

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

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

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

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www.cityoftakomapark.org

May 2005

Council Considers Budget for 2006, Seeks Citizen Input

By Bob Guldin
Newsletter Editor

As the City Council weighs programs and priorities for the City's Fiscal Year 2006 budget, one thing is almost certain: next year's budget will be slightly larger than this year's. City Manager Barbara Matthews, working with City staff recommendations, has drawn up a proposed General Fund budget of \$16,987,226, which is 1.8 percent higher than the FY05 budget.

The City budget is more complicated than usual in the current period, because Takoma Park issued a bond for street improvements last year (for just over \$2

million), and is about to issue another bond, for \$2.6 million, to help finish the Community Center.

That means, for example, that City expenditures (which include big capital outlays on streets and the Community Center) will exceed normal revenues — the difference is made up from City funds that come in part from bond monies. Charts and graphs of City revenues and expenditures appear on page 6 of this *Newsletter*, explaining sources of revenue and which programs the money is spent on.

City Manager Barbara Matthews presented the budget proposal to the Council April 25.

The Council will discuss the budget in detail throughout May and early June; it has scheduled extra meetings for budget worksessions. Public testimony is welcome during these meetings, and formal public hearings on the budget are scheduled for May 9 and Tuesday, May 31. The Council plans to formally adopt a budget June 13; the 2006 fiscal year begins July 1.

Because Takoma Park has been participating in the local real estate boom, the assessed value of real property in the City has gone up 10.6 percent in the past year — roughly from \$1.04 billion to \$1.15 billion. If the City leaves the tax rate unchanged, property tax revenues will also increase by 10.6 percent.

The proposed budget, however, calls for a property tax rate cut — of 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. That would still boost City revenues from real property taxes, though not by as much as if the rate were left unchanged. A public hearing on property tax rates is scheduled for May 9.

If readers closely examine the budget charts on pages 6 and 7, they may notice

something they haven't seen before: In previous years, the budget charts were presented so that revenues and expenditures came out exactly equal. In this year's charts that's no longer true. But City Manager Barbara Matthews, who joined Takoma Park last July, explained, "In changing the format, I am trying to be more 'full disclosure' about how we spend taxpayer money. In reality, there's been no change in practice" (i.e., the City has pulled money from the reserve for years to balance the budget).

Other than the unusual capital outlays and bond inflow mentioned above, the City budget follows predictable patterns. It's recommended that most departments receive small percentage increases over their FY05 budget amounts.

As usual, salaries and benefits are trending upward, though the level of full-time equivalent staff should be unchanged. The proposed budget anticipates salary increases of just over \$200,000 next year compared to this year. Health insurance costs are ex-

Continued on page 6



Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse

Community Center Takes Shape — Long-awaited recreation/education facility rises on Maple Ave., with initial use expected sometime in May.

County Shortchanges City By Millions, Taskforce Says

By Hank Cox
TASDI Committee Member

Rebates paid to Takoma Park by Montgomery County in compensation for services provided by the City that would otherwise be provided by the county are at least \$1.1 million and perhaps up to \$4.8 million less a year than they should be, according to the final report submitted to the Takoma Park City Council April 25 by the Residents' Committee on Tax and Services Duplication Issues (TASDI).

Tax and service duplication, commonly known as "double taxation," exists when both a county and a city within the county charge the city's taxpayers for the same kinds of services, but taxpayers ultimately receive those services only from

the city. Maryland law authorizes the county's return to the city of taxes the county received from city residents for duplicated services, either as a rebate paid to the city or as a tax differential that lowers the county tax rate for the city's taxpayers. Montgomery County has chosen the rebate method.

"In FY05 Montgomery County rebated to the City of Takoma Park a total of \$3 million for police, road maintenance and park maintenance services that the City provided in lieu of the county," the committee concluded in its report, adding that "the county's rebate to the City was significantly less than the City's actual costs for delivering these and other duplicative services, and far less than the amount the county would likely spend if the City elected not to provide those services."

The Residents' Committee consisted of 21 individuals appointed by City Council members and the mayor in mid-October 2004 to examine the costs of services provided by the City that duplicate those provided elsewhere by the county and are funded through both county and City taxes. City residents Bruce Moyer and Dan Robinson served as co-chairs. The committee was charged, among other things, with recommending actions the City could take to obtain a fairer tax

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Council asks for regional action on toxic chemicals.

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Parents prevail despite police chief's warnings.

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New State Funds for Community Center

Additional \$350,000 may help restore amenities.

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For further information or to receive a copy of the legislation, contact the City Clerk’s Office, 301-891-7267.

March 14

- Resolution 2005-15 was adopted, recognizing the Takoma Park Community Band (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Resolution 2005-16, Designating Arbor Day 2005 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2005-7 was accepted at first reading, authorizing the purchase of a Trash Truck (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Resolution 2006-17, was adopted, taking no position on the proposed subdivision at 501 Philadelphia Ave. (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2005-5 was adopted at second reading, authorizing a contract with Charron Construction Consulting, Inc. for construction management and consulting related to the Community Center Project (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Resolution 2005-18 was adopted, effecting appointments to the Safe Roadways Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Resolution 2005-19 was adopted, revising the Council policy related to advertising committee vacancies (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Resolution 2005-20 was adopted, supporting the Old Takoma Main Street’s Neighborhood Business Works Application (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

March 21

- Ordinance 2005-7 was adopted at second reading, authorizing the purchase of a Trash Truck (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).
- Resolution 2005-21 was adopted, supporting an increase of parking waiver for 6411 Orchard Ave. (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

March 28

- Resolution 2005-22 was adopted, approving the design of the Metropolitan Branch Trail (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).
- Ordinance 2005-8 was accepted at first reading, defining the membership composition and terms of the Emergency Preparedness Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Mizeur).

CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

MONDAY, MAY 2 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARING, SPECIAL SESSION AND WORKSESSION

Public Hearing:
- Proposed FY06 Budget

MONDAY, MAY 9 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARINGS, REGULAR MEETING, WORKSESSION AND BUDGET WORKSESSION

Public Hearings:
- Constant Yield Tax Rate Hearing
- Proposed FY06 Budget

TUESDAY, MAY 10 - Facade Advisory Board , 7 p.m. (6 Grant Ave.)

TUESDAY, MAY 10 - Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

THURSDAY, MAY 12 - (Tentative) BUDGET WORKSESSION

THURSDAY, MAY 12 - Safe Roadways Committee 6:30 p.m. (Heffner Recreation Center, 42 Oswego Avenue)

MONDAY, MAY 16 - PRESENTATION, INTER-VIEWS, WORKSESSION AND BUDGET WORKSESSION

TUESDAY, MAY 17 - Arts and Humanities Commission , 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

THURSDAY, MAY 19 - (Tentative) BUDGET WORKSESSION

MONDAY, MAY 23 - PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING, WORKSESSION AND BUDGET WORKSESSION

THURSDAY, MAY 26 - (Tentative) BUDGET WORKSESSION

TUESDAY, MAY 31 - PRESENTATION, PUBLIC HEARING, SPECIAL SESSION AND BUDGET WORKSESSION

Public Hearing:
- Proposed FY06 Budget

MONDAY, JUNE 6 - PRESENTATION, INTER-VIEWS, WORKSESSION AND BUDGET WORKSESSION

Committee Vacancies

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’s Web page. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact your City councilmember (or the City Clerk’s Office) to request appointment.

Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee. This Committee has been established to advise the City Council on neighborhood issues related to the planning and implementation of facility and enrollment changes at the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College; and to nurture the good relationship between the College and the community by maintaining regular dialogue, and working proactively to identify and resolve potential issues early in the process. (Nine to eleven vacancies - application deadline 6/13/05.)

Committee on the Environment. This Committee, newly established as a statutory Council-appointed committee, is charged with advising the City Council on all environmental issues, including tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning, energy use and conservation, and recycling; as well as educating the community on environmental issues. (Seven to eleven vacancies - application deadline 6/13/05.)

Arts and Humanities Commission. The Arts and Humanities Commission. The commission serves in an official advisory role to the City Council on all matters related to the arts and humanities which promote, coordinate and strengthen public programs to further cultural development of the city. (Three vacancies.)

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. (Two vacancies.)

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

Free Burma Committee. The 7-member committee is charged with overseeing implementation of and adherence to the Free Burma Act. (Five 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.)

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. (One vacancy.)

Interested applicants are encouraged to send a letter of interest and resume or statement of qualifications to the City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 or via e-mail to Clerk@takomagov.org. Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk Office at 301-891-7267.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Correction: How to Get Property Tax Credit Forms

An article about property tax rebates in the April *Newsletter* incorrectly stated that application forms are available at the City Treasurer's office. In fact, 2005 Tax Credit Applications (for Homeowners and Renters) are available through the State of Maryland. They may be downloaded from the state Web site at: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html>, or residents may call 1-800-944-7403 to request a form. These applications are due on Sept. 1 of each year. The City receives information from the state and will issue rebate checks based on that information.

Position Open
Newsletter Editor

Do you have what it takes to edit the official City *Newsletter* of a charming, cutting-edge, politically active town like Takoma Park? If so, we're looking for you.

