To Bond or Not to Bond: Question for Community Center

By Barbara Burns Matthews
City Manager

Completion of the Community Center is one of the foremost issues in the minds of Takoma Park residents, councillors, residents and staff. I knew when I arrived in Takoma Park in July that that one of my first important duties would be taking a fresh look at the Community Center, and making some recommendations as to how the City can proceed on the project in a way that makes sense, both financially and in terms of the City’s need for improved facilities.

Recently, I provided a financial update to the City Council. Total revenues received to date for the Community Center are approximately $8.9 million. Based on the information available at this time, it is estimated that we need an additional $1.3 to $1.7 million to complete Phase One of the Community Center project. Phase One includes the building addition, the renovation of the upper and main levels of the Municipal Building, and construction of the Computer Learning Center.

As the Council considers the best means to pay for completion of Phase One, I suggested that the City might wish to consider additional bonding. A public hearing will be held on Monday, November 8, to provide the community with an opportunity to comment on this funding option. The hearing will be held as part of the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, which will get under way at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

To date, the City has been successful in obtaining approximately $4.86 million in federal, state and county funding for the Community Center project. At this time, no additional monies are anticipated from other government sources. An additional $2.0 million has been financed through bonding, with the remainder being paid from City operating funds and reserves.

Options to pay for the remaining construction include a reduction in City operating expenditures, the use of the City’s reserve fund, or additional bonding. Like other service industries, the City’s operating expenditures consist largely of personnel costs. Consequently, it is difficult to realize significant savings in costs without impacting service levels. Given the amount of the revenue shortfall, the cuts would have to be fairly draconian. Pending further Council and/or community discussion of service priorities, these modifications are not being proposed as a way of funding the remaining work on the Community Center project, which is a one-time capital expense.

In my remarks to the City Council on September 20, I cited a number of reasons why I believe that additional bonding should be considered, as opposed to using reserve monies. These reasons included the following:

- There is uncertainty regarding future revenues to support annual operating budgets from both the state and Montgomery County. For example, the county has already notified the City of its desire to change the police rebate formula for the year 2007.
- It is fiscally prudent for local governments to maintain a strong level of reserve funds for unforeseen or emergency expenditures, as well as to provide discretion for future projects and initiatives.
- The cost for capital projects that have a long, useful life is generally spread out over many years, so that the full financial burden is not borne solely by current taxpayers.
- Current interest rates enable municipalities to borrow money at a low cost.

The cost of additional bonding for the Community Center project would depend on the amount borrowed and the terms of the City’s need for improved facilities.

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Council Bristles at Streamlined Hospital Expansion Plan

By Bob Gouldin
Editor

How hospitals obtain approval for expansion plans is a hot issue for Takoma Park, because Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) has proposed major new construction including a medical office building and 1,000-space parking garage. Many nearby residents have voiced deep concerns about the expansion’s impact on the neighborhood.

Right now, when a hospital located in a residential neighborhood wants to expand, it must file a “special exception application.” The application process requires the hospital to justify its location and usually involves lots of community participation. That has been the case with WAH, which has been meeting with neighbors for two years in an effort to come up with a plan the neighborhood can live with.

So it was no surprise that, when the City Council invited Montgomery county planners to come and explain a proposal that would make it easier for hospitals to expand, the Council was very attentive. After hearing the proposal, some members were angry and some were smiling, but they all agreed that the change would reduce community input and that’s not what Takoma Park wants.

The new proposal would call for a less arduous process called a “site plan review.” Under that process, it is assumed that the hospital has a right to build on its own campus. According to Suzanne Norcross, the hospital’s development coordinator, the hospital has a site plan review.

Continued on page 5

A Nomad Artist Settles Down in Old Town

By Mitchell Tropin

After decades of seeking out arts fairs to show her striking sketches of the Washington area, Enid Romanek decided to end her nomadic experience and open her own gallery. She knew that there was no better location than her adopted home town of Takoma Park.

At her gallery on the corner of Carroll and Laurel avenues, the artist works in the shadow of Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), which has been meeting with neighbors for two years in an effort to come up with a plan the neighborhood can live with.

So it was no surprise that, when the City Council invited Montgomery county planners to come and explain a proposal that would make it easier for hospitals to expand, the Council was very attentive. After hearing the proposal, some members were angry and some were smiling, but they all agreed that the change would reduce community input and that’s not what Takoma Park wants.

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How City leaf collection will work this year

Worried About Terrorism?
Check City’s emergency preparedness plan

Community Oriented Policing
Citizen involvement is key to success

Trashcans Return to Sligo Creek
But number of containers is reduced

Public Hearing
Bond Funding for Community Center Completion

Monday, November 8
7:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Council Chambers

Published by the City of Takoma Park
www.cityoftakomapark.org
November 2004
CALENDAR
CITY COUNCIL
MONTDA, NOV. 1 - PRESENTATION, INTER-VIEWS, SPECIAL SESSION & WORKSESSION
Presentation:
- Update on the Community Center Construction Project
MONDAY, NOV. 8 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARING, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION
Presentation:
- Update on the Community Center Construction Project
- Public Hearing:
- Bond Funding for Community Center Completion
TUESDAY, NOV. 9 - Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
TUESDAY, NOV. 9 - Facade Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m. (6 Grant Ave.)
THURSDAY, NOV. 11 - City Offices CLOSED in Observance of Thanksgiving Day
MONDAY, NOV. 15 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION
Presentation:
- Update on the Community Center Construction Project
TUESDAY, NOV. 16 - Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Location TBA)
TUESDAY, NOV. 16 - Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs, 7:00 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
THURSDAY, NOV. 18 - Noise Control Board, 7:00 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24 - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:00 p.m. (Municipal Building Conference Room)
MONDAY, NOV. 22 - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION
Presentation:
- Update on the Community Center Construction Project
TUESDAY, NOV. 25 thru FRIDAY, NOV. 26 - City Offices CLOSED in Observance of Thanksgiving Day
MONDAY, NOV. 29 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION
Presentation:
- Update on the Community Center Construction Project

City Council Briefs
To receive a copy of the legislation or to learn more about a particular resolution, contact Cathy Waters, the City Clerk, at 301-891-7206 or cathyw@takomagov.org.

Monday, Sept. 27 - Regular Meeting

1st Reading Ordinance #2004-28 was adopted unanimously, authorizing the installation of Speed Humps on Hickory Avenue (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).
Resolution #2004-46 was adopted unanimously, commenting on the alignment of the Purple Line (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).
Resolution #2004-27 was adopted unanimously, authorizing an increase in the local supplement to the State homeowner Tax Credit Program (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).
Resolution #2004-27 was adopted unanimously, amending the Bylaw to authorize the removal of property from the Community Service Tax District (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).
Resolution #2004-47 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).
Resolution #2004-48 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Ethics Commission (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).
Resolution #2004-49 was adopted unanimously, effecting appointments to the Safe Roadways Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).

Monday, Oct. 11 - Regular Meeting

2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-28 was adopted unanimously, authorizing the installation of Speed Humps on Hickory Ave. (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).
Resolution #2004-50 was adopted unanimously, as amended, transferring the property from the City to the Takoma Park Residens’ Committee on Tax and Service Duplicaiton Issues (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).
2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-29 was adopted unanimously, authorizing an extension of the contract with Charron Construction Consulting Services (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).
Resolution #2004-51 was adopted unanimously, authorizing submission of a Community Legacy Program Application for the Home Ownership Capacity Building Initiative (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Elrich, 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. (One vacancy.)

