

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

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

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November 2004

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, councilmembers 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's 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, Nov. 8, to provide the community with an opportunity to comment on this funding option. The hearing will be held as part of the regularly sched-

uled 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 expenses, 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 Sept. 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 fiscal 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

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Council Bristles at Streamlined Hospital Expansion Plan

By Bob Guldin
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

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Photo by Clyde Lassell

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 (7000D Carroll), one can see many of Romanek's prints, which reflect her own interests, such as yoga, cats, dogs, reading, community, bicycling and nature. Her subjects cover a wide terrain, including monuments, museums, restaurants, theatres, churches and schools.

The personal connection is a vital part of her art. Romanek says her sketches strike a chord in people because they spark memories of past experiences.

For the long-time Takoma Park resident, a life in the arts was meant to be. She won the art award in grammar school. Originally from Newark, N.J., Romanek

lived in Chicago for 14 years and some of her sketches recreate scenes from the windy city.

Romanek's first job was with Norcross greetings cards, where she drew the outlines for cards. Later, in one of those moments that prove pivotal, Romanek became involved in an education project in Chicago where she illustrated social studies books.

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Public Hearing Bond Funding for Community Center Completion

**Monday, November 8
7:30 p.m.**

Municipal Building Council
Chambers

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But number of containers is reduced

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CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

MONDAY, NOV. 1 - PRESENTATION, INTERVIEWS, 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 Veterans 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

THURSDAY, NOV. 25 thru FRIDAY, NOV. 26 - City Offices CLOSED in Observance of Thanksgiving

MONDAY, NOV. 29 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION

Presentation:

- Update on the Community Center Construction Project



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).

2nd Reading Ordinance #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).

1st 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 #2004-47 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, establishing the Takoma Park Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication 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, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Elrich, 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.

Trash & Recycling Collection for November Holidays

The City observes the Veterans Day holiday on Thursday, November 11. Collection routes normally picked up on Thursday will receive collection on Friday, November 12.

The City office is closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Thursday routes will receive collection on Wednesday, November 24 and Friday routes will receive collection on Saturday, November 27.

If you have any questions contact Public Works at 301-891-7633.

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 home page 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.

E-mail 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!

Leave No Leaf Behind: The City's Autumn Motto

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. Most 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 collection 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 a trash can. 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.

1. Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. Do Not rake leaves into the street. Wet leaves can create traffic hazards.
2. Pile leaves away from cars. Do Not park your car in front of a leaf pile if possible and when raking please try to avoid piling leaves where cars are parked.
3. The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. Do Not include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.
4. Do Not rake leaves near storm drains. Leaves can block the storm drains and cause flooding problems.

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

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 tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or at Takoma Park *Newsletter*, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

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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

From Your Driveway to the Chesapeake Bay 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, backyard or ruined landscaping. The City 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.

