Pay It Back: Recreation, Parks Tax Too Much

By Howard Kohn

This year Takoma Park residents will pay $258,440 in recreation taxes to Montgomery County, a holdover from a time when both Montgomery and Prince George's counties delivered recreational services inside the city limits. Now that the City operates all government-run recreation in town, should Takoma Park residents shoulder the burden of a quarter-million-dollar county tax?

"No way" was the unanimous conclusion of the Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) in its recent report to the City Council. The Committee urged the City Council to take steps to eliminate the tax. Although the County Council and County Executive would have to jointly approve the change, this is a relatively straightforward matter that should gain approval by both the City and the County, the Committee found.

TASDI also pointed to another tax inequity in the size of the park rebate that Montgomery County pays back to Takoma Park for park services the City provides. During the current fiscal year, Takoma Park taxpayers will pay the County $826,800 for park services, of which only $71,740 will be rebated back to the City.

The strongest argument in favor of a bigger park rebate lies in the fact that the current rebate formula is outdated and depend on the two counties for recreational basics, both services and facilities. The City's public works department oversaw the upkeep of city-owned parks, such as Jeggie and Forest, but not the bigger park systems along Sligo Creek and Long Branch.

Following Takoma Park's unification into one county in 1997, a more self-reliant philosophy took hold. Through memos of understanding with Montgomery County the City assumed control of a large recreation facility on New Hampshire Avenue (to which the County contributes $100,000 yearly) and the sports fields adjacent to Takoma Park Middle and Pinney Branch Elementary schools.

With these new arrangements, the City expanded its recreational programming while the County realigned the delivery of recreational programs to widely dispersed community centers, the nearest of which is Long Branch Community Center, just outside town on Pinney Branch Road. In 2003, with

continued on page 12

Taggers in Takoma Park

New gangs setting out their turf? Not so, according to Ofc. Cory Brodzinski, gang coordinator at the Montgomery County Police Silver Spring District. These two are "taggers" who spray paint their moniker or symbol widely to gain notoriety, including in Takoma Park. They may also spawn imitators, who take up the name. For more on gangs and graffiti, see page 9.
Monday, September 5, 2005 - Labor Day - City Offices Closed for the Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 6, 2005 - Presentation, Interviews, Special Session and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

Thursday, September 8, 2005 - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

Monday, September 12, 2005 - Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

Tuesday, September 13, 2005 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

Tuesday, September 13, 2005 - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (6 Grant Avenue)

Wednesday, September 14, 2005 - Town Hall Meeting About Gags, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

Thursday, September 15, 2005 - Meeting of the Noise Control Board, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

Monday, September 19, 2005 - Presentation, Interviews, Public Hearing and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

Tuesday, September 20, 2005 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Lobby)

Tuesday, September 20, 2005 - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. (Montgomery College Provost’s Office Conference Room, corner of New York and Takoma Avenues)

Monday, September 26, 2005 - Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

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.

Monday, September 12, 2005

Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council.

Monday, September 19, 2005

Presentation, Interviews, Public Hearing and Worksession of the City Council.

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council.

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council.

Monday, October 2, 2005

Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council.

Monday, October 9, 2005

Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council.

October 22, 2005

Save the date!

Takoma Park Community Center

GALA OPENING

October 22, 2 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting

An afternoon of
Music, food, exhibits, activities, performances, and
Celebration!

ABC Safe Roadways Committee

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Meeting of the Noise Control Board.

October 22, 2005

Save the date!

Takoma Park Community Center

GALA OPENING

October 22, 2 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting

An afternoon of
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Think Globally, Shop Locally; Support
Takoma Park Businesses

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.

July 11, 2005 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2005-54 was adopted, approving the revised Affordable Housing Policy and Action Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

Ordinance 2005-21 was adopted, awarding a contract to Video Pipe Services, Inc. for storm drain inlet cleaning and TV inspection (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

The Consent Agenda was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry). It included the following:
• Resolution 2005-55, providing for appointments to the Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs
• Resolution 2005-56, appointing a Montgomery County representative to the Emergency Preparedness Committee
• Resolution 2005-57, providing for an appointment to the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee

July 18, 2005 - Special Session

Resolution 2005-58 was adopted, appointing Marie Ritzo as Ward 2 Councilmember to fill the unexpired term of Heather Mizeur (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

Resolution 2005-59 was adopted, opposing the Joint Development Sales Agreement for the sale and development of open space located at the Takoma Metro Center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

Ordinance 2005-22 was accepted at first reading, amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 8.12 - Peddlers and Transient Merchants (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

Ordinance 2005-23 was accepted at first reading, authorizing a PILOT agreement with Edinburgh House (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

Ordinance 2005-24 was accepted at first reading, authorizing the purchase of furniture and equipment for the Community Center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

July 25, 2005 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2005-60 was adopted, honoring the contributions of Crossing Guard Annie Cotton (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Elrich).

Ordinance 2005-22 was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 8.12 - Peddlers and Transient Merchants (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Elrich).

Ordinance 2005-23 was adopted, authorizing a PILOT agreement with Edinburgh House (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Elrich).

Ordinance 2005-24 was adopted, authorizing the purchase of furniture and equipment for the Community Center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Elrich).

The Consent Agenda was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Elrich). It included the following:
• Resolution 2005-61, providing for appointments to the Arts and Humanities Commission
• Resolution 2005-62, providing for appointments to the Committee on the Environment
• Resolution 2005-63, providing for the appointment of a Historic Takoma, Inc. representative and alternate to the Facade Advisory Board
• Resolution 2005-64, setting forth Council’s 2005 Summer Recess

Committee Vacancies

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

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.

Noise Control Board.
The seven-member board is charged with assisting and advising the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance, and adjudicating noise disturbance complaints.

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.

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.

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. Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk’s 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.
Housing Mailbox

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

Question: A tenant called regarding her interest in becoming a homeowner.
From Renter to First-time Homeowner
So you’ve decided to stop being a renter and jump into the world of buying a home. Congratulations! You are making a responsible decision and will have a new way of looking at your finances. The first thing you need to do is decide what kind of a home you can afford and how much money you can afford to pay. To determine how much you can afford, you need to look at your income and expenses and a chart or worksheet that will help you analyze your monthly income and expenses. A chart or worksheet will also help you determine how much mortgage you can afford to pay.

To help determine how much mortgage you can afford, you need to look at your income and expenses and a chart or worksheet that will help you analyze your monthly income and expenses. A chart or worksheet will also help you determine how much mortgage you can afford to pay.

