Parking Garage, Park Renovation Are Pieces of Development Spurt

By Suzanne Ludlow
Community and Government Liaison

In a small community like Takoma Park, development proposals tend to come in spurts. This fall we have a few more projects on the plate than usual (although some have been around a while) and so this year's development overview couldn't hit in just one article. Last month's Newsletter described planned expansions of Washington Adventist Hospital, Montgomery College, and Columbia Union College; transportation projects including the Purple Line, state highway projects and City streetscaping projects and several private developments.

This month we have a few more public and private projects to report on, as well as an update on several projects described last month. Since new development is at once exciting and scary, you may want to know more about a particular proposal. Please note that after each of the projects described you'll find the name, phone number and e-mail address of a contact person who is monitoring that project. Please feel free to contact them with your questions or check the City's Webpage, www.cityoftakomapark.org, for more information. We welcome your questions and ideas!

Takoma-Piney Branch Park Renovation

This park stretches between Takoma Park Middle School and Piney Branch Elementary School and includes Ed Wilhelm Field. The park is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPJC) and serves as the playground for Piney Branch Elementary School. Renovation of the park has been discussed for the past five years and M-NCPJC is now working to refine the plans. Goals are to improve accessibility to the park, increase public safety, address erosion and similar issues, and improve the play equipment. Discussions with the public about the renovation plans will be held this fall. Contact person: Ellen Masciocchi, M-NCPJC project manager, 301-650-2867, Ellen.Masciocchi@mnncpcmc.org.

Restaurant and Parking Structure in Old Town

John Urciolo is proposing to build new commercial space and parking at the intersection of Laurel and Eastern Avenues, next to the Post Office in Old Town. The proposal fills in the area between the Post Office and the Pizza Movers building with a two-story structure with two retail spaces on Laurel Ave. and a full service restaurant with outdoor seating. A new parking area would be developed behind the commercial strip, accessible from Eastern Ave. The parking area could be a surface lot with 26 spaces (in addition to the existing 55 space rear lot), but Urciolo's preference is a three-story municipal parking garage. Because of the slope, the 84-space parking garage would not be visible from Laurel Ave. The parking structure is under construction, built by the City of Takoma Park.

The Care and Feeding Of Rats in Takoma Park

By Bob Guldin
Newsletter Editor

Rats are making themselves at home in Takoma Park in unprecedented numbers this year, and many City residents are contributing to the problem. With unsecured trash, dog feces, pizza boxes, birdseed and compost, we are supplying the food that helps rats survive and multiply.

Stephen Haynes, the Montgomery County environmental health specialist, says that he got about twice as many rat complaints in the summer of 2004 as the year before. “Yes, cicadas had something to do with it,” Haynes says, because rats eat cicadas, but that was just a small part of the problem. We also had a mild, moist spring and summer, which provided lots of food. “And when rats have abundant food they multiply. This is a county-wide problem,” Haynes says.

Christine Garcia, an urban biologist at the University of Maryland, says that overall the rat problem in suburban Maryland is getting worse every year. “We make it so perfect for them; we make food available in the form of waste. Rats eat pretty much anything you like to eat — they like french fries and leftover pizza.” Populations tend to peak in the spring and fall, Garcia says.

Both the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County can offer some help. Montgomery County can offer some help. Montgomery County can offer some help. Montgomery County can offer some help.

The Community Center is just one of the many projects that receive financial support from the Takoma Foundation, which operates as a sub fund of the Montgomery County Community Foundation. The Takoma Foundation also makes small grants ranging from $500 to $2,000 twice a year to local non-profit groups such as PTAs.

The Takoma Foundation supports Community Center and a Lot More

By Diana Hoover

Many Takoma Park residents have heard that the Community Center now, under construction is short of funds. Some have raised questions about why that funding gap exists. But there’s one, and only one, organization that is doing something about it — the Takoma Foundation, our own broad-based community philanthropy.

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Inside this Issue

How to Get a Speed Bump
You have to show neighborhood support

Free Film Festival in November
Shows move to historic Takoma Theatre

“We Are All Smith Islanders”
Global warming’s effects on the Chesapeake

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

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

The event is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Municipal Building. If you have any questions, contact Daryl Braithwaite, 301-891-7615 or daryl@takomagov.org.
Lott Graduates from COG’s Institute for Regional Excellence

Alfred Lott, the City’s public works director, graduated Sept. 10 from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE). This program is jointly conducted with the George Washington University for Excellence in Municipal Management. Completion of the year-long course of study bestows upon the participants a Certified Public Manager certificate.

This valuable local government program is nationally recognized as one of the best leadership-development programs in the country. In April 2003 it was officially accredited by the National Association of Certified Public Managers Consortium, making the local COG the first regional council in the nation to have such a distinction. The classes include participants from throughout the region.

Lott’s class included government staffers from Montgomery County, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Washington D.C., Prince George’s County and Takoma Park.

Lott said, “I studied concepts and practical applications of leadership and change, conflict management and practical applications of leadership. The course work was challenging, but I think we all gained a better understanding of our profession.”

Lott’s IRE program started in August 2003 and ended July 2004. Participants in the program were from Montgomery, Prince George’s Counties, as well as the District, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, as well as the District. Lott said, “I studied concepts and practical applications of leadership and change, conflict management and practical applications of leadership.

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CUC Class Introduces Kids to Music

Columbia Union College is offering a new class for toddlers and parents to introduce young children to developmentally stimulating music. The eight-week class will meet on Thursday mornings and will include music and instruments from around the world.

The class will meet at Sligo Adventist School, and there will be an orientation and registration session on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 3:15 p.m. with registration from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. For additional information call 301-593-7426 or e-mail keyboardlady2002@aol.com.

Chorus Seeks Singers

The Takoma Park Singers, a community chorus, is looking for new members. Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening 7:45-9:15. For more information, call 301-681-9498.

Deadline for Submissions: October 11
Next Issue: October 22

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

City Job Opening

Police Position Open

Senior Police Dispatcher - Incumbent provides prompt and accurate dispatching of police units; receives and disseminates emergency and non-emergency calls for service from citizens; enters and maintains records in computer systems and supervises police dispatch team. Req. H.S. Dip. or GED; 1-2 yrs related exp; 2 yrs of supervisory exp. & MILES/NCIC Certification. Must be able to work rotating shifts, including days, nights, and weekends. Application evaluation will involve written test and other app. screening tools. Salary Range: $41,689-$63,367 depending on qualifications; includes excellent benefits. Preferred closing date: Sept. 13, 2004. Position open until filled. Send resume to City of Takoma Park, Human Resources, 7750 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912, or fax to 301-270-8794, EOE.

