

# 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

August 2005

## City Weighs in on Metro Housing Development

By Virginia Myers Kelly

On June 20, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and Takoma Metro Associates Limited Partnership signed a contract that could transform the open space at Takoma Metro into a complex of 95 residential units, retail space, and a "village green."

On July 18, the Takoma Park City Council said "no way," unanimously passing a resolution opposing the development as outlined and urging a delay in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval.

Although Takoma Park has no jurisdiction over this decision, since the property lies entirely within the District of Columbia, councilmembers nevertheless hope to influence the FTA, which could deny approval of the property sale and

tin-Lane, Ward 1 councilmember, who has spearheaded efforts to limit the development, contends the project "reduces and does not enhance the effectiveness of the community's mass transit facilities," in part because the Eastern Avenue entrance and egress for buses will be eliminated, space available for buses would be reduced, and parking would be cut by about half, to 75 spaces. With housing units, alleys and cul-de-sacs, pedestrian access would be blocked and bicycle parking and storage reduced. WMATA and Eakin/Youngentob Associates (EYA), the Virginia developer involved in the sale, both say the project complies with the Central District Plan, a long-range development plan for Washington. But people who oppose the plan point to historic agreements over the metro

parcel, and say this level of development was never intended at the site.

Citing original maps of the area Marc Elrich, Ward 5 councilmember, found some development was planned for the station from the outset—but it was a small building, just outside the station, and it left the park intact. "That was part of the agreement to allow the Metro in at all," he said. "To turn it into a revenue generator for

WMATA," even if the agency is strapped for cash, is to "punish this community. . . they're going to cause enormous harm."

Elrich and others are also angry about being excluded from the planning process, when so many Takoma Park residents use the transit station. "We've never had a seat at the table," said Frances Phipps, a resident and historic district expert who has followed the issue since its inception. Most recently, WMATA refused to share information about the property sale with Austin-Lane, who had pressed for an opportunity to review the plan with her constituents. Finally, developer EYA provided a copy of the conceptual plan and financial arrangement: EYA is paying \$7.35 million or \$105,000 per market rate unit, whichever is greater, for the three-acre site, according to Austin-Lane. Market rate adjustments are built into the deal so prices will be current at the time of settlement.

Along with its inventory of problems

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Photo by Virginia Myers Kelly

The proposed development would eliminate parkland at Metro

development plans. Their objections, voiced by many residents as well, have to do with the high density 95 apartments represents, a subsequent decrease in parking, more limited bus access, blocked pedestrian access, and loss of bicycle storage at the station as well as increased traffic on nearby streets.

The resolution, submitted by Joy Aus-

## Summer Celebration



Photo by Clyde Lassell

The sky lit up over Lee Jordan Field the night of July 4 in Takoma Park's traditional Independence Day fireworks celebration. For photos of the day's parade, see page 12.

## Marie Ritzo Temporarily Joins Council in Ward 2

In a unanimous vote at the July 18 City Council meeting, Marie Ritzo was appointed to join the City Council to replace Ward 2 councilmember Heather Mizeur, who is leaving due to a change in residence. Ritzo will be sworn in at the next Council meeting, July 25.

Ritzo, who lives on Central Avenue, has been a member of the Takoma Park community for 23 years. She served as president of the Long Branch Sligo Citizens Association and is a familiar face not only in the neighborhood, but in a variety of community venues. She's been particularly active in the Citizens' Public Safety Advisory Board, local PTA activities, and city elections. She was

also involved in the effort to unify Takoma Park into one county. Most recently, Ritzo served as secretary for Mizeur's 2003 campaign for city council. Professionally, Ritzo is a clinical social worker at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, where she has worked since 1988.

Other applicants for the position were Sat Jiwan Khalsa, Robert Liebreich, Cynthia Terrell, and Juan Luis Torres (who ran against Mizeur in 2003). In order to avoid favoring one candidate over another in this fall's election, Council encouraged applicants who had no intention of

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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](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

#### June 13, 2005 - Regular Meeting

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

– Ordinance 2005-14 was adopted, 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, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

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

– Ordinance 2005-16 was adopted, approving a Fiscal Year 2006 Pay Plan for Staff Who are Covered by the AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Ordinance 2005-17 was adopted, approving a Fiscal Year 2006 Pay Plan for Staff Who are Not Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Ordinance 2005-18 was accepted at first reading, authorizing FY05 Budget Amendment No. 2 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Resolution 2005-42 was adopted, ratifying the Arts and Humanities Commission Cultural Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Resolution 2005-43 was adopted, approving the Arts and Humanities Commission Public Art Policy (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Resolution 2005-44 was adopted, appointing members to the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur,

Seamens; ABSENT: Mizeur, Williams).

– The Consent Agenda was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens; ABSENT: Mizeur, Williams). It included the following:

- Resolution 2005-45, appointing a Member to the Facade Advisory Board
- Resolution 2005-46, appointing Members to the Noise Control Board
- Resolution 2005-47, authorizing transmittal of the City's 2006 Legislative Action Requests to the Maryland Municipal League

#### June 20 - Special Session

– Resolution 2005-48 was adopted, appointing the Takoma Park Poet Laureate (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Resolution 2005-49 was adopted, endorsing the M-NCPPC Proposed Facility Plan for Takoma-Piney Branch Park (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Resolution 2005-50 was adopted, supporting the issuance of an Alcoholic Beverage License for the Middle Eastern Cuisine and Market (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Resolution 2005-51 was adopted, ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 400, Representing Police Officers in the Grade of Corporal or Lower (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Ordinance 2005-19 was accepted at first reading, adopting the FY06 Police Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Ordinance 2005-20 was adopted, authorizing a Contract with AETNA for Employee Health Insurance (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Ordinance 2005-18 was adopted, authorizing FY05 Budget Amendment No. 2 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

– Resolution 2005-52 was adopted, authorizing the Program Open Space FY06 Allocation (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

#### July 5, 2005 - Special Session

– Ordinance 2005-19 was adopted, approving the FY06 Police Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

– Resolution 2005-53, authorizing the Issuance of Temporary Parking Permits for Businesses and Households Affected by City-Initiated Construction Activity Along Carroll and Laurel Avenues (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**Tuesday, July 26, 2005 - Monday, September 6, 2005 - City Council Recess**

**Thursday, July 28, 2005** - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Location TBA)

**Tuesday, August 2, 2005** - Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7:00 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Tuesday, August 9, 2005** - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Wednesday, August 10, 2005** - Meeting of the Ethics Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Thursday, August 11, 2005** - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Tuesday, August 16, 2005** - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Lobby)

**Tuesday, August 16, 2005** - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. (Montgomery College Provost's Office Conference Room)

**Tuesday, August 16, 2005** - Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Thursday, August 25, 2005** - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Tuesday, August 30, 2005** - Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Monday, September 5, 2005 - Labor Day - City Offices Closed for the Labor Day Holiday**

**Tuesday, September 6, 2005** - Presentation and Worksession of the City Council

For updated schedule information, check the City's web page at <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org> or contact the City Clerk. 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 at [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto: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: August 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 September 30. Deadline for applications: August 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 and two members with expiring terms. Deadline for applications: August 19.)

**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. (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 September 30. Deadline for applications: August 19.)

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

## Residents Invited to Join Community Center Committee

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 Council member or the City Clerk's Office to request appointment.

All City offices except the  
Police Department will be  
closed on  
Friday August 26th.,  
in observance of  
Employee Recognition Day.

## City of Takoma Park, Maryland 2005 Election Timetable

### Tuesday, October 4, 2005, 7:30 p.m. (Rosh Hashanah)

Charter-mandated date for the City Nominating Caucus - proposed motion and vote to adjourn and continue the Nominating Caucus to Wednesday, October 5th.

### Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

Continuation of Nominating Caucus to accept nominations of candidates for Mayor and Councilmembers.

### Monday, October 10, 2005

Deadline for candidates nominated at Caucus to withdraw. Declination must be filed in writing with the City Clerk's office within three days of nomination.

