

# 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](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org)

September 2005

## 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 rec-

recreation 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The strongest argument in favor of a bigger park rebate lies in the fact that the current rebate formula is outdated and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 Jeque 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 Piney 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 Piney Branch Road. In 2003, with

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



Photo courtesy of Recreation Department

**The City's Recreation Department rocks the block at neighborhood play days, one of many activities sponsored — and funded — by the City despite county recreation taxes.**

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

fails to take into account city costs for administration, overhead or capital outlays. Gaining additional rebate monies from the park tax may be difficult, however, because county crews continue to maintain and upgrade several of the parks and green spaces within the city.

The recreation and park taxes date to 1927 when municipalities in Montgomery and Prince George's counties were given an option to avoid the taxes if they handled these services on their own. Takoma Park chose to pay the taxes, while Rockville, Gaithersburg and Greenbelt went independent.

Not until 1967 did Takoma Park establish its own recreation department, and well into the 1990s the City continued to

## Taggers in Takoma Park



Photos by Carol Bannerman

**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.**



**Takoma Park Folk Festival takes place on Sunday, September 11**

*See page 10 for more information*

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## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**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 Gangs, 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.



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).

### 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

(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](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org). Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7267.

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!

Think Globally, Shop Locally;  
Support  
Takoma Park Businesses

**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.

## How to Become a First Time Home Buyer

The City of Takoma Park has compiled an information packet on first time home buyer programs. The packet includes information on the State of Maryland's CDA Mortgage Program, the Housing Opportunities Commission's Mortgage Purchase Programs, Closing Assistance, and Down Payment Assistance Programs. It also includes a schedule of one-day First Time Home Buyer Education Classes available at no cost to Montgomery County residents.

The most important aspect of purchasing a home is to financially prepare for this responsibility. Sometimes this preparation takes months — sometimes it takes years. Included in the packet is a worksheet that will help you analyze your monthly income and expenses and a chart to help determine how much mortgage you can afford to pay. Information on obtaining a free credit report is also included. To receive a copy of this information, please give your name and address to Linda Walker at [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7222.

## 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 join the surging numbers who are taking part in the American dream and becoming a first-time homeowner. For many, the renter-to-owner process should begin years before the actual purchase of their home takes place. The following is a timeline for consideration in moving from renter to owner.

### 1-2 Years Before Purchasing

Renters who are uncertain about whether they are ready to be homeowners should consider attending a home ownership class or seminar. These classes, sponsored by organizations and government agencies, provide a comprehensive look at the resources needed to buy a house.

Some prospective home purchasers, depending on their financial situation and credit history, may need to participate in home ownership classes for longer periods of time. As much as one to two years should be enough to establish or clean up credit history and begin saving money. To establish good credit your bills need to be paid on time, and you should make every effort to remain below your credit limit. Persons with low credit scores and/or difficulty understanding their credit report should seek assistance from organizations recommended by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and/or their local government housing agency.

In addition to establishing and maintain-

ing good credit, prospective home buyers need to begin saving money as early as possible. Cutting back on expenses by reducing or eliminating non-essential spending can result in significant savings. For instance two people saving \$5 a workday will save more than \$2,000 in a year. While there are some 95 to 100 percent mortgage loans, renters should note that you usually need either perfect credit or participation in a home buyer's program to get such a loan with a low interest rate. Even with a 100 percent loan, purchasers still need money for closing-related costs which may amount to approximately 3-4 percent of the value of the home being bought. Purchaser cash is also needed to indicate to lenders that there are sufficient reserves, for moving expenses, and for making minor improvements after the purchase.

### 4-6 Months Before Purchasing

Having established a pattern of saving and maintaining good credit, renters should next begin to educate themselves about the wide variety of mortgage loans available. Prospective purchasers should, with assistance from mortgage lenders, determine the maximum mortgage payment they would be comfortable making and which program works best for them. Lenders suggest you first look at what you can afford, then what you can buy. Prospective home purchasers should begin to interview and choose both a buyer's real estate agent and a lender approximately six months before the intended purchase date. Real estate agents who represent buyers can provide assistance in determining where to purchase. A lender can provide basic financial information that will assist in determining how much loan you qualify for. Housing industry representatives counsel against immediately searching for property, and waiting until the time

of purchase approaches. One problem with looking too early is that your current residence begins looking smaller and smaller which may result in yielding to a risky loan program.