Meeting on ‘Wayfinding’ Oct. 26

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 City is planning to develop a system of gateway and directional signage. The City is planning to develop a system of gateway and directional signage. The City is planning to develop a system of gateway and directional signage. The City is planning to develop a system of gateway and directional signage. The City is planning to develop a system of gateway and directional signage. The City is planning to develop a system of gateway and directional signage.

There will also be presentations of the proposed signage system at City Council meetings in November and December. Please see the Mayor and Council Development section of the City Web site for more details. For more information, contact Rob Inerfield, 301-891-7219, Roberti@takomagov.org.
**COLTA Decisions**

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.

Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

Liv. Galinsky

On July 29 COLTA issued a decision that (1) a tenant is not entitled to a walkthrough when vacating a rental unit when the tenant failed to provide the landlord with a written request 15 days prior to moving; (2) the security deposit withholding notice requirements are satisfied when the landlord’s written report was provided to the tenant within 45 days to the person designated in the lease to receive landlord notices.

Alava & Castro v. Cheeks

On Sept. 3 COLTA issued a decision that (1) a tenant is entitled to terminate their tenancy when a landlord breached the implied warranty of habitability as confirmed by condemnation of the rental unit; (2) a landlord is not liable for causing a defective tenancy that he is not made aware of by the tenants; (3) a landlord is liable for causing a defective tenancy by failing to provide tenants with a mailbox key at the outset of the tenancy causing a diminution in the value of the tenancy; (4) a landlord who does not provide tenants with a written list of damages within 45 days of the end of the tenancy or advise the tenant of the withholding of the deposit violates the state security deposit law which is incorporated by reference into the Takoma Park Housing Code; (5) the existence of a landlord-tenant dispute does not relieve the landlord of responsibility for complying with the notice and refund requirements of the state/city security deposit law and raises the possibility that the landlord may be held liable to his tenants for up to three times the amount of the security deposit for noncompliance. The tenant was awarded monetary damages in the amount of $134.40 reflecting a 5 percent diminution of the value of the tenancy for the landlord’s failure to provide the mailbox key. The tenant was awarded the full amount of the security deposit ($720) plus interest of $14.40.

Why Do We Hate Rats?

Let’s face it – rats have a terrible image problem. Chris Garcia, urban biologist at the University of Maryland, has a theory about why we think squirrels are cute and rats are creeps. “We are hardened to react favorably to creatures with large eyes,” she says. “Babies have big eyes. Squirrels have big eyes. Bats have small eyes.” She adds, “Rats are not cute; they have a sneaky way of moving.”

Whatever the reason, rats (like snakes) have a negative image in Western society. Maybe it’s because, during the millennia when the human race was dirt poor, rats would eat our precious stored grain. Maybe it’s because they used to carry the bubonic plague.

Now, it is true that rats still carry some diseases. Both rats and mice can spread salmonellosis by leaving germ carrying feces, nose and hair in food and kitchen stuffs. Rats also spread other diseases by biting humans and by carrying fea:...
Takoma Park’s Development Spurt

Continued from page 1

it would connect with a reconfigured rear parking lot for a total of 154 spaces. Review by the Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled for Sept. 22. If approved, the proposal would advance to zoning and other approval processes. Depending on the approval processes, ground breaking could occur as early as spring 2005. Contact person: Sara Daines, 301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org. Orchard Ave. Commercial Building. Takoma Park resident Dan Robinson is developing a new office building on a vacant lot on Orchard Ave. near Sligo Mill Road in the Pinecrest neighborhood. The office building will have two floors above ground and one below ground for a total of 5400 square feet. The building will be energy efficient and may have a green roof. Approximately half of the building will be occupied by Sligo Computer Services, Inc. Robinson is hoping to begin construction in October and open for business in the spring of 2005. Contact person: Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, RobertB@takomagov.org.

Takoma Park Community Center. Construction continues on this important new community facility at the corner of Philadelphia and Maple avenues. The City Council receives weekly briefings on the project and up-to-date information can be found on the City’s Web page (see Community Center Update under Hot Topics). Phase 1 of the project should be completed in spring of 2005. Contact person: Venita Emola George, 301-891-7266, Venita@takomagov.org.

Updates from Last Month’s Article

- The Upper Carroll Ave. reconstruction project described in last month’s article is now scheduled to be completed in May 2005, five months later than originally anticipated. According to the State Highway Administration’s project manager for this project, the delay is due to unexpected utility conflicts and more difficult excavation for the Long Branch Bridge replacement because solid rock was found where it was not expected.

- A zoning text amendment regarding hospital development will be discussed by the City Council on Oct. 4 and by the Montgomery County Planning Board on Oct. 7.

- Columbia Union College President Randall Wishey is scheduled to brief the City Council on the college’s plans on Oct. 25.

- Montgomery College will present an overview of its Facilities Master Plan to the City Council on Oct. 4.

- Purple Line/Bi-County Transitway discussions: City Council – Sept. 27; Montgomery County Planning Board – Sept. 30; County Council Transportation and Environment Committee – Oct. 4; full County Council – Oct. 5.

Note: The meeting dates listed here may change. Please check the City’s Web site for up-to-date information on the City Council schedule or contact Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org for current information.

How to Get a Speed Bump For Your Neighborhood

Takoma Park is speed bump city. The city had some of the first speed bumps in the Washington area – and while they are not as numerous for our traffic calming devices as our nuclear free zone, they certainly reflect the environmental activist outlook so common in the community.

While the City has 136 speed bumps and humps already, there are still citizens and neighborhoods interested in getting one for their block. The process of applying for such a device is somewhat complicated and has not been publicized in The Newsletter for several years – so here is what you need to know about making an application. These rules apply not just to traditional speed bumps and humps, but to other traffic calming devices such as raised walkways and flat-top speed humps or speed tables.

The process is geared toward making sure any new speed bumps are wanted by most of those who live nearby. Persons from at least two-thirds of the households on the block or street must sign a petition saying they want the traffic calming device. The petition must be circulated to everyone within a one-block radius, and if the street provides the only entry into another street, that street must be petitioned too (and counted in the two-thirds). Only one signature per household counts.

The petition must be verified by the City clerk, and if it passes muster, the City clerk then sends it to the citizens association most affected by the proposed device, (or possibly more than one association.) The meeting should be well publicized and publicity for the meeting should describe clearly the proposed change.

The proposal then goes to the City Council, which schedules a hearing, and lets neighborhood associations know about it. The Council – taking into account how well the proposal was circulated and how the neighbors responded – then votes to accept the proposal, modify it or reject it.