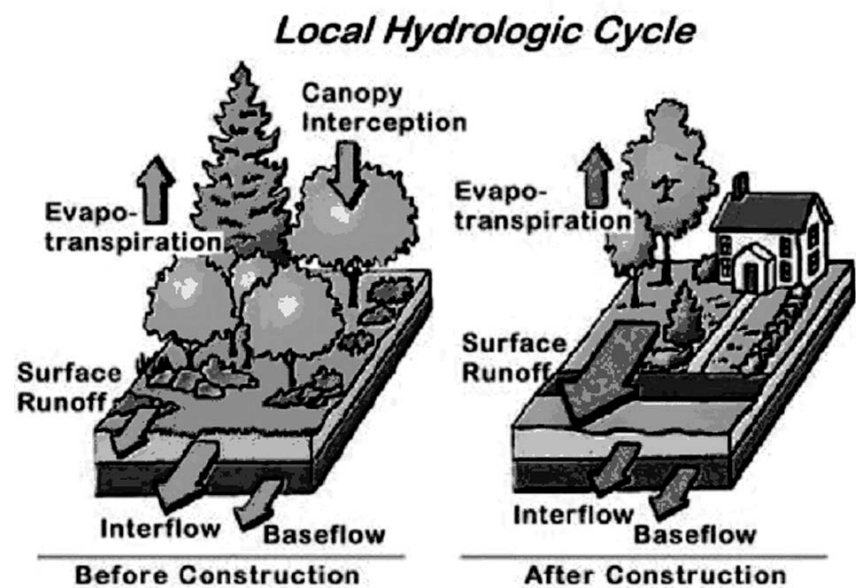
But a closer look at the land development process reveals that in any development several stages take place that clearly change the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff after a rainfall. "Clearing and grubbing" of a site in preparation for construction means the removal of trees, meadow grass and 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 than natural ground. Eventually, rain that is prevented from being soaked into the ground flows as storm runoff. The natural drainage pattern is then altered using curb and gutters, enclosed storm drains or lined channels to efficiently convey water away from development eventually discharging into the natural bodies of water (Sligo Creek in our case).

In general, run-off from rainfall increases in quantity and/or velocity as the site is developed. The quality of natural water resources is directly impacted when accumulated trash, oil, rubber from cars, fertilizers, pesticides from lawns, eroded sediments from bare ground, paint or other household products enter the streams, rivers and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

Sediment such as silt washes out from poorly vegetated areas on construction sites, enters the streams, clouds water, and blocks sunlight from submerged plants. It also settles to the bottom of the stream (when it reaches it after clogging our storm drain pipes), clogging the



gravel beds where fish lay their eggs. Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen from fertilizers when entering water promote rapid algae growth, the decomposition of which depletes dissolved oxygen needed for survival of the aquatic life. These pollutants are referred to as non-point source pollutants because they do not originate from any one point, but rather from the broad landscape. They are among the major pollutants of Maryland waters.

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 runoff is the amount of impervious surfaces located on your property. Stormwater quality is affected by accumulation of 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.

8402 Flower 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.



Photo by Clyde Lassell

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 area residents are urged to attend to learn about the options being studied and express any preferences or concerns they may have.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has scheduled the first meeting for Monday, Nov. 8 from 4-8 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center at 15th and Merrimac in nearby Langley Park. (From University Blvd., go two blocks north on New Hampshire, turn right on Merrimac, and go two blocks to 15th Ave.) The same kind of meeting will be held at the Coffield Community Center on Lyttonsville Road in Silver Spring on Nov. 15. Meetings will also be held in Bethesda, College Park

and New Carrollton.

The segment of the route that will most directly affect Takoma Park — between the Silver Spring Transit Center and the proposed Takoma/Langley Crossroads station at the intersection of University Blvd. and New Hampshire Ave. — is one of the more challenging segments of the entire Bi-County Transitway line. A light rail or bus rapid transit line is being studied to connect Bethesda, Silver Spring, Takoma/Langley Crossroads, College Park and New Carrollton. Options from the Silver Spring Transit Center east to the Takoma/Langley Crossroads station include:

- An underground route from Georgia Ave. near Sligo Ave. that would proceed under the Takoma Park community to the Takoma/Langley Crossroads station, with the possibility of an underground station near Columbia Union College and Washington Adventist Hospital.

- An underground, at-grade, and/or aerial route along Sligo Ave., Piney Branch Road and University Blvd., with possible stops at Sligo and Fenton, Piney Branch and Dale Drive, Piney Branch and Arliss, Piney Branch and University, University and Carroll.

- An underground, at-grade, and/or aerial route along Wayne Ave., Flower, Arliss, Piney Branch Road and University Blvd., with possible stops at Wayne and Fenton, Wayne near Sligo Creek Parkway, Arliss and Piney Branch, Piney Branch and University, University and Carroll.

The Takoma Park City Council has gone on record as supporting a light rail system, rather than bus rapid transit, and as supporting detailed 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 by 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.