The new editor for the City *Newsletter* should have a college degree, experience in editing publications, and good journalistic writing skills. Creativity and strong interpersonal skills are essential. A demonstrated interest in Takoma Park community activities will be a strong plus.

This is a part-time contractual position. Salary is negotiable, depending on qualifications and scope of the work agreed upon. To apply, send a letter of interest, résumé and writing/editing samples to Communications Director Lonni Moffet, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 or e-mail lonnim@takomagov.org. For more information, e-mail Lonni Moffet or call 301-891-7236.

CITY POSITIONS OPEN

Building Maintenance Tech/Part-time & Full-time - Incumbent cleans and maintains city buildings; sweeps, mops, removes trash, moves furniture, waxes and buffs floors. Req. HS Diploma or GED & 6 months to 1 year related exp & valid DL. Hourly Range: \$12.38 - \$18.81 depending on qualifications. Position open until filled. Submit completed City application or résumé to HR, City of Takoma Park, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or fax 301-270-8794. EOE



*Tastes of
Takoma Festival
at Columbia
Union College
April 10*

*Photos by
Lonni Moffet and
Patrick Rittenhouse*



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Defining A City : 'Smart Lights'

The City Council is currently spending a fair amount of time and effort discussing a series of signs that will dot our landscape. What the signs will say and how they will look is the subject of great debate because, it is felt, they will help project the character of our city.

I do not know who to thank for the most agreeable message I get from the City almost every day. That "Have a nice day" greeting comes in the form of "smart lights." The best, to my personal experience, is the traffic signal at the intersection of Flower Ave. and Carroll Ave. It goes from east, to west, to north and south. It recognizes when I pull up and, if there is no other traffic, it will change in short order to let me proceed about my business. I am not required to waste time while naught but the wind breezes across my path. What a delight!

That dangling bit of hardware says volumes to me. Principally it proclaims that my convenience and that of the thousands of motorists who pass by each day is of more value than saving a few dollars. It says that, rather than simply getting the job done, someone took the time to be thoughtful and considerate.

I appreciate the present efforts of the Council but whatever determination it finally makes, I am predisposed to think the result will not hold a candle to the "smart lights."

— Ed Edwards
Eastridge Ave.

Farmers Market
Temporarily
On Willow Ave.

The Takoma Park Farmers Market has been temporarily relocated, starting April 10, to allow for construction of an improved streetscape on Laurel Ave.

The market will be located for the next few weeks on Willow Ave., off Carroll, and in the adjoining Bank of America parking lot. The move was made with the cooperation of the Farmers Market and neighborhood residents. Thanks also to the Bank of America for allowing the use of its parking lot at no charge.

During the relocation, cars will not be permitted to enter the block of Willow between Tulip and Carroll, unless the owners live on that block, or are leaving the parking lot behind Mark's Kitchen. That parking lot will still be available for use. The Market will return to its Laurel Ave. location once construction has been completed.

Long Branch
Basketball Game
May 7 Features
Celebrities

The Long Branch Athletic Association will host its first Coaches vs. Celebrities Charity Basketball Game Saturday, May 7 at 2 p.m. at the Long Branch Community Center (8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring).

For more information, contact the association's director, Nicole Pauls at 240-464-1203.

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

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

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

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

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

Is a Toxic Rail Disaster Waiting to Happen?

The City Council April 4 passed a resolution expressing concern about "the potential devastating regional impacts of a rail disaster involving toxic chemicals," and calling on area governments "to restrict the transport of deadly materials in our region."

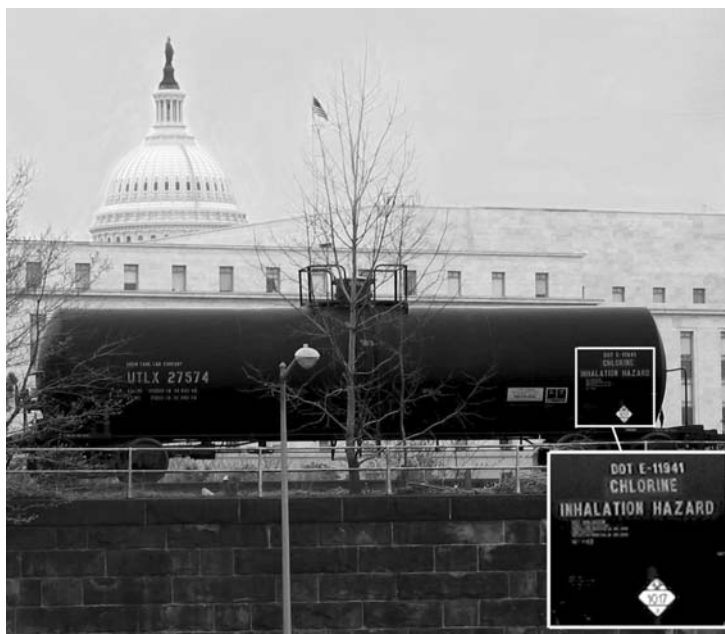
The resolution tackles an extraordinarily complex issue that has been recently contested in court by CSX Railroad, after the D.C. government passed an ordinance restricting the rail transport of hazardous waste through the District.

The City of Takoma Park held a hearing last year on the rail transport question, and considered passing an ordinance (which has binding legal effect, while a resolution just expresses an opinion). Eventually, however, the Council decided that for a small municipality like Takoma Park to take on CSX – and possibly the U.S. government as well – might turn into an expensive court battle and should be avoided.

The resolution calls for a regional solution to the problem, commends the D.C. Council for its bold action and urges the federal government to cooperate in resolving the issue.

Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane (Ward 1), who led the effort to pass a binding law, says the City can still play an active role on the issue. For example, she told the *Newsletter*, "CSX says it has a security plan that has been

submitted to the federal government, but no one has seen it." Austin-Lane would like the City to request to see that plan. In addition, she suggested that, with CSX trying to overturn the D.C. law in the courts, Takoma Park could file an amicus brief in support of the District government. — *Bob Guldin*



A tanker car with hazardous chlorine gas passes four blocks from the U.S. Capitol. Inset shows hazard warning enlarged.

Photo by Jim Dougherty, Sierra Club

COLTA's Corner



By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

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

7809 Lockney Ave. (2004-83L)

On March 20, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$23.73 on four units at the property. The improvements included new ceramic tiles and new kitchen cabinets with sinks and faucets.

8317 Eastridge Ave. (2004-90L)

On March 21, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$21.90 to \$32.88 on six units at the property. The improvements included plumbing, repairing and replacing tile walls, replacing vinyl floors, gutter, appliance, installing smoke detectors, new concrete steps, bathroom sink fixtures, electrical works and fixtures, paint apartment, and carpentry work.

7106/7108 Maple Ave. (2004-108L)

On March 21, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$10.89 on four units at the property. The improvements included removing all radiators and pipes.

708 Kennebec Ave. (2004-114L)

On March 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$11.57 to \$40.82 on four units at the property. The improvements included replacing the furnace and remodeling the kitchen.

8307 Roanoke Ave. (2005-3L)

On March 3, a capital improvement petition was

approved for \$91.85 on one unit at the property. The improvements included painting and installing a new gas stove, refrigerator, cabinets, screen doors, light fixtures, kitchen cabinets and replacing the hardwood floor and window.

650-662 Kennebec Ave. (2005-8L)

On March 25, a capital improvement petition was approved for \$3.12 on one unit at the property. The improvements included installing a storm door.

7057 Carroll Ave. (2005-19L)

On March 24, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$1.34 to \$30.19 on nine units at the property. The improvements included installing a sprinkler system, painting apartment, replacing bedroom radiator, insulating and leveling condensation pan and duct, rekeying cylinder of security locks and repairing deadbolt locks.

8203 Houston Court (2005-21L)

On March 23, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$1.30 to \$3.89 for replacing a hot water heater and refrigerator.

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

Rent Stabilization Allowance Set at 2.1 Percent

On March 18, the City of Takoma Park announced the proposed 2.1 percent Rent Stabilization Allowance to be effective July 1. The allowance was established in accordance with Section 6-501(a) of the Takoma Park Code and applies to landlords owning two or more rental units (whether apartments, single family houses or condominiums).

There was a 30-day comment period whereby Housing & Community Development was accepting written comments regarding the calculation of the Rent Stabilization Allowance.

One comment was received. However, it did not influence the establishment of the Rent Stabilization Allowance which is set at 70 percent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Therefore the Rent Stabilization Allowance of 2.1 percent is approved for the period July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006.

Thunderbolts Baseball Camps For Boys and Girls This Summer

Are you thinking about baseball camp for your children this summer? Check out the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts baseball camps this summer for boys and girls 8 to 16. These are the only non-profit baseball camps available in our region.

With Thunderbolt players as the coaches, the kids will learn baseball skills and have fun. After camp, in the evenings, they can attend Thunderbolt games where they can watch the Thunderbolts and cheer for their coaches. We do not promise that the camper will be practicing with a future major leaguer (although five former players have signed minor league contracts). But we do promise that he or she will learn from 20-year-olds who are playing baseball at a very high level and who have a shot at fame.

