

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

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

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September 2004

City/County Double Taxation Raises Questions

By Lea Susan Chartock

Takoma Park homeowners pay the highest city property tax rates in Montgomery County, and many residents are wondering why. True, some nearby municipalities in Prince George's, such as Mt. Rainier and Greenbelt, pay more than we do. But last year, City tax rates were more than twice those of Rockville, the second highest in Montgomery County.

This year, the Takoma Park City Council kept the real property tax rate at last year's level, \$0.660 per \$100 of assessed value. However, because property values have gone up, the same rate results in higher tax bills for owners and more tax revenues for the City.

There are probably two main reasons Takoma Park taxes are high. First, residents demand and get a higher level of

services than many parts of the county. (For example, Rockville residents pay for trash pickup on top of their taxes and they don't have a full-service police department or their own library.)

Second, the City is not fully reimbursed by the county for services the City provides – and which Montgomery County therefore doesn't have to provide.

This quick explanation, however, just leads to more questions. Do City residents pay for some county services that we don't receive? Aren't some services duplicated? Shouldn't we be getting a larger reimbursement? Would we really have fewer services if the county performed them? And if we "gave back" services, would our taxes actually go down?

Property tax duplication is a complex issue, with a history that goes back to the

1970s. In 1973 the Montgomery County Code established a program to reimburse cities for services they provided that would otherwise be provided by the county. In 1975, the state recognized the importance of double taxation when the General Assembly passed the first State Tax Duplication Law. At the county level, resolutions in 1978 and 1981 adjusted the formulas used to calculate reimbursements.

By the mid-'90s, problems with the reimbursement program, particularly regarding police and road maintenance formulas, resulted in creation of a new county Double Taxation Task Force. This task force, composed of professional staff from the county and the affected cities (Takoma Park, Rockville, Gaithersburg, Chevy Chase and Barnesville), produced a report that the County Council adopted in September 1996.

That report provided that cities would be reimbursed based on what the county would have spent if it performed the service in the municipality, tied to the county's actual, net, expenditures derived from property taxes. In other words if the county said it would spend \$50,000 on a particular service, but Takoma Park spent \$75,000 on that same service, the City would only receive a \$50,000 reimbursement.

A Never-ending Controversy

The County Office of Management and Budget controls the entire process: It collects the data and calculates the rebate formulas, which are then submitted to the County Council as part of the annual budget process. The county can, and has, unilaterally changed the units of measure used in the formulas.

According to Rick Finn, former Takoma Park city manager who has done extensive research on the issue of double taxation, the City's tax rebate decreased between 1998 and 2001, though the annual

county budget and county property tax rate have continued to increase. Since FY2001, the City has seen the police rebate increase due to a written agreement entered into between the City and the county.

Further complicating the picture, any given fiscal year's rebate is based on budget figures that are two years old, so real costs are always ahead of what's budgeted.

Currently, the City of Takoma Park receives money from the county for library aid, police, roads, parks, crossing guards, operating the Takoma/Langley Recreation Center (a county facility), as well as the City's share of the hotel/motel tax, cable franchise fee and cable operating fee.

County reimbursements, like all revenue from all other sources, go into the City's general fund rather than separate departmental accounts.

Apart from the library aid, the City gets no additional money for the Takoma Park Library, says Suzanne Ludlow, Takoma Park's community and government liaison. Why? Because if the library were a county facility, it would be closed, since the county already operates two other county libraries (Long Branch and Silver Spring) considered to be in close proximity.

Ludlow adds that the City also receives no reimbursement for other services, such as planning. The City is not required to be involved in planning efforts, but according to Ludlow, residents would be unhappy without the information, advice and advocacy City staff provide. A prime example of this service is the time City planners have put into the controversy over the expansion of Washington Adventist Hospital.

As for recreation, the City budgeted \$1,045,394 in fiscal 2005, yet the only money the City receives is \$100,000 for operating the Takoma/Langley Recreation Center. However, says Ludlow, the

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If Montgomery County operated the Takoma Park Library, they would close it, because there are other county libraries not too far away.



Folk Festival Coming Sept. 12

see page 10

From the Metro to the Crossroads, Development Sweeps Takoma Park

By Suzanne Ludlow

Community and Government Liaison

In almost every corner of the City, development activity is sweeping Takoma Park. From the Metro station in D.C., where new housing is rising, to the City's two colleges, to Washington Adventist Hospital, to the Takoma/Langley Crossroads, new construction is planned or is already taking place.

City staff are busy preparing for the many development plans and proposals. In this month's and next month's *Newsletter*, we'll give an overview of the development that may soon affect the life of you and your neighbors. Plus we'll talk about how you can voice your thoughts or concerns on each proposal.

Institutions Expand

Washington Adventist Hospital Expansion. The hospital continues to wish to expand on its site in Takoma Park. Expansion is proposed to include a new 140,000 sq. ft. medical office building/ambulatory care center, new parking garage, and expanded emergency room. The hospital is also looking for a site in the Long Branch neighborhood for the construction of a 50,000 sq. ft. medical office building. If such a facility looks feasible, the hospital would consider proposing a somewhat smaller level of development on its existing site. Although no Long Branch site has been finalized, the hospital has been

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Mayor & Council
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CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Update from County Councilmember Tom Perez
- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

MONDAY, SEPT. 13 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARING, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

Public Hearing:

- Rent Stabilization

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14 - Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14 - Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m., 6 Grant Ave.

MONDAY, SEPT. 20 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

TUESDAY, SEPT. 21 - Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building Room 1 (Upstairs)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 23 - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room

THURSDAY, SEPT. 23 - Noise Control Board, 7 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers

MONDAY, SEPT. 27 - PRESENTATION & REGULAR MEETING

Presentation:

- Councilmember Williams' Update on the Community Center Construction Project

City Council Briefs

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, July 19 - Special Session:

1st Reading Ordinance expanding membership of Arts & Humanities Commission was unanimously POSTPONED (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

Monday, July 26 - Regular Meeting:

Single Reading Ordinance #2004-26 was adopted unanimously, identifying the health issues associated with the loss of air conditioning and stating that the Montgomery County Code Sec.26-6(1)(6)—requiring dedicated electrical service for all individual window air-conditioning units—is not effective in the City until January 2005 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

Resolution #2004-40 was adopted unanimously, adopting Council Rules and Procedures (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

Resolution #2004-41 was adopted, amending the agreement with former City Manager Richard Finn (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Williams; NAY: Seamens, ABSENT: Mizeur).

Resolution #2004-42 was adopted unanimously, setting forth the Council's 2004 Summer Recess (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

Vacancies on Council-Appointed Committees

Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA).

The 12-member commission is empowered to adjudicate and mediate complaints for violations of Chapter 6, Housing, Article 4, Landlord Tenant Relations; to rule on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and to decide appeals from the city manager's decision to deny, suspend or revoke a rental housing license. (Two vacancies.)

Ethics Commission. The 7-member commission is charged with overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the City's Ethics Ordinance. (One vacancy; three current members' terms expire on Sept. 30.)

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. (One vacancy.)

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. (Two vacancies.)

Nuclear Free Committee. The 7-member committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the Nuclear-Free Zone Act. (Two vacancies.)

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

Tree Commission. The Tree Commission is charged with preserving, protecting and promoting the urban forest of Takoma Park. (One current member's term expires on Sept. 30.)

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. Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk at 301-891-7206.

From the Metro to the Crossroads...

Continued from page 12

314 Carroll Street, NW (also coincidentally 314 feet above sea level) directly across the street from the Takoma Metro Station. Elevation 314 has two ground level retail spaces and 52 rental apartments. The Savory Cafe has opened a new location in one of the retail spaces. Developer Russell Katz has received attention for making Elevation 314 a green building with a green roof and a stormwater management system in the building's courtyard. Also under construction is Cedar Crossing, a condominium development located at the intersection of Blair Road and Cedar Street just across the train tracks from the Metro station. When completed, Cedar Crossing will consist of 49 condo units in both loft and townhouse styles and one retail space that fronts on Cedar Street. Another project that is on the drawing boards is a proposed four-story building at 235 Carroll Street, N.W. at the corner of Maple Ave. and Carroll Street. This building would have retail on the ground floor and 70 condominium apartments on the upper floors. Contact person: Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, RobertI@takomagov.org.

In next month's article: City street projects, the Community Center, renovation of Takoma-Piney Branch Park, commercial/parking development in Old Town, several private developments, and any new information on the projects described in Part One.



Photo by Clyde Lassell

Construction at Montgomery College

Scout Recruitment Night Sept. 13

A combined recruitment event for all branches of the scouting movement will be held Monday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church at Tulip and Maple avenues.

The event will welcome boys and girls to the Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Brownies and the Girl Scouts. This event takes on extra importance this year because the Montgomery County Public Schools are, for the first time, not permitting literature on scouting to be sent home with schoolchildren.

For more information about Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, contact David Lanar at 301-589-5590. For information about Brownies and Girl Scouts, contact Jo Hoge at 301-589-4407.

Soccer Registration

Sign up for the fall SOCCER season with Takoma Park Neighborhood Youth Soccer. Age: Nursery school (3½) - High school. Friday night Sept. 3rd: 6-8:30 p.m.; Saturday morning Sept. 4th: 9 a.m.-noon; Monday evening Sept. 6th: 6-8:30 p.m. Takoma Park Municipal Building (corner of Philadelphia and Maple), use back entrance. If unable to make it to registration, visit: www.takomasoccer.org, print out a form and mail it in.

