

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

July 2005

It's a Grand Old Fourth



Photo by Clyde Lassell

The Fourth of July, celebrated on July 5, 2004. See story on this year's celebration, page 10. See parking and detour instructions, page 9.

Introducing Your New Community Center

By Debra Haiduven
Recreation Director

The Takoma Park community has been watching the construction of the soon to be completed Community Center with great anticipation. However, many people are now asking City staff, "What is actually going to be in the new space?"

So here's the scoop on what you'll find on "the Community Plaza Level" (currently the first floor). It will house most of the public and recreation activities.

The planning process for the center began in the late 1990s and involved significant community input. After the original planning was done, the construction project was divided into phases to accommodate the financial resources available and the logistics of engineering. The modified building is three floors, with a three-story atrium near the front of the building to bring a sense of openness to all levels.

The new first floor will accommodate the Police Department, the middle level will be the Community Plaza Level, and the third floor will house City administrative staff. Space for City staff remains about the same in the new configuration.

The Community Plaza Level will be the hub of activity, where after-school programs, meetings, weekend events, rentals and performances will take place.

Visitors who access the building through the main entrance from Maple Ave. will walk into the new wing where the atrium is located. In this section of the building they'll find five rooms ranging in size from small to large, to be used for classes, meetings and after-school and summer programs. In addition, there is a fully equipped art room, with sinks and a kiln. The current construction schedule calls for the opening of this space sometime in late July.

Also to open in late July is the Computer Learning Center. This portion connects the existing library to the main municipal building. Here there are four rooms with different functions taking place in each. The Senior Room is a social center for our community's senior citizens. The room is designed for structured programs as well as informal gatherings, and will include four computer terminals with Internet access. Another room is the Video/Music Editing room which will be tailored to the teen population and focus on instruction as well as individual use. The remaining two Computer Rooms will host 20 computer terminals and will be made available for individual use, similar to the arrangement in the Library. One of these will be set up to accommodate a classroom situation.

Continued on page 5

Council Cuts Tax Rate for 2006

By Bob Guldin
Editor

The Takoma Park City Council voted June 6 to cut the residential property tax rate from 66 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 63 cents. Councilmembers expressed satisfaction with the reduction, though some said they wished the rate cut could have been deeper.

The Council made the cuts by reducing the budget, including for police officer positions that are in reality likely to be unfilled for at least part of the 2006 fiscal year.

Montgomery County also voted to cut the tax rate this year, responding in part to rising assessments that have raised homeowners' taxes. In most cases, property owners will still pay higher taxes, but the increases will be less than they might have been.

In order for there to be no change at all in property taxes, the City would have to reduce taxes to 59.7 cents – known as "the constant yield tax rate" – fully offsetting the rise in assessments.

Councilmember Bruce Williams (Ward 3) said, "This is halfway to the constant yield rate. That's an accomplishment. I'm happy we're there."

Added Ward 1 Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane, "The Council is moving in the right direction. I hope next year we can take similar action."

City Manager Barbara Matthews had proposed a tax rate cut of 1.5 cents, and the Council decided to double that number.

The only real controversy in the last stages of budget deliberations arose over whether the City should allocate \$25,000 for a new "C-SAFE" program (a state-supported, community-based anti-crime program) to get started in the Old Town area around the Metro station. A C-SAFE program in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads area has been considered successful.

While Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane, whose ward adjoins the Metro area, urged the Council to make the commitment, other councilmembers balked, because the program is designed to be cross-jurisdictional (in this case it might involve both Metro and the District of Columbia), and no partners have stepped up. Several councilmembers said, however, that if partners can be found, the

Continued on page 3

Board Games Reach Across Generations At Victory Tower

By Ethan Goffman

As old as the Mesopotamian Royal Game of Ur, as young as a freshly unwrapped holiday box, board games reach across generations. And Takoma Park is capitalizing on this age-old and age-transcending pastime with a new intergenerational games club that meets at Victory Tower (formerly known as Takoma Tower) every Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. According to club liaison and Victory Tower resident Mary

Feldman, "Games help keep you young. Help keep the brain alive." Feldman is in charge of getting the word out, getting snacks, making sure that events flow smoothly.

April 14 was the startup date, when Feldman first oversaw the transformation of the Victory Tower dining room. Families brought in younger children, while a group of high school students arrived by car. Tables were moved, boxes

Continued on page 10

Inside this Issue

Out With the Old, In With the News

Takoma Park Newsletter gets new editor.

Page 3

Apply for Your Property Tax Rebate Soon

Deadline Sept. 1 for low/moderate-income payments.

Page 4

Going on Vacation? Don't Get Robbed!

TPPD advice on how to prevent burglaries this summer.

Page 9

County Should Pay City More for Public Works

TASDI Committee: City is not reimbursed for many expenses.

Page 12

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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For further information, or to receive a copy of the legislation, contact the City Clerk's office, 301-891-7267 or e-mail clerk@takomagov.org.

May 23 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2005-39 was adopted, honoring District 20 Legislators: Senator Ida G. Ruben, Delegates Peter Franchot, Sheila Ellis Hixson and Gareth E. Murray (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution 2005-40 was adopted, establishing the Takoma Park Poet Laureate Program (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution 2005-41 was adopted, declaring May 27 as Rachel Carson Day in Takoma Park (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

June 6 - Special Session

Ordinance 2005-13 was accepted at first reading, establishing the Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2006, beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

Ordinance 2005-14 was accepted at first reading, approving and adopting the Storm Water Management Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

Ordinance 2005-15 was accepted at first reading, approving and adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

Ordinance 2005-16 was accepted at first reading, adopting a Fiscal Year 2006 Pay Plan for Staff Who are Covered by the AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

Ordinance 2005-17 was accepted at first reading, adopting a Fiscal Year 2006 Pay Plan for Staff Who are Not Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

NOTICE OF WARD 2 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Ward 2 Councilmember Heather Mizeur has announced her resignation from the City Council effective July 19, 2005. Pursuant to Section 308 of the City Charter, if a vacancy on the City Council occurs less than 240 days before the next regularly scheduled City election, the remaining members of the Council by a majority vote shall, within 60 days, appoint a person who is qualified in accordance with Section 304 of the Charter.

The City Council will interview qualified applicants at the Council meetings on July 11 and July 18. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and resume to the City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 or e-mail the information to Clerk@takomagov.org. Application deadline: 12 noon, Thursday, July 14. The Council will make their selection at the July 18 meeting.

For further information, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Charter Amendment to Permit Greater Flexibility in Scheduling the City's Nominating Caucus Pursuant to Section 502 (c) of the City Charter, the Council of the City of Takoma Park will hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to Charter Section 604, Nominations, to permit greater flexibility in scheduling the City's Nominating Caucus.

Place of Hearing: Council Chambers,
City of Takoma Park Municipal Building,
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2005

The full text of the proposed Charter amendment is posted on the City's Web page at www.cityoftakomapark.org and at the Municipal Building. All interested persons should attend the public hearing.

Written comments may also be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or sent via e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org.

Takoma Park Writers, Write On!

The City Newsletter is looking for a few good writers. If you're interested in Takoma Park, its issues and people, this is an opportunity for you to dig into those fascinating recesses and get published as well. We can even pay writers a small amount. While we welcome people with news-writing experience, we're also willing to talk to new journalists who are willing to do the work.

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

CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

Monday, July 4 - Independence Day - City offices will be closed for the Independence Day holiday.

Tuesday, July 5 - Public Hearing, Presentation, Interviews, Special Session and Worksession

Monday, July 11 - Presentation, Interviews, Regular Meeting and Worksession

Tuesday, July 12 - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 12 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

Tuesday, July 12 - Meeting of the Citizen's Liaison Committee to the Community Center, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Lobby)

Tuesday, July 12 - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. (Mont. Coll. Provost's Office Conference Room)

Monday, July 18 - Presentation, Interviews and Worksession

Tuesday, July 19 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Lobby)

Thursday, July 21 - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. (Location TBA)

Thursday, July 21 - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Location TBA)

Thursday, July 21 - Meeting of the Noise Control Board, 7:30 p.m. (Location TBA)

Monday, July 25 - Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession

Tuesday, July 26 - Monday, September 6 - Proposed City Council Recess

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

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. (One to two vacancies.)

Ethics Commission. This 7-member commission is charged with overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the City's Ethics Ordinance. (Three current members' terms expire on Sept. 30. Deadline for applications: Aug. 19.)

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. (One vacancy.)

Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee. The 12-member committee is charged with providing input and advice to the Council and the City's public safety agencies about how the City can better meet the ongoing needs and concerns of residents in the area of police services and public safety. (Up to four vacancies and two members with terms expiring Sept. 30. Deadline for applications: Aug. 19.)

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. (Up to two vacancies.)