The camp dates are July 5 - 8 (Tues.-Fri.); July 11 - 15 (Mon.-Fri.); and July 18 - 22 (Mon.-Fri.) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. They will be held at Nolte Local Park, 200 Denver Ave., Silver Spring.

The cost is \$135 for the first week and \$165 for the second and third weeks for registrations received before May 1. After that, the cost increases \$15 for each week. A sibling discount of \$15 and multi-session discounts (\$15 for two weeks and \$25 for three weeks) are also available.

Thunderbolts coaches will teach campers fundamentals in hitting, fielding, mechanics, position play in the infield and outfield, catching, and values and discipline. We provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch. Each camper gets a Thunderbolts T-shirt.

Additional information on the camps and a registration form are available at the Thunderbolts Web site, www.tbolts.org, or contact Tony Daley at 301-270-5299 or Daley20@comcast.net.

Housing Mailbox

The COLTA Timeline

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

A tenant wants to know about the composition of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA), how often the commission hears landlord-tenant cases and how long after a hearing are commission decisions provided to affected parties.

COLTA consists of tenants, landlords and homeowners who are authorized by the City Council to adjudicate and mediate complaints for violations of Chapter 6.16, Landlord-Tenant Relations Law and to rule on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance. All commission members must be residents of Takoma Park although a maximum of four members do not have to reside in the city if they own or manage rental housing in Takoma Park. The commission's full composition is 12 members.

The commission meets in panels of three members to hear landlord-tenant cases on an as-needed basis. The most frequently heard cases involve security deposit refund, defective tenancy and lease violation issues. COLTA hearings are usually held on Tuesday evenings in the City Council Chambers. Commission decisions in the form of an "opinion and order" are provided to the affected parties usually within 30 days after the commission hearing. A party aggrieved by a COLTA final opinion may file an appeal with the Circuit Court of Montgomery County within 30 calendar days from the date of the opinion and order.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2005, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 10.6% from \$1,040,368,310 to \$1,150,381,811.
2. If the City of Takoma Park maintains the current tax rate of \$0.660 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 10.6% resulting in \$726,089 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real tax property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.597, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.645 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 8% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$552,184 in additional property tax revenues.

A general public meeting on the proposed tax rate increase will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2005, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Jessie Carpenter, Acting City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 for further information.

TASDI: Show Us the Money

Continued from page 1

duplication payment from Montgomery County, and to decrease the level of tax duplication paid by City property owners.

Moyer and Robinson presented the report to the City Council April 25, and several councilmembers said emphatically how impressed they were with the document and the work and research that went into it. Thanking the taskforce effusively, councilmembers also encouraged them to stay involved in what is likely to be a difficult and protracted negotiation with the county to increase the City's rebate.

The committee conducted 13 meetings between November 11, 2004 and April 19, 2005. It divided into subcommittees to examine each major portion of the City's budget, with special emphasis on programs for which the City receives county rebates. The City's fiscal year 2005 revenues, including rebates, total approximately \$14 million. According to the committee's calculations, a more accurate rebate would be at least \$4.1 million and possibly as high as \$7.8 million, substantially more than the approximate \$3 million the City received from the county in fiscal 2005.

"Part of the gap exists because the county does not take into account its own administrative and capital costs," the report said. "The committee found additional methodological flaws in the county's rebate formulas that also result in an underpayment. The committee recommends that the City Council negotiate with the county to correct these defects and calculate a rebate that delivers Takoma Park taxpayers full and accurate relief from double taxation."

The committee concluded the ultimate flaw in the system was attributable to the one-sided nature of the negotiations about what an appropriate rebate should be. The county has final say in such

determinations and the City has no appeal. "At the same time the committee recommends that the Council investigate a change in the rebate system to establish third-party arbitration in the case of stalemated negotiations, reforming the current situation where the county is the ultimate authority," the report said.

The committee also concluded that the current arrangement for the county's "pass-back" to the City of income tax payments by Takoma Park residents, currently set at 17 percent, is inadequate and unfair to municipalities that provide high service levels and serve relatively less affluent populations. "The committee recommends that the City Council pursue reform of the current income tax pass-back framework to mitigate these inequities," the report said. "This could involve a change in the pass-back formula, realigning the pass-back to reflect the relationship between the City's tax rate and the countywide property tax rate, or an increase in the percentage underlying the pass-back itself."

Committee co-chair Bruce Moyer said the Residents' Committee had invested "a tremendous amount of work" in the project, and that its findings "will provide a useful guide to the City Council as it makes its budget determinations in the future. This is a very complex issue, and to the best of our knowledge, this is the most in-depth analysis of how the system works that is available."

Co-chair Dan Robinson echoed Moyer's praise of the committee, pointing out that its members were "rank and file citizens taking on a really tough, time-consuming job with no compensation. This report should be required reading for all residents of Takoma who are concerned about our fiscal situation, and the future of our city."

The report is available on the City's Web site, cityoftakomapark.org.

Montgomery College Offers Varied Summer Classes for Kids

Montgomery College will offer a variety of summer classes and fun programs, including many at the nearby Takoma Park campus in North Takoma and South Silver Spring.

Some of the possibilities are:

- FIT Summer Camp - a series of four one-week, full-day sports and academic camps for students who are ages 6-13.
- Summer Science Camp for Girls - a two-week science program that allows girls, grades 6-8, to learn about scientific fields, interact with female scientists and conduct hands-on science experiments.
- Young Scientists' Academy - a series of 3 two-week, full day programs that immerses students, ages 6-15, in the sciences and teaches them to investigate and solve problems. Students do science experiments and learn about biological research and careers in the health sciences.
- Mathematics Enrichment Program - a series of one-week mathematics courses ranging from Pre-Algebra to Calculus and SAT Prep (Math) for students, ages 9-17.
- Smithsonian Museum Tours - a series of 3 two-week programs that takes students, ages 8-12, on trips to 10 of the 17 Smithsonian museums in Washington, DC.
- Technology Camp - a series of two-week, full-day and half-day computer programs that educates students, grades 6-9, about computer programming or Web design. Some classes are for girls only.

For additional information about all the summer youth program offerings, call 301-251-7264 or 301-251-7917, or log on to: www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth.

Folk Festival Planning Under Way, Volunteers Welcome

Planning for the 28th annual Takoma Park Folk Festival is well under way. A local institution, the festival brings the community together for a memorable day of music, dance, crafts, food, community outreach and fabulous fun each year.

Completely volunteer-staffed, the festival committee welcomes community members interested in shaping the event. No prior experience is necessary.

Through donations of time and talent, the festival keeps costs low, to produce an event that benefits the community and local youth groups, upholding its grassroots tradition.

To volunteer to help produce the Festival, call 301-589-0202 or send an e-mail to info@tpff.org. You may also visit www.tpff.org for more information. The next Folk Festival meetings will be held on May 10 and June 9. Both meetings will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Heffner Park Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave. (near Public Works) in Takoma Park. All are welcome to attend.

Talking Trash

Some Collection Reminders From the Public Works Sanitation Team

1. Place trash and recycling containers at the curb the evening before your scheduled collection. Make sure they are not concealed by vehicles or other large objects.
2. Park far enough from intersections to allow our collection vehicles to pass safely and easily.
3. Do not place yard waste in plastic bags. Use paper bags or other stiff sided containers for your yard waste like branches, brush, sticks and leaves.
4. The City only collects branches that are less than 4 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter.
5. If your recycle bin is broken or missing, visit the public works administration office for a free replacement.
6. The City sells 64 gallon trash totes, large trash containers with an attached lid, handle and 2 wheels. The cost is \$40.30 per container.
7. Please contact the Public Works Department with any questions, 301-891-7633.

Citizen Input on Budget Welcome

Continued from page 1

pected to rise 11 percent, or \$95,599. And workers' compensation insurance is expected to increase by 20 percent, or \$72,000.

On the other hand, based on a reasonably favorable economic scenario, some revenue sources for the City should also go up in FY06: highway user revenues by \$242,000, income tax revenues by \$90,000 and tax duplication payments from the county by \$381,413.