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

Got Culture? Tell Us!

What cultural offerings would you like to see more of in Takoma Park? The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is conducting a cultural planning survey for the city.
Complete a three-minute survey and you’ll be making our community a richer place to live. You can find it online at www.cityoftakomapark.org, on the homepage listed under News and Events. Copies are also available at the Library and the Municipal Building. It’s easy and fun. Available in Spanish and English.
Email the Arts and Humanities Commission at AHC@takomagov.org if you would like to participate in a group discussion about the future of arts and humanities in Takoma Park.
Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, and tell friends, family and neighbors about it. We’re connecting culture to the community!
Loose leaf collection will be provided by the City from Nov. 1 through Dec. 10. The leaves will be collected by special vacuum equipped trucks. Residents can rake out their leaves at their convenience. City streets will not have assigned collection days. Neighborhoods in the City will be divided into zones. Each zone will have two collection trucks and crews assigned to collect leaves as they are piled at the curbside. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. As always this collection is highly affected by the weather. Rain and freezing conditions can delay collection.

There will be some streets that will have assigned and posted collection days due to the heavy traffic. Carroll Ave., Ethan Allen Ave., and the 7900 to 8600 block of Flower Ave. will have collection on Wednesday, Nov. 17 and Dec. 1. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Ave. will have collection on Thursday, Nov. 18 and Dec. 2.

Leaf collection will begin Nov. 1 and end Dec. 10. During the first half of the schedule the collection crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. Toward the last weeks of collection the crews will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves and clean the streets and right of ways.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. Please contact David Miller by phone: 301-891-7614 or email: DavidM@Takomagov.org. You can also contact him to request collection once you have your leaves raked out. (You do not need to request collection, crews will be working throughout the zones Monday through Friday collecting raked out leaves as rapidly as they can.)

Collection for other yard materials is available through the regular Monday yard waste collection program. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than 4 feet long and less than 3 inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in piles. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled on weeks with a Monday holiday.

Leaf Collection Basics

- Collection will occur continuously from Nov. 1 to Dec. 10.
- Residents can rake leaves at their convenience, there is no assigned collection day. (However, the major traffic streets in the City will have assigned collection days.)
- Residents should place leaves inside the curb, free of branches and debris.
- Streets Will Not be posted with collection signs.
- Collection crews will collect leaf piles in November.
- The right of ways and curbside will be thoroughly raked in December.
- Vacuum leaf collection will end December 10, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.

Tool Library Reopens

The City’s Tool Library has reopened and will operate Tuesdays and Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The phone number is 301-585-7181. The facility, which lends home repair tools without charge, is located at 16 Ritchie Ave. adjacent to City Public Works facilities. For further information contact Public Works at 301-891-7633, or check the City’s Web site www.cityoftakomapark.org.

Worried About Terrorism? Check City’s Emergency Preparedness Plan

Did you know that the City of Takoma Park has an Emergency Preparedness Plan? It can be found in the Takoma Park Maryland Library and on the City’s Web site (visit www.cityoftakomapark.org and click on “Emergency Preparedness”). This plan includes tips for preparation, such as the following from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Citizens Corps – an initiative to promote grassroots preparedness for all kinds of emergencies:

- Develop a household disaster plan — have a household meeting to discuss what members would do and how they would communicate in the event of an incident;
- Be sure to have a battery-operated radio and extra batteries to stay informed;
- Have a list of emergency contact numbers, including fire, police, and hospitals, near the phone;
- Review and practice evacuation plans;
- Learn about community sheltering resources and how to shelter in place;
- Check with school officials to determine their plans for emergency procedures;
- Apartment residents should discuss emergency procedures with building managers;
- Contact neighbors to discuss their plans and needs and how you can help each other;
- If you have special needs, be sure to discuss your plans with family, friends, and employers;
- Be observant of any suspicious activity and report it to authorities;
- Exercise caution when traveling; and
- Schedule a course in first-aid training and CPR and work with your local fire department, emergency managers, and law enforcement to help expand CERT training in your community.

Other great resources can be found on the Montgomery County Website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov. For example, this site provides links to the Red Cross, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There are many resources out there to assist residents with planning for an emergency and how to recover.

Residents without Internet access at home are reminded that the Takoma Park Maryland Library offers patrons public access to computers. Please call 301-891-7259 for more information.

Takoma Park Writers, Write On!

The City Newsletter is looking for a few good writers. If you’re interested in Takoma Park, its issues and people, this is an opportunity for you to dig into those fascinating recesses and get published as well. We can even pay writers a small amount. While we welcome people with news-writing experience, we’re also willing to talk to new journalists who are willing to do the work.

Contact the Newsletter editor at tpnweseditor@takomagov.org or at Takoma Park Newsletter, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.
How Stormwater Becomes Pollution

By Ali Khalilian
City Engineer

First in a series on managing stormwater

Few people spend much time worrying about storm runoff unless they come home to a flooded basement, back yard or ruined landscaping. The City’s stormwater sewer network is intended to convey runoff discharging into Sligo Creek. Pollution control of water resources as well as prevention of flooding are important challenges facing all urban areas and our City is no exception.

Better understanding of the stormwater issues by City residents will facilitate the reduction of home flooding incidents, protection of the City’s stormwater system, and ultimately improvement of our precious natural water resources.

Urban developments continue to greatly affect quality of Maryland waters, hence increasing the importance of our role in minimizing such adverse impact. New building construction, home additions and other “improvements” are integral ingredients of urbanization and growth.

But a closer look at the land development process reveals that in any development several stages take place that clearly change the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff after a rainfall. “Clearing and grubbing” of a site in preparation for construction means the removal of trees, meadow grass and crops that naturally intercept and absorb rainfall takes place. Site grading then fills the natural depressions that create small ponds, delaying and reducing the amount of “run-off.” Natural slopes are then re-graded to create uniformly compacted slopes that absorb less of the rainfall and increase quantity and velocity of the stormwater run-off, potentially causing erosion and flooding.

The second stage of development entails construction of “impervious areas” such as rooftops, roads, parking lots, and driveways, which are constructed using products that are less pervious and driveways, which are constructed using products that are less pervious.

Such surfaces contribute to deterioration of our water resources.

When considering the combined effect of flooding and pollution of water resources, as a result of urbanization, the importance of “stormwater management” challenges and solution become clear. Managing stormwater through construction and maintaining facilities to infiltrate, filter, detain or retain the stormwater to prevent flooding and remove pollutants and to protect stream bank are collectively referred to as stormwater management practices.

The major factor contributing to quantity of storm run-off is the amount of impervious surfaces located on your property. Stormwater quality is affected by accumulated pollutants over the entire surface area including, grassed lawns. Structural and nonstructural stormwater management techniques are aimed at intercepting runoff from developed areas, filtering and treating this water, and then releasing it at a controlled rate.

As the use of chemicals around a household -- such as fertilizers, pesticides, engine oils, de-icing materials and similar products -- increases, the quality of runoff into the stream worsens. While the effect of one home on the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff may seem insignificant, the collective effect of thousands of households significantly contributes to deterioration of our water resources.