### Monday, October 10, 2005

Voter registration cut-off date. All new registrations and changes of address must have been received by Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections (or postmarked by this date). Voter registration applications for non-U.S. Citizens must have been received by the City Clerk's Office by this time. There will be no exceptions. Takoma Park residency must be met by this date (30 days prior to the election) in order to vote in the election.

### Friday, October 14, 5 p.m.

Candidates' Financial Disclosure Statements (Ethics Code) due to City Clerk

### Wednesday, October 19 (tentative)

Receipt of updated certified list of Takoma Park voters from Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections.

### Friday, October 28, 5 p.m. (or 10/29/05 postmark)

Candidates' Initial Campaign Contribution Reports due to City Clerk - to include contributions received since November 4, 2003.

### Tuesday, November 1, 4 p.m.

Last day to make application for regular Absentee Ballot.

### Wednesday, November 2

Emergency absentee balloting begins.

### Friday, November 4, 5 p.m.

Any write-in candidate for Mayor or Councilmember who wishes to be pre-registered as a write-in candidate and to have his/her name posted in the voting booth for the purpose of identifying him/her as a candidate for office, must file his/her name with the City Clerk by this deadline.

### Tuesday, November 8, ELECTION DAY, Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk prior to the official closing of the polls on election day or postmarked **on or before** November 7.

### Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.

Special meeting of the Mayor and Council to receive the certification of the election results.

### Friday, November 11, 5 p.m.

Deadline for contesting the results of the election and validity of absentee ballot voting.

### Monday, November 14, 4 p.m.

Final Campaign Contribution Report due to City Clerk **On or before Tuesday, November 15**

(If applicable) Election Judges (3) report on election contest investigation and recommend action to Council.

### Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m. (On or before Friday, November 18)

(If applicable) Special Meeting of Council to determine any election contest(s).

### Monday, November 21

Inauguration - Mayor and Councilmembers take office.

### On or before Friday, December 23, 2005

Deadline for holding a run-off election - in event of a tie vote.

### February 8, 2005

Deadline for keeping ballots, punch cards, voting machine records, absentee ballots.

## Ciudad Takoma Park, Maryland Calendario Electoral 2005

### Martes, 4 de octubre, 2005, 7:30 p.m. (Rosh Hashanah)

Fecha obligatoria para el Grupo de Nominaciones - moción propuesta y voto para pasar a receso hasta el miércoles, 5 de octubre.

### Miércoles, 5 de octubre 2005, 7:30 p.m. (sujeta al voto realizado en la reunión del Grupo de Nominaciones del 4 de octubre)

Continuación del Grupo de Nominaciones para aceptar las nominaciones de los candidatos para Alcalde o miembros del Consejo.

### Lunes, 10 de octubre, 2005

Fecha límite para que los candidatos nominados retiren su candidatura. La declinación debe presentarse por escrito a la Oficina del Secretario Municipal durante los tres días siguientes a su nominación.

### Lunes, 10 de octubre, 2005

Fecha límite para recibir inscripciones. Toda nueva inscripción y cambio de dirección debe haberse recibido en las oficinas de la Junta de Supervisores Electorales del Condado de Montgomery para esta fecha (o con sello postal de esa fecha). Las solicitudes de inscripción electoral para los que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses deben haberse recibido en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal para esta fecha. No se harán excepciones. El requisito de residencia de la ciudad de Takoma Park debe cumplirse para esta fecha (30 días antes de la elección) para que pueda votar en la elección.

### Viernes, 14 de octubre, 5 p.m.

Entrega de los informes financieros de los candidatos (Código Ético) al Secretario Municipal.

### Miércoles, 19 de octubre (tentativa)

Recibo de la lista certificada de votantes de Takoma Park de la Junta de Supervisores Electorales del Condado de Montgomery.

### Viernes, 28 de octubre, 5 p.m. (o con sello postal del 29 de octubre de 2005)

Fecha de entrega de los informes iniciales sobre contribuciones electorales al Secretario Municipal - que incluyan todas las contribuciones recibidas desde el 4 de noviembre de 2003.

### Martes, 1 de noviembre, 4 p.m.

Último día para solicitar una boleta regular de Votación en Ausencia.

### Miércoles, 2 de noviembre

Fecha en que se inicia la votación en ausencia de emergencia.

### Viernes, 4 de noviembre, 5 p.m.

Cualquier candidato autonominado (solicitud por escrito presentada después de la fecha límite de nominaciones) para la Alcaldía o para el consejo que desee estar pre-inscrito como candidato autonominado y tener su nombre publicado en la cabina electoral para identificarse como candidato, debe registrar su nombre en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal para esta fecha.

### Martes, 8 de noviembre, ELECCIONES, las urnas abren de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Los votos en ausencia deben haberse recibido en la oficina del Secretario Municipal antes que cierren las urnas el día de las elecciones o tener el sello postal con fecha del o anterior al 7 de noviembre.

### Miércoles, 9 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m.

Reunión especial del Alcalde y el Consejo para recibir la certificación de los resultados electorales.

### Viernes, 11 de noviembre, 5 p.m.

Fecha límite para objetar los resultados de la elección y la validez de la votación en ausencia.

### Lunes, 14 de noviembre, 4 p.m.

Fecha límite para la entrega de los informes de contribución electoral al Secretario Municipal.

### Martes, 15 de noviembre (en esta fecha o antes)

(Si fuese necesario), los jueces electorales (3) informan sobre la investigación de objeciones y hacen recomendaciones al Consejo sobre las acciones a seguir.

### Jueves, 17 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m. (el viernes 18 de noviembre o antes)

(Si fuese necesario), reunión especial del Consejo para determinar cualquier disputa.

### Lunes, 21 de noviembre

Toma de posesión - El Alcalde y los miembros del Consejo toman posesión del cargo.

### Viernes, 23 de diciembre, 2005 (en esta fecha o antes)

Fecha límite para una elección de desempate - en caso de empate en la votación.

### Miércoles, 8 de febrero, 2006

Fecha límite para guardar las boletas, tarjetas perforadas, registros de máquinas electorales y boletas de votos en ausencia.

## Marie Ritzo Joins Council

*Continued from page 1*

campaigning in November. Mayor Kathy Porter thanked all of them for their interest and encouraged them to continue to participate in service to the community.

Mizeur left the Council because she is moving out of Ward 2 and, even for the brief period before the next City election, City charter requires that a councilmember resign if he/she moves out of their ward. She will remain in Takoma Park, in Ward 1, but don't expect another run for city council. Instead, she is considering the possibility of a state legislature campaign for 2006.



Photo by Virginia Myers Kelly

Marie Ritzo, left, is welcomed by Heather Mizeur, whose council seat she will fill until November's election.

**Deadline for  
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August 25**

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# Water fight: Saving Takoma Branch

By Rick Henry

Despite their best efforts, a partnership of activists recently lost a bid to restore the elusive Takoma Branch of Sligo Creek. Tucked away on a trash-strewn abandoned lot, the little creek and its sub-basin had been neglected for years. Then a collection of nonprofit groups, municipalities and government agencies, endorsed by the City, proposed a restoration project and requested \$100,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to improve environmental quality, reduce pollution and trash, and increase environmental knowledge and community involvement in the Takoma Branch sub-basin. The area, which was purchased by Maryland National Capitol Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), is on the southwest corner of the intersection at New Hampshire and Poplar Avenues, and extends to an area at the end of Sligo Mill Road.

Groups involved in the Takoma Branch effort included: Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC), Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (PGCDER), the District of Columbia Department of Health, the City of Takoma Park, MNCPPC, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). Among their hopes for the area: reforestation, invasive plant management, trash reduction, stream clean-up, and possible native fish re-introduction.

While the City endorsed the project at its December 2004 meeting, that endorsement did not involve a financial commitment. However, the City would likely have applied a citizen's fund of about \$6,000 which is dedicated to the Takoma Branch area. According to Suzanne Ludlow, community and government li-

aision for the City, citizens raised the money to purchase the land when it became annexed into Montgomery County, in 1997. Once MNCPPC bought the parcel, the fund went to the City for work in the Takoma Branch area.