Tree Commission. The Tree Commission is charged with preserving, protecting and promoting the urban forest of Takoma Park. The Commission is responsible for hearing and ruling on tree permit and waiver appeals. (One current member's term expires on Sept. 30. Deadline for applications: Aug. 19.)

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 Office at 301-891-7267.

Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center

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

Out With the Old, In With the News

This issue of the *Takoma Park Newsletter* will be the last one edited by Bob Guldin, who has been editor since November 2002. Guldin opined, "It's been a fun ride, despite (or maybe because of) the ups and downs of the



Bob Guldin and new editor Virginia Myers Kelly

Community Center. I want to thank our long-time copy editor Carol Smalls, designer Tuula Ehn-Smith and City Communications Director Lonni Moffet for their professionalism and support and for making this project happen. Thanks also to the City staff, mayor and Council and members of the community who have helped by bringing their concerns and stories to the *Newsletter*."

Guldin currently works as a writer and editor for the liberal advocacy group Public Citizen in D.C. With his newly abundant free time, he plans to do more freelance writing, and also resume training for his long-awaited career as an astronaut.

The new editor will be Virginia Myers Kelly, a long-time resident of the city. Kelly's byline has already appeared in the newsletter, and she was on board at the *Takoma Voice* in its earliest years. Since then, she has worked in higher education publications (including those at American University) and currently makes a living freelancing for various clients, including *Bethesda Magazine* and the American Federation of Teachers.

In addition to her work, Kelly is an active parent of a middle-school and a high-school student, as well as chief dog walker and vegetable gardener at her house in Takoma Park. She looks forward to serving the community she's enjoyed for the past 20 years.

Council's Tax Rate Cut

Continued from page 1

City will use currently undesignated funds to get C-SAFE started.

The City's total budget, including all specialized funds, for FY2006, is \$19,991,522. Of that, \$1,437,087 is for the Community Center fund, with other specialized funds for street improvements and stormwater management. The City's General Fund budget is \$16.83 million, up 1.05 percent over FY2005. Personnel costs for the City are up 2.5 percent, most of that under collective bargaining agreements with City unions.

For more detail on the City budget, go to the City's Website, www.cityoftakomapark.org, click on Background Information for Agenda Items, June 6, Agenda Item 6/7/8.

Discussing the City's vacant police positions, which permitted \$130,000 in budget savings, City Manager Matthews noted that the Takoma Park Police Department has been aggressively recruiting, "but it's a tough market. Other municipalities in Montgomery County are having the same problem. There doesn't seem to be the same interest in law enforcement that you had many years ago. Plus, there's competition from the Department of Homeland Security, which pays quite well." Matthews said that if the Police Department is able to make qualified hires, the money will be there to pay for the new police officers.

Yovonda Brooks Joins City As Finance Director

The City has hired a new director of finance, Yovonda D. Brooks, effective May 23. Brooks previously served as the city auditor for the City of Baltimore, a position she held for seven years.

As Baltimore's city auditor, Brooks directed the audit of the city's comprehensive annual financial report, and conducted financial, compliance and performance audits of city agencies. Before that, she worked as an audit manager for the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, Office of Legislative Audits.

Brooks also worked for several accounting firms in the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. She holds an MBA and a B.S. in accounting, both from Morgan State University, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Appreciation for Copy Editor Carol Smalls

You don't hear much from us in this *Newsletter*, as we do the production work behind the scenes, but we want to note with grateful appreciation the hard work of a long-term *Newsletter* staffer. Carol Smalls has worked with the *Newsletter* as a copy editor for 13 years. She has helped shape and streamline what is printed by reading every word and checking the content for accuracy, timeliness and meaning. Her language skills, knowledge of community affairs and grammatical expertise have been invaluable resource and much appreciated.

For example, the above paragraph (did you catch any errors?) would never have gotten through Carol's keen eyes and sharp mind. Thanks, Carol.

— Sligo Computer Services Staff

City Proclaims May 27 Rachel Carson Day

The Takoma Park City Council May 23 proclaimed May 27 "Rachel Carson Day" in honor of the pathbreaking environmental writer who lived for many years in Silver Spring.

May 27 is Carson's birthday, and is celebrated by the Rachel Carson Council which carries on her activist legacy as "Pesticide-Free Day." Carson was the author of several books, including the best-selling *The Sea Around Us*.

She is probably best known for her 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, which focused on the dangers of pesticides to humans and to the natural environment. Many consider that book the impetus for the modern environmental movement.

The City resolution asks residents to use that day "to focus their attention on the potentially serious hazards associated with chemical pesticides" and to refrain from using chemical pesticides on that day. The resolution was introduced by Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane (Ward 1).

For more information on Carson and her legacy, see <http://members.aol.com/rccouncil/ourpage>.

Copy Editor Wanted

The *Newsletter*, a monthly publication, is looking for a copy editor. The copy editor works with the editor and designer to make sure that all elements of the publication are correct and conform to house style and that staff comments are correctly entered. The job normally takes around 10 hours per month, including one afternoon on-site per month. Copy-editing experience, knowledge of Takoma Park community and government are pluses. This is a modestly paid position.

To apply, please send applications to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Takoma Park Newsletter Editor, 7500 Maple Ave., TPMD 20912.

Deadline for Submissions:
July 11
Next Issue:
July 22

Editor
Bob Guldin

Incoming Editor
Virginia Myers Kelly

Writers
Ethan Goffman
Rick Henry

Photography
Clyde Lassell

Layout & Production
Sligo Computer Services, Inc.

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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

Voter Registration

Don't miss out on your opportunity to vote! In 1992, Takoma Park Resolution #1992-5A, took effect, amending the City's Charter to allow those City residents who are not citizens of the U.S. and who are at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old by the next City Election, the right to vote in Takoma Park's Mayoral and Council elections.

All Takoma Park citizens wishing to vote in the November 8, 2005 City Election, must be registered at a City address with the Montgomery County Board of Elections or with the City Clerk's Office if you are a non-U.S. Citizen. This must be accomplished prior to our registration cut-off date, October 10th. The same rule applies to changes of address. Participants in the Nominating Caucus must be registered to vote prior to the Caucus.

All registration can be handled by mail. Montgomery County registration and change of address forms, and voter registration application forms for non-U.S. citizens are available at the City Clerk's Office and at the Library during regular business hours. Requests for county registration forms may also be made by calling the following 24-hour number: 240-777-8500 (Montgomery County Board of Elections). For further information regarding Voter Registration Application forms for Takoma Park residents who are not U.S. citizens, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7267.

How Rent Stabilization Works

By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

The City Council is currently reviewing the Rent Stabilization Law as part of the recodification of the entire Takoma Park Code. For information about when this topic is scheduled to be discussed, please consult the City's Web site: www.cityoftakomapark.org or call 301-891-7267.

Rent Stabilization was established in Takoma Park in 1980. It was adopted by City Council in order to set a limit on the amount of rent increase a rental property owner with two or more rental units could charge each year on an occupied or vacant apartment. Below are frequent questions that are asked about Rent Stabilization.

How are these limits set?

The rent increase limit (Rent Stabilization Allowance) is set each year by the City using a formula that is equal to 70 percent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Washington, D.C., area. For instance, the Rent Stabilization Allowance is 1.9 percent now, but will change on July 1st to 2.1 percent. The 2.1 percent will be in effect for one full year.

How often can a landlord increase the rent on an occupied apartment?

A landlord can increase the rent on or after 12 months from the date of the last rent increase on an apartment. This date is referred to as the "Anniversary Date."

How much notice is required by a landlord to increase rents?

A landlord must give a two-month written notice which must be received by the tenant before the rent due date. For example, a tenant receiving a rent increase notice on May 28 and having a rent due date of the first of each month would start paying the increase on August 1.

How much can a landlord normally increase the rent on an occupied apartment?

A landlord can increase the rent each year up to the percentage of the Rent Stabilization Allowance.

What is the Maximum Allowable rent?

A Maximum Allowable Rent is the actual amount of any Rent Stabilization Allowance that was not charged to previous tenants. The landlord must report these amounts

on a rent report which is filed each year with the City. For instance, if a previous tenant lived in an apartment for three years, but only received one rent increase in that time, the landlord would have the right to charge the 2 increases not taken to the new tenant moving in. A maximum allowable rent can also exist if a landlord

filed a petition with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) asking for higher rent increases because of improvements he/she did to the property or because of hardship and these approved increases were not charged to previous tenants.

What happens when an apartment becomes vacant?

When an apartment becomes vacant, a landlord can increase the rent up to the Maximum Allowable Rent if the previous tenant vacated voluntarily or was asked to leave by the landlord due to a breach of lease. A landlord cannot give a two-month notice to vacate to a tenant, simply to charge the higher Maximum Allowable Rent.

What are the two ways that a landlord can get a higher rent increase over the Rent Stabilization Allowance?

One due to capital improvements to the property and the other due to hardship.

What are capital improvements?