County Seeks Easier Hospital Expansion

Continued from page 1

Ludlow, the City's community and government liaison, the site plan review would deal with the placement of buildings, trees and environmental factors. "It's more about what happens to the edges of the property," she explained.

Ludlow added that with a site plan review, the ability to raise community impact issues is much less than it is at present. "The special exception process looks at the use and its impact on the community," Ludlow said.

Councilmembers fear the new process for hospital expansion would mean less community input.

Ludlow recounted that at the Planning Board meeting, one speaker noted that of the last 35 hospital special exception applications in Montgomery County, all but one was approved.

Greg Russ, the zoning coordinator for the County Planning Department, told the Council that "the existing process needs to be modified." Under a modified site plan review process, Russ said, "the hospital is considered a permitted use in single-family zones." The County Planning Board would have the main responsibility "to maximize compatibility" between hospital and residential uses, Russ said. WAH would be prohibited from expanding into the surrounding neighborhood, he added.

Councilmember Marc Elrich was highly critical of the county proposal, on the grounds that county staff had met with hospital officials and the proposal reflected only their interests.

Councilmember Heather Mizeur said, with some anger in her voice, that the

proposed change "definitely tilts this to the advantage of the hospitals. You've just heard one side - the corporations and developers. The entire proposal is so the hospitals don't have to deal with those pesky neighborhoods any more."

Both Councilmember Bruce Williams and Mayor Kathy Porter said they understood that the current special exception process was a problem and would be willing to support changes. Porter noted, "We have wedged ourselves into the process" of hospital planning so that the City now has a voice in it.

But, the mayor said, "a site plan process in which we in the community are seen as an obstacle" is not the way to go.

Porter suggested as an alternative a "master plan process" - a long-term plan with lots of community input. "One of the problems has been that the community doesn't know what the future looks like."

In the end, when Porter asked if any councilmember wanted to offer a motion in support of the site plan review process, there were no takers.

The Long Branch Option

Three days later, on Oct. 7, the County Planning Board met to discuss the proposed change. Porter and Elrich testified from the City, and several members of Citizens for Sensible Growth, the Takoma Park group opposed to some aspects of WAH expansion, testified as well. Representatives of three hospitals — WAH, Suburban and Montgomery General Hospital — and residents around Suburban also spoke at the two-hour hearing.

The members of the Planning Board sent the matter back to planning staff for more work, which Porter described as a positive development.

Meanwhile, back in Takoma Park,

WAH has still not filed its special exception application for its multi-building expansion plan — perhaps because it's hoping that the approval process will soon change.

Planning Board chair Derick Berlage wants "to streamline the process" for hospitals.

But Robert Jepson, a spokesperson for the hospital, told the *Newsletter* that the application has not been filed because WAH is still in dialogue with the community. He noted that in response to neighborhood concerns, the hospital has changed its building plan and is looking very actively for a building site in the Long Branch area (near Flower and Piney Branch avenues).

"We're hopeful that some part of the medical services building can be built at Long Branch," Jepson said. "We have identified a site; we think it has great possibilities. As an extra benefit, it would revitalize the community there."

Jepson told the *Newsletter* that even if the county process is changed to a site plan review, the hospital would still be interested in building at Long Branch.

"We're interested in a win-win solution," Jepson said. "But we can't be in dialogue in perpetuity. At some point we're going to have to move forward."

Whose Idea Is This?

Senior county planner Greg Russ told the *Newsletter* that the idea for a new hospital planning process came from Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage, who directed staff to work on it. "We want to streamline the process," Russ said Berlage told him.

In Berlage's view, hospitals fall in a

different category than other special exceptions, because they provide a public good.

At the same time, Russ said planning staff spoke with WAH and Suburban Hospital. He added, "All the hospitals together were coming up with issues to be addressed."

