Development Hits Old Town — But Is Bigger Better?

By Bob Guldin
Editor

For decades, Old Town Takoma seemed like the land that developers forgot. From Fourth Street in the District all the way to Takoma Junction, few changes occurred in the small-town streetscape, despite the arrival of Metrorail in the 1970s. The biggest news was construction in 2000 of a CVS at Carroll and Maple.

Now, a wave of development has hit Takoma D.C., with plenty more on the way. On the Maryland side, planned changes are more modest but will still be very noticeable. By the time it’s done, between 500 and 1,000 housing units will probably have been added within a three-block radius of the Takoma Metro station. That will mean additional customers for Takoma’s struggling retail sector, but also a surge in local traffic, and quite possibly a change in the character and atmosphere of Old Town.

As Sabrina Barron, president of the nonprofit group Historic Takoma, told the Newsletter, “People want to live in Takoma Park because it’s Takoma Park—it’s not like everywhere else. We don’t want to see it homogenized.”

**Takoma Parking Structure**

Here’s the latest status report on what’s coming to Old Town and vicinity, and how development is progressing.

In the heart of Takoma Park, Md., two significant developments will change the face of the block that extends from Laurel to Carroll Avenue, and which includes the Post Office. Long-time Takoma Park property-owner John Urciolo plans to build a restaurant or other retail use in the space on Laurel between Pizza Movers and the Post Office, with a parking structure behind it. (The terrain drops away sharply behind the line of stores.) That means that the bizarre wooden deck on Laurel Ave., which Takomans have puzzled over forever, will be demolished.

Urciolo told the Newsletter that his plans “have gotten bogged down a little bit” with Montgomery County planners, because his project requires consolidating what were five different small lots into one big lot to build the parking structure. But in mid-May, Urciolo received “a verbal go-ahead that they’re going to let us consolidate the lot,” he said.

Urciolo said that he already has the approval of the county’s Historic Preservation Commission to build his “infill” project, and that the Post Office and Pizza Movers buildings will remain. “We hope to start construction in late spring of 2006,” he said.

Urciolo added that he has had to scale down his project. The parking structure, which Urciolo had hoped would have 84 spaces, may be smaller, and plans for a small theater or community center may have to be eliminated. Because of the steep slope, the parking structure should not be visible from Laurel Ave.

At the other end of that block, near Carroll and Westmoreland avenues, developer Bruce Levin is eyeing his options that may include significant new construction—or just a little. Levin heads Continued on page 12

**‘Stop! You Don’t Know Me Like That!’ Community Bridges Boosts Girl-Power**

By Joy Jones

When it comes to asserting themselves and taking charge of their futures, girls who participate in Community Bridges’ JumpStart Girls/Adeleita Niñás! program at Rolling Terrace Elementary School have no problem expressing themselves.

“Stop! You Don’t Know Me Like That!” is a basic self-defense order young girls can say as a first step in turning away unwanted attention or behavior. It’s also the title of a self-defense booklet these fifth-grade girls decided to publish and distribute to classmates, teachers and family members. A result of learning basic self-defense techniques through a collaboration between Community Bridges and the Metro D.C. Karate and Self-Defense Association, the booklet is just the latest Community Bridges project to help girls discover who they are and empower themselves and their community. Community Bridges activities are held right at Rolling Terrace Elementary School on Bayfield Street in Takoma Park.

Community Bridges began in 1997 across the kitchen tables of local founders Naomi Nimm and Mary Freeman. Nimm had worked with school/community collaborations in San Francisco and was eager to do the same in her adopted Takoma Park and East Silver Spring neighborhoods. Freeman, an educator, was looking for a way to volunteer. After meeting with school officials and groups that serve youth, Nimm and Freeman started Community Bridges and its core program, Inside this Issue

**July Fourth Celebration Approaches**

Get those floats ready, and please show support.

**Get Parking Permits By Mail**

Neighborhood permits expire June 30.

By Joy Jones

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

**2006 City Budget Nears Completion**

As this issue of the Newsletter went to press, the Takoma Park City Council was wrapping up its budget deliberations for Fiscal Year 2006, which begins July 1, 2005. It was looking like the adopted budget would closely resemble the budget City Manager Barbara Matthews proposed to the Council in March. The general fund budget, which includes most City programs, will come in at close to $17 million, about a 2 percent increase over the FY2005 budget.

As Matthews told the Newsletter, “This is a fairly status quo budget.” For example, the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff positions is expected to remain the same.

One change important to all Takoma Park homeowners: the City’s tax rate will probably be reduced from 66 cents per $100 of assessed value to 64.5 cents. But because property values continue to rise year to year, most
Clinic in Takoma
Langley Renamed for Marilyn Freeland

A community clinic at 7767 New Hampshire Ave. has been renovated and improved and has been given a new name: the Marilyn K. Freeland, R.N., Family Health Center. The board of directors of Community Clinic, Inc. (CCI), a nonprofit agency, planned to make the change official at a dedication ceremony May 25.

CCI has provided Montgomery and Prince George’s counties’ indigent population with primary health care and related health services for 36 years in six accessible locations.

Marilyn K. Freeland, a registered nurse, volunteered for CCI in the late 1970s and early 1980s, often working many more hours than her assigned shifts at the CCI-Rockville health center. Freeland gave her time in leadership positions as well, serving on committees and later as chair of the board of directors from 1979 to 1983. In addition to her extraordinary work for CCI, Freeland served as spokesperson for the American Cancer Society.

The Takoma Park clinic, on the second floor of the Takoma Park High School building, has previously supported four examination rooms and has added adult care to pediatrics.

Want to Be Our Poet Laureate?

In support of Takoma Park’s dedication to the arts, the city will name its first Poet Laureate in an upcoming ceremony. Nominees are presently being solicited for this honor.

The Poet Laureate must be a published poet and a Takoma Park resident. Nominations or self-nominations will be considered. All nominees must submit a cover letter, a curriculum vitae/ résumé including a list of publications, and three samples of poetry to the Arts and Humanities Commission c/o Sara Anne Daines at 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park MD 20912.

All submissions, including completed application packets, are due by 5 p.m. June 17. For more information call 301-891-7224.

City Council Calendar

Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day - City Offices Will Be Closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.
Tuesday, May 31 - Presentation, Public Hearing, Special Session and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
Monday, June 6 - Presentation, Interviews and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
Wednesday, June 8 - Ethics Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Lobby)
Thursday, June 9 - Safe Roadsway Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
Monday, June 13 - Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
Tuesday, June 14 - Facade Advisory Board Meeting, 7 p.m. (6 Grant Ave.)
Tuesday, June 14 - Tree Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
Monday, June 20 - Presentation, Interviews and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)
Tuesday, June 21 - Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Lobby)
Thursday, June 23 - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Location TBA)
Sunday, June 26 - Wednesday, June 29 - Maryland Municipal League Annual Convention, Ocean City, Md.