The Council can also initiate a speed bump or other traffic calming device on its own – for example next to a school or playground. If neighbors want to have a speed bump removed, the process is very similar.

To find out more about how to get a speed bump for your street, you can read the revised ordinance. Call 301-891-7229 or e-mail mail@takomagov.org.

Who You Gonna Call?

Stephen Haynes, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Licensure and Regulatory Service 240-777-3986

*Note: the county is the main agency for rat control

Marjorie Ciccone Takoma Park Housing and Community Development Code Enforcement 301-891-7255

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Rats in Takoma Park

Continued from page 2

mousetrap, can be effective, but they should be used only in a controlled situation (like a locked shed). Garcia points out that the animal dies quickly and humanely in such a trap. But that kind of trap can hurt a child or a pet (or an adult foot) if they touch it.

Probably the most effective way to get rid of rats is by placing poison dust in a rat burrow. The powder is picked up in the animals’ fur, and because rats groom all the time, they ingest a toxic dose. The trade name for the most commonly used powder is diphacinone, usually used at .2 percent. But this rodenticide is not available to homeowners – only to certified pest control companies. If you do have a bad problem, especially with rats inside your home, you may want to call in professional help.

While we cannot recommend specific companies, it is worth noting that in Maryland, Virginia and D.C., pest control companies must be licensed by the state.

Should the City of Takoma Park take on a more active role in controlling the rat population? While investigating this issue, we encountered several residents who said it should. For example, Ian Spatz, a Willow Ave. resident, told the Newsletter, “I think the extent of this rat problem demands City action, not simply individual action... The City needs to act on this as a public health issue.”

But at a time when other Takoma Park residents are calling on the City to keep taxes down and not duplicate county services, that request may be hard for City government to meet.
**Recreation**

**Pee Wee Basketball Program**
Grades 1-2

I got a basketball jones. I got a basketball jones. The basic fundamentals of the game—dribbling, passing, shooting and rebounding—will be taught during this 8-week program. Teamwork and sportsmanship will be stressed. Controlled scrimmages will be played the last five weeks of the program. Junior ball, modified rules, 3-on-3, leveled baskets, small court. Participants will be grouped into teams after the second week. Volunteer coaches are needed!

When: Sundays, Oct. 3 - Nov. 21
Clinic Dates: Oct. 3 & 10
Time: 1 - 2:15 p.m., grade 1
2:30 - 3:45 p.m., grade 2

Practice Date: Oct. 17
Game Dates: Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21
Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
Location: Piney Branch Elementary, 7510 Maple Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Resident $45
Non-Resident $50

**En Garde! ... Fencing**

Ages 9 and up

Learn foil techniques from former Olympian Ms. Gitty Mohebban. Beginner I is for students who have taken Beginners I and want to advance to the next level. Equipment provided includes: foil, mask, and jacket. A materials fee of $25 is due to the instructor at the first session. Ten weeks.

When: Tuesdays, Oct. 5-Dec. 14
Time: Beginner I: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Beginner II: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Elementary School, Gym
Fee: T.P. City Resident $75
Non-Resident $85

No class Nov. 2.

**Women’s Self Defense Class**

16 and older

Violence prevention, self-defense and personal safety training for women. By learning how attacks occur and applying preventative methods you can reduce the odds of being selected as a victim. Six weeks.

When: Thursdays, Oct. 7-Nov. 11
Time: 7:30-9 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave. Multi-purpose room
Fee: T.P. City Resident $55
Non-Resident $65

**Lo Impact Aerobics & Body Sculpting Class**

Adults

We have combined these two classes to reshape your body. This six-week class is designed to cross-train 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.

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Nov. 4 - Dec. 16
Time: 7-8 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road
Fee: T.P. City Resident $55
Non-Resident $60
No program Nov. 2 & 25

**Belly Dancing Class**

Ages 13 - Adult

Swivel your hips, shake your shoulders, learn to belly dance! This six-week class will explore isolations, traveling steps, and how to coordinate movements. No previous dance experience required. Instructor Jill Nissam.

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, Nov. 3 - Dec. 8
Time: 7-8 p.m., Ages 13 - 18
8-9 p.m. 18 & up
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School (Multi-Purpose Room)
7510 Maple Ave.

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

**Alternative Games**

Ages 11 and up

For D&D veterans, Dave Burbank will run a weekend edition Games Session, light on plot, and heavy on dice rolling and mayhem. Emphasis will be on fun, strategy and light competition. Minimum of five, maximum of 10 participants, so sign up early.

When: Saturdays Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13
Time: 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave.

Fee: $40

**Dog Manners Classes**

Taught by Elizabeth Marsden of The Logical Dog. Use positive reinforcement to teach basic dog manners: attention, sit, come when called, leave it. Intermediate Dog Manners reinforces this learning with leash walking and heeling. Dogs must have current vaccination records. Dogs who do not bark and lunge aggressively on leashes are welcome in the class. Kids 9 and up with adult are welcome! Limited to 8 dogs, six weeks, indoor location.

When: Saturdays, Nov. 6 - Dec. 18
No class Nov. 27
Location: Heffner Park Community Center, 42 Oxwego Ave.
Fee: T.P. City Resident $75
Non-Resident $80

**Puppy Kindergarten**

for pups from 3 months to 18 months.

Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

**Beginner Dog Manners**

for dogs over 18 months.

Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Intermediate Dog Manners**

for dogs who have graduated from another positive reinforcement class through The Logical Dog.

Time: 12 - 1 p.m.

**Costume Contest**

All Ages

The FREAKS come out in the afternoon! Get all decked out and win fabulous prizes. Categories include most original, funniest and scariest. Ages 2 & under; 3-4; 5-7; 8-10; 11-12; Teen and Adult. Join in the fun!

When: Saturday, Oct. 30
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Intersection of Carroll and Laurel ayes, Old Town Takoma Park

**Halloween Parade**

All Ages

All are welcome to participate in this walking parade. Follow the Takoma Park Fire Department Fire Truck as it escorts you down the parade route. Beginning at Carroll and Laurel avenues, following Carroll Ave, to the Fire House, left onto Philadelphia Ave, and ending at Piney Branch Elementary School.

When: Saturday, Oct. 30
Time: Approximately 6:00 p.m., immediately following the Costume Contest.

**Halloween Bash and Entertainment**

All Ages

Join us for refreshments sponsored by the Takoma Park Lions Club, at Piney Branch Elementary School, following the Halloween Parade. A special theme-related guest will be sponsored by Takoma Park Recreation Department (suitable for all ages). We’d like to thank the Takoma Park Lions Club, who has graciously served the Takoma Park community for several decades with its kindness and support.

