

"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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December 2004

Council Considers Bond Options for Community Center

By Bob Guldin
Editor

Should the City of Takoma Park borrow money to complete its Community Center? That's a decision the City Council is now grappling with, and it's a tough one.

Among the questions to be resolved: Are the City's taxpayers willing to take on an additional financial burden to complete the project? Can existing expenses be cut to free up funds for the project? And if the City does borrow money, should it be a limited bond for the basic "Phase I" Community Center or a larger bond that would pay for a gym as well?

At the Nov. 15 Council meeting, City Manager Barbara Matthews suggested the City could deal with the two issues separately. That is, it could issue a smaller bond very quickly to complete the existing work on the Community Center, and then consider the question of the gym at greater length with more citizen input.

If the Council wants to consider fast action, a hearing might be scheduled as soon as Jan. 10 and a decision made by

Jan. 24. That way, the City could take advantage of a State of Maryland program that helps small jurisdictions like Takoma Park issue bonds. The program has a Jan. 28 deadline for its spring bond issuance. (Unfortunately there is no *City Newsletter* in January, so keep your eyes on other media and the City Web site for up-to-date information.)

Matthews told the Council Nov. 8 that the Community Center faces a projected funding shortfall of about \$1.7 million in order to complete Phase I, which is now under construction.

Four bond scenarios were presented: \$1 million, \$2.5 million, \$3.5 million and \$5 million. All scenarios are based on a bonding assumption of 20 years with an issuance cost of 3.25 percent, with that amount folded into the loan. The \$2.5 million bond would permit completion of Phase I and one of several proposed amenities, such as landscaping, a façade for the Library or a plaza in front of the Community Center. The \$5 million bond would fund completion of Phase I, construction of a gym, and perhaps one of the proposed amenities.

Given current borrowing conditions,

Matthews also projected how much each option would cost a City resident who owns a \$500,000 home. Each penny of a tax increase would generate approximately \$100,000. Therefore a \$2.5 million bond with an anticipated debt service of \$201,802 would cost the homeowner \$101 per year, while the \$5 million bond with an anticipated debt service of \$385,156 would cost \$193 per year. Debt service would drop annually over the life of the bond as the principal is paid off.

At a Nov. 8 Council hearing, more than 60 people testified, almost all in favor of using a bond to finish the Community Center and build a gym as well — "the whole shebang" as some called it. Many of those testify-

ing help out with recreation and youth activities, and emphasized the value of a gym in building character, creating community and keeping kids out of trouble.

Not everyone loves the notion of borrowing for the Community Center, though. The local group Sustainable Takoma is currently circulating a petition asking the City to borrow only the minimum needed to complete the current building and put borrowing for the gym up for a public referendum.

To look at the city manager's presentation on bond options, go to www.cityoftakomapark.org, and you'll find "Community Center" under "Current issues."

Takoma Underground Comes Up for Air

By Bob Guldin
Editor

Takoma Underground, the antique and junque store on Westmoreland Ave. in Old Town, has been through some hard times. That it's still in business, selling its wild combination of vintage clothing, eyeglasses, books, shaving kits, art and tchotchkes, is a tribute to the energy of the two women who run the store and the chemistry between them.

Since Takoma Underground was founded in 1996 by Nadine Rubenstein, the following disasters have befallen this emporium of funk:

1. Rubenstein's original partner (who shall go nameless) was a virtual kleptomaniac.

She stole from the store and stole from customers. On her way out, she emptied the store's bank account, leaving a \$20,000 loss behind her.

2. Three years later, Rubenstein had a terribly adverse reaction to the antibiotic Cipro, and developed an autoimmune disease plus complications. It's put her in the hospital several times and generally impairs her vitality.

3. On Feb. 2, 2004, a water main broke and flooded the Underground, which was located literally underground, in the vault of an old bank at 7000D Carroll Ave. (where Carroll does its 90-degree turn in Old Town).

As store manager Lisa Schneider describes it, "About a ton of water came into the store, burst through the ceiling and down the stairs. We had a foot of water, dolls and shoes were floating in the water, our Persian carpets turned the water red."

When the water was pumped out, Rubenstein and Schneider at first tried to clean up the store. But then mildew and mold formed (there's not much ventilation in an old bank vault), and the two women realized they'd have to move out.

While the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (aka the water company) acknowledged its responsibility

Lost in Takoma?

By Rob Inerfeld

Community Development Coordinator

Have you ever had a difficult time finding your way around Takoma Park or giving directions to a visitor to Takoma Park? Not quite sure when you are in Takoma Park?

To help motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists to better navigate their way around Takoma Park, the City is developing a system of gateway and directional signage. The signage system will let people know when they have entered Takoma Park and guide them to various destinations around the City including commercial areas, public parking facilities, educational institutions, and other municipal facilities. Other objectives of the project include enhancing the image of the City and attracting additional customers to the City's business districts.

The consulting firm of Gallagher & Associates has been working with City staff and community members over the last few months to design this signage system. Community feedback on the design and location of the signs is critical to the success of the project. Thus far, residents, business owners and other stakeholders have provided input at a community forum in October and through par-



Illustration Courtesy of Gallagher & Associates

Suggested design for "primary gateway"

ticipation in a committee that is advising the City on this project.

At this point, the people who have participated have expressed a clear preference for one out of the four sign concepts that have been presented. We would like to get your feedback on this sign concept. The sign concept below shows four kinds of signs:

- Primary Gateway: these would be installed at major gateways into Takoma Park such as the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and East-West Highway.

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Mayor & Council
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Takoma Park, MD
20912

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CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

MONDAY, DEC. 6 - SPECIAL SESSION, PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION
 Special Session: - Resolution commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Historic Takoma
 Presentation: - Update on the Community Center Construction Project
 Worksession

TUESDAY, DEC. 7 - COLTA Hearing, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

THURSDAY, DEC. 9 - Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 13 - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION
 Presentation: - Update on the Community Center Construction Project
 Regular Meeting
 Worksession

TUESDAY, DEC. 14 - Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

TUESDAY, DEC. 14 - Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (6 Grant Avenue)

(Proposed) TUESDAY, DEC. 14 thru MONDAY, JAN. 3 - City Council's 2004 Holiday Recess

THURSDAY, DEC. 21 - Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22 - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 4 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION
 Presentation: - Update on the Community Center Construction Project
 Worksession

MONDAY, JAN. 10 - PRESENTATION & REGULAR MEETING
 Presentation: - Update on the Community Center Construction Project
 Regular Meeting

TUESDAY, JAN. 11 - Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

TUESDAY, JAN. 11 - Facade Advisory Board, 7:30 p.m. (6 Grant Avenue)

THURSDAY, JAN. 13 - Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 18 - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION
 Presentation: - Update on the Community Center Construction Project
 Worksession

THURSDAY, JAN. 20 - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building Conference Room)

THURSDAY, JAN. 20 - (tentative) COLTA Hearing, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 24 - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION
 Presentation: - Update on the Community Center Construction Project
 Regular Meeting
 Worksession

*City Offices will be Closed
 Thursday, Nov. 25 and Friday, Nov. 26
 in Observance of Thanksgiving*



*City offices will be closed at 12 noon on
 Thursday, December 23 and all day Friday,
 December 24 in observance of the
 Christmas Holiday.*

Think Globally,
 Shop Locally;
 Support Takoma Park
 Businesses



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, October 25 - Regular Meeting

—Resolution #2004-52 was unanimously adopted, recognizing the contributions of Paul MacLardy (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
 —Resolution #2004-53 was unanimously adopted, authorizing Community Development Block Grant PY31 program recommendations (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur).

—1st Reading Ordinance #2004-30 was unanimously adopted, awarding a contract for construction management and inspection services for the capital improvement petition process (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).

—Resolution #2004-54 was unanimously adopted, authorizing the City Manager to sign an extension note for the Takoma Junction Loan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Mizeur).

Monday, November 1 - Special Session

—2nd Reading Ordinance #2004-30 was unanimously adopted, awarding a contract for construction management and inspection services for the capital improvement petition process (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

—Resolution #2004-55 was unanimously adopted, effecting appointments to the Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

Vacancies on Council-Appointed Committees

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

Facade Advisory Board. The 7-member board provides design and historic advisory assistance for building and business owners located in the commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides recommendations to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission regarding permit applications. (One vacancy.)

Noise Control Board. The 7-member board is charged with assisting and advising the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance, and adjudicating noise disturbance complaints. (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. (Three 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 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Senior Police Dispatcher – Provides prompt and accurate dispatching of police units; receives and disseminates emergency and non-emergency calls for service from citizens; enters and maintains records in computer systems and supervises police dispatch team. Requires H.S. diploma or GED; 1-2 years related experience; 2 years of supervisory experience & MILES/NCIC Certification. Must be able to work rotating shifts, including days, nights, and weekends. Application evaluation will involve written test and other screening tools. Salary Range: \$41,689-\$63,367 depending on qualifications; includes excellent benefits. Preferred closing date: Sept. 13, 2005. Position open until filled. Send résumé to City of Takoma Park, Human Resources, 7500 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912, or fax to 301-270-8794. EOE.

Holiday Trash Collection Schedule

There are several holidays that the City observes in December and January. Please follow the following directions to ensure you receive collection of trash and recyclables.

