

# Takoma Park

## NEWSLETTER

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

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.cityoftakomapark.org

March 2005

## City Cries Out: We Need More Gym Space

By Virginia Myers Kelly

Behind the chain link fence and across a muddy pit of a construction site, Takoma Park's long-planned Community Center is finally beginning to take shape. City Council recently approved a \$2.6 million bond that will help pay for the completion of the first phase — the addition to the Municipal Center and renovations of existing space — and although the price tag has escalated since the project began, brick has been stacked upon brick and plans are already under way for a ribbon cutting ceremony next fall.

It won't be held in the gym — because there will be no gym. Not yet.

After a public hearing where some advocated for the gym and others questioned the need (there are four school gymnasiums within walking distance), City Council decided to delay borrowing an additional \$2.5 million or more to build the gym that was part of the original Community Center plan.

The question is no longer whether Takoma Park needs a gym, but how many gyms.

There are gymnasiums very close to the new Community Center, but that doesn't mean it's easy for City residents to use them. Takoma Park and Piney Branch Elementary Schools each have a gym, and Takoma Park Middle School has two. But the county school system gives first priority for use of those gyms to the schools themselves, then the PTA, then the city recreation department.

According to Ginny Gong, director of the Interagency Coordinating Board for Community Use of Public Facilities (ICB) that schedules the space, they're booked. "The requests for gym space continues to increase from year to year," says Gong. "More and more users are realizing that it's a really great opportunity [to use school gyms] and they take advantage of it." Many potential users have been turned away, says Gong, though she is not sure that has happened at the Takoma Park gyms. And it's not free — last year, according to Debra Haiduven, director of the City's Rec Department, the city spent \$23,000

Continued on page 10



Photo by Clyde Lassell, 1994

Generations of Takoma Park kids played and socialized in the gym under the Takoma Park Firehouse at Philadelphia and Carroll avenues. Structural problems made it unfit for general community use after 1996, though firefighters still work out there. This photo was taken in 1994.

## C-SAFE Gets High Praise



Photo by Clyde Lassell

Lt. Gov. Michael Steele (holding plaque) presents award to Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter for City's leading role in anti-crime program. See story, page 4

## Carroll Ave., Paving the Way for Public Art

By Kate Konschnik

It will meander down Carroll Ave. every day, but it won't get in your way if you're in a hurry. It will stretch through several blocks of downtown Takoma Park, but it won't obstruct your view of the Farmers' Market. It will delight children, and yet be tough enough to withstand Maryland's weather extremes.

The answer to this riddle is... it's the Carroll Ave. sidewalk art project! Yes, the City Arts & Humanities Commission's first commissioned piece of public art is coming to town. Last fall, the commission issued a request for proposals, inviting local artists to devise a piece of pedestrian-friendly, weather resistant, whimsical art to create and install along the Carroll Ave.

sidewalk between Columbia and Philadelphia avenues.

The artwork will cost \$10,000, paid for by a part of the state grant for the refurbishing of the Carroll Ave. streetscape. No City funds are being spent on the project.

Beyond a few construction and budget parameters, the commission invited local artists to run wild with their creativity. Local artists responded to this exciting challenge. Inspiration didn't come all at once — for instance, artist John Hume of Sligo Creek Tile Co., one of the finalists, admitted that "at first, I was stuck in my 4 inch x 4 inch square tile box." But then, he and other artists worked up their unique, outside-of-the-box proposals, which included scale models of the artwork.

After a marathon meeting in December, the Carroll Avenue Sidewalk Art Committee selected two finalists. The finalists are local tile artists who selected similar media for their pieces. The pieces also share a meandering quality. From there, however, the designs diverge.

Silver Spring artist Adriana Baler envisioned "a continuous curvilinear trail of circular colored porcelain pavers of different diameters." The effect is not unlike following a path of brightly

Continued on page 11

## Inside this Issue

### Power to the People

Maryland mayors hope to make electricity cheaper.

Page 5

### Paying Duplicate Taxes

Task force explores City, county services and costs.

Page 5

### Crime Decreases in Takoma Park

Major crime down 11 percent between 2003 and 2004.

Page 10

### Forum on Hazardous Rail Cargo

Can the City stop dangerous chemicals on CSX trains?

Page 12

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Mayor & Council  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD  
20912

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
PAID  
U.S. POSTAGE  
TAKOMA PARK, MD  
PERMIT NO. 4422

## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1** - Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs Hearing, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2** - Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues, 7 p.m. (Columbia Room, 2nd Floor of Wilkinson Hall (7600 Flower Ave.) at Columbia Union College)

**MONDAY, MARCH 7** - PRESENTATION, INTERVIEWS & WORKSESSION

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8** - Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10** - Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**MONDAY, MARCH 14** - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16** - Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues, 7 p.m. (Columbia Room, 2nd Floor of Wilkinson Hall (7600 Flower Ave.) at Columbia Union College)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17** - Noise Control Board, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**MONDAY, MARCH 21** - PRESENTATION & WORKSESSION

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24** - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Administration Office)

**MONDAY, MARCH 28** - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING & WORKSESSION

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30** - Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues, 7 p.m., (Columbia Room, 2nd Floor of Wilkinson Hall (7600 Flower Ave.) at Columbia Union College)

### Citizens Liaison Committee For the Community Center

City residents are invited to participate in the Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center. The committee serves to foster communication among interested parties and the Council in the ongoing process for the development of a Community Center. Information about the committee is available on the City Web page. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact your City Councilmember (or the City Clerk's Office) to request appointment.

### Volunteers Needed to Serve On the Noise Control Board

If you are interested in serving on the Noise Control Board, please see the notice under "Committee Vacancies."

### 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](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org) or at Takoma Park Newsletter, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

## City Council Briefs

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

### Monday, Dec. 13, 2004 - Regular Meeting

- Ordinance 2004-36 was adopted at second reading, amending Chapter 6 Housing to address air conditioning in rental housing (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2004-31 was adopted at second reading, establishing the Emergency Preparedness Committee as a statutory committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2004-34 was adopted at second reading, authorizing execution of contract for rents analyst with Comilang and Varghese (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2004-37 was adopted at second reading, adopting a recodification of the Takoma Park Code (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2004-38 was adopted at second reading, amending the Takoma Park Code to increase parking violation fines (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance #2004-33 was adopted at second reading, authorizing FY05 Budget Amendment No. 1 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- The Consent Agenda was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).
- A. Resolution 2004-64, appointing David Pittman to the Ethics Commission.
- B. Resolution 2004-65, appointing Steve Moody to the Safe Roadways Committee.
- C. Resolution 2004-66, appointing Cynthia Szymanski to the Tree Commission.
- D. Resolution 2004-67, setting forth the Council's 2004 holiday recess.

### Monday, Jan. 3 - Special Session

- Resolution 2005-01 was adopted, appointing Sheryl Brugh, Mary Carter-Williams, Paul Chrostowski,

Juanita Kus Lorentz and Anne Polansky to the Citizens Liaison Committee to the Community Center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

### Monday, Jan. 10 - Regular Meeting

- Resolution 2005-01 was adopted, naming the athletic field at Jeque Park in honor of Walt Penney (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

### Tuesday, Jan. 18 - Special Session

- Ordinance 2005-01 was accepted at first reading, authorizing the expansion of permit parking on Boston Ave. (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).
- Ordinance 2005-2 was accepted at first reading, authorizing a Local Government Infrastructure Program Bond for the Community Center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Williams; AGAINST: Seamens; ABSTAIN: Austin-Lane).
- Ordinance 2005-3 was accepted at first reading, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Linda McKenzie for financial and accounting consulting services (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Williams; AGAINST: Austin-Lane, Seamens; ABSTAIN: Mizeur).

### Monday, Jan. 24 - Regular Meeting

- Ordinance 2005-2 as amended was adopted at second reading, authorizing a Local Government Infrastructure Program Bond for the Community Center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Williams; AGAINST: Seamens; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Resolution 2005-3 was adopted, authorizing reimbursement from the Local Government Infrastructure Bond proceeds for Community Center expenses (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Williams; AGAINST: Seamens; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2005-01 was adopted at second reading, authorizing the expansion of permit parking on Boston Ave. (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2005-3 was adopted at second reading, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Linda McKenzie for financial and accounting consulting services (VOTING FOR: Porter, Barry, Elrich, Williams; AGAINST: Seamens; ABSTAIN: Austin-Lane; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- The Consent Agenda was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- A. Resolution #2005-4, appointing Kristan Markey to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Committee.
- B. Resolution #2005-5, appointing H. James O'Brien to the Facade Advisory Board.

## Vacancies on Council-Appointed Committees

**Emergency Preparedness Committee.** The committee was established to provide community input to and assist in the City's planning and preparations for emergency operations and to involve residents in providing appropriate assistance during emergency operations. Applicants should have some professional background in emergency preparedness or operations and be available to perform committee duties during the day when required. (Six vacancies.)

**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. (Three vacancies.)

**Nuclear-Free Committee.** The 7-member committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the Nuclear-Free Zone Act. (One vacancy.)

*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., Takoma Park, MD 20912 or via e-mail to [CathyW@takomagov.org](mailto:CathyW@takomagov.org). Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk at 301-891-7206.*

**Personnel Appeal Board.** The 5-member board is charged with hearing employee appeals pursuant to Chapter 4.04 "Personnel" of the Takoma Park Code. (One vacancy.)

**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. (Four vacancies.)

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

**Tree Commission.** The Tree Commission is charged with preserving, protecting and promoting the urban forest of Takoma Park. (One vacancy.)

## Proposed Regulation Regarding Noise Control Bylaws

A Regulation is being proposed to provide written bylaws for the Noise Control Board (established pursuant to Ordinance 2002-35, adopted by the City Council Dec. 2, 2002).

Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12 "Administration Regulations", of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City's intention to adopt an Administrative Regulation must first be published in the *Takoma Park Newsletter* to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the proposal. An exact copy of the proposed regulation is posted on the bulletin board outside the City Council Chamber and is available for inspection during regular office hours in the City's Administration Office in the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. The regulation may also be accessed via the City's Web page.

Please direct any comments or concerns to City Clerk Catherine Waters in writing by mail to the above address, by e-mail to [cathyw@takomagov.org](mailto:cathyw@takomagov.org) or by voice message at 301-891-7206 before the close of business on Monday, March 21, 2005.