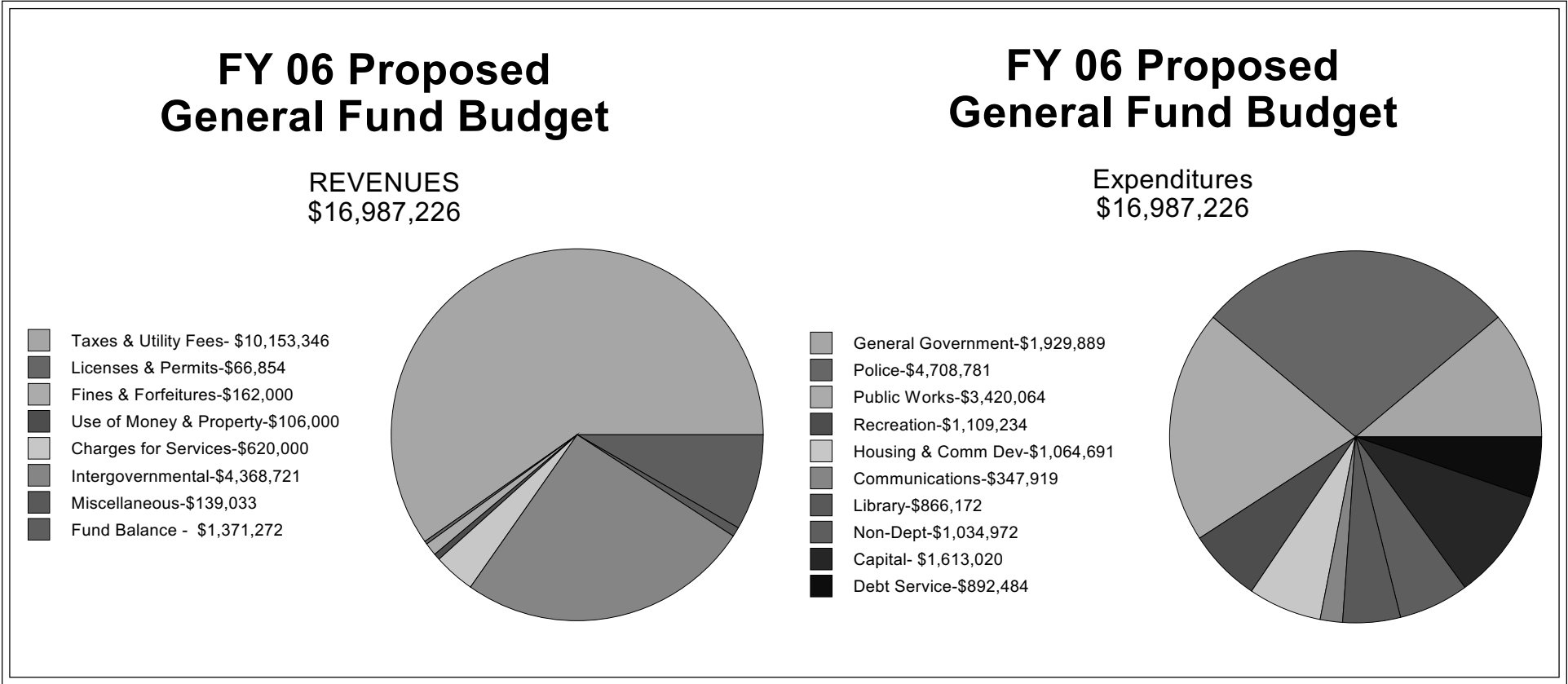
The City is also selling two unneeded properties on Piney Branch Road near Flower Ave., and should receive at least \$400,000 for those. Those funds will be

designated to help pay for Community Center construction, as will a \$350,000 grant recently voted by the Maryland state legislature (see page 12).

The City's two recent bond issuances – for street improvements and the Community Center – also have attendant costs. The full year of debt service for the street improvement will cost almost \$373,000. While the exact debt service cost of the Community Center bond was not known at press time, it was projected to be \$205,000. The bond transaction is expected to close on May 26, and the funds should be received in FY05 – before June 30.

Matthews told the Council that if one looks at the

broadest budget overview – including not only the normal operating budget but also the Community Center and special accounts like the stormwater fund – the City's total expenditure for FY06 is expected to be \$20.1 million, while revenues are \$18.2 million. That leaves a gap of \$1.9 million, which is covered by the sale of City-owned real property (\$400,000) and drawing on City reserve funds (\$1.5 million), of which \$1.0 million comes from the street loan proceeds received in FY05. For a detailed, department-by-department look at the projected budget, go to the City's Web site, www.cityoftakomapark.org, click on "current issues" and then "Proposed FY06 Budget."



FY06 BUDGET SUMMARY - GENERAL FUND					
	Audited FY03	Preliminary Audited FY04	Budgeted FY05	Estimated FY05	Proposed FY06
REVENUES					
Taxes and utility fees	8,115,007	8,618,452	9,230,984	9,421,297	10,153,346
Licenses and permits	30,686	60,841	46,000	81,854	66,854
Fines and forfeitures	130,455	104,539	162,500	165,700	162,000
Use of money and property	174,989	67,280	123,000	105,252	106,000
Charges for service	569,734	563,956	621,500	559,300	620,000
Intergovernmental	3,403,661	3,494,647	3,927,280	3,890,513	4,368,721
Miscellaneous	652,055	382,950	104,333	214,798	139,033
Total Revenues	13,076,587	13,292,665	14,215,597	14,438,714	15,615,954
EXPENDITURES					
General Government	1,827,489	2,027,868	1,766,449	1,892,336	1,929,889
Police	3,938,440	4,129,507	4,430,447	4,309,791	4,708,781
Public Works	2,979,599	3,127,512	3,208,734	3,218,671	3,420,064
Recreation	875,888	911,957	1,045,394	919,348	1,109,234
Housing and Community Development	758,430	955,228	994,607	925,909	1,064,691
Communications	220,524	299,080	326,160	320,209	347,919
Library	650,934	685,218	817,766	744,108	866,172
Non-departmental	403,593	606,118	1,217,120	787,048	1,034,972
Capital outlay	1,042,789	394,641	2,569,000	734,030	1,613,020
Debt service	1,054,932	307,088	312,735	345,719	892,484
Total Expenditures	13,752,618	13,444,217	16,688,412	14,197,169	16,987,226
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(676,031)	(151,552)	(2,472,815)	241,545	(1,371,272)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Loan proceeds	380,000	19,475	2,005,000	2,005,000	0
Sale of Property	0	0	0	0	400,000
Operating transfers in (out)	(330,929)	(3,019,512)	(699,774)	(408,149)	(403,309)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	49,071	(3,000,037)	1,305,226	1,596,851	(3,309)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(626,960)	(3,151,589)	(1,167,589)	1,838,396	(1,374,581)
FUND BALANCE					
Beginning of year	6,496,510	5,869,550	2,717,961	2,717,961	4,556,357
End of year	5,869,550	2,717,961	1,550,372	4,556,357	3,181,776

Note: Fund balance includes monies that are designated for specific purposes, including the Equipment Replacement Reserve, the Emergency Reserve, and proceeds from the street loan.

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2005					
	General Fund	Storm Water Management Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Community Center Fund	Total
FY2006 Revenues	15,615,954	213,000	1,552,552	807,365	18,188,871
FY2006 Expenditures	16,987,226	228,000	1,463,275	1,399,515	20,078,016
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(1,371,272)	(15,000)	89,277	(592,150)	(1,889,145)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Sale of property	400,000	0	0	0	400,000
Operating transfers in (out)	(403,309)	0	3,309	400,000	0
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(3,309)	0	3,309	400,000	400,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(1,374,581)	(15,000)	92,586	(192,150)	(1,489,145)
Fund Balance					
Beginning of year	4,556,357	111,167	(92,586)	192,150	4,767,087
End of year	3,181,776	96,167	0	0	3,277,942

Community Center construction

Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse

Statewide Library Card...Why Not Us?

By Ellen Arnold-Robbins
Library Director

During National Library Week in April, Maryland public libraries launched a special statewide public library card as part of a marketing initiative to build awareness of existing statewide public library services among Maryland residents. This statewide public library card can be used to register with any county public library system in the state. This is indeed an exciting undertaking as no other state has the participation of all of its public library systems in such a cooperative effort.

Takoma Park residents can, of course, avail themselves of the full range of conveniences that come with the new state card, including the ability to use it to borrow from any of Maryland's 174 branches and Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. They only need to go to their nearest county branch to get one. At the same time, the reasons why Takoma Park's City library is not part of this initiative need to be clearly understood.

To begin with, Takoma Park is not recognized as a public library under state law, because it is municipally run, and not under county jurisdiction. Because the statewide card is supported by the State Library, it is doubtful that Takoma Park would be in any way eligible to participate.

More important to residents is the fact

that they would have much to lose and very little to gain by this Library's participation. We charge D.C. residents and Maryland residents living outside Montgomery County a non-resident fee to borrow from the City Library. The reason why is that our small locally-oriented collections are purchased principally with local taxes, and should be available to serve local needs. Those outside Takoma Park who wish to use the Library are asked to shoulder a minimum of the costs. If we were participants in reciprocal borrowing, symbolized by the new statewide card, these locally oriented and locally funded collections of mostly single copies could be borrowed by anyone residing anywhere in Maryland free of charge - resulting in a wide dispersal of local resources, and a dilution of materials available to Takoma Park citizens. We simply don't have resources on the scale of the county systems, and it would make a real difference here if one of our Harry Potter CDs, the newest John Grisham novel, or lots of our new graphic novels were overdue somewhere in Upper Marlboro or Annapolis, to use random examples.

There are practical considerations as well, not as explicitly tied to direct service, which would nonetheless have an impact on us and those we serve. We would have to dedicate our own resources (staff hours and space) to sending any Maryland library materials returned to

this library back to the jurisdiction that owns them. We don't have an existing mechanism for the retrieval of our own materials from other libraries. Montgomery County shuttles errant books to and from our library approximately every two weeks, and this does not cost us anything. One must assume there would be added cost involved in the transport of larger numbers of books on a more frequent basis.