The City will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24. The Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday, Dec. 23.
 The City will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31. The Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday, Dec. 30.
 For Martin Luther King's Birthday, Monday, Jan. 17: There will be no Monday yard waste collection. Monday recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, Jan. 18.



Carroll Ave. Streetscape Construction To Begin in Late Winter

By Ilona Blanchard
Associate Planner

Wondering what is happening with the Carroll Ave. Streetscape Project? After all of the community design meetings last spring, Council briefings and consultations with neighborhoods and community organizations, where has the project gone?

For those who haven't yet heard about the project, the City was awarded several grants which will be used to improve the streetscape between Takoma Junction and Old Town on Carroll Ave., and on Laurel Ave. Once the project is complete, the area should be safer to walk and bike in, be more attractive, have more trees, present more opportunities for socializing in public space, and be more enjoyable to shop in.

The Laurel Ave. portion of the project now has all the construction design work completed, the necessary approvals, and a prospective contractor who will build the project. The new streetscape construction had been scheduled to begin in October of 2004; as this would have interrupted the holiday shopping season, the start date was postponed to late winter/early spring. For the duration of the construction, the Farmers' Market will be relocated, most likely to the vicinity of Willow Ave.

Laurel Ave. will have a new look: a wider commercial sidewalk and median, with decorative paving. The median will be at street level surrounded with low, complementary bollards and have protected crossing areas at both ends. Tree boxes will be larger with new trees and landscaping. The clock and statue of Roscoe will remain in

their existing prominent locations.

The Carroll Ave. residential area sidewalks and landscaping will be built on a schedule similar to that of Laurel Ave. The design has been developed with community input, has been approved by the City Council and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, and the City has had a contract to build the residential portion since last June.

However, to achieve the traffic calming and pedestrian safety objectives of the project, the State Highway Administration (SHA) needed to grant exceptions to their standards for highway design before they would consider issuing approvals. These included items such as additional crosswalks at intersections, striping narrower vehicle lanes, allowing a wider bicycle area, and adding curb extensions at intersections to narrow crossing distances and slow down cars making turns. As SHA and the City came to an agreement that will meet the project's goals late in the summer, the construction document is now nearly finished. Construction is scheduled to be initiated on the residential portion of the project in the late winter/early spring.

Construction of the commercial section of the project on Carroll Ave. has not been scheduled. In the interim, the City is working to secure additional funds to address shortfall in available resources for this section of the project.

More information on this project, including concept plans, is available at www.cityoftakomapark.org. Questions regarding the project may be directed to Ilona Blanchard at ilonab@takomagov.org or 301-891-7205.

Letter to the Editor

Seniors and Property Taxes

Ten years ago I applied to Montgomery County for a tax rebate on the property tax for my home. In response, I received a rebate of approximately \$700. Our income consisted of Social Security for my wife and myself, plus a small pension. Our income remains the same, with the addition of small cost of living increases once each year in Social Security. The pension remains the same.

This year, I again applied to the county and was granted a \$400 rebate on my \$2600 property tax bill. Apparently, the reason is that the tax rebate table has not been updated in ten years. So if I am unlucky enough to live a few more years, the tax rebate will disappear altogether.

I am now 81 years of age and feel strongly that seniors are being exploited everywhere you turn. I suggest to Takoma Park, where I have lived for 40 years, that we cancel next year's Fourth of July parade and have a senior citizens' wheelchair protest parade instead. I might remind the young people of today that they will be the senior citizens of tomorrow, so this concerns them, too.

Larry M. Murtagh
Erskine Street

The Write Stuff?

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.

Blood Pressure Testing

Washington Adventist Hospital will offer free blood pressure tests Thursday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 800-542-5096.

Deadline for Submissions: January 10
Next Issue: January 21

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

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

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

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

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



Leaf Collection Ends Dec. 10

Loose leaf collection is provided by the City from Nov. 1 through Dec. 10. The leaves are 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 has 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.

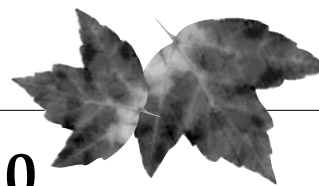
Leaf collection began Nov. 1 and will end Dec. 10. During the first half of the collection schedule the collection crews concentrated on picking up large piles of leaves. In the remaining period, the crews will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves and clean the streets and rights of way.

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, though. Crews will be working throughout the zones Monday through Friday collecting raked out leaves as rapidly as they can.)

Please follow these guidelines for vacuum leaf 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.

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.



Be Prepared for Emergencies: Food and Water

In a continuing effort to provide information for Takoma Park residents to assist with emergency preparation, the following are tips from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Takoma Park residents have seen the effects of Hurricane Isabel and ice storms in the last few years, and tornados have been nearby. FEMA recommends that families take the time to plan for prolonged electrical outages in advance of these events. Guidelines have been developed by FEMA, the American Red Cross and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Have Enough Water

Having an ample supply of clean water is a top priority in an emergency. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need even more.

You will also need water for food preparation and hygiene. Store a total of at least one gallon per person, per day. You should store at least a two-week supply of water for each member of your family.

If supplies run low, never ration water. Drink the amount you need today, and try to find more for tomorrow. You can minimize the amount of water your body needs by reducing activity and staying cool.

Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has held toxic substances. Plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are best. You can also purchase food-grade plastic buckets or drums. Seal water containers tightly, label them and store in a cool, dark place. Rotate water every six months.

Two Weeks of Food

It is generally recommended that you prepare a two week supply of food for your family.

The easiest way to do this is to increase the amount of basic foods you normally keep on your shelves. All food should be stored with increasing its shelf life in mind. Keep food in a dry, cool spot—a dark area if possible, and keep it covered at all times.

Food boxes or cans should be opened carefully so that you can close them tightly after each use.

Wrap cookies and crackers in plastic bags, and keep them in tight containers. Packages of sugar, dried fruits and nuts should be emptied into screw-top jars or air-tight cans to protect them from pests. All food should be inspected for signs of spoilage before use, and replace expired food with fresh supplies on a regular basis.

Nutrition Tips During and right after a disaster, it will be vital that you maintain your strength. You will want to eat at least one well-balanced meal each day and drink enough liquid to enable your body to function properly (two quarts a day). If activity is reduced, healthy people can survive on half their usual food intake for an extended period and without any food for many days. Food, unlike water, may be rationed safely, except for children and pregnant women.

If your water supply is limited, try to avoid foods that are high in fat and protein, and don't stock salty foods, since they will make you thirsty. Try to eat salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals and canned foods with high liquid content.

You don't need to go out and buy unfamiliar foods to prepare an emergency food supply. You can use the canned foods, dry mixes and other staples on your cupboard shelves. As you stock food, take into account your family's unique needs and tastes. Try to include foods that they will enjoy and that are also high in calories and nutrition. Foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking are best.

Individuals with special diets and aller-

Continued on next page

Alternative Gift Fair Dec. 4 Combines Fun and Consciousness

The Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair, now in its sixth year, has a different approach to the holiday gift-buying and giving circus. Yes, the fair will help you find gifts for the people on your list. And it will do it by providing gift possibilities that support social and environmental causes close to the hearts of many Takoma Park residents. These gifts will support the education of at-risk populations, provide hunger relief, protect our environment and empower people in communities right next door and the world over.

The Alternative Gift Fair will be on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 12-4 p.m. at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Maple and Tulip. Cash or checks will be accepted.

At the fair, representatives from more than 15 local, national and international charities meet with shoppers and explain the impact that the alternative gifts will have for their organization. In addition to socially and environmentally friendly gifts, the Alternative Gift Fair is a good time for the whole family. At the Gift Fair you will find refreshments, live music by local artists and children's activities.

If you have questions about the gift fair, or would like to volunteer, contact Gina Duffin at gina_duffin@yahoo.com.

COLTA's Corner



By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

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

8302 Flower Ave. (2004-5L)

On Sept. 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$2.54 to \$61.30 on six units at the property. The improvements included repairing concrete front walk, plastering and painting, replacing smoke detectors, new refrigerator and changing entrance locks.

710 Hudson Ave. (2004-6L)

On Sept. 29, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$9.51 to \$21.67 on six units at the property. The improvements included plastering and painting, tree trimming, replacing dead bolt locks, smoke detectors, installing two air conditioners with new receptacles and rewiring switch box.

712 Hudson Ave. (2004-7L)

On Sept. 29, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$4.22 to \$26.14 on six units at the property. The improvements included new refrigerator, tree trimming, replacing plumb coupling, lubricating motor and pump in boiler room, installing faucet stripped pipes,

new toilets, new grounded receptacles, sanding and finishing floors.

8308 Roanoke Ave. (2004-8L)

On Sept. 29, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$10.87 to \$48.78 on six units at the property. The improvements included plastering and painting, new stove, replacing light switch and entrance locks.

8318 Roanoke Ave. (2004-9L)

On Sept. 29, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$16.53 to \$34.39 on six units at the property. The improvements included tree trimming, plastering and painting, new refrigerators, new sink top and faucet with drain line, new stoves and installing new air conditioners.

8324 Roanoke Ave. (2004-11L)

On Sept. 29, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$.72 to \$15.56 on four units at the property. The improvements included plastering and painting, installing new auto door closing device, replacing entrance locks, showerheads, closet fixture and installing two air conditioners and rewiring box.