Capital Improvements are defined as materials and/or labor that have been added to a rental facility that are not annually recurring and have a useful life of more than one year. They may be done to maintain compliance with

the Property Maintenance Code. (For example, if you had a refrigerator or stove in disrepair and it was replaced by the landlord, then he/she can file a capital improvement petition and get approved as long as the cost is \$200 per item or \$2,500 for the whole building.)



Once COLTA approves an increase for a particular capital improvement, that item can never be filed for again, even if the building is sold.

What is a hardship petition?

A Landlord can file a hardship petition in order to maintain the landlord rental facility's net operating income.

This petition protects the tenant from unwarranted rent increases while allowing rent levels which provide the landlord with a fair return on his investment. To get approval, the landlord must show that the net operating income (NOI) in the base year (1990) is larger after adjusting for inflation than the net operating income in the petition year.

What type of notice must be given to the tenant by the landlord in filing petitions?

A landlord must give a tenant a notice of proposed rent increase and a copy of the petition within one week of filing the petition with COLTA. The notice of rent increase should be sent to the tenant no less than two months but no more than three months prior to the effective date of the rent increase. A petition usually takes about three months to process through COLTA.

If you want to check if the rent you are paying is correct or have additional questions about Rent Stabilization, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

Housing Mailbox

Eviction Process Timeline

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

A tenant asks "What are the steps in the Eviction Process and how long does it take?"

The final step in a series of procedures initiated by a landlord to repossess his/her property (eviction) is the court-ordered removal of a tenant and a tenant's personal property from a rental unit. The most frequent reason that a tenant is evicted is for failing to pay his/her rent although evictions may also occur if there is a breach of the lease (e.g., illegal activity, tenant holding over after the lease term expires, etc.). A landlord DOES NOT have the right to evict a tenant, remove a tenant's personal property or prevent a tenant from entering his/her rental unit without completing the proper judicial process. Doing so exposes a landlord to possible civil and criminal liabilities.

The steps in the Eviction Process include:

- the landlord files suit with the District Court indicating the reason for requesting a judgment for repossession of the property;
- the District Court schedules the matter for a hearing, issuing the tenant a summons to appear which is forwarded to the Sheriff's Office for service on the tenant;
- the Sheriff mails one copy of the summons to the tenant, attempts to serve (deliver) the Summons to the tenant in person and if unsuccessful, posts the summons on the tenant's rental unit door;

- the tenant appears in District Court for the scheduled hearing and offers his/her defense followed by the judge's decision as to whether the landlord is entitled to repossession. Failure of the tenant to appear for the hearing results in a Default Judgment for the landlord. Failure of the landlord or their agent to appear for the hearing results in the court dismissing the action brought by the landlord;
- If either the tenant or the landlord disagrees with the District Court's decision, they may appeal the decision to the Circuit Court after the judgment is entered-within four days for a failure to pay rent case and within 10 days for a breach of lease case;
- After the appeal period expires without an appeal being filed, the landlord next files a Warrant of Restitution which after being signed by the judge is forwarded to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office mails the Warrant of Restitution to the tenant and the landlord followed by the landlord contacting the Sheriff's Office and scheduling the date/time of the eviction.

The time-frame for completing the eviction process varies and is determined by the court calendar and the number of evictions the Sheriff's Office is designated to carry out in a given time period. If you have a specific question about evictions, you can call Moses Wilds, Jr. at 301-891-7215.

Are You Eligible for a 2005 Property Tax Credit?

Low-moderate income homeowners and renters may be eligible for a credit back on property taxes paid in 2005. The State of Maryland's Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program has been in existence since 1975 and in 2004, 11,000 residents of Maryland qualified for the program and received an average credit of \$272. Maryland also has a Renters' Tax Credit Program, although only 535 applied statewide receiving an average credit of \$225.

Eligibility for both programs is based on the relationship between the household income and the amount of property taxes that you pay on an owner-occupied home or in a renter's situation, the portion of the rent that is attributable to the assumed property tax. Seniors on fixed incomes may often qualify for these

tax credit programs.

Both the state and Takoma Park have been encouraging residents to look into the eligibility requirements of the programs and apply if they qualify. In October 2004, the Council increased the City's supplement to the State Homeowners' Program from 15 percent to 30 percent of the state credit.

Representatives from the state indicate that they hope some changes will be made to the program for the 2006 tax period. For instance, the Homeowners' Tax Credit Program only applies to the first \$150,000 of a home's assessed value, and this might be increased for next year. For further information or an application you can contact www.dat.state.md.us or call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

What You'll Find in the New Community Center

Continued from page 1

ation when group programs are offered.

The current Council Chambers, also known as the theater or auditorium, will remain intact. The dais where the City Council sits will be removed so the space can be made available for a stage, though the Council will continue to meet there for a while. This area will be programmed as a theater for performing arts, dance, musical events, lectures and other large group activities requiring auditorium seating.

A reception desk in the lobby outside the theater will serve as the contact point for all visitors to the building. City staff will be present to help direct people to the appropriate office, answer questions, complete passport applications, and monitor use of the building.

The second phase of the project, for which bids have recently been received, will complete the general Community Center construction. The construction will transform existing office space on the Community Plaza Level to a game room (with ping pong, pool, foosball and air hockey tables), a dance room with a wooden floor and mirrors, and a teen lounge with large screen TV and video game consoles. Some of the space will be converted into Recreation Department offices.

Depending upon the bid award and subsequent construction schedule, this segment of the Community Plaza Level section should be completed by early 2006. At the time of this writing, a kitchen is included as an option, but has yet to be selected from the list of alternate construction possibilities.

No gymnasium is included in the Community Center. Space remains available on the site to build a gymnasium, if the City Council decides to pursue one, but significant financial and technical feasibility questions remain.

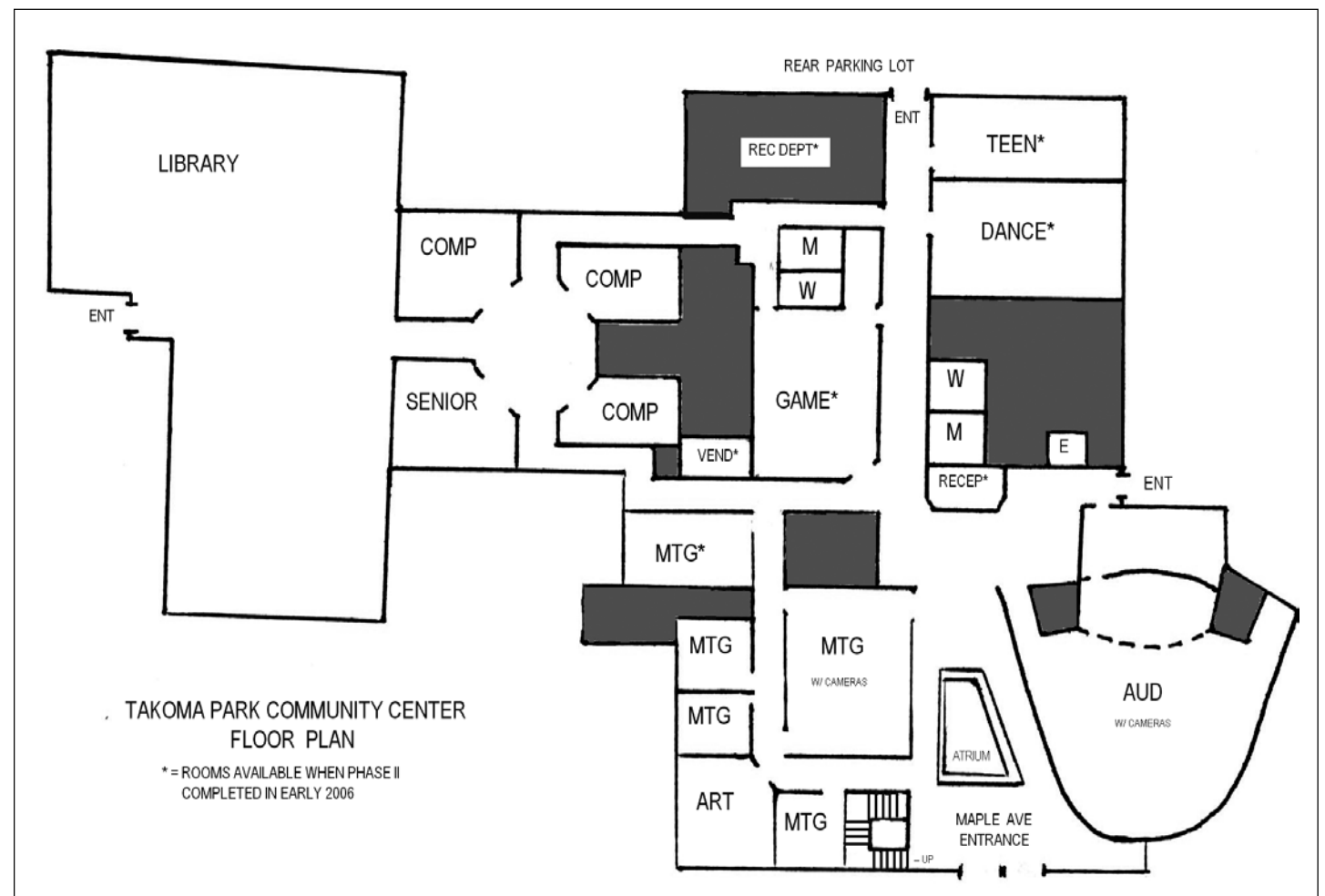
During construction of the second phase of the Community Plaza Level, the

Recreation staff will be housed in trailers behind the building, and all of the other City offices will have moved to the new areas on the first and third levels.

