On July 5, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$13.58 on a unit at the property. The improvement was for painting the apartment.

### 7106-7108 Maple Ave. (2004-42L)

On July 5, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$61.65 on a unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the hot water heater, kitchen floor, hardwired smoke detector, and painting the entire apartment.

All increases are in addition to the Annual Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken.

## Housing Mailbox: Security Deposits Earn Interest

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

**Q:** How much interest am I entitled to on my \$600 security deposit? I lived in my apartment for two and a half years.

**A:** Security deposits earn 4 percent simple (not compounded) interest annually in accordance with Sections 8-203 and 8-203.1 of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended and incorporated by reference at Section 6-411 of the Takoma Park Housing Code. The interest accrues at six-month intervals (2 percent every six months) from the day you give the landlord the security deposit until the day it is returned. It is payable for security deposits of \$50 or more. The Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs often gets calls from landlords asking why they have to pay 4% interest when interest bearing accounts are only earning 1-2 percent. The state law on security deposits would have to be changed and so far, that has not occurred. Total interest on a \$600 security deposit would be \$60 for a tenancy of 2½ years. For further information, you can call 301-891-7215.



# That's Not a Puddle, It's a Vernal Pool

By Ed Murtagh

Walk through the woods around Sligo Creek in springtime and you're likely to encounter a vernal pool—and you'll probably walk on by without giving it a second thought. If you look at it at all, you may think it's a deep puddle or a marshy spot.



Photos by Ed Murtagh

Small vernal pool in the upper Sligo Creek Park woodlands

But it's more: vernal pools (vernal means spring) play a key but little understood role in our ecosystems. A vernal pool is a small seasonal body of water, sort of a temporary wetland. In our area, vernal pools typically form in depressions during the winter and spring and disappear by summer. They are usually fed by stormwater runoff or ground water and contain no fish. Vernal pools can be found in many locations such as woodlands, floodplains, and meadows.

Vernal pools are important because they provide a unique habitat for many species of amphibians, invertebrates and turtles. They typically dry up in the summer, so fish cannot live in these bodies of water. Without fish feeding on them, many species can breed safely in these pools. Some species are called "obligates," which means they depend on the vernal pools for at least part of their life. In the Sligo Creek watershed, wood frogs and spotted salamanders are examples of obligate vernal pool species.

In Sligo Creek Park, even though the creek is biologically impaired, our vernal pools are frequently full of tadpoles, amphibian eggs and invertebrates.

But these valuable, little-understood bodies of water are vulnerable. Like wetlands, vernal pools are being threatened by development. Also, like swamps and bogs, vernal pools are viewed by many people as nuisances, areas that need to be "improved" and the depressions are frequently filled in or leveled out. Even if the vernal pools themselves are not disturbed, removing nearby trees or developing upland areas will impact vernal pools.

Even though vernal pools are important links to ecological health, there is a lot that scientists still do not understand

about them. The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have been mapping the vernal pools in Montgomery County as part of the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy. DEP and M-NCPPC are developing a Biological Monitoring Database. The database will help us better understand vernal pools and their importance in the ecosystem. The condition of the vernal pools can be one of the indicators of the health of the entire ecosystem.

A new book on vernal pools is expected to be published next year by McDonald and Woodward Publishing. See [www.mwpubco.com/VernalPools.htm](http://www.mwpubco.com/VernalPools.htm). Also, Tina Schneider

of Montgomery County M-NCPPC is working with EPA and Patuxent Wildlife Refuge to develop the "Mid-Atlan-



Photo of algae-covered amphibian egg mass (perhaps wood frogs) found in the small vernal pool shown left. Photos taken April 15, 2004.

tic Guide to Conserving Vernal Pools and Other Seasonal Wetlands." This publication is expected to be available later in 2004.

So remember: that's no puddle—that's a valuable ecological habitat! Vernal pools can be found in many natural landscapes, not just in officially designated parks. Please educate your neighbors and protect the vernal pools in our neighborhoods.

*Ed Murtagh is an engineer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and chair of the Friends of Sligo Creek Stormwater Committee.*



Photo of tadpole found in the small vernal pool shown above. The vernal pool was full of tadpoles.

## Celebrating the Fourth on the Fifth

Photos by  
Clyde Lassell



# It's Not Too Late to Join the Fun

## Creative Adventure Summer Camp Dates

Week 6 August 2 - 6  
Week 7 August 9 - 13

## Extreme Horizons Summer Camp Dates

Week 6 August 2 - 6  
Week 7 August 9 - 13

### Creative Adventures

Grades: 1 - 5 (as of September '04)  
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, see a play, swimming and much more. We have two locations this year. The fee includes all field trips, special events and a camp T-shirt. Camp lasts seven weeks, most of which have already happened, but kids can still participate in the remaining weeks.

When: Monday - Friday,  
June 28 - Aug. 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: TP Elementary School,  
7511 Holly Ave.  
-OR-  
Takoma Park Recreation Center,  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
Fees: TP City Resident \$100/week  
Non-Resident \$110/week

### Extreme Horizons

Grades: 6 - 8 (as of September '04)  
ATTENTION MIDDLESCHOOLERS: 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 13 participants. Fees include camp T-shirt, field trips and special events.