When: Saturday, Oct. 30
Time: Approximately 6:30 p.m., immediately following parade.
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave.
Fee: Free!
Library Programs in October

College Bound series, Oct. 5, 12, 19
(see story)

Used Book Sale Oct. 16
(see story)

Halloween Storytelling
with Candace Wolf
Thursday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.
School-age children through adult (see story)

Fall Session of the Twosies
for two-year-olds with parent/caregiver
group size limited; preregistration required
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10

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.

By Ellen Robbins
City Librarian

On Aug. 23, my Library colleague Liz Ferry and I joined a crowd of happy, sunburnt golfers at Rumors, a bar in Dupont Circle that had been a favorite hang-out of Michael Morrissey.

Morrissey, who died three years ago, was a golfer too, but also an avid reader and Takoma Park Library user. After his death, friends and relatives sought a way to memorialize him – a collaboration which eventually led to an annual golf tournament, with the Takoma Park Library as its beneficiary. The annual tournament gave Mike’s friends an opportunity to meet at least once a year in an event which has become social and celebratory, as well as charitable. Most of its organizers have never visited the Library, but have collectively funded reference materials, textbooks for ESL students, and this year, through the Friends of the Library, two additional public Internet workstations as part of a new turnkey system that now enables us to provide word processing and other computer software for the public.

At the reception at Rumors following this year’s tournament, Liz and I were warmly welcomed and presented with bottles of vintage wine as we munched on hot wings and watched an auction that brought total proceeds to more than $4,000. We chatted with Mike’s sister and niece who had traveled from Ohio for the event, and his brother who came from Texas. Many people spoke of Mike, by all accounts a quiet and friendly guy, who has found a permanent place in the memories of his companions at Rumors, and in the hearts of Takoma Park Library staff. The sole wish of these golfers seemed to be to do something positive and lasting in Mike’s memory, and they have succeeded far beyond their expectations.

As Liz and I rode back on the Metro we were reflective but happy, and I found myself thinking about taking up golf before next August’s tournament....

“More-or-Less Scary Stories For Your Halloween Entertainment”

Candace Wolf, Takoma Park’s “good old storyteller,” is returning by tradition to the Library on Thursday evening, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of entertaining Halloween stories. Candace is quite familiar to Takoma Park audiences and has been tantalizing, mesmerizing, and sometimes really scaring her Halloween audiences for quite a few years.

Last year she took a kinder, gentler approach. This year will be a mix. Some of the stories will be of the gentler sort, but just when you thought it was safe to relax, WATCH OUT!

Please let us know you are attending by calling 301-891-7259. Recommended ages 6 through adult.

Library Shelver

The Takoma Park Maryland Library has an opening effective immediately for a book-oriented high school graduate with at least one year of work experience to shelf books and perform related clerical duties 15 hours per week from 9 - 12 a.m. Monday through Friday. A college undergraduate degree and/or library work experience is preferred.

Required skills and abilities include familiarity with the Dewey decimal system, the ability to work quickly and efficiently, the ability to perform accurate and detailed work, and good interpersonal skills. This work is physically demanding in that shelvers must routinely lift and bend, and must often shelf a large volume of returned materials. Reliability, neatness and accuracy are essential.

Applicants should submit a resume and letter of interest to Ellen Arnold-Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. This positions are open until filled. EOE.

Library Assistant-Substitute

The City Library has an opening, effective immediately, for a part time Library Assistant-substitute. This is occasional work at the circulation desk, which may entail evening, weekend and/or Saturday hours. Requires a book-oriented individual with an Associate Degree or equivalent from an accredited two-year college or technical school, any combination of training, education and experience which provides skills required to perform essential functions of the job. The preferred candidate will have familiarity with public libraries, computers, the ability to work independently, and will enjoy working with the public.

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?

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.

Tuesday Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m. [note earlier time]: “How to prepare 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. “Here are some comments from those attending the 2003 College Bound series: “Excellent...”Very helpful and professional”...“Made a complicated process clear”...Do this again!”

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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.

Tuesday Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m. [note earlier time]: “How to prepare 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.

Here are some comments from those attending the 2003 College Bound series: “Excellent...”Very helpful and professional”...“Made a complicated process clear”...Do this again!”

Library Shelves

The Takoma Park Maryland Library has an opening effective immediately for a book-oriented high school graduate with at least one year of work experience to shelf books and perform related clerical duties 15 hours per week from 9 - 12 a.m. Monday through Friday. A college undergraduate degree and/or library work experience is preferred.

Required skills and abilities include familiarity with the Dewey decimal system, the ability to work quickly and efficiently, the ability to perform accurate and detailed work, and good interpersonal skills. This work is physically demanding in that shelvers must routinely lift and bend, and must often shelf a large volume of returned materials. Reliability, neatness and accuracy are essential.

Applicants should submit a resume and letter of interest to Ellen Arnold-Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. This positions are open until filled. EOE.

Library Assistant-Substitute

The City Library has an opening, effective immediately, for a part time Library Assistant-substitute. This is occasional work at the circulation desk, which may entail evening, weekend and/or Saturday hours. Requires a book-oriented individual with an Associate Degree or equivalent from an accredited two-year college or technical school, any combination of training, education and experience which provides skills required to perform essential functions of the job. The preferred candidate will have familiarity with public libraries, computers, the ability to work independently, and will enjoy working with the public.

Applicants should submit a resume and letter of interest to Ellen Arnold-Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. This positions are open until filled. EOE.

Library Shelves

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**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.

### Sexual Assault

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** On Aug. 19 at 11:41 a.m., a 4th degree sex offense occurred. An adult female was walking through a parking lot when she noticed a male exit an early '90s model Toyota Camry that had just parked. She noticed the male following her and began to run through a building to another parking lot. The male caught up with her, grabbed her and tried to drag her into nearby bushes. The suspect fondled the victim before running off when the victim screamed. The victim was not injured.

### Robberies

**Laurel Ave., 6900 block:** On Aug. 27 at 9:09 p.m., a robbery occurred. A suspect approached the victim as she unlocked the car door. None of the victims were injured. A second suspect approached a nearby bank who could verify authenticity of the cash. The second suspect was also found by the victim, who appeared to be a bank robber. A third suspect displayed a handgun and the group's weapon.

**Linden Ave., 1100 block:** On Sept. 14 at 10:49 a.m., a robbery occurred. Two suspects approached an employee of a parked car who was carrying money in a bag. One suspect displayed a gun and the second suspect fled to a parked black or dark car behind the store and were observed entering the store. The victim was not physically injured.

