

# Takoma Park

## NEWSLETTER

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

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.cityoftakomapark.org

October 2004

## 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 fit 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 Web page, [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://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-NCPPC) and serves as the playground for Piney Branch Elementary School. Renovation of the park has been discussed for the past five years and M-NCPPC 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-NCPPC project manager, 301-650-2867, [Ellen.Masciocchi@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:Ellen.Masciocchi@mncppc-mc.org).

**Restaurant and Parking Structure in Old Town.** John Urciolo is proposing to build new commercial space and park-



Illustration by Wnuk Spurlock, AIA

Concept drawing of renovation of southern end of Laurel Avenue commercial strip, provided by John Urciolo.

ing 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. If the parking structure is built,

Continued on page 5

## 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 left-over 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 to residents with rat problems - but both insist that the primary responsibility for rat control rests with the property owner.

Sara Daines, the director of economic and community development for the City, says, "We'll work with property owners, providing information on how to address their rat concerns as well as referring people to the county. Unfortunately, we don't have any money budgeted for rat abatement." Marjorie Ciccone, the City's code enforcement staffer, will go out and inspect property and offer advice, as time permits. Ciccone's main responsibilities are property maintenance complaints, commercial inspections and similar enforcement duties.

Continued on page 2

## 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.

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 foundation has functioned since 1988 as a public charity for the community of Takoma Park. But early in this decade it fell into a period of inactivity.

In the summer of 2003, the foundation experienced a rebirth. Bruce Baker, the foundation's treasurer, said that about that time, a group of concerned citizens from the City's Community Advisory Committee for Community Development Block Grants, of which Baker was a member, had hopes of creating a nonprofit to benefit the community. The Takoma Foundation already had 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, but had not awarded any grants in about three years. It was when both groups joined together that the foundation was galvanized into the active community organization it is today.

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## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

### MONDAY, OCT. 4 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION

#### Presentation:

- Update on the Community Center Construction Project

#### Worksession

### MONDAY, OCT. 11 - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION

#### Presentation:

- Update on the Community Center Construction Project

#### Regular Meeting

#### Worksession

### TUESDAY, OCT. 12 - Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Building Council Chambers

### TUESDAY, OCT. 12 - Facade Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m. (6 Grant Ave.)

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13 - Ethics Commission, 7:00 p.m. (Municipal Building Conference Room)

### MONDAY, OCT. 18 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION

#### Presentation:

- Update on the Community Center Construction Project

#### Worksession

### TUESDAY, OCT. 19 - Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m., Location TBA

### MONDAY, OCT. 25 - PRESENTATION & REGULAR MEETING

#### Presentation:

- Update on the Community Center Construction Project

#### Regular Meeting

#### Worksession

### THURSDAY, OCT. 28 - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., Municipal Building Conference Room

For weekly updates on Council Agendas, please see the City's Web page, [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org). To have your name added to the agenda e-mail list, send a request to [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

## 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](mailto:daryl@takomagov.org).



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

### Tuesday, September 7 - Special Session

Resolution #2004-43 was unanimously adopted, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Cairo Consensus at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

### Monday, September 13 - Regular Meeting

Ordinance 2004-27 was adopted at 1st reading, increasing the local supplement to the State Homeowner Tax Credit Program (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSTAINING: Austin-Lane; ABSENT: Elrich, Mizeur).

Resolution 2004-44 was adopted unanimously, approving the Eighth Amended and Restated Local Government Insurance Trust Agreement (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich, Mizeur).

Resolution 2004-45 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Arts and Humanities Commission (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

## Vacancies on Council-Appointed Committees

**Ethics Commission.** The 7-member commission is charged with overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the City's Ethics Ordinance. (Two vacancies.)

**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. (Five vacancies.)

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

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

## Rats Roam in Takoma Park

*Continued from page 1*

Haynes, at Montgomery County, says, "We do offer services. We will investigate rat problems and inform the property owner of the best steps to take. The City refers people to us."