### 1-3 Months Before Purchasing

During this time period renters need to make sure they have begun preparation for leaving the rental property. Such preparation might include converting the lease from a one-year lease to a short-term lease or relocating to a short-term furnished rental after placing personal property in storage.

Securing a loan pre-approval should occur during this period. Prospective home buyers should keep in mind loan pre-approvals are usually good for 60 to 90 days. After a home is selected and an offer accepted the following key activities should take place:

- Obtain Homeowner's Insurance, arrange for movers and the termination/initiation of utility services;
- Conduct a pre-closing inspection of the purchased home if not previously done;
- The purchaser should secure a good-faith estimate of the closing costs and fees expected from the purchaser at closing;
- The purchaser should present photo identification along with proof of homeowners insurance and certification of any necessary funds at the settlement or closing.

Takoma Park recently completed registration for its Homebuyers Club. For information on future Homebuyer Club registration opportunities call Linda Walker, Affordable Housing Manager at 301-891-7222.

## 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:

### 710 Hudson Avenue (2005-9L)

On July 8, 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 repairing entrance door lock, installing new auto door closing device, replacing smoke detectors, and new light fixtures. 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.

### 8302 Roanoke Avenue (2005-11L)

On July 8, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$2.12 on one unit 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.

### 8318 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 mailbox lock and caulking 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.

### 8322 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.

### 8206 Roanoke Avenue (2005-42L)

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.

### 8208 Roanoke Avenue (2005-43L)

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.

### 8210 Roanoke Avenue (2005-44L)

On July 23, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for amounts ranging from \$11.52 to \$14.30. The improvements included replacing the doors and A/C outlets.

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

**Deadline for Submissions:**  
**September 12**  
**Next Issue:**  
**September 23**

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

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

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

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

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To contact the editor e-mail:  
[tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org)

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 5.

**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.

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.

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.

Be a Part of the Most Fun Day In Old Takoma

You can volunteer at the 24th annual Takoma Park Street Festival to be held Sunday October 2, 2005. The full-day festival includes three stages of music, handmade items offered by more than 100 crafters, outreach from community-based organizations, children's activities, great deals from local merchants, and food to please any palate. Community members are needed to welcome and direct vendors and visitors. Please contact Mary Stover at 240-253-4229 or marystover@takomaonline.com to volunteer.

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 liriopse 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."





## 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.

### Nominations of Candidates for Mayor and Councilmember

At the Caucus, nominations of candidates for Mayor 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 and 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 s/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.

## ELECTION 2005

### 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 10. 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.

## Consejo, Junta Electiva Para la Alcaldía

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.

### Nominación de Candidatos para Alcalde y Miembro del Consejo

Durante la reunión, las nominaciones de candidatos para Alcalde pueden realizarse a moción de cualquier votante de la ciudad y, si la misma es aprobada, la persona nominada será considerada

como candidato. La nominación de cada candidato para miembro del Consejo puede realizarse a moción de cualquier votante de su distrito y si la misma es secundada, la persona nominada será considerada candidato. Cualquier candidato nominado puede declinar su nominación durante la reunión del Grupo de Nominaciones. Solamente se puede aceptar la nominación para una sola oficina municipal. El nombre de cada persona nominada para la Alcaldía o el Consejo será colocado en la boleta oficial para la elección municipal del 8 de noviembre a menos que él/ella se presente ante el Secretario Municipal para declinar su candidatura hasta las 5:00 p.m. dentro de los 3 días de su nominación.

### Candidatos Autonomidados para La Elección

Cualquier persona que se presente como candidato autonominado para la Alcaldía o miembro del Consejo que desee estar pre-inscrito como candidato autonominado y que su nombre aparezca en la cabina electoral para que se lo identifique como candidato, debe registrarse en la oficina del Secretario Municipal para las 5:00 p.m. del viernes anterior a la elección.

Cualquier persona nominada o que se presente como candidato autonominado deber cumplir los requisitos del distrito para el que está nominado. Un candidato cuyo nombre aparece en una boleta electoral, no puede registrarse como candidato autonominado, y la persona que se registra como candidato autonominado sólo puede hacerlo para una sola oficina municipal en cualquier elección.

### 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

## Kindermusik Village

**Ages newborn - 1 ½**

### Do-Si-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 instructor the first day of class. Your *At Home Materials* include more than 25 specially-selected recordings from class, a home activity journal, and art banner for the nursery wall that strengthens vision and promotes early literacy. Maximum of 10, minimum of four. Eight weeks.