## Emergency Preparedness Committee Volunteers Needed

The City Council has established an Emergency Preparedness Committee to provide community input to and assist in the City's planning and preparations for emergency operations and to involve residents in providing appropriate assistance during emergency operations. The committee is composed of appropriate senior City staff selected by the City manager, one member of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (PSCAC), one member of the City's Fire Department and six residents (preferably one from each ward) appointed by the Council. Appointees should have some professional background in emergency preparedness or operations and be available to perform committee duties during the day when required. The full ordinance is available on the City's Web page: <http://207.176.67.2/clerk/ordinances/2004/or200431.pdf>. To apply for appointment, submit a letter of interest and résumé (or statement of qualifications) to: City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 or via e-mail to [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org). Submit applications by March 15.

## Karen Hampton Honored With Study in Taiwan



Karen E. Hampton

Karen E. Hampton, human resources manager for the City of Takoma Park and councilmember from College Park, Md., joined eight other rising political figures from across the nation as delegates to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for a seven-day political study program. Sponsored by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), a bipartisan non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C., the Taiwan program took place from Nov. 12 to 19, 2004.

The delegates were briefed by U.S. Department of State officials in Washington, and were hosted by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taiwan. There, they interacted with local, municipal and national leaders, business communities, and civic groups.

ACYPL delegates are chosen from a competitive, bipartisan field of candidates who are between the ages of 25 and 40 years old and have exhibited strong leadership during their careers in public or private service.

## Community Center Operating Budget?

City staff made a presentation at the Feb. 22 Council meeting on this important topic, which is currently being reviewed by a citizens advisory committee. Interested residents are invited to visit the City Web site to view the presentation. Visit [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org) and click on "Community Center Updates" under "Current issues."

## Learn Emergency Preparedness March 19

All residents are invited to attend a public meeting, "How to Manage the First 72 Hours in Emergencies", sponsored by the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee. Speakers from the American Red Cross and the Montgomery County Fire-Rescue Service will make presentations Saturday, March 19 in the City Council Chambers, 1 - 4 p.m.

The session will address how Takoma Park can best utilize its various organizations to help City residents in an emergency, whether natural or manmade. Information about the recently formed

Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee will be available.

All Neighborhood Safety Contacts and citizen/community patrol members are encouraged to attend. Andy Keleman and Buddy Daniels, organizers of the session, urge every City organization to provide at least one representative to the meeting. Schools, churches, and business organizations, as well as civic associations, should be represented.

For more information, contact Keleman at 301-270-0314 or Daniels at 301-270-5789.

## Safe Roadways Committee Focuses on Philadelphia Ave.

The City's Safe Roadways Committee, one of its newest citizens advisory committees, does not like the pedestrian safety situation on Philadelphia Ave., and it aims to do something about it.

The committee has been especially worried ever since an incident a few months ago in which a girl who had just gotten off a schoolbus was struck by a car that had pulled out to pass the schoolbus. The committee is concerned about the stretch of Philadelphia between Carroll Ave. and Takoma Ave. The road, also known as East-West Highway or Route 410, is a state highway, but it's also a residential street with heavy foot traffic and children crossing to go to three public schools nearby.

The greatest concern is the intersection where 410 meets Cedar Ave., Old Philadelphia, and the driveway leading to the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Municipal Building. Larry Rubin, a member of the committee, told the *Newsletter* that the intersection will probably be busier after the Community Center opens.

The Safe Roadways Committee has come up with several high-priority recommendations for the intersection, including: putting a pedestrian island in the middle of Philadelphia; closing off Old Philadelphia; highlighting the curb with special lighting; and hiring a school crossing guard for the intersection. At its Feb. 17 meeting, the Old Town Residents Association, a nearby neighborhood association, endorsed the committee's recommendations.

Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane (Ward 1) represents the area around that intersection, and has requested that the City Council consider the recommendations of the Safe Roadways Committee. Because that section of Philadelphia is a state highway, the Maryland State Highway Authority would have to approve changes in the road.

**Deadline for Submissions:**  
**March 14**  
**Next Issue:**  
**March 25**

**Editor**  
**Bob Guldin**

**Copy Editor**  
**Carol E. Smalls**

**Writers**  
**Lea Susan Chartock**  
**Diana Hoover**  
**Virginia Myers Kelly**  
**Kate Konschnik**

**Photography**  
**Clyde Lassell**

**Layout & Production**  
**Sligo Computer Services, Inc.**

**[www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org)**  
**Vol. 44, no. 6**

The *Takoma Park Newsletter* is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org).

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

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

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

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

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance. The *Newsletter* is printed on recycled-content paper.

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

Think Globally,  
Shop Locally;  
Support  
Takoma Park  
Businesses

## Who'll Stop The Rain? Stormwater Can Be a Blessing or a Curse

By Ali Khalilian, P.E.  
City Engineer

Stormwater replenishes our natural water resources. Clean water rejuvenates our streams and inhabitants. At the same time, pollution and floods erode the shores, poison the streams and damage aquatic life, depleting irreplaceable resources. The question is, how do we maximize the benefits and minimize the damage of the water that drops into our lives?

Both types of negative storm events—namely flooding and pollution transport—are inherently intermittent and as such escape attention when they are not visible. For this reason, stormwater management maintenance and upgrade along with environmental awareness in the community are essential ingredients in solving the problems that come with rainstorms.

However, at the risk of sounding self-congratulatory, I do believe that there is a great deal of sophistication and environmental consciousness in our community here in Takoma Park, as well as a realistic grasp of the far-reaching implications of a comprehensive

stormwater management program. With residents' awareness, we can achieve our goal of safe conveyance of runoff, free of pollution, into the surrounding watershed.

The City of Takoma Park has established a stormwater utility as a permanent program addressing the problems associated with runoff. Like many other



City worker manually unclogging a storm sewer inlet

municipalities, the stormwater utility has the following responsibilities: reviewing new development to ensure consistent standards are met, performing routine maintenance and small additions to the existing system, investing in capital projects to repair the backbone of the conveyance system and preparing to address the Environmental Protection Agency's future, higher requirements for stormwater. In the future, the utility may

expand its scope to include construction and maintenance of stormwater management facilities, flood plain management and erosion control enforcement currently enacted by the county.

Finally, EPA is tightening its regulations regarding non-point source pollution in a continuing effort to achieve the goal of the Clean Water Act—zero pollutant discharge. So far, to meet the requirements we have recognized the connection between clean streets and drain pipes' functionality, and implemented an as-needed streetsweeping program. This will help keep the pipes clean as well as reduce runoff pollution. A community-wide system model that analyzes sediment transportation and pollutant loading could also be a part of a master plan to reduce erosion and pollutants from our streets, and could prove useful in addressing the new EPA regulations.

One important factor in managing stormwater properly is implementing a computerized geographic information system or GIS.

### What You Can Do

There are also many things residents can do to help to keep surface runoff in the proper conveyance system and ultimately keep pollution in the Anacostia Watershed to a minimum. Among them:

Never dump used motor oil, paint or household chemicals on the ground or in a storm drain.

1. Don't pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them down the toilet.
2. Use non-toxic alternatives to home cleaning chemicals.

3. Don't buy more of a household cleaner or other chemical than you need for the job.
4. Read and follow directions on the use of household chemicals and disposal of containers.
5. Sweep driveways and patios clean instead hosing them down.
6. Check for leaky faucets and turn off the water when brushing teeth to conserve water.
7. Pre-cycle. Buy products with less packaging.
8. Pick up pet waste and put it in the garbage can or flush it down the toilet.

### In Your Yard

9. Preserve established trees in your yard and neighborhood.
10. Don't overuse fertilizers and pesticides.
11. Plant trees, shrubs and ground covers that filter pollutants and reduce stormwater runoff.
12. Don't cut your grass too short. Adjust your lawnmower to the proper height to reduce runoff from lawns.
13. Plant native vegetation and choose plants that require little or no fertilizer.
14. When you water your plants and lawn, make sure water doesn't wash over streets and sidewalks.

When an effective City- and countywide program is combined with day-to-day vigilance on the part of residents, we have a real chance of improving the quality of water and the quality of life in our watershed.

## Lt. Governor Steele Praises C-SAFE Anti-Crime Effort

Lt. Governor Michael Steele and other state officials came to the Long Branch Community Center Feb. 14 to praise an innovative and effective anti-crime effort in the Takoma/Langley area, in which the Takoma Park Police Department is the lead agency. The C-SAFE program (that stands for Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement) has been reducing crime by bringing people and agencies together from Takoma Park, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

Steele presented a Governor's Citation to the C-SAFE team. The program in the Takoma/Langley International Corridor works by bringing together not only traditional law enforcement, but also neighbors, businesses, social service agencies, and parole and probation officers.

The success of the International Corridor C-SAFE has heightened interest in putting together a similar cross-jurisdictional program in

Takoma Old Town, where D.C., Takoma Park, Montgomery County and Metro all are active.

The Maryland International Corridor C-SAFE program is one of 50 in the state. It covers both the Langley Park and the Long Branch/Takoma Park areas. The local program is considered among the top-performing C-SAFE initiatives in the state.

The program was initiated as a HotSpot program in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in 2000. It began with a year-long comprehensive study of the area's resources and needs that involved the entire community, under the direction of City resident Dr. Patricia Delaney.

The program addresses crime prevention and the fear of crime through a holistic approach, including youth programs and services.

John Brill was named program director in May 2002; the program also employs two community organizers.

## Housing Mailbox

### An Air Conditioner Problem

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

**A tenant wants to know if a landlord is still required to provide air conditioning even though the landlord was cited by Montgomery County last year for not having the proper electrical wiring to accommodate the window air conditioner. Upon receiving the violation notice, the landlord had removed the air conditioner instead of upgrading the electrical system.**

In accordance with City Ordinance 2004-36 which became effective Dec. 14, 2004, tenants have the right to have air conditioning (central or window unit) if air conditioning has been previously provided in their building. All air conditioner units, whether owned and maintained by the landlord or tenant, must be continued. Landlords who included air conditioning as an amenity with no extra fee (AC has been included in the rent), may not charge a separate fee for this amenity now.