But wait, there’s more!

This article is the first in a series on stormwater issues presented by the Office of the City Engineer in the City’s Department of Public Works. For more information, see “Stormwater Conservation in Your Backyard” on the Web site of the Maryland Department of the Environment (www.mde.state.md.us).

COLTA’s Corner

By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

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

7520 Maple Ave. (2004-61L)
On Sept. 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from $67.70 to $133.99 on six units at the property. The improvement included replacing the balconies. Because some of these increases were over 15 percent, they will be phased in over a term of more than one year until the full increases have been taken.

8020 Willow Ave. (2004-64L)
On Sept. 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from $2.91 to $6.87 on all three units at the property. The improvements included replacing a hot water tank and grill.

8400 Flower Ave. (2004-69L)
On Sept. 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from $2.30 to $3.19 on two units at the property. The improvement included installing dedicated circuits for air conditioners.

650-662 Kennebec Ave. (2004-71L)
On Sept. 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for $5.16 on a unit at the property. The improvement included installing a 40-gallon hot water heater.

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

Throwing a curve: on 7300 block of Willow Ave., Public Works tailors the sidewalk to protect tree roots.
Speak Your Piece: Purple Line or Buses Through Takoma Park?

By Suzanne Ludlow
Community and Government Liaison

Public “open house” style meetings are scheduled to be held in November on the possible route and station locations of the Bi-County Transitway, or “Purple Line,” as it was formerly known. Takoma Park and the surrounding neighborhood, he added.

County Seeks Easier Hospital Expansion

Continued from page 1

Takoma Park City Council has gone on record as supporting a light rail system, rather than bus rapid transit, as supporting a study of the Sligo Ave. and Wayne Ave. routes to help determine the better route. The City Council also supports stations at Long Branch and Takoma/Langley Crossroads. At this early stage of study, the Wayne Ave. route appears to have more room for a transitway, while the Sligo Ave. route could impact more homes along Sligo Ave. and Piney Branch Road. The Maryland Transit Administration will use the comments at the November public meetings to help them finalize the list of alternatives they will take to detailed study. As part of the federal transportation evaluation process, the MTA needs a number of alternatives to study. The detailed study will identify specific properties that could be affected by each alternative, as well as cost and ridership estimates of the various routes.

More information on the public meeting and routes can be found by calling Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229 or going to the City of Takoma Park’s web page: www.cityoftakomapark.org. Then click on “Purple Line or Bi-County Transitway” on the Current Issues list.

Whose Idea Is This?

Guglielmo Marconi had a dream. He wanted to transmit radio signals across the Atlantic Ocean. But the idea of wireless communication was scoffed at by scientists, engineers, and even Marconi himself. It seemed like a wild notion that would never become reality.

But Marconi was determined. He believed in his idea and worked tirelessly to make it a reality. He built his first wireless telegraph system in 1896 and began transmitting signals over short distances. The next step was to transmit signals across longer distances.

In 1901, Marconi sent a signal from South Bristol, England to Poldhu, Cornwall, a distance of about 20 miles. This was a significant achievement, but it was still not enough for Marconi. He wanted to prove that wireless communication could work on a much larger scale.

In 1902, Marconi successfully transmitted signals across the Atlantic Ocean. He sent a signal from St. John’s, Newfoundland to wireless stations in England, a distance of about 1,600 miles. This was a huge accomplishment and it proved that wireless communication was a viable technology.

Marconi’s success inspired others to pursue wireless communication. The idea of radio broadcasting was born and it revolutionized the way we communicate with one another.

Marconi’s dream became a reality because of his determination and perseverance. He believed in his idea and worked hard to make it a reality. His story is a testament to the power of belief and the importance of pursuing our dreams.

So, who is the real “idea person” in this story? Marconi, of course. He was the one who believed in the idea and worked hard to make it a reality. He is the one who is truly deserving of credit for making wireless communication a reality.

Whose Idea Is This?

Marconi
**RECREATION**

Lend A Hand

Do you need your leaves raked or snow shoveled? Any side jobs that you have been meaning to get to, but just cannot find the time? We have the answer. Help is on the way, courtesy of the Takoma Park Recreation Department! The Lend A Hand Program, led by Xavier Morales’s and Steven Winston, provides all sorts of lawn maintenance and home care for Takoma Park residents. Our staff can complete jobs on Saturdays and Sundays under Mr. Morales and Mr. Winston’s supervision. Call today for more information and keep our phone number handy. An estimated price will be worked out by Mr. Morales or Mr. Winston. Call to make an appointment at 301-891-7285.

Tae-Bo

Ages 16 and up

Tae-Bo is a combination of the ancient arts of self-defense, dance, boxing and great music. Tae-Bo will get you from here (tired, out of shape) to there (healthy, happy) in no time.

**Session 2**

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Nov. 9 - Dec. 21

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

Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Resident $60

Non-Resident $84

No class Nov. 25.

**Winter Y.E.S. Basketball League**

**Grades 7 - 12**

Winter Y.E.S. Basketball League is back for an extended engagement! Just like our classic summer league, Winter Y.E.S. provides all the ballers out there a great hoops program at a great price. Each player MUST attend one scheduled evaluation workout in order to play. Get your game on.

When: Nov. 29 - Feb. 24, 2005

**Workout Dates:**

7th - 9th grade: Monday, Nov. 29 & Dec. 6 (6 - 8 p.m.)

5th, 6th grade: Tuesday, Dec. 7

10th - 12th grade: Wednesday, Dec. 1 & 8

Thursday, Dec. 2 & 9

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (except as noted)

**Regular Season:**

7th - 9th grade: Tuesdays, Dec. 14 - Feb. 8, 2005

No games Jan. 25.

Games will be played on Wednesdays, Jan. 26, 10th - 12th grade: Thursdays, Dec. 16 - Feb. 10

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Playoffs:**

7th - 9th grade: Feb. 15, 16, 24, 2005

10th - 12th grade: Feb. 17, 18, 24, 2005

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road

Fee: T.P. City Resident $20

Non-Resident $25

No program on Dec. 28, 30.

Weren’t coach volunteers! Call for more details. Mandatory Coaching Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave. The 7th - 9th grade draft will be held Friday, Dec. 10. The 10th - 12th grade draft will be held Monday, Dec. 13, at the Municipal Building.

**Kindermusik Village**

**Ages newborn-1 1/2**

This class is for lap babies, crawlers, and walkers accompanied by a parent or care giver. You will be introduced to multiple levels of activities appropriate for the different stages of development in this age range. A required $27.95 materials fee to be paid to instructor on the first day of class. Materials include: a baby’s literature book, baby’s home journal, Home CD, Art Banners, and Storage/Carry bag. Eight Weeks. Limited to twelve children, minimum of four.

When: Session 1 - Tuesday, November 16-January 11, 2005 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Session 2 - Wednesday, November 17-January 12, 2005 9:30-2:45 p.m.

Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue.

Fee: T.P. City Resident $80

Non-Resident $85

**Costume Contest**

**All Ages**

The FREAKS come out in the afterward! 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: Approximately 6:30 p.m., immediately following the parade.

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 6:30 p.m., immediately following parade.

Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7610 Maple Ave.