"We didn't need that money for the acquisition, but we didn't want it wasted, so there was a lot of discussion about what would be the best use for it," Ludlow said. Currently it is a special addition to the City arborist's budget for urban forestry in Takoma Branch area, but the City is always looking to leverage funds as part of a larger proposal. The money from the Bay Trust was to have been matched with \$40,000 from PGCDER and \$20,000 from MWCOG.

"We're disappointed that this proposal wasn't accepted," said Ludlow.

She's not the only one.

"It's disappointing they didn't get it," said Catherine Tunis, head of the City's environment committee. Tunis has worked on issues relating to the Takoma Branch since it became annexed into the county. "A lot of people want to see that area preserved because it is in difficult condition," she said. The land is choked with overgrown invasives and difficult to traverse; it has become, at various times, a dumping ground for appliances and trash bags and a home for squatters. This summer it reeks of gasoline. At one time it was considered for the development of a storage facility

and later for townhomes. Due to community pressure, the land was purchased to preserve as a natural area.

Neighborhood activist Nellie Moxley, president of the Pinecrest Community Association and a member of FOSC, was one of those disappointed by the Trust's rejection. "It has been a battle [to improve Takoma Branch] ever since that area was annexed," she said.



Photo by Virginia Myers Kelly

Citizens are working to fund a clean up of this debris-ridden creek.

"This is just another setback."

While strong support from the City, the community, and other entities would seem to be an advantage, it may have actually worked against the proposal's success, according to John Galli, principal environmental engineer for MWCOG, who helped spearhead the proposal. Because the groups involved were focused on different issues, it was difficult to send a unified message. "A good team was assembled and the proposal was

good, but whenever you write a proposal there is no guarantee."

Galli said the Trust specifically cited the focus on trash reduction in its rejection of the proposal. "A trash reduction initiative was not something they were interested in," he said. "They are more concerned with water-quality issues."

But Moxley and Tunis lavished praise on Galli's efforts in shepherding the proposal. "I know the city officials were really impressed with him. He was really credible and technically competent," said Tunis.

Add perseverance to those traits, as Galli continues to explore new options for restoring the area. The next step is to involve Prince George's County, he said, as the creek runs under New Hampshire into that jurisdiction.

He's also submitted a proposal to EPA on behalf of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee for similar work in the Sligo Creek and Watts Branch subwatersheds of the Anacostia. FOSC, AWS, MCDEP, PGDER, DC-DOH, MWCOG and others

are identified partners in that effort.

"The Takoma Branch project isn't necessarily dead, it's just moving in a different direction," said Galli.

That's no doubt positive news to the many people interested in improving the quality of the Takoma Branch. "A lot of people have had grand ideas to restore that area and this proposal would have gone a long way to move along those ideas," said Tunis. "Everyone still wants to do something."

## COLTA's Corner



By Jean Kerr  
Housing Specialist

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

**115, 117 & 123 Lee Avenue (2004-86L)**

On June 7, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$14.36 to \$20.82 on all units (36) at the property. The

improvements included roof replacement, gutters and downspouts replacement, repaired and replaced masonry, a/c outlets and skylights. No rent increases can be taken until the landlord verifies that rents previously overcharged are refunded to the tenants.

**115, 117 & 123 Lee Avenue (2004-87L)**

On June 7, 2005, a future capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$12.24 to \$17.75 on all units (36) at the property. The improvement included new windows. No rent increases can be taken until the installation of the windows are completed and verified by the City's Construction Inspector.

**7803 Lockney Avenue (2004-98L)**

On June 3, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$24.09 to \$100.96 on all units (4) at the property. The improvements included electrical upgrades, painting, new stove, toilet & vanity in bathroom, new door, refrigerator, kitchen cabinets, countertops, sink and faucet.

**657 Houston Avenue (2005-25L)**

On June 3, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$53.55 to \$102.04 on all (19) units at the property. The improvements included new windows, new elevator pump, carpet, a/c receptacles, radiators and cabinets for pipes.

**7801 Carroll Avenue (2005-31L)**

On June 18, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$6.43 to \$12 on both units at the property. The improvement included replacing and enlarging bedroom windows.

**7611 Garland Avenue (2005-32L)**

On June 18, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$2.57 to \$8.83 on both units at the property. The improvements included replacing bathroom window, a/c, electrical wiring and sprinklers.

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

## Safe Roadways Committee Sets Bylaws

An administrative regulation is being proposed to provide written bylaws for the Safe Roadways Committee, an advisory board established by Ordinance 2004-08. Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Chapter 2.12 Administrative Regulations of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publically noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The regulation is posted on the City's web page and copies are available upon request from the City Clerk's office. To comment on the proposed regulation or to receive further information, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 (telephone: 301-891-7267; e-mail: JessieC@takomagov.org). Comments must be received by Monday, August 15, 2005.

## In Search of: Election Judges

The City Clerk is seeking election judges to serve during the Tuesday, November 8, City Election. Expect long hours and hard work that will prove to be both rewarding and exciting!

The 2005 Election will be conducted using paper ballots, instead of the touchscreen voting machines used in the previous two City Elections. We anticipate the need for additional judges this year.

Persons who have served as judges in previous elections are urged to apply. Registered voters of Takoma Park who are not citizens of the United States are also encouraged to apply.

City Election judges must be registered Montgomery County voters or non-citizen voters registered with the

City of Takoma Park. A Takoma Park election judge may not be a candidate for office in the city, or serve as a campaign manager or treasurer, or take any other part in managing a campaign for a candidate or ballot initiative. Preference will be given to Takoma Park residents.

Election judges serve during the election and must attend one scheduled training prior to the election. Judges will receive \$135 for their service. The Chief Judge will receive \$175. The City provides breakfast, lunch and dinner to judges on Election Day. For further information or to request an application, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, by phone at 301-891-7267 or by e-mail at [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org).

## ELECTION 2005

### Council, Mayoral Nominating Caucus

The City's Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, per Section 604 of the City Charter. This year, the date of the Nominating Caucus falls on Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year which, in 2005, runs from sunset October 3 to sunset October 5). At the Caucus, a motion will be made to adjourn and continue the Nominating Caucus to Wednesday, October 5, out of courtesy for those who will not be able to participate for religious reasons. If the motion is

adopted by those present and eligible to vote, then the Caucus will reconvene on Wednesday, October 5, at 7:30 p.m., to accept nominations of candidates for Mayor and Councilmember. The Nominating Caucus will be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue. Only qualified voters of the City present at the Nominating Caucus may make or second a motion, nominate or second the nomination of a candidate, or vote on a motion.

## Jueces Electorales

El Secretario Municipal está buscando jueces para la elección municipal del martes, 8 de noviembre. ¡Será un día largo y de mucho trabajo que resultará productivo y emocionante!

La elección del 2005 se realizará utilizando boletas impresas en lugar de las máquinas de selección al tacto que se han usado en las dos elecciones municipales previas. Calculamos que este año, se necesitarán más jueces.

Se insta a las personas que ya hayan actuado como jueces en elecciones previas a presentarse. Los votantes registrados de Takoma Park que no sean ciudadanos estadounidenses también están invitados a presentarse.

Los jueces de la elección municipal deben ser votantes registrados del Condado de Montgomery o votantes que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses registrados en la ciudad de Takoma Park. Un juez electoral de Takoma Park no puede ser uno de los candidatos para un

puesto municipal, o desempeñarse como administrador de la campaña o tesorero, o participar en cualquier otro aspecto de la campaña electoral a favor de un candidato o iniciativa electoral. Se dará preferencia a los residentes de Takoma Park.

Los jueces electorales trabajarán durante la elección y deben asistir a un entrenamiento previo al día de la elección. El juez principal recibirá \$175. La municipalidad les brindará el desayuno, almuerzo y cena el día de la elección. Para más información o si desea pedir una solicitud, comuníquese con Jessie Carpenter, Secretaria Municipal llamando al 301-891-7267 o por correo electrónico a [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org).