Besides overseeing the Community Center, the Recreation Department will continue to operate the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire

Ave. That center has a heavily used gymnasium and weight room and serves a significant population of children and adults.

For more information, check in periodically to the City's Web page, www.cityoftakomapark.org or contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290.



Graphic by Suzanne Ludlow and Langston Taylor



Photos by Debra Haiduven

Community Center under construction. Note in upper right photo, new computer center wing will connect Library with main building.

RECREATION

Kindermusik Adventures Summer Camp Around the World

Ages 4 - 7

In Around the World, children will experience the cultures of Germany, Japan, Africa, England and Mexico. Each class, one country is "visited" and explored through music, crafts, snacks and games. Crafts include making a Japanese den den drum, cuckoo puppet, adinkra cloth, African mask, crown, maracas and decorations for a cracker and a pinata. Parents are invited to join their child the last half hour of class. There is a \$35 materials fee to be paid to the instructor the first day of class. Students will receive an at-home kit including a home CD, five color picture folders and arts and crafts materials. Limited to ten children, minimum of four.

When: Mon. - Fri.,
Session II: Aug. 1 - 5, 2005
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center,
42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$100
Non-Res. \$105

Confetti Days!

Ages 3 - 5

Confetti Days! was inspired by children themselves. It features songs that are timeless treasures of our musical heritage such as Pop! Goes the Weasel and Looby Loo, dating back to the play party days of the 1800's. Songs such as De Colores were selected to represent ways that children all around the world celebrate the joy of simply being children. During the camp, we will engage in musical activities, active listening, storytelling, vocal and verbal language development, movement/dance and opportunities to develop social skills. Parents will join children for the last 30 minutes of each class. A required \$22 materials fee paid to instructor on the first day of class. Students will receive an at-home kit including a home CD, picture folders, story kit and confetti balls.

When: Mon. - Fri., July 18 - 22, 2005
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center,
42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$80
Non-Res. \$85

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 ten.

When: Mon. - Fri.,
Session II: July 25 - 29, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: \$130
Instructor: Francesca Jandasek

Alternative Games

Ages 11 & up

We'll play the usual (and unusual) mix of action, adventure and strategy games. Drop-in drop-out players are welcome, because hey, the summer gets busy. Minimum of five, maximum of twelve participants, so sign up early. Four weeks.

When: Sat., July 2, 9, 16, 30, 2005
Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Municipal Bldg,
7500 Maple Ave.
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$40
Non-Res. \$45

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, 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)
Locations: Takoma Park Recreation Center,
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Piney Branch Elementary School,
7510 Maple Avenue
Fees: Res. \$105/week
Non-Res. \$115/week
Fee if paying for whole summer:
Res. \$725
Non-Res. \$775

Multi Sports Camp

Ages 5 - 7

Give your child the unique opportunity to experience 15 different sports from around the world. Children can learn how to bowl cricket ball, score a try in Rugby, shoot hoops and score plenty of goals! All activities and games take place in a positive low pressure educational environment under the guidance of qualified coaches who are chosen for their ability to inspire, motivate and encourage campers. Children can expect a fun packed week in which they will not only further develop their sporting capabilities but develop interpersonal skills and team work. For more information check out the U.S. Sports Institute website at www.ussportsinstitute.com. Please register for this camp through the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

When: Mon. - Fri., July 18 - 22, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch ES),
7510 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$147
Non-Res. \$157



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 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 - August 12
Time: 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)
Location: Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fees: T.P. City Resident \$180/week
(Week #7 \$215)
Non-Resident \$200/week
(Week #7 \$225)
Fee if paying for whole summer (not including week #7):
T.P. City Resident \$975
Non-Resident \$990

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. Sports Institute (*before care only).

Fee per week for before care (7:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$35
Fee per week for after care (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)
Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$35

A Day Hike of Sugar Loaf Mountain

Ages 6 - 60*

Enjoy a day of natural beauty so close to home with a day hike of Sugar Loaf Mountain. With four different trails this mountain offers a variety of options from 1/4 mile to 7 miles of trail. Make sure you bring a lunch! Space is limited so register early.

When: Sat., July 9, 2005
Departure: The van will depart at 9:00 a.m. from the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave.
Return: 3:00 p.m. (Approximately)
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$5
Non-Res. \$10

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



Drawing by David Burbank



Photos by Debra Haiduven

Kids! Check Out Takoma Park Authors

By Jillian Hershberger
Children's Librarian

Claudia Mills lived on Birch Avenue for many years. Her earlier fiction books reflect life in a town like Takoma Park — her more recent ones, Boulder, Colo., where she lives now. Her picture book, *Phoebe's Parade*, was inspired by our 4th of July parade and is dedicated to the children of Takoma Park. She has also written the delightful series of readers featuring Gus and Grandpa.

Katherine Paterson is our most famous Takoma Park children's author. Her husband John was the pastor at the T.P. Presbyterian Church for a number of years. She has written many wonderful fiction books including two Newbery Award winners. The famous *Bridge to Terabithia* was inspired by the life and death of Lisa, her son David's friend at Takoma Park Elementary School. *The Great Gilly Hopkins* takes place in "Thomson Park," a thinly-disguised T.P. She has also written non-fiction, quasi-fairy tales, and readers.

Gene Inyart Namowicz was a close friend of Katherine Paterson's, and she

was also a very good friend to our Library. Her first books were written under her maiden name, but we have put them all under the name Namowicz. She has four fiction titles on our shelves, though a friend may be sending us more.

Phyllis Naylor is also a friend of Claudia, Katherine and Gene. She may be as famous as Katherine Paterson on account of her Alice books. She lives in Bethesda, but her recent prequels concerning Alice show Alice living in Takoma Park. I don't know when Alice moved!

Miriam Cohen must have lived in Takoma Park many years ago. Ellen Arnold-Robbins remembers her checking out books here. I had no idea! She wrote those wonderful little school stories in the picture book section, illustrated by Lillian Hoban, books like *Will I Have a Friend?* More recently she has written stories about Mimmy and Sophie (one amongst the picture books and one in juvenile fiction.)

Enid Romanek is a Takoma Park illustrator who wrote and illustrated the picture book *Teddy*. She also illustrated an African folktale, *The First Morning*.

Jill McElmurry is an illustrator who lived in Takoma Park for a short while. I don't know where she lives now. Her picture book is called *Mad About Plaid*, but she has also illustrated a book of poems as well as the best Hannukah storybook I have ever read.

Beth Baker, who has lived in Takoma Park a long time, has written *Sylvia Earle, Guardian of the Sea* about the famous living legend and marine biologist.

Denis J. Hauptly once lived in Takoma Park — does he still? If you don't read fiction at all (!), you could tackle one of his books on the Constitutional Convention, on the history of the western world, or Vietnam, or Puerto Rico.

From the adult side, check out *Beowabbit*, a parody which was published in T.P. by Centa Press. Or one of the sci-fi books by Roger MacBride Allen. There are other Takoma Park authors who have published books for adults that older kids might possibly enjoy — ask a Librarian! And tell us who we missed on this list, so we can fix our omissions and mistakes.

LIBRARY

"Two Teller Tales" And Workshop

Arianna Ross and Diane Macklin have each captivated Takoma Park Library audiences with their unique and fluid approaches to the ancient art of storytelling. This summer they are joining each other to bring a particularly dynamic program to our community. The program will be held Saturday afternoon, July 30, at 2 o'clock sharp.

Both storytellers use movement, music and audience participation to delight and inspire audiences of all ages. Arianna Ross brings to her art a background of traveling around the world and spending three years of study and performance with Bansi Kaul's troupe, Rang Vidushak, in India.

Diane Macklin brings years of experience as an educator and as a storyteller working in the griotic tradition. She began charming audiences here in Takoma Park in 2002.

The duo performance will be followed by a workshop for teachers, librarians and especially parents to discover new ways of using storytelling as a way to encourage reading and make learning fun. There will also be a concurrent workshop for children that connects to the performance.

Space for the workshop will be limited, so we ask that you sign up early and keep your commitment. There will be no limit on the audience size for the storytelling segment which will be held 2 to 2:45 p.m.