The improvements included adjusting entrance door, replacing smoke detector, and adjusting entrance door. Some improvements were disallowed because (1) the costs per item were under $200 or $2,500 for the rental facility, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

381 Roanoke Avenue (2005-13L)
On July 23, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from $11.52 to $14.30. The improvements included replacing the doors and A/C outlets, painting, installing new screens, blinds, and smoke detector, and adjusting entrance door. Some improvements were disallowed because (1) the costs per item were under $200 or $2,500 for the rental facility, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

382 Roanoke Avenue (2005-11L)
On July 6, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for increased rent ranging from $0.12 to $29.99 on all six units at the property. The improvements included replacing entrance and mailbox locks, painting, installing new screens, blinds, and smoke detector, and adjusting entrance door. Some improvements were disallowed because (1) the costs per item were under $200 or $2,500 for the rental facility, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

382 Roanoke Avenue (2005-14L)
On July 8, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for increased rent ranging from $0.12 to $29.99 on all six units at the property. The improvements included replacing entrance and mailbox locks, painting, installing new screens, blinds, and smoke detector, and adjusting entrance door. Some improvements were disallowed because (1) the costs per item were under $200 or $2,500 for the rental facility, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

381 Roanoke Avenue (2005-15L)
On July 8, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for increased rent ranging from $0.12 to $29.99 on all six units at the property. The improvements included replacing entrance and mailbox locks, painting, installing new screens, blinds, and smoke detector, and adjusting entrance door. Some improvements were disallowed because (1) the costs per item were under $200 or $2,500 for the rental facility, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

380 Roanoke Avenue (2005-11L)
On July 6, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from $1.99 to $6.65 on all six units at the property. The improvements included replacing hall light fixture, bedroom light globe and two screens. Landlord petitioned for all six units at the property. However, several improvements were disallowed because (1) the costs per item were under $200 or $2,500 for the rental facility, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

381 Roanoke Avenue (2005-13L)
On July 8, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from $0.90 to $14.37 on all units (six) at the property. The improvements included new refrigerator, replacing smoke detectors and broken door, adjusting entrance door, installing new mailboxes and caulkling all molding. Some improvements were disallowed because (1) the costs per item were under $200 or $2,500 for the rental facility, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

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**2005 Election Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 4, 2005, 7:30 p.m. (Rosh Hashanah)</td>
<td>Charter-mandated date for the City Nominating Caucus - proposed motion and vote to adjourn and continue the Nominating Caucus to Wednesday, October 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Continuation of Nominating Caucus to accept nominations of candidates for Mayor and Councilmembers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 10, 2005</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 10, 2005</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 14, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Candidates’ Financial Disclosure Statements (Ethics Code) due to City Clerk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 19 (tentative)</td>
<td>Receipt of updated certified list of Takoma Park voters from Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 28, 5 p.m. (or 10/29/05 postmark)</td>
<td>Candidates’ Initial Campaign Contribution Reports due to City Clerk - to include contributions received since November 4, 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 1, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Last day to make application for regular Absentee Ballot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 2</td>
<td>Emergency absentee balloting begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 4, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 8, ELECTION DAY, Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Special meetings of the Mayor and Council to receive the certification of the election results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 11, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Deadline for contesting the results of the election and validity of absentee ballot voting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 14, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Final Campaign Contribution Report due to City Clerk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On or before Tuesday, November 15</td>
<td>If applicable Election Judges (3) report on election contest investigation and recommend action to Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m. (On or before Friday, November 18)</td>
<td>If applicable Special Meeting of Council to determine any election contest(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 21</td>
<td>Inauguration -Mayor and Councilmembers take office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On or before Friday, December 23, 2005</td>
<td>Deadline for holding a run-off election — in event of a tie vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8, 2006</td>
<td>Deadline for keeping ballots, punch cards, voting machine records, absentee ballots.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Search of Singers**

The Takoma Park Singers, a community chorus for mixed voices, is looking for new members. Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m., and begin Wednesday, September 7. For further information call 301-681-9498.

**Planting Community at Westmoreland and Elm**

During the last week in May, the Gardens unit from Public Works partnered with citizens and members of the Westmoreland Area Community Organization (WACO) in a weekend planting for the corner of Westmoreland and Elm Avenues. Neighborhood residents donated daylilies and other perennials and after the soil had been prepared to streetscaping requirements, planted them along with liriope in this neighborhood bump-out garden. Public Works will complete the space with woody plants and other features by the end of August. City Gardener Mike Welsh calls the project “a very pleasant experience and successful partnership of community and city.”

**Calendario Electoral 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fecha</th>
<th>Evento</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martes, 4 de octubre, 2005, 7:30 p.m. (Rosh Hashanah)</td>
<td>Fecha obligatoria para el Grupo de Nominaciones – moción propuesta y vota para pasar a recuento hasta el miércoles, 5 de octubre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martes, 5 de octubre, 7:30 p.m. (sujeta al voto realizado en la reunión del Grupo de Nominaciones del 4 de octubre)</td>
<td>Continuación del Grupo de Nominaciones para aceptar las nominaciones de los candidatos para Alcalde o miembros del Consejo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunes, 10 de octubre, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Fecha límite para que los candidatos nombrados retiren su candidatura. La declinación debe presentarse por escrito a la Oficina del Secretario Municipal durante los tres días siguientes a su nominación.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miércoles, 9 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fecha límite para recibir inscripciones. Todas las inscripciones y cambio de dirección debe haberse recibido en las oficinas de la Junta de Supervisores Electorales del Condado de Montgomery para esta 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viernes, 14 de octubre, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Entrega de los informes financieros de los candidatos (Código Ético) al Secretario Municipal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martes, 1 de noviembre, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Último día para solicitar una boleta regular de Votación en Ausencia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miércoles, 2 de noviembre</td>
<td>Fecha en que se inicia la votación en ausencia de emergencia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viernes, 4 de noviembre, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martes, 8 de noviembre, ELECCIONES, las urnas abren de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viernes, 11 de noviembre, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Fecha límite para objetar los resultados de la elección y la validez de la votación en ausencia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunes, 14 de noviembre, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Fecha límite para la entrega de los informes de contribución electoral al Secretario Municipal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunes, 21 de noviembre</td>
<td>Toma de posesión – El Alcalde y los miembros del Consejo toman posesión del cargo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viernes, 25 de diciembre, 5 p.m. (en esta fecha o antes)</td>
<td>Fecha límite para una elección de desempate – en caso de empate en la votación.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miércoles, 8 de febrero, 2006</td>
<td>Fecha límite para guardar las boletas, tarjetas perforadas, registros de máquinas electorales y boletas de votos en ausencia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Nominations of Candidates for Mayor and Councilmember
At the Caucus, nominations of candidates for Mayor or Councilmember can be made on motion of any voter of the City, and if such nomination is seconded, the person nominated will be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for Councilmember can be made on motion of any voter of her/his ward, and if such nomination is seconded, the person so nominated will be considered a candidate. A nominated candidate may decline a nomination during the Nominating Caucus. A person may only accept a nomination for one City office. The name of each person nominated for the office of Mayor or Councilmember will be placed upon the official ballot for the November 8 City Election unless the person files a declination with the City Clerk by 5 p.m. within three days after his/her nomination.