Some First Impressions From Our New City Manager

On July 12, Takoma Park got a new city manager, Barbara Burns Matthews, who moved here from Manchester, Mo., near St. Louis. City Communications Director Lonni Moffet interviewed Matthews recently for the *Newsletter* to get a sense of how she's adjusting to the wonders of Takoma Park.



Photo by City Communications staff

City Manager Barbara Burns Matthews (left) talks with Police Public Affairs staffer Carol Bannerman. That's Peggy Forster, center.

Newsletter: Barb, you just finished your first month as our new City Manager. We know that *Takoma Park Newsletter* readers are anxious to hear how things are going for you. Can you tell us how you spent your first month on the job?

Matthews: My first priority has been to get to know people in the community. I have spent numerous hours in meetings as I try to familiarize myself with the City, community, and staff. I have met with many neighborhood associations, citizen committees, and representatives of institutions such as Washington Adventist Hospital, Columbia Union College, and Montgomery College. I've also spent time with members of Sustainable Takoma, Sensible Growth, and the Folk Festival Committee. Additionally, I have met with representatives from the other governmental entities that the City interacts with – County Council members and representatives from the Executive's staff, as well as folks from Park and Planning. And, of course, I have also made a point of spending time with the mayor, members of the City Council, and City staff.

Newsletter: What are some of your first impressions of Takoma Park?

Matthews: I've found Takoma Park to be a small town in the best possible sense.

Everyone in the community has been very warm and welcoming. For instance, a number of residents have recognized me from the photo in the *Newsletter* and walked up and introduced themselves when I was having lunch in town. Takoma Park residents definitely have a strong sense of community, as well as a lot of pride about where they live. You don't always see that in a large metropolitan area, and it's been refreshing.

Newsletter: What about your interaction with City staff?

Matthews: The City staff has been a tremendous help in my first 30 days on the job. Even before I started work for the City, the staff sent me background materials to help me get up to speed on a number of critical issues. The

employees clearly care about the City and genuinely seem to like working here.

Newsletter: What are your short-term action items?

Matthews: The completion of the Community Center will certainly be a top priority. We will be reviewing the bid results for the next stage of the project with the mayor and Council in September, and I am looking forward to developing a funding plan in place to get the project done. I am also planning to continue my meetings with the various community organizations in Takoma Park. I hope to meet with these groups on a regular basis so I can keep in touch with community priorities. Another priority for City staff will be the review and analysis of the services that the City currently provides to address some of the residents' concerns regarding tax duplication.

Newsletter: On a personal note, how are you adjusting to life in this area?

Matthews: As you know, my husband and I are originally from Virginia, and we are very happy to be closer to our families. We recently sold our home in the St. Louis area and hope to be out of our temporary apartment housing and into a house by the end of the year.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The article on the Willow Street Yoga Center in the August issue contained several factual errors, for which we apologize.

The Kripalu Holistic Center in Lenox, Mass., was described as the primary teaching facility for Iyengar Yoga. Kripalu does not teach Iyengar Yoga; it teaches a form of yoga called Kripalu Yoga, which is quite different from Iyengar Yoga. Willow Street founder Suzie Hurley attended her first formal yoga teacher training program at Kripalu, and received her first certification from them. Hurley also has studied Iyengar Yoga but has never sought Iyengar certification.

John Friend is not a "Washington teacher" but is based in the Houston area and comes to Washington to lead workshops and trainings.

The Takoma Park center during its peak winter session had about 1,220 students (not 1,700 as reported), and the Silver Spring studio had about 450.

About 15 percent of Willow Street students take Pilates, not the 25 percent reported in the article.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Same-Sex Marriage: Council Stand Criticized, Supported Not All Support Gay Marriage

Bob Guldin's summary of the discussion that preceded the City Council's unanimous adoption of a resolution on same-sex marriage surprises me. One of the most important first principles of a progressive city is respect for all views. Not only does the story fail to report an opposing view, it gives credence to the views of a "toddler" – who because of such a young age lacks the mental constructs to analyze a public issue – while omitting the views of a 30-year resident who votes and pays taxes. Doesn't that strike you as a bit odd?

I attended the July 12 Council meeting and objected to the resolution because of its flawed premises and its far-reaching implications. Most importantly, I opposed the resolution because it was formulated prior to broad public debate. Moreover, Councilmember Mizeur's rationale for the resolution was self-serving. Has there been a compelling call in the total Takoma Park community for same-sex marriage, for supporting the ACLU suit regarding nine Maryland same-sex couples who would like to get married, or for joining Senate debate under way at the time regarding outlawing same-sex marriage? Was the Takoma Park election of November 2003 a referendum on same-sex marriage? Does the City Council have the license to assume that its will is the will of a silent majority? I don't think so.

Unfortunately, we are in a tricky situation. Seventy-seven percent of the residents of Takoma Park are of voting age, but few vote and only a vocal few engage in public debate and attend City Council meetings. Yet our democracy will only continue to work to the extent that we protect two fundamental principles: the principle of vested powers and the principle of checks and balances.

Anything else invites power elitism and abuse. Unless the *Takoma Park Newsletter* is supported by private funds, I suggest that in the future it reports all sides of a public issue.

— Mary Carter-Williams, Ph.D.
Eastern Ave.

Response from Councilmember Mizeur

Editor's note: The members of the City Council also received the above letter from Mary Carter-Williams, and Councilmember Heather Mizeur shared her response with the *Newsletter*.

Dear Mary:

I take exception and offense to the section of your letter where you state, "Moreover, Councilmember Mizeur's rationale for the [gay marriage] resolution was self-serving." Is it self-serving for me, someone who has never been a victim of crime, to advocate for residents who ask me to go on record about auto theft and crime concerns? Is it self-serving for me, a non-dog owner, to look into the new dog leash laws and code enforcement issues when a constituent requests? Then why is it self-serving for me to advocate for a gay marriage resolution – just because I happen to be gay – when my constituents ask that of me? Should you care to read through my files one day, I could document for you the overwhelming number of people who contacted me about the same-sex resolution, asking that I spearhead some action in our community. My response to those requests is no different than when I respond to concerns about the trash, potholes, crime, or barking dogs. I ran for this job to be a voice for my constituents and their concerns – whatever they may be. I appreciate your right to dissent, but let's not go into character assassination to do it.

— Heather Mizeur
Councilmember, Ward 2

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

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

Re-installing an Air Conditioner? Read These Electrical Safety Tips

If you are reinstalling or starting up an air conditioner in your home that was temporarily prohibited because of enforcement of the Montgomery County building code (see article on "air conditioners" on this page), you should be aware of the electrical safety issue raised by the use of large appliances such as air conditioners. Please read on to learn how to operate your air conditioners as safely as possible.

If your home was built around 1950 or before, you probably have fuses. If it was built after that time, you probably have circuit breakers. Although they look different, they serve the same function: to protect the electrical wire in your home. Fuses are glass with a lead band that is visible through the glass base and screw into a fuse socket. Circuit breakers look like switches.

The purpose of fuses and circuit breakers is to protect the wire they are attached to by keeping it from overheating. Oversized fuses or circuit breakers do not enhance the electric circuitry or the equipment they serve. The use of a too large fuse, the installation of a metal disk such as a coin in the fuse box, or the use of tape to keep a circuit open is a very bad and dangerous idea. It defeats the purpose of the fuse box or circuit breaker and compromises its integrity, increasing the possibility of an electrical fire.

To reduce the risk of an electrical fire from overheating, before you reinstall your air conditioning unit, you should:

- Remove metal objects such as coins or metal slugs from the circuit breaker or fuse box;
- Remove oversized fuses and replace with proper sized fuses;
- Remove tape or other materials that may have been used to keep a breaker switch open;
- Keep the front door of the fuse or circuit box closed; and
- Move all flammable materials away from the fuse box or circuit breaker.

If the lights go out or the air conditioner stops working, you probably blew a fuse or tripped a circuit breaker. Switch off the air conditioner. You don't need to turn everything off, but enough to reduce the load. Then go to the panel box, open the cover and look for the glass fuse with the black burn mark in the center.

There is a lead strip approximately 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch long. If you can see an intact lead strip, this is not the fuse that is blown. Unscrew the burnt-out fuse and replace it with the same size, or rating, fuse. The fuses are color coded and numbered as follows: blue fuses are 15 amps, red or orange fuses are 20 amps and green fuses are 30 amps.

It's important to note that the fuses in the sockets could be the wrong size. An electrician can determine if the fuses are appropriately sized.

Adapted from Electrical Systems and Hazards Guide by Accutek Home Inspection Service, Inc.

Housing Mailbox:

Housing Discrimination For Income Source is Illegal

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

Can a rental application in Takoma Park be rejected solely on the basis that the applicant receives a Housing Choice Voucher Program subsidy? The answer is no.

Chapter 27 of the Montgomery County Code prohibit landlords from using sources of income as the sole reason for rejecting a rental application. Any lawful source of income including inheritance, grant, pension, annuity, alimony, child support, government or private assistance or occupation must be considered in determining qualifications for rental or sale of property. Such applicants are to be treated the same as those not receiving assistance including verifying the sources of income and conducting credit checks. If a Housing Choice Voucher (formerly Section 8) Program (HCVP) subsidy would pay the entire rent, the applicant's negative credit report may not be used as a basis for rejection since the applicant is not

responsible for paying the rent. Conversely a negative credit report may be used to reject an applicant who is responsible for paying part of the rent under the HCVP. Landlords may not eliminate a HCVP subsidy applicant because the subsidy does not provide the required security deposit. Such elimination is viewed as a refusal to participate in the subsidy program and a failure to recognize the direct or indirect source of income. Landlords should also note that their reference checks for applicants with a subsidy must be the same as for their unsubsidized applicants.