For updated schedule information, check the City’s Web page at www.cityoftakomapark.org. If you would like to receive a weekly e-mail of the City Council agenda, or if you would like to receive a weekly agenda by U.S. Mail, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or e-mail clerk@takomagov.org.
Committee Vacancies

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. Council may appoint a maximum of 15 members to the commission. (Up to three 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 Web page.

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA). The 7-12 member commission is empowered to adjudicate and moderate complaints for violations of Chapter 6.16, Landlord-Tenant Relations, to rule on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance, and to decide appeals from the City Manager’s decision to deny, suspend or revoke a license under Chapter 6.08, Rental Housing Licenses and Commercial Occupancy Licenses. (Up to three vacancies.)

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 but not limited to, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning, energy use and conservation, and recycling; reviewing and providing advice on City actions that affect environmental quality; educating Takoma Park residents, businesses, and government on environmental issues; convening citizen views on environmental issues to Council and City staff; and working with City staff on environmental issues and projects. (Seven to eleven vacancies - initial application deadline 6/13/05. The committee also welcomes participation from non members who would like to serve as resources to help committee members with a particular issue or special event.)

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 time when required. (Two vacancies.)

Facade Advisory Board. The seven-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 Buruma Committee. The seven-member committee is charged with overseeing implementation of and adherence to the Free Buruma Act. (Five vacancies.)

Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee. This committee has been established to advise the City Council on neighborhood issues relating to 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.)

Noise Control Board. The seven-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 Roads Committee. The 11-member 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 résumé 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’s Office at 301-891-7267.

Gimme Shelter: Progress for Bus Riders at Crossroads

By Susan Holliday

For the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc.

The days and nights of standing in mud, exposed to the elements, while waiting at a busy Takoma/Langley Crossroads bus stop are over, thanks to a timely collaboration among the local business community, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, and the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), with input from the Takoma Park Economic and Community Development Office.

Persistence by the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc. (CDA) and the cooperation of commercial property owners and several governmental agencies from the differing jurisdictions resulted in the building in April of two bus shelters on a new concrete pad along University Blvd. at the intersection with Lebanon St. The grand opening of the facility — the largest number of bus passengers boarding or exiting a stop not attached to a Metrorail station in Maryland — will welcome the addition.

While the structure was installed in less than a month, it took years to go. In 2000, the CDA hosted the community executives of Montgomery and Prince George’s County at a press conference, at which both leaders pledged support for building a permanent transit center in the vicinity. Despite continuing interest from the county executives and support from the Takoma Park City Council and staff, the center today is built due to present jurisdictional and funding problems. While the wheels of government were grinding, bus customers had no choice as they waited for rides.

“To avoid waiting in mud, people would put flattened cardboard boxes on the sidewalk to stand on, it was that bad,” said CDA Executive Director Erwin Mack.

Last November, City Manager Barbara Matthews characterized the bus stop as a “virtual mud pit,” adding that providing a temporary shelter and eventually a permanent transit center were issues of “common human decency.”

After discussions among the jurisdictions and CDA, Montgomery County agreed to build a temporary shelter for its Ride-On buses on the Prince George’s County property.

“Montgomery County deserves a lot of credit for stepping up to the challenge,” said Mack. “The shelter serves the Ride-On buses, but it will directly help riders from both counties.”

Unfortunately, the space available was insufficient to install an appropriately sized bus shelter. SHA tried to renew contact with the off-site property owner on behalf of Prince George’s County to obtain right of way and got no response. Though Prince George’s County requested that the state use eminent domain to acquire space, Mack instead joined with Bob Hall, the property manager of Langley Park Plaza in Prince George’s County, to meet with Ray Shipley, the property manager of Langley Park Center, the site of the proposed shelter.

Shipley and his property owner agreed to give the right of way to Montgomery County and SHA to build the shelter. With the right-of-way cleared, the Montgomery County Division of Transit Planning Section referred its contractor to quickly install the shelters. SHA served as a consultant throughout the process.

“Communication and collaboration are the keys to success when working with multiple public and private entities,” said Mack. For example, he noted that planning staff from the City’s Economic and Community Development Office spearheaded a multi-jurisdictional proposal for engineering safety improvements at the Crossroads.

Deadline for Submissions: June 13

Next Issue: June 24
FY 2006 Budget Nears Approval

Continued from page 1

homeowners will still pay more in City property taxes in FY2006 than in the current year.

Mayor Kathy Porter noted that a number of councilmembers are trying to reduce the tax rate further than the proposed 1.5 cent cut. But Ward 6 Councilmember Doug Barry said that while he’s working to keep the budget under control, when he talks to residents about property taxes, “I don’t hear a lot of complaints from people in my area; there’s not a great clamor.”

City residents can expect to see some visible changes in 2006. In 2004, the City borrowed just over $2 million for street improvements, and about $1 million of that will be spent in FY2006. So expect lots of street paving this summer.

In addition, the first phase of the Community Center should be completed in early summer. Matthews said, with some staff possibly moving into new offices in July and community recreation spaces opening for use in September. Bids for the second phase of the project, the community plaza level, will be discussed by the Council June 6.

The Council’s budget discussions were informed by the work of the TASDI (Tax and Services Duplication Issues) Committee, which studied the ways in which the services of the City and Montgomery County overlap. That raised questions such as, should the City allow the county to take over or share police dispatch and communications functions, thereby saving money?

Matthews said the City and county would discuss that and similar questions over the next year, but cautioned, “I don’t think any of these will be quick fixes.”

Ward 5 Councilmember Marc Elrich suggested the City could cut the budget by not funding some police officer positions which have in fact been vacant for years, because of the difficulty of finding enough officers.

The budget is expected to include $25,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives, $25,000 for affordable housing and $100,000 for a Public Works storage facility.

And one characteristically quirky City program got yet another reprieve this year. Despite councilmembers’ disappointment in the amount of practical grassroots support for it, the Tool Library, which lends tools for free to area do-it-yourselfers, will receive $14,000 to cover the tool librarian’s pay and benefits. A petition signed by 230 people showed that while people may not use the Tool Library much, they like the idea of the Tool Library.

Bob Galdin

City Shows Appreciation

The City Council honored members of the City’s District 20 Maryland General Assembly delegation with a resolution May 23 thanking them for ongoing financial support of the Community Center.

Sen. Ida Ruben (left) and Delegates Peter Franchot and Sheila Hixson received plaques from Mayor Kathy Porter at the Municipal Building ceremony. “You’ve really come through, time after time, for the same project,” Porter said.

The resolution also honored Del. Gareth Murray of Silver Spring, who was absent Monday but toured the City with Porter and Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele May 19.

In all, since the City first requested financial assistance from the delegation to build the Community Center, the state has contributed $2.15 million to the project.