When: Monday - Friday, June 28 - August 13  
Wait list only!  
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

### Y.E.S. Basketball League Championship Games

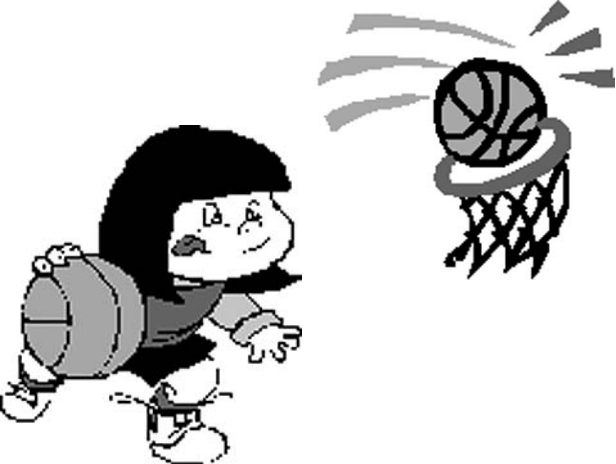
Wednesday, Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m.: Middle School  
Wednesday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.: Junior Varsity  
Wednesday, Aug. 11, 8:30 p.m.: Varsity  
Mark these dates on your calendar. You don't want to miss them!  
All games played at Takoma Park Middle School,  
7611 Piney Branch Rd.

### 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 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



Graphic by Dave Burbank

## 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.

## For the Coming School Year: The Afternoon Addition

### Grades K - 8

An exciting after-school creative enrichment program takes shape in Takoma Park. Each day during the 2004-2005 school year, students will benefit from a full range of activities that will enlighten, empower and enrich their minds and imaginations. We have some exciting activities planned this year, including: clubs, drama, music, art, sports, field trips, homework time special presenters and playtime.

Registration begins August 16, 2004. Space is limited.

Deposit Code: 3467  
When: Monday - Friday  
Aug. 30, 2004 - June 16, 2005  
Time: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. on full days  
1 - 6:30 p.m. on early release days  
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Avenue  
Fee: Takoma Park Resident \$1,000  
Non-Resident \$1,200

No program on 9/6, 9/16, 10/15, 11/1-2, 11/25-26, 12/24, 12/27-31, 2004.

- Payments are made in four equal installments, unless otherwise arranged with the Recreation Director. Number 1 is due at time of registration, number 2 is due Nov. 1, 2004, number 3 is due Jan. 24, 2005 and number 4 is due March 28, 2005.
- A late fee of \$25 will be charged on all accounts any time after the due date.
- On half days of school, the After School Program will be open from 1-6:30 p.m. The Recreation Department provides Fun Day Programs on half days and some holidays for an additional fee.
- The Afternoon Addition will not operate on the days schools are closed: holidays or other school closings (including inclement weather, professional days, winter or spring breaks or school emergency closings).
- Recreation Staff will escort children who attend T.P. Elementary School to Piney Branch Elementary School on whole and half days. If school is closed due to inclement weather there will be no escort service. Parents are required to call the day that their child will be absent from the program.
- A late pick up charge of \$10 per 15 minute intervals will be charged after 6:35 p.m. The fees apply to each family, not each child. This late charge must be paid in cash to the attending staff at the time of pick up.

## "Getting There with Faith"

From a comfortable chair in the Library, you too can trek to 18,000 feet in Nepal amidst magnificent Himalayan scenery and attend a spectacular Buddhist festival where costumed monks dance to reenact their religious history. Faith Stern, local author, will show slides at the Takoma Park Library on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and will sign copies of her book *Getting There with Faith: Adventures of a Travel Addict*, recently released by Beilizna Press.

"Himalayan Happening" is one chapter in a book filled with a diversity of activity. According to one reviewer, "If you like travel and adventure, you'll love this book. The author relates hiking, climbing, canoeing and skiing trips. She travels around the world, visiting many unusual places, and describes them in an entertaining way. Hardly any trip goes exactly as planned, but the unexpected only seems to intensify the author's delight in the experiences."

Another writes: "From Guatemala to Romania, from Machu Picchu to Madras, from New Zealand to China, you'll feel you are actually there. You hike the White Mountains, the North Cascades and the Sierras; climb Mt. Rainier and the Grand Teton; ski in Italy; canoe the Boundary Waters; and trek in Nepal."

Devoted library patrons, Faith and her husband Kurt have lived in Takoma Park since 1964, but their itchy feet have already

taken them to six continents. Travel and outdoor adventures have been a significant part of their lives despite the couples' involvement in civic affairs, in chamber music and in their professions. Their ear-



Faith Stern, intrepid traveler on a mountainside in Nepal

lier slide programs on Scandinavia, Australia and China have been very well attended.

Please join us Sept. 8 for this lively discussion, slide show and book signing. No pre-registration is necessary.