### Voter Registration Deadline Oct. 10

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 residents 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 citizens of the United States, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7267.

## Grupo de Nominaciones

El Grupo de Nominaciones se reunirá el martes, 4 de octubre, 2005 a las 7:30 p.m., según lo estipulado por la Sección 604 del Estatuto Municipal. Este año, la fecha de reunión del Grupo de Nominaciones coincide con la celebración de Rosh Hashanah (el Año Nuevo Judío que, en el 2005, comienza el 3 de octubre al anochecer y termina el 5 de octubre al anochecer). El Consejo municipal insta a los participantes del Grupo de Nominaciones a presentar una moción para hacer un receso hasta el miércoles 5 de octubre, como una cortesía hacia los participantes que no podrán estar presentes por motivos religiosos. Si después de haber sido secundada, la moción es adoptada por los presentes, elegibles para votar, el Grupo volverá a reunirse las 7:30 p.m. del 5 de octubre para aceptar las nominaciones de candidatos para Alcalde y miembro del Consejo. La reunión del Grupo de Nominaciones se llevará a cabo en el Despacho del Consejo del Edificio Municipal, 7500 Maple Avenue. Sólo los votantes municipales presentes que reúnan los requisitos, podrán presentar o aprobar una moción, nominar o aprobar la nominación de un candidato o votar una moción.

### Inscripción Electoral

¡No se pierda la oportunidad de votar! En 1992, la Resolución de Tacoma Park #1992-5A entró en vigencia enmendando la Carta de la Ciudad para otorgarle a aquellos residentes de la ciudad que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses y que tienen por lo menos 18 años o que cumplirán 18 años antes de las siguientes elecciones municipales, el derecho a votar en las elecciones para alcaldía y consejo de Takoma Park.

Todo ciudadano de Takoma Park que desee votar en las elecciones municipales del 8 de noviembre del 2005 debe estar registrado en una dirección municipal en la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery o en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal si no es ciudadano estadounidense. Esto se debe cumplir antes de la fecha límite para inscribirse que es el 10 de octubre. Esta misma regla se aplica para cambios de dirección.

Todo el proceso de inscripción se puede hacer por correo. Los formatos de inscripción y de cambio de dirección del Condado de Montgomery y las solicitudes de inscripción electoral para personas no ciudadanas estadounidenses se pueden conseguir en la Oficina de Administración Municipal y en la biblioteca durante las horas normales de trabajo. También se pueden solicitar formatos de inscripción 24 horas al día llamando al siguiente número: 240-777-8500 (Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery). Para mayor información sobre Solicitudes de Inscripción Electoral para residentes de Takoma Park que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses, por favor comuníquese con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al 301-891-7204.

Are You  
Registered to  
Vote?

# RECREATION

## Coming Up!! Recreation Fall Brochure

Look in the September newsletter for all the latest and greatest offerings, many of which will take place in the new community center space. Most programs will begin in October. We'll be featuring classes by local artist Katie Dell Kaufman, whose work recently appeared at the Savory Café.

## Kindermusik Adventures Summer Camp

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 a.m. - noon

Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.

Fee: T.P. City Res. \$100

Non-Res. \$105

## 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.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 27 - Aug. 12, 2005

Time: Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m. (Additional fee)

Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

After Care 4 - 6 p.m. (Additional fee)

Locations: Takoma Park Recreation Center,  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
Piney Branch Elementary School,  
7510 Maple Avenue

Fees: Res. \$105/week

Non-Res. \$115/week

## 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 (before care only) and TP Soccer Camp.

Fee per week for before care (7 - 9 a.m.)

Res. \$30

Non-Res. \$35

Fee per week for after care (4 - 6 p.m.)

Res. \$30

Non-Res. \$35

## Overnight Camp

Grades 6-9

Our staff will accompany the campers to this beautiful retreat where they will stay in cabins in the woods. Activities include swimming, hiking, fishing, team building, sports, and much more! Participants will meet at the Municipal Building at 8 a.m. on August 8, 2005 and should return by 5 p.m. on August 12. Space is limited so sign up early. Fee includes all meals, activities and transportation.

When: August 8 - 12, 2005 (week 7)

Location: Camp Summit Lake in Emmitsburg, MD

Fee: Res. \$215

Non-Res. \$225

## The Afternoon Addition for Kids

Grades K - 8

Get the most out of the new community center! Enroll in our very own exciting after school creative enrichment program. Each day students will benefit from a full range of activities that will enlighten, empower, and enrich their minds and imaginations. We have some exciting activities planned this year, including: clubs, drama, music, art, sports, computers, field trips, homework time, swimming, special presenters, and playtime. Students will meet in the Piney Branch Elementary School Gym (TPES students will be escorted by staff to this location) for activities. At 4 p.m. the program will move to the new space across the street where kids will use the game room, computer lab, and other classrooms for a variety of programs including homework. Parents will pick their children up at this location.

Enroll today, space is limited.

When: Mon. - Fri.

Aug. 29, 2005 - June 15, 2006

Time: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. on full days

1 - 6:30 p.m. on early release days

Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Avenue  
and Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue

Fee: Takoma Park Resident \$1,000

Non-Resident \$1,200

No program on 9/5, 28; 10/4, 13, 21; 11/1, 24-25; 12/26/05-1/2/06, 1/16, 23; 2/20, 3/31, 4/10-17, 6/14.

- Payments are made in four equal installments, unless otherwise arranged with the Recreation Director: **#1 due at time of registration, #2 due October 28, 2005, #3 due January 20, 2006 and payment #4 due March 24, 2006.**

- A late fee of \$25 will be charged on all accounts any time after the due date.

- On half days of school, the After School Program will be open from 1-6:30 p.m. The Recreation Department provides Fun Day Programs on half days and some holidays for an additional fee.

- The Afternoon Addition will not operate on the days schools are closed: holidays or other school closings (including inclement weather, professional days, winter or spring breaks, or school emergency closings).

- Recreation Staff will escort children who attend T.P. Elementary School to Piney Branch Elementary School on whole and half days. If school is closed due to inclement weather there will be no Afternoon Addition. Parents are required to call the day that their child will be absent from the program.

- A late pick up charge of \$10 per 15-minute interval will be charged after 6:35 p.m. The fees apply to each family, not each child. This late charge must be paid in cash to the attending staff at the time of pick up.



## YES League Events

**Championship Games @ Piney Branch Elementary**

**Wednesday, August 3**

6:30 p.m.: Middle School Division

**Monday, August 8**

6:30 p.m.: JV Division

**Monday, August 8**

8:15 p.m.: Varsity Division

**All - Star Week @ Piney Branch Elementary**

**Tuesday, August 9**

6:30 p.m.: 2Ball Competition

7:30 p.m.: Middle School vs. DC All Stars

**Wednesday, August 10**

6:30 p.m.: 3 - point Shooting Contest

7:30 p.m. JV All Stars vs. DC All-Stars

**Thursday, August 11**

6:30 p.m.: Slam Dunk Special

7:30 p.m. Varsity All Stars vs. Coaches

**Friday, August 12**

7:30 p.m. YES League Legends vs. Rec. Staff

## Summer Fun

**Nick and Hannah Loeb traveled to Wildwood, New Jersey this summer to show off Takoma Park's best marble-shooting skills in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Marble Tournament. Hannah (age 10), finished 17<sup>th</sup> in the girls' division; Nick (age 13) took 19<sup>th</sup> place among the boys.**

**Above right, two campers enjoy lounging at the pool.**

## "Two Teller Tales" Double the Fun Storytelling

Children in the elementary school years often learn best by hearing stories - stories which engage their hearts and their imaginations. On Saturday afternoon, July 30, two storytellers who have already proven their mettle with the Takoma Park Maryland Library audience, Arianna Ross and Diane Macklin, are joining each other to bring a unique and dynamic program for our community.

The storytelling performance at 2 p.m. will be followed at 3 p.m. 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 enjoyable. There will be a concurrent workshop for children in storytelling.