In recognizing the delegation for its help, councilmembers reminded them that the Community Center still isn’t finished. Member Marc Elrich (Ward 5) called the center’s gym, removed from current construction plans because of a lack of money, the “missing part” of the project.

8014 Flower Ave. (2005-4L)

On April 25, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from $61.35 to $91.62 on three units at the property. The improvements included painting, replacing tile, washer and dryer, plumbing fixtures, tile, hardwood floors, sump pump, mailbox, carpet and cabinetry.

321 Boyd Ave. (2005-24L)

On April 25, a capital improvement petition was approved for $53.11 on one unit at the property. The improvements included painting the unit, replacing the toilet, refrigerator, counter top, fan and sink.

7106/7108 Maple Ave. (2005-28L)

On March 21, a capital improvement petition was approved for $18.89 on one unit at the property for painting.

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

From Housing Specialist Joan Kerr

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:

116 Lee Ave. (2004-60L)

On April 20, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from $3.67 to $78.90 on all 56 units at the property. The improvements included work done in the common area of the building and the laundry room. Improvements were also done in each unit such as repaired and repainted bedroom, dining room, kitchen, bathroom walls and ceilings, repaired and replaced HVAC, new kitchen sinks, kitchen floors, tubs & showers, living room doors, stoves, refrigerators, garbage disposals, counter tops, toilet tanks, and smoke detectors.

8016 Flower Ave. (2004-113L)

On April 27, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from $8.90 to $33.92 on six units at the property. The improvements included painting and replacing the windows.

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

Jackson & Gilbert v. Pounders

On March 16 in a consolidated case involving two tenants’ allegations of defective tenancy, COLTA issued a decision ruling in favor of the tenants: (1) any condition in a rental facility that constitutes a violation of the lease terms, the Landlord-Tenant Relations Law, or the Property Maintenance Code is by definition a defective tenancy; (2) when a tenant has provided the landlord with written notice of the defect and the landlord has not corrected the defect or made good faith efforts to do so within one week after the written notice was given, that tenant may file a defective tenancy complaint with COLTA which is empowered to award the tenant his or her actual monetary damages that resulted from the defective tenancy; (3) where a defective tenancy (roach infestation, recurring electrical outages, etc.) occurs it may result in the diminished value of the tenancy and a reduction in the tenants’ monthly rent until the violations are corrected; (4) the tenants’ rent is reduced by 50 percent from $833.94/$879.79 per month to $416.97/$439.90 per month until the Landlord corrects the violations causing the defective tenancy; (5) the Landlord is directed to pay the affected tenants the amounts of $4,169.70/$4,399.00 respectively as damages for the defective tenancy by April 1, 2005; and (6) if the Landlord does not pay the tenants the monetary damages amount noted in # 5 above by April 1, 2005, the tenants may withhold the payment of their rent for each month until the total amount of the awarded monetary damages is reached or until the Landlord has paid any remaining balance of the monetary award.

Pasha v. Southern Management Corp.

On May 6 in a case involving an alleged defective tenancy for failure to properly install, maintain or repair air conditioning and heat, COLTA issued a decision in favor of the landlord.

COLTA ruled that the tenant did not present sufficient evidence that a defective tenancy existed within the one year preceding the filing of the COLTA complaint. COLTA went on to state that such evidence might consist of code violation reports, similar complaints filed by neighbors, temperature readings from the affected rental unit or any other objective evidence of insufficient air conditioning or heat during the year preceding the filing of the complaint.
Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele Visits, Announces Transit Funds for Crossroads

By Suzanne Ludlow Community and Government Liaison

Lt. Governor Michael Steele toured the City of Takoma Park on May 19 and coupled the visit with an announcement proposing to use $7.5 million in regional transit funds for the construction of a bus transit center at the intersection of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue. In addition to making this major announcement, the lieutenant governor heard from many Takoma Park citizens on the need to restore state funding to pedestrian and road improvement projects in the community.

The visit was part of a series of visits Lt. Gov. Steele is making to Maryland municipalities. Approximately a dozen high-level state officials from several departments accompanied Steele, including Maryland Secretary of Transportation Robert L. Flanagan.

Mayor Kathy Porter, City Councilmembers Joy Austin-Lane, Doug Barry and Heather Mizeur, District 20 Delegates Gareth Murray and Peter Franchot, and delegates from nearby Prince George’s County participated in the tour.

At a stop in Old Town, Steele was met with more than 20 seniors and disabled persons from Victory Tower carrying signs protesting the cutting of state funds to be used to correct the unsafe intersection at Woodlawn Drive and the street in front of them. Many Victory Tower residents are physically unable to cross Woodlawn Avenue due to the slope of the crosswalk.

On THE MOVE: Lt. Gov. Michael Steele (center) announces funding for transit center at University Blvd. /New Hampshire Ave. intersection. Visible behind the Lt. Gov. are (left to right): Maryland Transit Administrator Lisa Dickerson; Dep. Secretary Betsy Burian, M.D. Dept. of Planning; Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter; Secretary Victor Hoskins, M.D. Dept. of Housing and Comm. Dev.; District 20 Delegates Gareth Murray and Peter Franchot; Takoma Park City Councilmembers Doug Barry and Heather Mizeur; and Takoma/Langley CDA Executive Director Erwin Mack.

Other topics addressed in Old Town were economic development plans and public safety efforts to better coordinate the police departments of Takoma Park, the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Metro. The stop at the Takoma-Langley Crossroads area focused on Lt. Gov. Steele’s announcement of funds for a large transit facility to be built on the site of the Tacony Bell at the University Blvd. /New Hampshire Ave. intersection. Steelle called on Montgomery and Prince George’s counties to contribute to the project.

The requirements and the fine may seem strict and why there is so much concern about construction and, in particular, soil disturbance.

Once a tree has experienced damage from construction, it can sometimes take up to 10 years before mortality finally occurs. This sometimes causes homeowners, contractors, architects, landscape architects, engineers and others involved with construction to overlook the importance of proper tree protection. Tree protection, when designed properly, should consider the long-term aspects of the site while also considering the needs of citizens and be sensitive to the space requirements needed to get the project done.

If anyone has any questions about tree impact assessments, the tree ordinance, or any other questions about trees, feel free to contact the City arborist at 301-891-7612 or BrettL@takomaparks.org.

Builder, Spare That Tree! Preventing Collateral Damage

By Brett Linkletter City Arborist

Construction damage is one of the leading causes of injury and mortality to trees in urban and suburban areas. Because construction damage usually causes a slow decline before mortality occurs, homeowners rarely recognize it as the cause of the death of their trees.

Construction damage also can cause enough stress to trees to invite secondary pests and pathogens that attack weakened trees. The outward symptoms of decline or death would appear to be damaged. The outward symptoms of decline or death would appear to be weakened trees. The outward symptoms of decline or death would appear to be weakened trees. The outward symptoms of decline or death would appear to be weakened trees.