Please call at 301-891-7262 to register for the workshop.

Fourth Annual Film Festival Beckons!

Now is your opportunity to finish editing that amazing film you are producing, or resurrect and dust off the one you made last year, or perhaps in college! The Takoma Park Film Festival is accepting submissions for its Fourth Annual event, to be held in November of 2005 in the Council chambers of new Community Center.

The Takoma Park Film Festival is open to all filmmakers who live or work in Takoma Park, or whose heart and/or soul abides there. Filmmakers of all ages are invited to submit films they have worked on recently or in the past, in any capacity (director, production assistant, etc., etc.).

Selected entries will be screened at the November festival, and filmmakers will be invited to discuss their films with the audience. Festival planners encourage entries from all walks of life and all forms of video and film. Students and non-professionals are encouraged to apply!

To enter, pick up an application at the Takoma Park Maryland Library during open hours, or download one from the Website www.takomaparkfilmfestival.org.

The deadline for submission is Sept. 1, 2005.



Summer Quest 2005 — "The Great Big Little Tiny Adventure!"

This summer's interactive reading adventure — conceived, written, and illustrated by Dave Burbank of the Library staff — is designed to be adaptable. We hope kids will explore books they might not otherwise pick up, but always with an emphasis on reading for the pleasure of reading. Parents may also be intrigued by some of the new suggestions.

New challenges this time around include a juncture at which the reader is exhorted to pick a book with a Takoma Park connection. Here is a list of authors compiled in a semi-chatty style. We hope there are no glaring omissions, but please bring any suggestions to our attention.

Memorial Book Gift

By Jillian Hershberger
Children's & Youth Services

From time to time the Library receives requests to purchase books in the name of a friend or family member who has died. Often the donor has an idea for a subject that might have been dear to the heart of the person being remembered, but sometimes the suggestion is "Whatever you think the Library needs."

A recent memorial gift sent us out in a slightly different direction. The family of a recent person to be memorialized, a beloved patron of the library, was asked for suggestions, and they came up with a specific title.

The Cypresses Believe in God by Jose Maria Gironella (translated from the Spanish) is a 1,000-page epic family story of events leading up to the Spanish Civil War. Though it appears on a number of thoughtful lists of books which should be read by those who care to understand the events of the 20th century, it is not to be found in the Montgomery County or Prince George's County library catalogues, and only one copy in the D.C. public library system.

Published originally in Spain in 1953, it elucidates as perhaps no other novel the complexities of the issues before the Spanish civil war and portrays those who represent the different factions in a thoughtful and sympathetic way.

According to the customer reviews on Amazon.com, this book is a masterpiece, an enormously gripping tale, a picture in microcosm of the politics of the 20th century, and a personalization of the most influential philosophical movements of the 20th century, including anarchism, existentialism, communism and Catholicism.

I expect to see a long line of "holds" placed on *The Cypresses Believe in God*. In the meantime, think about what book you might want placed in the Library in your memory (far, far in the future).

Library Programs in July

Summer Session of the Twosies

for two-year-olds with parent/caregiver
group size limited; preregistration required
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
July 6, 13, 20, 27

Neighborhood Circle Time

Open to all preschoolers & their adults
each Tuesday at 10 a.m.
Informal sing-alongs, poetry, finger games, and
nursery tales, with participant-leadership welcomed.
All ages; no preregistration required!
Note: Special Guest Nancy Nuttle of Music
Together on Tuesday, July 5

Two Teller Tales (A Dynamic Duo)

with Arianna Ross & Diane Macklin
Saturday, July 30
2 o'clock sharp to 4 (or so)
(see story)

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



THE CRIME REPORT

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

Robberies

Westmoreland and Walnut Avenues: On May 25 at 9:09 p.m. an attempt armed robbery occurred. The victim, an adult female was walking her dog alone when she was approached by a subject who grabbed the victim, threatened her with a knife and demanded money. When the victim told the suspect she had no money, the suspect implied that he would sexually assault her. The victim was able to free herself from his hold and run for help.

Burglaries

Holton Lane, 1300 block: On May 26 at 9:45 p.m., a commercial burglary occurred. The front glass door of a business was smashed in order to gain entry. No property was reported missing.

East-West Highway, 900 block: Between May 27 at 10 a.m. and May 28 at 5:15 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. The front glass door of the business was smashed in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

Piney Branch Road, 7400 block: Be-

tween May 28 at 11:30 p.m. and May 29 at 12:50 a.m., a residential burglary occurred. A window of the home was broken in order to gain entry. It is unknown if any property was taken.

New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block: On June 3 at 2:06 a.m., a commercial burglary occurred. A door of the building was pried open. Property was taken.

Myrtle Ave., 1200 block: On June 6, between 7:40 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unlocked window. Property was taken.

Flower Ave., 7200 block: Between June 4, time unknown and June 6 at 9:18 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through a window. Property was taken.

Maple Ave., 8000 block: On June 11, between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the home was gained. Property was taken.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On June 14, between midnight and 11 a.m., a

commercial burglary occurred. A rear door of the business was forced open. Property was taken.

Auto and Related Theft

Houston Ave., 600 block: Between May 19 at 1:45 p.m. and May 20 at 7:30 a.m., a 2005 Kawasaki motorcycle motor vehicle was stolen.

Carroll Ave., 7600 block: Between May 25 at 6:45 p.m. and May 26 at 7:30 a.m., a 1995 Honda Accord was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 6400 block: Between May 26 at 5:30 p.m. and May 27 at 8 a.m., a 1990 Nissan Maxima was stolen.

Greenwood Ave., 7700 block: Between May 30 at 8:30 p.m. and May 31 at 12:05 a.m., a 1996 Honda Accord was stolen.

Westmoreland Ave., 5500 block: On June 6, between 12 noon and 7 p.m., a 1997 Honda Accord was stolen.

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On June 9 at 1:32 p.m., a 1999 Plymouth Neon was stolen. A subject was seen driving the vehicle away.

ARRESTS

New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block: On May 22 at 8:20 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving while suspended after a routine traffic stop. He was also charged with possession of CDS [drugs].

Holly Ave., 7500 block: On May 25 at 10:40 p.m. in , two juvenile males were arrested after police responded to a burglar alarm at the building. They were charged with 2nd degree burglary, theft under \$500, trespassing, possession of burglary tools and resisting arrest.

Lee Ave., 100 block: On May 31 at 7:03 a.m. an adult male was arrested for a violation of a peace order.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On June 2 at 10:25 a.m., an adult male was arrested for shoplifting.

Philadelphia Ave. and Piney Branch Road: On June 3 at 9:55 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while impaired by alcohol and failure to yield to oncoming traffic.

Roanoke Ave., 8200 block: On June 5 at 7:46 p.m., an adult female was arrested and charged with two counts of malicious destruction of property, carrying a concealed weapon, reckless endangerment and resisting arrest.

University Blvd., 1300 block: On June 5 at 11:55 p.m., a criminal citation for carrying an open alcoholic beverage on retail/commercial property was issued to an adult male.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On June 6 at 9:20 a.m., a criminal citation for theft under \$500 was issued to an adult male.

University Blvd., 1100 block: On June 6 at 11:15 a.m., a criminal citation for theft under \$500 was issued to an adult female.

Maple Ave., 7500 block: On June 7 at 3:41 p.m., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for theft over \$300.

Merrimac Drive, 900 block: On June 8 at 1:58 p.m., two adult males were charged with theft over \$500 and auto theft.

Maple Ave., 7700 block: On June 9 at 12:12 a.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed deadly weapon, possession of CDS, possession of CDS paraphernalia and trespassing.

University Blvd., 1300 block: On June 10 at 1:58 p.m., an adult male was arrested and charged with 2nd degree assault, robbery and theft under \$500.

Maple Ave., 7500 block: On June 15 at 9 p.m., an adult female was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant charging her with uttering forged currency (counterfeit money).



The Firehouse Report

As of May 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 411 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,098 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,509 incidents this year. Totals for 2004 were 452 and 1,045, respectively, for a total of 1,497, representing an increase of 12 incidents.

A reminder:
All Fireworks Are Illegal In Montgomery County.
In the interest of your safety, please enjoy the fireworks display at the Middle School in the 7600 block of Piney Branch Road on July 4.

- Safety Tips For Outdoor Cookouts**
1. Never place a grill where the heat or flame can be conducted to your home. It must be at least 20 feet away. All cooking is illegal on balconies.
 2. Never pour charcoal lighter fluid onto a grill after it has been lit. Plan ahead when cooking out. Remember that it takes a while for the coals to get hot. Don't try to speed the process by pouring flammable lighter fluid on a hot bed of coals. ... It is dangerous!
 3. Charcoal grills should only be used in well-ventilated areas.
 4. Keep children away from a grill when in use.
 5. When you are finished using your grill, make sure the hot coals are out before leaving it.