Suzanne Ludlow — who as the City's community and government liaison deals with county planning processes — suggested that development of a master plan could be part of the solution for WAH. Ludlow noted, "There is a master plan for Takoma Park; it was adopted in 2000. Under that plan the hospital is endorsed, with underlying residential zoning. The master plan says any expansion needs to go through the special exception process, but it has very little detail on hospital growth."

Ludlow recommended that a small master plan, also known as a sector plan, be developed just for Washington Adventist Hospital.

Ludlow also noted that "a site plan review process does not give widespread notification — it's not what we're used to in Takoma Park." Normally, when an application is filed under site plan review, a standard notice goes out to adjoining property owners, the City and community groups. But, Ludlow said, the City would not leave it at that. "Takoma Park would be a really active part of the site plan review process."

Currently, Takoma Park has a special memorandum of understanding with Montgomery County government so that the City is very much involved in the review of changes on the hospital campus.

According to county planner Russ, the site plan review process "doesn't require the hospital to meet with the surrounding neighborhood, but it would be common sense to tell them what you're planning."

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 crack staff 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.



MAKE HALLOWEEN SPOOKY, BUT SAFE

Keep Halloween an evening of tricks, treats and fun. Falls are a leading cause of injury on this holiday and four times as many children are injured on Halloween as any other evening. Parents, children, motorists and home owners can all contribute to a safer holiday.

Homeowners & Motorists

Clear your yard of hazards that can trip youth: ladders, hoses, dog tethers and flower pots.

Pets can easily be frightened by this hectic evening; control them for their own protection.

Use battery-powered jack o' lantern candles instead of open flames; if using candles, place pumpkins well away from trick-or-treaters.

More than most nights, driving slowly is vital. Pay attention for youth who might dart from between parked cars and in the middle of streets.

Parents

Make sure children eat dinner before setting out. Accompany younger children.

Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home; agree on a route where they can be found. They should carry quarters so they can call home.

Tampering with candy is rare, but children should understand that candy should be inspected by an adult before kids consume anything.

Visit the following Web site with your children before trick-or-treating: www.halloweenmagazine.com/play.html

Trick-or-Treaters

Never trick-or-treat alone; have at least two buddies go with you and stay together.

Flame-retardant costumes and masks that fit are vital or try make-up instead.

Visit homes where the lights are on.

Cross at the corner or in a crosswalk. Walk, don't run, on sidewalks.

Accept treats in the doorway. Never go inside a home. Be cautious of strangers.

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.)
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 Wednesday, 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.

We need volunteer coaches! Call for more details. Mandatory Coaches 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 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Location: Heffner Community Center,
42 Oswego Avenue.

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

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, 7315 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	Time	Cost	
			Res.	Non-Res.
#4. Monday, Nov. 1	Baltimore Zoo & Carrie Murray Nature Center, Baltimore	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	\$15	\$20
#5. Tuesday, Nov. 2	BAPA Stage "Bunnacula," Bethesda; Duckpin Bowling, College Park	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	\$15	\$20
#6. Wednesday, Nov. 10	Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum, Dulles, Va.	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.	\$10	\$15
#7. Thursday, Nov. 11	Rollingcrest-Chillum Splash Pool, Chillum, Md.	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.	\$10	\$15

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!

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 Mosbacher & Boden Sandstrom	80 min.
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Thursday evening: Nov. 11 7:30 p.m.

Art films

"Light Does Not Dilute"	Jeannine Mjoseph & 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 sandpainting 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

"Tree Rings"	Liz Smith	8 min.
"We are all Smith Islanders"	Mark Cohen & Mike Tidwell	35 min.
"Pills, Profits, Protests"	Shanti Avirgan	60 min.

Sunday Matinee: Nov. 14 2 p.m.