Chapter 27, Section 27-12 of the Montgomery County Code makes it illegal to discriminate in the rental or sale of housing on the basis of race, sex, marital status, physical or mental disability, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, presence of children, source of income, sexual orientation or age. Persons having complaints under Chapter 27 should contact the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights by calling 240-777-8450.

Air Conditioning Emergency Law Adopted

On July 26, the Takoma Park City Council, recognizing that our region's hot and humid summer weather can create health hazards for many community residents, adopted an emergency ordinance which allows tenants to cool their homes during the remaining summer months and exempts landlords from certain sections of the Property Maintenance Code for 90 days.

The ordinance does three things:

1. Tenants who were required by their landlord to remove window air-conditioning units can immediately re-install the units for use during the balance of the summer months.
2. Window air conditioning units provided by landlords and removed prior to the adoption of the ordinance, must be re-installed and operational as soon as possible. Air conditioning is to be restored for the balance of the summer months.
3. Local rental housing units are now exempt from the requirements of Section 26-6(a)(6) of Chapter 26, Housing and

Building Standards, of the Montgomery County Code for 90 days. (Effective dates: July 26 through Oct. 24, 2004).

The City strongly recommends that landlords and tenants check their circuit breakers or fuse boxes prior to re-installing the air-conditioning units. Use of incorrect fuses or tampering with circuit breakers presents a severe fire hazard, as circuits can over-heat when they carry more current than that for which they were designed.

This ordinance is a temporary measure and will expire on Oct. 24. The City Council is considering its options to ensure, on a more permanent basis, that tenants who have had access to air conditioning in the past continue to have such access. The Council will begin its review of possible options this fall. For more information, please check Council agendas on the City's Web site (www.cityoftakomapark.org).

If you have any questions, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7219.

Montgomery County Housing Fair Oct. 2

For the fourth consecutive year, the award-winning Montgomery Housing Fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 2 at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Although the day-long fair will offer fun activities for the whole family and provide free giveaways throughout the day, its main purpose is to educate Montgomery County residents on housing-related topics. As so many families in Montgomery County pay more than 50 percent of their monthly income for housing costs, it is important to provide residents with reliable and accurate information on housing-related topics.

The City of Takoma Park along with approximately 50 other exhibitors will be on hand to provide housing-related information and workshops will be held in English and Spanish on topics that include credit counseling, buying or refinancing a home, housing assistance and services, and services for seniors.

Last year's event drew nearly 1,000 people to the Activity Center and organizers expect this year's Fair to be equally well attended. Those who attend, and live or work in Montgomery County, are eligible to participate in a drawing for \$500 to be used towards a monthly rent or mortgage payment.

If you are thinking about homeownership, want to improve your credit rating, or are interested in housing-related assistance programs, this is the place for you to be on Saturday, October 2. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm located at 506 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg.

COLTA's Corner



By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

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

8213 Roanoke Ave. (2004-26H)

On August 4, a hardship petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$49.17 to \$56.32 on all 11 units at the property. This petition was filed because the landlord's operating expenses have risen faster than the rental income. The annual Rent Stabilization Allowance is already included in these amounts.

8404 Flower Ave. (2004-33L)

On July 22, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$40.75 on a unit at the property. The improvements were new countertop, refrigerator, electrical work, paint and labor. The improvement for paint sprayer, shield and saw were disallowed because the items can be used several times for other pur-

poses and is improper to allocate all the costs to this unit.

12 Grant Ave. (2004-37L)

On August 2, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$12.25 to \$24.52 on all 12 units at the property. The improvements were driveway paving and surfacing, front entrance step and pathway, paint building exterior, new carpets, refrigerator, air conditioners, repair and paint cracks in walls and bathroom floors and refurbish kitchen cabinets. The improvements for plaster and paint, repair windows, leak in kitchen sink in five units at the property were disallowed because the improvements were under \$200 per item.

8300 Flower Ave. (2004-48L)

On July 22, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$9.91 to \$14.62 on all six units at the property. The improvements included new roof, painting and plastering, masonry and electrical.

8118 Roanoke Ave. (2004-50L)

On July 23, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$37.88 to \$45.69 on all three units at the property. The improvements included painting exterior and windows and replacing the sidewalk.

All increases except the hardship petition are in addition to the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken.

No Use Crying Over Spilled Storm Water: Manage It

Water runs downhill, that's an undeniable fact. And with the heavy rains we've had this year, as well as the numerous springs that flow through Takoma Park, residents often have problems and questions about how to manage storm water – including rainfall, water that flows onto their property from neighboring properties and water that flows off their properties.

That's why the City's Department of Public Works has established a link on the City's Web site to an excellent state resource on storm water management. You can find this factsheet, called "Storm Water Conservation in Your Back Yard," on the Maryland Department of the Environment's Web site. The direct URL is www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/sedimentsstormwater/rain_barrel.pdf.

Recycle Electronics October 2

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

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

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

Public Safety Picnic

A family picnic open to the public is set for Saturday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at VFW Post 350, 4th and Orchard avenues. The Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee hosts the event, and will share information about public safety, emergency preparedness, and opportunities for becoming involved.

City Taxes and County Rebates

Continued from page 1

City provides more programs serving more children and adults than the county would offer if it took over recreation programs. While the county owns the building and makes necessary capital improvements, the City operates the facility and retains all program revenues. Last year, that came to \$199,000, which does help the budget.

The largest pieces of the budget pie are Public Works and the Police Department. For Public Works, the City expects to spend \$3,203,284 in FY2005. That pays for administration, building, equipment, street and park maintenance, the arborist and urban forest-related functions, and the city engineer, in addition to refuse collection, disposal and recycling.

The solid waste portion of the budget is not reimbursed because county residents pay a separate fee for these services, whereas in Takoma Park, it's built into property taxes.

Deputy Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite says that if it costs the City more to maintain the roads, that's in part because of the City's high responsiveness. "If you have a problem with a pothole on your street, or a crack in the sidewalk, you can call Public Works and get quick service," says Braithwaite. "I don't think you would get the same kind of response from the county side."

Takoma Park residents are, in a sense, "big fish in a small pond." Because the City is so small physically, the department "can get around to more places more frequently," says Braithwaite. She cites leaf collection as an example. Public Works provides a six-week program versus one or two days of pickup scheduled in the county.

Full-Service Police

By far the largest single item in the City budget is the Police Department, and Takoma Park is the only city in the county that receives a rebate, because it's the only city with what's considered virtually a full-service police department. That means county police do not respond to calls unless mutual aid is requested.

In May 2004 the county tried to reduce the FY 2005 police rebate, which may have heightened public awareness of the issue. But the controversy over the police rebate is not new. Because of previous problems, in mid-2001 the county and City agreed that they needed a written agreement to lay out how the City would be reimbursed for police services. Negotiations resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in early 2003.

This MOU defined what personnel costs, supplies and equipment, and other aspects of department operation would be reimbursed and how this reimbursement would be calculated.

This year, however, the county on March 10 notified the City in a fax that the police rebate for FY05 would be \$622,084 less than in FY04. Not until March 31 was an explanation provided: the county had unilaterally reduced the number of hours it estimated county police officers spend on administrative duties.

"The City lobbied extensively to get the money back," says Suzanne Ludlow.

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

City Council Worksession

Overview of the current requirements of the rent stabilization ordinance

Monday, Sept. 13

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Monday, Sept. 20

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).

For more information, please contact the Landlord-Tenant Office 301-891-7119 or LindaW@takomagov.org

Takoma Park has no industry and little commercial property to broaden the tax base; it's basically a bedroom community.

"We went back to [county] staff and asked them to look again, pointing out that the MOU formula was clear and that they had changed the formula for Takoma Park" but did not change calculations for county police officers.

The county ultimately changed its position and provided the City with a full rebate after the County Council got involved in the negotiations.

But even with the "return" of the rebate, by the county's calculations, were it to provide policing for the City, it would only hire 33 officers, whereas Takoma Park has an authorized force of 41 uniformed officers, and the rebate does not

pay for salaries above the sergeant level.

Ludlow says that this year's problem with the police rebate has made clear that the MOU is not sufficient. City staff, together with representatives from Rockville and Gaithersburg, are continuing to work with the county to develop a more transparent approach to calculating the rebate that would be more favorable to the City.

To put the extra cost of running a separate police department in perspective, however, according to former manager Finn, the combination of county rebate, money from the State of Maryland, plus fines and other fees the department collects, means that only about 25 percent of the department's budget comes from city residents' taxes.

And the question remains: would the level of service be the same if Takoma

Park was policed by the county with fewer officers? Mayor Kathy Porter points out that in the county, when a break-in of under a certain dollar value occurs with no confrontation, an officer does not come to your home to take a report. Instead, you get a form to fill out and send in to the county.

When it comes to street repair, another hot button issue this year, Finn suggests it isn't realistic to think the county is going to "take back the streets. In practice, this would mean disincorporation, because you can't have a police department if the jurisdiction doesn't have authority over the streets it's policing."

Another factor affecting Takoma Park's high tax rate is the lack of commercial development in the city. Both Finn and Ludlow stress that—unlike Rockville and Gaithersburg, both of which have substantially lower tax rates—Takoma Park has no industry and very little commerce to broaden the tax base. "We're essentially a bedroom community," says Finn, "with not much room for commercial development."