If the previous lease indicated that an extra fee was applied for rental of an air conditioner, City regulations now require that this fee be not more than

\$35 per month from May through September (the air conditioning season). Charges for increased use of electricity during the air conditioning season only are permitted if the landlord is responsible for electricity and only if he/she previously charged for this increased electrical usage.

Under Ordinance 2004-36, all leases must now contain a provision which indicates whether the landlord or tenant will provide and maintain air conditioner units and whether a fee is being charged for the amenity. Landlords who have never provided air conditioning options are not required to do so now. However, the non-provision of air conditioning must be clearly indicated in their leases. If the lease is silent on the provision of air conditioning the ordinance indicates that a tenant may choose to exercise the option of having an air conditioner installed. In this instance the Landlord will be responsible for upgrading electrical outlets to comply with City/county code requirements. Tenants should call 301-891-7215 if they have any questions about this ordinance.



## Power to the People (Or at Least to the Cities)



Photo by Elizabeth Mosely

Officials from Montgomery and Prince George's counties gathered for a press conference Feb. 15 to make the case for having Maryland cities serve, essentially, as electric utilities. The proposal, called Municipal Electrical Aggregation, would permit Maryland cities and counties to use their joint purchasing power to get cheaper electricity for customers within their borders. At the press conference, the mayors signed a "Municipal Aggregation Letter of Interest." They then went to Annapolis to testify in favor of a Maryland Senate bill that would allow such arrangements. The municipalities were spurred by the deregulation of electricity in Maryland in 2004, which permitted PEPCO to raise its rates 16 percent last summer.

At the press conference in the Takoma Park Council Chamber were, from left to right: Assistant City Manager David Moran, Greenbelt; Councilmember Karen Hampton, College Park (and Vice President of the Prince George's County Municipal Association); Councilmember Terry Seamens, Takoma Park; Mayor Carolyn Shawaker, Garrett Park; Councilmember Henry Marraffa, Gaithersburg; Mayor Kitty Lynn Raufaste, Kensington; Mayor Kathy Porter, Takoma Park; Assistant Manager Geoffrey Biddle, Chevy Chase Village; Mayor Larry Giammo, Rockville; Councilmember Jeffrey Slavin, Somerset.

Also, other municipalities that have now signed onto the letter are: Town of Cottage City and the Town of University Park, both in Prince George's County.

## Tool Library Retooled and Relocated

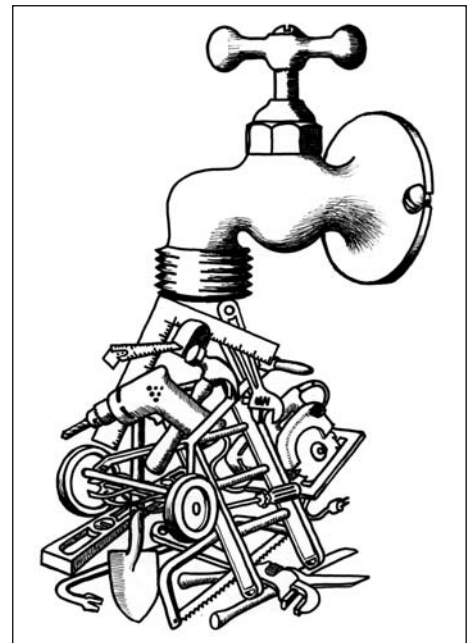
By Richard Levine

The Takoma Park Tool Library, in its new location on Ritchie Ave. just around the corner from Maple Ave. in front of Public Works, is changing its hours and increasing its tool inventory. The Tool Library trailer has been refurbished and the Tool Library site landscaped. Short-term street parking is available for users. New signs will be erected along Maple Ave. and at the Municipal Center to help residents find the Tool Library.

The Tool Library, by lending a wide variety of tools, can save residents the expense of purchasing and storing tools that are only occasionally used, some of which such as ladders are quite expensive and large. Also, the tool librarian is available to offer borrowers advice on the use of tools and their applicability for different types of repair.

Within the past year, a survey was taken of area residents at the Takoma Park Farmers' Market regarding the best hours of operation for the Tool Library and the most desired tools. Based on this survey and also on the observations of tool librarian Walt Rave, the hours of operation will be changed to Saturdays 9-3 and Sundays 10-4. Along with the current inventory of tools available, the Tool Library is seeking to add to its inventory those tools which according to the survey were the most wanted. Local businesses have expressed an interest in donating tools to the Tool Library, as have citizens.

An organization, Friends of the Tool Library, is being formed to promote use of the Tool Library, improve the tool inventory, and design community outreach



Drawing by Walt Rave

programs. Outreach programs might include conducting training programs regarding the use of tools and basic home repairs, forming work coops within the community where residents would exchange their time and knowledge to engage in home repair projects, and conducting programs to teach environmentally friendly ways to engage in home repairs and yard work.

People interested in signing up as members of Friends of the Tool Library should e-mail Richard Margoluis at Richard@FOSonline.org or write to Friends of the Takoma Park Tool Library, 7420 Cedar Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Please include your name, address, phone and e-mail and indicate if you would be willing to serve on the board of Friends of the Tool Library.

## 'TASDI' Committee Explores Duplication Of City, County Taxes and Services

By Hank Cox

A residents' committee convened by the City Council to examine the costs and delivery of services provided by Takoma Park that duplicate those provided elsewhere by Montgomery County, financed through City and county property taxes, is scheduled to finalize its report by the end of March and present it to the Council on April 11 in time for use in preparing the fiscal 2006 budget.

The 21-member Residents' Committee on Tax and Services Duplication Issues (or TASDI) includes three representatives of each ward appointed by their councilmember, plus three more at large appointed by Mayor Kathy Porter. It has been conducting regular meetings since late November.

The Council's creation of the double taxation group came amid growing public concern over the City's finances. The primary focus of the committee is to examine the fairness of Montgomery County's repayment to the City for City-provided services the county would provide to residents if there were no City government, as well as the cost and value of other City services not provided by the county. Takoma Park currently receives about \$2 million annually from the county for duplicated services, like police and public works,

representing approximately 15 percent of the City's general fund revenues.

City Council Resolution 2004-50, adopted by the Takoma Park City Council in mid-October, directed the Residents' Committee:

- 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 relief 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 a resident survey, specifically in regard to those questions concerning City service delivery.

The committee has established a series of working groups focused on the county reimbursement process, including the costs and quality of specific City services such as sanitation, recreation, police and housing. Each group is interviewing City and county officials.

Committee co-chairs Bruce Moyer and Dan Robinson agree that the core issue

underlying tax and service duplication in Takoma Park is that the City does not recover its full share of its costs from the county. "A big part of the problem," Moyer noted, "is that, despite the county's reimbursement for duplicative services, that rebate does not cover all of the City's costs, primarily because the county contends, if there were no City government, it would provide lesser or lower levels of service than the City currently provides."

"Another problem," Robinson added, "lies in the underlying reimbursement process that gives greater control to the county than to the City in determining what represents a 'fair' tax duplication payment from the county."

The magnitude of the tax duplication problem was underscored by Sunil Pandya, the county's budget manager, who told the committee during its second meeting in November that county payments to the City are higher than they should be.

In fact, the county may be moving to reduce its payments to Takoma Park, especially for police services, which represent 80 percent of the City's total current county rebate, approximately \$1.75 million. Suzanne Ludlow, the City staff community and government liaison, reported to the committee at its Dec. 1 meeting that the county is considering reducing its rebate

to Takoma Park for police services beginning with the FY07 budget. The county's argument, Ludlow said, is that police and safety coverage for Takoma Park, on a basis comparable to that elsewhere in the county, would require a smaller staff than Takoma Park currently uses. The county claims it would provide only 23 police, not the 41 employed by Takoma Park. Also, the county's level of response and response time would likely be slower, Ludlow said.

The committee also will take a closer look at Takoma Park's library, the only municipal library in Maryland. The county says it would not operate a library in Takoma Park, given the proximity of the Long Branch location. The Takoma Park library is ineligible for most state and federal funding due to state laws that discourage the creation and maintenance of city libraries in the state.

The taxes and services committee is reviewing a wide range of similar City and county services, looking for ways to increase revenues and reduce spending. Most of its meetings are being held at Columbia Union College. Citizens are invited to attend, as well as stay up-to-date on the committee's deliberations by accessing the City Web site at [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org).

Hank Cox is a member of the Residents' Committee on Tax and Services Duplication Issues.

# RECREATION

## "Getting Paid To Talk"

### An Introduction to Professional Voice Acting Adults

Don't miss out on the Creative Voice Development Groups only appearance in Takoma Park.

This two hour class is designed for those with little or no previous acting or voice over experience. Participants will be introduced to the realistic basics of professional Voice Acting for commercials, animation, books on tape, documentaries, and more. Instructor Kerem Karpinski.

When: Wed., April 6, 2005  
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Location: T. P. Municipal Building  
(Council Chambers)  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$10  
Non Res. \$15

## Puppy Kindergarten

Teach your pup or teenaged dog the foundation skills to being a well-mannered dog: attention, sit, come when called, leave it, and beginning leash walking. Positive reinforcement training using NO PUNISHMENTS and lots of fun. Pups from 3 months to 18 months who do not bark and lunge aggressively towards other dogs are welcome in the class. Must have current vaccination records. Kids 10 and up with adult are welcome! Six weeks. Instructor: Elizabeth Marsden of The Logical Dog.

When: Sat., April 9 - May 14  
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Location: Heffner Park Community Center  
42 Oswego Avenue  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$75  
Non Res. \$80

## Basic Dog Manners

Teach your adult dog the basics for good manners: attention, sit, come when called, leave it, and beginning leash walking. Positive reinforcement training using NO PUNISHMENTS and lots of fun. Dogs over 18 months who do not bark and lunge aggressively towards other dogs are welcome in the class. Must have current vaccination records. Kids 10 and up with adult are welcome! Six weeks. Instructor: Elizabeth Marsden of The Logical Dog.

When: Sat., April 9 - May 14  
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Heffner Park Community Center  
42 Oswego Avenue  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$75  
Non Res. \$80

## Sign up for Kids' Baseball, Softball, Basketball Camps

Registration is now open for Takoma SportsCamps' ninth summer season of camps for boys and girls at Takoma Park Middle School. Operated in cooperation with the City of Takoma Park Recreation Department, Takoma SportsCamps provides a full-day sports camp immersing campers in one sport per week. There's lots of practice, lots of playing time and lots of fun.