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 p.m., immediately following parade.

Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7610 Maple Ave.

Fee: Free!

**Fun Days 2004**

The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips for children on half days and all day school closings. Participants will meet at the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave. and the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7215 New Hampshire Ave. On half days only, children attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up in the cafeteria and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Trips are subject to cancellation if minimum registration is not met. Children may bring snacks on half days and must bring a lunch on all-day Fun Days. This schedule is subject to change.

*A late pick-up charge of $10 per 15 minute intervals will be charged after scheduled pick-up time. This late charge must be paid in cash to the attending staff at the time of pick-up.*

**Date**

**Trip**

- **#4,** Monday, Nov. 1
- **#5,** Tuesday, Nov. 2
- **#6,** Wednesday, Nov. 3
- **#7,** Thursday, Nov. 4
- **#8,** Friday, Nov. 5

**Time**

- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Cost**

- $15
- $20
- $15
- $10
Film Festival Starts Nov. 7 in Takoma Theatre

The Takoma Park Film Festival returns in early November with an exciting array of films by professional filmmakers, students, and adults - most of whom will be on hand to respond to questions from the audience after each screening. Filmmakers and supporters are invited to an informal reception at 6 p.m. Nov. 14, following the showing of student films, with refreshments and remarks by Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane and invited guests. This year for the first time the festival will be held in the historic Takoma Theatre at 6833 Fourth 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, with support from The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library and Bittner Design.

Sunday matinee: Nov. 7 2 p.m.
“Women of K2” Jenny Apostol 50 min.
“Mr. Justice Brennan” Barr Weissman 60 min.

Sunday night: Nov. 7 7 p.m.
“Radical Harmonies” Dee Moshbacher & Boden Sandstrom 80 min.

Thursday evening: Nov. 11 7:30 p.m.
Art films
“Light Does Not Dilute” Jeannine Mjoen & Steve Hilmy 4 min.
“Morning Tale” Alonzo Crawford 30 min.
“Sipay Khorlo: Wheel of Life” Liz Smith 8 min.
Lobsang Samten, a former Buddhist monk, shares his sandbox painting art with the children of Helena, Montana.
“View from the Street: The Art of Lily Spandorf” Barr Weissman 30 min.

Saturday evening: Nov. 13 8 p.m.
Activist films
“Pills, Profits, Protests” Shanti Avirgan 60 min.
“We are all Smith Islanders” Mark Cohen & Mike Tidwell 35 min.
“Tree Rings” Liz Smith 8 min.

Student Films
“Night of the Napkins” Julian Boilen; Annie, Sam & 4 min.
“Messed Up Fairytale” Clare Harper, Eloise Potterfield 6 ½ min.
“Kitchen Concoction” Rosie Kaller & Andrea Lynn (Age 14) 11 min.
“Home Away from Home” Avi Edelman ( grade 9) 20 min.
“Damien” Danny Powell ( grad student) 6 min.

Sunday Matinee: Nov. 14 2 p.m.
“Fern Rigs” Liz Smith 8 min.
“We are all Smith Islanders” Mark Cohen & Mike Tidwell 35 min.
“Pills, Profits, Protests” Shanti Avirgan 60 min.

Student Films
“The Chase” Peter Lansworth (13 yrs.) 6 min.
“Damien” Danny Powell ( grad student) 6 min.
“Home Away from Home” Avi Eidelberg (grade 9) 20 min.
“KitchenConcoction” Rosie Kaller & Andrea Lynn (Age 14) 11 min.
“Legacy of Peace” Melissa Mergner (12 yrs.) 10 min.
“Messed Up Fairytale” Clare Harper, Eloise Potterfield & Sally Chang (high school) 6 ½ min.
“Night of the Napkins” Julian Boilen; Annie, Sam & Will Bolgiano; Isabelle & Trevor Hammond 4 min.
Lilly Ickow, Becca Graber & Sally Chang (high school)

“Thinporns”

Sunday evening: Nov. 14 7 p.m.
“A Paralyzing Fear” Nina Seavey 89 min.

For additional information, please call the Takoma Park Maryland Library at 301-891-7259 or check the Library page at the City website at www.cityoftakomapark.org

Library Closed Nov. 19
The City Library will be closed on Friday, Nov. 19 for some work related to Community Center construction.

Dungeons, Dragons, Monsters & Trolls: With Dave Burbank

The creative, exhilarating, and rowdy interactive storytelling of Dungeons & Dragons is now a reliable feature of the Takoma Park scene for many kids in the community (ages 8 and up) under the tutelage of Library Assistant Dave Burbank. Using themes and images borrowed from world mythology and folklore, this storytelling game involves players in a cooperative and basically non-competitive activity of the imagination.

On Monday evening, Nov. 1, Burbank will present a quick adventure for parents and educators (and other interested folks) to introduce them to the “Hows &Whats” of this fantasy storytelling game. Parent and kid teams are welcome. Bring a friend. Preregistration will help Dave plot the basis for the adventure. Call 301-891-7259.

Homework Help in The Children’s Room

Columbia Union College students are again providing homework and reading assistance in the Children’s Room after school from 3 to 6. Pierre Langford is scheduled in the room five afternoons a week, Monday through Friday. He is joined on Mondays by Luczera Peña, who is fluent in Spanish as well as English, and on Wednesdays by veteran teacher Karen Petersen.

Please call in advance (301-891-7259) to make sure that homework help is available—a “big exam” or illness may occasionally prevent the homework helper from being in attendance.

Aztec: Native American Storytelling, Song and Dance

The Thanksgiving season is now traditionally celebrated at the Takoma Park Maryland Library with a visit from Tomas Shash, spokesper- son and elder of the Aztlan Native American Cultural Arts Center in Gardner, Colo. This year’s visit from Tomas and the Aztlan dance theater group will take place in the Children’s Room on Monday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. Tomas, or “Eaglebear” as he is affectionately known by his Takoma Park fans, seeks through song, dance, and storytelling provide insight into the lives of Native American people today. The group expresses values of the Native American people and the community in which they live: respect for elders, giving a helping hand to friends and neighbors, helping mom and dad, listening to teachers, and taking care of Mother Earth.

The members of the Aztlan center are descendents of the Mimbreno Apache and the Mexican Indian people. In the past, Tomas has brought at least some of his family of nine children who are accomplished dancers and storytellers in their own right. These children are growing up fast, and Tomas is not sur which ones will be accompanying him this year!

The Friends of the Library have generously offered to pay for this special event. Please let us know you will be attending by calling 301-891-7259.

Circle Time for Preschoolers with Greta Ehrig

Circle Time for preschoolers of all ages as well as their parents, grandparents, nannies, and older siblings, is an ongoing weekly program that has sustained a loyal following for many years. Because Circle Time happens every Tuesday that the Library is open, volunteer leadership is vital for those Tuesdays when a children’s librarian is not “in residence.” This school year the library has been blessed by the gifts of Greta Ehrig on September 7 and Oct. 12. Ehrig’s next appearance will be on Nov. 16.