In Finn's opinion, the only way to cut taxes is by cutting services, since the City operates with a very small staff, 135 full-time equivalent positions, which has changed little over the last five years.

Mayor Porter says that during the budget discussions this spring, each City department was asked to develop proposals for cutting an additional 5 percent from their budgets. Examples of proposed cuts were reducing the number of recreation programs, or cutting back evening hours at the library and reducing the programs offered to children.

Continued on page 10

RECREATION

Touch a Truck Event

Bobcats, Street Sweeper, Dump Truck and Trash Truck! Step inside each monster truck and dig it! This program is geared towards children ages 1 - 6. Come see big trucks up close, ask questions, watch them move. A short reception will follow.

When: Saturday, Sept. 18

Time: 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Public Works Garage Area, 42 Oswego Ave.

Fee: FREE!

Park at Heffner Community Center or on Ritchie Ave. near Public Works Gate.

Belly Dancing Class

Ages 13 and up

Swivel your hips, shake your shoulder, learn to belly dance! This ancient art form has become very popular in many Western countries for various reasons: it keeps you fit, centered, teaches excellent posture, and develops strong muscles. This six-week class will explore isolations, traveling steps, and how to coordinate movements. No previous dance experience required. Bring your friends; it's fun learning together. Instructor Jill Nissan.

Class attire: Please wear comfortable close-fitting clothing that permits viewing body movements, and a scarf around your hips. You may take this class barefoot or in dance shoes; socks are not recommended.

When: Wednesdays, Sept. 22 - Oct. 27

Time: 7 - 8 p.m. For ages 13 - 17

8 - 9 p.m. for ages 18 & up

Location: Piney Branch Elementary School (Multi-Purpose Room) 7510 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$60
Non-Resident \$65

Lo Impact Aerobics & Body Sculpting Class

16 and older

We have combined these two classes to reshape your body. This six-week class is designed to cross-train using the best parts of both fitness programs. Bring your own weights, a mat and some water. Get that lean, sculpted look you've always wanted.

Session I

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Sept. 21 - Oct. 28

Time: 7 - 8 p.m.

Location: Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$55
Non-Resident \$60

An Introduction to Music Theory

16 and older

Learn the skills needed to read melodies and rhythms on sight. You will learn all major & minor scales, intervals and chords. The "movable do" system will be used during this course for reading melodies. In addition, you will learn basic music dictation - writing down the music of the melody that you hear.

This class is designed for beginners. Twelve weeks. Instructor: Socrates Boyajiam.

When: Fridays, Sept. 24 - Dec. 7

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Takoma Park Municipal Bldg, 7500 Maple Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$90
Non-Resident \$95

Kung Fu

Ages 5 - adult

Master Robert G. Thompson, Sifu, brings the tranquil art of Kung Fu to Takoma Park. Learn the ancient form of self defense and the beauty of inner peace that was first conceived by the Shaolin Priest in 540 A.D. There is a one-time, non-refundable \$50 registration fee paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform. Twelve weeks.

When: Saturdays, Sept. 25 - Dec. 18

Beginner Classes: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Intermediate Classes: 12 - 1 p.m.

Advanced Classes: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Takoma Park Municipal Bldg, 7500 Maple Ave.

Fee Youth: T.P. City Resident \$160
Non-Resident \$170

Fee Adult: T.P. City Resident \$200
Non-Resident \$210

No program Nov. 27.

Babysitting Class

Ages 9 - 14

This class is designed for kids ages 9-14 interested in babysitting. Topics covered will include: CPR, Fire Safety, First Aid, Infant and Child Care and Personal Safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of class and exam. This class is sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, venerable Fire Chief James Jarboe presiding. 6 weeks.

Session 1: Mondays, Sept. 20 - Oct. 25

Session 2: Mondays, Nov. 1 - Dec. 6

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

Location: Takoma Park Fire Department, 7201 Carroll Ave.

Fee: Free, but must register at the Recreation Department

Takoma Park Tennis Clinics

Ace, lob, smash, forehand, backhand, top-spin, underspin, moonball, poach. What does it all mean? Find out at the Takoma Park Recreation Department Tennis Clinic. Top-notch instruction by qualified Recreation staff. This program is for beginning and intermediate players. Please bring your own racket and water bottle. Five weeks. Postponed classes will be made up if at all possible.

Location: Takoma Park Middle School Outdoor Courts, 7611 Piney Branch Road

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$15/session
Non-Resident \$20/session

Grades 1 - 3

When: Mondays, Sept. 20 - Oct. 18

Session I: 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Session II: 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.
Make-up date: Oct. 25

Grades 4 - 5

When: Wednesdays, Sept. 22 - Oct. 20

Session I: 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Session II: 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.
Make-up date: Oct. 27

Grades 6 - 8

When: Fridays, Sept. 24 - Oct. 22

Session I: 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Session II: 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.
Make-up date: Oct. 29

If you do not own a racket, the Recreation Department will provide one for the clinic (please indicate on Special Needs line).

Outdoor Soccer Clinic

Grades 1 - 6

Golaso! Golaso!! Golaso magnifico! Play 6v.6 soccer every Tuesday and Thursday at Takoma Park Elementary. Instructed by qualified Recreation Department staff. Six weeks. On days of inclement weather, this program will be canceled. Bring a water bottle.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 21 - Oct. 28

Time: 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. (grades 1 - 3)

4:45 - 5:45 p.m. (grades 4 - 6)

Location: Hodges Field (behind Takoma Park Elementary School, 7511 Holly Ave.)

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$15
Non-Resident \$20



Photos by
Debra Haiduwen
and
Carey Dillon

Kindermusik

For 25 years, Kindermusik has brought music and movement into the lives of families and young children sharing in total development of each unique child with a joyful, engaging approach to learning. Both Kindermusik Village and Our Time are taught by local Takoma Park resident and mom, Becky Linafelt. For more information please feel free to call 240-353-9637 or e-mail at beckytod@aol.com.

Kindermusik Village

Ages newborn-1 1/2

This class is for lap babies, crawlers, and walkers accompanied by a parent or caregiver. You will be introduced to multiple levels of activities appropriate for the different stages of development in this age range. A required \$27.95 materials fee is to be paid to instructor on the first day of class. Materials include a baby's literature book, baby's home journal, home CD, art banners, and storage/carry bag. Eight weeks. **Limited to 12 children, minimum of four.**

When: Tuesdays 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 14 - Nov. 9
No program Nov. 2.

Wednesdays 1 - 1:45 p.m.
Sept. 15 - Nov. 3

Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Residents \$80
Non-Residents \$85

Kindermusik Our Time

Ages 1 1/2 - 3

This class is for the older toddler, ages 1 1/2 to 3. With engaging musical activities, including instrument exploration, creative movement, listening, and story time, Kindermusik Our Time focuses on the child's healthy emotional development and recognizes his/her need for both independence and support. A required \$40.75 materials fee is to be paid to instructor on the first day of class. Materials include 2 home CDs (all the songs and chants from class plus more music), 2 literature books, home activity book, instrument, and sturdy storage carry box or bag. Fifteen weeks. **Limited to 12 children, minimum of four.**

When: Tuesdays 11 - 11:45 a.m.
Sept. 14, 2004 - Jan. 4, 2005
No program Nov. 2 and Dec. 28.

Wednesdays 2:15 - 3 p.m.
Sept. 15, 2004 - Jan. 5, 2005

No program Nov. 24 and Dec. 29

Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Residents \$140
Non-Residents \$145

FOR THE COLLEGE BOUND ... 2004!

You may call 301-891-7259, or stop by the Takoma Park Maryland Library to pre-register for these scheduled programs, which are free and open to the public:

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.: "Going to College: Overview"

Dr. Laurie Potts-Dupre will help you get started on the selection process. Which schools might provide the right fit – academically, financially and personally – for you? Topics include sorting out your personal criteria and goals, the admissions process, competitiveness, where do I go from here? Dr. Potts-Dupre has a private counseling practice in Takoma Park. She advises students and families on college options and choices. A former faculty research associate at the University of Maryland, where she taught in the honors undergraduate scholarship program, Potts-Dupre has visited and evaluated over 150 colleges nationwide. She enjoys helping students define and achieve personal and educational goals.

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.: "Financial Aid for College"

Dr. Herm Davis, author of the best-selling *Financial Aid for Dummies*, will discuss the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work-study, college savings plans, the FAFSA application and more. One of the nation's foremost student aid authorities, Davis heads the National College Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit organization providing information to students, and directs College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. He is a 30-year veteran in financial aid and scholarship information.

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m. [note earlier time]: "How to prepare for the SATs/ACTs"

Ms. Ilhan Cagre returns with her son Zeki Mokhtarzada to demystify the dreaded SAT. They will discuss how students as well as parents should prepare for it. They will also present information about the new SAT that will be introduced in 2005. This new SAT is more demanding, and will require adjustments in the selection of a student's math classes in 11th grade. Ilhan Cagri is a trainer and program designer for the SAT after-school classes offered by Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Alternative Programs. Zeki Mokhtarzada has taught SAT math preparation for the same program and has been actively involved in the program design.

Reviewer's Corner ...

The Fifth Sacred Thing Reviewed by Steve Albright



Local residents may be offended to discover that, when Witches finally secede from the Union later this century, their new country takes shape around San Francisco Bay — not in a certain Mid-Atlantic town served by the Red Line.