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 griot tradition. Both women are friends who share a similar vision of storytelling that draws on a rich background of cultures and personal tales, ultimately transcending boundaries and nourishing hope, peace, and justice.

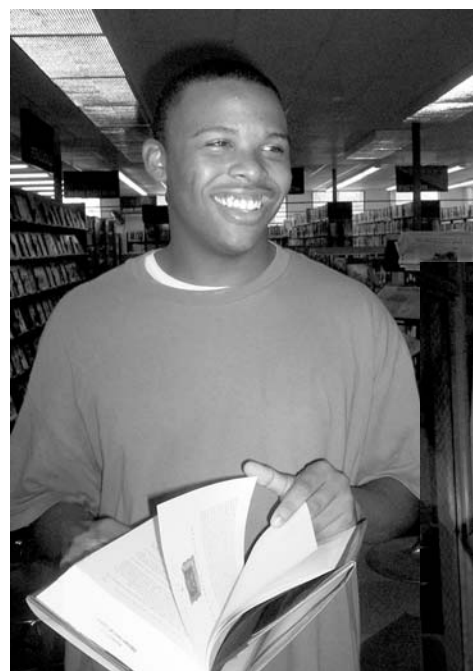
Space for the workshop will be limited, so we ask that you sign up early and keep your commitment. There will be no limit to the audience size for the storytelling segment, which will be held 2 to 2:45 p.m.

Many thanks are due the Washington Redskins for a grant to help underwrite the costs of this program, and, as always, to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

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

## LIBRARY

## Harry Potter's Newest is Welcomed by Local Fans



Michael Leonard submitted his reserve request for *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* back in early January! He has grown up with Harry, devouring the first one when he was eight years old.

Photos by Jillian Hershberger



Christina Wiginton was the second person to claim her copy of *Harry Potter*. She is one of the many adult fans who have been reading the books from the beginning. The Library owns the book on audio tape and also on CD — perfect for a long car trip this summer.

## Computer Assistant Needed, Community Center

The City of Takoma Park is seeking an Instructional Assistant to manage day-to-day operations in two public computer rooms of the new community center, under the general supervision of the Library. This is a 30-hour position, with benefits, and will entail some evening and weekend work. Hourly Range \$15.11 - \$17.01 per hour negotiable, depending on qualifications. Send completed city application or resume and cover letter to Ellen Robbins, Library Director, City of Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 or fax 301-270-8794 or e-mail [EllenR@takomagov.org](mailto:EllenR@takomagov.org). The City of Takoma Park is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Library Programs In August

### 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, August 23

### 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.



## Last Call for Submissions to the 2005 Takoma Park Film Festival

Spielberg wannabees still have time to submit videos and films to the Takoma Park Film Festival but the Sept. 1, 2005, deadline is rapidly approaching. For an online entry form, visit [www.takomaparkfilmfestival.org](http://www.takomaparkfilmfestival.org) or go to the Takoma Park Maryland Library at 101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD. You can also submit your videos and films to the Takoma Park Library and there is no entry fee.

This year's film festival seeks provocative, visionary, or just plain fun films and videos made by those who live in, work in, or simply love Takoma

Park. Your role can range from production assistant to director to producer, and students and professionals are equally welcomed. The film festival screens works of all lengths and genres, about any topic, that are produced in any year. The festival will take place the third weekend in November in the Takoma Park City Council Chambers, adjacent to the new Takoma Park Community Center.

For additional information and to volunteer to work on the festival, please send an e-mail to [filminfo@takomaparkfilmfestival.org](mailto:filminfo@takomaparkfilmfestival.org).



## SAVE THE DATE!

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is coming around September 11, to the Takoma Park Middle School. Come out to enjoy music, crafts, food and fun, or call 301-589-0202 to volunteer.



# 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.

## Aggressive Panhandling

**Carroll Ave., 7300 block:** On June 24 at 3 p.m. a subject walked into a business and demanded money, then fled when an employee called police. Nothing was taken.

## Robberies

**Lee Ave., 100 block:** On June 25 on 1:50 a.m., an attempted armed robbery occurred. An adult woman was walking from her car to her apartment building when a subject approached the female, pointed a gun at her and demanded money. The victim's husband, walking a short distance behind her, saw what was happening and yelled to the subject he was calling the police. The subject fled without taking any property. The victim was not injured.

**Maple Ave., 7600 block:** On June 26 a strong armed robbery occurred. Three adult males were standing at a bus stop when they were approached by two subjects who asked one of the victims a question. Several other subjects suddenly appeared and punched two of the victims. Two of the victims were able to run away, but the remaining victim was robbed of his property before the subjects fled. One victim was treated at a hospital and released.

**Willow Ave., 7100 block:** On June 29 at 11:14 pm an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was walking alone when he was approached by two subjects. One subject pointed a handgun at the victim, the other

subject demanded money. The subjects fled after the victim handed over his cash. The victim was not physically injured.

## Burglaries

**Maple Ave., 8000 block:** On June 11, between 8 a.m. and 12:30 pm 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 am a commercial burglary occurred. A rear door of the business was forced open. Property was taken.

**Carroll Ave., 7000 block:** On June 21 at 1:35 am a commercial burglary occurred. The front door was pried open. Property was taken.

**Ethan Allen Ave., 400 block:** Between June 23 at 6:30 pm and June 24 at 7 am a residential burglary occurred. Unknown suspect(s) entered an unoccupied house under construction through an unlocked door. Property was taken.

**Garland Ave., 7200 block:** Between June 1, time unknown and June 29 at 9:14 pm a residential burglary occurred. A door was forced open in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

**New Hampshire Ave., 6800 block:** Between June 29 at 5 pm and June 30 at 6:30 am a commercial burglary occurred. The glass of the front door was smashed in order to gain entry. Property and cash were taken.

**Oswego Ave., unit block:** Between June

29 at 8 am and July 7 at 3:02 pm a theft occurred. Unknown person(s) stole lawn equipment by unknown means.

**Cedar Ave., 7400 block:** Between July 11 at 8 am and July 12 at 6:50 am a residential burglary occurred. A garage door was broken to gain entry. Property was taken.

## Auto and related theft

**New Hampshire Ave., 7300 block:** On June 20, between 10 am and 1:10 pm an auto theft occurred. Unknown means were used to steal the 2001 Dodge Intrepid.

**Maple Ave., 7700 block:** Between June 21 at 7 pm and June 22 at 11 pm an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what means were used to steal the 1995 Mercury Villager.

**Auburn Ave., 700 block:** Between June 25 at 1:45 pm and June 26 at 5:31 am an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1993 Lincoln Towne Car.

**Garland Ave., 7300 block:** On July 1 between 4 pm and 6:52 pm an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2000 Honda Civic.

**Boston Ave., 600 block:** Between July 4 at 8 pm and July 5 at 5:45 pm a theft from auto occurred. Unknown person(s) smashed small vent window with unknown object and removed property from vehicle.

**13th Place, 7200 block:** Between July 5 at 11:30 pm and July 6 at 6:30 pm an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1992 Honda Civic.

**Eastern Ave., 6700 block:** Between July 8, time unknown and July 11 at 9:30 am an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method

was used to steal the 1991 Chevrolet Caprice.

**Willow Ave., 7100 block:** On July 12 at 8:55 am an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1988 Toyota Runner.

**Carroll Ave., 7200 block:** On July 12 at 5:43 pm an auto theft occurred. The owner left the 2002 Subaru Outback running while loading items. The owner's two dogs were in the vehicle when it was stolen.

## Suicide

On July 14 at 2:30 pm at the intersection of Sligo Creek Parkway and Kennebec Ave. a report of shots fired was made to police. Officers found a wounded man with an acquaintance attempting to provide medical assistance. The man was pronounced dead a short time later. The investigation by Takoma Park Police in conjunction with M-NCPPC Police concluded that the wound was self-inflicted.