### Theft/Confidence Game

**University Blvd., 1100 block:** On Aug. 13 at 11:40 a.m., an adult female was approached by a subject who showed her a wallet with what appeared to be a large amount of cash inside, claiming he had just found it by her car. A second subject approached, claiming to be an employee of a nearby bank who could verify authenticity of the cash and check on reports of lost wallets. The victim was told that the three could share the cash if they all put up good faith money. The victim withdrew a large sum of money from her bank and handed it over to the subjects with an agreement from them that they would contact her later. She reported the incident when she did not hear from them.

### Burglaries

**Laurel Ave., 6900 block:** On Aug. 13 at 12:05 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. A suspect approached a man standing outside his car at a gas station and asked for change. After the victim entered his vehicle, the suspect pulled open the driver's side door and demanded the money from the victim. After collecting the victim's cash, the subject pointed a handgun at him and drove off. A weapon was implied. The suspect was later stopped in the stolen vehicle in Washington, D.C. A warrant has been issued for the subject who is still in custody in D.C. on unrelated charges.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** On Aug. 16 between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry to the home was gained through an unlocked door. Property belonging to the construction crew was stolen.

**Larch Ave., 900 block:** On Aug. 16, between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry to the home was gained through an unlocked door. Property was stolen.

**Circle Ave., 300 block:** Between Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 28 at 2:30 a.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry to the home was gained through a first floor window that had been left open. Property was taken.

### Auto and Related Theft

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** Between Aug. 25 at 11 p.m. and Aug. 26 at 7 a.m., an auto theft occurred. The victim's car keys were stolen and used to steal the 2005 Ford Taurus.

**Fourth Ave., 6400 block:** On Aug. 27 between 6:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m., a 1996 Ford Crown Victoria was stolen.

**Maplewood Ave., 700 block:** Between Aug. 27 at 2:00 p.m. and Aug. 28 at 10:42 a.m., a 1985 Toyota Pickup was stolen.

**Auburn Ave., 700 block:** Between Aug. 27 at 9:15 p.m. and Aug. 28 at 3:52 a.m., a 1994 Lincoln Town Car was stolen.

**Elm Ave., 400 block:** On Aug. 29, between 7:21 a.m. and 8:03 a.m., a 1990 Volvo 240 was stolen.

**Lincoln Ave., 200 block:** On Sept. 5 between 12:15 a.m. and 9:40 a.m., a 1994 Honda Accord was stolen.

**Maple Ave., 7500 block:** Between Sept. 5 at 8:30 p.m. and Sept. 6 at 10:30 a.m., a 1993 Jeep Cherokee was stolen.

**Maple Ave., 7600 block:** On Sept. 6 between 4:01 a.m. and 2 p.m., a 1997 Ford Crown Victoria was stolen.

### What Are Carbon Monoxide Detectors?

Carbon monoxide detectors measure the amount of CO gas that has accumulated. Current CO detectors sound the alarm when the concentration of CO in the air is high enough to cause a 10 percent carboxyhemoglobin level in the blood – the lowest level of CO poisoning. This sensitivity may cause the alarm to sound before symptoms appear. It is important to treat all levels of CO poisoning. This sensitivity may cause the alarm to sound before symptoms appear. It is important to treat all levels of CO poisoning.

### Arrests

**Maple Ave., 7800 block:** On Aug. 16 at 7 p.m., an adult female was arrested on an open Takoma Park warrant for malicious destruction of property and theft over $500.

**Maple Ave., 7900 block:** On Aug. 22 at 10 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for a bad check charge.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7800 block:** On Aug. 29 at 9:22 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with 1st and 2nd degree assault after officers responded to a call for an assault in progress.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block:** On Aug. 29 at 9:30 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with two counts of 2nd degree assault, disorderly conduct, attempted theft under $500 and malicious destruction of property after officers responded to a call for an assault in progress.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** On Sept. 10 at 10:46 p.m., two adult males and one adult female were arrested and charged with possession of CDS with intent to distribute, possession of paraphernalia, possession of a firearm while drug trafficking and possession of a firearm while drug trafficking with property of drugs after officers responded to a call for an assault.

**University Blvd., 900 block:** On Sept. 13 at 2:40 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with 1st degree assault and reckless endangerment after police received a call about a subject in a restaurant with a gun.

**Maple Ave., 7600 block:** On Sept. 15 at 3:22 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for failing to appear in court on charges originally filed by Takoma Park Police for possession of CDS. The subject was also charged with possession of CDS after officers found drugs during a search subsequent to arrest.

### Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by the Takoma Park Lions Club and the Latino Lions of Montgomery County.

**Saturday, Oct. 9, from 4-8 p.m.**

**Location:** Our Lady of Sorrows Church, New Hampshire and Larch avenues, Takoma Park.

**Cost:** Adults $5, Children $4.00 (age 5-12)

**Homemade Italian Sauce with Pasta, Salad, Dinner Rolls and Beverages. Bake Sale by North Silver Spring Lions Club. Proceeds to Holiday Food and Toy Programs.**
Introducing the COP Team

In January 2004, the Takoma Park Police re-established the concept of a specialized unit as the primary contact for community-oriented policing in the City. The COP Team, or Fifth Squad, was created to implement the vision of the COP policing philosophy as defined by the City Council in its Resolution 2002-22.

An active partnership among the entire Takoma Park community — including the residents, City Council, Police, City government agencies, businesses, religious organizations, and other stakeholders — that seeks through problem identification and problem-solving to prevent crime and address other order maintenance problems in our neighborhoods and the City.

The unit, supervised by Sgt. Kurt Gilbert, includes three officers assigned to specific sectors with the responsibility to know their specific neighborhoods and the community’s concerns. They will address the issues either directly or by drawing in needed resources from the department, City resources or outside agencies. The team’s civilian member, the nuisance abatement specialist, will handle noise, animal and parking issues.

Contacting Team Members

They will address chronic problems that have not been resolved through regular enforcement or other avenues, according to Capt. Edward Coursey. Currently the Operations (patrol) Commander, he oversees the team and had supervised a similar unit in the late 1990s. Projects the specialists have worked on in the last eight months demonstrate this: traffic enforcement in specific locations, problem residences and graffiti. The team will review crime reports and address specific crime trends along with the investigations unit. Residents should contact their Sector Specialist for chronic concerns or to request their participation in projects or meetings.

Reports of an in-progress crime or suspicious behaviors should be made to Communications Dispatch, at 911 or 301-270-1100, for immediate response. The COP design developed in 1999 will continue, with every officer associated with a specific sector and acting as the primary responder in that area while on duty.