When: Thurs., Sept. 22 - Nov. 10, 2005  
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
OR Fri. Sept. 23 - Nov. 11, 2005  
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Location: Heffner Community Center  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$80/session  
Non-Res. \$90/session

## Kindermusik Our Time

**Ages 1 ½ - 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, sounds, and recordings of favorite activities from class. The kit also includes two story books 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 to be paid to instructor the first day of class. Maximum of 10, minimum of four. Fifteen weeks.

When: Tues., Sept. 20, 2005 - Jan. 2, 2006  
12:15 - 1:30 p.m.  
Wed., Sept. 21, 2005 - Jan. 11, 2006  
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.  
Thurs., Sept. 22, 2005 - Jan. 12, 2006  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Heffner Community Center  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$140  
Non-Res. \$150

No class on November 23-24, December 27-29.

## 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 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.

When: Mon., Sept. 19, 2005 - Jan. 2, 2006 4-5 p.m.  
Wed., Sept. 21, 2005 - Jan. 11, 2006: 2-3 p.m.  
Location: Heffner Community Center  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$150  
Non-Res. \$170

No class on November 23, December 26, 28.

For more information about Kindermusik contact Becky Linafelt at 240-353-9637 or e-mail beekytod@aol.com. Or you can check out the Kindermusik web site [www.Kindermusik.com](http://www.Kindermusik.com).

## KidzCity

**Grades 1 - 5**

The KIDZCITY 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.,  
Aug. 29 - Dec. 22, 2005  
Time: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center,  
7315 New Hampshire Ave  
Fee: 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. Step 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!

Park at Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue or on Ritchie Avenue near the Public Works Gate. A short reception to follow at Heffner Community Center. Light refreshments will be served.



Photos by Debra Haiduvon

**Recreation activities keep kids busy all year.**

## The Afternoon Addition

**Grades K - 8**

We have a new space this year! From 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. we will meet in the Gym of Piney Branch Elementary School. From 4:15-6:30 p.m. we will be in the new Community Center, across the street from the elementary school. Children must be enrolled in grades K-8. Those attending other area schools should make arrangements with the school to have your child dropped off at Piney Branch Elementary. Along with homework and study time we also are offering some exciting activities including: clubs, drama, music, art, swimming lessons, free swim, sports, field trips, and playtime. 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  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$1,000  
Non-Res. \$1,200

No program on October 4, 13, 21, November 1, 24-25, December 26-30.

- Payments are made in four equal installments, unless otherwise arranged with the Recreation Director: **First payment is due at registration, #2 October 28, 2005 #3 January 20, 2006 and #4 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 Takoma Park Elementary School to Piney Branch Elementary School on whole and half days. If school is closed due to inclement weather there will be no escort service. 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 intervals 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.



Instructor for the following three training programs is Elizabeth Marsden, The Logical Dog.

## 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  
**6 Weeks Open Registration**  
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.  
Location: Heffner Park Community Center  
Fee: T.P. Res. \$75  
Non-Res. \$85

No class Nov. 26.

## 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

No class on Nov. 26.

## Intermediate Dog Manners

Those who have graduated from the basic level dog manners class 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 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 art, 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 range \$8-12.69 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 300 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 best-selling *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 elenctic, or indirect mode of inquiry, that Socrates used.

Chris and his wife Cecilia have visited the Takoma Park Maryland Library on many 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

*Continued on page 10*

## LIBRARY

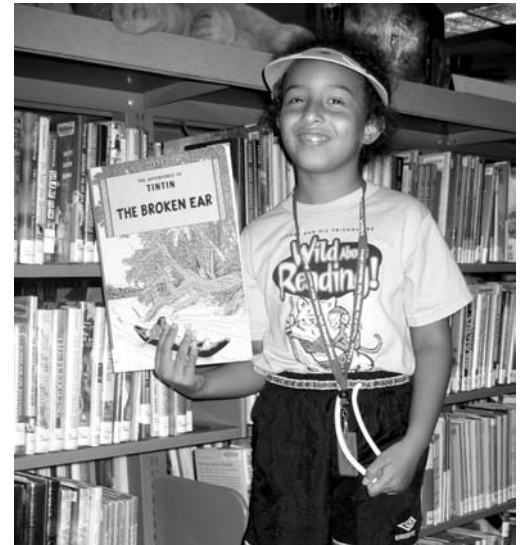
### Summer Quest and the Turning of the Seasons

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 sharing 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 us 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.**

## 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 those 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 famil-

iar 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, Soukous, 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. This lists all CDs beginning from CD001. 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 desk to help you find the items if you find any problems using the catalog. We are there to serve you!