The camps - a series of five one-week sessions - run from June 20 to July 22. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The camps provide after-care between 3:30 and 4:00; then campers are walked by a staff member to Takoma Park Recreation Department's site at Piney Branch Elementary School. Scholarships are available.

Follow the links from [www.takomasportscamps.org](http://www.takomasportscamps.org) to see pictures from last year's camps, get details about sessions and fees, and download a registration form to print and mail in. For more information: [www.takomasportscamps.org](http://www.takomasportscamps.org), or call Sue Immerman at 301-270-0534.

## White Water Rafting on The Shenandoah River (Class II-III Rapids)

Ages 8 - 60\*

Join the Takoma Park Recreation Department as it once again is ready to tame the mighty Shenandoah River on the final section of the river before it merges with the Potomac. The expert guides will take us through White Horse Rapids, down the famed Shenandoah Staircase, and over Bull Falls. We'll float right by historic Harpers Ferry, scene of John Brown's famous raid and many Civil War battles. No experience is needed. All necessary equipment will be supplied by the outfitters. Limited space.

Trip length 6 miles: 3 - 4 hours depending upon river level.

When: Sun., April 17, 2005  
Departure: The van will depart from the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue at 12:00 p.m.  
Return: 7:30 p.m. (Approximately)  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$50  
Non Res. \$55

Registration Deadline: Friday April 1, 2005

\*All participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult

## Lo Impact Aerobics & Body Sculpting Class

Get out and play while you tone up for the summer. This class is designed to reshape your body with a tremendous workout as you cross-train with the best part of both fitness programs. Bring your own weights, a mat and some water. Don't neglect those abs and glutes anymore. Get that lean sculpted look you've always wanted. Six Weeks

When: Tues. & Thurs.,  
March 1 - April 7, 2005  
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Takoma Park  
Middle School,  
7611 Piney Branch Road  
(Auxiliary Gym)  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$60  
Non Res. \$65

## Kindermusik Village

Ages: newborn-1 1/2

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

When: Tuesdays 9:45 - 10:30  
April 5 - May 24  
Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:15  
April 6 - May 25  
Fridays 1:00 - 1:45  
April 8 - May 27  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$80  
Non Res. \$85

No program March 25.

## Spring Break Camp Passport to Timbuktu

Grades K-5

We are adding a twist to our Spring Break Camp this year. Along with our normal camp activities:

Explore the world of diverse cultures and landscapes of faraway places. Use your imagination and explore Mali using your five senses. Elizabeth Wallace will take you on the journey. Some activities for the week include: a trip down embassy row with a special stop at the Embassy of Mali, a special performance from a griot (a storyteller and musician from Mali). Other activities include swimming, arts and crafts, making a mud cloth, jewelry making, tasting the food of Mali, free time, and art with local resident and artist, Ame Perlman. (Please note activities and trips are subject to change.)

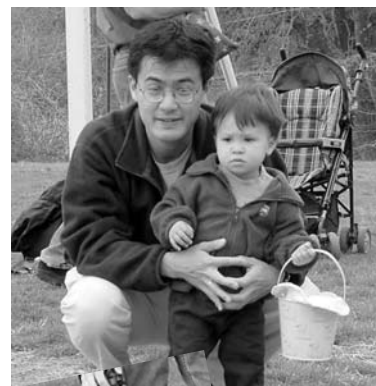
When: Mon. - Fri., Mar. 28 - April 1, 2005  
Before Care: 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Camp Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
After Care: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Location: T. P. Recreation Center,  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$85  
Non-Res. \$100  
Before Care \$20  
After Care \$20

## Writing Your Own Script Level 1

Grades 5-8

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. Instructor: Francesca Jandeseck, illustrator, dance instructor, composer, musician.

When: Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23  
Time: 4-6 p.m.  
Location: T. P. Municipal Building,  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Fee: Res. \$40  
Non-Res. \$50



## Music, Revelry, Board Elections... At the Friends Annual Meeting!

Folk artists Rick and Audrey Engdahl will perform at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library on Tues. March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

Rick and Audrey have performed as a duo for the past three years, entertaining audiences in the D.C. area with their sweet harmonies and distinctive blend of guitar and bouzouki. They perform for adults and children at coffeehouses, house concerts, schools and festivals. Audrey has performed at the Library's Tuesday morning Circle Time for preschoolers. In 2003 they received nominations for WAMMIE awards in three different categories — Contemporary Folk, Children's Music and Best Record Design.

Their band, Sense of Wonder, features Rob Nicholson on drums, Clark Rinard on piano, Mark Sylvestor on bass, and Dayana Yochim on cello, in addition to Rick and Audrey who sing and play

piano, guitar and bouzouki.

Following the evening's entertainment and refreshments, elections will be held for open positions on the Friends of the Library Board, including Treasurer and two Member at Large positions. The Friends are also seeking a Publicity Chair, an appointed position, to compose quarterly newsletters to the membership. Members of the Friends whose dues are current are eligible to serve on the Board and vote in the election. New and renewed memberships will be accepted at the March 22 meeting.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends or in being part of the Library's future by serving on its Board of Directors, contact Nominating Committee member Karen Petersen at 301-891-2588 or by e-mail at [kkpeters@earthlink.net](mailto:kkpeters@earthlink.net).

All are invited to join us for the evening's entertainment and refreshments. Bring family and friends!

## "Magic of the Sea" with Arianna Ross

Stories and Mini-workshop  
Tuesday, March 1, 7-8:45 p.m.

Arianna Ross is a storyteller/performer who grounds her storytelling in traditional tales intertwined with her international experience living and story-gathering in countries as diverse as Egypt, Ireland, Indonesia, and Spain. She will be returning to the Library on Tuesday, March 1 at 7 p.m. for a storytelling session followed by a mini-workshop in storytelling for those who wish to hone some of their own storytelling skills. The evening had previously been scheduled for January 24, but a combination of snow and no water in the Library suggested a later date would be more felicitous.

"The Magic of the Sea" is a poetic capturing of the heart with bright oranges, reds, and greens of the coral, fish, and folk tradi-

tions of Indonesia. This is a unique story based on Ross's experiences living with Indonesian fishermen and is a particularly poignant choice in the wake of the recent tsunami devastation in that region.

Arianna Ross has trained in theater, dance, voice, and photograph in the United States. She has spent three years studying acrobatics, music, martial arts, and performing with Bansi Kaul's troupe Rang Vidushak all over India. She is deeply concerned with 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. Let us know if you are interested in staying for the mini-workshop. And thanks, as always, to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for supporting these family programs.

## LIBRARY



### Call for Poetry: Seventh Favorite Poem Evening

*It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there . . .*

— William Carlos Williams

The Seventh "Favorite Poem" evening in April, sponsored jointly by the English Department of Columbia Union College and the Takoma Park Maryland Library, will be celebrated on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. Though traditionally held in the Council Chambers, this year's reading will be held in an as yet undisclosed location.

Members of the community are heartily invited to share with their neighbors and friends a poem that has been meaningful to them in their lives. We hope for a widely diverse group to be reading, including poems read in a language other than English. Even people normally too shy to read before a group have found both courage and pleasure in sharing a poem during the community's last six annual events, and this year the as-yet-undisclosed setting will be inviting, we hope, for even the most reticent.

Inspiration may be found in the hundreds of poetry books in the Takoma Park Library collection. One particularly inspiring volume is co-edited by Takoma Park's own Megan Scribner. *Teaching with Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach* is

a collection of 88 poems from well-loved poets, each accompanied by a brief story by a teacher who has derived courage and meaning from the poem for his or her life's work.

If you are interested in participating in this year's event, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet (other than poems written by you and your friends.) Please include an English translation for any poems written in a language other than English. Send a copy of the poem you have chosen, and your name, address, phone number, and occupation (in generic terms) to Takoma Park Maryland Library, Attn: Ellen Arnold-Robbins or to the English Department, Attn: Wendy Ripley, Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. You may also email your submissions to [wripley@cuc.edu](mailto:wripley@cuc.edu). Please submit your poems by April 8.

Questions may be directed to Wendy Ripley at 301-891-4068 or to Ellen Arnold-Robbins at 301-891-7259. As before, the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will sponsor a reception following the readings.

## Library Programs in March

**"Magic of the Sea" with Arianna Ross**  
**Storytelling and Mini-workshop**  
Tuesday, March 1, 7-8:45 p.m.  
postponed from Jan. 24 (See story)

**'Rick & Audrey'**  
FTPML Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m. (See story)

**Winter Session of the Twosies**  
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.  
March 2, 9  
For two-year-olds and parent/caregivers  
Pre-registration required: group size limited  
Spring Session April 6, 13, 20, 27

**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.



## IMT Presents Folk Concerts in March

The Institute of Musical Traditions, a presenting organization affiliated with the Takoma Park store the House of Musical Traditions, has four concerts in the folk/acoustic tradition planned for the month of March.

For more information on the concerts, call 301-754-3611 or visit [www.imtfolk.org](http://www.imtfolk.org). All four concerts will be at the Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, in Rockville.

On Monday, March 7, the group Hot Soup! will be playing. The trio brings a rare blend of spontaneity and intimacy to their performances, often developing hilarious exchanges among themselves and with the audience. The show will be at 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$14 in advance, \$17 at the door.

The Celtic group Iona will play Monday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. Iona's music is a unique, acoustic weave of the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany (France), the Isle of Man and Galicia (Spain). Tickets are \$14 in advance, \$17 at the door.

On March 21, autoharp master Bryan Bowers will play, with D.C.'s own Fleastompers as an opening act. Bowers is probably the best known autoharp player in the country — one of only four (!) in the Autoharp Hall of Fame. His towering six foot four inch frame can be wild and zany on stage while playing a song like "Dixie," and five minutes later he can have the same audience singing "Will The Circle Be Unbroken" in quiet reverence and delight. Tickets will be \$14 in advance, \$17 at the door.