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Takoma Park Recreation Program

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 twenty, minimum of five.

When: Monday - Friday
Session I: June 20 - 24, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: $130

Counselor-In-Training Program

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

This program is for 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, pickup an application at the Recreation Office and return no later than June 1, 2005. Minimum of six participants.

Mandatory Pre-Training:

When: June 20 - 24, 2005
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Training Location: Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue
On the Job Training

When: June 27 - August 12, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Camp Locations:
- Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue
- Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Fee for two week commitment:
- T.P. City Resident $150
- Non-Resident $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 an 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, 2005
Time: Before Care: 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
(Additional fee)
Camp hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
After Care: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
(Additional fee)
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Fees:
- T.P. City Resident $105/week
- Non-Resident $115/week

Fee if paying for whole summer:
- T.P. City Resident $725
- Non-Resident $775

Skateboard Club

Grades 6 - 12

Improve your Ollie, 360, rail, slide, and grind. Take field trips to skate parks in Gaithersburg, Leesburg, Columbia and more. Eight weeks.

When: Saturdays, June 25 - August 13
Time: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
(Times may vary depending on skate site)
Location: Will meet at the Municipal Building
Fee: $60.00 (includes admission into the parks)
All participants must pick up an itinerary packet at time of registration.

Fun Day Trip 2005

Swimming at Water Park, Gaithersburg, MD

When: Wednesday, June 15
Time: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Location: Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee:
- T.P. City Resident $10
- Non-Resident $15

Tremendous Trips

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

Fun Day Trip 2005

When:
- Monday, June 20: Port Discovery
- Tuesday, June 21: Maryland Zoo
- Wednesday, June 22: Walkersville Southern Railroad
- Thursday, June 23: Bowling @ White Oak Lanes and Swimming @ MLK Pool
- Friday, June 24: Discovery Theater's performance of Kivulu and Roller Skating @ Laurel Skating Center

Week #2 $55
- Monday: $20 per trip or $85 for the whole week.
- Before Care: 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. (Addtl fee)
- Camp hours: (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- After Care: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. (Addtl fee)

Week #3 $225
- T.P. City Resident $180/week
- Non-Resident $200/week

Week #4 $125
- T.P. City Resident $975
- Non-Resident $990

Week #5 $225
- T.P. City Resident $1,500
- Non-Resident $1,500

Extended Care Options

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. 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. Institute (*before care only).

Week #2 $35
- T.P. City Resident $30
- Non-Resident $35

Week #3 $35
- T.P. City Resident $30
- Non-Resident $35

Infant and Child CPR

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

16 and Up
Six total hours of class time are required for this course. Upon successful completion of class requirements, you will earn an American Red Cross Infant and Child CPR Certificate, good for one year.

Instructor: Steve Cavalo

When: Saturday, June 4, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee:
- T.P. City Resident $25
- Non-Resident $30

Abs and Stretch Class

Grades 6 - 12

Are you interested in training your abdominal muscles? This class will help guide you on your journey to getting that ultimate six-pack! Eight weeks. Instructor: Amy Rulland

When:
- Tuesdays & Thursdays, June 7 - July 28
- Time: 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave
Fee:
- T.P. City Resident $30
- Non-Resident $35
“Sing Into Summer!”
Greta Ehrig, Takoma Park poet, singer, and song-writer, will usher in summer with an evening of interactive musical fun for all ages Wednesday evening, June 1, at 7 p.m.

Greta is well-known to the youngest Takoma Parkians and their parents and caregivers. She has been the person the Library has turned to for leading Circle Time on Tuesdays when the regular leadership is not available.

Check out Greta’s website at www.gretaehrig.com to see how her “woo-oo-ing of the multi-headed muse” is coming along. Please join us for the fun June 1.

Fire Safety Education and Materials Free At the Library

Montgomery County Safe Kids in conjunction with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will educate families in fire prevention on the second Saturday of each month from June through October at the Takoma Park Library.

Representatives will be available between 1 and 4 p.m. on June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10 and Oct. 8 to give away smoke alarm batteries and flashlights, and to assist families in preparing home escape plans.

Library Programs in June

“Sing Into Summer!”
Greta Ehrig
all ages
Wednesday, June 1, 7 p.m.
(see story)

Summer Quest 2005
begins Friday, June 10
(see story)

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.

In Memoriam:
Gene Inyart Namovicz

Gene Inyart Namovicz, a hidden treasure of Takoma Park, died on May 4 at Washington Adventist Hospital. She and her husband Stan raised four children (and helped with many grandchildren) on Lincoln Ave. Their home hosted many small literary salons for children’s book authors and librarians over the years, even into these past few years of Gene’s failing health.

Gene was originally a children’s librarian with the D.C. public libraries. After 10 years she became a full-time mother and children’s book author. Her books included Tent Under the Spider Tree, Susan and Martin, The Jake Way, and To Talk in Time. But once a librarian, always a librarian. She believed fiercely in the care and feeding of librarians, particularly those who served children, and she took me under her wing when I first came to the Takoma Park Maryland Library. She became a mentor and advisor, especially in the early days of my work. Under her aegis, the position of children’s librarian of the Takoma Park Maryland Library became officially recognized for membership in the prestigious Children’s Book Guild of Washington, of which Gene was an early member.

In the Children’s Book Guild, Gene was noted for her keen wit, generous spirit and razor-sharp common sense. Through her patronage I became friends with Gene’s author friends, including Katherine Paterson, Colby Rodowsky, Peggy Thomson, Phyliss Naylor, Becky Jones, M.C. Helldorfer and Jane Conley, to name just a few. In pondering Gene’s great gift for friendship, I am reminded of one of her quips: “If eight women were to be stranded on a stalled elevator together and released an hour later, five would undoubtedly remain friends for life.”

Re-reading the dedication page of Katherine Paterson’s Jacob Have I Loved, the winner of the Newbery Award in 1981, I have to laugh, thinking of the warmth and humor of Gene’s friendships. Katherine Paterson wrote, “For Gene Inyart Namovicz ... I wish it were of Washington, of which Gene was an early member.

Our annual Read-To-Move adventure game begins Friday, June 10, just before school is over.

As with every year, there will be challenges and rewards along the way. Come pick a character and get very, very small....
**Robberies**

Hickory Ave., unit block: On April 28 at 10:02 p.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. The victim, an adult male, was walking with an acquaintance when they were approached by three subjects. One subject asked the acquaintance a question while another subject punched the victim, went through his pockets and removed his property. All three subjects fled on foot and were later seen entering a vehicle and fleeing the area. The victim was able to get a tag number. The victim was not injured.