Practice Makes Perfect!
Fire drills at home are the best way to prepare and protect your family in the event of a fire.
Once you've planned your escape route, practice it several times until everyone knows it perfectly. Practicing monthly is ideal for preparing for an emergency. And don't forget your smoke alarms: The only way you'll know if they work is by testing them monthly.



Jim Jarboe (left) and Takoma Park Lions Club President Mike Bigler.

TPLC Wins Five Star Award
At the Multiple District 22 Convention, the Takoma Park Lions Club received the Five Star Award and Special Recognition Awards for Publicity, Community Service, Club Newsletter, Eye Glasses Collected and special International President banner.
The Takoma Park Lions Club has been around for 75 years and is one of the oldest. One of the club's major projects is collecting used eyeglasses. Persons who have glasses they would like to donate are urged to bring them to the Takoma Park Library, the U.S. Post Office on Laurel Ave. or to the Takoma Park Fire Station. Your donation will help someone with the gift of sight. Any person desiring to make a financial donation to assist the Takoma Park Lions Club may send a donation to the Takoma Park Lions Club, P.O. Box 11226, Takoma Park, MD 20912. We thank you for your support.

Parade and Fireworks Parking and Detours

The following are street closures and parking restrictions for Takoma Park's Independence Day parade Monday, July 4, 2005, and fireworks.

The parade begins at about 10 a.m., concluding at approximately 12:30 p.m. The route starts on Carroll Ave. at Ethan Allen Ave., follows Carroll Ave. south to Maple Street, N.W., and then turns north on Maple Street. The route then follows Maple as it comes back into Maryland (becoming Maple Ave.) until its end at Maple and Sherman avenues.

Closures

Beginning at 8 a.m., Route 410, Ethan Allen and Philadelphia will be rerouted, and several other streets will be closed. All streets, with the exception of Maple Ave., will be reopened after the conclusion of the parade. Maple Ave., between Sherman Ave. and Route 410, will remain closed until 3 p.m.

Detour

- Westbound Route 410 (Ethan Allen and Philadelphia avenues) will be closed at the intersection with Jackson Ave. Traffic will be diverted north on Jackson, and then left/west onto Sligo Creek Parkway. Vehicles may turn south at Maple Ave. to Ritchie (right/west) to Piney Branch Road and back to Route 410.
- Eastbound Route 410 will close at Piney Branch Road, following the same route in reverse: Piney Branch to Ritchie, left on Maple, right on Sligo Creek Parkway, right on Jackson, to left on Ethan Allen.
- Buses and trucks are not allowed on Sligo Creek Parkway. Buses and large trucks should use New Hampshire north, making a left onto University Boulevard and left on Piney Branch to return back to State Route 410.

Parking Restrictions

To accommodate staging, detours, and participants, parking will be restricted from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

- Both sides of Jackson Ave., from Ethan Allen to Sligo Creek Parkway
- Both sides of Ritchie Ave. from Maple to Piney Branch Road
- Both sides of Maple Ave. from the D.C. line to Ritchie Ave.
- All lots behind the Municipal Building and the City Library
- Grant, Lee and Sherman avenues from Hancock to Carroll (both sides)
- Hancock Ave. from Grant to Sherman (both sides)

Fireworks Closures

The evening program of musical entertainment and fireworks will be held on the ballfield of the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road, running from approximately 7:30 to 10 p.m.. Although the road will not be closed, traffic delays and congestion should be anticipated through 11 p.m.

Takoma Park Police remind residents that parking is extremely limited at the school. A small area will be reserved for handicapped parking and the pull-off on Piney Branch Road will be reserved for emergency vehicles. On-street parking will be restricted between 7 and 11 p.m. on Darwin, Grant, Holly and Chestnut avenues. No parking signs will be enforced to allow for vehicle traffic on these streets.

In case of rain, the evening program will be held the next clear night.

POLICE NEWS

Plan for Home Safety During Vacation

Plan to keep your home safe while you are on vacation, whether a few days or longer. The Takoma Park Police offer a House Check for home owners who will be away for more than three days, leaving an unoccupied house. Officers will patrol daily to look for signs of any problems.

Remember to create an appearance of occupancy:

- Put lights and a radio on an automatic timer
- Stop delivery of newspapers and mail or arrange for a pick-up and hold of these items
- Arrange for garbage and recycling cans to be put out and returned
- If away for an extended period, arrange for lawn mowing.

The House Check cannot be used if pet sitters or others will be in the home during your absence. The police should be given information about vehicles that will be parked at or near the home during the absence.

Long Weekend Or Vacation?



Takoma Park Police will check your house daily for signs of suspicious activity. Contact Communications at 301-270-1100 for details.

Checklist for National Night Out Against Crime



Time is short, but residents are encouraged to celebrate their neighborhood and crime prevention by planning a local event for National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 2. Safe neighborhoods through community involvement has been a goal of this national program since it started more than 20 years ago.

Crime prevention is improved in a community that demonstrates concern for neighbors and safety. The Sector Specialists of the Community Oriented Policing Team stand ready to assist in planning an event that addresses the concerns of each neighborhood. Call them now for help in planning an event — small or more expansive.

- Identify your neighborhood's major safety concern
- Choose an activity to address the concern
- Choose a location. If required, reserve space or petition for street closure for a block party
- Contact your Sector Specialist for ideas of safety materials to share
- Request visits by the Chief, the canine unit, or detectives
- Organize games or entertainment for children, if needed
- Identify contact persons to coordinate publicity and food, if desired

Some Ideas for Your Neighborhood's Celebration:

- Conduct a door-to-door recruitment drive for your citizen patrol.
- Demonstrate the ease of using an engraving tool to mark property; an important safeguard for personal property protection
- Arrange a mass registration of bikes — registration is free through the Police
- Install theft deterrent screws on license plates
- Request a demonstration from the canine unit
- Learn how speed-measuring devices operate and traffic stops are conducted
- A block party or barbecue, whether in a front yard or neighborhood park, is a great way to get to know your neighbors.
- The ideas are endless; let your beat officers know what your neighborhood is doing to celebrate National Night Out.

Contact Sgt. Kurt Gilbert at 301-891-7124 or talk direct to your Sector Specialist: Victor Sector, Ofc. Tina Smith, ext. 5615 or X-ray Sector, Ofc. Joe Butler, ext 5629 at 301-891-7101. William Sector should speak with Sgt. Gilbert.

National Night Out is a locally celebrated national recognition of crime prevention and neighborhood action to create better and safer neighborhoods.



Photo by Carol Bannerman

A citizens meeting with police at an apartment complex off New Hampshire Ave. Takoma Park Police encourage residents to work with police to prevent crime.

Want to Help Prevent Crime?

Do you live in a neighborhood off Flower or Maple Ave. and care about crime? If you can spare a little time to improve safety for your family and neighbors, you are invited to become a Neighborhood Safety Contact (NSC).

NSC contacts learn about crime prevention and safety, passing that information on to neighbors in their apartment complex or block. They share their friends' concerns about safety with the police and work cooperatively to solve local problems.

The NSC network, a program of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee and Takoma Park Police, has numerous members in other areas of the City, but few in the "William Sector." This area primarily includes the neighborhoods along Maple Ave. north of Philadelphia and between Sligo Creek and Flower Ave. If you want to help on a single project (like a National Night Out event) or to discuss becoming a Neighborhood Safety Contact, call Sgt. Kurt Gilbert at 301-891-7124.

Games People Play

Continued from page 1

of games positioned, juice and cookies wheeled in, and residents and community members trickled in to launch the experiment.

Soon small groups hover around tables, drawing cards and rolling dice. "When people play games something happens," says Feldman. It is active and tactile, social, intellectual and psychological. "You have to think, use strategy" says Feldman. Otherwise, "you can just sit at home and lie on your bed and all you do is read books and think sad thoughts. You deteriorate. You need to do something besides that."

The club is the brainchild of Rockville resident John Goon, who has spent the past decade creating games clubs for youth in Long Branch, Beltsville, Greenbelt, Rockville, and Takoma Park. Goon's first love is the Asian "Go," a game of patience and in-depth strategy. And, like a Go-master, Goon has planted his clubs in schools and community centers, and patiently developed them.

The intergenerational club adds a twist to these clubs, bringing together young and old. This is especially important at a time when seniors are often warehoused in retirement centers. "That's part of our objective, to break down barriers," explains Bruce Baker of the

Takoma Foundation, which provided the club with a start-up grant this past fall. "Extended families, a traditional part of the community, have been in decline," says Baker, "and this actually fills that gap."

The club, then, provides "outreach to a part of our community that doesn't get

time of troubled communities and young people. Known as the Road Runner, the semi-retired DiPaul commutes between Victory Tower and her home in Rector, Pa. She also sees board games as "an alternative to war and violence."