Write-In Candidates in the Election
Any write-in candidate for Mayor or Councilmember who wishes to be pre-registered as a write-in candidate and to have her/his name posted in the voting booth for the purpose of identifying her/him as a candidate for office, must file her/his name with the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the election.

Any person nominated or presenting herself/himself as a write-in candidate must meet the qualifications of the office for which she/he is nominated. A person whose name appears on the ballot may not register as a write-in candidate, and a person may only register as a write-in candidate for one office in any election.

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Any person nominated or presenting herself/himself as a write-in candidate must meet the qualifications of the office for which she/he is nominated. A person whose name appears on the ballot may not register as a write-in candidate, and a person may only register as a write-in candidate for one office in any election.

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RECREATION

Kindermusik Village
Ages newborn - 3½
Do-It-Do
Pick up your baby and dance the Charleston, the Tango, and the Cha-Cha. Learn why dancing with your baby helps them develop vital learning skills—from head to toe. A materials fee of $29, to be paid to the instructor the first day of class. Your At Home Materials kit features 50 songs, sound recordings of favorite activities from class. The kit also includes two storybooks to develop early literacy skills and a specially-made zig-zag block instrument to develop rhythm and hand-eye coordination. A materials fee of $47 is to be paid to instructor the first day of class. Maximum of 10, minimum of four. Fifteen weeks.
When: Mon., Sept. 19, 2005 - Jan. 26, 2006 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center
Time: 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
Fees: T.P. Res. $180/session
Non-Res. $240/session

Kindermusik Our Time
Ages 1½ - 3
Wiggles and Giggles
With more than 30 songs, 15 dances, and many different instruments this class is designed to reflect the importance of movement in the life of a toddler. The double-CD set in your At Home Materials Kit features 50 songs, sound recordings of favorite activities from class. The kit also includes two storybooks to develop early literacy skills and a specially-made zig-zag block instrument to develop rhythm and hand-eye coordination. A materials fee of $47 is to be paid to instructor the first day of class. Maximum of 10, minimum of four. Fifteen weeks.
Location: Heffner Community Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $140
Non-Res. $180

Kindermusik Imagine That
Ages 3 - 5
See What I Saw
Your preschooler will use his/her real experience playing in the park to create imaginative, story-telling scenarios with music. Each uninterrupted session of imaginative play ends with a special Family Sharing Time the last 15 minutes of class. A materials fee of $57 is to be paid to instructor the first day of class. At Home Materials include a double CD, Family Activity Book, “Grasshopper Park” game board, wooden slide whistle instrument, and backpack. Maximum of eight, minimum of four. Fifteen weeks.
Location: Heffner Community Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $150
Non-Res. $170

KiddCity
Grades 1 - 5
The KIDDITY program will offer: youth tutoring, mentoring, and recreational activities at minimal cost to parents. The program will operate Monday through Thursday at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. The fun will begin at 3:30 p.m. and conclude at 6:30 p.m.
When: Mon. - Thurs.
Time: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center,
7915 New Hampshire Ave
Fees: T.P. Res. $10 per month
Non-Res. $15 per month
All payments are due first Monday of the month, only checks or money orders are accepted.

Touch a Truck
For all those who love trucks
Breaker, breaker we got us a convoy. Check out the Takoma Park Recreation Department and Public Works Touch A Truck, featuring a Bobcat, Street Sweeper, Dump Truck, Trash Truck and many others. Stop inside each monster truck and dig it! This program is geared towards children ages 1-6. The first 175 truckers get a construction hat.
When: Sept. 17, 2005 (rain date Sept. 18, at 1 p.m.)
Location: Public Works Garage Area, Oswego Ave.
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Fee: Free!

Puppy Kindergarten
Your pup will have time to socialize, while you learn what is and isn’t normal doggy etiquette, and how to address common puppy issues. This group has open registration between September 24 and December 17. Register for six sessions, and attend any Saturday Puppy Kindergarten up to your six-session limit. Bring current vaccination records to the first class. Kids 10 and up with an adult are welcome! Indoor Location.
When: Sat., Sept. 24 - Dec. 17
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Location: Heffner Park Community Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $75
Non-Res. $85

Basic Dog Manners
Teach your older puppy or adult dog the basics of good manners: attention, sit down, come when called, leave it and beginning leash walking. Positive reinforcement training using NO PUNISHMENT and lots of fun. Dogs five months and up who do not bark and lunge aggressively at other dogs are welcome in the class. Bring current vaccination records to the first class. Kids 10 and up with an adult are welcome! Limit eight dogs. Six weeks. Indoor Location.
Session I: Sat., Sept. 24 - Oct. 29, 2005
Time: 11 a.m. - noon
Location: Heffner Park Community Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $85
Non-Res. $95

Intermediate Dog Manners
Those who have graduated from the basic level dog classes through the Logical Dog can now go further to teach better attention, faster recall with small distractions, advance leave it, wait, and better leash walking/heeling. Pups and dogs of all ages are welcome in this class. Kids 10 and up with an adult are welcome! Limit eight dogs. Six weeks.
Session I: Sat., Sept. 24 - Oct. 29, 2005
Time: Noon - 1 p.m.
Location: Heffner Park Community Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $85
Non-Res. $95
No class on Nov. 26.

Afternoon Addition Seeks Staff
Takoma Park Recreation Department is looking for qualified staff who love working with children for our Afternoon Addition after school program. Part-time role, responsible for planning and conducting programs in arts, sports, drama, and other activities for children. Applicant must be a high school graduate. Experience with children and CPR and First Aid certification a plus. Hourly rate $8.12-6.99 depending on level of education and experience. Equal opportunity employer.
Fax resume/application 301-270-8794 or send it to 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 Attn.: Recreation Department Deadline: open until filled.
For the College Bound . . . 2005!