On Monday, March 28 IMT presents a veritable hootenanny: Acoustic Showcase, with featured performer Dennis Jay. Tickets are all \$8. IMT's celebrated Acoustic Showcase Night overflows with the area's best homegrown talent, playing to a warm and receptive crowd. Come just to listen or take the stage and perform your newest song. To sign up for a 10-minute performance slot call 301-754-3611 or e-mail [imtfolk@erols.com](mailto:imtfolk@erols.com). Food and libation are available. Original material preferred.



# THE CRIME REPORT

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

## Robberies

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** On Jan. 11 at 5 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim, an adult male, was at a gathering with several acquaintances when one subject displayed a handgun and hit the victim with it while a second subject took the victim's cash. Both fled on foot. The victim was treated at a hospital and released.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6400 block:** On Jan. 29, at 11:10 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. Two subjects forced their way into the locked enclosure of a business during the shift change and forced the two employees, one male and one female, to lie on the ground. One subject displayed a handgun. The subjects took cash and property before fleeing on foot. The victims were not injured.

**Park Ave., 200 block:** On Feb. 4 at 10:02 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. An adult female exiting her vehicle was approached by a subject who displayed a large knife and demanded her purse. The subject ran off with the victim's purse after she threw it at him. The victim was not injured.

## Burglaries

**Carroll Ave., 7800 block:** On Jan. 8, between midnight and 4:42 a.m., a residential burglary occurred. Unknown subject(s) entered the apartment by pushing out a piece of cardboard that had been taped over a broken window and reaching in to unlock the window. Property was taken.

**East-West Highway, 900 block:** On Jan. 14 at 1:49 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. The front glass door of the business was broken in order to gain entry. It is unknown what, if any, property was taken.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block:** On Jan. 16 at 12:41 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. The front glass door of the business was broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7500 block:** On Jan. 22 at 12:19 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. The front glass door of the business was broken in order to gain entry. It is unknown if any property was taken.

**Lee Ave., 100 block:** On Jan. 31, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the home was gained. Property was taken.

**13th Ave., 7200 block:** On Feb. 1, between 12:03 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry to the home was gained through an unlocked window. Property was taken.

**Ethan Allen Ave., 300 block:** On Feb. 10, between 8 a.m. and 6:55 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A basement window and door were broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

## Auto and Related Theft

**Kennewick Ave., 7900 block:** Between Jan. 11 at 5 p.m. and Jan. 12 at 6:50 a.m., a 1994 Honda Accord was stolen.

**Maple Ave., 7500 block:** Between Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. and Jan. 16 at 5:08 p.m., a 1998 Ford Explorer was stolen.

**Woodland Ave., 6900 block:** Between Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. and Jan. 18 at 7:30 a.m., a 1999 Dodge Caravan was stolen.

**Lee Ave., 100 block:** On Jan. 23, between 6:25 a.m. and 11:18 a.m., a 1997 Mercury Grand Marquis was stolen.

**Lincoln Ave., 500 block:** On Jan. 23, between 6:55 p.m. and 7:10 p.m., a 1997 Plymouth Voyager was stolen.

**Lee Ave., 100 block:** On Jan. 27 at 6:15 a.m., a 1997 Dodge truck was stolen. It had been left unattended and running.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** Between Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 4 at 11:30 a.m., a 2002 Dodge Intrepid was stolen.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block:** On Feb. 5, between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m., a 1996 Dodge Caravan was stolen.

**Sligo Creek Parkway, 700 block:** Between Feb. 2 at 9:30 p.m. and Feb. 6 at 9:10 a.m., a 1995 Ford Windstar was stolen.

## ARRESTS

**New Hampshire Ave., 7000 block:** On Jan. 7 at 1:16 a.m., an adult male was charged with possession of CDS (drugs) with intent to distribute, possession of CDS paraphernalia and numerous traffic-related offenses.

**Garland Ave., 7200 block:** On Jan. 8 at 9:09 p.m., an adult female was charged with 2nd degree assault after officers responded to a call for an assault.

**Merrimack Drive, 900 block:** On Jan. 9 at 11:09 p.m., an adult male was arrested on a open Montgomery County warrant for contempt of court for failure to pay a deferred payment.

**Maple Ave., 7500 block:** On Jan. 11 at 7:45 a.m., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for driving while suspended.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block:** On Jan. 15 at 3:05 a.m., traffic citations were issued to an adult male for driving while impaired by alcohol and six other traffic-related offenses.

**Lee Ave., 100 block:** On Jan. 15 at 9:43 p.m., an adult female was charged with 2nd degree assault after officers responded to a call for an assault in progress.

**Lee Ave., 100 block:** On Jan. 25 at 2 a.m., citations for driving while impaired by alcohol, failure to drive on the right and failure to control speed to avoid collision were issued to an adult male.

**New Hampshire Ave., 650 block:** On Jan. 27 at 2:05 a.m., an adult male was charged with theft under \$500, two counts of possession of CDS and possession of CDS paraphernalia.

**Flower Ave., 8600 block:** On Jan. 29 at 9:45 p.m., an adult male was charged with 2nd degree assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

**Flower Ave., 8500 block:** On Jan. 30 at 5:45 p.m., an adult male was charged with 2nd degree assault and reckless endangerment after officers responded to a call for an assault in progress.

**Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Ave.:** On Feb. 4 at 1:55 a.m., an adult male was charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia and traffic-related offenses.

**Piney Branch Road, 8400 block:** On Feb. 6 at 2:38 a.m., three adult males were charged with trespassing.



## The Firehouse Report

for a total of 318 incidents this year. Totals for 2004 were 84 and 196 respectively, for a total of 280, representing an increase of 38 incidents.

## Serious Fire on Hilton Ave.

On Feb. 5 at 1:12 a.m., a serious fire occurred at 7301 Hilton Ave., resulting in approximately \$175,000 damage to the house. There were no injuries. The fire appeared to have started in the kitchen area. This cause is under investigation by the Fire Marshal's Office. We must again remind readers that some of the leading causes of home fires are unattended cooking, unattended lit candles, smoking materials, electrical appliances and wiring. We also strongly recommend a working smoke alarm on each level of the home, also it's important to have an escape plan for the entire family in the event of a fire.

## FREE! Fire and Injury Programs

The Takoma Park VFD would like to make you aware of the following public education programs that are available through our department.

**Baby Sitters Course** - This course covers fire safety, infant and child care, personal safety, CPR and first aid. Please contact the City Rec Department about the next class.

**Home Safety Inspection** - A representative will visit your home and walk through with you, pointing out any potential fire and injury hazards and tell you how to eliminate them.

**Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** - This program teaches the participants how to perform this lifesaving technique. This is a "Family and Friends" course, which means it's not a certification course.

**Speakers** - We will be glad to provide your group or organization with a speaker to talk on any subject relating to fire department or fire and injury prevention.

**Child Safety Seat Check** - The department has qualified personnel that will be glad to check your child safety seat(s) in your vehicle. This is done by appointment only.

If you are interested in having one or more of the above programs, please contact the fire station at 301-270-8209 for further information.

## Takoma Park VFD Fire Fighter Receives Award

At the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association meeting held on Jan. 20, Firefighter 2 Jerry Sanford received the "Fire Fighter of the Month Award" for the outstanding job he did at a fire. Sanford was working at an apartment building in the City, when he became aware of the fire in the building. He immediately took charge. He noticed that several people were in an apartment unit full of smoke trying to put out the fire. He told them to get out and call the fire department. Sanford located a fire extinguisher and put the fire out. By the time the fire department had arrived, FF Sanford had everything under control. No one was injured. Again, a job well done!



From left to right: President Elmer Hamm, TPVFD, Awards Chairperson Sue Malloy making presentation to FF2 Jerry Sanford, and Fire Chief Jim Jarboe, TPVFD

## Can You Open Your Windows?

Windows usually offer the best alternate escape route in the event of a fire. Make sure all windows and screens work easily to permit escape through them. There may be a porch or shed roofs under the windows that can provide a pathway to safety. Special attention should be given to windows with air conditioner and security bars. Check your windows today - especially the sleeping areas. Be prepared, have a plan!

## Takoma Park Lions Club

## 45 Years of Dedicated Service in Lionism

At the Jan. 18 Takoma Park Lions Club meeting, District Governor Gary Burdette presented a Certificate of Appreciation to club member Paul McGarvey, who also received an International President's Share Pin.



District Governor Gary Burdette making the presentation to Paul McGarvey.



# Crime Dropped in Takoma Park in 2004

For the second year, the overall crime figures for Takoma Park dropped, from the near-record high numbers of 2002. The 2004 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) crime figures for the City were released showing not only an overall decrease, but also drops in every category of property and violent crimes. Four of the seven index crimes showed year 2004 rates lower than the 10-year averages.

Overall index crimes decreased 11 percent compared to last year, reaching the lowest level in the past 10 years.

The year saw 58 robberies, the second lowest number in 10 years. This represents a 29 percent decline from the near record number of 92 robberies in 2002. The smallest drop in "violent crime," or those against persons, occurred in aggravated assault. In addition to the 28 aggravated cases, police reported 83 simple assaults compared to 96 in 2003. No homicides and two rapes were reported in 2004, compared to two and nine, respectively, in 2003. Violent crime overall decreased 18 percent, with property crimes falling 10 percent.

Motor vehicle theft dropped for the second year since the 10-year record high in 2002. With 156 reports of theft or attempts, the number remains within the statistically-expected range. "Although we are encouraged by this decline, the police urge vehicle owners to continuing practicing property protection habits that help deter this crime," said Chief Cynthia Creamer.

Burglary also remains in the expected range despite a decline of almost 15 per-

cent. Of the 133 reported burglaries, 39 were in commercial or public buildings, with the remainder in residences. No significant pattern of break-ins emerged, with property being taken from houses, apartments, and sheds or garages.

Larceny, or theft of all kinds, reached a 10-year low with 410 reports. More than half of these stemmed from thefts from auto or theft of auto parts. The 2002 larceny figure had been a record high, now showing reductions in two consecutive years.

Although police are encouraged by the overall decreases, the department does not pinpoint any single factor or particular programs as responsible. "Last year the department reported that two crimes—burglary and robbery—that touch most residents randomly and personally were decreasing," Creamer said. "While that trend continued, we believe continued vigilance by police and residents is required to keep that trend going."