Student Films

"The Chase"	Peter Lansworth (13 yrs.)	6 min.
"Damien"	Danny Powell (grad student)	6 min.
"Home Away from Home"	Avi Edelman (grade 9)	20 min.
"Kitchen Concoction"	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 (ages 9-14)	4 min.
"Takoma Park: Land of Liberals"	Ariana McLean, Leandra Tidwell, Lily Ickow, Becca Graber & Alexis Egan (high school)	20 min.
"Thingano"	Marc Nomura et al. (CUC students)	15 min.

Sunday evening: Nov. 14 7 p.m.

"A Paralyzing Fear: The Story of Polio in America"	Nina Seavey	89 min.
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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

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 Lucero 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.

LIBRARY

Aztlan: 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, spokesperson 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 descendants 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 sure 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 "singsongwriterpoet," 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

for two-year-olds with parent/caregiver
group size limited; preregistration required
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
Oct. 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, with participant-leadership welcomed.
All ages; no preregistration required!



Special Circle Time

with Greta Ehrig
Tuesday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.
(See story)

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

THE CRIME REPORT

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

Robberies

Carroll Ave. and Manor Circle: On Sept. 28 at 6:55 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 the victim a question, then grabbed the victim, threw her to the ground, grabbed her purse and fled the scene. The victim received minor injuries, but refused medical treatment.

Carroll Ave., 7000 block: On Sept. 29 at 2:12 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. A subject entered the business and spoke briefly to the female owner before demanding money from her and two female customers who had been in the back of the store. A weapon was implied. After taking money from the three victims, the suspect instructed the victims to remain in a dressing room and fled. None of the victims suffered physical injuries; however, two of the victims sought medical attention after the incident.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On Oct. 3 at 10:53 p.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. An adult female was working behind the business's counter when she was approached by a subject who asked for change. When the victim opened the register drawer, the suspect pushed her and grabbed cash from the register before running off. The victim was not injured.

Indecent Exposure

Maple Ave., 7100 block: On Sept. 29 at 9:26 a.m., an indecent exposure occurred. An adult female was in her yard when she was approached by a subject who initially asked the victim a question and then exposed himself. The victim ran to a neighbor's house. She was not injured.

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 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, 6400 block: Between Sept. 20 at 2:30 p.m. and Sept. 21 at 7:20 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.

5th Ave., 6400 block: On Sept. 27, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., a 1986 Buick Skylark was stolen.

Takoma Ave. and Baltimore Ave.: On Sept. 28, between 6:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., an attempted auto theft occurred. The passenger side door lock and the ignition of the 2001 Ford F150 were damaged in the attempt.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: On Oct. 2, between 7:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., a 2003 Dodge Stratus was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block: Between Oct. 8 at 9 p.m. and Oct. 9 at 4 a.m., a 1995 Honda Accord was stolen.

Holly Ave., 7300 block: Between Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 9 at 11 p.m., a 1997 Honda Accord was stolen.

Cockerille Ave., 6800 block: On Oct. 9, time unknown, an attempted auto theft occurred. The 1997 Ford Crown Victoria was entered through an unlocked door. The car was "hotwired." However, it was abandoned a short distance away because of a damaged rear wheel. The steering column was also damaged.

Elm Ave., 800 block: Between Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 9 at 5 a.m., a 1990 Honda Accord was stolen.

Lee Ave., 100 block: Between Oct. 10 at 4:30 p.m. and Oct. 11 at 8:45 p.m., two thefts from auto occurred. Windows of a 1990 Honda Accord and a 2000 Ford Focus were smashed in order to gain entry. Vehicle equipment, including air bags, were stolen.

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., 7500 block: On Sept. 20 at 1:05 p.m., an adult male was arrested on 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 and two adult males for possession of CDS and possession of CDS paraphernalia after a routine traffic stop.

Maple Ave., 7600 block: On Sept. 25 at 2:20 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with failure to stop after unattended vehicle damage accident, and driving while impaired by alcohol.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On Sept. 27 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 a concealed deadly weapon and trespassing.