The Takoma Park Maryland Library is once again presenting this fall a series of informative and useful programs to illuminate the process of choosing and preparing for college. Our speakers are all experienced professionals who will educate, inspire, and answer questions about the issues that arise in considering education beyond high school. You may call 301-891-7259, or stop by the Takoma Park Maryland Library to pre-register for these scheduled programs, which are free and open to the public:

Thursday September 29, 7:30 p.m.: “Going to College: Overview”
Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre will help you get started on the selection process. Which schools might provide the right fit — academically, financially and personally — for you? Topics include sorting out your personal criteria and goals, the admissions process, competitiveness, where do I go from here? Potts-Dupre has a private counseling practice in Takoma Park. She advises students and families on college options and choices. A former faculty research associate at the University of Maryland where she taught in the honors undergraduate scholarship program, Potts-Dupre has visited and evaluated more than 500 colleges nationwide. She enjoys helping students define and achieve personal and educational goals.

Thursday October 6, 7:30 p.m.: “Financial Aid for College”
Dr. Herm Davis, author of the bestselling Financial Aid for Dummies, will discuss the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work-study, college savings plans, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application, and more. One of the nation’s foremost student aid authorities, Davis heads the National College Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit organization providing information to students, and directs College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. He is a 30-year veteran in financial aid and scholarship information.

Thursday October 20, 7 p.m.: [note earlier time]: “How to prepare for SATs/ACTs”
Ilhan Cagri returns to demystify the dreaded SAT. She and one of her talented sons will discuss how students as well as parents should prepare for it. They will also present information about the new SAT introduced in spring 2005. Cagri has taught and designed SAT preparation classes for Montgomery County Public Schools, in private schools, and as a private tutor. She has five children, all of whom have taken the SAT for various purposes, and several of whom have assisted with her presentation at the Takoma Park Library.

Thursday October 27, 7:30 p.m.: “Is There a College for My Child?”
Judy Bass presents a program for families on selecting the best colleges for students with LD and/or ADHD. Bass is an educational consultant with Bass Educational Services and has more than 25 years experience in education.

Philosophizing With Chris Phillips

Chris Phillips, the peripatetic teacher of philosophy for children, returns to the Takoma Park Maryland Library on Tuesday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. Phillips will lead adults and children ages 8 and up in an evening of philosophical discussion using the hermeneutic, or indirect mode of inquiry, that Socrates used.

Chris and his wife Cecilia have visited the Takoma Park Maryland Library on previous occasions to lead these discussions. Each time there has been a new crowd with no way to anticipate which way the discussion will go! But each time there has been something to contribute to the discussion and the next week there has been an eager audience.

Retrieving a World of Music from the Library’s Multi-National Collection

By Nic Fontem Technical Services Coordinator

Since the Library introduced some 30 African music CDs about four years ago to its collection, so many patrons enjoyed them that the library has expanded its selection each year. Last June, we purchased more than two dozen CDs to add to the mix. Many music lovers sampling this collection may be unclear about how to find what they want using the Online Card Catalog (OPAC). Generally speaking, the entire music collection is housed by the numerical order in which it was acquired, i.e. from CD001 onward. This may frustrate some library users, who expect the LC Call Number or the Dewey Classification System utilized in our book collections. Furthermore, searching the music collection by author, title, or subject can be difficult because these presume familiarity with the items being sought, and our World Music is not very common or well known.

If a patron knows the artist or title of a selection, it can be searched by these categories. Remember that you do not have to type in the complete name or the complete title for a successful search. However, if you are not familiar with author or title entries, all hope is not lost! The trick is to search by Word List (or Keyword), or Advanced Search (or Combination Search). In the case of World Music, you may try keywords like Rumba, Makossa, Seoukou, Bikutsi, Merengue, Reggae, or Zouk. To retrieve items from the OPAC using Advanced Search, click Advanced Search, then type the search phrase in the Key Word box. Popular headings that would retrieve some of our World Music could be: World Music, World Beat, Popular Music Africa (or Cameroon, Congo, etc.), Dance Music Africa (or Cameroon, Congo, etc.).

While we are at this, many patrons have often asked how to browse the Library’s complete list of music CDs from the OPAC. A quick way would be: click Number Search, then in the Bib Call Number box, type in CD 001. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click Next to see subsequent pages.

I hope these little tricks will help you retrieve the items you seek. Please never hesitate to ask the staff at the front desk to help you find the items if you find any problems using the catalog. We are there to serve you!

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Summer Quest and the Turning of the Seasons

Participants in Summer Quest, the Library’s summer reading program, are invited to celebrate the end of their summer reading at a little party in the Children’s Room, Monday evening, September 19, at 7 p.m. There will be time for special ideas and experiences with special treats in store.

This year’s readers have seemed more dedicated than ever, with a large proportion of the participants reading vigorously throughout the summer. The adventuresome bunnies on the board have traveled a long way since they set out, facing all sorts of challenges (i.e. read a weird book, a Librarian’s choice book, a book by a Takoma Park author, and so on.) Everyone can be an authentic winner with the summer reading. Some children read many books and others savor really long books. Some re-read old favorites and some enjoy the challenge of reading a book they would not have picked up on their own. And for many children, the true joy of reading first awakens and blooms in the relaxed atmosphere of summer reading for pleasure.

Please let this know if you are planning to attend the Turning of the Seasons. Parents are invited to join their young summer readers at this event. Call 301-891-7259.

Jordan Dewar is a Summer Quest winner. True, she was the first participant whose bunny reached its destination on the board. But she is also a winner for her love of reading and her many visits to the Library this summer. She comes from a family of voracious readers and stalwart library patrons. Jordan is 8 years old and will be in the third grade at Piney Branch Elementary School. Congratulations, Jordan.

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Library Programs September and Early October

Autumn Session of the Twosomes for two-year-olds with parent/caregiver group size limited: pre-registration required Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
September 14, 21, 28, October 5

Summer Quest Wind-up/Turning of the Seasons Monday evening, September 19, 7 p.m. (see story)

Neighborhood Circle Time Open to all preschoolers & their adults each Tuesday at 10 a.m. Informal singalongs, poetry, finger games, and nursery tales, with participant leadership welcomed. All ages: no pre-registration required

College Bound Series Begins Thurs. Sept. 29 (See article)
Socrates Café with Chris Phillips Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

Reserve 7:30, October 27 Now! For Candace Wolf’s annual Halloween Stories
Call 301-891-7259 to pre-register for programs or for more information.