## Arson

**Aspen Ct., 7400 block:** On June 22 at 1:55 pm an arson occurred. A juvenile male was seen spraying a flammable substance on several apartment doors before setting fire to the doors. There was minimal damage to the doors. The juvenile will be charged when the investigation is completed.

# ARRESTS

**University Blvd., 1300 block:** On June 10 at 1:58 pm 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 pm in of an adult female was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant charging her with Uttering Forged Currency (counterfeit money).

**Maple Ave., 7700 block:** On June 18 at 9:40 am a juvenile male was arrested and charged with Theft over \$500, Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle, Unauthorized use of a Motor Vehicle, Reckless Endangerment, Possession of Burglary Tools, Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon, Resisting Arrest and eight traffic related offenses.

**Cockerville Ave., 6700 block:** On June 18 at 1:45 pm one adult female and one adult male were charged with Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia.

**University Blvd., 1300 block:** On June 19 at 4:32 am an adult male was charged with Theft Under \$100, 2nd Degree Assault and disorderly conduct.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7400 block:** On June 19 at 11:58 pm an adult male was charged with Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of CDS and Resisting Arrest after a routine traffic stop.

**New Hampshire Ave., 7600 block:** On June 25 at 5:25 pm an adult male was charged with 1st degree assault.

**University Blvd., 1300 block:** On June 26 at 2:59 am an adult female was charged with Theft Under \$500.

**University Blvd., 1100 block:** On June 27 at 1:35 pm a criminal citation for theft over \$100 was issued to an adult male.

**Hudson Ave., 600 block:** On July 3 at approximately 4:28 am, one adult male was arrested and charged with Possession of CDS.



## The Firehouse Report

### Carbon Monoxide - The #1 Poison Killer

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless, invisible, poison gas. It is produced when carbon-containing materials, like wood, coal, oil, and natural gas, burn incompletely. This occurs when a fire has a low oxygen supply. Each burning carbon atom joins with only one oxygen atom instead of the usual two, and that makes carbon monoxide.

When CO enters the lungs, it quickly latches onto red blood cells. When this happens, CO keeps red blood cells from delivering the oxygen they carry to the other cells of the body. Without oxygen, cells and organs die.

Every year, 1,500 people die of CO poisoning and 10,000 others need medical attention because of it. CO poisoning is a real threat, one that you cannot see, smell, or taste, but one that you can prevent.

### Sources of Carbon Monoxide

Any machine that burns fuel can produce carbon monoxide. Many ordinary household appliances and machines may produce CO, including:

- Non-electric, fuel-fired furnaces.
- Gas water heaters, stoves, and dryers.
- Gas-powered generators.
- Fireplaces, woodstoves, and charcoal grills.
- Lawnmowers, snowblowers, leafblowers, etc.
- Cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

These machines can produce CO if they do not have enough fresh air flowing around them. If CO builds up near you and your family, you can be poisoned, injured, even killed.

As of Jun. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station responded to 508 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,296 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,804 incidents this year. Totals for 2004 were 534 and 1,265, respectively, for a total of 1,799, representing an increase of 5 incidents.

### Prevention Is A Must!

Prevent CO buildup by maintaining your equipment. A blocked or leaking chimney, or an undersized vent on a furnace or water heater can lead to CO buildup in your home. If you have a new appliance installed, make sure that the venting system is adequate.

Have your heating system professionally inspected every year. Only a trained expert can make sure that there are no leaks in the heating equipment vents. Have other fuel-burning appliances, like your stove and dryer, inspected from time to time to be sure that they are receiving enough fresh air.

### Also CO Alarms Are A Must!

Prevent a carbon monoxide tragedy by installing CO alarms. CO alarms look like smoke alarms. In fact, you can purchase a single alarm unit that detects both smoke and carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide alarms may be battery-powered or current-powered (plug-in models). Plug-in models can be used in any outlet. Battery-operated models are useful where outlets are not available. These models can also be installed on or near the ceiling to detect any CO that rises with warm air. It is smart to have some plug-ins and some battery-operated CO alarms in your home.

### Installation

At a minimum, place one carbon monoxide alarm near all sleeping areas. For the next level of protection, install one additional alarm on each level of the home. Put some alarms on or near the ceiling. Others can be plugged into electrical outlets. Do not install CO alarms within 15 feet of heating or cooking appliances, or in very damp areas such as bathrooms.

Should you have any questions, please contact the fire station, at 301-270-4242.



## Crossing Guard Cotton Will Be Missed



The intersection of Philadelphia and Holly will, without doubt, be a different place when school opens later this month. Annie A. Cotton, the friendly and flamboyant school crossing guard at that corner for the past two years, passed away the evening of July 4 after a brief illness.

"Those of us lucky enough to have been served by her (at Philadelphia and Holly) know how much she will be missed," wrote Keats Kirsch on the Takoma Park Elementary School Listserv. "She had a withering glare that could take the air right out of the tires of an errant motorist, but her sunny, jovial persona would be restored instantly as she turned to greet the next child waiting to cross the street."

"Miss Annie," as she was known to colleagues at the Takoma Park Police Department, served as a crossing guard since August 1995. She had also been a guard in the mid-1980s. At her July 9 funeral, Chief Cindy Creamer read a message from former Chief Tom Anderson:

"She was a bright spot in Takoma Park and went about brightening the day of all who came in contact with her – unless of course you were one of those motorists in a hurry who encroached on the boundaries she set between her crosswalk and the spot she wanted the vehicle to stop. She enjoyed life, or at least gave that impression to others. Wouldn't it be great if we were all like Ms. Annie? Our world would be such a better place! She was a special person who had a daily impact on so many. I cannot think of anyone in Takoma Park who rivaled her in making so many people smile every day."

Her impact, as a vivacious and caring presence away from her corner, was evident. A U.S. Post Office clerk came to speak at her funeral, as did former City Councilmember Herman Williams. CVS clerks stopped to mourn her passing, when a police employee copying a photograph of her had to explain that it was needed for a memorial. TPES staff noted she visited the school almost daily, always with kind words and occasionally with small gifts for needy or special students. City librarians recalled:

"Almost every day she came into the library and sat and read - and read - and read. In her uniform and usually at one of the most visible tables. Very few working adults set aside time to come into the library almost every day to read. Reading to yourself, silently, for your own pleasure, where children can see you is very, very important in creating readers. But whose reading was an example to all the other children? Annie."

Miss Annie was born and educated in Scotland Neck, North Carolina, moving to Washington, D.C. shortly after high school graduation. She retired from employment at the World National Bank, later becoming a crossing guard. She was a Mother of the Church at the New Bethel Church of God and Christ in Washington, DC. The widow of George Perry, Jr., she is survived by a son, George Perry III, and daughter, Ann Elizabeth Cotton, of Takoma Park, five sisters, two brothers, and her work "family" at the Takoma Park Police.

## POLICE NEWS

### Driving car crime away

Theft from vehicles remains a city-wide problem, with single-night outbreaks occurring randomly. Reports of theft from auto have increased 28 percent in the first half of this year compared to 2004. Reports of individual or pairs of theft from auto occur with some regularity. This contrasts with an April 2002 night when an outbreak of seven incidents occurred in one night in a three-block stretch.

Theft from auto can occur at any time, from any vehicle. Often valuables in a car are taken during the night. Officers can recall when a car's entire stereo system was stolen at noon on a sunny weekday in the busy 7500 block of Takoma Avenue, with nobody reporting any suspicious behavior.

What property is stolen? Everything from expensive construction tools to a case of soda, from purses and laptops to swimming suits. Auto parts are also taken, including a vehicle's license plate. Method of entry varies too. Unlocked cars with valuables easily reached are as common as a window or doorlock broken to gain entry.

#### Deterrents

**License Plate Theft:** A unique screw, which requires a special screw driver to release the license plate, is available from auto parts stores. The cost can be as low as \$4.

**Portable Property:** These can be taken into your home — or can be taken by thieves: cellular phones, money, purse, wallet, briefcases, clothing, CDs and players, laptop computers, and sports equipment.