Bang Nguyen is one high school student whose life has been affected, at least indirectly, by war, which sent his family from his native Vietnam to the United States. A member of the Long Branch games club for youth, Nguyen is also a volunteer for the intergenerational club. He sets up tables and helps teach games, and listens to seniors reminisce about moments in history from before he was born. "After many hours of working," he explains, "you come here, you have a relaxed time, you meet new people. And for me personally, I come here because I want to improve my English, I want to learn how elders respect each other, and to have fun."

While Nguyen teaches a game at one table, across the room players bid for letters to make words.

"We like to see the young people," says Virginia Harrington. She also enjoys learning new games. Of Connor Dowd, one of the young attendees, she explains, "he's quick, he's very helpful and makes it a lot of fun. He's adorable as well."

"That's just what young people do, make old people feel good," chimes in Ollie Williams. The club has other benefits, she says, including "meeting the other residents because we don't see them very often." And when they go on their walks around downtown Takoma, they now run into the young people they've met at the club.

Max Romanoff is one young person attending. He spent his first evening playing Blokus, which requires arranging different shapes to block out your opponent, and "a kind of role playing card game called Munchkin," says Romanoff. "Both are pretty fun games, complicated, difficult." Romanoff sees his own grandparents only "maybe once

every two months."

Kids like Romanoff are able to mix with seniors because of Goon's patience and hard work, together with a fortuitous combination of events. The idea for an intergenerational club began about two years ago, at the Takoma Park folk festival where Goon and area residents discussed bringing his clubs to seniors. The first attempt was the "Silver Foxes" which lasted less than a year. In fall of 2004, however, Victory Tower residents asked for Goon to start a club there. "We had a fair number of things going on in the tower," explains Feldman. "We had Bingo and Seniorize and occasional trips and stuff like that. Then they started this renovation and a lot of activities were no longer available." With its budget stretched, the City could not accommodate them, but Goon stepped in and began the new club.

With funds from the Takoma Foundation, all the ingredients were strategically in place. Explains Goon: "When I got the money, I got the site, I got the seniors, I had the kids from the middle school, it's all there; you just have to figure out how to get it together and work."

Bringing people together requires social games with multiple players and time for chat. This contrasts with Goon's early focus on Chess and Go.

The intergenerational club plays more social games, such as Scrabble and Parcheesi, and a more recent group imported from Europe, which has, Goon explains, "a whole genre of games that could have general appeal and be generally accessible to the mass public." These include Carcassonne in which players build cities in medieval France, and Ticket to Ride which involves competition to complete rail lines. Goon adds, "My interest is to introduce" club members "to new games to spark their interest, kind of intrigue them." And early signs are that this approach is working; between the first and third meetings attendance nearly doubled, from about 15 to 25 participants.

The club is on its way to being another success for Goon, who goes on organizing, introducing games to new groups, bridging gaps. "We want to be an all-inclusive club," he says, "not a single-games club, not an exclusive club, but an all-inclusive club where anybody can come and find something enjoyable to do."



Photo by Ethan Goffman

An inter-generational game evening at Victory Tower

a chance to participate," says Baker. "But it's also had an advantage for youth, helping to develop leadership and interpersonal skills." Overall, "it's a win-win situation, taking two needs and putting them together."

Participant Colleen DiPaul sees the club as "a great way to get the generations playing games together and enjoying a common activity," particularly in a

It's a Grand Old Fourth

On Monday July 4, Takoma Park will hold its 116th Independence Day celebration, one of the oldest such celebrations on the East Coast.

The event will include a colorful two-hour parade starting at 10 a.m., led off by Mayor Kathy Porter and the Grand Marshal, Erwin Mack.

The free evening program will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Takoma Park Middle School Lee Jordan Field at 7611 Piney Branch Road. Featured will be the Takoma Park Concert Band with soloist David Goette and other entertainment. The nationally known Zambelli fireworks will begin at dark.

This year's theme is "Takoma Park: A Main Street Community."

Mayor Kathy Porter and Grand Marshal Erwin Mack will lead off the parade joined by state, county and municipal officials. Behind the community leaders will be floats, pre-schoolers, scouts, pathfinders, dancers, marching units, neighborhood, civic and veterans groups, fire departments and many others. Of course, the usual musical groups, namely the MacMillan of

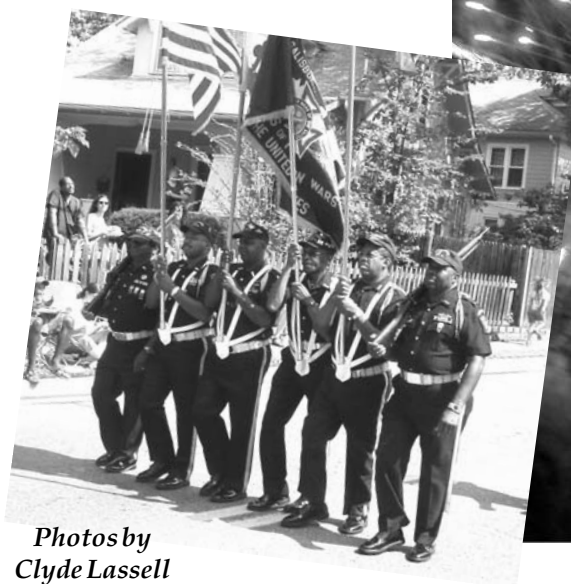
Montgomery Pipe Band, DC Motors, Mecca Temple #10 Drum and Bugle Corps, the Morning Few, D.C. Pan Jammers, Image Band, Trinidad and Tobago Steel Band and more will be back again.

The traditional July 4th gala is planned, directed and primarily financed by the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, Inc., and supported by the mayor and Council of Takoma Park and the departments of the municipal government. The committee sponsors special fundraisers, but must rely on local businesses, churches, civic and service organizations, schools and door-to-door collections to make this special event possible. Financial aid is needed — please help support this gala occasion.

Donations may be mailed to the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, 109 Sheridan Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

The committee is also looking for volunteers to help on the 4th and to help with the door-to-door raffle ticket fundraiser. For further information visit our Website www.TakomaPark4th.org

4th of July 2004 Celebrations



Photos by Clyde Lassell



City TV, Student Get Award For Humane Society PSA Video

City TV is pleased to announce that it is receiving an award in the 2005 Home-town Video Festival. This award is for "Humane Society PSA" in the category of Educational Class Project. Takoma Park resident Julian Barnes wrote, produced and edited this public service announcement (PSA) with City TV staff as mentors. The award will be presented July 8 in Monterey, Calif., at the Alliance for Community Media annual conference.

The PSA was part of Julian Barnes' Sixth Grade Project at Friends Community School during the 2003-4 school year. Marcy Seitel, Julian's teacher, said, "I think that Julian's project shows what is possible when a child can combine a passionate concern, talent, hard work and help from a knowledgeable mentor. When our class first saw his ad on video, the whole group became quiet. It was so heartfelt and so well done that we were deeply touched. I'm so glad his good work has been recognized."

Alvaro Calabia, City TV's Video Production Manager, was Julian's mentor for the project. "What impressed me the most was that Julian wrote the entire

script himself—and it was amazing, very well phrased. He also did all the video shooting and the voice-overs. I showed him how to edit, and the end result is a very polished, and moving announcement. He is a great kid to work with!"

Julian Barnes was at the time a sixth-grade student at Friends Community School in College Park. He has just finished seventh grade at Takoma Park Middle School. Julian said, "Doing the PSA, I learned that 8 to 12 million animals enter a shelter every year nationwide and 5 to 9 million of them are euthanized. I also learned that it takes at least two hours to edit a 30-second video. Basically, I learned that it is not as easy as it looks to be a film editor. My favorite part of the process was learning how to edit video footage. My least favorite part was leaving the shelter without taking one of the pets."

The Humane Society PSA will be viewable on Takoma Snapshots during July, and may also be seen at other times during breaks between regular video programming. City TV staff will receive the award in July on behalf of Julian Barnes.

Let's Get Folky! Community Groups Welcome at Folk Festival

Community organizations are welcome to apply for a table/booth space at the 28th annual Takoma Park Folk Festival. Whether your community group wants to raise its profile or jump-start fundraising, this is the perfect way to increase visibility. Thousands of people from the Washington area attend the festival each year.

Last year over 100 community groups were represented, ranging from youth sports, religious and social service organizations, to schools, environmental and animal-welfare groups. All are welcome to apply. The only requirement is that a group be a non-profit organization. (In-

dividual political candidates cannot have booths, but political parties are eligible.)

The registration fee is \$30, or \$45 if a group is raising funds on site. The deadline for community tables applications is July 30. Please visit www.tpff.org to download the registration form.

This year, the Folk Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 11, at the Takoma Park Middle School. And, if you would like to participate in producing the festival, please call 301-589-0202 or send an e-mail to info@tpff.org. Or, just come to our next meeting on July 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Heffner Center, 42 Oswego Ave., near the Takoma Park Dept. of Public Works.