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Mysterious Bones Found During Renovation

Bones discovered during renovation work in a Takoma Park building halted construction for a day, while state examiners worked to determine whether they were remnants of a long-past crime. Workmen in the basement of a Westmoreland Avenue home were惊奇, however, and she’d love to hear about other oddities discovered during Takoma Park renovations. Send your discoveries to Virginia Kelly, Takoma Park City Newsletter, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912, or newsletter@takomaparks.org.

Robberies

On August 13 at 7 a.m., in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was walking when he was approached by three subjects who demanded his backpack. When the victim refused, one of the suspects threatened him with a knife and the victim handed over his property. The subjects fled on foot. The victim was not injured. See (arrests) On July 16 at 12:32 a.m. in the 7300 block of Virginia Avenue, an armed robbery occurred. Two adult women were walking when they were approached by two subjects who demanded money. One subject displayed a handgun. The subjects walked away after the victims handed over their cash. Neither victim was injured. On July 21 at 9:48 p.m. in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue, an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was standing by his parked vehicle when two subjects approached him, pointed guns at him and demanded his money. The victim handed over his wallet and the subjects fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

Auto and related theft

Between August 5 at 9 p.m. and August 13 at 10 a.m. in the 7000 block of Aspen Avenue, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1994 Audi Integra. On August 16, between 12:15 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1998 Crown Victoria. Between August 5 at 9 p.m. and August 6 at 4 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1994 Chrysler Concorde. Between August 5 at 11:05 p.m. and August 6 at 7:30 a.m. in the 6700 block of Prince George’s Avenue, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1989 Olds Delta 88. The occurred is at 3:30 p.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd., an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2000 Dodge Intrepid. The victim was returning to a commercial plaza, which was in a parking lot when he saw a subject enter and drive it away. On August 5, between 4:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. in the 6900 block of Kentland Avenue, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2000 Dodge Intrepid. The victim was returning to a commercial plaza, which was in a parking lot when he saw a subject enter and drive it away. On August 5, between 4:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. in the 6900 block of Kentland Avenue, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2000 Dodge Intrepid. The victim was returning to a commercial plaza, which was in a parking lot when he saw a subject enter and drive it away. On August 5, between 4:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. in the 6900 block of Kentland Avenue, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2000 Dodge Intrepid. The victim was returning to a commercial plaza, which was in a parking lot when he saw a subject enter and drive it away.

Violence under investigation

On August 12 at 1:07 p.m. in the 8200 block of Roanoke Avenue, police received several reports of gun shots heard. When police responded, they found an adult male who said he had earlier been involved in an argument with a subject known to a friend of his in front of the friend’s home. A short time later while the victim was still standing outside speaking to friends, the subject returned and fired a gun at the victim four times, hitting a parked vehicle and missing the victim and bystanders. The incident is under investigation.

ARRESTS

On August 12 at 2:03 p.m. in the 7600 block of Carroll Avenue, a criminal citation for animal cruelty was issued to an adult male who left a puppy in a locked unventilated car. On August 17 at 11:25 a.m. in the 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue, an adult male was arrested on open warrant applied for by Takoma Park Police for an armed robbery committed on 7/29/05 on the 800 block of Larch Avenue. On August 18 at 11:12 a.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an adult male was arrested and charged with armed robbery after another adult male reported a commercial burglary was committed by two subjects who held knives to his sides and stole cash and property from him. The victim was not injured. On August 10 at 11:52 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue, an adult male was arrested and charged with theft under $500, 2nd degree assault, tampering with a motor vehicle and rogue and vagabond after the owner of a parked vehicle caught the suspect in his car, attempting to steal items. On July 28 at 11:00 a.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd., a male juvenile was charged with Theft Under $500. On July 28 at 11:36 p.m. in the 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue, an adult male reported a burglary occurred to gain entry. Property was taken. Female were charged with possession of CDS and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia after a routine traffic stop. On July 16 at 5:33 a.m. in the 6800 block of Flower Avenue, an adult male was charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Driving While Impaired by Alcohol, Failure to Drive Right and Driving Without a License.
Graffiti Not Always Gang Related

Some graffiti is simply individual creativity or vandalism, like this drawing, right. Police document 20 or more such incidents annually. The property owner must remove or obscure the graffiti within one week after being advised of its existence or the City may clean up the graffiti and charge the property owner. The parents of a minor who commits this offense can be charged for the minor’s vandalism. Other graffiti is more serious, and sometimes involves gangs. Like any community in the Metropolitan area, Takoma Park may occasionally experience crimes related to gangs common to the area, as well as local “crews” or groups of young criminals. Currently the city doesn’t have significant gang problems, according to Lt. Richard Cipperly of the investigations unit, but does maintain contact with gang task forces to benefit from their intelligence. See box on this page for information on an upcoming meeting about gangs.

Blue Plate Special: Ridealong for Lunch

By Carol Bannerman

Police Affairs Specialist

Getting a ride to lunch with a police officer can be a real eye-opener. Here’s an account that shows a trip to the deli can take unexpected turns.

Not long ago, Chief Creamer offered to drive two staff members to pick up lunch, just something quick to get us back for a 1 p.m. training. Turning her unmarked cruiser north onto Piney Branch, she broke into our conversation.

“This guys behind us. I don’t recognize them as belonging to that car,” she said. “Not unusual, we civilians thought. Who could know every car and driver?”

“No,” she continued. “I’m sure that’s the car of a young woman I helped with a car problem last week.” She went on to detail her certainty that this particular SUV belonged to a certain woman. As she spoke, she pulled over to allow the car to pass, which it did at a fairly high speed, driven by two young men.

Although now understand this, many people don’t realize: local police tend to know the people and vehicles in their area of patrol. One ride-along participant once told me she was surprised her host officer could identify parked cars strange to a street at 2 a.m. and note when known cars were parked in different spots than usual. We civilians may think of community policing as a walking beat patrol. It is certainly more than that.

The car the Chief was following straddled the lane line; poor driver or uncertain which way he wanted to turn at the upcoming intersection? By now she was on her radio, requesting a check of whether the vehicle was stolen. The car slowed turning right at a red light, signaling only after it entered the turn. About this time, dispatch reported the car wasn’t listed as stolen, but we civilians were getting into this. We urged him to continue. Maybe the owner hadn’t made a report yet. Then the car made a quick left onto a side street.