8326 Roanoke Ave. (2004-12L)

On Sept. 29, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$0.78 to \$26.54 on six units at the property. The improvements included installing new drop vent and flex pipe in boiler room, new laundry door and jimmy bar, replacing smoke detectors, new refrigerators, plastering and painting, and installing new storm drain.

Several improvements were disallowed for all the above properties because (1) the costs per item were under \$200 and (2) the improvements requested were done more than one year ago.

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

COLTA's Decision

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.

Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) has decided on the following case in recent months.

Chavez & Ekpenyong v. Dixon

On Sept. 29 in a case involving combined complaints regarding alleged retaliation as the basis for notices to vacate and alleged defective tenancies, COLTA issued a decision that:

(1) a tenant's role in establishing or joining a tenants association or participating in a tenants association's previous filing of a COLTA Complaint nor the tenant's filing of a written complaint against the landlord does not mean that the landlord issued a notice to vacate solely in retaliation for these acts when the tenants have a history of delinquent rent payments or allowed documented apartment overcrowding;

(2) a landlord does not create a defective tenancy when the landlord fails to make good faith efforts to respond to repair requests from the tenant in violation of both the Takoma Park Housing Code and Montgomery County Code;

(3) a tenant fails to prove that the landlord caused a defective tenancy when defects alleged in their complaint are not supported by testimony or documentary evidence;

(4) a landlord does not create a defective tenancy involving roach infestation where evidence indicates the tenant failed to maintain their apartment in a sanitary condition and the landlord provides testimony that the property was treated for roaches on a monthly basis;

(5) a landlord does not create a defective tenancy with respect to carpeting in the tenant's kitchen that was installed by the tenant and

(6) a landlord who fails to remedy defects within one week of receiving written notices of the defect shall be required to make a good faith effort to make the requested repairs within a week and to have completed all repairs within 30 days.

Housing Mailbox

How Long Does a Landlord Have?

Q: How long do I have to respond to a tenant's request to correct a problem in her apartment? She has told me she will file a defective tenancy complaint with COLTA.

A: Defective Tenancy is defined in Chapter 6 of the Takoma Park Code as any condition in a rental facility that constitutes a violation of the terms of the lease, the Landlord-Tenant Relations Law, or the Property Maintenance Code. Section 6-416 (Defective Tenancy) of the Takoma Park Code indicates that a tenant may not file a defective tenancy complaint unless the landlord has failed to correct or failed to make a good faith effort to correct a problem within one week of receiving notice of the problem. In a recent decision involving an alleged defective tenancy the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) ruled that where a landlord received notice of the problem on the 25th of the month and completed his response to the problem on the 29th of the month, this prevented the tenants from having a viable claim because the landlord had corrected the problem within 4 days of being made aware of it.

Please submit your Housing Mailbox questions to Moses A. Wilds, Jr., Landlord-Tenant Coordinator via e-mail to MosesW@takomagov.org

CITY SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS

In preparing for each winter's snowstorms, the Public Works Department is providing this information to inform residents of the City's snow response process.

For the purposes of snow and ice control, the City is divided into five zones. Each zone is assigned a snow fighting vehicle. Each zone contains three types of roadways which receive different snow removal responses.

First Response: These roads carry the most traffic and connect neighborhoods. Roadways with steep inclines are also included.

Second Response: Neighborhood streets connected to the First response streets. Roadways with slight inclines are also included.

Third Response: Small streets with few homes or courts and alleys.

City crews are first dispatched to the First Response streets. Once these roads

are passable they proceed to the Second Response areas. After these receive treatment, the Third Response streets are addressed. The listing of streets by response category follows below this article.

The goal of the City's snow response process is to have a snow fighting vehicle make at least one pass down each street within an 8 hour period during the storm. Snow fighting equipment remains in service around the clock until the roads are cleared. Often, when severe weather is on the way, the City begins anti-icing procedures on the First Response streets with salt and/or sand. Once snowfall has accumulated to an inch or more, the snow plows are put into use. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the City treats all roadways with sand and salt.

During a snow storm, the City provides snow plowing, sanding and salting on City roadways except for the following

roadways which come under the responsibilities of State Highway Administration (301-948-2477), Park and Planning (301-650-2600) or Montgomery County (301-217-2159):

Roadway	Agency
Carroll Ave.	State Highway
Flower 8600-7700	State Highway
Philadelphia Ave.	State Highway
Piney Branch Rd.	State Highway
SligoCreekPkwy.	Park and Planning

However, as City vehicles often travel these same roads, the City supplements other agencies' snow removal activities.

All residents are encouraged to remove vehicles from the roadway, if possible, during a snow storm. The fewer cars on the street, the easier it is for plows to clear the roadways. On those streets that are marked Snow Emergency Routes - like Maple Avenue - all parked cars must be removed from the street.

Please remember, that removal of snow in driveways and sidewalks is the responsibility of the resident or property owner/manager - and is required, for safety reasons, by City law. Snow shovellers are requested to place snow removed from driveways or sidewalks into their yard, when possible, and not out in the City street. Piles of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles.

The City can provide special services to residents who have health issues which require them to be able to use their street to access health care. Residents need to contact David Miller at 301-891-7614 to make those arrangements.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633 during office hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

FIRST RESPONSE ROADS:

13th Avenue
14th Avenue
4th Avenue
Allegheny Avenue
Anne Street
Aspen Avenue (off Sligo Creek)
Aspen Court
Baltimore Avenue
Boston Avenue
Boyd Avenue
Cedar Avenue
Central Avenue
Cherry Avenue
Chestnut Avenue
City Building Lot
Columbia Avenue
Conway Avenue
Domer Avenue
Dundalk Road
Elm Avenue
Erskine Street
Ethan Allen Avenue
Flower Avenue(8600-7700) west bound lane only
Flower Avenue(7700-7200)
Garland Avenue
Geneva Avenue
Glenside Drive
Grant Avenue
Gude Avenue
Heather Avenue
Holly Avenue
Holton Lane
Houston Avenue
Jackson Avenue - E.A. to S.C. Pkwy.
Kennebec Avenue
Larch Avenue
Lee Avenue

Lincoln Avenue
Maple Avenue
Maplewood Avenue
Old Carroll Avenue
Orchard Avenue
Park Avenue
Pine Avenue
Piney Branch Alley
Poplar Avenue
Prince Georges Avenue
Ritchie Avenue
Sherman Avenue
Sligo Mill Road
Takoma Avenue
Valley View Avenue
Westmoreland Avenue
Wildwood Drive
Willow Avenue

SECOND RESPONSE ROADS:

2nd Avenue
5th Avenue
13th Place
Albany Avenue
Aspen Avenue (7000)
Auburn Avenue
Belford Drive
Birch Avenue
Belford Place
Boundary Avenue
Buffalo Avenue
Carroll Service Road
Chaney Drive
Chicago Avenue
Circle Avenue
Cockerille Avenue
Colby Avenue
Cole Avenue
Darwin Avenue

Davis Avenue
Devonshire Road
Dogwood Avenue
Eastridge Avenue
Elson Place
Elson Court
Elson Street
Erie Avenue
Garland Avenue (Carroll to City Line)
Glaizewood Avenue
Greenwood Avenue
Hammond Avenue
Hancock Avenue
Hayward Avenue
Hickory Avenue
Hilltop Road
Hillwood Manor
Hilton Avenue
Hodges Lane
Hopewell Avenue
Houston Court
Hudson Avenue
Jackson Avenue (700 - 900)
Jackson Avenue (1100 - 1200)
Jefferson Avenue
Kansas Avenue
Kennewick Avenue
Kentland Avenue
Kingwood Drive
Kirklynn Avenue
Lancaster Road
Larch Avenue (N. H. to 410)
Little Eastern Avenue
Lockney Avenue
Manor Circle
Merrimac Drive
Merwood Drive
Minter Place
Mississippi Avenue
Montgomery Avenue

New York Avenue
New Hampshire Service Road
Oswego Avenue
Roanoke Avenue
Sheridan Avenue
Spring Avenue
Spruce Avenue
Sycamore Avenue
Trescott Avenue
Tulip Avenue
University Service Road
Wabash Avenue
Walnut Avenue
Woodland Avenue

THIRD RESPONSE ROADS:

1st Avenue
Alfred Drive
Barclay Avenue
Beech Avenue
Boyd Court
Cherry Avenue (off Flower)
City/Coop parking lot
Cleveland Avenue
Crescent Place
Edinburgh Lane
Elwyn Court
Freemont Avenue
Glaizewood Court
Glengary Place
Haverford Road
Hayward off Sligo Creek Pkwy
Heather Alley
Highland Avenue
Holt Place
Library Lot
Linden Circle
Margaret Drive
Palmer Lane
Ray Drive

Be Prepared

Continued from previous page

gies will need particular attention, as will babies, toddlers and elderly people. Nursing mothers may need liquid formula, in case they are unable to nurse. Canned dietetic foods, juices and soups may be helpful for ill or elderly people.

Makesure you have a manual can opener and disposable utensils. And don't forget non-perishable foods for your pets.