As dedicated public librarians, we cer-

tainly understand the benefits of reciprocal borrowing. This is nothing new; the new card, which simply eliminates the step of applying for a separate card in each jurisdiction, is an added convenience. While we applaud this added benefit for Takoma Park residents who visit other libraries, we are entrusted, first and foremost, with ensuring that local library resources are available to Takoma Park citizens.

LIBRARY



Due to a construction accident in early April, the Library's archival copies of the *Takoma Park Newsletter*, *Takoma Voice* and City Council minutes were soaked. Drying took several days, many fans, most of our table space, some floor space and the generous help of fellow city staff people wielding hair dryers. The Library staff wishes to thank all our Library patrons who considerately squeezed into the reference room and magazine areas so as to leave the papers to dry undisturbed.

The Blogs Are Coming

By Rebecca Brown
Library Public Services Coordinator

We would like to remind you that City staff maintain several weblogs, each with an RSS feed for those who use aggregators to check for news and Web site updates.

For Police Department bulletins, blotters, news and reports from the chief, please visit www.takomapark.info/pd/posts/. If you use an aggregator you can automatically be notified within minutes of any updates. The address for those who wish to subscribe is www.takomapark.info/pd/posts/index.xml

For Council agendas, the log can be found at www.takomapark.info/clerk/tree/permits and library staff notes at www.takomapark.info/library/mt/. Each has an orange XML button for anyone who wishes to subscribe.

Confused about aggregators and feeds? We have an explanatory page in draft form. Although it is unfinished, you are welcome to look at it: www.takomapark.info/library/rss.html. You may also want to read the Wikipedia entry. Go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/> and look for the article entitled RSS.

Library Programs in May

Live-Action Storytelling in Spanish and English

Leslie Sapp
Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.

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.



Leslie Sapp, "Live-Action Storyteller"

On Monday, May 16, at 7 p.m., Leslie Sapp performs a Spanish/English bilingual program of folktales from around the world for families at the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Leslie Sapp has been creating, performing, teaching and directing movement-based theater since 1977. As a movement-theater artist, Leslie has been presented nationally, as well as on tour in Mexico.

Since the summer of 1999, Leslie Sapp has been performing primarily as a storyteller, combining acting, mime, expressive movement, physical comedy, and narration into a form she calls "Live-

Action Storytelling." Known for its physicality, imagination, warmth, and humor, Leslie's Live-Action Storytelling has been presented widely at libraries, nightclubs, schools, theaters, community centers, art galleries, festivals, and birthday parties, as well as onboard the Cape May/Lewes Ferry and on stage at the Canadian Embassy.

Although the program on May 16 is especially intended for elementary school-age children, anyone from age three to 93 can enjoy Leslie's unique and vibrant Live-Action Storytelling. Please call and let us know you will be attending. Call 310-891-7259.

Hospital Offers Programs On Grief, Arthritis

The Washington Adventist Hospital is offering a free support group for those experiencing loss and who need a safe place for grieving, coping, processing and healing. The group will meet for six weeks, starting Tuesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at the hospital. To register, call 301-891-5265.

The latest information on arthritis, rheumatic diseases and fibromyalgia will be discussed in a free program, Tuesday, May 10, 11 a.m. at Long Branch Community Center, 8700 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring. For more information, call 301-891-5708.

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., 7300 block: On March 20 at 10:15 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. An adult female and two adult males were walking to their parked car when they were approached by a subject who displayed a handgun. The female victim handed over her purse. The suspect fled the scene on foot. None of the victims were injured.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On March 26 at 8:05 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. Two adult males were approached by two subjects they had agreed to meet earlier in a parking lot. After some conversation, one of the subjects threatened one of the victims, demanded his wallet and tried to strike him. After the subject took the victim's wallet, he demanded the second victim's wallet, but left the scene without taking it. One of the victims saw a handgun concealed on the first subject. The victims were not injured.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On April 2 at 10:30 p.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. The victim, a street vendor, was approached by a subject who demanded his money, then kicked and punched the victim. An off-duty officer from another jurisdiction stopped the subject who then left the scene. The victim was slightly injured. No property was taken. The identity of the subject is known.

Maple Ave., 7400 block: On April 9 at 10:50 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was walking alone when he noticed two subjects following him. One subject demanded money. A second subject pointed a handgun at the victim and reached into the victim's pockets, taking his property. The subjects fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

Flower Ave., 8500 block: On April 10 at 2:16 a.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim and the three suspects were together in the victim's apartment when one of the suspects demanded the victim's wallet while implying he had a handgun. The victim handed over his wallet and the suspects fled the scene. The suspects are possibly known to the victim.

New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block: On April 19 at 1:30 a.m., an attempted armed robbery occurred. The victim, an adult male, was walking alone when he was approached by one subject who asked the victim how much money he had. The victim noticed three other subjects standing close by. As the victim attempted to walk away, he was pushed to the ground and assaulted by all the subjects who then fled on foot. No property was taken. The victim received medical attention later for non-life threatening injuries.

Sex Offense

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: On March 20 at 11 a.m., an indecent exposure occurred. A juvenile female was alone in an elevator with a subject when he exposed himself. The victim, who was not injured, exited the elevator immediately while the subject remained on the elevator.

Burglaries

Takoma Ave., 7600 block: On March 26 at 9:56 a.m. in, a commercial burglary occurred. Unknown suspect(s) broke an exterior window to gain entry to the building. There was additional damage inside the building. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: Between March 27 at 12 noon and March 28 at 9 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. The rear door of the business was damaged in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Columbia Ave., unit block: On April 2, between 11 a.m. and 4:38 p.m., a residen-

tial burglary occurred. A window pane of a back door was broken in order to gain entry. No property was taken.

Carroll Ave., 7700 block: On April 2 at 4:53 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. An air conditioner was removed from a window in order to gain entry. Two other windows were damaged. Property was taken.

Garland Ave., 7300 block: Between April 8 at 6:30 p.m. and April 10 at 10:57 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A window pane of a basement door was broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: Between April 12 at 10 p.m. and April 13 at 8:30 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A door was pried open in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: Between April 15 at 10 p.m. and April 18 at 1 p.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A rear door of the business was forced open in order to gain entry. It is unknown if any property was taken.

Hilltop Road, 300 block: On April 16 at 9:35 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. The homeowner entered his home through a rear door and noticed that a window pane in the front door had been broken and the door had been forced open. When the victim went to check the second floor, he encountered a subject who pushed him aside and fled. The victim was not injured. No property was taken.

Auto and Related Theft

University Blvd., 1100 block: Between March 17 at 9 a.m. and March 18 at 12 noon, a 1995 Mazda Protégée was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: Between March 19 at 9:15 p.m. and March 20 at 6:45 a.m., a 2004 Kawasaki motorcycle was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block: Between April 8 at 8 p.m. and April 10 at 8:30 a.m., a 2003 Dodge Stratus was stolen.

Lee Ave., unit block: On April 12, between 6 p.m. and 9:45 p.m., a 2000 Chrysler Voyager was stolen.

ARRESTS

Carroll Ave., 7000 block: On March 21 at 8:11 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with attempted rape, 2nd degree assault and 4th degree sex offense after officers responded to a call for an assault in progress. The suspect was arrested after a brief foot chase. The victim, an adult female, refused treatment for her injuries.

Merrimac Drive, 900 block: On March 25 at 9:56 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment, 1st degree assault and concealed deadly weapon after an adult female reported that the suspect had assaulted her and held her against her will during an incident that began earlier that day in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave. The victim sought treatment for minor injuries later. The victim and suspect were known to each other.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On March 30 at 1 p.m., officers responded to a call for a trespassing at a business. Upon arrival, officers found a juvenile female and adult male. When an officer attempted to question the male, the subject fled in his vehicle, striking the officer with his vehicle. The male subject was arrested a short time later after driving erratically on New Hampshire Ave. and colliding with two other vehicles, then fleeing on foot. Two citizens in one of the vehicles were injured and taken to hospitals. The officer was not injured. The male subject was charged with four counts of 1st degree assault, possession of CDS (drugs), possession of CDS paraphernalia, possession of a handgun, resisting arrest, reckless driving, negligent driving, fleeing and eluding and several other traffic-related offenses. The juvenile female was charged with concealed deadly weapon, handgun on person, false statement to police officer and possession of CDS.

Houston Ave. and Flower Ave.: On April 18 at 7:17 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with attempted strong-arm robbery and 2nd degree assault for an incident that occurred earlier during a domestic assault.



The Firehouse Report

As of March 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 244 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 664 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 908 incidents this year. Totals for 2004 were 264 and 625, respectively, for a total of 889, representing an increase of 19 incidents.

Serious Fire on Poplar Ave.

On April 5 at 7:30 a.m., a serious house fire occurred at 6613 Poplar Ave. This fire resulted in approximately \$400,000 damage. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire is "undetermined" by the Fire Marshal's Office.

Blood Drive Canceled

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department-Lions Club blood drive scheduled for Monday, May 2 has been canceled due to continued construction at the Municipal Building. The next blood drive is tentatively scheduled for August.