Haynes says the key to rat control is eliminating food sources. Beyond that, you can get rid of rats by using poison. "The county will not place traps but will give advice," he says.

The county can also enforce standards by citing residents who fail to get rid of conditions that cause rat infestations, Haynes says, but they prefer not to do that. "We give people numerous chances; we only write a ticket if you've gotten fair warning."

Haynes recommends a number of steps that can make a home less inviting to rats.

- Eliminate bird feeders that can spill seed.
- Do not compost food debris.
- If you do compost, use a ratproof bin, not plastic that rats (and squirrels) can chew through. This also applies to garbage cans containing food waste.
- For ratproofing garbage cans or anything else, use a galvanized metal ¼ inch mesh called ratwire or hardware cloth. This can be found at hardware stores. Then make sure trash cans are sealed well.
- Pick up dog droppings – rats eat these.
- Do not feed pets outside. Rats will feed from an untended food dish.
- If you have fruit trees, pick up the fruit. Don't let it rot on the ground.

While you can try to rodent-proof your house, Haynes says that for older houses, that is almost impossible. Rats need only a half-inch space to get into a house. But you can place ratwire mesh around holes for pipes and similar openings, which can help.

Bob Ryan, the director of public services for the City of College Park (and a Takoma Park resident), says that College Park emphasizes, "integrated pest management." You can't just kill or trap rats, he says. "We call that harvesting them." Instead, he says, "we emphasize public education and personal responsibility."

Beyond the control of the individual homeowner is the commercial dumpster. When apartment buildings, restaurants and fast food vendors use dumpsters, there's often spillage, especially when the dumpster is emptied.

## Poison Requires Care

Christine Garcia at the University of Maryland emphasizes that while poison can be effective, it must be used carefully, only where pets and children can't get at it. Pets or children can eat bait, and bait pellets that are put into a rat burrow may be kicked out by the rats. Ciccone, pointing to the environmental hazards of poison, recommends that it be used only by trained professionals. She also recommends that neighbors with rat problems work together to limit food sources or jointly hire a pest control company.

Spring-loaded traps, which look like an oversize

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## 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 Center 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 of 2003 it was officially accredited by the National 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 strategic planning just to name a few. The course work was challenging, but working with 29 other professionals was invaluable. I highly recommend the program."

Lott's IRE program started in August 2003 and ended July 2004. Participants met for two and one-half days monthly, Thursday through Saturday. Each participant is additionally required to collaborate on a group project. Lott's small group completed a project entitled "Seamless School to Career Opportu-

nities in the Greater Metropolitan Washington Area." Lott said, "We had accountants, educators and information systems professionals in our small group. We conducted a professional study of the subject and grew as professionals in the process. It was great fun!"

Three other City employees have become Certified Public Managers in the last few years. Police Capt. Ed Coursey and Community and Government Liaison Suzanne Ludlow enrolled in the very first year of the program. Housing and Community Development Director Sara Anne Daines participated in the 2002-

2003 season. Community Center Project Manager Venita-Enola George is currently enrolled in the 4th year of the program, which has just started. Coursey stated, "I thought it was tremendously valuable, not only for the formal content, but the chance to meet and work with other professionals from this area, both in my profession and in other related fields." Coursey's group project focused on public safety as the session began right after 9/11, so the group created the framework for a database of emergency management assets throughout the region.

Suzanne Ludlow commented that she felt the classes were excellent. "For me, the most important outcome of the program was meeting and working with on-the-ball, key staff from jurisdictions around the region. We continue to contact each other to share information or learn best practices. During the classes themselves, I enjoyed seeing staff from the big counties learn that smaller jurisdictions often

have cutting-edge programs and processes. I think we all gained a better appreciation for the functioning of the Washington, D.C., region as a whole, as well."

HCD Director Sara Anne Daines participated in the 2002-2003 session, with her project focusing on the effectiveness of "Cultural Arts and Entertainment Districts as a Revitalization Tool." A newcomer to the DC region at the time, Sara said, "I learned more about the inner workings of the region during the course of the program than I initially thought possible." Equally rewarding were the personal and professional relationships she developed. "Not only did I benefit from my participation in the program, but I believe Takoma Park did as well," said Daines. She comments that she has received assistance from former classmates in the development of new programming and procedures for her department since her graduation last year.