If the electricity goes off, FEMA recommends that you first use perishable food and foods from the refrigerator, then use the foods from the freezer. To minimize the number of times you open the freezer door, post a list of freezer contents on it. In a well-filled, well-insulated freezer, foods will usually still have ice crystals in their centers (meaning foods are safe to eat) for at least three days. Finally, begin to use non-perishable foods and staples.

FEMA and the Red Cross also recommend

that you have a prepacked Emergency Kit in case of an evacuation, and keep it in a handy place. You should pack at least a three-day supply of food and water with foods that are easy to carry, nutritious and ready-to-eat. In addition, pack these emergency items, including: Medical supplies and a first aid manual, money and matches in a waterproof container, portable radio, flashlights and a fire extinguisher, extra batteries, a blanket and extra clothing, tools such as a shovel, special items for infants and young children, and a manual can opener.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community and Family Preparedness Program and the American Red Cross Community Disaster Education Program are nationwide efforts to help people prepare for disasters of all types. For more information, please contact your local emergency management office and American Red Cross chapter or visit them on the Web at www.fema.gov and www.redcross.org.

Family Resource Center Open Houses

The Takoma Park Family Resource Center has a new home on the basement level of the TESS Service Center, 8513 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring.

Staffed by volunteers, the center offers:

- information on local parenting and children's resources in several languages;
- a lending library of parenting books;
- a small play-space for toddlers and preschoolers to use while parents access the center's resources;
- meeting space for local parenting support groups and parent education;
- large, well organized public bulletin boards to serve as a hub for the creation of new playgroups, mutual support groups, babysitting cooperatives, toy and clothing exchanges and other parent-initiated activities.

The Center will have two upcoming open houses--Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-noon and Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m. Coffee, tea, snacks and an introduction to center resources will be provided. For more information, call 1-877-400-9326 or e-mail tpfrc@onebox.org

RECREATION

Kindermusik

Kindermusik Village, Our Time and Imagine That are taught by local Takoma Park resident and mom, Becky Linafelt. For more information please feel free to call 240-353-9637 or e-mail at beckytod@aol.com.

Kindermusik Village

Ages newborn-1 1/2

This class is for lap babies, crawlers, and walkers accompanied by a parent or caregiver. You will be introduced to multiple levels of activities appropriate for the different stages of development in this age range. A required \$27.95 materials fee 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: Tuesdays, 9:45-10:30 a.m.
Jan. 11 - March 1
Wednesdays, 1:15-2 p.m.
Jan. 12 - March 2
Fridays, 9:45-10:30 a.m.
Jan. 14-March 4

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

Kindermusik Our Time

Ages 1 1/2 -3

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

When: Tuesdays, 11-11:45 a.m.
Jan. 11 - April 19
Wednesdays, 4:15-5 p.m.
Jan. 12 - April 20
Fridays, 11-11:45 a.m.
Jan. 14 - April 22

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

No program March 25.

Kindermusik Imagine That

Ages 3 - 5

This class is for older toddlers to preschoolers. Pairing music with expressive language, storytelling, peer interaction, movement, and pretend play, your child will further expand their cognitive and literacy skills as well as creativity and individuality. Learning continues at home through the At Home Materials, which include illustrated literature books, a pretend play set, 2 CDs, instrument, and backpack. A required At Home Materials fee of \$55.95 will be paid to the instructor on the first day of class. Children attend the first 45 minutes of the class on their own. Parents join in for the last 15 minutes of class. Fifteen weeks. Limited to twelve children. Minimum of four.

When: Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m.
Jan. 11 - April 19
Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Jan. 13 - April 21

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$180
Non-Resident \$185

All classes will be held at Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.

En Garde Fencing

Ages 9 and up

Learn foil techniques from former Olympian Ms. Getty Mohebban, the undisputed Fencing Master of Takoma Park. Beginner I class is for students who have had no training. Beginner II is for students who have taken Beginner I and want to advance to the next level. Equipment provided includes: Foil, mask and jacket. A \$25 materials fee is due to the instructor at the first session. Ten weeks.

When: Tuesdays, Jan. 18 - March 22

Time: Beginner I 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Beginner II 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Takoma Park Elementary Gym,
7511 Holly Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$75
Non-Resident \$85

Indoor Soccer Program

Grades 1-4

The Takoma Park Recreation Department Indoor Soccer Program is back! It's bigger! It's better! Learn how to play this beautiful game and have fun at the same time. Imagine that! Nine weeks. Participants will be grouped into teams in two separate divisions: grades 1-2 and grades 3-4.

When: Sundays, Dec. 5 - February 27
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center,
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Clinic Dates: Dec. 5, 12
Time: 1 - 2:30 p.m. grades 1 & 2
3 - 4:30 p.m. grades 3 & 4

Practice Dates: Dec. 19, Jan. 9, 23
Game Dates: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 27
Time: 1 - 6 p.m.

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

Halloween 2004 Festivities



Photos by Clyde Lassell and Recreation Department

Create your Own Musical Workshops

Grades 6-8

A Series of 4 week long workshops that explore the different aspects of creating your own musical. Minimum 8, maximum 20 students. Teacher: Francesca Jandasek, illustrator, dance instructor, composer, musician.

When: 4-6:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$40
Non-Resident \$50
(for each 4 week workshop.)

Level I: January 5, 12, 19, 26

Students will look at scripts from other musicals / plays and explore the basic aspects of what makes a script and will view excerpts of various musicals to see how the script is transformed in performance. Students will also create a comprehensive story line and well developed character descriptions for their musical. Participants will present their work to their peers at the end of the workshop.

Level II: February 2, 9, 16, 23

This workshop will build on the "Writing your own script - Level I" class. Students will work together in small groups to write a script for a one act play using the storylines and character descriptions from the previous workshop. During the last class, they will share their plays with their peers.

African Dance for Tots

Ages 3-5

Dance that is exclusively developed for the pre-school aged child. These introductory dance moves will promote the motor, coordination, socialization, cooperation and cognitive development needed to get those silly legs and hands moving. They will learn to perform the alphabet and numbers in the improvisation of dance. Instructor Becky Umea. Ten weeks.

When: Wednesdays & Fridays,
Jan. 12 - March 18

Time: 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

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

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

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Join the City of Takoma Park as we celebrate the life and times of the late Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. in words, song and dance.

Friday, Jan. 14 - 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School,
7611 Piney Branch Road - Free

Fun Day Programs 2005

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. Space is limited, so sign up early!

Date	Trip	Time	Cost Res.	Non-Res.
#8. Monday, Jan. 24	National Aquarium, Baltimore	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	\$15	\$20
#9. Friday, February 18	Ice Skating, Wheaton	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.	\$10	\$15
#10. Friday, April 8	MD Science Center, Baltimore	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	\$20	\$25
#11. Wednesday, June 15	Swimming at the Water Park, Gaithersburg	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.	\$10	\$15



Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 16, will mark the 14th year that Takoma Parkians will help ensure the return of the sun to our neck of the woods with candles and drumming, a melange of the contemplative and of high-spirited merrymaking. Bill Jenkins, our favorite ethnomusicologist, will be bringing his array of rhythm instruments from all over the world. The Foggy Bottom Morris Men will again delight and amuse us with their customary high jinks and stick dances.

Cultures all around the world recognize and celebrate the power and

importance of the sun for life on Earth. In the Northern Hemisphere, when the sun threatens to disappear in December, it has long been traditional to hold festivals of light. So here in our mini global-village Takoma Park, with so many varied cultures and religions, the Winter Solstice offers an opportunity to gather as one community to celebrate the return of the light.

Let us gather at 7:15 on Thursday evening, the 16th, ready to take up our drums and rattles, and warm ourselves at the fires of neighborly good spirit. All ages are invited to participate.

Be a Friend and Visit Your Library!

The Friends of the Library book sale in mid-October netted approximately \$1,000, despite limited visibility on the Library lawn and a brief unexpected shower. The Friends and Library staff extend heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the sale, including Suzanne Morgan, Dee Raff, Sara Criscitelli, Karen Petersen, Jan Schwartz, Bob and Mary-Ann Annis, Walter, Rachel and Sterling Mulbry, Richard Gross, Jillian Hershberger, Lucy Scott, Delores Mulligan, Mary Feldman, Rebekah Zanditon, Karen Fishman, Hank Prenskey, Hugo Palomino, Dave Burbank, Nehemiah and Timothy Malloy and Sam McCollin. Special thanks also to Willie Hopkins and Bobby Phillips of the City's Public

Works staff for their considerable help prior to the sale.

The books sales, along with memberships, are the principal source of funds raised by the Friends, all of which are used for Library programs, computers and other resources and services. Throughout this busy construction period, they are helping us to maintain the Library as a rich and welcoming environment for readers of all ages.

All our friends can serve us best by continuing to visit the Library. We always have new books and magazines to share, and will soon have a new selection of books on CD. Our homework help, public programs and celebrations will continue unabated through the winter and into the spring.

Boy Scout Troop Honors Achievements, Invites New Participants

Takoma Park Boy Scout Troop 33 Oct. 27 held its Court of Honor, a ceremony where its scouts received recognition for completing requirements of rank and merit badges. The ceremony was held at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, which has been the continual sponsor for the troop since its charter in 1920.