Nonetheless, shelve your hometown pride, and spend some time in this futuristic Bay Area community, lovingly detailed in *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, a science fiction novel by Starhawk. In 2048, San Francisco's residents live in exquisite balance with their ecosystem and each other. Cars are obsolete and asphalt has been pulled up; instead, footpaths snake through the town. Free-running streams crisscross the solar-and wind-powered city, which, viewed from a hilltop, is "a mosaic of jewel-like colors set in green." Furthermore, everybody is equal. There is no hunger or poverty in future San Francisco; heck, there's no money. People live in extended tribal families. Everyone participates in decision making, everybody is liberated politically, sexually and emotionally. And everybody loves their work.

But we soon learn that the city is unique. Most of California has become a sunbaked, racist and sexist hell-hole ruled by the Stewards, a fascistic Christian elite — think Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* on steroids — that keeps its battered populace at bay by controlling precious water and the drugs people need to fend off government-manufactured plagues.

We experience one year of this polarized future through the eyes of an ex-

tended San Francisco family: 98-year-old grandmother Maya, who came of age during the Summer of Love; Bird, a musician who is captured during a raid on a nuclear power plant and spends 10 tortured years in Steward custody; and Madrone, a gifted healer who hikes south into Angel City (get it?) to help the resistance against Steward rule.

On one level, *The Fifth Sacred Thing* tells a tale of love, sex, violence, politics, passion, heartbreak, pain, magic and blood. On another level, the novel wraps a gripping adventure story around what is essentially a guidebook to the Goddess religion and how to live it.

Four things are sacred in the Goddess cosmology: air, fire, water, and earth. Where these four sacred things intersect, there arises the fifth — the human spirit. This spirit is put to the test in the novel's second half, when San Francisco's Witches have to decide whether their credo of nonviolence is strong enough to overcome the Stewards' cruel onslaught.

The Fifth Sacred Thing features graphic violence, lots of Left politics, and no love for patriarchy. It's strong brew; not all readers may agree, after all, that we're guaranteed a nasty, brutish future if we keep going the way we're going. But I found the book hard to put down. It's exciting, the characters are well drawn, and the author charts an alluring path out of our political and environmental morass.

The Fifth Sacred Thing, by Starhawk (1993), is published by Bantam Books.

Steve Albright is a local writer and educator.

LIBRARY

Reader Cart Donated By Friends

The bursting picture book shelves in the children's room were recently given new space by the addition of a mobile multi-shelf unit to house the reader collection.



Kai Cannon-Hill, loyal Library patron, gives generous and joyful assistance in shifting the readers to their new home.

These are the books in the familiar "I-Can-Read" format (such as *Mouse & Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel) which feature a controlled vocabulary for those who are beginning to read.

The new unit will allow young readers to reach their books more easily on their own as well as release shelving to accommodate the burgeoning picture book collection. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for purchasing this newest addition to the Children's Room.

"Turn of the Seasons" Summer Quest Finale

Join Dave Burbank & Jillian Hershberger in the Children's Room on Monday evening, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. for a modest reprise of the summer's reading adventures. Come willing to share old favorites and new discoveries as well as surprises from the Summer Quest team! All those who participated are welcome to come. Please call 301-891-7259.

Socratic Inquiry: Yet Another Evening with Chris Phillips

Chris Phillips, the peripatetic teacher of philosophy for children, returns to the Takoma Park Maryland Library on Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. 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. The Socratic evening in August was dedicated to a searching discussion of "What makes a good politician?"

Please join us!

LIBRARY PROGRAMS IN SEPTEMBER

"Getting There with Faith"

A Trek in Nepal with Faith Stern
Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m.

A Socratic Evening with Chris Phillips

Adults and children 8 and up
Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. (see story)

"Turn of the Seasons" Summer Quest Finale

Monday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.
(See story)

Children's Literature "Fireside Chat"

for adults with a keen interest in children's literature
Monday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.

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.

Robberies

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: Between July 18 at 11:30 p.m. and July 19 at 12:10 a.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. An adult male was thrown to the ground after opening his motel room door to two subjects. His wallet was taken. The two subjects then fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block: On July 19 at 9:13 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. The subject accosted the owner of a business, held a screw driver to her and pushed her before forcing his way into a secured enclosure and taking cash from a register. The suspect was seen fleeing in a dark green Ford Taurus.

Maple Ave., 7100 block: On July 26 at 11:50 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. A man, woman and their two children were walking when the man noticed a subject walk past them in the opposite direction and a second subject approaching on a bicycle. The first subject turned and walked back towards the victims, displaying a handgun. The victim complied with a demand to give up property. The subject on the bicycle

demanded the woman's purse, but the woman's screams had attracted the attention of neighbors and the suspects fled south on Maple Ave. without taking the purse. The victims were not injured.

New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block: On Aug. 4 at 6:50 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was in his vehicle in a parking lot, talking on his cell phone with the driver's side door open, when he was approached by a subject who pointed a gun at the victim and demanded his money. The suspect removed the victim's wallet from his pocket, took out cash and threw the wallet back into the victim's car before fleeing in a lime green Isuzu jeep with temporary tags, state unknown. The victim was not injured.

Burglaries

Philadelphia Ave., unit block: On July 17, between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., a 3rd degree burglary occurred. Unknown subjects entered an unlocked detached garage and removed property.

Carroll Ave., 7000 block: On July 23 at 11:35 p.m., a commercial burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the business was gained. Property was taken.

Grant Ave., unit block: Between July 23 at 7:30 a.m. and July 25 at 8:30 a.m., a 4th degree burglary occurred. The lock of a shed was broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Philadelphia Ave., unit block: Between July 24 at 9 p.m. and July 25 at 3 p.m., a

residential burglary occurred. Entry may have been gained through a basement window that was found open. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block: Between July 27 at 9 p.m. and July 28 at 10 p.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A window was broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Lee Ave., 100 block: On Aug. 2, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unlocked ground floor window. Property was stolen.

Auto and Related Theft

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On July 19 at 11 a.m., an auto theft occurred. The owner of the 1994 Infiniti Q45 unknowingly dropped her keys in a store and subsequently discovered her car missing.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On July 24, between 10:50 a.m. and 8:20 p.m., a 1997 Honda Civic was stolen.

Elm Ave., 900 block: Between July 28 at 1 p.m. and July 29 at 7:45 a.m., a 2002 BMW motorcycle was stolen.

Elm Ave., 400 block: Between July 31 at 1:30 p.m. and Aug. 1 at 1 a.m., a 1997 Honda Accord was stolen.

Cedar Ave., 7400 block: On Aug. 6, between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., a 1995 Honda Odyssey was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: Between Aug. 7 at 9 p.m. and Aug. 8 at 9:30 a.m., a 1996 Honda Accord was stolen.

ARRESTS

Lee Ave., 100 block: On July 17 at 11:30 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Montgomery County for assault after officers responded to a call for an assault in progress.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On July 25 at 2:50 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated and driving while suspended.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On July 26 at 12:30 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Montgomery County for driving while suspended.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On July 27 at 2:33 a.m., an adult female and an adult male were arrested and charged with auto theft, theft over \$500 and unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Carroll Ave. and Tulip Ave. intersection: On July 31 at 1:30 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

East-West Highway, 700 block: On Aug. 1 at 2:34 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and paraphernalia after officers received a call for an unconscious person in a vehicle that was obstructing traffic.

Pine Ave. and Montgomery Ave. intersection: On Aug. 5 at 5 a.m., an adult male was arrested after officers responded to a call for a suspicious subject looking into parked vehicles. Stolen property was found on the subject. He was charged with two counts of 4th degree burglary, two counts of theft under \$500 and false statement to a police officer.

Maple Ave., 7500 block: On Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult female was arrested on an open warrant from Charles County for failure to appear in court on a bad check charge.

New Hampshire Ave., 6400 block: On Aug. 7 at 2:39 a.m., a criminal citation was issued to an adult male for driving while intoxicated and other traffic-related offenses.

Maple Ave., 7600 block: On Aug. 7 at 11:56 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open Takoma Park warrant for a 2nd degree assault.

Flower Ave. and Carroll Ave. intersection: On Aug. 8 at 4:30 a.m., an adult male was charged by criminal citation with driving while impaired, driving without a license and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

Holly Ave., 7100 block: On Aug. 10 at 10:37 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with 4th degree burglary and attempted auto theft after police received a call about a suspicious subject.



The Firehouse Report

As of July 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 635 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,505 rescue or ambulance-related incidents

for a total of 2,140 this year. Totals for 2003 were 794 and 1,446, respectively, for a total of 2,240, representing a decrease of 100 incidents.

Two Join Takoma Park VFD

At the department's August meeting, Christian Perez and Delvy Luna were voted into membership. If you would like to join them, please contact the Membership Committee at 301-270-8209.

Thanks to Mark's Kitchen

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department would like to sincerely thank Mark's Kitchen for holding a fundraiser on July 20 to benefit the department. We also thank the many citizens who patronized Mark's Kitchen on that day. Proceeds from your meals went directly to TPVFD to be used to buy emergency equipment.

Visual Smoke Alarms Free

The Takoma Park VFD has issued 32 FREE alarms during the past year to the deaf or hard of hearing. Could you use one, or do you know someone who might? Check with your friends, relatives and neighbors and let them know that the fire department has them FREE at the fire station. Just call 301-270-8209.