Greta Ehrig is an award-winning “singersongwriterpoet,” arts educator, and creativity counselor. She believes that everyone has a well of creativity just waiting to be tapped. Greta’s work has received support from the Maryland State Arts Council, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the National League of American Pen Women, the Lannan Foundation, and American University, where she holds an MFA in Creative Writing. In addition to writing and performing her own poetry and music, she is developing a preschool music curriculum (“Baby JaMS!”) and coaches both children and adults, individually and in group settings. For more information, visit www.GretaEhrig.com.

The Library and community say “Thank you, Miss Greta!”

Library Programs in Late October through November

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

Thursday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.
School-age children through adult

D & D for Parents & Educators

(and other big kids)
with Dave Burbank, D.M.
Monday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.
(See story)

Tomas “Eaglebear” Shash

Monday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
all ages (See story)

Fall Session of the Twosies

two year-olds with parent/caregiver

group size limited; preregistration required at 301-891-7259.
Wednesday at 10 a.m. Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10

Neighborhood Circle Time

to all preschoolers & their adults

Informal sing-alongs, poetry, finger games, and nursery tales, with participant-leadership welcome.

Call 301-891-7259 to preregister for programs or for more information.

Special Circle Time with Greta Ehrig

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m.
(See story)
The following report is excerpted from the blotter of the Takoma Park Police Department, prepared by Lt. Richard C. Girgory. It is not intended to include all reported crimes and arrests.

**THE CRIME REPORT**

**Robberies**

Carroll Ave. and Manor Circle: On Sept. 28 at 6:05 p.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. The victim, an adult female, was walking when a subject approached her from the opposite direction. The subject asked for money. Upon her refusal, the suspect grabbed the victim’s purse and ran. The victim was not injured.

**Indecent Exposure**

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On Sept. 26 at 4:32 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A hole was cut in a wall of the business from an adjacent exterior hallway in order to gain entry. No property was taken.

University Blvd., 1100 block: Between Oct. 2 at 9 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 11 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. Entry was gained through a back door. Property was stolen.

**Auto and Related Theft**

Sligo Mill Road, 4600 block: Between Sept. 20 at 2:53 p.m. and Sept. 21 at 2:02 a.m., a 1999 Honda Accord was stolen.

Maple Ave., 7700 block: On Sept. 26 at 11 a.m., a 2002 jeep Liberty was stolen. The owner’s keys had been stolen previously and were used to steal the car.

**Burglaries**

Holly Ave., 7200 block: On Sept. 17, between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A door in the rear of the home was forced open in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On Sept. 26 at 4:52 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A hole was cut in a wall of the business from an adjacent exterior hallway in order to gain entry. No property was taken.

University Blvd., 1100 block: Between Oct. 2 at 7:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., a 2003 Dodge Dakota was stolen.

**THE FIREHOUSE REPORT**

**Unsafe Cooking Is the Leading Cause of Home Fires**

- Keep cooking surfaces clean.
- Hang curtains, pot holders, and dish towels at least three feet from the stove.
- Cook with the lowest effective heat.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Supervise children in the kitchen at all times.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.

**If Fire Breaks Out**

If a fire starts in your home, you must be able to respond. You cannot assume that everyone in the family will know what to do unless you have planned for it.

- Be sure. Create a safe escape plan and practice it at least twice a year. Include these points:
  - Identify two exits from each room, especially the bedrooms.
  - When the smoke alarm sounds, immediately head for the door. Do not stop to investigate or gather possessions.
  - Crawf with your head 12-24 inches above the ground to stay under the smoke. Move quickly.
  - Test doors for heat by touching the back of your hand. If you feel any heat, don’t open the door.

- Use your back exit.

**ARRESTS**

University Blvd., 1100 block: On Sept. 17 at 12:40 p.m., criminal citations were issued to an adult male for possession of controlled dangerous substances (CDS) or drugs and possession of CDS paraphernalia. A traffic citation for driving while suspended was also issued.

New Hampshire Ave., 7100 block: On Sept. 18 at 5:30 p.m., an adult male was charged with destruction of property.

Maple Ave., 7800 block: On Sept. 20 at 1:05 p.m., an adult male was arrested at an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Flower Ave., 8100 block: On Sept. 22 at 3:45 a.m., criminal citations were issued to an adult female at an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Flower Ave., 7800 block: On Sept. 22 at 1:40 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while impaired by alcohol.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On Oct. 4 at 11:15 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with carrying with concealment a deadly weapon and trespassing.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On Oct. 5 at 8:50 p.m., two adult males were arrested after officers stopped their vehicle for a traffic violation. They were each charged with possession of CDS and possession of CDS paraphernalia.

Maple Ave., 7500 block: On Oct. 5 at 5:25 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with a 4th degree sex offense.

Carderock Ave., 7700 block: On Oct. 7 at 10:20 p.m., a warrant was issued by Takoma Park Police for an adult male, charging him with three counts of armed robbery, one count of attempted armed robbery, and two counts of 2nd degree assault for incidents with multiple victims which occurred at businesses in the 700 block of Carroll Ave. on Sept. 23 in and the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave. on Oct. 3. The suspect is presently in the custody of D.C. Metro Police, pending charges there.

Maple Ave., 7800 block: On Oct. 8 at 9:15 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for fraudulent identity to avoid prosecution, false statements made to police officer and driving under the influence.

Maple Ave., 7700 block: On Oct. 8 at 10:15 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Prince George’s County for failure to appear in court on a theft over $500 charge.

Lee Ave., 100 block: On Oct. 9 at 4:26 p.m., an adult female was arrested on an open warrant for a 1st and 2nd degree assault that occurred in Takoma Park on Sept. 28.

University Blvd., 900 block: On Oct. 9 at 2:39 a.m., an adult male was arrested after officers responded to a call for disorderly subjects. He was charged with possession of weapon (handgun), resisting arrest and false statement to a peace officer.

Carderock Ave., 6600 block: On Oct. 9 at 2:18 a.m., two juvenile males were arrested and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and possession of CDS.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On Oct. 10 at 7:15 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of theft over $500.

Flower Ave. and Sligo Creek Parkway: On Oct. 11, an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated, after a routine traffic stop.

Maple Ave., 7800 block: On Oct. 11 at 11:06 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Montgomery County for failure to appear in court on a charge of theft.

**CPR for Family and Friends**

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will offer free CPR classes at the fire station starting on Sunday, November 7, 2004, from 1-5 p.m.

- 1-3 p.m.: Adult CPR and Choking procedures.
- 3-5 p.m.: Infant and Child, with hands-only procedures.

Note to nurses, health providers, etc.: you will not receive certification.

To register: CPR@TakomaParkFire.org or call the fire station at 301-270-8209.

**Let’s Boo-o-o-o C a r e F u l l y O u t T h e r e !**

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be little tricky. Concerns about children’s safety — whether they are out in the neighborhood or back home with bags of booty — can darken the day more quickly than a black cat. But not to worry! To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips:

- Check that the costumes are flame-resistant so the little ones aren’t in danger near burning jack-o’-lanterns and other fire hazards.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and, more importantly, they can obstruct a child’s vision—a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down stairs.
- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.
- Trick-or-treaters always should be in groups so they aren’t a tempting target for real-life goblins. Parents should accompany young children.
- Take along a flashlight.