Scoutmaster David Lanar and Chairperson Nancy Weil gave out the awards. Moving up in rank were Lukas Petersen (Scout), Alex Denton, Jake Miller, Ross Bushnell and Yusef Mohammed (First Class), Stephen Elefante and Bobby Lanar (Star), and Nick Boehm, Russell King and Jimmy Lowe (Life). Dan Munson was also honored for his Eagle Scout Rank Award that was presented in a separate ceremony held on Oct 15. Merit badges, earned by scouts for completing special areas of expertise, were also awarded.

In all, 22 scouts earned a total of 83 merit badges in such subjects as Camping, Fishing, Forestry, Metalwork, Space Exploration, First Aid, Wilderness Survival, Geology, Cycling, Swimming, Emergency Preparedness, As-

tronomy, Wood Carving, Canoeing and Rifle Shooting. While many merit badges are earned on weekend activities or with the scouts working in small groups with councilors, most were earned when the scouts were at Camp Horseshoe for a week in August. At the end of the ceremony, Russell King stepped down as Senior Patrol Leader and Jimmy Lowe took up the job. Senior Patrol Leader is the most important job in the troop because he is the one who leads all the scouts in their activities.

Troop 33 meets at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday night at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and is open for all boys in sixth grade or above. They have monthly activities such as camping, caving, whitewater rafting, cycling and canoeing. This summer they plan on going sailing in the Florida Keys for a week. Troop 33 embraces the beliefs of the Takoma Park community, and judges leaders by their ability to lead. Boys interested in joining should call Scoutmaster David Lanar at 301-589-5590.

— Bobby Lanar, Troop Scribe

LIBRARY

Scented Twig Bundles A Greenery Workshop with Karen Nelson Kent

Karen Nelson Kent, the Library's resident floral artist/designer, will again offer a hands-on class for the holiday season. The workshop will be held on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Library's children's room.

Nelson Kent will be focusing on a variant of the garland, the scented twig bundle which can be used decoratively throughout the house as an intimate design element. Fresh greens will be supplied, though participants are encouraged to bring ribbons and dried materials to tuck into the bundles.

Karen Nelson Kent has become a sought-after teacher at Brookside Gardens. She is the owner of "Floral Diversity" and this summer successfully passed the intensely competitive accreditation evaluation process of 2004 to gain recognition by the highly prestigious American Institute of Floral Designers.

Class size is limited, and last-year's workshop on "Season's Greening with a Twist" was at capacity, so call the Library, 301-891-7259, to reserve your spot.



"Magic of the Sea" With Arianna Ross

Stories and Mini-workshop
Monday, Jan. 24, 7-8:45 p.m.

"When laughter comes from within, the body will smile." This is the quotation that graces the cover of Arianna Ross's storyteller's brochure, detailing the workshops and programs that she has developed from her rich and varied experiences in traveling around the world.

Arianna Ross has trained in theater, dance, voice, and photograph in the United States. Her international experience includes story-gathering in countries as diverse as Egypt, Ireland, Indonesia and Spain. She has

spent three years studying acrobatics, music, martial arts, and performing with Banshi Kaul's troupe Rang Vidushak all over India. She was featured this past year on National Public Radio. She is deeply concerned for nurturing the bonds that connect us all in her storytelling.

Her programs allow for active participation from the audience and are suitable for the whole family. Please join us. Call 301-891-7259 to pre-register. And thanks, as always, to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for supporting these family programs.

Library Programs in December & January

Scented Twig Bundles

A Greenery Workshop with Karen Nelson Kent

(see story)

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

Registration required

14th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

(see story)

Thursday, Dec. 16, 7:15 p.m.

All ages

"Magic of the Sea" with Arianna Ross

(see story)

Monday, Jan. 24, 7-8:45 p.m.

Note: Winter Session of the Twosies

Four Wednesdays in February at 10 a.m.

Sign-up begins in January

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!

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.

Sexual Assault

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: On Oct. 25, at 10:30 p.m., a sexual assault occurred. An adult female entered a residential elevator along with several others. After all but the victim and one subject exited the elevator, the subject grabbed the victim from behind, maneuvering himself against her. After noticing that the suspect's pants were down, the victim broke away, screamed and fled the elevator. The victim was not physically hurt during the incident.

Armed Robbery

Belford Place and New Hampshire Ave.: On Oct. 23 at 12:15 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was approached by a subject after parking his cab in an apartment complex parking lot. When the victim opened his cab window, the subject pointed a handgun at him and demanded money. After the victim handed over his cash, the subject fled in a small black vehicle (no further description given). The victim was not injured.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On Nov. 8 at 11:30 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was approached by three subjects while walking. Two of the subjects displayed knives and demanded the victim's wallet. After the victim turned over his property, the subjects ran off. The victim was not injured.

Auto and Related Theft

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: Between Oct. 14 at 9:40 p.m. and Oct. 15 at midnight, a 1994 Honda Accord was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: Between Oct. 15 at 10 p.m. and Oct. 16 at 4 p.m., a 1995 Mazda 626 was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: On Oct. 29, between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., a 1995 Chrysler Cirrus was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 6400 block: Between Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. and Oct. 31 at 5:45 a.m., Ave., four theft from autos occurred. Windows in each of the vehicles were either broken or forced open in order to gain entry. Property was taken from a 1985 Cadillac Seville, a 1999 Lexus ES and a 1996 Nissan Maxima. A 1996 Chevrolet Beretta was ransacked. It is unknown if property was taken.

Burglary

Sligo Creek Parkway, 900 block: On Oct. 24, between 2 p.m. and 10:19 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A window of the residence was forced open in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 6300 block: On Oct. 26, at 1:43 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A glass panel in a door was damaged in order to gain entry. Nothing was reported stolen.

Hudson Ave., 600 block: On Nov. 5, between 8:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., an attempted residential burglary occurred. A door to the home was damaged in the attempt.

ARRESTS

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On Oct. 6 at 1:38 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS (drug) paraphernalia and transporting a handgun. Traffic citations were also issued.

Ray Road and New Hampshire Ave.: On Oct. 8 at 1:25 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with theft under \$500 after officers found his tags to be stolen. He was also given numerous traffic citations and was served with outstanding warrants from Prince George's County for violations of probation.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On Oct. 15 at 3:44 a.m., a male juvenile was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and CDS paraphernalia.

New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block: On Oct. 15 at 11:36 p.m., an adult male was arrested after a routine traffic stop and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of CDS paraphernalia, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Flower Ave., 8600 block: On Oct. 16 at 3:08 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with 2nd degree assault after officers responded to a call for an assault in progress.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On Oct. 19 at 4:15 a.m., citations were issued to an adult male for driving while impaired.

University Blvd., 1300 block: On Oct. 23 at 6:12 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with uttering/forging a document.

University Blvd., 1300 block: On Oct. 23 at 11:50 p.m., criminal citations were

issued to two adult males for possession of CDS paraphernalia. One of the subjects was also arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on a trespassing charge.

Maple Ave., 7500 block: On Oct. 24 at 8 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Takoma Park for 1st and 2nd degree assault.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On Oct. 26 at 10:51 p.m., two adult males were arrested and charged with theft over \$500.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On Oct. 27 at 12:56 a.m., and adult female was arrested on an open warrant from Montgomery County for failure to appear in court on a charge of possession of CDS paraphernalia.

Piney Branch Road and Flower Ave.: On Oct. 28 at 2:29 a.m., citations for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while impaired by alcohol were issued to an adult male.

Flower Ave., 8200 block: On Oct. 28 at 11 p.m., citations were issued to an adult female for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while impaired by alcohol.

Laurel Ave. and Carroll Ave.: On Oct. 29 at 10:40 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant for violation of probation on charges of misdemeanor theft and possession of CDS paraphernalia.

Kansas Ave., 6400 block: On Oct. 31 at 1:54 a.m., citations for driving while intoxicated and driving while impaired were issued to an adult male.



The Firehouse Report

As of Oct. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 1,008 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,050 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,058 incidents this year. Totals for 2003 were 1,175 and 2,110, respectively, for a total of 3,285, representing a decrease of 227 incidents.

It's Winter – Let's Light a Fire!

With the onset of winter, Takoma Parkers will be building more fires in stoves and fireplaces. Here are some hints on staying safe while you're keeping warm.

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that can lead to a chimney fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.

Baby Sitters Graduates



The following boys and girls completed the six-week course sponsored by the Takoma Park VFD coordinated by Chief Jim Jarboe and assisted by EMT Mike Livingston TPVFD, Officers Conrad and Butler TTPD, and Sandy Egan and Vicki Rosette.

Row #1 Jonathan Valdez, Aron Coste, Danny Rosette, Amber Dahabura, Christina Rosette. Row #2 Jackie Chacon, Austin Hill, Margo Sandagorda. Row #3 Tom Clement, Allison Arlotta, Molly Brune, Anna Brune, Kiera Zitelman. Not pictured: Caitlin Arlotta and Maddy Asbell.

- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside and away from your house.

Dinners For Needy Families

The Takoma Park VFD in partnership with the Takoma Park Lions Club and Takoma Park VFW Post 350 will be distributing dinners for Thanksgiving Day. This marks the ninth year of this worthwhile program.

A special Thanksgiving note: Cooking is still the number one cause of home fires! Most importantly, never leave home cooking unattended.