The ride was made short: the driver proved to be the young woman’s friend, using the SUV with permission. But he didn’t have a license to show and had been suspended in another state. He received a citation for that. A back-up officer identified the rider as someone who associated with another City resident, currently doing time in prison for armed robbery. Another benefit of community policing.) The passenger was wanted for failure to appear on drug possession charges and was arrested. Rather than impound the vehicle, the driver was allowed to call the owner who came and claimed her vehicle. The Chief offered the young woman advice about whom to loan her car to. (Maybe not a benefit of community policing, in a young person’s eyes?)

Normally all a ride gets me is lunch, but other times I have responded to traffic stops that netted currency forgery, ended up on stakeouts for stolen motorcycles and more. A ride-along may provide more than an evening spent with a young police officer, or it might prove something more exciting. In any case, it will offer a new perspective on the City and a little insight into how police do their job and why.

Ride-Along is available to any resident 16 years or older. An application and guidelines are available at the Police Dispatch window. Bring ID when making your application.

School Opens August 28, Remember to Drive Safely

September’s back to school season signals the start of a coordinated campaign among law enforcement organizations throughout the region, focusing on traffic enforcement in school zones and on bus routes. It is also the time for parents to review safe walking ideas with their children.

For young pedestrians, especially those in elementary school (ages 5 to 9), the after-school hours (4-8 p.m.) are the most dangerous. Parents should review the safe routes that they approve for their children to follow, as well as basic pedestrian rules.

If they are unable to walk with their children every day, parents should set aside a few days to walk with their young students to model safe behaviors and set the family’s own rules for safe routes and habits.

The safer routes are those with the least amount of traffic, sidewalks, and crosswalks controlled by a guard or signal. Children should use sidewalks whenever they are available and cross streets only at corners or in crosswalks. Takoma Park Police urge parents to encourage their children to use sidewalks whenever possible: numerous complaints have been received about students walking in the street and in parking lots, both dangerous practices. Also, if a child bikes or rides a scooter, safety rules should be reviewed.

Takoma Park school crossing guards are posted at Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch (two guards), on Maple Avenue at Sherman, Grant and Philadelphia, and on Philadelphia at Holly and Cedar. In July, the City Council approved an eighth crossing guard for the Takoma Park Police, which will extend the assignment of a crossing guard at Cedar and Philadelphia Avenues. In May the Council requested a guard be assigned at that location temporarily. All of these posts are staffed during elementary school hours (8:20-9:20 a.m. and 3:20-3:50 p.m.). Some corner men are also staffed during middle school hours (7:20-8 a.m. and 2:40-3 p.m.).

The 2005 “Back to School” enforcement campaign, sponsored by the Council of Governments, begins in September. In past campaigns, police cited thousands of motorists for speeding in school zones from Prince George’s County to Gaithersburg and Fairfax. The fine for passing a stopped school bus is $270 and two points. All vehicles must come to a complete stop when encountering a school bus with its manual stop extended and lights flashing. The speed limit in a school zone is 15 m.p.h. when controls are displayed and fines are doubled for exceeding the limit. In general, the maximum speed for most city streets is 25 m.p.h.

Takoma Park includes seven school zones and numerous bus routes. Use caution when traveling in these areas. Children and young people are walking to school, parents should consult the school’s own plans for entrances, exits, and drop-off points.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) operates five coordinated regional traffic enforcement campaigns annually.

Fingerprinting for Safety

The Takoma Park Police will offer free fingerprinting for children on Sept. 24, 1-4 p.m. at the Our Lady of Sorrows Gymnasium, 1010 Larch Ave., Takoma Park. Consider bringing our children as part of creating a permanent identification record for them.

Town Hall Meeting Addresses Gangs

Following two gang-related stabbing incidents in Montgomery County and three knife-related incidents in nearby Langley Park, a town hall meeting about gangs has been scheduled for Sept. 14, 7-9 p.m.

“‘What We Know, What We Should Do’ was requested by Councilmember Doug Barry of Ward 6, the area of the city nearest Langley Park.

The town hall meeting will take place in the Council Chambers at 7500 Maple Avenue and is open to all residents. Police Chief Cindy Creamer has invited gang specialists from the Montgomery and Prince George’s County Police, as well as representatives of the State’s Attorneys to discuss the issues.
Laureate Puts Poetry in Action

By Joy Jones

When you ask Don Berger, Poet Laureate of Takoma Park about the job of a poet, it’s verbs, not adjectives that come tumbling out. “Create…” “Jolt…” “Surprise…” “Celebrate…” Don Berger quickly establishes that poetry is not for the lay-about. Nominated by a colleague and appointed Poet Laureate of Takoma Park in June, 2005, Berger’s approach to poetry is active, contemporary and inclusive. For him, it’s “thrilling” to be official poet for a city in love with the arts. For him, poetry is an action word.

Don won a poetry contest in 6th grade with an original poem about a Hobbit. He started writing regularly when he was in middle school, keeping a journal of his thoughts, observations and phrases during family travel vacations. Even then, says Berger, he considered his collection of written words and phrasings “sacred.” In high school, he and some friends compiled a book of poetry titled “Dissection of the Cat and Other Selected Sheep Organs,” named after his high school biology text.

Later at university, Don enhanced his talent with writing classes and poetry workshops. He followed the beat poets of the 1960s, and studied the masters and the innovators. He started reading and translating poets from other cultures. He realized poetry was his life’s vocation, and began the daily striving for originality, beauty, and freshness in his work.

“Poetry is important because while life without art is possible, poetry enriches life,” says Berger. “Poetry represents how people think and the movement of how people think. It hits on all our basic urgencies: pleasure, love, fear, hatred. And it celebrates the use of interesting, useful and powerful language.”

“I was only afraid when I didn’t have words for what I meant, or when the words had been wrong… — from “I Forget” by Don Berger

But what about people who think that poetry is just an exercise, an indulgence in self-expression? Berger is animated. “No! Poetry is not just to gush about personal feelings and throw personal emotions down on the page. Of course when you write poetry you are expressing yourself, but a good poet learns to externalize. A good poet has imagination, and can find and use different characters and voices to communicate.

“Fair horse with no rider save
A rider who knows nothing about horses, that’s
About the only thing in the world as of now.
Pity the horse for the hurried rider
Trying to read a book
About horses, while trying to chase the horse.”

— “Horse” by Donald Berger

Part of the power of poetry is that you can create myths and stories. It doesn’t have to be autobiographical, and not everything in poetry is some kind of deep symbol,” Berger laughs and continues. “You know, sometimes a poem is just a poem.”