The Annual Labor Day Weekend Fill-the-Boot

On Friday, Sept. 3, from 4 to 7 p.m., members of the Takoma Park VFD will be out front of the fire station with their boots collecting money to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Your support will help adults and children with neuromuscular diseases throughout the area.

Babysitters Training

If you would like to take a training course in babysitting, please contact the fire department at 301-270-8209. The course is 6 weeks, one night a week for 2 hours. (See Newsletter, p.6, for more information about dates and registration.)

Topics include fire safety, first aid, CPR, infant and child care, and personal safety.



Chief Jim Jarboe reviewing questions from the Fire Safety Question Wheel. Those who answered them right received a prize.

Fire/Injury Prevention At The Fair

Members of Takoma Park VFD were on hand at the Montgomery County Fair to help promote Fire/Injury Prevention. Aug. 16 was "Kids' Day" and lots of big and little kids came by the Fire and Rescue Tent to learn about fire safety. To get its message across, the department had on hand plastic fire helmets, 911 telephone simulators, and 2 new games - 3 Strikes and Fire Safety Question Wheel.

Fatal Home Fires!

1. Fires often start during the early morning hours when everyone is asleep.
2. Fires frequently burn for a long time before being discovered.
3. Fires kill more people from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning than from burns. Victims are overcome while they sleep and either suffocate from lack of oxygen or from breathing poisonous gases or they suffer internal burns from breathing super-heated air.
4. Fires can cause a loss of consciousness after only a short time because of the presence of high amounts of carbon monoxide.

Make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels of the home, especially outside of every sleeping area. Test them monthly.

Make sure you have a family fire escape plan. Review and practice it every few months.

The major cause of home fires is careless cooking. The major cause of fatal home fires is smoking.

Three Decades of Community Oriented Policing

POLICE NEWS

By Elizabeth Mosely
Communications Assistant

Community Oriented Policing (COP), in various forms, has been part of Takoma Park public safety activities for more than 30 years. Its programs have evolved, but the purpose remains the same: the police and the community working together to identify, prioritize, and solve contemporary issues.

COP, in its earliest form, began in the mid-1970s. Former Police Chief Robert Porter applied for and was awarded a crime prevention grant from the federal government. The grant allowed the department to hire more officers, and to purchase motor scooters and police cars strictly for crime prevention. Jack Goetz, who worked in the juvenile division, was asked to supervise the city's first Crime Prevention division, but it was not easy.

"People didn't understand it because it was new," said Goetz. "We didn't have the support of the patrol officers because they were reactive and crime prevention is proactive."

Spreading the word about Crime Prevention services was difficult. Goetz and his team would hand-deliver memos to residents informing them about community meetings. Goetz said the initial response was poor, but after a rash of burglaries, which Goetz attributes to an influx of pawnshops in the area, the public's interest increased.

This prompted the division to establish Neighborhood Crime Watch programs and ultimately, a Commercial Crime Watch program. Goetz and his team also conducted home security surveys, a service that is still offered for Takoma Park residents. An officer would canvass a home looking for situations that made it vulnerable and offered suggestions for improving them. Under then-Sgt. Goetz's leadership, the unit garnered several Governor's Awards for crime prevention and community policing.

Following Goetz's leadership, Jim Rosenthal became the division's new supervisor. He expanded the Neighborhood and Commercial Watch programs, being the first in the state to create a multi-jurisdictional Commercial Watch program. He also established an Apartment Watch program. Rosenthal attrib-

uted the program's success to the community, particularly the senior citizen volunteers. They would perform all administrative duties allowing the division to be more active in the community.

"The citizens wanted to be involved and COP opened up the world of policing to the community," said Rosenthal, who worked for the department for 27 years before retiring as a lieutenant in 2001. "All municipal policing, especially in a small city like ours, has always been community policing," Rosenthal noted. "What has happened is the continuing evolution and changing emphasis."

After Rosenthal, Clarence Jacobs led the division followed by Kathleen Coursey in the late 1980's. Coursey became the supervisor for Community Services.

Coursey was the only officer in this division working as a D.A.R.E. instructor. She also produced the city's crime blotter and supervised the crossing guards.

"I was looking at building on established programs and increasing our interaction and partnership with the community," said Coursey, now employed as the Victim Assistance Section Coordinator for Howard County Police.

In the summer of 1995, the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) was formed with four officers each assigned to a specific beat. This team, supervised by then-Sgt. Cynthia Creamer, became the next phase of COP. Moving beyond crime prevention, it was recognized for programs that involved city youth in positive lifestyle activities and resolution of quality of life issues. It was also responsible for strengthening and maintaining neighborhood and business organizations. In late 1998, the unit was dissolved, with the officers reabsorbed into the patrol division. The change came from many factors, including then-Chief Tom Anderson's vision for integrating community policing into the entire department.

In late 1999 after consultation with city committees and neighborhood groups, the city was reorganized into

three sectors, V, W, and X, each with three beats. A Whole-Scale Change event was convened with more than 100 city residents and business owners, City staff from every department, and others. As a



A November 1999 event brought people together to set goals for community oriented policing.

result, each officer in the Department was assigned to a specific beat, with responsibility for getting to know the residents and problems of an area, as well as to respond to crimes within it. At the recommendation of the event participants, a COP segment was initiated on Takoma Park City TV's magazine show "Snapshots" and staff from Code En-

forcement were also assigned by beat. The staffing shortages and personnel changes in the Police Department, beginning in 2000, restricted full implementation of the plan.

In January 2004, Takoma Park reinstated a Community Oriented Policing team. A newly named five-member team includes: a supervisor, Sgt. Kurt Gilbert; three officers, Tina Smith, Joe Butler, and Cindy Conrad; and civilian Nuisance Abatement Specialist Rudy Rice. Each officer, or sector specialist as they are referred to, helps identify crime trends and safety issues in their area and then works with others to remedy any problems, said Gilbert.

While the officers have a role in COP, Gilbert says community participation is most important. Consequently, his team consistently recruits

Neighborhood Safety Contacts to serve as liaisons between their neighborhood and safety specialists.

"They [the community] play the biggest role. We can only go as far as they will let us," said Gilbert.

(Next month will profile the team's members and goals.)

Seven Street Robberies, and Neighbors Worry

Investigation continues on six robberies that took place along New Hampshire and Maple avenues in July. One additional robbery was reported in the first two weeks of August at New Hampshire and East-West Highway. While patrols are increased in these areas, residents are urged to contribute to a safer environment through efforts on their own properties (see box).

The most notorious robbery took place July 26, near midnight in the 7100 block of Maple Ave. A family, including a child and a toddler in a stroller, walking home from the Metro after a long-distance trip was confronted by two men, one armed with a handgun. The father complied with a demand to give up property, while an accomplice on a bicycle demanded the woman's purse. The woman's screams had attracted neighbors' attention and the suspects fled south on Maple.

An armed carjacking had occurred July 13 at Tulip and Maple, with three suspects described. On July 22 at about 10:30 p.m., a man was walking alone on Maple between Tulip and Philadelphia avenues, was robbed by a lone youth, who displayed a gun. Property was taken and no physical injuries were reported in these incidents.

Two nighttime robberies occurred in the 7400 block of New Hampshire in July. On July 12, about 10:30 p.m., a woman's purse was taken by a suspect, who removed cash and left the purse. The suspect was de-

scribed as a Hispanic male, 30-35 years old. Four days later, about midnight, an adult male was thrown to the ground after opening his motel room door to two black males in their early 20s, who took his wallet and fled.

A male, about 30 years of age, accosted a business owner in the 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue about 9 a.m. on July 19. He displayed a weapon, forced her into a secured enclosure and took cash from a register. The suspect, who fled in a dark green Ford Taurus, was described as black, about 6'3" with a heavy build.

Takoma Park Police also arrested a man on July 11 after a business reported an attempted armed robbery in the 6400 block of New Hampshire. The man was located nearby and arrested.

Takoma Park Police received 29 reports of robberies in the first six months of the year, one of which has not been verified. Of the 28 robberies, including attempts, armed and strong-arm robberies, nine have been closed with arrests or warrants. Two were suspended. TPPD received 44 robbery reports in the same period in 2003 and 36 in 2002.

Residents are reminded to pay attention to their surroundings and strangers when walking alone at night. Should an incident occur, comply with property demands, paying attention to details that will aid in a description of the suspects. Contact the police as soon as possible by calling 9-1-1 or from a cell phone calling 301-270-1100.

What We Can Do About Street Crime

Following the July robbery of a family in an Old Town residential neighborhood, residents were understandably angered. Discussions considered measures that can be taken to reduce such crimes, including many which have been endorsed by the police.

-One resident suggested that before retiring for the night, home owners should turn on the outside light, step out on their porch and glance around to look for strangers or suspicious behaviors. Police agree this is a great idea and would provide observers on every street at a variety of times throughout an evening.

-Another resident suggested that all homes have an automatic light that operates all evening, which would create what he described as a "corridor of light" because "criminal activity is discouraged by throwing light on the subject." Police always encourage leaving an outside light on, whether it is motion-activated, photo-sensitive, or left on all night. The cost of a 32-watt compact fluorescent, running 12 hours a day for a year, would be about \$11. A 75-watt incandescent would cost \$26.

Other suggestions offered by residents, which are endorsed by police, are: cutting back foliage under street lights that block light from the sidewalk and pruning shrubs that impede the streets; having neighbors available to provide rides for others who are walking late at night; lighting garages and back yards; and pedestrians carrying a combination light/siren alarm.