Toys For Needy Children

The Takoma Park VFD will be coordinating its 24th annual Toys For Needy Children program. We need toys! We will start collecting on Dec. 1 until Dec. 22. If you have new or like-new toys, you may drop them off at the fire station during this period. Families needing assistance with toys, please contact Joe Coyne or Chief Jim Jarboe at the fire station at 301-270-8209. Thank you.

Christmas Tree Sales

The Takoma Park VFD will open up for business starting the weekend following Thanksgiving. The hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and the weekends. The lot is located next to the Co-op, at Carroll and Ethan Allen avenues in Takoma Junction. Wreaths and roping will also be available for sale.

Safety Tips for a Safe Christmas

- Make sure your Christmas tree is fresh. Shedding needles is a sign of a dry tree.
- Never place a tree so that it blocks an exit.
- Only buy electric lights that are approved by a national testing lab.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your house.
- Never run electrical cords through doorways and under rugs.
- Keep your tree fresh by placing it in a stand that holds water.
- Place trees away from direct sources of heat.

Six Raccoons Test Positive for Rabies

As of Nov. 1, six raccoons had tested positive for rabies during a seven-week period. The first four positive animals were taken from the residential neighborhood near Old Town (on Cedar, Birch, Holly and Eastern avenues). The last

Society, Animal Services and the County health department shared information. Other team members are looking at code enforcement and trapping issues to handle the concerns.

Raccoons and other wildlife commonly use stormwater lines to move through an area so conditions near openings to these underground passages will be examined. Abandoned houses will be appropriately boarded up. The entrance hole used by an adult raccoon can be quite small so home owners should pay attention to potential entrances including eaves, deteriorating or warped siding and loose shingles and the areas where the roof and house join. Secure the perimeter with galvanized steel screen in an "L" shape to prevent digging under the barrier. Heavy-duty, rust-proof ½"

hardware cloth can be used for repairs. For animals under decks, use harassment techniques (talk or rock station of a radio and lights) until it leaves. Because feeding feral cats can encourage raccoons

less hospitable at the current time. Many steps to discourage raccoons will also make a home less attractive to another common species in the city, rats.

- Close up openings on the exterior, to prohibit entry. Pay attention to areas under decks and porches.
- For raccoon exclusion, chimney covers are vital, since these resemble hollow trees, a raccoon's natural den.
- Do not set garbage out before trash day.
- Cover garbage cans tightly. Use the screw-top style or stretch a bungee cord across the lid. Public Works will pick up trash in such cans, but suggests residents permanently attach one end of the cord to the can.
- Public Works has a few 64-gallon garbage cans on wheels for sale at \$40.30.
- Do not feed stray cats.
- Do not leave food outside for domestic pets.

For safety, domestic pets and children should be monitored while outdoors. Most of the raccoons taken this fall have shown passive or dormant symptoms of rabies (disoriented, confused, "drunken" behaviors). Two were aggressive, including one that attacked a dog tethered outside. A young child, bitten by a raccoon in her yard, has received treatment and is reported to be doing well.

Experts have reported that the behavior of urban raccoons differs from natural, wild, behavior. It is not uncommon for suburban animals to be seen in the daytime, but all raccoons should be treated as wild animals and not approached. If an animal appears confused or aggressive, the police can be called. The Montgomery County Animal Services can be called for any sick or injured animal.



Environments that encourage raccoons to feed in groups can foster rabies transmission and should be avoided.

weekend of October, one raccoon was taken at Lincoln and Jackson and another on Walnut Ave. One additional animal, which had behaved aggressively on Willow Ave., was destroyed by police but was not tested.

Four raccoons were shot by police. Three were trapped. All were recovered by Montgomery Animal Services, who supplied them for testing. In comparison, in the first eight months of 2004, two raccoons tested positive for rabies, one on Baltimore and one on Elm.

At the current time, it is unclear whether the number of rabies-positive numbers are increased in part because the City has requested testing of more animals than usual. For example, additional raccoons were taken to Animal Services this year, but most were not tested. All but one of this fall's raccoons have been tested.

The COP Team has taken the lead role in addressing the concern regarding raccoons and rabies. Ofc. Tina Smith organized a late-October educational session at which experts from the U.S. Humane



Photos Courtesy Humane Society of the United States

Public Works will collect trash from raccoon-proofed cans but suggests one end of a bungee cord be permanently attached to the container to avoid loss.

to congregate for meals, residents are urged to discontinue this practice.

Autumn is a time when young raccoons move away from their mothers and when animals are actively feeding to prepare for winter. This affects increased raccoon sighting. It also means residents need to make their own yards

POLICE NEWS

What You Should Know About Rabies

- Dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies at four months and one year of age. Booster vaccine is needed every one to three years.
- All mammals can get rabies but it is extremely rare in rabbits and rodents (including squirrels, mice, and rats).
- The virus is found in saliva, usually passed through bites. Non-bite exposure includes animal saliva coming into contact with open wounds, the eyes, mouth, or nose, and possibly through scratches.
- The virus exists very briefly outside a body and is killed by heat, sunlight and drying.
- Common vectors, or carriers, are raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats; also cats and groundhogs.
- No documented human death has occurred from the raccoon strain of rabies, according to the Humane Society of the United States.
- The behavior of urban raccoons is not the same as wild raccoons, therefore seeing a raccoon in the daytime is not an absolute indicator of rabies.
- Rabies symptoms will be either the classic aggressive behavior or a passive form, in which the animal appears disoriented, listless, or "drunken."
- People should not try to evaluate whether an animal is rabid; if it is acting strangely, stay away from it.
- Many animals with rabies will die before they show the symptoms.

The State Department of Natural Resources has indicated outbreaks may spontaneously resolve themselves by groups of affected animals dying off. Outbreaks may occur naturally but can come about where cover and food sources are concentrated, allowing larger groups of animals to live and eat together.



New Officers Join Police

In the first nine months of 2004, five officers have joined the Takoma Park Police Department. Staffing stands at 36 of the authorized strength of 41 officers.

In March, Ernest Atwell, 35, and Stanley Barsh, 26, joined the Department, coming from the Baltimore Housing Police and Montgomery County Sheriffs, respectively. In six years with Baltimore Housing, Atwell worked in both patrol and special units for warrant service and drug investigations. Barsh served four years as a county police dispatcher and two years as a deputy sheriff.

Two officers from out-of-state took the oath of office in August, after completing a required compliance academy. Desiree Palmer, 25, formerly worked in sheriffs' departments in West Virginia. Sean McGarvey, 30, served for two years with the Richmond Police Department. A former U.S. Marine, he is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Derrek Fields, 29, joined the TPPD in September. A native of the Washington, D.C., area, he attended the Prince George's Municipal Police Academy independently.

Because of their previous experience, none of the five new officers had to attend full police academies and entered field training immediately.

Four officers have left the agency this year. Capt. George Hubbard retired in May, having served 28 years or three years longer than the 25 year requirement. Sgt. Clarence Jacobs retired shortly before his death in March. Sgt. Linda (Riseling) Lawless retired in April due to injuries

received on duty. Cpl. Brian Davis was approved for a medical retirement on Sept. 1. The Department continues to seek additional applicants. The City currently offers a signing bonus to certified officers joining the agency. For information about benefits and requirements, contact Cpl. Wayne Jackson at 301-891-7130 or any officer.



Officers Sean McGarvey and Desiree Palmer take their oath before Mayor Kathy Porter and Chief Cindy Creamer.

Stormwater Problems Getting Worse in Takoma and Chesapeake Basin

Last July, Takoma Park experienced a series of intense storms resulting in unprecedented flooding. According to some affected residents such intensity of flooding has not been seen in recent memory. Preliminary rainfall data from the National Weather Service indicated that July rainfall reached a high of 8.69 inches, or 4.84 inches above normal. Intense rainfall over short times caused localized flooding in many small streams and low-lying areas. September rainfall and temperatures were near normal in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and southern and eastern Maryland. A string of hurricanes and tropical storm across the nation in the late summer made front-page news. Where does all the water go?

Stream flow into the Chesapeake Bay during September averaged 116.2 bgd (billion gallons per day), 430 percent above normal and the highest since 1937. Before it gets to the bay, would it pick up non-point pollution along the way while flooding the "urban" streets and streams? The answer is yes, it surely will, if not managed.

The early settlers developed the land based on their perceptions of original flood situations and even if they evaluated it correctly, the unanticipated increase in flood heights caused damage. As an example, a Federal study, some 50 years ago, made an estimate of 100-year frequency flood (a flood that statistically occurs once every 100 years) for Four Mile Run in Alexandria. This study by 1980 was completely outdated due to full urbanization of the watershed. The original 100-year flood now occurs every 2 to 4 years. For most small streams, there is no accurate statistical data available as to the original flooding condition of the watershed, so

similar striking increases are not noted. Urbanization, however, increases the intensity of storm runoff in a characteristically predictable way.

Erosion of streambanks and streambeds will increase in direct proportion to increased flood frequency and intensity. This aspect of flood damage has been explained in more detail by new research. The extent of water quality degradation as a result of urbanization is also an eye-opening product of relatively new research.

There has been relatively slow development within the City limits over the past few decades. The accelerated rate of urbanization and development over the neighboring communities is likely to be one of the main contributing factors – if not the leading factor – in intensity and frequency increases of urban and stream flooding.