Cedar Ave. and Dogwood Ave.: On April 30 at 10:45 p.m., an armed robbery occurred. The victim, a juvenile male, was walking alone when he was approached by a suspect who displayed a handgun and demanded money. After the victim gave the suspect his money, the suspect fled in a silver car. The victim was not injured.

Anne Street, 1000 block: On May 2 at 1 a.m., a strong-arm robbery occurred. The victim, an adult male, was walking alone when he was grabbed from behind, pushed to the ground and assaulted by four subjects. The subject took property from the victim before fleeing the scene. The victim was not injured.

**Burglaries**

Holly Ave., 7500 block: On April 24 at 6:30 p.m., a house burglary occurred. Windows were forced open in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Poplar Ave., 6700 block: On April 25, between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., a house burglary occurred. The door of the shed was pried open in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Willow Ave., 7380 block: On April 26, between 12:30 a.m. and 6 a.m., a house burglary occurred. A garage door was forced open in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Holton Lane, 1300 block: Between April 25 at 6:30 p.m. and April 26 at 7:50 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A window pane of the rear door of the business was broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Belford Place, 500 block: On April 27 at 10 a.m., a house burglary occurred. An unlocked door or window was opened in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

East-West Highway, 900 block: Between April 20 at 9:30 p.m. and April 26 at 8:15 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A window of a door was broken in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Albany Ave., 500 block: On May 4 at 11:05 a.m. in the 300 block of Albany Ave., a residential burglary occurred. Entry to the home was made through the unlocked front door. Property was taken.

University Blvd., 1300 block: Between April 29 and May 3 at 10:40 a.m., a commercial burglary was attempted. Vent hoods on the roof of the building were damaged in the attempt.

Philadelphia Ave., 300 block: On May 7 at 9:19 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. A window of the basement door was broken in order to gain entry to the home. A shed on the property was also entered by forcing open the door. Property was taken from the home.

Carroll Ave., 7400 block: Between May 7 at 2 p.m. and May 10 at 7:30 a.m., a burglary occurred. The lock to a shed was removed. Property was taken.

**Auto and Related Theft**

Poplar Ave., 6600 block: On April 26, between 8 a.m. and 6:20 p.m., a 1996 Mercury Grand Marquis was stolen. Every year in this county about 3,500 vehicles are stolen.

Carroll Ave., 7600 block: On April 26, between 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., an auto theft was attempted. The door lock was damaged in the attempt. Property was taken.

Lockney Ave., 8200 block: Between May 13 at 5 p.m. and May 14 at 10:30 a.m., a 1998 Honda Accord was stolen.

**Arrests**

Cockeille Ave., 6500 block: On April 23 at 8:43 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with 2nd degree assault and a 16-year-old female was arrested in Takoma Park and charged with one count of 1st degree assault, two counts of 2nd degree assault, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace. He was also served with an outstanding Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving while impaired.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On April 25 at 11:04 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Metro Transit Police for 2nd degree assault.

Cedar Ave., 7400 block: On April 26 at 12:55 p.m., after a routine traffic stop, an adult female was arrested on open Montgomery County warrants for failure to appear in court on separate charges of the same offense while driving while suspended. Several traffic citations were also issued.

Maple Ave., 7500 block: On April 30 at 8:40 p.m., an open warrant filed by Takoma Park Police was served on an adult male charging him with unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and theft under $500.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On May 4 at 2:10 a.m., a juvenile male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS (drugs) with intent to distribute, possession of CDS and possession of CDS paraphernalia.

Maple Ave., 7100 block: On May 4 at 6:50 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with two counts of possession of CDS, possession of CDS paraphernalia and destruction of property after a routine traffic stop. The subject was also served with an outstanding Montgomery County warrant for possession of CDS.

University Blvd., 1300 block: On May 6 at 5:35 p.m., a juvenile female was arrested and charged with theft over $500, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, after a routine traffic stop.

Maple Ave., 7600 block: On May 7 at 1:22 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with two counts of child abuse and two counts of 2nd degree assault after police responded to a call for an assault in progress.

New Hampshire Ave., 6900 block: On May 16 at 2:30 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while impaired by alcohol. He was also arrested on an open warrant from Montgomery County for carrying a concealed deadly weapon.

Houston Court, 8200 block: On May 16 at 8:43 a.m., two adult males were arrested on open Montgomery warrants for manufacturing, transporting, possessing a destructive device and conspiracy to manufacture, transport, possess a destructive device stemming from an incident that occurred in Takoma Park on April 3 in the 8200 block of Houston Court.

Piney Branch Road, 7600 block: On May 19 at 3:43 p.m., a juvenile male was arrested and charged with trespassing, possession of CDS and possession of CDS paraphernalia.
Takoma Park Police Celebrate Police Week

When planning your Independence Day celebration over the coming three-day weekend, remember that snap-and-pop noise makers, snakes and party poppers are the only legal fireworks in Montgomery County. Even gold label sparklers are banned; these popular notions burn at 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit (nearly hot enough to melt gold) making them less-than-safe for children. Last year, City police responded to 17 calls for service related to fireworks during the holiday weekend and issued several citations.

All fireworks are illegal to possess or discharge in Montgomery County. Each year, fireworks in the United States cause approximately 12 deaths, 2,000 serious eye injuries and 5,000 other injuries, including amputated fingers. It doesn’t matter where the fireworks are purchased or how they are brought into Maryland, whether by mail or public carrier. The possession or charge of fireworks for use in the State of Maryland is illegal, subject to misdemeanor charges and fines not to exceed $500.

When there’s a fireworks display at a residence is not allowed, although a public display can be allowed with proper permits and insurance. For more information, contact the Montgomery County Fire/Explosive Investigations Section at 240-777-2255.

Permit-Area Parking

Please print legibly

Name: ____________________________

Street Address: ____________________________

City: Takoma Park  State: MD  Zip Code: ____________  Total Amount Enclosed $________

Home Phone: ( ) ____________  Work Phone: ( ) ____________

- A photocopy of the current registration card for each vehicle is attached.
- A photocopy of the current Driver’s License for at least one resident is attached.

Vehicle #1 ________ (license plate #) o One-year permit ($12.50) o Two-year permit ($20)

Vehicle #2 ________ (license plate #) o One-year permit ($12.50) o Two-year permit ($20)

Vehicle #3 ________ (license plate #) o One-year permit ($12.50) o Two-year permit ($20)

Postage and handling for Permits by Mail, add $1.00.

List additional vehicles on a separate sheet. Current registration showing the address in the permit parking area must be attached for each.

Two Visitor Permits will be included per household that purchases a permit. Return this form to TPPD, Permit Parking, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Permits will be mailed within three business days of receipt.

Takoma Park Police celebrated National Police Week, May 15-21, with its annual awards dinner, attendance at Law Enforcement Memorial’s candlelight vigil and a park dedication. Det/Sgt Richard Poole was selected 2004 Police Officer of the Year for his performance as an investigator, attaining a closing rate of 41.4 percent on a caseload of 123 investigations last year. He effected 33 arrests on charges of child abuse and burglary to armed robbery and car jacking. As the acting supervisor, he worked over the weekend of other investigators.