## Library Programs September and Early October

### Autumn Session of the Twosies

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 sing-alongs, 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.



# THE CRIME REPORT

*This blotter is not intended to be inclusive of all crime and arrests reported to the Takoma Park Police Department*

## 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 three subjects exited a minivan, approached the victim and demanded his money. When the victim refused, subjects began beating the victim with baseball bats, removed property from his pockets, then fled in the minivan. The victim was transported to a hospital and treated for minor injuries. The suspects were described as Hispanic males in their mid 20's, one had a tattoo of the Virgin Guadalupe on his upper right arm.

**On August 14 at 12:30 a.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd.,** an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was walking when he was approached by three subjects who demanded his back pack. When the victim refused, one of the subjects threatened him with a knife and the victim handed over his property. The subjects fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

**On July 29 at 11:42 p.m. in the 800 block of Larch Avenue,** a strong armed robbery was attempted. An adult female was walking alone when she was approached by three males who demanded her cell phone. The victim immediately began to run and scream. One of the subjects attempted to stop her by reaching out and grabbing her shoulder, but the victim continued to run. The subjects fled on foot. The victim was not injured and no property was taken. (See arrests)

**On July 16 at 12:32 a.m. in the 7300 block of Willow 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 9:49 pm 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 12 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 Acura 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 10 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 Minivan.

**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 Delta88.

**On August 6 at 1:30 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 his vehicle 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.

**On July 29, between 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. in the 400 block of Circle Avenue,** an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2000 Chrysler Voyager Minivan.

**Between August 2 at 6 p.m. and August 3 at 6 a.m. in the 7700 block of Maple Avenue,** an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2002 Dodge Dakota.

**On August 3, between 7:13 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the 400 block of Lincoln Avenue,** an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2001 Dodge Neon.

**On July 18, between 3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. in the 7500 block of Wildwood Drive,** an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1995 Crown Victoria.

**On August 10, between 6:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the 7600 block of Takoma Avenue,** an auto theft occurred. Unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's keys from an unsecured locker in a building, then stole the 2004 Hyundai XG350 parked outside.

## Burglaries

**On August 16, between 9:30 a.m. and 10:43 p.m. in the 7600 block of Flower Avenue,** a burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the dorm room was gained. Property was stolen.

**Between August 7 at 1 p.m. and August 8 at 4 a.m. in the 7600 block of Fenton Street** a commercial burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the storage containers was gained. Property was taken.

**Between August 9 at 8 p.m. and August 10 at 8 p.m. in the 900 block of East West Highway,** a residential burglary occurred. The doors of a detached shed were pried open to gain entry. Property was taken.

**On August 10, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the 7100 block of Holly Avenue,** a residential burglary occurred. A basement window was smashed in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

## Violence under investigation

**On August 4 at 11:07 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 pm 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 that he had been robbed 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 and an adult female were charged with Possession of CDS and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia after a routine traffic stop.

**On July 16 at 3:23 a.m. in the 8600 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 of Center and Driving Without a License.

# Mysterious Bones Found During Renovation

Bones discovered during renovation work in a Takoma Park building halted construction for a day, while state examiners tried to determine whether they were remnants of a long-past crime. Work in the basement of a Westmoreland Avenue home was suspended August 1, after police and medical officers examined materials unearthed by workmen. The size and some characteristics suggested the bones might be human and they were taken for testing at the State Medical Examiner's Office. The next day, tests showed the bones were not from a

human and construction was authorized to resume.

A local contractor working in the basement of the private residence began to find the bones over a weekend. Workmen had removed several levels of flooring in the 1920s-era home when they began to unearth various bones. By late Monday morning the contractor had accumulated several specimens and contacted Takoma Park Police. None of the bones were in whole pieces, which led to uncertainty regarding their origin. Subsequently, the medical examiner reported the find was

cow bones and that the office had received more than a dozen inquiries from Takoma Park residents wanting more information. Based on other items found at the scene—old but empty beer and alcohol bottles—the scene was probably that of a long-past barbeque rather than a crime.