Photographs from Faith's travels will be on exhibit in the Library in August.

## Socratic Inquiry for Everyday People: Another Evening with Chris Phillips

Chris Phillips, the peripatetic teacher of philosophy for children, returns to the Takoma Park Maryland Library on Wednesday, Aug. 4, at 7:30 p.m. (following the 7 p.m. story time led by Tina Hudak). Phillips will lead adults and children ages 8 and up in an evening of philosophical discussion using the elenctic, or indirect, mode of inquiry that Socrates used.

Chris and his wife Cecilia have visited the Takoma Park Maryland Library on many occasions to lead these discussions. Each time there has been a new crowd with no way to anticipate which way the discussion will go! But each adventure into philosophical inquiry has been fascinating.

Information about the Society for Philosophical Inquiry (SPI), founded by Chris and Cecilia Phillips, and the associated gatherings for philosophical discussions, can be found at [www.philosopher.org](http://www.philosopher.org). The following description is taken from that Web site.

The SPI is a grassroots nonprofit organization devoted to supporting philosophical inquirers of all ages and walks of life. Its members strive to form and

facilitate "communities of philosophical inquiry," which meet in groups typically called Socrates Café®. These meetings take place at coffee houses, libraries, hospices, senior centers, nursing homes, prisons, plazas and other public spaces, bookstores, homeless shelters and community centers; and at schools, where we often call our gatherings Philosophers' Clubs® or Socrates Café®. We at SPI are devoted to spreading a version of Socratic inquiry that enables each of us, within a group setting, to become more autonomous thinkers and doers and more expert questioners and listeners. Our fundamental desire is to encourage and support people who are curious and perplexed and filled with a sense of wonder, so they can dialogue for discovery and dialogue for democracy. And we are here for those who would subscribe to the Socratic ethos that the examined life truly makes for a richer existence.

Phillips' most recent book, *Six Questions of Socrates*, has joined his previous books, *Socrates Café* and the children's book *The Philosophers' Club* in the collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Please join us!

### Summer Quest Reminders!

- Techno-savvy readers can send us a blog at <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/library/children/summerquest/index4.html>
- 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 Aug.
- 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 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 Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. We will put them up on display.

## LIBRARY

### "The Odyssey" with Ritchie Porter

By Jillian Hershberger  
Children's & Youth Services Coordinator

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

Last year's performance by Porter of "The Odyssey" was a remarkable accomplishment that captivated the widely diverse audience. Those with no prior knowledge of Homer's great epic were enthralled by the adventure, whereas the more sophisticated among the audience were treated to a hilarious interpretation involving homey props from the toy box and the kitchen cabi-

net. Porter is repeating the performance this summer at special request. A grant from the Washington Redskins makes this program possible.

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 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.

### Twilight Treasure Tent with Tina Hudak

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evening, 7 p.m. Aug. 2, 3, 4, 5

Tina Hudak will be reading aloud to kids 6-9 and their families each evening for four evenings. 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. Each evening will feature different stories.

### Children's Literature Discussion Group

A small discussion group of adults with a keen interest in children's literature is being formed to meet periodically at the Library to discuss books. The group thus far anticipates meeting every six weeks to two months on a Monday evening.

Interested parties may contact Jillian Hershberger, children's & youth services coordinator, for more information.

## LIBRARY PROGRAMS IN AUGUST (AND EARLY SEPTEMBER)

### Twilight Treasure Tent

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

### A Socratic Evening with Chris Phillips

Adults and children eight and up  
Wednesday, Aug. 4, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. (see story)

### "The Odyssey"

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

### "Getting There with Faith"

Faith Stern  
Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

### Neighborhood Circle Time

Open to all preschoolers & their adults  
each Tuesday at 10 a.m.  
Informal sing-alongs, poetry, finger games, and nursery tales.  
Occasional participant-leadership necessary  
All ages; no preregistration required!

Please call the Library at 301-891-7259 to pre-register for programs or for more information.





# THE CRIME REPORT

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

## Carjacking

**Tulip Ave. and Maple Ave.:** On July 13 at 11:45 p.m., an armed carjacking occurred. An adult male went to his vehicle to retrieve items when he was approached by three subjects who initially asked the victim for information. Two of the subjects then displayed handguns and demanded the victim's money and wallet. When the victim told them he had nothing on him, one of the subjects grabbed the victim's car keys and all three got into the victim's car, a 2004 Honda Accord with Maryland tags, fleeing the scene. The victim was not injured.

## Sexual Assault

**Carroll Ave., 7300 block:** On June 25 at 9:35 p.m., an attempted sexual assault occurred. An adult woman was walking alone, when she was approached by a subject who made a sexual comment then displayed a knife while pulling on the victim's clothing. A citizen who was walking by came to her aid. The subject stopped and fled the scene on foot. The victim was not injured.

## Arson

**Orchard Ave. and Sligo Mill Road:** On July 3 at 2:46 p.m., unknown suspect(s) set fire to a 1985 Chevrolet truck by unknown means. This incident is being investigated by the Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office.