Folk Festival Sept. 12 Features Emerging Artists Showcase

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is back Sunday, Sept. 12, but a couple of things will be different this year. First, we will be remembering the longtime leader and inspiration of the Folk Festival, Lenore Robinson, who died in April.

Second, we will be doing something new and different, in an effort to stretch and grow despite our deeply-felt loss.

The festival will take place, as usual, at the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Check www.tpff.org for all kinds of details on who's playing when, maps, transportation, how to volunteer and everything else. As always, admission is free.

And in an effort to offer our community more spectacular local music, the Folk Festival for the first time is putting on an "Emerging Artists Showcase." The showcase will feature artists who are either new to the D.C. area music scene, or those who haven't played at the Takoma Park Folk Festival before, for an opportunity to dazzle us with a couple of their favorite tunes.

Make a plan to come early (when there's ample parking and shorter lines!) to see it for yourself. From 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Takoma Park Folk Festival's 7th Heaven Stage on September 12, 2004,

you, along with the rest of the crowd, can cast your vote for your favorite three of the 11 featured performers. A panel of



Photo by Clyde Lassell

seasoned judges will incorporate your choice of favorites to determine who will have a featured spot in next year's festival.

The featured emerging artists for 2004 are Richard Broadbent, John Chowning, Howard Parker, Mark Sylvester, Camela Widad Kraemer, ilyAIMY, Doug Alan Wilcox, David LaFleur, Wendy Lanxner, Bill Mulrone and Gregory Lygon. Come see your favorites and those you may not have heard before.

In addition to the Emerging Artists Showcase, you'll also enjoy eight full

stages of amazingly varied music. We'll have some long-time favorites, like Irish Fire and Arte Flamenco, and we're jazzing up the scene with some newer performers like Winds of the World and Halau O Na Hali'a.

The city's largest festival also includes the artistry of more than 50 craftspeople selected from a juried crafts show, a children's stage with games and activities, 20-plus international food vendors, and representatives from over 90 community organizations.

This year's festival is in loving memory of our leader for many years, Lenore Robinson. Before her passing this April, she dedicated tremendous energy toward making this incredible day a reality. We have renamed our dance stage the "Lenore Robinson Dance Stage." As a way to support the endeavor that Lenore committed to so much, please take a couple of hours out of the festival day to dedicate your time as a much needed volunteer. The festival is run but a core group of volunteers throughout the year, with the added community support of 200+ volunteers on the day of the festival. Proceeds go to local youth beneficiary groups, who contribute their time on festival day. For more information please visit www.tpff.org or call 301-589-0202.

—Kristin Shipler

Conflict Resolution Benefit at Mark's Kitchen Sept. 21

The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County will hold a fundraiser Tuesday, Sept. 21 at Mark's Kitchen, 7006 Carroll Ave. in Old Town. Part of the profits of that day will be donated by Mark's Kitchen to maintain the program in your community. So by eating breakfast, lunch or dinner, you'll support the program that advances peaceful solutions.

Conflict resolution and mediation are alternative ways to settle disagreements, different from, for example, calling a lawyer. Mediation can be helpful for conflicts among neighbors, family members or employees and employers. The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County offers free mediation to those who want to end their conflict constructively in a "win-win solution." Contact the CRCMC at 301-593-9473.

City Taxes and County Rebates

Continued from page 5

However, Joy Austin-Lane, councilmember for Ward 1, believes that there are small cuts departments can make here and there, "cleaning up" their programs, thereby freeing up money, some of which could be applied to street repair, for example.

Sustainable Takoma Questions

The question of how the money is being spent is key for the activists of Sustainable Takoma, who raised the issue during last year's election. According to Seth Grimes, a spokesperson, the group is not advocating turning over any particular services to the county, nor curtailing services. Rather, Sustainable Takoma wants the city to conduct a comprehensive management audit of how it spends money. That, combined with more openness on the part of City government, says Grimes, would lead to more efficient spending.

"We're not saying we want to give up our own library, or the enhanced police services we have," says Grimes. But Takoma Park residents deserve to know how their money is being spent, which is difficult, he says, given that Council minutes and other key documents are not published on the City's Web site, or in "other easily citizen-accessible forms."

Suzanne Ludlow points out, though, that all Council meetings are aired on the City's cable TV channel. Plus, they're videotaped, and tapes are available in the Takoma Park Library.

However, there are some duplicated functions that could be turned back to the county, says Councilmember Bruce

Williams. For example, the police dispatch system. "Now that everybody's on the same radio frequency, the county has said this change would make sense" and is willing to negotiate. But would turning this service back to the county actually improve operations or response time?

That, says Williams, is "an open question. Often people aren't happy with county services so, the City jumps in to expand services to meet residents' needs."

George Leventhal, a Takoma Park resident and a County Councilmember, believes that the county would be open to discussions about taking over services that it already performs countywide. Solid waste and recycling is an area worth exploring, Leventhal says, because the county has "caught up" to Takoma Park's level of service. But since county residents pay for trash collection sepa-

rately and since City Public Works performs a variety of other functions that can't be relinquished (for example, road repair and the arborist position), eliminating trash collection might save the city 25-30 percent of the Public Works budget but would also increase our fees, probably by an equivalent amount.

Bruce Williams says, "The only way we're going to save a significant amount of money is to give up functions and give up staff. Many of the cuts would just be nibbling around the edges."

Meantime, the City is in the process of preparing a resident survey to find out what residents really want, what they would be willing to give up in exchange for lower taxes. According to Suzanne Ludlow, the City will send out 3,000 surveys to a representative sample in each ward throughout the City. The responses

will be monitored by ward, and answers will be weighted by demographics.

Mayor Porter believes that the survey results will be very useful. She says her sense is that "people want more services, not less." But the mayor acknowledges that she has no "scientific" basis for her belief, just discussion "with lots of people" over the years.

As to the kind of comprehensive audit groups like Sustainable Takoma are calling for, the mayor isn't sure precisely what that would mean. If an outside consultant could turn up additional efficiencies, the mayor says such help would be welcomed. But "if an audit means some third party coming in and telling us that we could operate with fewer police officers," she says, "we know that. But is that what residents want?"

County Rebates and City Expenditures, FY05

(Source: City of Takoma Park adopted FY05 Budget)

	County Funds	Total City Expenditure
Police (rebate) (Officers, Equipment and Crossing guards)	2,678,999	4,430,447
Public Works (rebate) (Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling, Arborist, City Engineer, Roads and Parks)	411,643	3,203,284
Recreation (rebate) (Takoma/Langley Rec. agreement)	100,000	1,045,394
Library Aid (not a rebate)	89,674	761,376
Other Non-rebate County Funds (Rev. Auth. in lieu of Taxes, Hotel/Motel Tax, Cable Franchise Fee, Cable operating)	192,220	

Carl Smith, Computer Scientist

Carl Smith, a long-time city resident and member of the Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee, died in July after a long battle with brain cancer.

Smith, who lived in Takoma Park with his wife Patricia since 1983, was a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, College Park. He was one of the nation's leading theoretical computer scientists working on problems of learning theory and served as editor of several of the field's most prestigious journals, including the *International Journal of the Foundations of Computer Science* and the *Theoretical Computer Science Fundamenta Informaticae*.

He was one of a few non-citizens members elected to the Latvian Academy of Science and was awarded the Habilitation degree from the University of Latvia in 1993. He also served for several years as the program manager for the National Science Foundation's theoretical computer science program. He is also survived by a son, Austin.

— Jay Levy

From Folk to Pop: Concerts Sponsored by Institute Of Musical Traditions

Institute of Musical Traditions, the production arm of Takoma Park's House of Musical Traditions, is presenting a series of folk concerts this fall.

For those with a Celtic inclination, Andy M. Stewart & Gerry O'Beirne will sing at 8 p.m. Sept. 13. Scottish singer Andy Stewart's voice and songs have graced the Celtic music scene for over 30 years, including as singer for the legendary band, Silly Wizard. Hailing from the West of Ireland, Gerry O'Beirne is a self-taught master of the six- and 12-string guitar, an accomplished songwriter, and a skilled arranger/producer. Joined by special guest, Baltimore-based Rosie Shipley on fiddle.

This concert, like the others listed, will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New

Hampshire Ave. For more information, check 301-754-3611 or www.imtfolk.org.

At 8 p.m. on Sept. 20, Gaye Adegbalola with Roddy Barnes will perform, undoubtedly including songs from their newly released CD "Neo-Classic Blues." Adegbalola has been playing the blues since she was a child, and was a founding (and current) member of Saffire-The Uppity Blues Women. Roddy Barnes accompanies on classic blues piano.

And on Oct. 4, the Kennedys will perform their unique variety of styles ranging from roots rock to soulful acoustic pop. Despite their surname, Pete and Maura Kennedy do not play Irish music. The two guitarist-singer-songwriters have drawn a devoted following with their chemistry, their love for each other, and their unashamedly idealistic pop vision.

City Newsletter Online

The *Takoma Park Newsletter* is now available online. The City's Communications office, which manages the city's Web site, is experimenting with ways to present the newsletter. The electronic copy is a large PDF, which may prove too large for dial up Internet connections. Residents are encouraged to access the

Newsletter and provide their suggestions for improvements. To read the newsletter, visit www.cityoftakomapark.org and then click on *TP Newsletter* on the left side. Contact Communications at 301-891-7118 or cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

Police Volunteer Carrie Spicer Turns 100

Carrie Spicer, one of the first senior volunteers with the Takoma Park Police, celebrated her 100th birthday in June at a Richmond, Va., long-term care facility, receiving greetings from many of her former TPPD colleagues. She volunteered eight hours a day, four to five days a week, for 11 years, doing research on special projects and administrative work in parking enforcement in the 1980s and '90s. A longtime resident of Wildwood Ave., she received several Governor's Awards for her volunteer efforts with the police and an area children's home. Spicer joined the department after retiring from a career in the Bureau of Engraving.