A Note About Chief Jarboe

TPVFD Chief Jim Jarboe, who had heart surgery in March, reports that he is making a strong recovery and walks every day. He hopes to "be back to full service within the next couple of months," he told the *Newsletter* in April.

Cooking Lessons from the TPVFD

- Cooking is still the number one cause of fires in the home.
- Stick around: Never leave cooking food unattended.
 - Dress right: No loose clothing. Roll up your sleeves.
 - No children/no pets: Declare a three-foot "safe zone" around your stove.
 - Turn pot handles in: Avoid bumping a pot and spilling hot food.
 - Be alert: Don't cook if
 - you're sleepy
 - you've been drinking a lot of alcohol
 - you're taking medication that makes you drowsy

Emergency Measures

Grease fires — If a pan of food catches fire, don't use a fire extinguisher. Smother the fire by sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner.

Oven fires — Close the oven door and turn off the heat.

Microwave — Keep the door closed and unplug the microwave. Have the oven serviced before you use it again.

Smoke Alarms (again)

Many of you are tired of hearing the same thing ... make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels of the home, especially outside every sleeping area. They should be tested monthly and you should change the batteries twice a year when you change your clock times. You would not believe how many houses do not have working smoke alarms. They are out there!

In the event of a fire in your home, hopefully you are not one of them.

How To Fireproof Your Babysitter

When choosing a sitter for your children never assume that he or she knows all that they need to know about babysitting.

- Get references. Treat sitting as a legitimate business and check references.
- Put your sitter to the test with "what if..." questions.
- Write down information on where you plan to be and when you plan to return. Include names and numbers of the family or place where you are going.
- Contact the sitter right away if your plans change.
- Give a tour of the home to familiarize the sitter with location of bedrooms, diapering supplies, bathrooms, etc.
- Explain how doors and windows open, lock and unlock.
- Review your home fire escape plan. Explain where all exits are, especially from each child's room, safe meeting place and trusted neighbor's home to go to in case of an emergency.

House Rules

1. Explain rules on friends visiting, phone use and off-limits food, VCR, T.V. or stereo.
2. Eliminate unnecessary tasks such as cooking, cleaning or giving baths. These tasks take the sitter's attention away from children and can be dangerous.
3. Eliminate any potential hazards in your home.
4. Give a written profile of each child including:
 - full name/nickname
 - allergies/medications
 - food restrictions
 - behavioral problems
 - favorite foods/games
 - bedtimes (state while children are listening)
5. Inform sitter of behavior of pets and feeding schedules. Babysitting is a big responsibility! When babysitting, your number one responsibility is to the children!

Swift Response Results in Arrests in Varied Crimes

By Carol Bannerman
Police Affairs Specialist

Immediate reporting of several crimes and quick police response in the last six weeks have led to numerous arrests. The apprehensions were for an assault on Carroll Ave., a strong-arm robbery on Cedar and assault and attempt kidnapping on Philadelphia.

Takoma Park Police have charged an Adelphi man in relation to a March 21 assault in the 7000 block of Carroll Avenue. The man was apprehended in the 7300 block of Willow Ave. within minutes of the emergency report. The suspect has been charged with attempted first and second degree rape, attempted second and fourth degree sex offences, and second degree assault. The victim, from Washington, D.C., sustained non-life threatening injuries and declined treatment at a local hospital.

The woman was at her car, near the intersection of Laurel and Carroll, at about 8:10 p.m. when the man assaulted her, without speaking. Pedestrians intervened and the man fled. While some witnesses aided the victim and called police, another followed the suspect, providing guidance to responding officers.

The suspect was chased from Park Ave., through yards, to Willow Ave. where he was apprehended at about 8:20 p.m. The man, 26 years old, is being held in Montgomery County detention without bond. An officer was injured during the foot pursuit.

On April 11 about 6:30 p.m., a Takoma Park youth was asked for change by a group of youths as he left the Metro station. After he made a purchase at a nearby convenience store, the group followed him down Cedar Ave. One of the youths held the juvenile, while another went through his pockets and

took property before fleeing.

Takoma Park officers located and detained three suspects, aged 15-16 years, at about 7 p.m. in the District, where they were joined by Metropolitan Police (D.C.) officers. Parents of two youths brought them to Takoma Park, where, after investigation, they were charged with robbery and assault. The Takoma Park juvenile's property was recovered.

The same night, Takoma Park police arrested a 27-year-old D.C. man on one count of attempted kidnapping and two counts of second-degree assault. The charges arose from an incident at the City Library in the 100 block of Philadelphia Ave.

The man allegedly entered the building, speaking to several girls aged 10 and 11. Witnesses reported he attempted to have one girl leave with him, but she declined. Police received both telephoned and in-person reports shortly before 5 p.m. Responding patrol officers detained the man a block away, at Grant and Maple Avenues. No physical injuries to any of the girls were reported. The man is being detained at the Montgomery County Detention Center.

Another incident, in which the report was delayed, did not result in an apprehension. A man was walking north on Maple Avenue about 11 p.m. April 9 when he noticed two young men following him, one on either side of the street. The suspects approached him and made property demands, one displaying a weapon. After taking property they walked south on Maple.

The victim reported he asked to use the cell phone of a passing pedestrian, who refused and directed him to the police station. He continued to the station and a subsequent canine track for the suspects led to the 7100 block of Maple and was lost.

POLICE NEWS



Chief Cindy Creamer visited first grade classes at Takoma Park Elementary School during a unit on clothes and the attire different workers wear to do their job. Students in Ms. Koopman's and Ms. Colegrove's classes got a close-up look at the Chief's handcuffs, badge and protective vest.

Burglary Charged in School Break-ins

Four Takoma Park youth were arrested April 10, about 2 a.m., for breaking into the Takoma Park Middle School. This is the third time in a year young people have entered the school and been apprehended by Takoma Park Police. The school's security systems have assisted police in the apprehensions.

In the most recent incident, the teenagers appear not to have taken anything or caused damage inside. Two of the suspects surrendered immediately to arriving officers but two fled. In a search incident to arrest, one youth was found to be carrying an air/BB gun, a replica of a Sig Sauer handgun. The youths, three students at Blair High School and one at the Middle School, were released to their parents, charged with burglary and trespass; two were also charged with resisting arrest.

Last May, two break-ins occurred at the school. In one incident, three suspects were arrested at about 10 p.m., inside the school while attempting to remove property. These juveniles also had broken glass inside to access the property being taken. Also released to

their parents, these Blair High School students were charged with burglary, theft and destruction of property. In the second incident, two 18-year-old males and a juvenile female were arrested as they were leaving the school about 1 a.m. They reported they had found an unlocked door and had just walked through the school. They were charged with burglary and trespass.

All youths were local residents, either from Silver Spring or Takoma Park. The Takoma Park youths came from throughout the City, not just near the school, with those arrested coming from Elm, Sycamore, Circle, Philadelphia, Ritchie, Gist and Maple Avenues.

Although in a young person's perspective, a secret walk through a school might seem little more than adventure, breaking and entering can be charged as a felony in some instances. The police are required to contact the school system, which also treats the incident as a serious offense. The penalties can range from a conference to suspension with a recommendation for expulsion.

D.A.R.E. Graduates



Ofc. Mary Jo Mitchell taught the D.A.R.E. anti-drug curriculum to students at Our Lady of Sorrows School, shown at graduation. From left: TTPD Chief Cynthia Creamer, Ofc. Mitchell, front and center Cpl. Doug Malarkey and Diesel, and at right regional D.A.R.E. coordinator Laura Phelps

Where Does That 9-1-1 Call Go?

A fire occurred in early April, destroying a home in the 6600 block of Poplar Ave. Subsequent to the fire, discussion ensued about which county's Emergency Call Center was reached by those initially reporting the fire. On April 12, Chief Cindy Creamer visited several homes in the area where residents allowed her to call 9-1-1 using their home phones. In every instance the calls went directly to the Montgomery County Emergency Center.

Using a cell phone, however, is a different story. Given the proximity to the Prince George's County line and cell towers, in that area a call from a cell phone most likely will go to that county's call center. Of course, dispatch will still be made but a brief amount of time may be used in the transfer of information.

The Takoma Park Police have long encouraged anyone making an emergency

call for police assistance from a cell phone to dial the TTPD dispatcher directly at 301-270-1100, which should be programmed into a resident's cell phone.

For fire emergency calls, the Fire Department recommends always using 9-1-1 for emergencies, whether land line or cell phone, and engines will be dispatched no matter where the call originates or is received. Career firefighters recommend that a caller immediately say the county of the problem and the nature of the emergency, such as "Montgomery County, fire emergency" or "Prince George's County medical emergency."

Fire departments are quite different from police agencies, which have jurisdictional boundaries. Firefighters respond regularly across county boundaries and it is not unusual to have teams from more than one station respond to a fire.

RECREATION

Create Your Own Musical Camps

Grades 5 - 8

Students will have the opportunity to write a play, explore various aspects of acting, create costumes and props, act as stage crew, stage managers, and makeup artists. The final performance would truly portray the voices of the participating students and their community. Maximum of 20, minimum of 10.