## The Firehouse Report

As of June 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 534 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted

with 1,265 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,799 this year. Totals for 2003 were 674 and 1,244, respectively, for a total of 1,918, representing a decrease of 119 incidents.

## Safety Tip

House Numbers...Are your numbers up?

Take a look, make sure they are up and that they can be seen from the street. Firefighters, emergency vehicles, and personnel may need to find your home quickly should an emergency occur.

## Join the team!

The Takoma Park VFD recently welcomed aboard the following new members to the department: Rene Calderon Cruz, Nerissa Deabreu, Ana Velasquez and Sandra Duran. If you are interested in volunteering in the field – firefighting or EMS – please contact the Membership Committee at 301-270-8209.

## Takoma Park VFD Wins Top Honors

At the June 2004 Maryland State Firemen's Association 111th Annual Convention, the Takoma Park VFD took First Place in two categories in the MSFA Fire Prevention Book Contest. First Place: Class V (population 10,000 or more) and First Place: Overall.

There were 27 entries from the state. The contest recognizes fire departments' efforts in promoting fire prevention in their communities. Contest awards are provided for companies who participate in a year-round fire prevention program. An additional category recognizes departments who have shown an outstanding overall contribution to fire prevention and fire safety education activities. A special thanks to members Charles Prince, Ntshuwa Sato, Stan

## Robberies

**Eastern Ave., 8600 block:** On June 19 at 1:44 a.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. The victim was walking alone when she heard a car door slam behind her and saw a subject running toward her. The victim made an attempt to run while screaming, before the subject was able to reach her and grab her. After a brief struggle, the victim was pushed to the ground. The subject grabbed her bag, ran to his vehicle and fled the scene. The victim received minor injuries.

**Maple Ave., 7700 block:** On June 24 at 9:34 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim was waiting at a bus stop when a vehicle pulled up, two subjects jumped out of the car and grabbed him, taking his wallet from his pocket. The subjects fled in the vehicle, a light blue Toyota Camry. The victim was not injured.

**Maple Ave., 7100 block:** On June 25 at 1:44 a.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. The victim was outside using his cell phone when he noticed four subjects approaching him. The victim tried to avoid the subjects, but they followed him and demanded money. Before the victim could produce his wallet, the subjects punched him several times, then took his wallet and fled on foot. The victim refused any medical treatment.

**Carroll Ave., 7000 block:** On June 25, between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. An adult male and adult female were sitting in a car when they noticed four subjects nearby. One of the subjects approached the victims, acting ill or intoxicated. When the male victim exited his car to offer assistance, two other subjects approached the victim and demanded money. After the victim handed over his wallet, one of the subjects punched him. The fourth subject approached the female on the passenger

side, but could not reach her because the door was locked. All the subjects then fled on foot.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** On July 12 at 10:25 p.m., a purse snatching occurred. The purse of an adult female was taken from her shoulder by a subject, who then removed cash, left the purse and fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

## Auto and Related Theft

**New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block:** Between midnight July 1 and July 2 at 7 a.m., unknown suspect(s) stole an auto's rear registration plate and fled in unknown direction.

**University Blvd., 900 block:** Between June 28 at 8 a.m. and July 3 at 8 a.m., a theft from auto occurred. Unknown suspect(s) removed rear registration plate and fled.

**Birch Ave., 7400 block:** Between July 4 at 10 p.m. and July 5 at 6 a.m., a 1998 Plymouth Voyager was stolen.

**Kansas Lane, 6500 block:** Between July 5 at 8 p.m. and July 6 at 7:30 a.m., unknown suspect(s) smashed a car window and took property.

## Vandalism

**Grant Ave., 200 and 300 blocks:** Between June 17 at 7:30 p.m. and June 18 at 8:30 a.m., seven vehicles were vandalized. Each vehicle had one to three tires slashed. One vehicle had scratches on the driver's door and hood in addition to having a tire slashed.

## Burglaries

**Flower Ave., 7600 block:** Between July 1 at 8 p.m. and July 2 at 12:05 p.m., unknown suspect(s) gained entry into a room by removing a glass pane and removed property.

**Carroll Ave., 8000 block:** Between July 11 at 5 p.m. and July 13 at 6:30 a.m., a padlock securing shed doors was removed in order to gain entry. Property was stolen.

and Sandy Herrmann, Bob Jarboe, Dave and Gail Hooker, Deanna Stewart and Jim Jarboe for their assistance.

## Free Citizens CPR Training

The Takoma Park VFD will offer CPR training on Saturday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to noon. If interested, please contact the Rec Department to register: 301-891-7289.

## Congratulations to the Rec Dept.

On June 22, several members of the staff completed a "Living Saving" CPR Class, which was instructed by Jim Jarboe of the Takoma Park VFD.



Standing left to right: Carrie Noel-Nosbaum, Amanda Pasko, Peter Case, Caitlin Schneiderhan, Andy Voellmer and Sarah Ghirmay. Sitting left to right: Tamea & Alycia Stover.