Councilmember Bruce Williams has been involved in the IRE program since its inception in the fall of 2001. Williams has been on the COG Board since 1997, chaired the board in 2002, and has served as the chair of the IRE Program since it began. "Because the Washington region is made up of so many distinct units of government which each function completely differently, the COG Board thought it important to provide a forum for staff from member governments to gain better regional perspectives and to integrate that into their daily work. For the Takoma Park City staff, this provides an opportunity to interact with their colleagues from the District, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, as well as Virginia jurisdictions. Since admission into the IRE program is an extremely competitive process, it speaks very well of our City staffers who participate in this program."



COG graduates from left: Coursey, Daines, Lott and Ludlow with Councilmember Williams rear right

## 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**

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The *Newsletter* does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements.

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

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

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

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

To contact the editor e-mail: [tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org)

## 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, 2005. Position open until filled. Send resume to City of Takoma Park, Human Resources, 7500 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 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, and other municipal facilities.

Community feedback on the design and location of the signs is critical to the success of the project. The best way to provide input is to come to a community forum on Tuesday, October 26 at 7 p.m. The forum will take place in the Montgomery College student lounge in the Commons Building at New York and Takoma avenues.

There will also be presentations of the proposed signage system at City Council meetings in November and December. Please see the Housing and Community Development section of the City Web site for more details. For more information, contact Rob Inerfeld, 301-891-7219, [RobertI@takomagov.org](mailto:RobertI@takomagov.org).



## FOURTH ANNUAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOUSING FAIR

**Saturday, October 2, 2004**  
**10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.**

Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm  
(Next to Gaithersburg High School)  
506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg

### Receive information about:

- Credit and Financial Counseling
- Buying/Refinancing your home
- Housing Programs and Services
- Avoiding Scams Targeting Seniors Age 50+

Entertainment, food, prizes (including one month's rent) and activities for children!

### ~FREE ADMISSION~

This Fair is organized by the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs in partnership with the Housing Fair Planning Committee, whose members include: the Cities of Gaithersburg and Takoma Park, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Housing & Community Initiatives, Inc.; Fannie Mae; the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services; the Office of Council Member Thomas Perez; Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Washington; the Mid County, Up County and Silver Spring Regional Services Centers; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; AARP Maryland, and Washington Gas. If interested in participating in the Fair, or becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, please call Gladys Kaplan at 240-777-3603.

Ride-On bus #55 or #59 from points north and from Shady Grove Metro Red Line

## Cuarta Feria Anual de la Vivienda del Condado de Montgomery

**Sábado, 2 de octubre, 2004**  
**De 10 a.m. a 4 p.m.**

Centro de Actividades Bohrer Park,  
Summit Hall Farm

(Al lado del Gaithersburg High School)

506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg

### Tendremos información sobre:

- Como Manejar sus Finanzas y su Crédito
- Compra/Refinanciamiento de su Casa
- Programas y Servicios de Vivienda
- Como Evitar Fraudes Dirigidos a Personas de Más de 50 Años

¡Entretenimiento, comida, sorteos (incluyendo un mes de renta) y actividades para niños!

### ~LA ENTRADA ES GRATUITA~

La Feria de la vivienda es organizada por el Departamento de Vivienda y Asuntos Comunitarios y un Comité Organizador, cuyos miembros representan a las siguientes organizaciones: Ciudades de Gaithersburg y Takoma Park, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; Housing & Community Initiatives, Inc.; Fannie Mae; Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services; Office of Council Member Thomas Perez; Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Washington; Mid County, Up County y Silver Spring Regional Services Centers; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; AARP Maryland y Washington Gas. Si está interesado en participar, auspiciar, o exhibir el día de la feria, por favor llame a Carmen Castro al 301-590-2765.