City officers also held a ceremony dedicating a City park in memory of a Maryland State Police colleague who was killed on duty investigating drug crimes in and around the City. The former Eastridge Park was renamed and dedicated as the Toatley-Fraser Park on May 13. Cpl. Edward M. Toatley was undercover in 2000 when he was killed by a drug dealer in the District of Columbia. The park’s other namesake, Dr. Haynes Fraser, was active in lobbying for gun-control and other civic activities. The park, on Eastridge Ave. off Flower Avenue, was renamed in a 2001 Council resolution, which reads in part, “Honor his sacrifice and her work by using the park in a violence- and drug-free manner.” Mayor Kathy Porter issued a proclamation recognizing that the U.S. Congress and President have designated May 15 as a National Police Week.

Two officers received the Meritorious Service Award for service in the line of duty that demonstrated conspicuous bravery involving risk of life. Cpl. Doug Malarkey was recognized for a suicide prevention. As a mentally ill patient stood at the edge of a roof several stories off the ground, Malarkey re- moved his uniform shirt, weapon and other protective gear, passed outside the roof’s barrier wall and engaged the subject in conversation, eventually convincing the man to come down. In a separate incident, Cpl. Wayne Jackson was working security at a local fast food restaurant when suspects entered, one grabbed a hostess gun at a clerk demanding property. When Jackson inter- vened, interrupting the robbery attempt, the suspect fell. Jackson followed outside the restaurant, where the suspect again showed his weapon to the officer, who fired. The suspect fled.


The Unit Citation was awarded to Squad One, led by Sgt. R. Bowers, including Cpl. K. Largent, Cpl. R. Cannatella, and Ofc. E. Mueller and N. Carter. Others who served on the squad for less than four months were given a Letter of Recognition: Those were Cpl. R. Rodriguez, and Ofc. M. Holmes, S. McLean, S. Barsch and D. Palmer.

A Letter of Commendation was given to Ofc. G. Wolff for CPR provided a homeless man, who later succumbed to his illness in the hospital, and to Cpl. T. Collington and Ofc. D. Palmer for patrol alertness. Cpl. Collington also earned the Department’s Firearms trophy for 2004.

Fireworks Illegal In Montgomery County

Citizens in several neighborhoods through- out the City requested that specified areas be limited to residents, to ease a problem of commuter parking on residential streets. The Permit-By-Mail program is available only to residential addresses. Be sure to include day and evening phone numbers in case any questions arise in processing. Those operating a business in the permit areas should submit the names of employees on a company letterhead with their request. Not more than three employee permits are allowed. A home-based business must show evidence of a currently-operated business, which is current on payment of personal property taxes. A limited number of Area B permits (one year only) are available to residents who live farther than .75 miles from the Takoma Metro station. Nine Area B permits are available only through in-person applica- tion during regular business hours. This form below may also be accessed on-line under “Current Topics” at www.cityoftakomapark.org

Parking Permits Offered by Mail

Parking permits for designated permit- parking areas throughout the city expire on June 30. To ease the process and to encourage early registration, the Police Department will offer permits by mail, as well as through in-person purchasing.

Residents need only to complete the attached form and return it, with payment, to the Police Department. Photocopies of the current vehicle registration card for each vehicle and a driver’s license for at least one owner must be submitted with this form. These attachments must show a current Takoma Park address in the requested permit area.

A decal and year sticker for each regis- tered vehicle will be mailed back within three business days of receipt. Two visi- tor parking permits will be included for each address. An additional $1 will be charged for permits sent by mail.

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![Takoma Park Police Celebrate Police Week](image)

![Permit-Area Parking](image)
Community Bridges Boosts Girl-Power

Continued from page 1

JumpStartGirls/AdelanteNiñas to meet the needs of young girls at local schools, including third-to-fifth graders at Rolling Terrace Elementary. JumpStartGirls/AdelanteNiñas programs can also be found at Eastern Middle School, and Silver Spring International Middle School.

Community Bridges operates as an independent nonprofit with a staff of 5 and a 9-member volunteer board of directors. The organization also gets an assist from several AmeriCorps volunteers and interns from local colleges, as well as from parents and community residents. Given information from teachers and school counselors, the program quickly began to focus on young girls whose special needs could not always be met by caring school personnel. JumpStartGirls/AdelanteNiñas opens to any elementary or middle school girl whose family meets certain income guidelines and who is recommended to the program by teachers and school counselors. This school year, 100 girls actively participated in program activities. There is no cost to the girls or their families.

Co-founder Nim says, “We knew many of the girls at Rolling Terrace came from loving families whose parents often had to work several jobs to support them. But we did worry about girls who were going home after school and spending long hours without adult supervision. We looked for some way to guide young girls through their pre-adolescence and bring out the intelligence, energy, and creativity that they already possessed. One of our core beliefs is that given the right environment, opportunities and support, girls can achieve at high levels and play an important role in the community.”

In addition to the self-defense project, fifth-graders in the Rolling Terrace program learn organizational and money management skills, including how to set up a bank account. Right now the girls are learning what it takes to develop a business plan. They’ll use these skills later on in the program when they explore entrepreneurship, writing, designing, and selling a product.

For girls in third and fourth grades at Rolling Terrace, the Community Bridges program includes challenging Third-graders read and learn about the history of movement and famous women in the arts as they try out modern dance moves and the joys of tap dancing at Tappers With Attitude in downtown Silver Spring. Fourth-grade girls independently research accomplished women in the arts, sports, science and in their own families to determine the qualities that make these women special. As part of Community Bridges’ ongoing partnership with The Theatre Lab (Takoma Park resident Deb Gottesman is a co-founder and director of the D.C.-based theater arts group), fourth-graders in the program get a chance to explore both their dramatic and silly sides with lessons in improvisation.

But according to Mary Saba, Community Bridges’ program leader at Rolling Terrace, the 40 girls who actively participate in the program at Rolling Terrace are getting something much more valuable than just an after-school diversion. “The girls we work with are already beautiful, intelligent and strong. Many have come from disrupted backgrounds, including escaping war and poverty in their countries of origin in Central America, West Africa and Southeast Asia. They have unique needs as they face the multiple challenges of pre-adolescence and adjusting to a new country, a new community, a new culture, a new language and a new school. They are very much aware of the importance of family and friendship in their lives, and they cling to these precious connections,” Saba said.