## ARRESTS

**New Hampshire Ave., 7100 block:** On June 14 at 10:20 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for false statement and obstruction of justice. The subject was also charged with possession of CDS [drug] paraphernalia.

**Flower Ave., 8600 block:** On June 13 at 8:42 p.m., a male juvenile was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7100 block:** On June 14 at 11:45 a.m., an adult female was arrested and charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia.

**University Blvd., 1000 block:** On June 20 at 2:36 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and driving the wrong direction on a one way road.

**Tulip Ave. and Maple Ave.:** On June 20 at 10:45 a.m., three juvenile males were arrested and charged with 4th degree burglary and theft under \$500 after they were seen entering vehicles and removing property.

**University Blvd., 1300 block:** On June 26 at 4:30 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS, possession of CDS paraphernalia, driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while intoxicated.

**Takoma Ave. and Buffalo Ave.:** On June 29 at 7:40 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with indecent exposure after a woman reported a man in a vehicle exposing himself to her while asking for directions.

**Auburn Ave., 700 block:** On July 4 at 3:41 p.m., police responded for a report of a fight in progress and discovered that the victim had been hit over the head with an unknown object. The victim sustained minor injuries and refused medical attention. One adult female was arrested on the scene and charged with aggravated assault and malicious destruction of property.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block:** On July 4 at 5:08 a.m., officers responded for the report of a vehicle in a parking lot in which it appeared that the driver was possibly intoxicated and had been involved in a motor vehicle accident. One adult male was arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol or while impaired as well as other related traffic citations.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6400 block:** On July 11 at 9:38 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with attempted armed robbery. The suspect entered a business and displayed a knife while demanding money from an employee. The employee, who was behind a protective glass enclosure refused and called the police. The suspect fled on foot. After a brief search, officers located the suspect and arrested him. The victim was not injured.



## Solving Burglary Requires Effort At All Levels

Solving a burglary or a series of such events can be a tedious and time consuming process. In June 2004, Takoma Park Police received word from the regional fingerprint identification system that latent prints at the scene of an August 2003 burglary had been matched to a known offender. While additional in-

vestigation continues to build a strong case and locate the suspect, the processing of the crime scene by Sgt. Rick Bowers last

fall has provided a vital link in the case. Victims, too, hold an important element in solving burglaries. In June 2004, two burglaries were reported weeks apart along Ethan Allen Ave. In comparing pawn shop records to the crime reports, A/Sgt. Richard Poole was able to base an arrest warrant on information provided by the victims. One victim had just purchased a DVD player and still had the packing materials, which provided the machine's serial number. She had also kept a record of serial numbers for electronic equipment and included that in the list of stolen items. Poole was able to match these with items pawned by a single individual, who has been charged with the thefts.

Residents are reminded that engraving items of value and keeping a record of the items and serial numbers can make the difference between recovering stolen property or losing it forever. For more information about the Police Department's free loan of an engraving tool and Operation ID, contact the Police Department at 301-270-1100 or 301-891-7124.



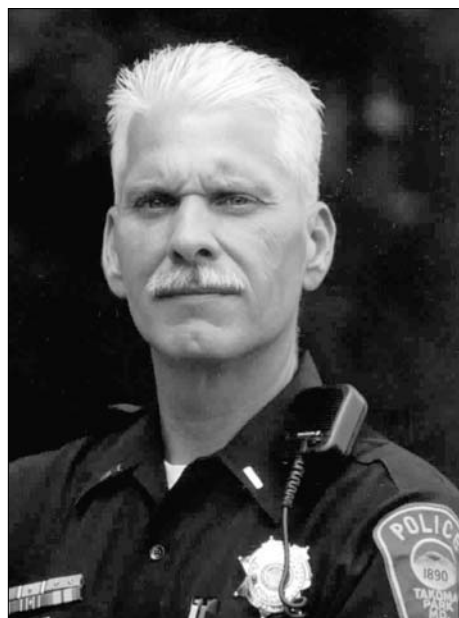
**Det. Frank Webb undertakes the dirty and time-consuming task of processing a stolen vehicle, which had been involved in a robbery. The design and surfaces of a car's interior rarely yield good latent prints.**

## Retirement Celebration Planned

Friday, Aug. 27 has been set for the retirement celebration of George Hubbard (right), who joined the Takoma Park Police in 1976 as a dispatcher. He retired May 1 as the captain in charge of the Support Services Division, including criminal investigations.

Anyone interested in attending or making a presentation at the event, to be held at the University of Maryland University College Conference Center, should contact Diana Dean at 301-891-7147 or Dianad@takomagov.org. The event is open, with tickets at \$30 per person, covering dinner and retirement gift.

Hubbard is currently an investigator with the WSSC Police Department.



## Safety Contacts Sought

Looking for a way to become more active in your neighborhood? Is public safety an important concern for you or would you like to see your neighborhood better prepared for emergencies?