Residents may also use Action Takoma Park, an online feature of the city Web page (www.cityoftakomapark.org) to enter requests to the COP Team.

Continuing COP Traditions

The COP Team members will assume responsibility for many of the programs emphasized by the previous specialized unit, the SEU or Special Enforcement Unit of 1995-98, including encouraging and assisting civic associations, apartment managers and businesses on security issues. Other areas in which SEU excelled and will be covered by the COP Team.

Don’t Gamble With Your Car

See the Maryland Hot Car and talk to a COP officer about protecting your car.

Sat., Oct. 2 Hampshire Towers Apartments, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Takoma Crossroads Shopping Center, 2 - 4 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 3 Old Takoma Street Festival 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mon., Oct. 4 Washington Adventist Hospital 3-5 p.m.
7500-7700 blocks of Maple Avenue 5:30 - 8 p.m.

To schedule a talk on auto theft prevention, contact your COP Sector Specialist.

New Police PatchPreviewed

An observant person, sitting on the correct side of a Takoma Park Police officer, may notice a slight difference in the officer these days. The change will be seen on the left shoulder in a patch designed and selected by officers.

The police patch is essentially a unit insignia, similar to the 101st Airborne’s “Screaming Eagle.” Worn on the shirt or outer wear of each officer, the police patch identifies an officer’s agency and can be a matter of pride to the individual and agency.

Beginning in September, officers have adopted a new patch, which contains a shield comprising the flags of the United States, Maryland, Montgomery County, and the City of Takoma Park. It replaces the “tombstone” shaped patch, with a stylized round city seal in the center, that has been worn since the early 1970s.

As the stock of old-style patches was nearing depletion, the department realized the time was ripe for a new design. Officers debated design ideas and graphics. Two designs eventually were presented to officers and any civilian who wears a uniform.

Chief Creamer chose to not cast a vote until all others had their opportunity. The selected patch was designed by Cpl. Rick Cannatella, while on active duty with the U.S. Air Force. “One day, as I looked over the Middle East horizon, an idea came to me and I started scribbling.”

“The shield represents the protection officers provide for the four flags and jurisdictions for which they stand. We are Americans, protecting our constitution against all enemies. We are all sworn, certified police officers of the State of Maryland. In Montgomery County we protect an incorporated city, providing fair and impartial service to the residents of Takoma Park.”

One thousand patches were ordered, with about half the stock already distributed. All officers will be required to wear the new patch by mid-October.

Cannatella noted the practicality of the patch design. The size allows it to cover any stitching holes left by the old patch.

Thousands of people worldwide collect police patches. For security concerns in the post-9/11 era, the Takoma Park Police no longer sells or trades patches with anyone other than known and documented law enforcement officers.

Police News

Sgt. Kurt Gilbert, an 11-year veteran of the department, supervises the COP Team and should be contacted for citywide concerns or any problems with team members. A Takoma Park native, he joined TPPD as a parking enforcement officer, served with the Special Enforcement Unit, in which he was active in youth programs, and most recently was W5 officer and led patrol’s Squad One. (Contact: 301-891-7244; Kurt@takomagov.org)

Ofc. Tina Smith is the V Sector Specialist, having served four years as a beat officer there. She joined TPPD in 1994 as a dispatcher, becoming an officer in 1998. She is one of the agency’s D.A.R.E. officers. Y, or Victor Sector, includes the neighborhoods along the D.C. boundary. (301-891-7101 ext. 5615; Tinas@takomagov.org)

Ofc. Cyndy Conrad served as a beat officer in W6 since joining TPPD in 2001, after two years with the Edmonton Police Department in Prince George’s County. As the W Sector Specialist, she has been active with apartment managers and business community in W, or William, Sector, the areas surrounding Maple and Flower avenues. (301-891-7101 ext. 5682; Conrad@takomagov.org)

Ofc. Joe Butler, the X Sector Specialist, joined TPPD in 1998. As a V3 beat officer for four years, he was prolific in traffic enforcement. The X, or X-ray, Sector, consists primarily of neighborhoods along University Blvd. and the northern sections of New Hampshire and Carroll avenues. (301-891-7101 ext. 5629; Joesphb@takomagov.org)

Rudy Rice is the first nuisance abatement specialist in the agency, a position created last year to focus on noise, animal, and parking complaints. He is the only civilian member of the COP Team. (301-891-7101 ext. 5641; RudyR@takomagov.org)
Third Takoma Park Film Festival
To Show at the Takoma Theatre

The Takoma Park Film Festival returns in early November with an interesting array of films by professional filmmakers, students, and adults - all of whom share a creative vision, the cinematic skills to articulate it, and some present past or present connection with the Takoma Park community. Film makers will be on hand to respond to questions from the audience after each screening. An informal reception will be held following the showing of student films on November 14.

This year for the first time the festival will be held in the historic Takoma Theatre at 6833 4th Street N.W. in Takoma D.C. Everyone is invited to join us at these free public events cosponsored by the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Columbia Union College and the Takoma Theatre Arts Project.

Sunday matinee; November 7 2:00 p.m.
"Women of K2"
Jenny Apostol
50 min.
Only 196 climbers have reached the summit of K2 and just five have been women. Today, none of the five survive. With candid commentary from the victims’ loved ones, this film examines why almost 30 years after the first woman set a boot on K2, the climbing world remains divided on the presence of women on expeditions.

"Mr. Justice Brennan"
Bar Weissman
60 min.
With current concerns over attacks on the U.S. Constitution, this portrait of the life and legacy of Supreme Court Justice William Brennan is timely.

Saturday evening: November 6
"Radical Harmonies"
Dee Mosbacher & Biddy Sandstrom
80 min.
Documents a women’s cultural movement spearheaded by lesbian women which began during the second wave of Feminism during the ’70’s. Lots of music!

Sunday evening: November 13 7:30 p.m.
Art films
"Loki's Does Not Dilute"
Jeanne Mjoseth & Steve Hilmy
4 min.
A baby girl, too young for words, watches her mother from the crib. Based on a Sharon Olds poem.

"Morning Tale"
An elderly woman who eats the same thing at the same cafe each day finds his life changed when a new waitress is hired.

"Siwy Khorio: Wheel of Life"
Liz Smith
8 min.
Lobsang Samten, a former Buddhist monk, shares his sandpainting art with the children of Helena, Montana.

"View from the Streets: The Art of Lily Sandform"
Barr Weissman
30 min.
The life and art of Lily Sandform who captured the life and architecture of Washington D.C. for nearly 40 years.

Saturday evening; November 13 8:00 p.m.
Activist films
"Tree Rings"
Liz Smith
8 min.
A dendrochronologist uses the rings of ancient trees to study global climate change.