Statewide figures are not available currently. From January to June 2004, state figures showed a one percent decrease in total index crimes. The Washington metropolitan region showed increases of about seven percent in aggravated assault and motor vehicle theft, with declines in the other five categories, comparing the first half of 2004 to 2003.

Last year Takoma Park Police arrested at least 10 persons for vehicle theft or unauthorized use; 42 for driving while impaired or under the influence; 44 for drug possession or related charges; and 16 for robbery.

## POLICE NEWS

UCR Part I Crime Comparison

|                | 2003       | 2004       | %Change      | Expected Range*         |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Homicide       | 2          | 0          | -100         | .27 - 1.93              |
| Rape           | 9          | 2          | -77.7        | 4.71 - 8.89             |
| Robbery        | 67         | 58         | -13.4        | 65.93 - 98.07           |
| Aggr. Assault  | 30         | 28         | -6.6         | 21.21 - 62.79           |
| Personal Crime | 108        | 88         | -18.5        | 105.42 - 158.38         |
| Burglary       | 156        | 133        | -14.7        | 130.74 - 184.66         |
| Larceny        | 447        | 410        | -8.2         | 488.28 - 606.92         |
| Auto Theft     | 176        | 156        | -11.3        | 131.71 - 200.49         |
| Property Crime | 779        | 699        | -10.3        | 797.46 - 945.34         |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>887</b> | <b>787</b> | <b>-11.3</b> | <b>916.13 - 1090.47</b> |

\* Based on 10-year figures from 1994 - 2003

City of Takoma Park  
10-Year UCR Part I Crime Statistics

| Crime               | 95  | 96  | 97  | 98  | 99  | 00  | 01  | 02  | 03  | 04  |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Homicide            | 1   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 2   | 0   |
| Rape                | 7   | 6   | 11  | 5   | 9   | 5   | 4   | 6   | 9   | 2   |
| Robbery             | 99  | 103 | 89  | 73  | 50  | 97  | 70  | 92  | 67  | 58  |
| Aggravated Assault  | 77  | 26  | 35  | 50  | 37  | 27  | 28  | 25  | 30  | 28  |
| Violent Crime Total | 184 | 138 | 136 | 129 | 97  | 130 | 103 | 123 | 108 | 88  |
| Burglary            | 215 | 151 | 167 | 151 | 158 | 137 | 150 | 107 | 156 | 133 |
| Larceny             | 606 | 573 | 550 | 609 | 477 | 494 | 562 | 639 | 447 | 410 |
| Auto Theft          | 163 | 200 | 132 | 140 | 147 | 166 | 198 | 230 | 176 | 156 |

## "Routine" Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest In Three-Year-Old Murder Case

Officer Jenna Aubert may have thought she was simply checking a car for its registration in the early morning hours of Feb. 4. In fact, she was helping Takoma Park Police put the finishing touches on a homicide investigation that began 43 months earlier. The story is an example of how law enforcement agencies throughout the metropolitan area assist each other, as well as the importance of traffic enforcement in crime control.

### The Traffic Stop

At 4 a.m., the temperature hovered at 20 degrees with threats of precipitation. Ofc. Aubert, a three-year veteran of the City of Hyattsville Police, noticed a handwritten placard "Tag Stolen" in the back window of a car. She chose to check the tag's validity and discovered the car actually had an assigned temporary tag, which had expired two weeks before. Potential charge: operating an unregistered vehicle.

Rather than stopping there, she ran a wanted check on the driver. That showed he was wanted in South Carolina on a warrant for fraud, for which that state would not extradite. It isn't required, but she went the extra step. "I thought I should cover all the bases," Ofc. Aubert explained, "so I ran the passenger too."

That check showed the passenger, Perry Brown, was wanted on a three-year-old Takoma Park warrant for "accessory after" in a murder. She arrested the fugitive. Later that morning, TPPD Det. Richard

Poole assumed custody and transported Brown to the Montgomery County Detention Center.

"In rare instances, police observe criminal acts directly," said Capt. Edward Coursey, commander of TPPD's patrol division. "But traffic enforcement gives police an opportunity to get up close and personal with people. In doing that, you can find indicators of other criminal activity, which happened in this case."

"What Ofc. Aubert did was just good solid police work and we appreciate it."

### The Homicide

Brown, of no fixed address, faces a charge of accessory after the fact in the murder of Kennes C. Falconer, 26, who was found stabbed in her New Hampshire Ave. apartment Aug. 18, 2001, by her fiancée when he returned from work. Falconer, a medical worker in Maryland and D.C., was pregnant at the time.

The warrant alleges Brown assisted two women in attempting to remove evidence from the crime scene and driving them to seek medical care. He is being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center without bond.

Bianca Coleman and Ramioka Fowler, both 22 at the time of the murder, were sentenced to 25 and 20 years imprisonment, respectively. Investigation showed Coleman had been involved with Falconer's fiancée and the murder was intended to continue that relationship.

### One Crime, Multiple Agencies

In addition to the alert assistance of the Hyattsville Police, several other agencies assisted Takoma Park Police in bringing the suspects to justice.

The August 2001 murder occurred on an upper floor in a New Hampshire Avenue high-rise apartment building. Evidence was found not only in the apartment, but in stairways over several floors. Given the extensive crime scene, the five-member Takoma Park detective unit requested the assistance of technicians and canine from Montgomery County Police.

As the investigation progressed and leads developed, Takoma Park detectives focused on a suspect in suburban Virginia. The Fairfax County Police assisted in filing and executing a search warrant on Aug. 24 at the Springfield residence of Coleman. She was arrested six days after the crime and pled guilty to first-degree homicide in January 2002.

In February 2002, Prince George's County Police assisted as Takoma Park detectives conducted another search warrant on property in that jurisdiction. Members of the PGPD fugitive search and arrest team also aided TPPD in the Feb. 13 arrest of Ramioka Fowler at the home of a relative in Upper Marlboro.

A warrant for Brown, issued Feb. 27, 2002, was executed during a routine traffic stop in Hyattsville on Feb. 4, 2005. In this Washington metropolitan area, where criminals are not contained by borders, law enforcement agencies can and do work cooperatively, as this case demonstrates. A police officer can never approach any traffic stop as routine.

### Crime Index Explained

The Crime Index is a nationwide, cooperative program to assess the nature and type of crime in the nation.

**Personal or "Violent" Index Crimes** involve force or threat of force, generally considered crimes against persons.

**Murder and non-negligent manslaughter:** willful, non-negligent killing of one human being by another.

**Rape:** carnal knowledge of a woman, forcible and against her will, including assault and attempt to commit rape by force or threat of force; statutory rape not included

**Robbery:** taking or attempting to take anything of value from a person by force or threat of force

**Aggravated assault:** unlawful attack by one person on another for the purpose of inflicting bodily injury, usually involving a weapon.

**Property Index Crimes** are offenses dealing with property, committed without force or threat of force.

**Burglary:** is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

**Larceny-theft:** the unlawful taking of property from the possession of another (including shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, bicycles thefts) in which no force, violence or fraud is used.

**Motor Vehicle Theft:** includes stealing of automobiles, buses, motorcycles, etc., or attempted theft.

# City Cries Out: We Need More Gym Space

Continued from page 1

in gym fees, including during summer camps.

That’s nowhere near the millions it will take to build a new one. But Haiduven says the need for another gym is clear. “The need was established a while back,” she says, referring to initial surveys of what Takoma Park citizens wanted in a Community Center. If anything, that need has grown. While Haiduven’s department uses three nearby gyms “heavily,” and has daily use of Piney Branch for an after-school care program, she notes there is very little flexibility in the schedule.

## Driving to Laurel

When the department scheduled daycare for elementary school kids and sports for middle schoolers, they couldn’t hold the programs simultaneously because of a county restriction on mixing age groups. The gyms must be reserved six months in advance. Indoor soccer and softball are prohibited because of equipment hazard — once a softball practice damaged a sprinkler system.

“There are people who have to drive to Laurel to take their kids to indoor soccer,” says Haiduven. If Takoma Park had its own gym, “All of our programs would benefit.” Other current gym activities include fencing, dance, kung fu, aerobics,

Tae Bo, boxing, self defense, tai-chi, cheerleading, double dutch, step team and flag football.

If demand is undeniable, what other resources are out there? The school gyms are most obvious, but there’s also the small community center on New Hampshire Ave. It’s a “very, very small gym,” says Haiduven, not big enough for basketball tournaments or anyone but small children for indoor soccer. A look at one recent schedule showed every hour booked except Sundays, when Haiduven says insufficient staffing keeps the space closed. Saturdays the center is rented to a local dance company, an arrangement that is a trade-off, she says — needed revenue for space.

Long Branch Community Center near Piney Branch Road, a county-run facility, is also nearby — and busy. Center director Morris Buster says teams from two basketball leagues practice at once, and the place buzzes most afternoons with an after-school care program and open gym. “Certainly there’s a need” for more gym space, says Buster, who has worked with Matt Corley, the City recreation department assistant director, sharing space in the past.

Other possible gyms include John Nevins Andrews school on Elm Ave., but it’s booked solid, with priority given to Seventh Day Adventist church groups; Columbia Union College, booked with

college sports; and St. Camillus, already used by parish schools and Catholic Youth Organization. The Presbyterian Church on Maple and Tulip Avenues has a gym with new floors and available time slots; it is used most heavily in winter, for basketball, softball and soccer. Montgomery College is another possibility, where priority goes to classes and college teams — but according to a scheduler there, most weekends are empty. Haiduven, however, points to the convenience of having a gym at the municipal center, implying that driving or even walking kids to other gyms creates a logistical challenge. She points out that flexibility would certainly be greater with a City gym.

## That Old Firehouse Gang

Howard Kohn, chair of the Citizens Liaison Committee to the Community Center, acknowledges the practical need for a gym in the Community Center — “You could fill up a gym just with soccer and basketball practices” — but his personal reason for advocating for the space is political. “When you set up a common gathering place for everyone, some of us will be attracted by the pottery room, some by the stage and performing arts, some by martial arts, and some by sports and a gym. To leave out that critical part is really not completing the circle of the people who live here in Takoma Park. There’s a question of social justice and fairness.”