Ride-On bus #55 or #59 de los puntos norte y de Shady Grove Línea Roja

## COLTA Decisions

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

### Li v. 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 absolve 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.

## COLTA's Corner

By Jean Kerr

Housing Specialist

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

### 8624-8626 Flower Ave. (2003-65L)

On Sept. 4, a final decision on a previously approved capital improvement petition was rendered to the landlord for amounts ranging from **\$13.18 to \$16.47** on all 27 units at the property. At the time this petition was filed and approved, several code violations existed in all units and the general area in both buildings. The landlord was not allowed to take the new increases until all violations were corrected and certified to the City and Rents Analyst.

### 7808 Kennewick Ave. (2004-38L)

On Sept. 3, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from **\$71.14 to \$105.21** on all four units at the property. The improvements were roof repair, carpets, cabinets and heating. The improvements for painting, window replacements and electrical work were disallowed because they were not completed. Once the landlord completes these improvements by October 23, a final decision will be issued.



### 6617 Poplar Ave. (2004-43L)

On Aug. 11, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from **\$43.33 to \$317.67** on two units at the property. The improvements included painting, carpeting, new dishwasher, garbage disposal, kitchen cabinets, hardwood floors, plumbing fixtures and pipes, exterior siding, counter top and doors.

### 8316 Roanoke Ave. (2004-47L)

On Aug. 11, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from **\$32.99 to \$50.26** on all three units at the property. The improvements included painting exterior and windows, new stove, replaced sidewalk, dedicated circuit line, repair concrete ceiling, replaced glass pane in entrance door and replaced top pipe on chain link fence in rear.

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

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION CULTURAL PLAN SURVEY AND FOCUS GROUPS

The Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Commission is conducting a cultural plan for the city.

Complete our 3-minute survey – online at [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org) – and you'll be making our community a richer place to live.

Copies also available at the Library and Municipal Building. It's easy and fun!

Available in Spanish and English.

Please email us at [AHC@takomagov.org](mailto:AHC@takomagov.org) or call 301-891-7224 if you would like to participate in a group discussion about the future of arts and humanities in Takoma Park.

*We're connecting culture to the community!*

## 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 creepy. "We are hardwired to react favorably to creatures with large eyes," she says. "Babies have big eyes. Squirrels have big eyes. But rats 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, urine and hair in food-stuffs. Rats also spread other diseases by biting humans and by carrying fleas that bite humans.

Let's clear up one misconception, though. Rats are not dirty – they groom constantly.

Now, if they could only hire a good PR firm . . .



# 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, groundbreaking 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, RobertI@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 brief-

ings 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 I of the project

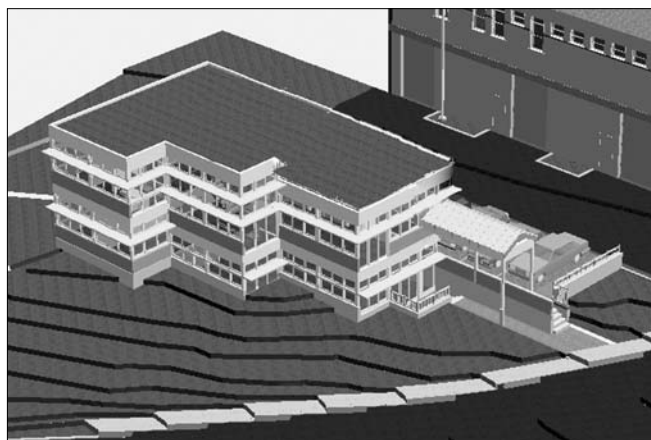


Illustration by Kent Richard Abraham, Architect

Architect's rendering of the future building on Orchard Ave.

should be completed in spring of 2005. Contact person: Venita-Enola George, 301-891-7266, VenitaG@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 Randal Wisbey 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 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](http://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 escribe por correo electrónico a [IrmaN@takomagov.org](mailto:IrmaN@takomagov.org).