The City Newsletter editor's curiosity is piqued, 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 [tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org)

## Takoma Park VFD Fire Fighter Retires...

On August 10, 2005, Deputy Fire Chief Charles K. Prince, Jr. retired after 50 years of dedicated service to the TPVFD, the citizens of Takoma Park and Montgomery County. Chief Prince joined the fire department on March 9, 1955. Some of his many accomplishments:

Life Member, TPVFD, Hall of Fame, Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association, High Response Award, Fire-Rescue Commission, Fire Fighter of the Year 2003, Takoma Park Lions Club, a veteran of over 23,000 fire-rescue alarms, the most by any member in the history of Takoma Park VFD. He also was in the Top Ten in Response 41 times.

Chief Prince will be surely missed by all his friends and co-workers at the fire station. A job well done!



## Takoma Park VFD Board of Directors 2005

President - Elmer Hamm  
Vice President - Richard Willey  
Financial Secretary - Steve Novik  
Treasurer - Bruce Allen  
Fire Chief - James Jarboe  
Director - Mike DeVore  
Director - Tom Horne  
Director - John Parsly  
Sergeant-at-Arms - Stan Herrmann  
Chaplain - David Hooker  
Office Services Coordinator - Pam Taylor  
Auxiliary Officers  
President - Edna Fiske  
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Secretary - Tina Willey  
Treasurer - Marion Brown  
Point System Coordinator - Hilda Baker  
Sergeant-at-Arms - Pam Taylor  
Chaplain - Betty Fickes

## FREE! Visual Smoke Alarms

The Takoma Park VFD has visual smoke alarms available at the fire station. If you know someone that is deaf or hard of hearing call 301-270-8209 for more information.



## 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 a graffiti 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 to 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.

"Those 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 I 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 her to continue. Maybe the owner hadn't made a report yet. Then the car made a quick left onto a side street.

"I think the driver might be going to owner," the Chief said, relating details from her previous talk with the woman. The motorist began a zig-zag course through side streets, signaling left and turning right, bumping over speed humps and pulling away from us.

At Carroll Avenue, the car turned north again, away from where the Chief knew the young woman might be. "That's it, he's not going to her, we're stopping him." Lights were activated and the vehicle pulled over near Long Branch Parkway.

A long story 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 recognized 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 nothing 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.

*A 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.*

## POLICE NEWS

### 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 most pedestrian traffic, sidewalks, and crossings 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 corners are also staffed during middle school periods (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. If driving children 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.

### 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.

### 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 your children as part of creating a permanent identification record for them.

## 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 I had were 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.

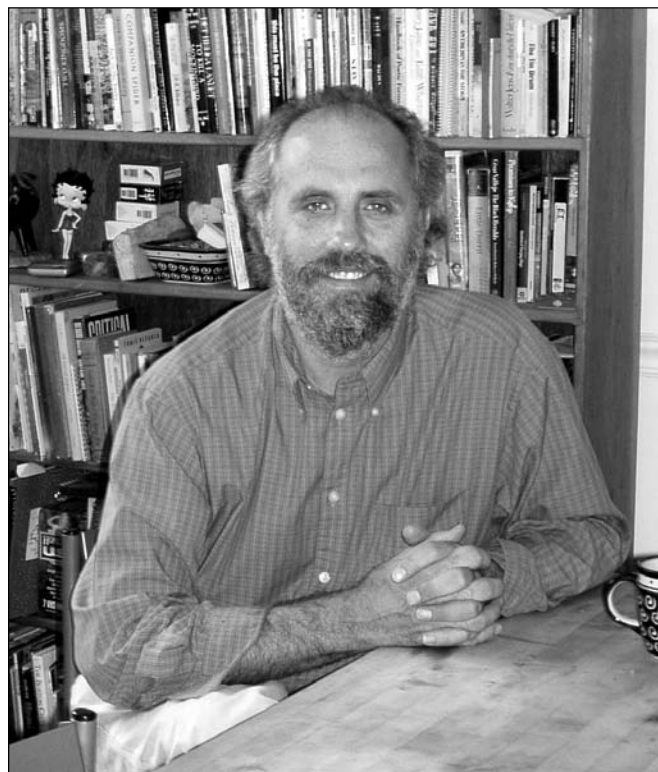
Easy weeks,  
no damaging winds,  
I get to look  
into your eyes, period.

— "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 receptions 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

Whitman, and James Tate.

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

## Civil Discourse With Chris Phillips

Continued from page 7

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](http://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 twice-a-month Socrates group of about 25 that meets at Sacred Ground, a community center in Butte, Mont., also was looking for such an 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 emotion.' We're trying to move people from saying 'I 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, drags-outs 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 Café* 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.