Right: Spicer celebrating her 89th birthday at the station

Takoma Park City TV Events in September 2004

This month, City TV will be taping most of the performances at the 27th Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Takoma Park Middle School from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Be sure to attend this fun-filled event. For more information about the Folk Festival, visit them online at www.tpff.org. To obtain specific programming information including show listings and times go online to the City's Web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org.

Takoma Snapshots in September includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: Focus on Traffic
- Meet Barbara Burns Matthews, Takoma Park's New City Manager
- Y.E.S. League Basketball Championships
- CDBG Grants: Essex House Computer Learning Center for Youth
- How to Plant a Tree with City Arborist Brett Linkletter

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

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

Takoma Park City TV September 2004 Programming Schedule

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

Programming subject to change without notice.

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

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

From the Metro to the Crossroads, Development Sweeps Takoma Park

Continued from page 1

looking very closely for a location on the block bounded by Piney Branch Road, Flower Ave. and Arliss Street. Contact person: Suzanne Ludlow, 301-891-7229, Suzannel@takomagov.org.

Columbia Union College Expansion. Columbia Union College is planning to build a new student library. The proposed location of the new library would be on Flower Ave., just south of the dormitory at the intersection of Flower and Maplewood avenues. CUC has received some State funds for the new library and would like to kick off the project as part of its Centennial Year celebration this fall. The college is also interested in eventually building two other buildings to upgrade its facilities: a new health science/gymnasium building where its current gym and maintenance facilities are located on Maplewood Ave., and a new music building/performance hall at the corner of Flower and Carroll avenues. Contact person: Suzanne Ludlow, 301-891-7229, Suzannel@takomagov.org.

Montgomery College Expansion and Renovation. Montgomery College has opened its new Health Sciences Building on Georgia Ave. as well as the new public pedestrian bridge connecting its main campus on Fenton Street with Jesup Blair Park in South Silver Spring. The Student Services Building at Fenton Street and New York Ave. is under construction. The college has prepared a Facilities Master Plan for all three of its campuses. Review of the plans for renovation of the existing Takoma Park campus will be discussed by the City Council this fall, probably in October. Future plans for the campus west of the tracks include conversion of the old Giant Bakery into the King Street Arts Center and the construction of a new Cultural Arts Center at the intersection of Georgia Ave. and Burlington (Rte. 410). Contact person: Suzanne Ludlow, 301-891-7229, Suzannel@takomagov.org.

Transportation

Purple Line / Bi-County Transitway. State and county planning staff are studying the feasibility of various routes for a light rail or bus rapid transit (BRT) line from Bethesda to New Carrollton. The alternative routes will be presented to the public at meetings in late October or early November. The meetings will be held to gain comments on the alternatives proposed to be carried forward into detailed study. Three routes have been discussed for either light rail or BRT vehicles for the segment between the Silver Spring Metro Station and the proposed Takoma/Langley Station (near the intersection of New Hampshire Ave. and University Blvd.). Those routes are Sligo Ave./Piney Branch Rd./University Blvd.; Sligo Ave., then underground from Piney Branch Rd. to Takoma/Langley; or Wayne Ave./Flower (or Arliss)/Piney Branch/University. Any of the routes could be a combination of surface lines and tunnels. Three other routes are being considered if the decision is to only use BRT vehicles. The controversial proposal to take BRT vehicles along Philadelphia and Ethan Allen avenues through Takoma Park has been eliminated as an

option. Contact person: Suzanne Ludlow, 301-891-7229, Suzannel@takomagov.org.

New Hampshire Ave./University Boulevard. The Maryland State Highway Administration is planning improvements along New Hampshire Ave. from Holton Lane in Takoma Park to Merrimac Drive in Prince George's County and a few hundred feet in both directions along Univer-



Photo by Clyde Lassell

Construction at Cedar Crossing, Blair Road and Cedar Street, N.W.

sity Boulevard from the intersection with New Hampshire Ave.. The project entails resurfacing or reconstructing the roadway, expanding sidewalks where necessary to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and constructing new medians with decorative fences in them to discourage pedestrians from crossing at unsafe locations. Other improvements include signal upgrades, narrowing driving lanes in order to reduce vehicle speeds, and adding a second turn lane from northbound New Hampshire Ave. to westbound University Boulevard. The project is only funded for design at this point, but if construction funding becomes available it may be completed as soon as July 2006. A public meeting will be held once the project receives construction funding. Contact person: Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, RobertI@takomagov.org.

Carroll Ave. Streetscape Project. City planning staff have been working since February with residents and other stakeholders on a project to redesign and reconstruct much of the streetscape on Carroll Ave. between Philadelphia Ave. and the D.C. line as well as on Laurel Ave. The goals of the project are to make these sections of Carroll and Laurel avenues safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, to strengthen the connection between the Old Town and Takoma Junction business districts, and to enhance the economic vitality of Old Town. On Laurel Ave., the median will be lowered to the same level as the street, using bollards to define the median edge. The sidewalk on Laurel in front of the businesses will be widened and reconstructed. All of the street trees on Laurel Ave. and most of the street trees on Carroll Ave. will be replaced. There will be several curb

extensions installed that narrow the street and expand the sidewalk in key locations.

On the section of Carroll Ave. between Columbia and Philadelphia avenues, a five-to-six-foot-wide sidewalk and a planting strip that contains street trees, plantings, and pedestrian scale lighting will be installed on the south side of the street. Construction is anticipated to take place on Laurel Ave. this fall and on Carroll Ave. in the spring of 2005. Contact person: Ilona Blanchard, 301-891-7205, IlonaB@takomagov.org.

Upper Carroll Ave. Reconstruction. The Maryland State Highway Administration is reconstructing Carroll Ave. between Garland Ave. and University Boulevard. This project entails building a new bridge over Long Branch, installing bike lanes, landscaped medians, sidewalks and crosswalks to reduce speeding and protect pedestrians and bike riders. Construction is anticipated to be completed during the spring of 2005. Contact person: Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, RobertI@takomagov.org.

Gateway and Wayfinding Program. To help motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists to better navigate their way around Takoma Park, the City is planning to develop a system of gateway and directional signage. The signage system will let people know when they have entered Takoma Park and guide them to various destinations around the City including commercial areas, public parking facilities, educational institutions, parks, and other municipal facilities. The community will be invited to provide feedback on the proposed signage system including the design of the signs at a forum in October. There will be presentations of the proposed signage system at City Council meetings in November and December. Contact person: Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, RobertI@takomagov.org.

Private Developments

ezStorage. This fall, the Siena Corp. plans to construct a five-story building at 1352 Holton Lane (currently the site of Marjack's) that will be occupied mostly by their ezStorage self-storage company. The building will also contain four small retail storefronts that face Holton Lane. Although the new building will have five floors, only three floors will be visible from Holton Lane. The developer will install a new sidewalk, 32 new street trees and pedestrian scale lighting. The project has received the support of the City Council and the Montgomery County Planning Board. Contact person: Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, RobertI@takomagov.org.

Takoma Metro and Environs. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is negotiating with Eakin/Youngentob Associ-

ates (EYA), a developer that proposes to construct townhouses at the site of the Takoma Metro station, in Washington, D.C. In response to the proposed development, the District has undertaken two planning projects over the past few years that produced the Takoma Central District Plan and the Takoma Transportation Study. As called for in the Central District Plan, any development at the Metro site is likely to include a "village green" that would serve as a community gathering space. The Central District Plan also calls for between 65 and 95 townhouses at the Metro site. The agreement that WMATA is negotiating with EYA will likely require that EYA design and construct the replacement parking and transit facilities at the Metro site. WMATA is required to hold a public hearing to receive input on the new site design for the transit facilities.

The Takoma Park City Council has directed City staff to work to ensure that adequate transit facilities remain on the site if development is approved. These facilities include a sufficient number of bus bays to accommodate expected increased ridership, as well as safe easy access for pedestrians, bicyclists, Kiss-and-Ride, handicapped and taxi patrons. EYA has expressed an interest in receiving input on the design of the entire development from the Takoma Park community. No dates for public discussions or hearings have been announced. Contact person: Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, RobertI@takomagov.org.

Other Development in Takoma, DC. While most of the commercially-zoned land in Old Town Takoma Park has viable commercial buildings on it, the Takoma DC side of the business district has a greater concentration of vacant lots and underutilized properties. This is beginning to change with a number of projects either under construction or at earlier stages in the development process. Further along is Elevation 314 located at

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How to Find Out More

To learn more about all these activities, you can take advantage of several communications channels:

- Check the City's Web site, www.cityoftakomapark.org;
- Call or e-mail the contact listed for each project;
- Check the City Library or the customer service desk in City Hall;
- Many items will be listed on City TV (Cable Channel 13);
- All Council discussions and many other important meetings will be broadcast on the City's cable channel;
- Videotapes of Council meetings can be borrowed at the Takoma Park, Md., Library;
- And of course information will be included in the *Newsletter*.

Desarrollo en Takoma Park

Para información en español sobre estos proyectos, llame a Irma Nalvarte en 301-891-7100 o escriba por correo electrónico a IrmaN@takomagov.org.