## 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 we are not as famous for our traffic calming devices as for 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 (which includes previous and new language) at [www.cityoftakomapark.org/clerk/documents/traffic031.pdf](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/clerk/documents/traffic031.pdf). You can also contact the City clerk's office, which will be able to give or mail you a copy of the ordinance. Call 301-891-7267 or e-mail [jessie@takomagov.org](mailto:jessie@takomagov.org). —Bob Guldin

## Rats in Takoma Park

Continued from page 2

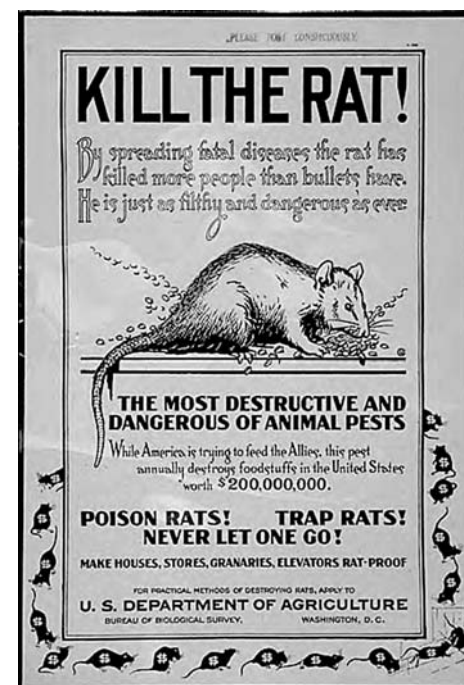
mousetrap, can be effective, but they should be used only in a controlled situation (like a locked shed). Garcia points out that the animal dies quickly and humanely in such a trap. But that kind of trap can hurt a child or a pet (or an adult foot) if they touch it.

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.



A World War I-era poster

## 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**

# 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, lowered 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 class is for students who have had no training. Beginner II 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 preventive 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,  
7511 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 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, 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



## Fun Day Trips

### Grades K-5

Date	#2 Monday, Oct. 4
Trip	Field Day @ Wheaton Regional Park Wheaton
Time	1-6 p.m.
Cost Res.	\$10
Cost Non-Res.	\$15
Date	#3 Friday, Oct. 15
Trip	Ice Skating/ Jeepers, Rockville
	Bring money for extra tokens.
Time	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cost Res.	\$15
Cost Non-Res.	\$20
Date	#4 Monday, Nov. 1
Trip	Baltimore Zoo and Carrie Murray Nature Center Baltimore
Time	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cost Res.	\$15
Cost Non-Res.	\$20

#5 Tuesday, Nov. 2  
BAPA Stage "Bunnicula"-Bethesda  
Duckpin Bowling-College Park  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
\$15  
\$20

#6 Wednesday, Nov. 10  
Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum  
Dulles, Va.  
1-6 p.m.  
\$10  
\$15

#7 Thursday, Nov. 11  
Rolling Crest Pool  
Chillum  
1-6 p.m.  
\$10  
\$15

## 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 leash 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 Oswego 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  
aves., Old Town Takoma Park  
Fee: Free!

# 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.  
Fee: Free!

# 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,  
immediately following parade.  
Location: Piney Branch Elementary  
School,  
7510 Maple Ave.  
Fee: Free!

## 'Mike Morrissey Mulligan Madness' Golf Tourney Benefits Library

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 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.



## LIBRARY

### Book Sale Unvanquished!



Despite the disruptions that continue to surround the Library due to construction, Mike Welsh and other dedicated staff from the City's Public Works Department have preserved our attractive green space in front of the Library, and this fall's used book sale will be held there as usual.

Join the Friends of the Library on Saturday Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for its semi-annual sale of wonderful used books at bargain prices. Each book you buy helps the Friends purchase gifts for the Library in the form of programs, materials and equipment.

For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering to help at the sale, call 301-891-7259.

## 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!"

*Third Annual Takoma Park  
Film Festival story on page 10*

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 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 shelve 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 shelveers must routinely lift and bend, and must often shelve a large volume of returned materials. Reliability, neatness and accuracy are essential.