## 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](mailto:info@tpff.org), or visit the website, [www.tpff.org](http://www.tpff.org) for more information.



Photo by Clyde Lassell

## 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 24, 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'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 Clair Garman (cgar@erols.com) or Marty Ittner (marty@m-art.org) for Sweep meeting locations.

A prize will be awarded for the most unusual trash item and most trash bags filled. It's also National Public Lands Day, and commemorative posters will be available.

Don't miss the post-Sweep celebration at the Kennebec picnic area at 11:30 a.m. for more environmental fellowship, with music, speakers, awards, refreshments, and photo-ops with Sligo the Salamander, Friends of Sligo Creek's new mascot.

The must-have 2005 Sweep the Creek T-shirts will be available for ordering as well. Kennebec is at the intersection of Sligo Parkway and Kennebec Road (between Maple Ave. and Piney Branch Road).

See you there! Rain date is Sunday, September 25.

For more information about FOSC, see [www.fosc.org](http://www.fosc.org).

## 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). Application deadline: Sept. 13.

## En Busca de 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)

## 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.

Newly edited and airing in September will be the Basketball Championships from the Recreation Department's YES League, held August 8 at Piney 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](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. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

## Takoma Park City TV September 2005 Programming Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	The Road to Recovery	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 Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Music da camera	Government Focus	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	CaribNation		Takoma Park Folk Festival	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Media Watch on Hunger
NOON		Community Bulletin Board			City Council Meeting (REPLAY)		
1:00 PM	The Road to Recovery	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 Council Meeting (LIVE)						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			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)



## New Trash Truck Joins Fleet



Photo courtesy of Public Works

Public Work's collection staff shows off 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 with the money budgeted for parks, 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 47,388, 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 park, numerous sports fields and a golf course, with plans for another community center and gym. Greenbelt, far more similar to Takoma Park demographically, budgeted \$192 per capita in FY05 and owns a community center, two youth centers, three gyms, athletic 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



Photo by Debra Haiduvon

### 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.

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### Recordatorio: Inscripcion 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 cambia de 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.**



### 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)  
506 S. Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**Ride-On bus #55 or #59 from points north and from Shady Grove Metro Red Line**

**You will learn about:**

- Managing Money & Credit
- Home Safety, Utility Assistance & Conservation
- Medicare Changes & Housing Options for Seniors
- Avoiding Consumer Scams
- Buying Your First Home

**FREE CREDIT REPORTS!**

Entertainment, food, prizes and activities for children!  
(Six drawings for a \$500 prize towards your rent or mortgage.)

**~FREE ADMISSION~**

This Fair is organized by the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs in partnership with the Housing Fair Planning Committee, whose members include: AARP Maryland, the Cities of Gaithersburg and Takoma Park, Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Washington, Fannie Mae, Habitat for Humanity, Housing & Community Initiatives, Inc.; the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; the Mid County, Up County and Silver Spring Regional Services Centers; the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services; and the Office of Council Member Thomas Perez. If interested in participating in the Fair, or becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, please call Gladys Kaplan at 240-777-3603.



### Feria de la Vivienda y Día de Protección al Consumidor

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

**Activity Center  
at Bohrer Park,  
Summit Hall Farm** (Al lado de Gaithersburg High School)  
506 S. Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**Desde el Norte y de la línea roja del Metro, tomar el bus Ride-On #55 o #59**

**Aprenderá sobre:**

- Manejo de Dinero y Crédito
- Seguridad de su Casa, Asistencia y Conservación de Energía
- Cambios en Medicare y Opciones de Vivienda para Ancianos
- Como Evitar Engaños al Consumidor
- Compra de su Primera Casa

**¡REPORTES DE CREDITO GRATUITOS!**

**¡Entretenimiento, comida, premios y actividades para niños!  
(Seis rifas de \$500 cada una, para el pago de su alquiler o hipoteca)**

**~ADMISION GRATUITA~**

Organizado por el Departamento de Vivienda y Asuntos Comunitarios del Condado de Montgomery en asociación con el Comité Planificador, cuyos miembros incluyen: AARP Maryland, las ciudades de Gaithersburg y Takoma Park, Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Washington, Fannie Mae, Habitat for Humanity, Housing & Community Initiatives, Inc.; the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; the Mid County, Up County and Silver Spring Regional Services Centers; the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services; and the Office of Council Member Thomas Perez. If interested in participating in the Fair, or becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, please call Gladys Kaplan at 240-777-3603.