“What we do is enhance the strengths of these girls by helping them explore, develop and express in positive ways their attitudes about and sense of self, family, friendship, and community.” Each quarter, the girls at Rolling Terrace and Community Bridges celebrate these family and community connections with a family dinner and show. Everyone brings a treat or dish to share and the girls get to showcase their talents (sing, dancing, self-defense, poetry, African flour-paste painting) for proud parents, siblings and other family members. A special highlight of these dinners, especially the year-end celebration, is a visit from graduates of the program who are now in middle school or high school and who come to share their successes and cheer on the younger girls. Community Bridges has some exciting plans coming up for the JumpStartGirls/AdelanteNiñas’ program at Rolling Terrace Elementary. Working with Create Art, a local arts organization, girls in the program will design and create a mural on Colesville Road in the new downtown Silver Spring. The mural’s theme is “The World of Music,” and the project will be a welcome step in reviving a once-dragged site.

The girls’ program also continues into the summer with an adventure camp for those who participated in the school-year activities. Early in 2005, Community Bridges received the Nancy Doworkin Award for “Outstanding Service to Youth by an Organization” from the Montgomery County Commission on Children and Youth and Gazettes Newspapers for its dedication to young girls and their families and its track record in meeting community needs.

Gazettes for its dedication to young girls and their families and its track record in meeting community needs.

Folk Festival is Coming: Be a Part of the Fun

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is an annual community event produced solely by volunteers. It would not take place without the extraordinary volunteers that help make this wonderful day happen. This year, Takoma Park is celebrating its 28th Annual Folk Festival on Sept. 11, 2005. Everyone is invited to be a part of the fun.

The festival, a local institution, consists of a music and dance from around the world, children’s activities; a juried crafts show and sale displaying the diverse talents of 50-plus area craftspeople; representatives from over 100 community organizations; and delicious ethnic cuisine from more than 20 food vendors.

Members of the community are welcome to attend the committee meetings to help plan the festival. Upcoming meeting dates are Thurs., June 9; Tues., June 21; and Thurs., July 7. The meetings take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Heffner Center, 42 Oswego Ave. (near Public Works) in Takoma Park. To get to the Heffner Center, go north on Piney Branch Road (from Rt. 410), turn right on Ritchie Ave., and right on Oswego.

To learn more about the volunteer committees or for other ways to get involved in the festival, e-mail volunteer@tpfolk.org or call 301-589-0202. Please leave a message and they will get back to you promptly.
City TV is pleased to announce that the 50th edition of Takoma Snapshots, the channel’s premier monthly magazine show, will air starting on June 1. Snapshots is City TV’s vehicle for covering the myriad activities held in Takoma Park, and focuses on City and community-based activities. Each month includes a segment on Community Oriented Policing, co-produced by the Takoma Park Police Department’s Public Affairs Specialist Carol Bannerman, along with award-winning producer Paula Rehr. Rehr noted, “I can’t believe we’ve done 50 of these! It’s gone so quickly, and I’ve met so many fascinating people. Takoma Park residents are fortunate to have such a fantastic police department with so many committed individuals supporting the community policing efforts. Snapshots is a great way to highlight them.”

Takoma Park Police Chief Cindy Cramer stated, “I find Snapshots “to be an excellent venue for reaching the public … regarding crime prevention to show case the department’s capabilities and allows the community to see the police in a positive light.”

Other segments feature City activities, such as the introduction of a new staff member, or a focus on a specific service area. Recreation Department Director Debra Haidukien noted, “I wanted you to know how much I enjoyed the Snapshots segment on the Halloween Parade: it really captured the mood and tone of the evening. It is truly a signature event for our City and editor Alvaro Calabia is a master at communicating the image of this artsy, wacky, adults-get-in-the-act, kids-say-the-dardest-things-town. City TV has been a great resource for promoting Recreation Department events every year like the basketball finals, the Egg Hunt and our first ever ‘Rock the Block’ evening. It is truly a signature event for our City and editor Alvaro Calabia is a master at communicating the image of this artsy, wacky, adults-get-in-the-act, kids-say-the-dardest-things-town. City TV has been a great resource for promoting Recreation Department events every year like the basketball finals, the Egg Hunt and our first ever ‘Rock the Block’ evening.”

City Arborist Brett Linkletter commented, “I’ve gotten a lot of great feedback from residents. Snapshots segments we’ve done on tree planting and mosquito control. I think the show is a great way to get information about the arborist’s office activities to the community, and we are planning to do a segment on the new tree ordinance this year.”

Snapshots programming Director Lorni Moffet noted, “We make every effort to send a crew to the many weekend and evening activities going on in Takoma Park. We have received great feedback from viewers these past four and a half years; people really enjoy seeing television about local activities and learning more about City government services.”

Since January of 2001, the show has included segments on the usual annual Takoma Park events: the Martin Luther King, Jr. annual celebration, the Folk Fest, Jazz Fest, Street Fest and Jazz Band Brawl, and of course the Independence Day Parade. City TV crews have walked with the Council, toured the city with pedestrian safety expert Dan Burden, cleaned up parks with Boy Scouts, College Park Scholars and CUC students; played ball with the Babe Ruth League, the Thunderbolts and the YES League, and marbles with the Rec Department’s marble team. City Toddler Art Guild exhibits and events have been highlighted, and City TV staff have danced at every music festival in town. Viewers have met new City staff, including the City Arborist, Police Chief, HCD director and City Manager.

Library Director Ellen Arnold-Robbins said, “We were thrilled by the quality of the Snapshots episode done about the 2003 Takoma Park Film Festival. The juxtaposition of film fragments with interviews of the film makers and some spectators caught the excitement of this community event. Producer Alvaro Calabia helped us to make a CD-ROM from this episode which was used as part of our press packet promoting the 2004 Festival.”

Spanish language segments have included City of Takoma Park Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs/Office of Inmigrantes y Propietarios, GW Mammovan at CASA de Maryland (en Inquilinos y Propietarios, GW Mammovan at CASA de Maryland (en español) & English) and Asientos de Seguridad.

Snapshots episodes on VHS tape 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 (pick up) 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.

**Get a Movie? Send it To Takoma Film Festival**

The Takoma Park Film Festival is accepting submissions for its fourth annual extravaganza. The deadline for filmmakers to submit is Sept. 1, 2005. The festival seeks provocative and visionary—or just plain fun—films and videos made by those who live in, work in, or simply love Takoma Park. Roles of Takoma Park-related participants can range from production assistant to director to producer. The festival is open to works of all lengths and genres, about any topic and is committed to showcasing the most diverse group of filmmakers possible. The festival will take place the third weekend in November in the Takoma Park City Council Chambers.

To submit, filmmakers should send a DVD of their work, on VHS tape, or a CD-ROM. Submission fee is $15. For more information contact City TV’s Takoma Film Festival, 301-891-7118 or send an email to: cabletv@takomagov.org.