When: Mon. - Fri.,
Session I: June 20 - 24
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Municipal Building,
7500 Maple Ave.
Fee: \$130

Counselor-In-Training Program

Grades 9 and 10 (as of Sept. '05)

This program is for young teens interested in gaining knowledge of working with young children, personal growth, leadership and work experience. Fee includes CPR and First Aid certification, on-the-job training, special events, speakers and field trips. Must attend pre-training week and work at least two weeks over the summer. To register, pick up an application at the Recreation Office and return no later than June 1. Minimum of six participants.

Mandatory Pre-Training:

When: June 20 - 24
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Training Location:

Municipal Building,
7500 Maple Ave.

On the Job Training:

When: June 27 - Aug. 12
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Camp Locations:

Piney Branch Elem.School,
7510 Maple Ave. or
Takoma Park Recreation Center,
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Fee for two week commitment:

Res. \$150
Non-Res. \$200

Creative Adventures

Grades 1 - 5 (as of Sept. '05)

This camp offers endless opportunities for discovery and play. Each week brings new fun and more adventures and experiences: arts and crafts, games, sports, nature activities, special events, trips to a basketball game, swimming, the beach and much more. Seven weeks. No camp July 4.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 27 - Aug. 12
Time: Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
(Additional fee)

Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
After Care 4 - 6 p.m.
(Additional fee)

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

Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave.

Fees: Res. \$105/week
Non-Res. \$115/week

Fee for whole summer:

Res. \$725
Non-Res. \$775

Extreme Horizons

Grades 6 - 9 (as of Sept. '05)

ATTENTION ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS: THIS IS NOT A CAMP, IT'S AN ADVENTURE! Interested in challenging new horizons and exploring your possibilities? Then this is the place for you. You'll go on three fabulous field trips every week. This year is going to be even more exciting! Limited to 13 or 26 participants. Fees include camp t-shirt, field trips and special events. Six weeks of day camp

and week #7 is an overnight camp (see below). No camp July 4.

When: Monday - Friday,
June 27 - Aug. 12
Time: Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
(Additional fee)
Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.
(Additional fee)
Location: Municipal Building,
7500 Maple Ave.
Fees: Res. \$180/week
(Week #7-\$215)
Non-Res. \$200/week
(Week #7-\$225)
Fee for whole summer:
Res. \$975
Non-Res. \$990

Extended Care Options

Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: Creative Adventures, Extreme Horizons, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball camp, Basketball, Soccer Camp and *U.S. Sports Institute (*before care only).

Fee per week for before care (7 - 9 a.m.)
Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$35

Fee per week for after care (4 - 6 p.m.)
Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$35

Kindermusik

Our Time

Ages 1 ½ - 3

Engaging musical activities with a make-believe journey to the beach opens the door to this seaside adventure. There is a \$22 materials fee to be paid to the instructor the first day of class. Each child will receive a home-kit which contains a home CD, five full color picture folders, story cards and a seashell handle castanets. Five weeks. Limited to 12 children, minimum of four.

When: Tues., May 24 - June 21
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Fee: Res. \$80
Non-Res. \$85

Fun Day Trip

Swimming at Water Park, Gaithersburg, MD

When: Wednesday, June 15
Time: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Fee: Res. \$10
Non-res. \$15

Dodge ball

Remember when the only thing on your mind was 'red light green light' or 'hide-n-seek'? A time when recess was the highlight of every day. It's time to act like a kid again. Eight weeks.

Grades 8 - 10

When: Mon., June 20 - Aug. 8
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.
No program July 4.

Grades 11 and Up

When: Fri., June 24 - Aug. 12
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.
Location: TP Elementary School Gym,
7511 Holly Ave.
Fee: Free

Y.E.S. Basketball Program

Eight games plus at least one playoff game and a T-shirt for each player. Each player MUST attend one workout in order to be drafted.

Piney Branch Elementary School is located at 7510 Maple Ave.

Mandatory Coaches Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave. Draft will be held Thurs. May 26 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building. We need volunteer coaches.

Grades entering 5 - 6

Workout Dates:

When: Monday, May 16 and 23
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School
Time: 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Regular Season:

*Mondays, June 6 - July 25

Playoffs: Aug. 1 - 8
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center,
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$20
Non-Resident \$25

*No games on Monday, July 4. Games will be played on Tuesday, July 5.

Grades entering 7 - 8

Workout Dates:

When: Wednesday, May 18,
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School

When: Wednesday, June 1,
Location: Takoma Park Middle School,
7611 Piney Branch Road

Time: 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Regular Season:

Tuesdays, June 7 - July 26

Playoffs: Aug. 1 - 11
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: NOTE: New location at Piney Branch Elementary School

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$20
Non-Resident \$25

Grades entering 9 - 10

Workout Dates:

When: Tuesday, May 31,
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School
Time: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

When: Thursday, June 2,
Location: Takoma Park Middle School,
7611 Piney Branch Road

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Regular Season:

Wednesdays, June 8 - July 27

Playoffs: Aug. 1 - 11
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: NOTE: new location at Piney Branch Elementary School

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$20
Non-Resident \$25

Grades entering 11 - 12

Workout Dates:

When: Thursday, June 2 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Friday, June 3 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: T P Middle School,
7611 Piney Branch Rd.

Regular Season:

Thursdays, June 9 - July 28

Playoffs: Aug. 1 - 11
Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: NOTE: new location at Piney Branch Elementary School

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$20
Non-Resident \$25



Character Expression Through Movement

May 4, 11, 18, 25

Students will study the characters in the scripts they have written. Participants will view excerpts of plays and musicals and study how the actors used movement to define and express their characters through movement.

When: Wed., May 4, 11, 18, 25
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.
Location: Municipal Bldg, 7500 Maple Ave.
Fee: Res. \$40
Non-Res. \$50

Beginner In-line Skating

17- Adult

Learn to skate with certified In-line Skating instructor, Jane Beech. You will learn all the basics of in-line skating: forward movement, turning and most importantly, how to stop and control your speed. Required equipment: skates, helmet, elbow pads, knee pads and wrist guards. Equipment is available for rent directly from the instructor. You must reserve equipment in advance by calling Jane Beech at 301-919-2017 or e-mail to: inlineclass@aol.com. Four weeks.

When: Sun., May 8, 15, 22, June 5
Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Location: Takoma Park Middle School
Tennis Courts,
7611 Piney Branch Road
Fee: Res. \$70
Non-Res. \$75

Rock the Block

Ward 6

Saturday, May 21 (Rain Date May 22)
Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Park,
7100 Block 13th Ave.

Youth Marble Tournament

Ages 7 - 14

Qualify for the National Marble Tournament, held in Wildwood, N.J., the week of June 20. All participants must preregister by Friday, May 13.

When: Boys - Saturday, May 14
Girls - Sunday, May 15
Time: Boys 10 a.m.
Girls 1 p.m.
Location: Jequie Park
(Takoma & Albany avenues)
Fee: Free

SUMMER POSITIONS OPEN

Takoma Park Recreation Department has various part time seasonal summer camp positions in dynamic city agency.

Program Assistants, Leaders, Attendants. Camp Coordinator for our 7 week, Creative Adventures Summer Camp.

City of Takoma Park is an EOE. Fax resume/application 301-270-8794 or send it to 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 Attn.: Recreation Department. Deadline: open until filled. For more information please contact Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.



July 4th Yard Sale May 21: Donations Needed for Fund Raiser

The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee is holding a yard sale Saturday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Takoma Park Library grounds, 101 Philadelphia Ave. to help defray the expenses for the July Fourth parade and fireworks. The committee needs your help!

Spring clean your house for a good cause. Donations of quality items in good and clean condition for the yard sale are needed. Knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, furniture, collectibles, household items, bicycles, toys, appliances (only if they work, please), exercise equipment, office equipment, etc. are welcome. No clothes, please.

All donations should be brought to the Municipal Building back entrance, 7500 Maple Ave., Friday, May 20, between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. If you need help with large items, or for further information, call 301-270-8121 or 301-270-6876. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Also, more groups are being sought to participate in this year's parade-school, band or dance groups are encouraged to march along in this great community-building event. Additionally, the committee needs people to sell raffle tickets, which help pay for the evening fireworks.

For more information, contact Belle Ziegler at 301-270-6876.

First Annual Soapbox Derby In Old Town May 8

Takoma Park Box Scout Troop 33 is starting what it hopes will be a new tradition: the first annual Soapbox Derby, Sunday, May 8, 1 – 3 p.m. The competition will start at Tulip and Cedar avenues in Old Town, on the top of a nice slope down Tulip for the cars to gather speed.

The event celebrates the Boy Scout troop's 85th anniversary, promotes the troop and local businesses as well. The competition features life-size model cars that will carry one passenger down the hills of Takoma Park.

For more information, go to <http://bsa-troop33.net/>, e-mail Dave Lanar at dlanar@starpower.net or call 301-589-5590.

IMT to Present Tommy Makem, Takoma Folkies in May

The Institute for Musical Traditions, the presenting arm of Takoma Park's House of Musical Traditions, will sponsor five concerts in the folk tradition (broadly conceived) in the merry month of May. Probably deserving top billing is Irish bard Tommy Makem, who has been impressing American audiences ever since the Newport Folk Festivals of the 1960s.