New Hampshire Ave., 7100 block: On Oct. 5 at 8:58 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.

Carroll Ave., 7000 block: On Oct. 7, at 10:26 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 7000 block of Carroll Ave. on Sept. 23 and in 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., 7500 block: On Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for fraudulent identity to avoid prosecution, false statement to peace 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 4:36 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. 10 at 2:09 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.

Carroll Ave., 6900 block: On Oct. 10 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., 7500 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.



The Firehouse Report

As of Sept. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 933 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,817 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 2,750 incidents this year. Totals for 2003 were 1,062 and 1,912, respectively, for a total of 2,974, representing a decrease of 224 incidents.

Unsafe Cooking Is the Leading Cause of Home Fires

- Keep cooking surfaces clean.
- Hang curtains, potholders, 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 exits. Do not stop to investigate or to gather possessions.
- Crawl with your head 12-24 inches above the ground to stay under the smoke. Move quickly.
- Test doors for heat using the back of your hand. If you feel any heat, don't open the door. Use your backup exit.

- If doors are cool, open them carefully, checking for smoke and flames.
- Go directly to the safe meeting place.
- Once you are out of a burning building, never go back inside for any reason!
- One person should go to a neighbor's house to call the fire department (dial 9-1-1).

Let's Boooo Carefully Out There!

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a 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-retardant 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.

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 Choking 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.

COP Program Can't Really Work Without Community Involvement

By Elizabeth Mosely
Communications Assistant

The Community Oriented Police (COP) team has worked to serve the needs of City residents by recognizing and solving problems. Yet, there is one area that the COP team continues to struggle with - dispelling the myth that Community Oriented Policing involves only police participation. On the contrary, COP requires active participation from the community, including residents, businesses, civic associations, schools, faith-based groups and other city agencies and departments. COP is a partnership between the police and the community working together to identify, prioritize, and solve chronic and current safety issues.

"Police can't do it all," said Andy Keleman, a Neighborhood Safety Contact (NSC).

"You can't have them on every corner. You can't have them walking you to the Metro. This is the real world and there are certain things you have to be responsible for," said Keleman, who is also chair of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (PSCAC).

PSCAC 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 needs and concerns of residents in the area of police services and public safety. This 12-member committee also oversees the Neighborhood Safety Contacts, a group consisting of residents that acts as a conduit between their neighborhood and the police.

Business owners and apartment complex managers also have a role in helping to prevent or reduce criminal activity in Takoma Park.

Officer Cyndy Conrad, COP specialist for W or William sector, which includes the areas around Flower and Maple avenues, works with the apartment complex managers on Maple Ave.

Conrad meets with the managers once every two months to discuss concerns and develop strategic methods that help solve problems. The managers are also liaisons for tenants who may be uncomfortable with the police or want to remain anonymous.

"It's good that I do have the managers because I can go to them when there are

Continued on page 10

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 15 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. residents, while supplies last. The "Watch Your Car" registration continues to be open. Through this national program residents apply a decal to their vehicle 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.

In 2003, about one-fifth of the 176 auto theft reports were for attempted thefts. Of the vehicles actually taken, at least 70 percent were reported recovered, most in adjacent jurisdictions, but at least one in New York. At least 24 were taken with the owner's key, either

a car running unattended or by an acquaintance making unauthorized use of the vehicle.

Every sector of the City experiences vehicle theft. Historically, the police take between 133 and 200 vehicle theft reports per year. In the first

nine months of 2004, 116 reports have been received. To request a speaker for a citizen meeting, contact Sgt. Gilbert at 301-891-7124 or a Sector Specialist: Ofc. T. Smith, V-Sector Specialist, 301-891-7101 ext. 5615; Ofc. C. Conrad, W-Sector Specialist, 301-891-7101 ext. 5682; or Ofc. Joe Butler, X-Sector Specialist, 301-891-7101 ext. 5629.