### 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, weekday and / or Saturday hours. Requires a book-oriented individual with an Associate Degree or equivalent from an accredited two-year college or technical school, or 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.

These positions are open until filled. EOE.

# 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 9:03 a.m., a robbery occurred. A subject approached the victim as she unlocked the front door of her business and demanded money. The victim did not see a weapon, but a weapon was implied. The subject forced the victim to walk to the back of the store where the cash register was located and where two other employees were working. After taking money from the register and all three victims' wallets, the subject shut the victims in a large freezer while he fled. None of the victims were injured.

**Linden Ave., 1100 block:** On Sept. 1 at 12:24 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim, a cab driver, was sitting in his cab waiting for his passenger, an adult female, to pay and exit when a subject approached, pointed a handgun at him, opened the driver's door and demanded money. After taking the victim's money, the subject opened the passenger's door and demanded her money. The second victim

complained and the suspect fled on foot. The victims were not injured.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block:** On Sept. 12 at 12:05 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. A subject approached an adult male standing outside his car at a gas station and asked for change. After the victim entered his vehicle, the subject pulled open the driver's side door and demanded the car keys from the victim, ordering him to exit. When the victim did not comply, the subject pulled the victim out of the car and drove off. A weapon was implied. The subject was stopped later 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.

**Laurel Ave., 6900 block:** On Sept. 14 at 10:49 a.m., a robbery occurred. Two subjects approached an employee of an armored car who was carrying a money bag into a bank. One suspect displayed a gun and grabbed the money bag and the guard's weapon. Both suspects fled to a parked black or dark BMW behind the shopping center and were observed fleeing the scene. The victim was not physically injured.

## Theft/Confidence Game

**University Blvd., 1100 block:** On Aug. 13 at 10 a.m., an adult female was approached by a subject, who showed the woman 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

**Cherry Ave., 6900 block:** Between Aug. 13 at 3:30 p.m. and Aug. 14 at 9:30 a.m., a residential burglary occurred. A window of a vacant house under construction was smashed in order to gain entry. Property belonging to the construction crew was taken.

**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.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block:** Between Aug. 27 at 6:30 a.m. and Aug. 28 at 6 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the residence was gained. Property was taken.

**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. a 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 9 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 5 a.m., a 1994 Lincoln Town Car was stolen.

**Elm Ave., 400 block:** On Aug. 29, between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., a 1990 Volvo 4DL was stolen.

**Lincoln Ave., 200 block:** On Sept. 5, between 12:15 a.m. and 9 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.



## The Firehouse Report

As of Aug. 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 717 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,726 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 2,443 this year. Totals for 2003 were 941 and 1,678, respectively, for a total of 2,619, representing a decrease of 176 incidents.

## We Again Thank You

On Friday, Sept. 3 several members of the Takoma Park VFD were out front of the fire station with their boots as part of its Annual Labor Day Weekend Fill-the-Boot Campaign. This year we collected \$1,152 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. For over 30 years the Takoma Park VFD has raised money for MDA. Our department is the only volunteer fire department in the area that does the Fill-the-Boot. Assisting were Stan Herrmann, Tom and Annalee Horne, Dave Hooker, Steve Novik, Tina and Ashlee Willey, Leslie DeLeon, Felipe Ramirez, Jim Jarboe, Sandra Duran, Bruce Allen and Joe Coyne.

## Fire Prevention Week 2004

This year's theme is "Test Your Smoke Alarms." First we must make sure we have smoke alarms on all levels of the home and test them monthly. Also it's very important that we have a "family escape plan" – they go together. Your fire department will be glad to visit your home to check your smoke alarms and do a safety check of your home. All you need to do is call the fire station at 301-270-4242. In the interest of your safety.

## 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 alarms as serious and have the cause determined to be sure your home is safe. When buying a CO detector, buy only units that have been tested by qualified testing laboratories. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and use of your CO detector in your home. Test your CO detector once a month. Replace CO detectors every two years, or as recommended by the manufacturer. Plan and practice a home evacuation plan with all members of the family in case of any emergency.