"We Are All Smith Islanders"
Mark Cohen & Mike Tidwell
35 min.
A portrait of Smith Island, how the island is disappearing due to global warming, with solutions such as wind and solar power.

"Pills, Profits, Protests"
Shanti Avirgan
60 min.
A rich and inspiring portrait of the global fight for access to affordable HIV treatment, interweaving stories from South Africa, India, Brazil, Haiti, Uganda and the U.S.

IMT October Concerts Feature Si Kahn, Jennifer Cutting

The Institute of Musical Traditions, the production arm of Takoma Park’s House of Musical Traditions, has a full concert lineup this fall, including benefits and appearances of artists who have been singer-songwriter favorites for decades. Among them, veteran movement troubadour Si Kahn, Takoma’s own other-real folkster Jennifer Cutting, and an Italian bluegrass master named Peppe Gambetta.

All shows will be played at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New Hampshire Ave. For more information, check 301-754-3611 or www.imtfolk.org. Tickets are generally in the $12-$25 range, with advance purchase tickets generally $5 cheaper than tickets bought at the door.

The October lineup starts with Hot Soup! Magpie and Nick Annis on Saturday, Oct. 21 in a benefit for the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition.

On October 11, you can hear Peppe Gambetta, who while born in Genoa, has been flatpicking his way around Europe since he formed his first bluegrass band in 1977. Local chanteuse Jennifer Cutting and her all-star Ocean Orchestra will play October 18, in support of their new CD, “OCEAN: Songs for the Night Sea Journey.” The genre-bending composer/bandleader previously led the Washington-area folk-rock band The New St. George, and explores English and Irish traditions in innovative and mythological ways.

On October 25, IMT presents Si Kahn, John McCutcheon, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer together in a benefit concert for the organization Grassroots Leadership.

OCTOPHILIA - The Mary Sue Cutting, Melanie Mason will perform Monday, Nov. 1. “Cross-grows and purrs a bit like Ani DiFranco through bluesy numbers about subjects like love, respect and laundry,” says Michael Hamenday in The Miami Herald. Melanie Mason is a presence on today’s bluegrass scene as lead electric vocalist, vocalist and songwriter for the Melanie Mason Band. She also performs and records traditional acoustic blues as a solo artist.

COP Team
Continued from page 9

Team include youth programs and issues, work with citizen patrols, attend community meetings, and crime prevention promotion. Sgt. Gilbert, an SEU officer, now supervises the team, which includes one of the department’s D.A.R.E. instructors, Off. Tina Smith.

The COP Team, however, will also emphasize coordinating and participat- ing in enforcement and apprehension efforts with patrol officers and investiga- tors. With the addition of the nuisance abatement specialist, civilian Rudy Rice, the team will coordinate noise ordinance issues with the City’s Noise Control Board. His duties will also include animal control issues and parking com- plaints. Other team members include Ofc. Joe Butler and Ofc. Cyndy Conrad.

A preview of the types of issues the team will address can be seen in the October edition of Takoma Park Snap-ショts, on Takoma City TV, cable channel 13. The November edition will feature the appropriate contact for a variety of civic concerns, some in the arena of the COP Team and some that can be ad- dressed to other agencies.

A comprehensive list of tasks appro- priate for COP was developed last year, by a committee composed of police command- ers, city administrators, and members of the Public Safety Citizens Advi- sory Committee.

Think Globally, Shop Locally;
Support Takoma Park Businesses

Folk Fest Photos

Photos by Chyde Lessell

More photos on page12
Takoma Foundation Focuses On Community Center

Continued from page 1

“...And when the two groups merged, we wanted to be sure that there was a mechanism to give life to the Community Center after it was built,” Baker said.

Baker says he participates in the foundation “to create a healthy community where people are treated with respect and can relate freely and openly.”

The foundation includes a Membership Committee, Fall Social Committee, Fundraising Committee, Grants Committee, and committees around special events, like its silent auction.

The silent auction was held May 16 at Savory, the Carroll Avenue restaurant, in partnership with the Old Town Business Association. The auction grossed $10,000, with funds going to the Main Street Program and Community Center furnishings.

According to foundation board member Carol Stewart, “We did really well at the silent auction. We hope to make it an annual event.”

Another moneymaker occurs the fourth Monday of every month, when Mark’s Kitchen donates 20 percent of its proceeds to the foundation.

According to Howard Kohn, who is active both in the foundation and in supporting the Community Center, “Most of the money the foundation is raising now is for the Community Center. City, county, state, and federal funds have gone toward the structure of the Community Center. The rest comes from donations and grants. Out of a $300,000 budget, approximately $90,000 has already been raised for the CC, which will cover everything but the big ticket item, the computer lab — $180,000 is still needed for the computer center.”

Kohn is also chair of the foundation’s Brick Committee. The Buy-A-Brick fundraising effort allows residents and groups to purchase individually inscribed bricks that will mark the new walkway to the Community Center. “Single bricks can be purchased for $125, or six bricks for $600, and about 100 bricks have been sold,” he said.

Donors can direct their gifts to particular Community Center uses. According to Kohn, “One donor is contributing to the dance floor, another for the teen game room.” Other donations will go for game tables, a curtain for the stage, reading lamps for the senior center, mats for the dance floor, a klin for the Arts Room, and other furnishings.

The foundation has tried a variety of fundraising approaches. Kohn told of a cold day last December when he and others “dropped leaflets” door to door in an attempt to raise money for the Community Center. Takoma Park resident Dan Aibel acted immediately and donated $10,000. In addition, VFW Post 350, PEPCO and the Washington Adventist Hospital have each donated $10,000.

On Nov. 18, the foundation will venture even further into extreme fundraising when it holds a “Hippie Party” at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Gym at Maple and Tulip avenues. A groovy time is guaranteed for all.

The foundation’s co-presidents are Mary Stevenson and Chris Barclay. Individuals or associations who want to find out more about the foundation or help its efforts can go to www.takomafoundation.org or contact Stover at 301-270-8648.

And if you’re active in a local nonprofit community group that might be interested in applying for a Takoma Foundation grant, you should make an application by Nov. 1, the deadline for the current funding cycle. You can find the info you need to apply at http://takomafoundation.org/grantguidelines.htm.