The "Hot Car" was made available through the Maryland Auto Theft Prevention Council.

Do You Own One of These?

Top Theft Targets in Takoma Park

	2003	2004 (thru August)
Honda Accord	28	14
Caravan & Voyager	14	8
Honda Civic	12	7
Ford Crown Victoria	11	4
Toyota Camry	10	4
Jeep Cherokee	--	5

owner's key.

The "Don't Gamble With Your Car" campaign began with the "Maryland Hot Car" visiting the City the first weekend 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

POLICE NEWS

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 over 11 days 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 Cipperly, the TPPD commander of investigations.

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



Takoma Park officers spent hours recently practicing handcuffing techniques, as part of the required in-service training. One of the most dangerous aspects of an arrest, the handcuffing technique should improve officer safety as well as conditions for suspects. The state requires every officer to attend a minimum of 18 hours of certified training annually in addition to firearms training and qualification.

Making a Complaint Against an Officer

Any resident or citizen may make a complaint against a police officer for misconduct, unfair 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 Di-

vision 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 inquiries. 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 esti-

mated 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.

Principal Amount	Annual Debt Service
\$1.0 million	\$76,550 - \$83,904
\$2.5 million	\$188,593 - \$201,802
\$3.5 million	\$258,035 - \$289,610

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-day 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 fireworks 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-song writer, performs Saturday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 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 own 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 located on Fenton Street at the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College. It is 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.

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 Musical Traditions in Takoma Old Town, presents the 5th Annual Al Petteway, Amy White and Robin Bullock Christmas Show on Dec. 6.

The concert 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/American 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 with a winter-theme.

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 archaic 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.

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 neighbor disputes that require conflict management to vehicle thefts, they're not always police issues - they are community way of life issues, according to Conrad.

Bruce Moyer, a NSC member and president of Westmoreland Area Community Organization (WACO), says his community vigilantly seeks ways 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 Keyes, the second WACO NSC, 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 an hour. If a 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 a 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 measures when out 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 participants are needed to act as the eyes and ears of 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 301-589-3032, or Andy Keleman at 301-270-0314. Interested persons can also call the following COP team members:

- Sgt. Kurt Gilbert, supervisor: 301-891-7124; kurtg@takomagov.org
 - Ofc. Tina Smith, V or Victor sector: 301-891-7101 ext. 5615; tinas@takomagov.org
 - Ofc. Cyndy Conrad, W or William sector: 301-891-7101 ext. 5682; cconrad@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.

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 child or incapacitated 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 headphones, 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: wear a 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 301-270-1100, 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 the door 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 children's books. One of her best known children's books, "Teddy," is still available at her gallery.

Committed to the life of an artist, Romanek started showing her works at Chicago art fairs and print galleries. When she and her first husband moved to Washington in the late '70s, she immediately went to an art fair on the Mall. "The first day I set up, I made \$800," she recalls. While she lived in Bethesda, Romanek had her eyes on Takoma Park. "I knew Takoma Park was where I wanted to live; I saw these friendly people with their political buttons and I knew that this is where I 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 calls her transition to "old ladyhood."

The Old Town gallery happened by chance. Romanek had tried 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 Restaurant, and the Takoma Park Fifth of July Parade.

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 lotus 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 revival 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.

Takoma Park City TV Events in November 2004

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 Snapshots in November includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: Who Ya Gonna Call?
- 23rd Annual Takoma Park Street 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. Remember that all Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pickup) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are now available in DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

Takoma Park City TV November 2004 Programming Schedule

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

Programming subject to change without notice.

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

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

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 super-

visor 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 strew 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 gets extensive use by "schoolkids,



Photo by Ethan Goffman

This sign gives sound advice, but in this case at Ed Wilhelm Park, there's still no trash can to use.

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."

It 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 Itner, 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 Itner, 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."

Street Fest Photos

By Clyde Lassell