I don’t feel like doing anything right now
And I don’t feel like becoming anything either.

Like when something stops
Being fun you stop doing it,
or something stops being fun
When you stop doing it.

Easy weeks,
No damaging winds,
I get to look into your eyes, period.

— The School of I-Don’t-Care” by Donald Berger

Don Berger has big plans for poetry in Takoma Park. Nearing completion is a poem to commemorate the imminent opening of the new Takoma Park Community Center, something that especially motivates Berger because it gives him the chance to demonstrate how poetry can build a sense of community. In the next weeks he plans an open call for poetry submissions by Takoma Park residents for readings and possible publication in the city newsletter. He is also considering a collaborative poem, in which different people add a line, open mike poetry readings; ensuring the work of published Takoma Park poets becomes part of the Takoma Park Maryland Library collection; and collaborations with elementary and middle schools.

Berger also looks forward to creating future works for and bringing poetry to other notable community and cultural occasions. In addition, he imagines periodic recitations to honor poets who have truly developed and mastered their craft, events where residents can meet and hear established poets. For aspiring poets, Don Berger has two words: get active! Go hear live poetry. Browse libraries and bookstores for anthologies. Find your own voice and write your own stuff. Figure out what you want to present to the world. Be disciplined to write every day, even if it’s just 15 minutes. Observe your world. Get excited about language and build your skills to say things in original ways. For kids, Berger says write whenever you want, and start to become aware of language and your world.

Don Berger walks and talks poetry full-time. In addition to being a professional poet and Poet Laureate for Takoma Park, he teaches creative writing at the University of Maryland-College Park and English at Montgomery College-Takoma Park Campus. Berger reads prolifically; among his own favorite poets are Elizabeth Bishop, Blaise Cendrars, Walt Whitman, and James Tate.

Don Berger lives in Takoma Park with his wife, three children, and Bayley, the family beagle.

Come Join in the Folk Festival Fun Set for September 11

The 28th annual Takoma Park Folk Festival will take place on Sunday, September 11 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Middle School. As always, it’s FREE, and will take place rain or shine. The Festival draws several thousand folk enthusiasts each year to rock out and dance to the music of local, regional, and international performers. This year’s range is incredibly diverse, with a mix of African, Latin, and more traditional folk. There’s also a juried craft show and sale, a children’s stage with games and participatory crafts, more than 20 international food vendors, and representatives from more than 100 community groups.

The Festival also raises funds through sponsorships and donations to support local youth groups in Takoma Park and the surrounding area.

Free parking will be available at Montgomery College. A free Festival shuttle bus will run all day between the Festival site, Montgomery College, and Takoma Metro Station.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you would like to help produce the city’s largest Festival, which is solely operated by volunteers, please consider offering a few hours of your time on the day of the event. Or, if you would like to help put on next year’s Festival, please call 301-589-0202, e-mail info@tpff.org, or visit the website, www.tpff.org for more information.

Civil Discourse With Chris Phillips

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adventure into philosophical inquiry has been fascinating.

Information about the Society for Philosophical Inquiry (SPI), founded by Chris and Cecilia Phillips, and the associated gatherings for philosophical discussions, can be found at www.philosopher.org.

The following is excerpted from a recent feature, “Socrates Taken to the Masses,” by Craig Wilson in USA Today, May 30, 2005.

“Marian Jensen, who heads up the trice-monthly Socrates group of about 25 that meet at Sacred Ground, a community center in Butte, Mont., also was looking for such outlet for philosophical discussion of important matters.”

“Like many adults, I recognized that civil discourse is greatly lacking. So we say, Let’s examine the issue without the emotions. We’re trying to move people from saying ‘Believe’ over to ‘I wonder.’ … In the end, everyone feels exhilarated because it’s possible to exchange ideas even when you have different points of view.

“We haven’t had any knock-down, drag-out yet, and for Montana, that’s saying something,” says the former dean of students at Ohio’s Antioch College.

John Wren, who moderates one of the Socrates Cafes in Denver, likens it to “those late-night dorm discussions that used to happen spontaneously.”

Phillips’ most recent book, Six Questions of Socrates, has joined his previous books, Socrates Cafe and the children’s book The Philosophers’ Club in the collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. He is hard at work reworking a draft of his newest book. Please join us! Call 301-891-7259.
**Sweep the Creek Plans Clean-Up**

Love Sligo Creek? Hate litter? Want to make a difference in our neighborhood? Come join Friends of Sligo Creek for the fourth annual Sweep the Creek on Saturday, September 17th from 9 to 11 a.m. This is Friends of Sligo Creek’s biggest event of the year, where volunteers and members work together to remove storm-runoff debris and litter from the entire length of the Creek. Bring the family and meet your neighbors for a morning of environmental and civic action that will directly impact your neighborhood in Takoma Park’s sections of the Creek. Bring the teenagers to work toward their community service requirement. Learn about and see up close how we are impacting the Sligo habitat, wildlife, and watershed.

Contact Claire Garman (cgar@erols.com) or Marty Mitter (marty@tm-art.org) for Sweep meeting locations.

**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.

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 resident will be paid $15 for their service. The Chief Judge will receive $75. The City provides breakfast, lunch and dinner to judges on Election Day. For further information or to request an application, contact Jesse Carpenter, City Clerk, by phone at 301-891-7267 or by e-mail at JessicA@takomagov.org. Application deadline: Sept. 13.

**En Busca de Jueces Electorales**

El Secretario Municipal está buscando a los ciudadanos del martes, 8 de noviembre. Será un día largo de mucho trabajo que resultará productivo y emocionante!

La elección del 2005 se realizó utilizando boletas impresas en lugar de máquinas de selección al azar 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 y 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 o campaña 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 $75. 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 Jesse Carpenter, Secretaria Municipal llamando al 301-891-7267 o por correo electrónico a JessicA@takomagov.org.

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**Takoma Park City TV Events in September 2005**

City TV Special Events this month will include live broadcast of the Town Hall on Gang Violence on September 14. City TV plans to air this live starting at 7 p.m. The event will also be replayed over the next month; please see the City website for specific times and dates.

News coverage and airing in September will be the Basketball Championships from the Recreation Department’s YES League, held August 8 at Pinney Branch Elementary School. Continuing throughout September will be the Independence Day Parade. City TV will be covering most of the stages at the 28th Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 11 so we look forward to bringing you fresh musical performances near the end of the month.