Do you enjoy people and sharing ideas with them?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, now may be the time to become a Neighborhood Safety Contact. This group of residents becomes knowledgeable about community safety and serves as liaison between their neighborhoods and safety specialists, like the police.

More than two dozen of your neighbors have already joined this program, but more are needed. The time commitment required can be minimal or extensive, depending on your schedule, interests and the needs of your neighborhood.

For more information, contact Dr. Wolfgang Mergner 301-587-3050 or Buddy Daniels 301-270-5789, or another member of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee.

## POLICE NEWS

### Don't Take a Vacation From Safety

August is a traditional Washington, D.C., vacation month. The Takoma Park Police offer a House Check for home owners who will be away for more than three days, leaving an unoccupied house. Officers will patrol daily to look for signs of any problems.

If you expect pet sitters or others to be at your home, the House Check cannot be used. Consider leaving the box at right with a trusted neighbor so you can be reached in an emergency. The neighbors should not post this on their refrigerator, but should keep it in a safe and private location.

Remember, also, to create an appearance of occupancy by putting lights and a radio on an automatic timer, stopping delivery of newspapers and mail or arranging for a pick-up and hold of these items, and for the lawn to be mowed if you will be away for an extended period.



Names of person(s) leaving \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address where I can be reached on vacation:  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Date return \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicles Left: (inc. tag #) \_\_\_\_\_

People, businesses and vehicles who may visit home, make repairs, clean: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant, pet, etc., instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

People having keys (name, address, phone). Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information: registered in TPPD House Check? yes/no \_\_\_\_\_

Takoma Park Police - suspicious activity tel. #: 301-270-1100



## D.A.R.E. Graduates



**Officer Mary Jo Mitchell with graduates at Our Lady of Sorrows, where TPPD provided D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) in 2003/04. The canine team of Cpl. Keith Largent and his partner Shadow offered a demonstration at graduation in June. The agency anticipates presenting the program to fifth graders at Piney Branch Elementary School in the coming year.**

## Willow Street Yoga Awakens Spirits, Minds and Bodies

Continued from page 1

About that time her first marriage ended and Hurley moved to Washington, D.C. Trying to make ends meet as a single mother of four, Hurley took a variety of jobs and finally was able to teach some classes at a local yoga center.

Hurley then sought formal yoga training, attending the Kripalu Holistic Center in Lennox, Mass., which is the primary teaching facility for Iyengar Yoga. Developed by B.K.S. Iyengar, it emphasizes alignment and precision in the various yoga postures—a breakthrough, Hurley says. “It was a major move from ‘how far can you stretch.’”

From there she studied extensively with Washington teacher John Friend, the founder of Anusara Yoga, which integrates universal biomechanical principles of alignment.

Anusara Yoga is the heart of Willow Street for two reasons, Hurley explains: its equal emphasis on strength and flexibility, and its focus on “a feeling for inner body awareness that begins from a place of self-acceptance and heartfelt celebration of life.” Hurley explains that “Anusara” means “to open or step into the divine flow of life—to open to the flow with grace.” The method “allows the student to get into their innate goodness,” she says.

After teaching in various locations, Hurley took the plunge and opened her first studio in 1994 on Willow St. (naturally), at a former Seventh-day Adventist building in Takoma, D.C. With no money to advertise, Hurley spread the word by handing out flyers all over Old Town. “I needed 60 students to pay the rent, but



Hurley works with daughter Kate Miller.

opened with 163 students. I was blown out of the water,” she recalls. Three years later Willow Street Yoga moved to its present location on 6930 Carroll Avenue just over the District line in Takoma Park, Md. The yoga studio occupies much of the ground floor of a tall office building.

Since that first class, Willow Street has expanded, offering three exercise studios in Takoma Park with classes taught by 30 teachers. Besides Anusara Yoga, Hurley offers classes in Pilates, rhythmic yoga, tai chi, and spiritual belly dancing. Hurley in September 2003 opened a Silver Spring center on Fenton Street. “I had no intention of opening a second center, but I really want to offer yoga to the world, to more people,” she says. The Takoma Park center has over 1,700 students of all ages and Silver Spring has 695.

Among trends, Hurley notes the growing popularity of Pilates, which focuses on developing core strength. A quarter of her students take Pilates. Another trend is Vinyasa or “flow” yoga, which is attracting a younger crowd. The method links postures together with breathing and steady movement, which provides a strenuous aerobic workout, she says.

Hurley stresses new yoga students should look for a yoga method that emphasizes alignment. “The course is not safe if that is not stressed,” she cautions. Also look for a teacher with adequate



Hurley says a good yoga method should emphasize alignment.

training, she says. Willow Street teachers all have a minimum of five years of training. Among the Willow Street teachers are two of Hurley’s children, Joe and Kate Miller. Above all, Hurley says, students should look for a teacher with whom they make a connection.

Willow Street has benefited from a nationwide surge in interest in yoga—and in a real sense, Hurley has helped to build that momentum. As a well-run center that focuses on strengthening both the body and the spirit, Willow Street Yoga Center has become an extraordinary attraction drawing hundreds of students to Takoma Park.