- 1) Lock doors and close windows completely.
- 2) Remove valuables from the vehicle or lock them in the trunk where they are out of sight.
- 3) Do not leave electronic devices or accessories visible. (A cigarette lighter plug or cassette adapter are tell-tale signs of valuables in the car. Replace the lighter when exiting the vehicle.)
- 4) Do not leave money in the car.
- 5) Park in your garage, if you have one, or in a well-lit area.
- 6) Install "tapered" door lock or an anti-theft device that has a visible indicator.

**Aid to Recovery:** Some valuables can't be taken out of the vehicle, such as a stereo or speakers. When installing custom sound equipment, record the serial numbers and/or engrave your driver's license on the items before installation. If stolen, those numbers could make a difference in locating and recovering the property, and prosecuting the thieves.

If you see suspicious activity, on the street or in a parking lot, call Takoma Park Police at 301/270-1100.

## Closing Robbery Cases

By Carol Bannerman  
Police Public Affairs Liaison

With 60 robberies, last year recorded the lowest Takoma Park robbery rate in five years. The first half of this year saw one fewer than the same period last year but more than a 30 percent decrease over the same period in 2002 and 2003.

Even so, this means 28 individuals in the City were the victims of robbery (attempted or successful taking of property "by force or threat of force or violence") so far this year. Naturally, the victims, community and police want to see even lower numbers. Historically, about 20 percent of the robberies are against commercial locations. In 50 to 70 percent, the suspect displays or implies a weapon, such as a knife or handgun.

Residents have asked how successfully the Takoma Park Police investigate such crimes. Currently, the clearance rate for robberies in 2004 stands at 43 percent, compared to a national clearance rate of 26 percent and 29 percent in metropoli-

tan counties (*Crime in the United States 2003*, the most recent national statistics). Investigators point to a number of factors for successful closure of robberies: contact and communication with neighboring agencies, surveillance tapes in businesses, timely reporting of crimes, and specific suspect descriptions and other information from victims.

"No matter how good the clearance rate is, we always want to see it higher," said D/Sgt. Richard Poole, the Department's selection for 2004 Officer of the Year. Poole, who served as supervisor of investigators for much of the year while carrying a regular caseload, attained a 41 percent closure rate on his 123 cases of various crimes. Among his 31 arrests were those of suspects in armed robberies and carjacking. Poole credited the work of patrol in some of his case closures, but also collaborative effort with other jurisdictions.

Similarly, his colleague D/Cpl. Andrew John saw interjurisdictional efforts pay off with major results. Last fall, an

armed robbery of a fast-food restaurant and two customers in Old Town was followed by an Oct. 3 strong arm robbery of a New Hampshire Avenue business. John quickly made contact with area police jurisdictions and recognized a pattern of armed and "till-tap" robberies occurring in two counties and the District of Columbia. With his skill in digital imaging, he assisted the Metropolitan Police Department in enhancing a surveillance tape taken during a robbery at the City's border. Through this, he developed a suspect and photo arrays. He obtained warrants for the suspect, who was arrested Oct. 6 on other charges by the MPDC Fugitive Unit. In interviews, John was able to obtain a statement from



Photo by Carol Bannerman

**Det. Cyndy Conrad and Det/Sgt. Richard Poole review photo arrays and case status in an investigation.**

the suspect who was charged not only with the City robberies but more than a dozen events in four other jurisdictions. A 2002 TPPD investigation had a significant and unexpected outcome. In the course of investigating a robbery and an

*Continued on page 11*

## Fighting the green invasion Friends of Sligo Creek Promotes Healthy Ecosystems

By Ethan Goffman

Native plants, fight for your lives! The invaders are coming! It's war of the weeds, invasion of the soil snatchers.

Garlic mustard, porcelain berry, and mile-a-minute are just a few of the invasive plants to manifest themselves in Sligo Creek, beginning in the 1990s. Although most invasives were brought to this continent for horticultural purposes, they have spread to wild areas, or by airmail via birds and the wind. Lacking natural enemies, they can spread with stunning rapidity, driving out native species and altering ecosystem balance.

Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC) is the local organization that, in conjunction with the county, works to fight off these invaders, to maintain a healthy ecosystem for Takoma Park and other Sligo communities. In April FOSC launched the Removing Invasive Plants Program, or RIP, which relies on volunteers for the labor power needed. The program hopes to drive out the majority of invasives in the next three to five years.

Why should Takoma Park residents

eas (which is otherwise illegal). Second, they can join FOSC, and participate in the RIP program. "We are the first group to be concerned with the invasive plants in every part of the park," explains Gagné. If you live north of Maple Avenue, the local FOSC steward is Clair Garman; below Maple Avenue, the steward is Marty Itner.

Garman led a successful effort in the summer of 2004 to eradicate kudzu that had blanketed two areas, the first near Park Valley Road, the second a couple of bridges upstream. Doing so was not easy. "Kudzu does not like to die," explains Garman. "It requires real labor, including cutting roots and using poison." Indeed, only three members of FOSC are authorized, on an experimental basis, to use poison to kill roots.

With the kudzu gone, Garman and company followed up with a fall tree planting of maples, tulips, and other native plants. Finally this spring Garman declared "complete victory."

Local park lovers are responsible for that success. Garman also points to a dying cherry tree that was rescued this

spring, and to the network of small hiking paths named "people's paths," created and tended entirely by Takoma Park residents. "Park and Planning can't provide that kind of close attention," he explains.

Downstream, Marty Itner battles Japanese Knotweed, a bamboo-like plant that spreads ferociously. "I always use the analogy of Mickey and the brooms in *Fantasia*. You cut one down and two grow in its place."

She remembers spreading black plastic over Japanese Knotweed to smother it, but "it just grew under and came out from the sides." In this case it will be up to the county to eliminate the infestation, but maps provided by Itner are invaluable here.

For other residents, the ways to route out invasives are numerous. "Many like to work with others, in the beginning especially, and that's one way we can help," explains Gagné. Others prefer to work on their own, mixing weeding with regular hikes or dog walking. Either way volunteers return to nature, to the land, to a way of life many have forgotten.

The rewards can be great. Itner remembers working hard to clear a patch of porcelain berry. Halfway through, "there was a little box turtle laying her eggs in the spot I had cleared away. It was a kind of gift."

Gagné suggests that residents take special care in looking out for three fast-spreading invasives before they become established: Japanese Knotweed, notable

for its zig-zag stem, large leaves and white flower spikes; Canada Thistle, with an erect stem, spiny leaves, and purple flowers; and Garlic Mustard, a white-flowered herb. If these dangerous invaders are spotted, FOSC should be alerted immediately.

Working with RIP means participating in a systematic campaign. "We are gearing up to go full force in a do-or-die effort in invasives," says Gagné. Targeted invasives are those that are smothering trees, going to seed, or easier to deal with at a certain time. In the spring the RIP program went after garlic mustard.

July was mile-a-minute month, while fall is dedicated to shrubs, particularly Bush Honeysuckle, Wineberry, and Multiflora Rose. Vines will be tackled later.

Aside from RIP, Gagné recommends that Takoma Parkers with yards and gardens plant native species or use care in their

choice of non-native plants. "Don't use plants that you know are invasive such as Japanese honeysuckle," she says. "For people whose yard backs on to the park, they're lucky, but I hope they'll take responsibility for removing any of their plants that spread downhill."



A team of volunteers tackles a green blanket of invasives in Sligo Creek Park, freeing native species for growth.

Efforts against invasives spread beyond neighbors to local goats recently, when Parks and Planning brought them in to a Silver Spring portion of the park to eat porcelain berry. The experiment lasted only four days, however. Best suited for fast growing vines, the use of goats is in any event limited by a tight budget.



Photos by Sally Gagné

Willing to try anything to combat invasives, the county used weed-eating goats last spring.

care? "We will lose our trees and a lot of native species," explains Sally Gagné, founder of FOSC and currently in charge of the RIP program. "English Ivy, for instance, covers at least a fifth of the park," she says. Besides driving out species that have been in this area for thousands of years, invasives slowly kill trees and thereby increase erosion, degrading the little corridor of wilderness running through our urban setting. Certain birds and other wildlife depend on native plants for food, probably because they have evolved together. Sligo Creek's dense network of trees also helps to purify our polluted air, while their roots hold back pollutants from the street and lawns that would rush in through stormwater.