All concerts will be held at the Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road in Rockville at 7:30 p.m. For information on any concert, call 301-754-3611, or see www.imtfolk.org.

On May 2, IMT presents **Azalea City Recordings Showcase**, in honor of the release of the CD, *Azalea Sampler No. 1*. The concert will feature Rachel Cross, Andrea Hoag, Zoe Mulford, Jesse Palidofsky and Mary Sue Twohy; they and other artists appear on the CD. *Azalea City Recordings* is a record label based in Takoma Park; for more information, see www.azaleacityrecordings.com. Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 at the door.

On May 9, the Canadian roots band **Tanglefoot** will perform. Starting with interpretations of traditional Canadian songs and now writing most of their own materials, Tanglefoot has a big, full-throttle sound, a relentlessly energetic live show packed with humor, audience rapport, and a strong following. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Garnet Rogers, appearing May 17, has been praised for his "smooth, dark bari-

tone" (*Washington Post*) his incredible range, and thoughtful, dramatic phrasing. If you don't believe us, see www.garnetrogers.com. He is reputed to sing extraordinary songs about people who are not obvious heroes, combining over-the-top humor and lightning-quick wit. Tickets \$14 advance, \$17 door.

On Saturday, May 21, Irish singer, songwriter, storyteller, actor and bard **Tommy Makem** will come to the wilds of Rockville. He's been called the Godfather of Irish music, armed with his banjo, tin whistle, poetry, stagecraft and his magnificent baritone voice, and has been mesmerizing audiences for more than four decades. Tommy continues to perform as a soloist and is also frequently accompanied by members of his family on tour. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$22 at the door.

On May 22, **Walt Michaels** will appear in a benefit for the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, a nonprofit advocacy group. Considered to be a virtuoso of tremendous influence in the revival of the hammered dulcimer, Walt Michael's 35-year career has taken him from the coal camps of Appalachia to the Closing Ceremonies of the 13th Olympic Winter Games. Accompanying Walt are Alexander Mitchell on fiddle and Ralph Gordon on bass.

The roots/bluegrass trio Don't Look Back will open the show. Tickets are \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.

Takoma Park City TV Events in May 2005

City TV releases the final performances this month from the Takoma Park Street Festival: The Three Wise Guys, plus Michelle Ava and Spirit Dance on one tape; local acapella singers Reverb on the other.

Premiering in May is a new Spanish language series: *Actualidad Metropolitana*. The first episode is "Programa de Asistencia a Victimas de Asalto Sexual." The second episode is "Compleadas Domesticas." These will air during the City TV Special Events time slots on May 17, 18, 24 and 25.

Takoma Snapshots in May includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: "Going to the Dogs"
- Tastes of Takoma
- D.A.R.E. Graduation at Our Lady of Sorrows School

The City Council may be having additional public hearings on budget topics during May, and if so, they will be aired live on channel 13. Be sure to check the City's Web site for most current information on this schedule.

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

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

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

Takoma Park City TV May 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)			Takoma Park Folk Festival			
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					
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
Web: www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable

\$350,000 in New State Funds Will Help Community Center Toward Completion

The City has been given an additional \$350,000 in state funds, during the closing days of the recent state legislative session, to help complete the Community Center now under construction. The City had lobbied in Annapolis for the additional funds, and was fairly successful (\$1 million had been the full amount requested, but that sum was not really expected).

The money came from "bond bill" funding, in which the state government raises money for capital projects around Maryland for both local governments and nonprofit organizations. The money comes as a grant – the City must supply matching funds, but that requirement has already been met.

The City's community and government liaison, Suzanne Ludlow, said she was "delighted" about the state's decision, and explained that the funds might well go to restore one or more of the Commu-

nity Center features that have been temporarily cut from the project because of a funding shortfall. Mayor Kathy Porter says that it would not be feasible to use the \$350,000 to reduce the amount of the City's own borrowing for the Community Center, as some have suggested, because the City has already committed to borrow \$2.6 million through a state-administered bond program.

Historic Takoma also obtained \$50,000 from state bond bills to begin looking for a place to house the City's archives.

Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane, who lobbied for the funds, noted "Many thanks go to our District 20 representatives, Ida Ruben and Peter Franchot, who spearheaded efforts to obtain money for City projects."

— Bob Guldin

Crossing Guard Stationed At Cedar and Philadelphia

The City Council voted April 18 to station a school crossing guard at the complicated intersection where Cedar Ave. meets Route 410, even though Takoma Park Police Chief Cindy Creamer advised against it.

More than 70 schoolchildren cross the intersection every school day, going to Takoma and Piney Branch elementary schools and Takoma Park Middle School. That's more than enough to warrant a crossing guard by official standards, but Creamer argued persistently that the intersection was unsafe and stationing a guard there to help children cross was unwise.

But residents of the neighborhood argued that the intersection is such a natural crossing point between parts of Old Town and the schools that it was smarter to have a guard there to stop traffic and help children cross Route 410 (Philadelphia Ave.).

In particular, Creamer pointed out that pedestrians after crossing 410 are likely to enter the parking lot behind the City's library, where, in addition to normal traffic, heavy equipment for Community Center construction is now operating. "There have been a number of accidents in the parking lot since construction started," she said.

Posting the crossing guard, Creamer said, "boils down to providing an escort into harm's way." The chief said children would be safer crossing Route 410 either at Holly or Maple avenues, where crossing guards are already stationed. Adding to the danger is the fact that cars from a third street, Old Philadelphia Ave., enter 410 near Cedar, making the roadway extra wide.

But residents presented a strong case several weeks in a row. The City's Safe Roadways Committee and the Old Town Residents Association, a neighborhood group, backed them up. Ward 1 Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane supported the crossing guard proposal as well.

In the end, people power carried the day, and the Council decided to station a guard there, at least until the end of the current school year. Austin-Lane and City staff have also been talking to the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), which has jurisdiction over Route 410. SHA has promised to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection, at a minimum by painting more visible crosswalk stripes there. In the meanwhile, Austin-Lane calls the crossing guard "a sensible first step." — Bob Guldin

April 10 Was the Day to Taste Diversity



Photos by Lonni Moffet and Patrick Rittenhouse

By Maria Fernanda Rodriguez

Takoma Park families came out to the Columbia Union College commons on Sunday, April 10, 2005 to taste international flavors from local restaurants, browse through crafts, enjoy the many children's activities and dance to the music of local bands and Latin dancers at the 5th Annual Tastes of Takoma Festival.

April 10 brought a wonderfully sunny day to a festival organized for people of all ages, and the Takoma Park community enthusiastically took advantage of this opportunity.

A team of eight Columbia Union College students and almost 40 Columbia Union College Acro-Airs members woke up very early on Sunday to have tables, chairs, signs, vendors, sponsors, and carnival games all organized and ready to start by noon.

The festival started a little bit after twelve noon with Latin music and dancers on stage to add some spice to the festival. Food vendors stationed along Flower Avenue under a line of tents were soon visited by large crowds looking for Caribbean, Middle Eastern, Mexican and Salvadoran flavors.

On the Commons 20 different businesses, craft vendors and non-profit organizations shared information,

brochures and their talents. Crowds estimated at about 4,000 enjoyed the talent of local artists, bought unique gifts and got information on important causes.

Nearby nursing students from Columbia Union College gave free health screenings and even Washington Adventist Hospital President, Jere Stocks, handed out flyers on the importance of water.

Kids excitedly ran across the Commons to line up for a trip through the giant Jurassic Park bounce house, score a goal in a tiny soccer net, to dress up and take pictures at the photo booth or to guess the right number of candies at the candy jar. The little ones had an opportunity to dance and sing with BanjoMan, Frank Cassel and later in the afternoon to get their faces painted and enjoy magic tricks with The Great Zucchini.

To add energy and suspense to the event the Acro-Airs, Columbia Union's acrobatic team, thrilled the crowds with high-flying drills and human pyramids. Another group that blew people away was the band of the day, Baltimore's own Kelly Bell Band. Many people waited until almost the end to enjoy their unique blend of hip-hop, blues, and rock 'n roll. There was no better way to end the festival than with contagious rhythms that sent many dancing all the way home.

City's Stencil-a-Drain Program Gets Under Way

Four teams of volunteers are working to stencil environmental awareness messages on Takoma Park's storm drain inlets.

This program is a public awareness campaign based on resident participation at all levels. The teams stencil messages such as "Chesapeake Bay Drainage" on storm drains, to encourage residents to think about how pollution can travel through storm sewers. The City has initiated the program with four teams, and this round will continue until all drain inlets are stenciled at least once.

Stenciling kits are checked out for 14 days, excluding weekends, by a team made up of at least two volunteers. Teams will also distribute flyers that inform residents of sources and nature of pollutants, and offers tips that help everyone become a participant in reducing pollution and its detrimental effects on our water resources and environment.

The following teams are currently assigned to different watersheds in the City. The first round will end the first week of May. Teams may choose to continue or return the kit for use by another volunteer.

Team #1	Lisa Beaudet, Arlo Miles
Team #2	Takoma Kids Club
Team #3	Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts
Team #4	University of Maryland