Furthermore, Kohn reasons that kids who come for the gym will be exposed to dance and pottery and art; they’ll find tutoring and mentors. “You finally get to the cliché about it takes the village to raise kids,” says Kohn. “That’s show you do it. You need to get to know the kids and how you get to know them is sometimes in the gym.”

It certainly happened in the old gym, once located under the firehouse at Philadelphia and Carroll avenues. Unfortunately, that gym was condemned in 1996

because of structural defects, but many remember it fondly as a place where kids could not only play basketball, but, on the balcony, get into some ping pong, air hockey or pool and, on Saturdays, go roller skating. The city held its Halloween and Christmas parties there, and ran an after-school program for children as well as adult activities in the evenings. Also heavily used was the gym at Philadelphia and Chicago avenues, torn down 20 or more years ago. A community center behind Piney Branch Elementary school burned in the 1970s; it never had a gym.

“There are so many things that you can do with a gym other than basketball,” says Belle Ziegler, remembering the many activities she helped organize over her years running the recreation department more than a decade ago. “My hope [for the new Community Center] was that the gym would be the first thing they would do. That would be a blessing for the kids.”

In passing the \$2.6 million bond, the council opted to postpone building the gym until costs could be quantified more clearly. Kohn and his committee are currently assessing costs for the gym. A feasibility study is under way. Parking, which was originally planned to be under the gym, will be re-examined. Kohn said other sites will even be reconsidered, though he expects to return to the current site as most viable. Then the committee will come up with a price.

Expected cost will be around \$2.5 million, if one goes by the bond the city would have floated had it included the gym in its immediate plan. Kohn thinks the costs could be covered by property taxes, as assessments recently went up. Other ways to raise the revenue include another bond; reducing other City services; diminishing the City reserve funds; or raising the property tax rate.

“I can establish a need for a gym,” says Haiduven. “It’s up to the community to decide whether to pay.”

# Thunderbolts, Now in Cal Ripken League, Are Takoma’s Own Baseball Team

By Dick O’Connor

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts baseball team has joined the new Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League and is warming up for the 2005 season. This Maryland-based wooden bat league will play its first season in June and July, with six teams: the Thunderbolts, Bethesda Big Train, College Park Maryland Bombers, Maryland Redbirds, Rockville Express, and Youse’s Maryland Orioles. The teams will play a 40-game regular season, an all-star game and a league championship tournament.

“We’re very pleased and proud to be part of a new league named in honor of the late Cal Ripken, Sr., one of the great baseball figures in the state of Maryland,” said Thunderbolts President Dick O’Connor. “We’re working to build a strong community-based league that will bring great college baseball to fans in Maryland. Look for a number of future big leaguers to be playing here in the years to come.”

The League has signed a license agreement with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, Inc. for the use of the name Cal Ripken, Sr. The League is not affiliated with, or sponsored by, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, Inc. or Ripken Baseball, Inc. The League will be open to college-eligible players under the age of 23. The teams will recruit nationally and house players coming from out of the area with host families for the two-month season.

The Thunderbolts and Big Train both played in the Clark Griffith Collegiate Baseball League (consisting of teams in Virginia and Maryland) last season. The Bombers, Redbirds and Orioles were in the Eddie Brooks League, a Baltimore area

wooden bat league. The Express will begin its first year of operation in 2005.

By moving into the new league together, the friendly Montgomery County rivalry between the Thunderbolts and Big Train will continue. For the last five years the Gazette Newspapers have sponsored the Montgomery Cup, awarded to the Montgomery County team with the best record in head-to-head games. That competition is expected to continue, with the new Rockville team added to the mix.

This will be the Thunderbolts’ sixth season. The team’s home field will continue to be the Blair Baseball Stadium next to Blair High School at the intersection of University Boulevard and Colesville Road in Silver Spring. The team has raised funds over the last several years to build a 336-seat grandstand, a concession stand and announcer’s booth on the site. It is currently in the middle of a fund-raising effort to pay off its remaining loans. The field is also used by the Blair Blazers varsity and JV teams along with a number of other leagues. The coaching staff, with Bobby St. Pierre as head coach and Matt Werts as assistant coach, will continue to run the team on the field.

In addition to sponsoring a college team, the Thunderbolts offer a summer baseball camp for boys and girls from the ages of 8 to 16. It is run by Fred Rodriguez, a former Thunderbolts head coach and a well-known youth baseball instructor. Further information on the camp is available on the Thunderbolts Website: [www.tbolts.org](http://www.tbolts.org).

You’ll also find information on season tickets, sponsor packages, booster club, schedule, and team rosters on the Website. And be sure to catch all the excitement of Thunderbolts baseball this June and July.

## Register for Youth Baseball and Softball

Hey kids! Here’s your chance to register for the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken baseball and softball programs, including youth baseball (ages 7-18), girls’ softball (ages 7-14) and teen co-ed softball (ages 13-18).

There are three ways to register.

- 1) **In person** at the Takoma Park Municipal Center (7500 Maple Ave, entrance in the back) Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
For girls’ softball only: April 16, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 2) **Online** at [www.takomabaseball.org](http://www.takomabaseball.org).
- 3) **By mail:** a completed registration form with the appropriate registration fee.  
For baseball and teen co-ed softball: 7914 Long Branch Parkway, Takoma Park, MD 20912  
For girls’ softball: 7107 Poplar Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Volunteers are needed. Takoma Park Babe Ruth baseball/softball needs you to pitch in, as a coach, team parent, umpire or board member. Contact communications coordinator Ray Scannell to find out more: [RFScannell@aol.com](mailto:RFScannell@aol.com).

## Takoma Park Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Races

The Cub Scouts of Pack 33 in Takoma Park will hold its annual Pinewood Derby Race at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 5, starting at 1 p.m. Building and racing Pinewood Derby cars is a Takoma Park Cub Scout tradition dating back more than 50 years. Boys are given a small block of wood, four wheels and four nails to be used as axles. With the help of the parents, guardians or den leaders, the boys carve, sand, paint, polish and decorate their cars. On race day they race their cars down a 30-foot track against all the others to determine who is the fastest in their den level or the fastest in the City. Awards are given not only for speed but also for most creative/best-looking car.

Starting the week of March 7, the Takoma Park Maryland Library will feature a Pinewood Derby car exhibit. This display will include a step-by-step look at how the cars are made, along with many of the finished cars built and raced by Takoma Park Cub Scouts in earlier times, and more.

## Unusual Carroll Ave. Street Sculpture Paves the Way for Public Art

Continued from page 1

colored bubbles along Carroll Avenue. Meanwhile, John & Lynne Hume offered an intertwining, flowering vine pattern, complete with hummingbirds and other critters.

On Jan. 18, the Sidewalk Art Committee unveiled the finalists to the full commission. At this meeting, commission members discussed the process for choosing the winner from among these two finalists. This discussion was part of a larger commission objective, which seeks to create a standardized process for selecting public art in Takoma Park. The Sidewalk Art project is serving two goals, then — to brighten



**Art you can walk on: Details on sidewalk art proposals (above and below left)**

Takoma Park's pavement, and to literally pave the way for future public art projects in our city.

After hearty debate, members of the commission decided to hear from the public. So, the finalists' models were displayed in the Municipal Building for two weeks, and on the City's Web site, and at the local Farmers' Market. A community meeting took place at the Municipal Building on Thursday, Feb. 3, and neighborhood input has poured in on the City's Web site. City employee Ivy Thompson, who has been coordinating the Sidewalk Art project, remarked that "the idea and the work of both artists were very well received by the community."

The Commission approved the Adriana Baler proposal, and on Feb. 22, the City Council gave final approval. So, be on the lookout for construction to begin. As Commission member Welmoed Laanstra noted in the Jan. 18 meeting, no matter which project is selected, "once it's all installed, it should be beautiful, it should be Takoma Park."



### Emily Pomroy Monitor, Community Leader

Emily Pomroy Monitor, a longtime resident and community leader of Takoma Park, died Jan. 29 in Phoenixville, Pa. She was 91 years old.

Monitor was born Dec. 15, 1913 in St. Paul, Minn. She was the wife of the late Anthony Fred Monitor. Since 2001, she lived in The Villas and in Woodbridge Place in the Phoenixville area.

On Feb. 26, 1960, the women of Takoma Park honored Monitor for her unselfish and sincere efforts on behalf of the City. She gave many days and nights of thought and study concerning the welfare of the City's citizens. Among her accomplishments were the Veteran's Memorial, the yearly Christmas tree lighting, Halloween programs and the Heffner Park Recreation Building. She attended many conferences for exchanging municipal plans, and was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Monitor was a member at First Methodist Church in Hyattsville, Md. and Grace Methodist Church of Takoma Park.

Monitor was a homemaker, an avid seamstress, gardener, baker and shuffleboard player. Both Emily and her husband Tony were enthusiastic dancers who appreciated big band music. Emily was also known as a "cheerful earful."

Monitor is survived by two sons, Gary Dean Monitor of Mount Airy, Md., and Charles Phillip Monitor, who lives in Nemour, W. Va., and a daughter, Nancy Louise Zinn, of Kimberton, Pa. Other survivors are an aunt, Louise Sausen, who resides in Minnesota and a younger sister, Gladus Woodside, who resides with her daughter in The Dalles, Ore. Five grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews live throughout the states.

Graveside services were held at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood, Md., on Feb. 3. Contributions may be given in her name to the Terry Johnson Cancer Fund, Center for Basic Cancer Research, 1 Chalmers Hall, Manhattan KS 66506.

## Takoma Park City TV Events in March 2005

Tune in to City TV this month to catch some lively performances from the Takoma Park Street Festival, Jazz Band Brawl and Takoma Park Folk Festival.

The Folk Festival performances highlight traditional music from various regions. Songs in the Tradition is a collaboration of Mary Sue Twohy, Zoe Mulford, Rachel Cross and Brooke Parkhurst. This energetic group shares their favorite songs influenced by Celtic, Middle Eastern and Appalachian traditions. Lea Coryell and Ralph Lee Smith perform traditional folk music with vocals, banjo, Appalachian dulcimer and harmonica. March's final Folk Festival performance showcases local artists in Johnny Cash and Carter Family Tribute.

The Street Festival performance of Michelle AVA and Spirit Dance will get your body moving through creative expression. Also, Nick Annis, Chris Chandler and David Roe provide musical satire as the Three Wise Guys.