City TV crews spent September 12th at the Takoma Park Folk Festival with thousands of others videotaping many of the day’s performances. Editing has begun, and viewers may see first releases this month. First checkout the Wayfarers, an alternative country band infused with rock. Next, watch the high-energy Shango Band, a local reggae group, and then listen to music from Ireland performed by Irish Fire. New performances will be introduced every month so be sure to watch Channel 13. City TV will also be taping the 23rd Takoma Park Street Festival held Sunday, October 3 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Old Town. Be sure to attend this great event. For more information about the Street Festival, visit them online at www.takomafestival.com. 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 October includes the following segments:

• Community Oriented Policing: Meet the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Team

• 27th Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival

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. Remember that all Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are available for patron checkout at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHStapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for $15 (pickup) or $18 (mail). Some programs are now available in DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to: cablev@takomagov.org for more information.

Street Festival

Sunday, October 3

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Carroll Ave., Old Town

www.takomafestival.com
"We Are All Smith Islanders" (But Some of Us Don’t Know it Yet)

By Barbara Churchill

“Nobody pays attention to the weather like the watermen,” declares fisherman Jessie Marsh in “We Are All Smith Islanders,” a new documentary by Mike Tidwell and Mark Cohen.

“Mining” the island for a story to share, Tidwell and Cohen have made a film partly about tiny Smith Island in the Chesapeake Bay, but mostly a film for us, who share the bay’s beauty and bounty and who, they hope, share a concern for its environmental health.

The film begins on Smith Island, the last inhabited islands in Maryland’s part of the bay, accessible only by boat. Little has changed in 300 years on these tiny islands of 362 people. Generation follows generation as watermen sail off before dawn to set crab pots and cast oyster nets, and return 12 hours later with harvests to sell in the city, harvests which shrink each year.

Of equal concern: the islands themselves are shrinking. Against a backdrop of worn gravestones, fisherman Jennings Evans, an 11th-generation Smith Islander, remembers winters spent trapped on the island, his parents begging provisions until the ice melted and they could get to the mainland again. He muses, “I don’t have to worry about that no more.” Now, fishing boats go out year-round. There’s never any ice for boys to skate on.

Tidwell says islanders can be fatalistic about change, believing “the bay gives, the bay takes away.” But Tidwell and Cohen see Smith Island as a “microcosm for what is happening in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Virginia, across the planet: global warming.” At one point in the film, the camera pans to the Global Positioning System pinpointing Jessie Marsh’s position on the map in his boat: on the 20-year-old map the GPS tells him he’s sailing over land. Smith Island is disappearing under his boat.

Tidwell starts the film on Smith Island, in our backyard, because he thinks we all “have an emotional attachment to the bay.”

The problem and its solution start here, at the grassroots level. Early in the film we see a windfarm on Backbone Mountain in West Virginia. A Sierra Club spokesman says, “For only a few dollars a month, a family in the Metro area can convert from gas or coal electricity to wind power.” Install solar panels. Avoid pesticides. Drive less. Walk. Bike. Take public transportation. Write government officials, demanding firm enforcement of clean air and farm run-off regulations. These solutions exist in our cities, our homes, on our farmlands, only requiring of us more awareness, a few life-style modifications, and more planning. Dr. Robert Watson, the film’s expert on global warming, tells us it’s not too late, but “We must act now.”

Mike Tidwell takes his grassroots activism theme, literally, as anyone who has devoted his life to grassroots activism doesn’t. He founded Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), a local grassroots organization, and has been advocating locally ever since. “We Are All Smith Islanders” is a cooperative project with CCAN. Staff members and volunteers researched background material and film footage. Tidwell secured funding, wrote the script and, together with other CCAN members, is largely responsible for distribution. Tidwell brought in Mark Cohen, producer and host of “The Coffee House Forum” on Montgomery County cable TV and a private practice environmental lawyer. Cohen served as producer, cameraman, audioman and editor.

For $30,000, CCAN had a film. Part of Tidwell and Cohen’s purpose is to demonstrate that grassroots activism doesn’t require huge financial backing. The film has found enthusiastic audiences all over the area. The Takoma Park City Council has seen it; so have a number of local citizens groups. This fall it will be shown Nov. 13 at the Takoma Park Film Fest (see story, p. 10), on Montgomery County Cable stations, on Capitol Hill, to the Montgomery County Council and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Tidwell and Cohen have a special interest in distributing the film to student groups, the environmentalists of tomorrow. With easy to follow graphics, some serious explanations from scientists and up-beat news about windfarms and personal conservation efforts, it is a terrific tool to introduce students to the concept of global warming. The film is free to educators and to schools and can be ordered on the CCAN Web site (www.chesapeakeclimate.org). The general public can purchase a copy on the Web site for $20.

And, Smith Island? Jessie Marsh still sets out every morning at 4 a.m. We can still enjoy crab and oyster feasts, though they cost a little more, and the season is shorter. If you want to visit the island, act now.

Folk Fest Photos

Photos by Clyde Lassell

More photos on page 10

Takoma Park residents may also know him as the inspiration for the world’s first biomass corn silo. Tidwell came to Takoma Park 15 years ago after the Peace Corps. Tidwell spent the next several years as an author, writing about his Peace Corps years in Zaire, about the environment, including the Amazon Rain Forest, and about Louisiana’s vanishing coastline.

Two years ago, the enormity of global warming struck Tidwell and since then he has devoted his life to grassroots activism.

He founded Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), a local grassroots organization, and has been advocating locally ever since. “We Are All Smith Islanders” is a cooperative project with CCAN. Staff members and volunteers researched background material and film footage. Tidwell secured funding, wrote the script and, together with other CCAN members, is largely responsible for distribution. Tidwell brought in Mark Cohen, producer and host of “The Coffee House Forum” on Montgomery County cable TV and a private practice environmental lawyer. Cohen served as producer, cameraman, audioman and editor.

For $30,000, CCAN had a film. Part of Tidwell and Cohen’s purpose is to demonstrate that grassroots activism doesn’t require huge financial backing.

The film has found enthusiastic audiences all over the area. The Takoma Park City Council has seen it; so have a number of local citizens groups. This fall it will be shown Nov. 13 at the Takoma Park Film Fest (see story, p. 10), on Montgomery County Cable stations, on Capitol Hill, to the Montgomery County Council and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Tidwell and Cohen have a special interest in distributing the film to student groups, the environmentalists of tomorrow. With easy to follow graphics, some serious explanations from scientists and up-beat news about windfarms and personal conservation efforts, it is a terrific tool to introduce students to the concept of global warming. The film is free to educators and to schools and can be ordered on the CCAN Web site (www.chesapeakeclimate.org). The general public can purchase a copy on the Web site for $20.

And, Smith Island? Jessie Marsh still sets out every morning at 4 a.m. We can still enjoy crab and oyster feasts, though they cost a little more, and the season is shorter. If you want to visit the island, act now.

Folk Fest Photos

Photos by Clyde Lassell

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