For more information, see the center’s Web site, [www.willowstreetyoga.com](http://www.willowstreetyoga.com).

## Council Passes \$15 Million Budget

Continued from page 1

tion of the Community Center, but those funds have been accumulated over the past six years and are accounted for separately from the annual City budget. See page 5 of the July Newsletter for a year-to-year account of Community Center funds.

The City property tax rate of 66 cents per \$100 of assessed value was unchanged, but rising assessments mean that the City will realize more property tax revenue this year. FY 2005 runs from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

Think Globally,  
Shop Locally;  
Support  
Takoma Park  
Businesses

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

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

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

If you have any questions, contact Daryl Braithwaite, 301-891-7615 or [daryl@takomago.org](mailto:daryl@takomago.org).

## Fifth of July



Photos by  
Clyde Lassell

## Lend a Hand to The Folk Festival

The Takoma Park Folk Festival takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 12. To join together in producing the City's largest festival, which is solely operated by volunteers, please consider offering just two to four hours of your time on the day-of. Takoma and non-Takoma residents of all ages are welcome to participate.

The festival also holds regular meetings at the Municipal Building. Upcoming meeting dates to plan the event are 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 5, 11, 19, 31, and Sept. 9.

The Takoma Park Folk Festival draws

several thousand folk enthusiasts each year to listen and dance to the music of local, regional and international performers. It also includes a juried craft show, a children's stage with games and participatory crafts, 20-plus international food vendors, and representatives from over 90 nonprofit community groups.

The free festival also raises funds to support local youth groups in Takoma Park and the surrounding area. For information about attending the festival or volunteering, visit [www.tpff.org](http://www.tpff.org) or call 301-589-0202.

## Books for the Homeless

Takoma Park's Boy Scout Troop 33 collected more than 2,000 books and created libraries at homeless shelters and halfway houses for So Others Might Eat. SOME exists to help the destitute of Washington, D.C., particularly the homeless and elderly. The book drive was organized by Daniel Munson as part of his Eagle project. Troop 33 thanks Takoma Park residents for their generosity.

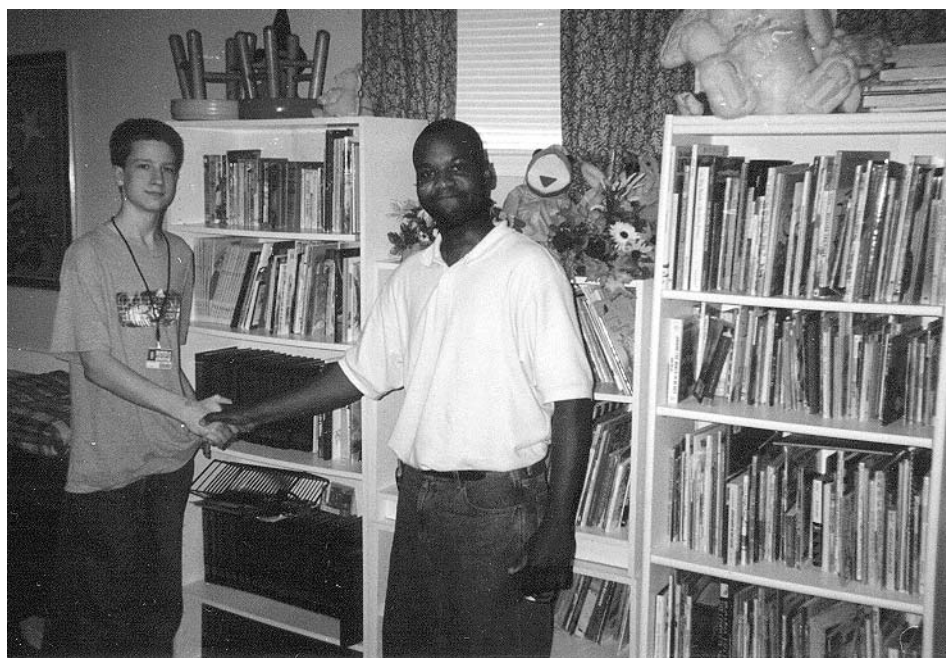


Photo by Dick Munson

Daniel Munson (left) and Melvin Jordan of SOME in front of one of the libraries.

## For Fans of Emmylou Harris, A Free Tribute Concert

A tribute to Grammy Award-winning Emmylou Harris, who lived and performed in the Washington area early in her career, will be performed Wednesday, Aug. 4 at Strathmore Hall in North Bethesda.

Headlining the concert will be three Wammie-award-winning vocalists: Sally Love, Dede Wyland & Ruth Logsdon, along with bluegrass greats Dudley Connell, Rickie Simpkins, Ronnie Simpkins, Mike Munford, and roots rockers (of Ruthie and the Wranglers) Phil Mathieu and Greg Hardin

plus Tom Fridrich. The music will include country, bluegrass and electric and acoustic Emmylou and Gram Parsons style duets, as well as songs in the style of the "Trio" albums (in which Emmylou, Dolly Parton and Linda Ronstadt joined forces). The 7:30 p.m. concert is free and will be on the lawn.