A Special Note: Day Light Saving Time — When you change your clocks, don’t forget to change the batteries in all of your smoke alarms.
Don’t Gamble With Your Car

COP Team Encourages Crime Prevention

Reports of motor vehicle thefts thus far in 2004 have declined compared to last year. Takoma Park Police have taken 30 percent fewer auto theft reports this year than they did in the first nine months of 2002, which recorded the highest number of vehicle thefts in 10 years. Despite this slightly encouraging trend, the TPPD COP Team, led by Sgt. Kurt Gilbert, devoted October, “Crime Prevention Month,” to an educational campaign on auto theft deterrence.

Almost none of the cars reported stolen this year were using any anti-theft device. Several owners reported they own an alarm or steering wheel lock but weren’t using it when the car was taken. At least 60 percent of the owners reported the vehicle was not locked when it was stolen. About 18 percent of the cars stolen last year were taken using an owner’s key.

The “Don’t Gamble With Your Car” campaign began with the “Maryland Hot Car” visiting the City the first week-end of October. This bright yellow Dodge Neon is outfitted with every form of auto theft deterrence, from vehicle identification number etching and a steering wheel “club” to the LoJack system. Steering wheel locking devices, commonly known as “the club,” are being offered for sale at $10 to City residents, while supplies last. The “Watch Your Car” registration continues to be open. Through this national program residents apply a decal to their vehicles which shows the car is not normally driven between 1 and 5 a.m.

Working within the department, the COP Team arranged roll call training for officers on detection of stolen vehicles. Midnight patrol officers checked on whether residents are securing their vehicles, with special emphasis on neighborhoods and car models with the highest theft rates. Sixty percent of police vehicles are impounded for suspects. The state requires every officer to attend a minimum of 18 hours of part of the required in-service training. One of the most dangerous aspects of an auto theft, the handcuffing technique should improve officer safety as well.

Almost none of the cars reported stolen in 2003, about one-fifth of the 176 auto theft reports for suspects. The state requires every officer to attend a minimum of 18 hours of training annually in addition to firearms training and qualification.

Charges Brought in Multiple Robberies

Takoma Park Police on Oct. 7 obtained a warrant for the arrest of a D.C. man for two robberies in the city. The 26-year-old man will be charged with two counts of armed robbery, one count of strong-arm robbery, one count of attempt armed robbery, and two counts of second-degree assault.

Four charges stem from an evening robbery on Sept. 23, during which a Carroll Ave. shop and a customer were robbed by a suspect who implied he was armed. The second incident was the robbery of a business in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., the evening of Oct. 3. The suspect was arrested. Oct. 6 by Washington, D.C., police on an unrelated warrant, and interviewed by Takoma Park Det./Cpl. Andrew John. Based on investigation, the man also was charged with five robberies in Washington, D.C., and may face similar charges in adjacent jurisdictions.

While investigating recent robberies in a Takoma Park commercial area, TPPD detectives had made routine contact with neighboring jurisdictions during which the man emerged as a suspect.

“We appreciate the cooperation of several law enforcement agencies, especially the Washington Metropolitan Police, which culminated in these charges,” said Lt. Richard Clipper, the TPPD commander of investigations.

The suspect, at no fixed address, is currently detained by the DC Department of Corrections. Investigations continue regarding several robberies in the Old Town commercial and residential areas that began in mid-July.

Making a Complaint Against an Officer

Any resident or citizen may make a complaint against a police officer for misconduct, unattentive treatment, and policy or procedure violations, among other inappropriate behavior. The complainant should first talk with the on-duty supervisor, who will discuss Departmental policy as it relates to the specific incident. This may be done in person or by telephone.

If the citizen wishes to make a formal charge, a Citizen Complaint Form (available in English or Spanish) is provided. The supervisor is responsible for making sure the form is completely filled out, legible, and signed. A photocopy will be given to the citizen.

A charge alleging brutality must be filed within 90 days by an individual with first-hand knowledge of the event. Also, such complaints must be notarized; administrative staff can provide notary services during normal business hours.

Complaints alleging corruption, brutality, improper use of force, breach of civil rights and criminal misconduct are conducted by Criminal Investigations detectives. Others are reviewed by DIvision Commanders or other supervisory staff.

Investigation of a complaint should be concluded within 30 to 60 days, depending on the type of complaint. Investigations will be postponed until conclusion of any court case, if the event involves one. Interim reports are required periodically for uncompleted investigations. Investigations are conducted in accordance with the Law Enforcement Officer’s Bill of Rights. The Professional Standards Manager, currently Capt. Edward Coursey, supervises the complaint process, including notification of the citizen at the investigation’s conclusion.

If a complaint pertains to acts of race, national origin, sex or other protected class discrimination or harassment, the citizen may also contact Karen Hampton, the city’s EEO Representative, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912, telephone 301-891-7101. The Professional Standards Manager will review any complaint believed to have been made falsely against a police employee and contact the State’s Attorney’s office to request a review when necessary.
To Bond or Not to Bond

Continued from page 1

the interest rates at the time of the borrowing. Charles Day, Jr., the infrastructure finance program manager for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development was able to provide the City with several debt service scenarios for discussion purposes. These scenarios are summarized in the table below.

The varying principal amounts have been included in light of the desire of some Councilmembers to explore the feasibility of moving forward with the gym construction, previously estimated at $1.5 million. If a decision is made to build the gym, I’ve recommended that a re-examination of the project be undertaken to validate this prior cost estimate, as well as the necessity to address other issues such as parking requirements.

Staff and Council are looking forward to receiving your input at the Nov. 8 public hearing. If you’d like to review the City budget, you can find it at the Takoma Park Maryland Library and on the City Web site (www.cityoftakomapark.org). The Web site also provides access to Community Center construction and financial updates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Amount</th>
<th>Annual Debt Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1.0 million</td>
<td>$76,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2.5 million</td>
<td>$188,593 - $201,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3.5 million</td>
<td>$258,035 - $289,610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumptions: Term of 20 years. Issuance costs equal to 3.25 percent of the loan amount would be added to the loan amount and amortized over the life of the loan. Annual debt service includes estimated principal, interest and trustee fees.

CUC Celebrates Centennial Nov. 30, And You’re Invited

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, Columbia Union College will celebrate its 100th birthday. All events are free, and the public is invited to attend.

At 11:15 a.m. at Sligo Seventh-Adventist Church on the CUC campus, a Centennial Convocation will be held, with presentations by campus, state, and local elected officials. Then at 7 p.m. at Sligo Church at Carroll and Flower avenues, the college sponsors a free public concert featuring the New England Youth Ensemble and the Columbia Collegiate Chorale. Classical symphonic and sacred music will be conducted by John Rutter, including his thrilling piece “Feel the Spirit.” Doors open at 6:15.

And at 8:30 p.m. on the Campus Commons you’re invited to a fireside display. Come celebrate the birthday of one of Takoma Park’s most long-lived community members.

Montgomery College Planetarium Plans Star-studded Musical Shows

The Montgomery College Takoma Park planetarium will host a variety of music events and educational planetarium shows this fall and winter. The music concerts feature local area composers and musicians who play avant-garde, electronic, new age, folk, and other genres of music, accompanied by lasers and the planetarium sky projector.

The lectures and planetarium shows are led by Dr. Harold Williams, an astrophysicist, adjunct professor at Montgomery College, and director of the planetarium. All events are free and open to the public.

“Astrolabes,” on Saturday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., will explore the original astronomical computer used for navigation and timekeeping.