Remember...Carbon monoxide detectors ARE NOT smoke alarms.

## The Following Is a List of Safety Tips:

- Do not run motors indoors, even if garage doors are open.
- Have your vehicles inspected for exhaust leaks.
- Inspect and repair chimneys, fireplaces, wood stoves, etc. each year before cold weather sets in.
- Be sure your heating equipment has an adequate supply of fresh air for combustion.
- Open the flue when using the fireplace to insure adequate ventilation.

## ARRESTS

**Maple Ave., 7500 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., 7500 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., 7600 block:** On Aug. 25 at midnight, an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on traffic charges and a second warrant for theft under \$500. Citations were also issued for displaying a plate issued to another, driving on a suspended license and driving an uninsured vehicle.

**Maple Ave., 7500 block:** On Aug. 25 at 8:45 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for theft and forgery.

**Maple Ave., 7700 block:** On Aug. 29 at 8:22 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 6:30 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 7:47 a.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 and possession of a firearm while drug trafficking 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 failure 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 \$7.00 and 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 in the patrol division, will work 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 first 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 9-1-1 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](http://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

*Continued on page 10*

# 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: 301-891-7124; [Kurtg@takomagov.org](mailto:Kurtg@takomagov.org))



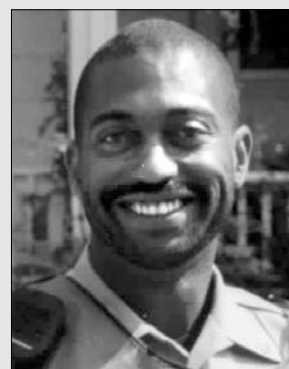
Ofc. Tina Smith is the V Sector Specialist, having served four years as a beat officer there. She joined TPPD in 1994 as a dispatcher, becoming an officer in 1998. She is one of the agency's D.A.R.E. officers. V, or Victor, Sector, includes the neighborhoods along the D.C. boundary. (301-891-7101 ext.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



Ofc. Cyndy Conrad served as a beat officer in W6 since joining TPPD in 2001, after two years with the Edmonston 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; [Cconrad@takomagov.org](mailto:Cconrad@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; [Josephb@takomagov.org](mailto:Josephb@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](mailto:Rudyr@takomagov.org))

## 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 Patch Previewed

An observant person, situated 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 '70s.

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.

# 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 or past 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"**

Barr 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.

**Sunday night : November 7 7 p.m.**  
**"Radical Harmonies"**

Dee Mosbacher &  
Boden Sandstrom                      80 min.  
Documents a women's cultural movement spearheaded by lesbians which began during the second wave of Feminism during the '70's. Lots of music!

**Thursday evening: November 11 7:30 p.m.**  
**Art films**

**"Light Does Not Dilute"**

Jeannine 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"**

Alonzo Crawford                      30 min.  
An elderly man who eats the same thing at the same café each day finds his life changed when a new waitress is hired.

**"Sipay Khorlo: 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 Street: The Art of Lily Spandorf"**

Barr Weissman                      30 min.  
The life and art of Lily Spandorf 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 it 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.

**Sunday Matinee: November 14 2:00 p.m.**  
**Student Films**

**"The Chase"**

Peter Lansworth (13 yrs.)                      6 min.  
A "secret agent" races to meet "the package."

**"Damien"**

Danny Powell (grad student)                      6 min.  
A day in the life of a young boy captures his petty crimes and hustling ways, and the reason for them.

**"Home Away from Home"**

Avi Edelman (grade 9)                      20 min.  
A mystery story in the style of the silent movies featuring a number of young Takoma Park actors.

**"Kitchen Concoction"**

Rosie Kaller &  
Andrea Lynn (Age 14)                      11 min.  
Three best friends are bored. They mix up a concoction that turns them invisible.

**"Legacy of Peace"**

Melissa Mergner (12 yrs.)                      10 min.  
Story of how Japan's A-bomb victims become catalysts for the peace movement.