The event is part of the Strathmore Hall/WAMA Timeline Concert Series. Strathmore Hall, owned and run by Montgomery County, is at 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Phone 301-530-0540.

## Takoma Park City TV Events in August 2004

Celebrate your independence by watching City TV this month. In the spirit of the 4th of July, Channel 13 will air Takoma Park's 115th Independence Day Celebration: Building Community. This show offers full coverage of one of Takoma Park's most popular annual events—the Independence Day Parade held on Monday, July 5. This volunteer run parade featured various participants from the area, from elected officials to clowns to preschoolers on tricycles. Much music was featured, including bagpipes, marching bands, rock and country performers and the end of parade favorite steel drum band with Caribbean dancers.

In August, Takoma Snapshots takes a break, but you will be able to see replays of all 2004 episodes. So if you've missed some of the shows in the past, here's your chance to see Takoma Park at its finest. Also, Tuesday, July 27, through Sunday, September 5, marks the City Council's 2004 recess. Takoma Park Special Events will run during normal Council meeting air times. The City Council will return Tuesday, September 7. To obtain specific programming information including show listings and times, visit us online.

Community and neighborhood groups are encouraged to 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](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable). Remember that all Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS Tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are now available in DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

## Takoma Park City TV August 2004 Programming Schedule

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

Programming subject to change without notice.

### "Speak With the Mayor" Resumes Sept. 8

The Mayor will not have Tuesday morning office hours from August 3 through August 24. Tuesday morning office hours will resume August 31. There will also be no Wednesday evening office hours in August or on September 1. Wednesday evening office hours will resume September 8.

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

Email: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org)  
Web: [www.cityoftakomagov.org/cable](http://www.cityoftakomagov.org/cable)



# Celebrating the Fourth on the Fifth (With Great Weather)

They laughed at us for celebrating the Fourth of July on Monday, July 5. *The Washington Post* (bless their sarcastic little hearts) even ran a typical Takoma Park story, mocking our lovely town for choosing to observe the holiday on Monday, which was, after all, the official day off for many people.

But Takomans got the last laugh. While

Sunday, July 4, was drenched with showers, raining out many official observances (though not the big fireworks on the Mall), Takoma Park enjoyed near-perfect toasty weather for our July 5 parade. It was the 115th Takoma Park parade—the longest running such parade in the Washington area. Weather was good for evening fireworks too.

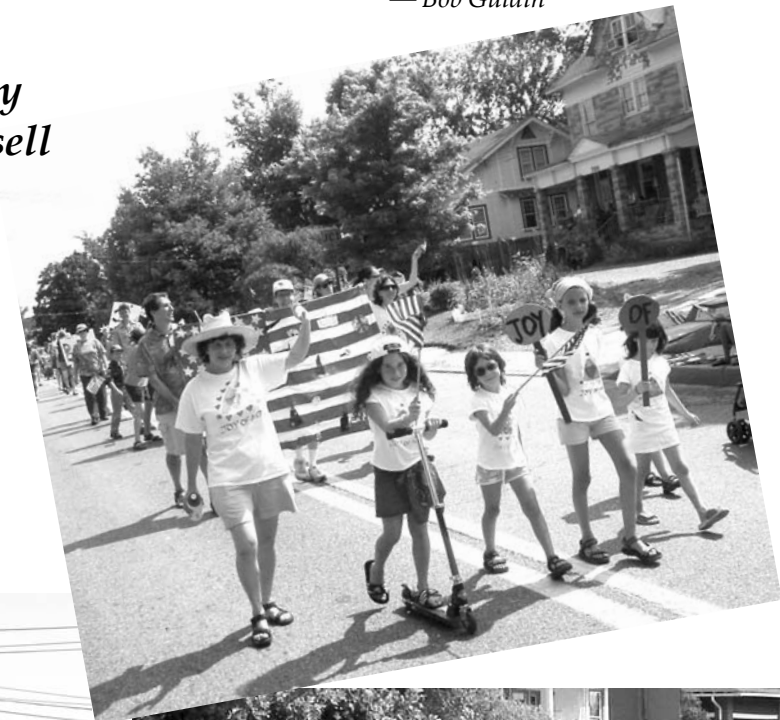
Along with the usual antique cars, military units, rock and steel drum bands, politicians and sundry community organizations, the parade featured more than the usual amount of social and political commentary. Among our favorites: Billionaires for Bush, and Weapons of Mass Consumption (a full-size Humvee shell propelled by sweating pedestrians).

Sadly, the Lawnmowers Against Global Warming were down to one solitary (though energetic) mower.

Keep in mind that the Independence Day effort is a volunteer organization and welcomes your participation. For more on the July 4-5 celebration, see the Independence Day Committee's Web site: [www.takomapark4th.org](http://www.takomapark4th.org).

— Bob Guldin

Photos by  
Clyde Lassell



Hon. Chris  
Van Hollen