The musical group Club Foot Whiskey with IKA, acoustic singer-songwriter, performs Saturday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m., the group Mind Over Matter/Music Over Mind will entertain. “The Winter Solstice”—the day of the sun’s return—is the topic for Tuesday, December 21, 7 p.m.

The planetarium shows 1,834 naked-eye stars, the Milky Way (the diffuse band of light caused by the disk of our galaxy), and the five naked eye planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) under a 24-foot dome with 42 comfortable chairs.

The planetarium is on Fenton Street East at the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College. It’s attached to the Science South building on the ground level.

For more information, log on to www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/planet or call 301-650-1463. For directions to the Takoma Park Campus, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu and click on Directories.

COP Program

Continued from page 9

problems, said Conrad. “I can give them materials [related to crimes] and they can disseminate it [to their tenants].”

Although the COP team handles different issues ranging from neighborhood disputes that require conflict management to vehicle thefts, they’re not always police issues—situations which are community life issues, according to Conrad.

Bruce Moyer, a member of the Department of Neighborhood Safety and Community Organization (WACO), says his community vigilantly works to reduce crime in his neighborhood. For example, when crimes occur in the City, and the police have sent out an alert, Moyer or Elizabeth Keys, the second WACO, will immediately distribute the information to an e-mail list that reaches more than 200 homes in the WACO area. They also conduct street patrols, which canvass the neighborhood every Monday through Thursday for any unusual patterns. If one patrol member sees a non-working streetlight, a call is placed to PEPCO asking them to repair the light.

“By doing this, we’re telling thieves we care about our neighborhood,” said Moyer. “The community has primary responsibility for protecting their own way of life,” said Gayle Fisher-Stewart, vice-chair of PSCAC.

“We are our own police,” said Fisher-Stewart, a former captain of District of Columbia police.

Fisher-Stewart said residents should implement safety strategies both in the community such as walking without using earphones or a cell phone, and parking in well-lit areas. At home, residents can implement other precautionary strategies, such as trimming the shrubbery around the home.

Most importantly, Keleman, Moyer, Fisher-Stewart, and Conrad agreed that more NSC members need to be involved in the community. Businesses, civic associations, churches, and schools should also have Neighborhood Safety Contacts.

To become a Neighborhood Safety Contact, or for more information, contact Gayle Fisher-Stewart at 301-589-7532, or Andy Keleman at 301-270-0314. Interested persons can also call the following COP team members:

• Sgt. Kurt Gilbert, supervisor: 301-891-7124; kurt@takomagov.org
• Ofc. Tina Smith, Vor Victor sector: 301-891-7103 ext. 5615; tinas@takomagov.org
• Ofc. Cyndy Conrad, W or William sector: 301-891-7101 ext. 5682; connad@takomagov.org
• Ofc. Joe Butler, X or Xray sector: 301-891-7107 ext. 5629; josephb@takomagov.org
• Rudy Rice, nuisance abatement specialist: 301-891-7101 ext. 5641; rudy@takomagov.org

Sector Specialists not only addresses chronic concerns, but they are also available to participate in community meetings or events. Business owners can also request commercial security surveys for their businesses.

Holidays Start Early With Folky/Jazzy/Indie Concerts

Get an early start on the holidays! The Institute of Musical Traditions, based at the House of Music Traditions in Takoma Old Town, presents the 5th Annual Al Petteway, Amy White and Robin Bullock Christmas Show on Dec. 6.

The concert start will be 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New Hampshire Ave. Tickets are $14 in advance, $17 at the door. For more information, contact 301-754-3611, or go to www.imtfolk.org.

New Age/folk duo Al Petteway & Amy White join forces with Celtic/ African multi-instrumentalist Robin Bullock for a special evening of seasonal, traditional and original music. The concert will feature many tunes from their recording on the Dorian label, “A Midnight Clear.” This CD combines ancient carols and wassails with original acoustic compositions.

Robin Bullock is a founding member of the INDIE Award-winning acoustic trio Helicon and an alumnus of trailblazing Celtic groups the John Whelan Band and Greenfire. Multi-instrumentalist Robin Bullock is recognized as one of the few musicians who can so successfully blend the ancient airs and dance tunes of the Celtic lands with the roots music traditions of the “New World.” A native of Washington, D.C., Robin now lives in Paris, France.

Bruce Molsky & Tony McManus

The Institute of Musical Traditions presents Bruce Molsky and Tony McManus 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New Hampshire Ave. Tickets are $14 in advance, $17 at the door. To learn more about the artists, check their Web sites at www.brucemolsky.com, and www.tonymcmanus.com.

For more information about the concert, contact Mary Sue Twohy at 202-483-1105.

Please note that this event is on a TUESDAY.

One of the most influential fiddlers of his generation, Bruce Molsky is also a remarkable guitarist, banjoist and singer. His high-spirited music melds the arctic mountain sounds of Appalachia, the power of blues and the rhythmic intricacies of traditional African music. Joining Bruce will be guitarist Tony McManus. John Renbourn describes Tony McManus as “The best Celtic guitarist in the world” though admiration for McManus extends far outside the Celtic music sphere.
When It Gets Dark Early...

In November, clocks revert to standard time, resulting in earlier darkness coinciding with rush hour. With that, street robberies tend to occur earlier in the evening and motorists need to pay greater attention to traffic. Pedestrians and motorists both need to exercise greater caution. Drivers should check for pedestrians where they are expected, exercising caution for any unobstructed pedestrian. Walkers should wear light-colored or reflective outer wear. In using “due care and caution” to avoid injury, they should not enter a street when a driver doesn’t have time to yield. Residents should review safety tips for this changing environment.

Community Participation
• Trees and bushes should be pruned to encourage light and discourage hiding places.
• Leave porch lights on at night and/or use motion-activated lights.
• Participate in a citizen patrol.

Walking Tips
• Walk on the lighted side of the street.
• Walking with attention and purpose makes one look less like a possible target of crime. “Being aware” means not using head-phones, talking on a cell phone or reading while walking.
• Try to walk with others. If you ride Metro and live in the PEN neighborhood, rely on Roscoe (near Roscoe pin (available from local residents) while riding the final car of the train to meet others willing to walk home in groups.
• Program your wireless phone for 301-470-1100, the Police Dispatch office, and carry it visible, which can demonstrate that you aren’t “alone.”
• If a situation makes you uncomfortable, go with your intuition; approach the nearest home, business or call box and call the police immediately.
• If you are arriving late at night, phone ahead for a cab to be at the Metro station when you arrive or arrange a ride with a friend or neighbor.
• Cooperate with property demands if confronted by a thief; try not to comply with travel to a different location.
• Notify the police immediately if a crime occurs to allow for visual and K-9 searches. Call boxes are located at 7205 and 7319 Cedar, 7201 Maple, and the Gazebo on Carroll. To summon police, open and push the button hard. Even if you can’t answer the dispatcher, the police will respond.

Art Gallery

Continued from page 1

The project folded and efforts were made to interest publishers in the books. Scribner & Sons, the New York publishing house, expressed interest in the books, but only as picture books. In other words, they wanted Romanek’s drawings and she became a published artist, creating her own books. One of her best known children’s books, “Teddy,” is still available at her gallery. Known for her evocative sketches of position on a lotus blossom or a sketch of the Fourth of July Parade.