Takoma Park is a largely residential community with both urban and suburban attributes and perceptions. In a regional scale, traditional land use patterns consisting of a fairly orderly hierarchy of interspersed villages, towns and cities are increasingly changing. Shifting patterns of traditional urbanization and suburban development are emerging. Slow or non-existent growth of larger cities along with a suburbanization trend that has marked the recent decades appears to be shifting if not reversing. The new emerging pattern in a larger scale characterizes the eastern megalopolis whereas some of the towns and cities are still growing along traditional lines. Planners and analysts are attempting to redirect and control the dynamics of urbanization more adequately. From the viewpoint of stormwater management, it is necessary to recognize the dynamics of land use to limit certain undesirable effects.

A Sustainable Approach

Stormwater management redefined consists of an array of approaches to control urban drainage and flood problems on the smaller streams. It is important to differentiate such methodologies from larger-scale flood control projects on larger river systems. A 1950s study by Gilbert White showed that national flood control programs were not designed to deal with the increasing floods in urbanizing areas little understood at the time. This and similar studies brought the reasons for stormwater management in urbanizing areas into focus.

Prior to adoption of "Best Management Practices" by EPA under Section 208 of Water Pollution Control Act and even to this day, many engineers are stuck with the mind set of solving the local water flood problems by getting rid of water quickly through enlarging and straightening lines, channel lining, larger drains and culverts. This approach is not advocated nationally but remains attractive on a local level since for many upstream communities it is undoubtedly the least expensive way of handling the problem. In effect the problem is passed on to downstream communities.

The effects of urbanization on stormwater can be avoided or mitigated by designing systems that mimic natural systems where stormwater is integrated into building and site development. Disconnecting the flow from the storm sewer system and directing water to more natural systems, such as landscaped planters, swales and gardens, reduces and filters stormwater runoff.

Planting vegetation and trees creates the management systems that reduce the impacts of impervious surfaces.

Blues Legends To Perform Dec. 4

The Black Box Theater at Montgomery College Takoma Park offers a rare opportunity to spend an evening with blues legends John Cephas and Phil Wiggins on Saturday, Dec. 4, in two one-hour shows at 7 and 9 p.m. With just 100 seats, the theater allows audiences to experience artists in an up-close and personal way.

Phil Cephas first met John Wiggins in 1976 at the Smithsonian National Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., and the duo of Cephas & Wiggins was born. When these two great musicians joined forces, the blues community proclaimed them the new champions of the East Coast Piedmont style of blues first popularized by artists like Blind Boy Fuller, Rev. Gary Davis and Willie McTell. And because both musicians were born in D.C., they bring a unique urban sophistication to the traditional rural blues they perform on guitar and harmonica.

Performances will take place at Black Box Theater, which is located inside the Communication Arts Center, at the corner of Philadelphia Ave. and Chicago Ave., on the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College.

Tickets cost \$15 for general admission, \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for Montgomery College students and faculty. To purchase tickets, call 301-588-4475 or log on to www.classactsarts.org.

Takoma Underground Comes Up for Air

Continued from page 1



Photo by Clyde Lassell

Manager Lisa Schneider decked out in Takoma Underground style

for the damages, it was willing to pay only a fraction of the monetary loss. After prolonged negotiations, appeals and angst, Schneider and Rubenstein had a hearing with a WSSC board Nov. 9, and were awaiting the results as this article was written.

Somewhat compensating for the sequence of disasters was the arrival of Lisa Schneider, then an unemployed political scientist, in 2000. She became the manager of the store, and calls Rubenstein "my best friend." While Rubenstein looks out for the big picture, Schneider takes care of essential details like banking, records and keeping the displays attractive.

Rubenstein, the store's owner, was a

Washington policy researcher for 20 years before realizing she "had to make an exit." The mother of a 15-year-old son and a nine-year-old daughter, she also teaches nursery school.

Shortly after the flood, the dynamic duo lucked out and found a new retail space at 7014B Westmoreland Ave., just two blocks from their old vault. They reopened April 10. The former site of Loriola Gallery, the space is near Sangha and Curves. Being at street level,

though at an unusual hillside elevation, it gets more walk-in trade than the old Underground.

The new space is smaller and more expensive, so merchandise is somewhat more upscale, though still extremely varied. Takoma Underground actually consists of eight vendors, each of whom chooses their own goods and sets their own prices. Every item has a tag identifying its vendor, who gets credited when the item is sold. It's a complicated process, and Schneider tracks it all with pen and ledgers – no computers, no bar codes.

The women try hard to keep the place "magical" with a variety of goods to appeal to women, men and children, includ-

ing old medical instruments, men's hats, shaving kits, pocket watches, toys and games, jewelry, and clothing from the Victorian era to the 1920s and 1940s. Rubenstein recently bought 9,000 pairs of old eyeglasses.

Schneider says they also like having Civil War memorabilia. "It's not a big seller but it's fun to have it in the store."

Fortunately, the Underground doesn't rely solely on local purchasers. Theater people from around the country come to the store for costumes and props. (Rubenstein in an earlier life worked on props and sets in movies.)

Going into the holidays, Rubenstein and Schneider are looking up from Underground. The new space is working well, and support from the Takoma community has been great, they say.

The editor will close with a personal note. I happen to be a collector of political buttons. About three years ago, I got what I thought was a cool World War II-era anti-Axis button. But when I got home, I looked it up on the Web and examined it closely, and I concluded it was a fake — a recent reproduction.

I explained the mistake to Schneider, who quickly agreed to refund my money and did it with a smile. (Of course, I used the refund to buy another button.) Not a bad way to do business.

Holiday Safety Tips

At home a shining Christmas tree surrounded by packages makes a lovely picture, but also serves as a temptation to burglars. Consider closing shades or drapes.

- Keep doors and windows locked. Use timers on lights and a radio when you are away.
- Record the serial numbers from new electronic purchases and keep them stored safely. An engraver may be borrowed from the police to mark new items through Operation ID.
- Know if and when your neighbors are away from home and report strangers leaving with bundles or packages. Be aware of strangers approaching a neighbor's home or vehicle. Don't hesitate to call the police if someone's behaviors make you uncomfortable.
- If you plan to be away for three days or more, register for the House Check program (at 301-270-1100) and an officer will patrol by your home daily to check for signs of unauthorized entry.

Finally, remember, if confronted comply with property demands. Money can be replaced. Try to recall as many details about the suspect as possible to provide a good description to police.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Tax Duplication Committee Established

The City Council on Oct. 11 established a committee to look at property tax issues and the question of City-county overlapping services. The resolution follows. Twenty-one residents of the City were appointed to the committee.

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens
Resolution No. 2004-50

Establishing the Takoma Park Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues
WHEREAS, property values in the City of Takoma Park have increased significantly in recent years, resulting in a corresponding increase in property taxes paid to the City; **AND**,
WHEREAS, as a result, there has been increasing concern in the community regarding the issue of municipal tax and service duplication; **AND**,
WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to establish a residents' committee to provide assistance with the review of this complex issue; **AND**,
WHEREAS, said Committee shall be called the "Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues" and shall be constituted for a duration of six months, which may be extended at the discretion of the City Council; **AND**,
WHEREAS, the Committee shall provide the City Council with a final report at the conclusion of the aforementioned six-month period; **AND**,
WHEREAS, the Committee shall be appointed by the City Council, with up to three representatives from each ward and three representatives selected by the Mayor; **AND**,
WHEREAS, the Committee would be charged with the following duties and tasks:

- To become knowledgeable of the legal requirements and constraints of municipal tax duplication in the State of Maryland and in Montgomery County and recommend how the City can communicate this information to the public
- To identify areas where further research is needed concerning tax and service duplication
- To recommend actions the City could take to obtain a fairer tax duplication payment from Montgomery County and to decrease the level of tax duplication paid by City property owners
- To provide assistance and guidance in the development of the resident survey, specifically in regard to those questions concerning City service delivery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TAKOMA PARK CITY COUNCIL does hereby establish the Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues and appoints 21 persons to serve on said Committee.

Adopted this 11th day of October, 2004.

ATTEST:

Catherine E. Waters, CMC
City Clerk / Treasurer

Next meetings of this committee: December 1, 7, January 12, 26
These are public meetings
Call Suzanne Ludlow: 301-891-7229 for details.

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.

CITYNOTICE Designated Sledding Streets

When 80 percent of the residents petition to have their block designated as a sledding street, and the block is not on a snow emergency route or a public transportation route, then the street will not be plowed or salted and will be barricaded by the Public Works Department in order to allow neighborhood sledding.

Once a petition has been received and verified by the Clerk's Office, a notice of the city's intent to close the street during a snow period in order to permit sledding will be sent to all of the residents of the designated block.

A notice also will be sent saying that any resident may request that the City Manager deny the request provided a good reason is stated by the resident, i.e., some circumstance that would necessitate having the street clear because of a health or safety reason or a serious inconvenience to a person with a disability.

A request to close a street for sledding must be submitted on an annual basis. **Streets will not be closed until all the residents have been notified by mail and a 10-day period for citizens to raise concerns has passed.**

Additional information and petition forms may be requested from the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7100.