**"Messed Up Fairytale"**

Clare Harper, Eloise Potterfield &  
Sally Chang (high school)                      6 ½ min.  
Animated story of three suitors' attempts to charm Princess Beatrice. Includes interviews with the cast!

**"Night of the Napkins"**

Julian Boilen; Annie, Sam & Will Bolgiano; Isabelle & Trevor Hammond (ages 9-14)                      4 min.  
Claymation. Paper napkins are tired of being used and tossed away and so rebel.

**"Takoma Park: Land of Liberals"**

Ariana McLean, Leandra Tidwell, Lily Ickow, Becca Graber & Alexis Egan (high school)                      20 min.  
A look at Takoma Old Town including interviews with local residents, store owners, students and teachers.

**"Thingano"**

Marc Norman et al. (CUC students)                      15 min.  
A sci-fi morality tale with two scientists, one of whom has discovered the ability to switch bodies.

**Sunday evening: November 14 7:00 p.m.**  
**"A Paralyzing Fear: The Story of Polio in America"**

Nina Seavey                      89 min.  
A look at a pandemic disease and how it transforms society.

For additional information, please call the Takoma Park Maryland Library at 301-891-7259 or check the Library page of the City web site at [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org)

# 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 troubador Si Kahn, Takoma's own ethereal folkster Jennifer Cutting, and an Italian bluegrass master named Beppe Gambetta.

All the concerts 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](http://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. 2 in a benefit for the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition.

On Monday, Oct. 11, you can hear Beppe 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 Oct. 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 Oct. 25, IMT presents Si Kahn, John McCutcheon, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer together in a benefit concert for the organization Grassroots Leadership.

Rachel Cross and Melanie Mason will perform Monday, Nov. 1. "Cross growls and purrs a bit like Ani DiFranco through bluesy numbers about subjects like love, respect and laundry," says Michael Hamersly in *The Miami Herald*. Melanie Mason is a presence on today's blues-rock scene as lead electric guitarist, 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, attending 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, Ofc. Tina Smith.

The COP Team, however, also will emphasize coordinating and participating in enforcement and apprehension efforts with patrol officers and investigators. 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 Snapshots, 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 addressed to other agencies.

A comprehensive list of tasks appropriate for COP was developed last year, by a committee composed of police commanders, city administrators, and members of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee.

Think Globally, Shop Locally;  
Support Takoma Park Businesses

# Folk Fest Photos



Photos by  
Clyde Lassell



More photos on page 12

## 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.

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 kiln 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 Stover 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](http://www.takomafoundation.org) or contact Stover at 301-270-8648.

And if you're active in a local non-profit 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>.



From left: Andrea Urciolo, Pam Larson and Carol Stewart at the Takoma Foundation's 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

## Takoma Park City TV Events in October 2004

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

## Takoma Park City TV October 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)		Takoma Park Folk Festival
1:00 PM	Earth Café	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			
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		Haiti a Suivre		Haiti a Suivre	Coffeehouse
10:00 PM							
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](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org)  
Web: [www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable)

## Street Festival Sunday, October 3

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Carroll Ave., Old Town  
[www.takomafestival.com](http://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 of Takoma Park and Mark Cohen. Nobody, perhaps, except for Tidwell and Cohen. Alarmed by increasing signs of global warming, Tidwell and Cohen have made a film partly about tiny Smith Island in the Chesapeake Bay, but mostly a film for us, we 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 Jessie Marsh confesses his dread of having to leave the island if erosion forces his family off. He knows the history of

Hollins Island, once home to 300 people, with a proper store, post office, homes—now shrunk to a fraction of its original size, a ghost island which, Marsh says, "the water just swallowed up." Now, he adds, "I'm facing 300 years worth of heritage just coming to an end."

Jennings Evans, an eleventh-generation Smith Islander, remembers winters spent trapped on the island, his parents hoping provisions would last 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

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 home, literally, as anyone who visits his 90 percent renewable energy

Takoma Park house can see. Takoma Park residents may also know him as the inspiration for the world's first bio-mass 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 coast-line.

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 wind-farms 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](http://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