Romanek had her eyes on Takoma Park. “The first day I set up, I made $800,” she says. The project folded and efforts were made to interest publishers in the books. She knew Takoma Park was where she wanted to live; saw these friendly people with their political buttons and knew that this is where she should move.” Romanek moved here in 1983.

While she has been in the city for over 20 years, her career has meant traveling up and down the East Coast to arts shows. Romanek decided last year she needed a change and opened her own gallery in Old Town. Opening the hometown location also is part of what Romanek makes her transition to “old ladyhood.”

The Old Town gallery happened by chance. Romanek had tried opening a gallery in Old Town Kensington, but found there was too little foot traffic to make the location work. Then she heard that a carpenter, Chase Clement, had rented the space in the heart of Old Town. She called Clement and asked about sharing the space. He agreed and a “fabulous relationship” was formed, Romanek says. Clement runs Carp-and-Tree (get it?), a business that combines design and renovation of houses.

Romanek is currently creating lots of new Takoma Park prints, most recently one of Summer Delights and Video American. She will soon be working on one of Mark’s Kitchen and the Middle East, and the Takoma Park Cookbook.

The gallery allows Romanek to offer the full range of her works, including her whimsical and spiritual side. One wall may show a sketch of a frog in the lotus position on a lily blossom or a sketch of a woman flying. To many she is still best known for her evocative sketches of Washington landmarks, such as the Uptown Theater, the Eastern Market and Dupont Circle.

She also has created many sketches of ballparks, even though she is not a fan. “You’ll notice that most of the pictures are from outside of the parks,” she says. Some of her all-time biggest sellers are her sketches of Cole Field House at the University of Maryland and Wrigley Field.

Romanek says she is happy to be part of the renewal of Old Town, adding that she hopes the retail area will flourish. You can view Romanek’s works at her Web site, www.enidromanek.com, which her husband, Bill Yancey, helped create. Better yet, give her gallery a visit.

City TV will air several new performances this month from the 27th Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival. Listen to Ruthie and the Wranglers performing rockin’ American Roots music plus the Unusual Suspects, combining a unique blend of folk, country and jazz. Catch the historic final performance of Beth-Allison and the Well-Strung Boys, along with Scottish Hour, a showcase of Scottish music and dance. Then listen and dance to Irish-influenced sounds from Irish Fire and heart-pounding Celtic rock by Tinsmith. Head to the South of Spain for authentic flamenco performed by Arte Flamenco, and finally, put on your dancing shoes for lively, energetic folk dances of the Middle East and Iran with Amara.

In December, City TV will begin airing performances from the 23rd Annual Takoma Park Street Festival held Oct 3. of this year. To obtain specific programming information including show listings and times go online to the City’s Web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org.

Takoma Park Newsletter

November 2004

Takoma Park City TV

November 2004

Programming Schedule

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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<td>PreSchool Focus</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
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Takoma Park City TV November 2004

Programming subject to change without notice.

Takoma Park City TV

7550 Georgia Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7118

Web: www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable

Email: cabletv@takomagov.org

For more information, visit our Web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org.
Trash Cans Return to Sligo Creek, But Numbers are Reduced

By Ethan Goffman

Trash cans have returned to Sligo Creek. The “Carry-in, Carry-out” policy that made individuals responsible for removing their own garbage was controversial from its inception in December 2003. One critic, Councilmember Heather Mizeur, called the policy an attempt to “push budget problems on the shoulders of state and local government.”

Following community protest, the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning returned many of the trash cans. On March 30, the Montgomery County Council approved a resolution to put trash cans back, although in reduced numbers.

Initially, 42 trash cans, out of an original 82, were returned to Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park, according to Ronnie Gathers, Southern Region chief of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning. Many of these are in the crucial “pocket” parks along the stream that act as havens for strollers, picnickers and swarms of children. “We did not put all the cans back,” says Gathers, “because we felt there were places where the program could work.” Additional complaints have since prompted the return of four more trash cans.

Mizeur says that, for the 2002 pilot run of the policy, “the agency’s own evaluation showed that it was a dismal failure in Sligo Creek.” Yet the larger financial picture for Montgomery County is still unclear, says Gathers, who believes that “the program has worked in a large percentage of our parks.” A more extensive cost-benefit analysis is not yet available, but is expected by December. “We’re in the process of calculating,” he explains. “There are so many variables, it’s not an easy analysis.”

County officials also defend the program’s community awareness component. “It’s not perfect,” explains Carolyn Wainwright, community services supervisor of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning. “It’s very much like years ago, when people thought that recycling was a joke.” The belief that people should be responsible for their own trash is at a similar formative stage, Wainwright says.

Wainwright explains another problem with trash cans: “Wildlife break into them and stew the contents about. “Animals in parks will litter more than humans,” she says.

Area residents, however, describe human trash as the main problem. With Carry-in, Carry-out, “we had to pick up the trash for everyone who went in there,” says Fred Levenson. He and his wife, Darlene, are members of the community environmental group Friends of Sligo Creek who live—and clean up—near the Heather Ave. portion of the stream. “Worst was the ‘dog poop in plastic bags placed where the trash cans used to be. My wife and I refused to carry that out.’ Now that the trash cans have returned, he explains, “we’re happy as little pigs in a blanket.”

If Carry-in, Carry-out has been a failure in Sligo Creek, both fiscally and in terms of community support, northern areas of the county have seen some savings. Wainwright explains that the “amount of activity” has undermined the policy around Sligo Creek, but defends the policy in less populous areas. And Levenson thinks that Carry-in, Carry-out might work elsewhere, but that because “we live in an urban area, there’s a different mentality here, it’s just munch, munch, munch, throw it away.”

Trash cans remain absent, however, in one highly trafficked Takoma Park location: Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elementary School. Howard Kohn, president of the Takoma Park Recreation Committee, describes the field, including a park immediately behind it, as “much more heavily trafficked than Sligo Creek Parkway.” It’s extensive use by school kids, mothers of preschool kids, sports teams, picnickers, and others. Residents have complained about a high density of smashed bottles, old picnic food and other trash. “Between the crows and the kids,” explains Kohn, “all of that garbage is strewn about.”

Th is is the county, not the City, that is responsible for Ed Wilhelm Park, and complaints have not filtered upward to that level. According to county parks employee April O’Neil, the county is not aware of any complaints regarding Ed Wilhelm Field.

Kohn does believe that a Carry-in, Carry-out policy could work, but only “in areas where you have essentially walkers and a minimal amount of organized activities.” Ed Wilhelm Field is, however, slated for renovation by the county some time in the next few years, which might improve the situation.

Regarding the larger trash picture, Marty Iner, a Takoma Park steward for Friends of Sligo Creek, emphasizes environmental awareness. With trash cans returned, Sligo Creek now appears cleaner, but appearances can be deceiving. “Someone walking down the path might think this is a very nice park,” says Iner, but trash lies hidden in wooded areas or lodged in the creek. “It says something about our society,” she adds, “if we can’t have natural areas that are pristine.”

Even with trash cans returned, parks official Wainwright hopes to foster environmental awareness. She asks park users to “consider taking trash with you even if there’s a trash can there. It would just help with the stewardship of our environment.”