Montgomery College/Takoma Park Gets New Campus Provost

The Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College got a new leader effective May 23 – Bradley Stewart, who was named Takoma Park provost and also vice president of the college. Stewart comes to the college from the University of Wisconsin at Waukesha, a two-year college in the Wisconsin state system. Starting in 1999, he served as campus executive officer and dean.

Stewart has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, first as a professor and then as an administrator. At Waukesha, he helped lead the campus in several major renovation and building projects. That experience might come in handy here, as Montgomery College is in the midst of a multi-year \$90 million expansion program in Takoma Park and adjoining South Silver Spring.



Takoma Park City TV Events in July 2005

New programs on City TV this month will include another newly edited program from the Taste of Takoma Festival held on the Columbia Union College campus this spring featuring the Perry Canticchio Quartet, fantastic gymnastics from the Acro-Airs and Lori Bell. Other Taste of Takoma performances running include the Kelly Bell Band, plus Shapiro; the Satin Doll Trio; Ron Warren and William and Doris. Also, watch later in the month for performances from the Takoma JazzFest held on June 11 to include Ron Holloway on one tape, and Jazz Zen Ensemble plus Tom Roberts on another episode.

Join City TV staff on July 4 as we tape the annual Independence Day Parade!

Takoma Snapshots in July includes the following segments:

- Community Oriented Policing: Senior Safety
- Takoma Park Police Department Officer of the Year
- Recreation Department's "Rock the Block" parties
- Takoma Jazz Fest highlights
- Humane Society PSA — "Award Winner"

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 check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS Tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (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.

Takoma Park City TV July 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)		Takoma Park Folk Festival
1:00 PM	Earth Café	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Media Watch on Hunger	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
2:00 PM	Media Watch on Hunger			Music da camera			
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Haiti a Suivre	
4:00 PM	PreSchool Power	Takoma Park Snapshots	Government Focus	Haiti a Suivre		Takoma Snapshots	
5:00 PM	Music da camera						
5:30 PM	Chinese News	Community Bulletin Board	Chinese News	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board
6:00 PM		National Gallery of Art		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:00 PM							
7:30 PM	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (LIVE)	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
8:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Haiti a Suivre	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Haiti a Suivre	Coffeehouse
9:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
10:00 PM		NASA Programming	Takoma Park Snapshots		Haiti a Suivre		
11:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots						
12:00 Midnight							

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

Thought for Today
You can't have everything. Where would you put it?

County Should Pay City More for Public Works: TASDI

By Dan Beckley
TASDI Committee Member

Note: In April, the 21-member Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) issued its report, finding that rebates paid to Takoma Park by Montgomery County in compensation for City services are at least \$1.1 million and perhaps up to \$4.8 million less a year than they should be. The TASDI report raises profound questions about whether Takoma Park should realign its service delivery structure or demand fairer county payments, or both. This article on public works services is the first in a series to inform residents about tax duplication issues confronting the City. The next article in this series will focus on park and recreation service duplication. To view the entire TASDI report, please visit: <http://www.takomagov.org/admin/tax/index.html>.

Montgomery County is shortchanging the City of Takoma Park somewhere between \$185,000 and \$820,000 annually for public works services, the Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) found in its recent report to the City Council.

The TASDI committee looked at services for which City residents pay property taxes to both the City and the county while receiving the services from only the City. Since 1973, various arrangements between the Montgomery County municipalities and Montgomery County established a rebate framework through which Takoma Park and the other municipalities are reimbursed for this tax duplication.

The working group studied three areas where the City provides public works services that the county also provides: road maintenance, park maintenance, and trash and recyclable pickup. The TASDI public works subcommittee consisted of Takoma Park residents John Conger, Carolyn Fischer, Seth Grimes, Lawrence Mishel, Christopher Victoria and Dan Beckley.

According to the report, in Fiscal Year 2005, the county paid Takoma Park a \$399,903 rebate for the City's maintenance of 34.6 miles of residential roads and two bridges. But it cost Takoma Park nearly twice as much — \$787,000 — to maintain those same roads and bridges.

"One fundamental shortcoming in the county's road rebate payment, which is based on a payment-per-mile formula, is the county's dramatic undervaluation of Takoma Park's costs for maintaining bridges," said TASDI co-chair Bruce Moyer. "The county reimbursed the City just \$32 to maintain two bridges above Sligo Creek on Maple and Flower Avenues, an amount that



Photo by Dan Beckley

The City is responsible for maintaining two bridges over Sligo Creek, including this one on Maple Ave. The county's rebate for bridge maintenance: \$32.

is grossly inadequate to safely maintain those bridges."

Another defect in the rebate formula is the county's failure to recognize Takoma Park's administrative and overhead costs and capital outlays. For example, the 2005 rebate failed to reimburse the City for equipment purchases, vehicle maintenance, or the overhead cost for servicing bonds issued to undertake road and bridge construction projects.

The county also underpaid the City for park maintenance.

The committee found that the 2005 rebate for maintenance of City-owned parks was \$71,740, while Takoma Park's cost for maintaining the parks was more than three times as much, totaling \$266,080. Both county and City staff agreed they do not know how the park rebate has been calculated since 1988, although it has been indexed annually for inflation.

The TASDI report identified various options Takoma Park could consider to reduce public works expenditures. These included the City's transfer of responsibility for road and park maintenance to the county, although this action could result in less control over the assurance and timeliness of street repairs and there is no guarantee the county would accept the transfer. The report also urged Takoma Park to seek a higher rebate for road and park maintenance costs by pressing the county to recognize administrative costs, overhead costs and capital outlays that currently are not included in the rebate formulas.

As for waste management, no county rebate exists for this service. The TASDI report estimated that total costs for collecting waste, yard trimmings, recyclables and leaves is about \$250 per Takoma Park household compared with a County cost of \$323 per household for comparable service. Not only is the City service more cost-effective than the County's, but there are tax benefits as well, the committee concluded.

While Montgomery County's waste charge appears on each county property owner's tax bill as a fee, the cost of the City's program is bundled in the property tax. This distinction allows Takoma Park homeowners to write off the costs of the program on their income taxes. The cost of the program is reduced as a result of the homeowner's ability to deduct this from his or her taxes.

"From the perspective of a Takoma Park homeowner, the City's current cost structure is progressive since owners of more valuable homes pay more in property taxes than owners of less valuable homes," said TASDI co-chair Dan Robinson.

Tenants and owners of large apartment buildings do not receive any waste services even though they contribute to the general property-tax base. This is an issue yet to be reconciled between the City and its residents.

Combat West Nile Virus, Get Rid of Standing Water

By Brett Linkletter
City Arborist

Most of us have heard about West Nile virus and its spread along the Eastern seaboard. West Nile is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause an encephalitis-like disease in humans who have been bitten by infected mosquitoes. The mosquitoes become infected by biting birds that carry the virus. Humans cannot get West Nile virus from another human who has the disease (the virus is not spread by person-to-person contact).

Of the 63 different species of mosquitoes in this area, approximately 15 of them have the potential to carry the disease. The predominant carrier in this region is the Asian tiger mosquito. Where most mosquitoes are more apt to be active from dusk to dawn, the non-native tiger mosquito is just as active during the day as it is in the evening. It is identified by its striped legs and a "racing" stripe down its "back." It usually flies fairly close to the ground and rarely bites above the knee. It has an extremely small flight range, not going more than 150 feet from its birthplace in a lifetime.

The best way to help prevent the possible spread of West Nile virus is to eliminate areas where mosquitoes breed. You can do this in your own yard by getting rid of all standing or slightly moving water

on your property. Mosquitoes can breed in as little water as what would fill a bottle cap, and do so in as few as four to five days. so it is very important to check your property at least once a week during the mosquitoes' most active periods (April to October) for standing water. Common areas of standing water to check: old tires, roof gutters, toys, bird baths, wheel barrows, tarps, children's pools, plant pots, buckets, downspouts, corrugated pipes, and under decks.

If you have standing water in your yard that you cannot remove every week, you should consider purchasing products, which contain the larvicide, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI). This biological insecticide kills the larvae in the water for up to 30 days.

To help reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes outside you should consider wearing protective clothing such as loose-fitting long pants, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts, and socks. Also, using insect repellents containing DEET might be appropriate for situations where extended exposure to mosquitoes is likely. Remember to use the repellents according to manufacturer's directions on the label.

If you would like to volunteer to do property inspections for mosquito breeding sites, or if you would like your property inspected by one of the county volunteers, call the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at (240) 777-2600 to get training.

Free City Electronic Notice Board

Are you trying to sell your old dining room table? Do you want to publicize a community event? Looking for an apartment to rent? Got some LPs to give away?

For these and many similar non-commercial quests, you can use the City's free Web notice board. Just go to the City Web site, www.cityoftakomapark.org, click on "Notice Board," and you can read or post notices. Messages are screened by City staff before posting, so nothing inappropriate, please.