Takoma Snapshots in March includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: Larceny: It could happen to you
- C-SAFE Recognized by Lt. Gov. Michael Steele.

Visit our Web site at [www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable](http://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 check-out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pickup) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are now available in DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

## Takoma Park City TV March 2005 Programming Schedule

|                | Monday                                  | Tuesday                          | Wednesday                                 | Thursday                           | Friday                                    | Saturday                         | Sunday                           |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM        | Community Bulletin Board                | Community Bulletin Board         | Takoma Park City TV Local Events          | Community Bulletin Board           | Takoma Snapshots                          | Community Bulletin Board         | Community Bulletin Board         |
| 8:00 AM        | Takoma Park Snapshots                   | PreSchool Power!                 |   | 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                 |                                  |
| 5:30 PM        | Chinese News                            |                                  |   |                                    |   |                                  |                                  |
| 6:00 PM        |   | Community Bulletin Board         | Chinese News                              | Community Bulletin Board           | Takoma Park Snapshots                     | Community Bulletin Board         | Community Bulletin Board         |
| 7:00 PM        |   | National Gallery of Art          |   | Takoma Park Snapshots              | Takoma Park City TV Local Events          | 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          |   | Takoma Park City TV Local Events | Takoma Park Folk Festival        |
| 9:00 PM        |   | Takoma Park City TV Local Events |   |                                    | Takoma Park Folk Festival                 |                                  |                                  |
| 10:00 PM       |   |                                  |   | Haiti a Suivre                     |   | Haiti a Suivre                   | Coffeehouse                      |
| 11:00 PM       |   | CaribNation                      |   | Takoma Park City TV Special Events | Coffeehouse                               | Takoma Park Folk Festival        | Takoma Park City TV Local Events |
| 12:00 Midnight | Takoma Park Snapshots                   | NASA Programming                 | Takoma Park Snapshots                     |                                    | Haiti a Suivre                            |                                  |                                  |

Programming subject to change without notice.

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

Email: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org)  
Web: [www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable)



# Forum on Hazardous Rail Cargoes March 9

By Joy Austin-Lane  
Councilmember, Ward 1

In February, the D.C. Council passed emergency legislation banning the transportation of extremely hazardous materials through the District of Columbia. The CSX rail line comes within four blocks of the U.S. Capitol and carries approximately 1,000 tank cars a year of toxic inhalants such as chlorine, ammonia, hydrochloric and sulfuric acids.

After considering a permanent bill for over a year, the D.C. Council passed a temporary measure introduced by Councilmember Kathy Patterson that will remain in effect for just 90 days. A bill extending the temporary ban may be considered by the Council before the ban expires.

Over the last year, several railroad incidents have underscored the vulnerability of our rail lines and the danger posed by toxic inhalants. For instance, a chlorine tank car was breached recently in South Carolina because of a train wreck, resulting in nine deaths and many more people becoming ill from the fumes. Another train crash in Los Angeles was caused by an SUV driver parked on the rail lines. Neither of these incidents were carried out by terrorists.

Terrorists did target a commuter train in Madrid last March, resulting in several hundred deaths and injuries. Since then, CSX reportedly redirected rail shipments of hazardous materials, which suggests the company acknowledged the potential risk that certain chemicals posed to the nation's capital if targeted by terrorists.

Communities such as Takoma Park that are near high-profile federal facilities could be substantially affected by a railroad incident in which these substances were used to poison surrounding populations. Banning these ultra-hazardous cargoes removes one of our vulnerabilities and is a reasonable preventive measure. The City of Takoma Park will host a public forum to learn more about this threat, the D.C. Council's action, the CSX response, and what the Takoma Park City Council can do to protect residents. A panel of speakers will present information for consideration and a question and answer period will follow. The forum will be held on March 9, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 7500 Maple Ave.

The speakers will be D.C. Councilmember Kathy Patterson, waste transport expert Fred Millar, Jay Boris of the Naval Research Laboratory, Ed Stern of the American Federation of Government Employees, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Kevin Kamps of

the Nuclear Information and Resource Service. Takoma Park Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane will moderate. Each panelist will speak, followed by a question and answer period.

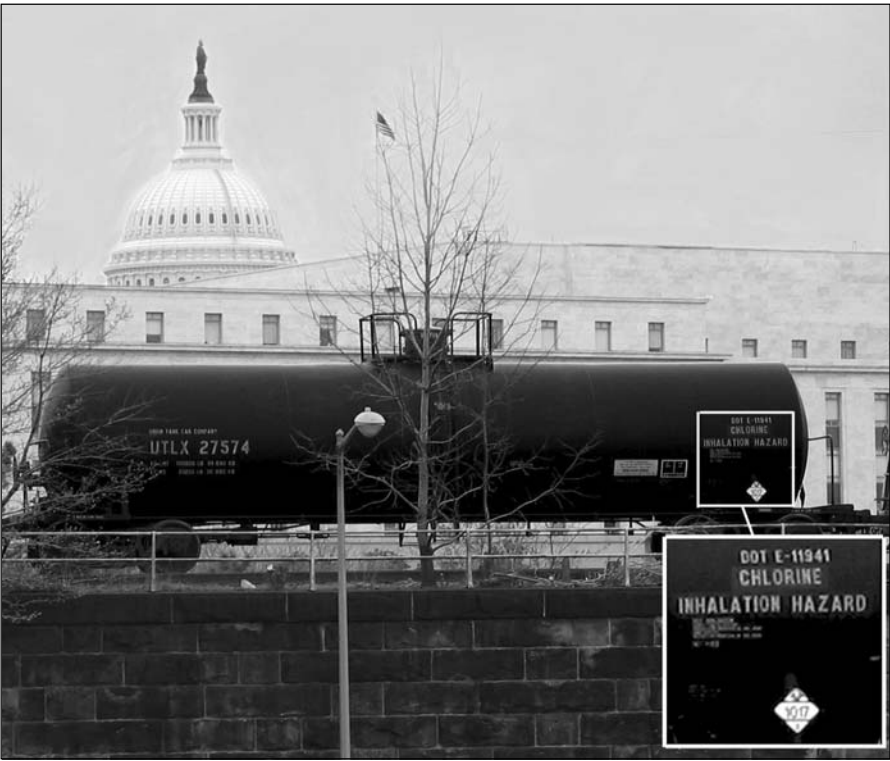


Photo by Jim Dougherty, Sierra Club  
**A tanker car with hazardous chlorine gas passes four blocks from the U.S. Capitol. Inset shows hazard warning enlarged.**

# Not Just a Tree City – But a City of Large Trees

By Brett Linkletter  
City Arborist

A recent study from the Center for Urban Forest Research, USDA Forest Service, found that across the United States large landscape trees, such as oaks, beeches, sycamores and elms are being replaced with smaller, more decorative species of trees such as crape myrtles, dog-



Photo by Clyde Lassell  
**Large shade trees, with a tree removal notice, lower right**

woods, red buds and Japanese maples. This phenomenon seems to be happening in Takoma Park as well. When you look around the City you can see plenty of large, tall species of trees, but what you don't see is many of these same species in earlier stages of life. If this trend continues,

we are in danger of losing a considerable amount of upper tree canopy for future generations.

I have heard and read of many reasons why people do not want large trees in their yard. The most common one I have heard here in Takoma Park the last three years has been that citizens are afraid the trees will fall. People have remarked that because of storms, the large size of the trees, and seeing neighbors' trees fall, they are afraid that trees on their property will break or up-root and fall on their houses. Other reasons given for wanting to plant smaller flowering and ornamental trees are: they are perceived to be more beautiful, citizens can get more immediate gratification, they are easier to see because they are shorter, and they are cheaper to maintain. Also, large trees are perceived to cause more infrastructure damage in the City. Nationally, there is a trend to construct larger buildings on smaller plots of land, which makes it difficult or impossible to plant large landscape trees further exacerbating the problem.

Many of these reasons for planting smaller species, as opposed to planting large species, have validity. However, the benefits of planting large trees are easy to overlook, and often require looking at practical concerns, and looking at the long view. Large trees:

1. Lower energy costs associated with heating and cooling one's home
2. Improve air quality
3. Absorb harmful carbon dioxide
4. Minimize storm water runoff by intercepting water
5. Reduce erosion
6. Extend the life of streets by shading them from the heat of the sun
7. Provide wildlife habitat
8. Increase property values

Recent studies have also shown some non-quantifiable benefits to large trees in communities, such as minimizing stress in humans (and probably animals too), reducing crime, and enhancing commerce.

A study done by Greg McPherson of the Center for Urban Forest Research, USDA Forest Service, states that "on average, mature large trees deliver an annual net benefit two to six times greater than mature small trees." For example, whereas a small tree might provide a community with benefits totaling \$270 dollars during its lifetime (estimated at 60 years), a large tree is likely to provide a community with benefits totaling \$4,440 over the course of its life span (estimated at 120 years). This table illustrates his findings.

|                     | Large Tree | Medium Tree | Small Tree |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Total Benefits/year | \$55       | \$33        | \$23       |
| Total Costs/year    | \$18       | \$17        | \$14       |
| Net Benefits/year   | \$37       | \$16        | \$9        |
| Life Expectancy     | 120 years  | 60 years    | 30 years   |
| Lifetime Benefits   | \$6,600    | \$1,980     | \$690      |
| Lifetime Costs      | \$2,160    | \$1,020     | \$420      |
| Value to Community  | \$4,440    | \$960       | \$270      |

Granted, there are a few instances where a large tree is not an appropriate choice, such as beneath utility lines, in very small lots, and next to building foundations and other infrastructure. But it is important to take the long view and look at the benefits over time of large tree species and what the large trees can do monetarily, aesthetically and psychologically.

When citizens in Takoma Park are planting trees because of a permit requirement, they are required to replace the tree with another species of equal or greater shade potential. This helps, but more large species need to be planted outside of permit requirements to successfully maintain overall canopy cover. For its part, the City of Takoma Park is committed to finding new public property areas to plant trees and planting large species whenever the space can accommodate them.

What we in Takoma Park are in danger of is losing a noticeable amount of canopy cover in the City over the long term if we don't start planting and nurturing larger tree species.