Takoma Park City TV Events in December 2004 And January 2005

City TV has some great stocking stuffers for you this holiday season. Get warmed up with Irish-inspired music performed by Jennifer Cutting's Ocean Orchestra and Bog Wanderers, an All-Star Celtic ceili band. Hear animated stories from Noa Baum, and watch African folklore come to life with Nana Malaya and the Nubian Theatre Company. Joe Glazer and Oscar Brand will rouse you with political infused music.

The Takoma Park Street Festival performances will air this month as promised. See riveting performances by ilyAIMY and the Kennedys. Listen to Cajun music from Rita and the Naturals and Three Quarter Squeegie, high-level gifted musicians.

In the New Year, City TV will air four new Street Festival performances including the Nighthawks, one of the top bands in D.C., playing a mixture of rock, blues and soul music. Also from the StreetFest - Cravin' Dogs, who boast a unique blend of folk, rock, '80s new wave and bluegrass. Finally, get jumping with highly charged American music performed by Tom Principato and Robert Lighthouse, an exciting one-man blues experience.

Takoma Snapshots in December includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: Meet the Newest Officers
- Takoma Park Film Festival
- Takoma Park's Halloween Parade

January Snapshots will include features on the City's Noise Ordinance and Columbia Union College's 100th Anniversary.

Visit our Web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable to access show listings and times and other specific programming information.

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

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

Takoma Park City TV December 2004 and January 2005 Programming Schedule

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

Programming subject to change without notice.

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

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

Meeting Jan. 19 to Discuss Renovation Of Park Including Ed Wilhelm Field

Many Takoma residents know there's a fair-sized park that stretches between Piney Branch Elementary School and Takoma Park Middle School and includes Ed Wilhelm Field. But they may not know that its official name is Takoma Piney Branch Local Park.



But users of the park will surely want to know that a renovation of the facility is planned.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has begun a plan for the renovation of the park, based on community discussions several years ago and recent discussions with school and recreation officials. The facility plan will be discussed at a community meeting in January.

The park has steeply sloped wooded

areas, a picnic shelter, playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, a field shared by baseball and soccer teams, and serves as the playground for Piney Branch Elementary School.

Recently, several meetings have been held with the City of Takoma Park and Piney Branch Elementary School staff to determine their recreational needs and to discuss safety issues. Improvements proposed for the park include adding a playground near the school as well as improvements to the current play area, basketball courts, ballfields, picnic shelter and storm water managementsystem.

When the facility plan is completed and adopted, the cost estimate for completing the design and construction will be recommended in the next Capital Improvement Project Budget cycle for fiscal years 2007-2012. Construction could not occur before Fiscal Year 2008, which begins with July 2007.

The facility plan will be discussed at a community meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. at Takoma Middle School. For information about the facility plan, please contact Ellen Masciocchi at 301-650-2867 or e-mail at ellen.masciocchi@mncppc-mc.org.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Champions Honored

By Susan Holliday

Champions of traffic and pedestrian safety in Takoma Park and Silver Spring earned top honors from the Montgomery County Highway Safety Office (MCHSO) at its Taskforce Recognition Luncheon on Sept. 20 at the Kensington Fire Department.

Margo Stanton, director of the highway safety office, presented the annual awards to community members and police officers who performed exceptionally over the last year to improve driver and pedestrian safety. She noted four recipients for their outstanding service to the downcounty area.

The rising toll of pedestrian accidents at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads junction of New Hampshire Ave. and University Blvd. — the designated third-worst intersection in Maryland — played a drumbeat in recent years that elected officials found hard to ignore. Erwin Mack made sure that they didn't.

Mack, the executive director of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc. (CDA), received an award for elevating the cause of pedestrian safety in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. In 2003, with CDA approval, he initiated an ad hoc Pedestrian Safety Committee of traffic and pedestrian safety ex-



Police Sgt. Tom Harmon, engineer Stephanie Yanowitz and CDA director Erwin Mack

perts and advocates from several jurisdictions to tackle the multifaceted problem. He continues to promote pedestrian safety initiatives to all area elected officials involved. "No one perseveres for the Crossroads as much as he does," said Stanton. "The community has a voice in him."

Stephanie Yanowitz, District III engineer with the Maryland State Highway Administration, was awarded for her oversight of traffic engineering projects for all of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. "They should be a state of their own," said Stanton, and yet Yanowitz "makes it look easy."

Increased pedestrian accidents in recent years at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and other areas have upped the demands on Yanowitz to improve the walkability of the counties' roadways. With limited funds and ever-intensifying pressure to please everyone simultaneously, Yanowitz leaves many "in awe of what she can accomplish," said Stanton. "She proves that not all engineers are created equal."

Montgomery County Police Sgt. Tom Harmon was honored for his exemplary work in all areas of traffic and pedestrian safety. Harmon led traffic enforcement efforts that netted hundreds of safety citations, which are generally credited with reducing traffic violations.

"Tom sets a tone in the Silver Spring precinct for making pedestrian safety and traffic enforcement a priority," noted George Branyan, special programs coordinator for the Maryland State Highway Safety Office.

When he headed the Long Branch Neighborhood Task Force safety committee as an unpaid volunteer, award-winner Stevens Brown demonstrated his concern for his community and its residents. Long Branch sits at the nexus of several major roads and hosts a significant population of pedestrians, many of them immigrants with poor English skills. He donated countless hours to attending meetings, writing proposals, and talking with his neighbors to make things happen to improve safety in his neighborhood. His work pushed Long Branch to the top of many elected leaders' to-do lists. While no longer the task force leader, Brown continues "to do good things for the community," said Stanton.

Thirty-two police officers and community members received awards this year from the MCHSO, including nine community volunteers from area high schools who coordinated highly popular, alcohol-free parties for after proms and graduations.

Do You Know the Way to Takoma?

Continued from page 1

- Tertiary Gateway: these would be for entrances into residential neighborhoods that are on or close to the boundary of the City such as the intersection of Flower Avenue and Maplewood Avenue.
- Vehicular Directional: these are the signs that would help people to find different destinations around the City. These are the primary destinations that these signs would direct people to: Old

Takoma, Long Branch, Takoma/Langley Crossroads, Montgomery College, Columbia Union College, Washington Adventist Hospital, and Community Center.

- Identification Sign: These would be used to identify City facilities such as parks and gardens.

Once the sign concept is finalized, other signs will be designed such as secondary gateway signs, interpretive historic

signs, banners, and a pedestrian orientation map for Old Town.

We would like to receive more community input about the proposed sign design. To let us know what you think, please go to the City's Web site (www.cityoftakomapark.org) and click on Gateway and Wayfinding under Current Issues. There are a few specific questions that we ask on this Web page. You can also contact Community Development Coordinator Rob Inerfeld at roberti@takomagov.org or 301-891-7219.

Takoma Park Votes for President

Takoma Park has a reputation for being quite the liberal, progressive community. So we thought we'd take a look at how residents of the City voted in the Nov. 2 presidential election.

Below are the totals for all presidential candidates who appeared on the ballot. We've computed totals by precinct (with polling place to help identify it), plus for the City as a whole and the state as a whole.

The big picture: While Kerry took the state with almost 56 percent of the popular vote, in the Takoma Park area he received over 88 percent of the vote.

Important caveat, though. The totals below include all Takoma Park voters. But because the precincts for general elections do not all conform to City boundaries, two of the precincts listed below also include sections of Silver Spring. Precinct 13-21

includes some of Silver Spring near Piney Branch (Sligo Park Hills), and Precinct 13-04 includes some of downtown Silver Spring near Fenton.

Similarly, Takoma Park voters gave wide margins to the incumbent Democrat Sen. Barbara Mikulski, and the incumbent Democrat Rep. Chris Van Hollen.

— Bob Guldin

Precinct and Polling Place	Bush-Cheney, Republican	Kerry-Edwards, Democratic	Cobb-LaMarche, Green	Badnarik-Campagna, Libertarian	Peroutka-Baldwin, Constitution	Nader-Camejo, Populist
Precinct 13-67						
Votes at Our Lady of Sorrows School	111 8.92%	1108 89.00%	6 .48%	1 .08%	1 .08%	16 1.29%
Precinct 13-68						
Votes at Takoma Park Comm Ctr.	171 14.67%	983 84.31%	6 .51%	2 .17%	2 .17%	2 .17%
Precinct 13-06						
Votes at Piney Branch Elem. School	63 6.31%	908 90.98%	9 .90%	2 .20%	2 .20%	12 1.20%
Precinct 13-21						
Votes at Takoma Park Middle School (Mostly in City)	152 9.86%	1360 88.20%	7 .45%	1 .06%	2 .13%	17 1.10%
Precinct 13-04						
Votes at Takoma Park Elem. School (Partially in City)	117 8.02%	1319 90.40%	4 .27%	3 .21%	3 .21%	11 .75%
Precinct 13-09						
Votes at Columbia Union College	102 11.62%	754 85.88%	5 .57%	7 .80%	1 .11%	8 .91%
Greater Takoma Park totals	716 9.83%	6,432 88.37%	37 .50%	16 .20%	11 .20%	66 .90%
State of Maryland totals	1,018,408 43.15%	1,317,276 55.80%	3,589 .20%	6,047 .30%	3,397 .10%	11,372 .50%