**Liz Lerman Dance Exchange In Silver Spring June 4, 5**

The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, the internationally renowned dance troupe based in Takoma Park, will be performing in downtown Silver Spring June 4 and 5. The show, called Mining Silver, is an opportunity to see Liz Lerman’s dance pieces chosen for her winter tour. Liz Lerman, her pivotal go-go dancing solo from 1974, In Praise of Animals and Their People, complete with a group of canine guest artists, plus new work from Peter DiMuro, Margot Greenlee and Martha Wittman.

Performances will be Saturday June 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday June 5 at 3 p.m. at the Round House Theatre at 8641 Colesville Road, adjoining A1. Tickets are $20 general and $10 for kids, seniors and students.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 240-644-1100. For program info see www.danceexchange.org or call Chuck Schneiderhan at 301-270-6700, ext. 11.
Old Takoma Faces Big Changes

Continued from page 1

a company called Keystar, which in partnership with Infrastructure Capital Group has purchased an irregular T-shaped property that sits behind Taliano’s restaurant and includes a parking lot. The limited partnership has bought 7001 and 7003 Carroll Ave. Levin told the Newsletter, “We don’t have an exact plan because it’s a very complicated property. We’re still trying to evaluate the site from a physical perspective.”

“We could do nothing, or we could do a mixed use redevelopment,” Levin said.

“We could tear down the existing structure and put up a new one.” But, Levin noted, “the façade on Carroll Ave. is protected by the historic district. It’s not clear about the rest of the properties.”

“Ideally, we’d like to do ground-floor retail and residential above,” Levin said.

Baron, president of Historic Takoma, urged Levin to consult with Historic Takoma and other community members as well as contractors to make sure that his Carroll Ave. project “will preserve the character of the neighborhood.”

Baron noted that Urciolo’s first design was “a futuristic building” that would not have fit in with the look of Old Town. After consultations, Urciolo’s architect “went back to the drawing table” and came up with a design that Historic Takoma feels is attractive and right for the location.

Fast Growth in D.C.

First out of the gate in the Takoma development derby was “Elevation 314,” across the street from the Metro station. The apartment building containing environmentally friendly features such as a “green roof” with growing plants to retain rain water. The building contains 52 one- and two-bedroom rental units, renting for $1,000 to $1,825 per month. Building manager Marci Thomas told the Newsletter that 85 percent of the units are now rented, and that the building continues to fill. The restaurant Savory opened on an outpost there, but other ground-floor retail space remains vacant.

While many existing and proposed projects include ground-level retail space, developer Bruce Levin has his doubts about its viability: “It’s a very soft retail market,” he said. “There isn’t a lot of daytime activity to support retail.”

Also close to the Metro station is Cedar Crossing, a 49-unit condominium development at the intersection of Cedar St., N.W. and Blair Road that is nearing completion.

And right on the doorstep of Takoma Park, Md., is a proposed four-story apartment building at 235 Carroll St., N.W. at the corner of Maple (the current site of an auto repair shop and a truck rental company). The building is expected to have 70 condominium units and retail stores on the ground floor. See illustration, page 1.

Sabrina Baron of Historic Takoma said that the organization worked successfully with the architects of 235 Carroll to improve its design. Their first plan, Baron said, was “metal and glass – not a Takoma Park-style building.” But Historic Takoma worked with the Bethesda-based architects to come up with the current plan – “a very amenable design for Takoma D.C.”

Where’s the Fun?

Up at Blair Road a short distance – at the site of B&K Caters – developer Bruce Levin has plans for a 160 unit on Earth Place apartment building. The four-story building at 7041 Blair, he said, will be less than 50 feet high, with a courtyard and underground parking.

D.C. planner Anita Hairston said the B&K condos are “a matter-of-right development, but that the builders “have attended community meetings and ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commission) meetings. It’s in a historic district, so it must go to community groups and get a review.”

Baron said that Levin had presented his Blair Road project at a meeting of Historic Takoma, but said she found it “a very massive, un-Takoma Park-like building.” She added, “Takoma Park likes buildings that are funky and whimsical. But the proposed building on Blair does not demonstrate any whimsy or funk.” No doubt, Historic Takoma and the developer have a lot to discuss.

But not all neighborhood activists are as critical as Baron and Historic Takoma. For example, Alice Giancola, a long-time community activist in Takoma, likes buildings that are funky and whimsical. She added, “Takoma Park likes buildings that are funky and whimsical. But the proposed building on Blair does not demonstrate any whimsy or funk.”

And At the Metro

Perhaps the most controversial prospect in development all is Takoma is the planned townhouse development that would occupy the grassy area in front of the Metro station. The development company Eakin Youngtob Asso- ciates is moving ahead in negotiations to buy the property from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

According to Ashak Thakkar, an EYA development executive, the two parties are “attempting to wrap up a final sales agreement, officially called a joint development agreement, within a month.” Thakkar told the Newsletter May 23 that while the sale itself is not subject to public hearings, construction plans are “three months after the joint development agreement is signed, WMATA “has to have a compact hearing.” At the same time, EYA will begin a planned unit development or PUD process on its townhouse plans, which involves public hearings and consultations. Thakkar said that while EYA by right could build as many as 200 units on the site, it plans to build between 65 and 95. He said WMATA rules favor building over 85 units on the site to guarantee there is a “public benefit” to the sale.

Thakkar said that EYA plans three-to-four-story townhouses. While the exact style has not been determined, EYA tries to fit in with the surrounding neighborhood. Also planned: “an open space park, with benches and landscaping,” which Thakkar says is likely to get more use from people than the current, larger open space.

Current proposal for 7041 Blair Road, N.W., the site of B&K Catering.

Historic Takoma is hoping for a more Takoma-Park design.

Baron said that Levin said that the existing structure would occupy the grassy area in front of the Metro station. The development company Eakin Youngtob Associates is moving ahead in negotiations to buy the property from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

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Historic Takoma’s Sabrina Baron voiced several objections to the current plan—starting with the fact that WMATA “was unwilling to have a dialogue with communities that are affected.” Baron also noted that the project as currently envisioned will cut the number of parking spaces for buses, and will reduce space for buses and will diminish “the only open space we have in this neighbor- hood.”

Not far away, developer Douglas Jemal is eyeing a major residential development behind the CVS, between Willow and Maple Street, N.W. in an area now grey open space. Because both the proposed Metro development and Jemal’s property are in a historic district, they must go to D.C. community groups for review before they can be approved.

Suzanne Ludlow, Takoma Park’s community and government liaison, said, “D.C. has adopted design provisions, as part of its Takoma Small Area Plan, but that went through last month. Nobody has seen what will mean to implement them.”

And Sara Anne Daines, head of the City of Takoma Park Department of Economic and Community Development, explained that in Maryland, development in a historic district is a compact that WMATA “must fully with the architects of 235 Carroll to improve its design. Their first plan, Baron said, was "metal and glass – not a Takoma Park-style building." But Historic Takoma worked with the Bethesda-based architects to come up with the current plan – "a very amenable design for Takoma D.C."