Residents who want to help with the RIP program can take two steps. They may join the Weed Warriors, a two hour training program run by the county the last Wednesday of every month. Weed Warrior graduates are officially authorized to remove invasives from park ar-

## Routing Out Tree Disease

By Brett Linkletter  
City arborist

One of the major concerns we have in Takoma Park regarding our urban forest is the loss of large, mature trees. When one of these trees dies, people often expect there to be a specific disease or insect that caused the death of that particular tree. Occasionally, a disease or an insect can seem to single-handedly cause the demise of a tree. Dutch elm disease would be a common example. But even then, environmental factors contribute to the tree's demise.

Most of the time, when a tree dies, it is the result of the buildup of several stressors, both biotic (living things like insects and diseases) and abiotic (non-living influences like drought, storms, compacted soil and pollution) impacting the tree in a negative way until the tree cannot fight off the stress factors any longer.

Most problems in the urban landscape are manifested on the above ground portion of the plant, but are caused by something that is wrong with the plant below the soil line. You may see dead limbs, small or discolored leaves or weak canopies, all things that are usually the result of a problem with the roots. The majority of these symptoms are the result of diseases, but they are not infectious organisms. They are mostly non-infectious and the problems they cause are almost always associated with the root system.

Non-infectious diseases are caused by abiotic conditions such as nutrient deficiency or imbalance, moisture extremes (too much or too little), over mulching, winter injury, physical injury and soil compaction. For a disease to be success-

ful, three things need to be in place (called the Disease Triangle): a host, a pathogen, and the proper environment. These abiotic conditions help to create the proper environment for the diseases. Without this proper environment, diseases cannot be successful. So, the most important thing to do in an attempt to save some of the large mature trees is to help create a positive environment for the tree, instead of for the disease.

For instance, many of the properties in Takoma Park have hard, compacted soil. This condition makes it difficult for water and oxygen to flow through the soil, both of which are essential for good root (and tree) health. To create a more positive environment for the trees, the transfer of water and oxygen through the soil needs to be improved. Vertical mulching, radial trenching, broadcast mulching, and/or aerating can alter the soil structure. Creating an environment in the soil for better water and oxygen flow decreases the probability that a disease will be successful.

Essentially, the best way to maintain the large trees in Takoma Park is to minimize the conditions conducive for diseases (and insects, too). Mainly, that would entail watering the trees regularly (yes, large trees need to be watered too), aerate the soil so water and oxygen flow freely through the soil, and to reduce activities where roots can be cut, such as any excavation deeper than 3-4 inches into the soil.

If anyone would like more information on how to aerate their yard, how to properly water their tree or how to maximize the health of their trees, I can be reached at 301/891-7612 or email me at BrettL@takomagov.org.



Photo by Noah Wolf

Camera operator Danielle Gordon goes to great heights to film the Takoma Jazz Fest for later viewing on City TV.

## Partnerships Solve Cases

*Continued from page 9*

assault in the City, Takoma Park detectives developed important evidence and identified the suspect in the D.C. homicide of a tourist. The city officers used high visibility patrol, plain clothes details, surveillance tapes from a gas station, processing of a seized vehicle, interviews, and a search warrant to develop the suspect. (Read the complete story in the City Newsletter, Nov. 2003.) Eventually the man was convicted of three homicides; the Takoma Park robbery was closed as "exceptionally cleared."

### Clearance

An investigation may be cleared by arrest or solved for crime reporting purposes when at least one person is arrested, charged and turned over to the court for prosecution. Clearance by "exceptional means" is recorded when the offender has been identified and located, with enough evidence to support an arrest, but conditions beyond police control prevent bringing charges.

A case may be "exceptionally cleared" when the police have strong reason to believe a suspect committed a crime, but sufficient evidence to prosecute is not available. This might occur if witnesses refused to view photo arrays or if a victim is unable to pick the suspect from an array or to provide details about the stolen property. In the past, for example, Takoma Park officers brought charges against a suspect for one robbery but not a second one because the victim was unable to pick the suspect in a photo array. When the victim eventually saw the suspect in person during trial, an identification was made. The prosecutor, however, could not add charges and the second case was exceptionally cleared.

### Length of Investigations

Occasionally a robbery is solved by patrol officers locating suspects quickly. In April, a young man was robbed on Cedar Avenue and residents reported the event immediately. Responding officers located several suspects in nearby

D.C., detaining them until Metropolitan Police units arrived and a "show up" was held, eliminating some suspects and implicating others. Relatives of the suspect youths brought them to the Takoma Park station where continued investigation provided a definitive link and they were charged. In the past, immediate reports have resulted in canine tracks that located the suspects. Other cases take longer.

A complete package of arrests related to an April 2004 carjacking took place over an entire year. A man had been robbed as he left a New Hampshire Avenue ATM machine at 2 a.m. with suspects taking both cash and car. When the vehicle was recovered two hours later it was processed for fingerprints. Two weeks later a match came back and a warrant was obtained. This February the suspect was located and arrested. In the course of interviews, additional suspects were developed. One was arrested in late June and the other is being held in D.C. on more serious, unrelated charges.

### How to help

Successful closure of robbery cases can involve evidence processing, maintenance of interagency ties, and investigative and interviewing skills. Citizens also can influence an investigation's success. Poole notes that the quality of a description of suspects is vital. The more specific a victim's or witness's details, the greater the chance for identifying the perpetrator. These also make it easier for identification of a photo array. Details regarding the items stolen are also important. Cases can become cold if a victim can't or won't provide information such as credit card numbers or details of other stolen property. Sometimes such cases are cleared exceptionally because a suspect is identified but the case is weak for prosecution. And again, even a short delay can decrease the chances of locating perpetrators so reporting the crime as quickly as possible is important. Like many issues of crime prevention and safety, robbery closures are a police/community partnership.

## Takoma Park City TV Events in August 2005

New programs on City TV this month will include more performances from the Takoma Jazz Fest held on June 11, including the Jazz Zen Ensemble plus Tom Roberts; Chuck Redd plus the JazzFest Jam Session, and Postmodern Blues plus Soukous Stars. Be sure to look for the Independence Day Parade which will start airing mid-August. Other Special Events continuing in August are performances from Taste of Takoma.

Takoma Snapshots in August will feature replays from the past year. Please see the web site for a specific schedule.

Visit our Web site at [www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable) to access show listings and times and other specific programming information.

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

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS Tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are now available in DVD for \$20. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

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

Programming subject to change without notice.

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

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

Think Globally, Shop Locally;  
Support  
Takoma Park Businesses



## Takoma's Grand Old Fourth



The Fourth of July parade was, once again, a trademark Takoma Park event, with the diverse community turning out in all its glory. Caribbean, rock and folk music, marching bands and acrobats, peace activists and dog enthusiasts converged for a day of festivity. The Independence Day Committee would like to thank the many businesses, donors, and organizations who so generously contributed to the successful celebration.



*Photos by  
Clyde Lassell*



## Housing Development Slated For Takoma Metro Site is Unpopular

*Continued from page 1*

with the current development plans, the Council's resolution pledges to make the issue a priority for city staff, who are expected to follow through with correspondence to federal, state, county, and district officials. The possibility of legal action was also discussed at the council meeting, where a number of citizens urged Council to take their objections to court. So many people participated in the meeting that it ran an hour over schedule.

Despite a feeling of exclusion, residents seem determined to voice their concerns, and insist on being heard.

"You have a seat at the table," Takoma, D.C. resident Sarah Green told the Council, pointing out that taxes pay for public sites for transit and recreation. "You've been paying for that seat for many, many years."



Photo by Virginia Myers Kelly

**Under the new proposal, parking at Metro would decrease by about half.**

### 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](http://www.dat.state.md.us) or call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.