Takoma Snapshots in September includes:
- Community Oriented Policing: On The Beat
- Takoma Park’s Tree Ordinance
- National Night Out
- Farmers Market Return to Laurel Avenue

City TV will feature new programming this month from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This series, called The Road to Recovery, provides in depth coverage of substance abuse topics. A different episode will air each week at 1 p.m. Mondays and 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. on Tuesdays.

The HHS programming is another government series in addition to those provided by NASA, the National Gallery of Art, the U.S. Department of Education, and the State of Maryland.

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.
New Trash Truck Joins Fleet

Public Work's collection staff shows of the newest addition to the City's trash truck fleet. The trash collection program operates with three trash trucks. The new one was purchased for $168,000 and replaces a 16 year old vehicle. Back row, Melvin King, Rohan Ross, Lorin Lane, Len Davis, Elmer Driggers. Front row, Ralph Contee, Marcini McWatt, Richard Williams, John Dudley.

County Owes for Recreation Budget

Continued from page 1

the operational transfer of the Piney Branch Elementary pool to the YMCA, the County ended all recreational staffing inside Takoma Park.

For FY06 the City budgeted $1,109,234 for recreation, an increase of $63,840 over FY05 in anticipation of the opening of the new Takoma Park community center, the first large city-owned venue for indoor recreation. Taken, this amounts to an expenditure of about $82 per person in a population of 17,299. If the city succeeds in getting some of this money back from the county, residents could see their county property tax bills decrease by about $15 each.

The City's investment in recreation and parks does not match that of some neighboring jurisdictions. Rockville, with a population of 47,386, budgeted $328/ capita in FY05, and owns two community centers, two gyms, seven neighborhood centers, a theater, a senior center, a swim center, a skate center, a golf course, and a pool. With plans for another community center, a swim center, a skate park, numerous sports fields and a golf course, with plans for another community center, a swim center, a skate park, numerous sports fields and a golf course, with plans for another community center, a swim center, a skate park, numerous sports fields and a golf course, with plans for another community center, a swim center, a skate park, numerous sports fields and an aquatic fitness center.

Nonetheless the Takoma Park Recreation Department, as the sole provider of recreation services inside city limits today, is especially important to residents who work long hours, rely on mass transit and cannot easily get to classes or activities at distant locations.

The TASDI Committee concluded the City can legitimately make a case not only that local taxpayers should be relieved of the $250,000 county recreation tax, but should also be reimbursed for ongoing expenses because a number of non-residents benefit from city recreation programs. About 47 percent of the participants in these programs live beyond city borders, notably many generally underserved young people from nearby Silver Spring.

The TASDI Committee recommended the City Council seek an annual payment from Montgomery County not as a rebate, which is subject to regular revisions, but as a set fee. Regarding expenses related to parks, for which a rebate already is in place, the Committee recommended the City renegotiate with the County to arrive at a formula that includes administrative and capital costs. The variables in the current formula were last updated in 1988.

One of many Recreation Department programs run by the City

Montgomery County Housing Fair and Consumer Protection Day

Saturday, October 1, 2005 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
Summit Hall Farm (next to Gaithersburg High School)
City of Gaithersburg, MD 20877

You will learn about:
• Managing Money & Credit
• Home Safety, Utility Assistance & Conservation
• Medicare Changes & Planning Options for Seniors
• Avoiding Consumer Scams
• Buying Your First Home

FREE CREDIT REPORTS!

You will have the opportunity to receive a FREE CREDIT REPORT (6 drawings for a $25 prize towards your rent or mortgage).

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
Summit Hall Farm (next to Gaithersburg High School)
City of Gaithersburg, MD 20877

A seleccionará entre los jefes de banca y ofrecerá su servicio gratuito de reportes de crédito (seis dichos de $25, para el pago de su alquiler o hipoteca).

Feria de la Vivienda y Día de Protección al Consumidor

Sábado, 1° de Octubre, 2005 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
Summit Hall Farm (next to Gaithersburg High School)
City of Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Will learn about:
• Home Safety, Utility Assistance & Conservation
• Medicare Changes & Planning Options for Seniors
• Avoiding Consumer Scams
• Buying Your First Home

FREE CREDIT REPORTS!

You will have the opportunity to receive a FREE CREDIT REPORT (6 drawings for a $25 prize towards your rent or mortgage).

References for credit

Records of the credit references are being made for the purpose of credit checks.

A seleccionará entre los jefes de banca y ofrecerá su servicio gratuito de reportes de crédito (seis dichos de $25, para el pago de su alquiler o hipoteca).

Recordatorio: Inscripción Electoral

Usted no podrá votar o participar en el Grupo de Nominaciones si no está inscrito. Esto significa que su formato de inscripción o de cambio de dirección debe estar en manos de la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery, a las 5:00 p.m. del lunes, 3 de octubre del 2005 para participar en el Grupo de Nominaciones y a las 5:00 p.m. del lunes, 10 de octubre del 2005, para votar en las elecciones del martes, 8 de noviembre. Si usted no es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, las solicitudes de inscripción electoral deben presentarse en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal en las horas y fechas indicadas anteriormente.

¿Ha cambiado su dirección? Si usted cambió su dirección dentro de la ciudad, es su responsabilidad llenar un formato de cambio de dirección y registrarlo en la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery (únicamente para ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos) o en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal (únicamente para no ciudadanos). El día de las elecciones, usted deberá votar según la dirección que se encuentra en el registro electoral oficial. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre su inscripción por favor comuníquese con la autoridad electoral competente.

See Election pages 4 and 5 for more information on how and when to register.

Reminder: Voter Registration

You can’t vote or participate in the Nominating Caucus if you are not registered! This means that your registration or change of address form must be in the hands of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or for non-U.S. Citizens, voter registration applications must be received by the City Clerk’s Office, by the close of business (5 p.m.) on Monday, October 3, 2005, in order to participate in the Nominating Caucus, and by close of business on Monday, October 10, 2005, in order to vote in the election on Tuesday, November 8.

Changed your address? If you move from one address in the City to a new address in the City, it is your responsibility to file a change of address form with the Montgomery County Board of Elections (for U.S. citizens only) or with the City Clerk’s Office (for non-U.S. citizens only). On election day, you will be required to vote according to the address which is reflected on the certified voter roll. If you have questions about your registration, please contact the appropriate registration authority.

#59 from points north
506 S. Frederick Avenue
Activity Center at Bohrer Park,
Saturday, October 1, 2005
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
~FREE ADMISSION~

(Seis rifas de $500 cada una, para el pago de su alquiler o hipoteca.)