Condos Considered for the Heart of Old Town

By Virginia Myers Kelly  
Editor

The neighborhood is beginning to get wind of a big project at the corner of Westmoreland and Carroll Avenues, and reactions have been mixed. In its earliest stages, a proposal for development of an oddly shaped parcel of land, currently occupied by Taliano’s restaurant, off-beat retail shops like Takoma Underground and Sangba, and a steep parking lot, looks like it could become 75 to 80 residential units and significantly reduced retail space, with parking underground.

Aware that Takoma Park residents are typically vocal about projects in their neighborhoods, developers Bruce Levin and Infrastructure Capital Group (ICG), who have partnered to work with the parcel, have already begun meetings with community groups at an early planning stage. No plans have yet been submitted to the county planning board, which would eventually have to approve the project.

Partners of ICG have met with representatives of Historic Takoma as well as interested residents from the Westmoreland Avenue Community Organization (WACO) and Victory Tower, on Carroll Avenue. They’ve spoken with some council members and city staff as well, will confer with Takoma Old Town Business Association, and plan to continue to meet with small neighborhood groups before creating more specific plans for the site.

Stylianos Christofides, one of the principals in ICG, says he is sensitive to the community’s needs and if the plan proves to be too problematic — i.e. if neighbors put up too much of a fuss — it will be tabled. But he is enthusiastic about how it could fit into the character of the town, and envisions it as a cornerstone to complement what already exists. ICG specializes, to some extent, in historic restoration projects, and has properties in downtown Washington and Kalorama, with both façade restoration and “volumetric restoration,” which goes deeper into the site. Christofides has pledged

ICG will restore the façade of the property, but research is still needed to discover how deep the restoration would reach back in the site.

Also of interest are the green roof on rear units, to help control stormwater runoff, and the concept of “mews,” townhouses which would accommodate small businesses on the first floor and residential space for the business owners above.

Concerns among neighbors, who numbered about 50 at a neighborhood meeting called to address the project, and who have been discussing the development on the neighborhood list serve, focus primarily on the impacts some 100 more residents would have on the block, and on traffic. Because of geographic limitations, Christofides says it would be difficult if not impossible to have any vehicular access but one from Westmoreland, and the corner of Westmoreland and Carroll Avenues is already difficult.

Other concerns include the reduction in commercial enterprise in old town, which might threaten the critical mass required to support a thriving business community; reducing the tax base by replacing commercial property with residential; and the transience inherent in smaller, one-bedroom residential units, which might be rented. By Montgomery County law, 12.5 percent of the units must be affordable housing, which will please many in the community mindful of the need for such a resource, but other units could be priced at the discretion of the developer and to whatever the market would support.

Much work remains before this project moves forward, and it is likely there will be more opportunity for public comment. Meanwhile, all leases in the building have been renewed for a year, through August 2006.

Street Fest Mixes It Up in Takoma Park

Once again the streets of Takoma Park will be filled with music, art, food, information, and the people that make this community a vibrant place to celebrate diversity. The 24th Annual Takoma Park Street Festival will come alive in the city’s main streets, Sunday October 2, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

This year’s music features three stages for 18 bands, including acoustic roots-rock bands Chestpeeth, the Melanie Mason Band, the Grandsons, Robert Lighthouse, and Ruthie and the Wranglers. More than 150 craft artists, community groups, and a variety of ethnic and American foods will line the festival route. Moon bounces, jugglers, balloon artists, and more will captivate the kids.

The Festival starts two blocks from Takoma Metro, runs down Eastern to the Sunday Farmers’ Market and down Carroll Avenue toward the firehouse. “It has been a wonderful community event for nearly a quarter of a century and a way to celebrate our local arts, foods, and culture,” says Old Takoma Business Association president Penny Jones-Napier; the organization is presenting the fest this year with co-sponsors Columbia Union College, RCN, SGA Architects, Washington Adventist Hospital, Ameriprise Financial, Ameritech Construction, Citibank, Universal Energy Home Remodeling and Willow Street Yoga Center as well as Centex Homes and Takoma Park Silver Spring Food Co-op. For more information and a performance schedule visit www.takomafestival.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2005 (Rosh Hashanah) – CITY NOMINATING CAUCUS, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers) (Charter-mandated date for the City Nominating Caucus – proposed motion and vote to adjourn and continue the Nominating Caucus to Wednesday, October 5 (Municipal Building Council Chambers).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005 – NOMINATING CAUCUS RECONVENE, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers) (Proposed date for reconvening the Nominating Caucus to accept nominations of candidates for Mayor and Councilmembers).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005 – PRESENTATION, SPECIAL SESSION AND WORKSESSION OF THE COUNCIL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2005 – Voter Registration cut-off date. All new registrations and changes of address must have been received by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections (or post-marked 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.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2005 – PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSESSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2005 – Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (Location TBD)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2005 – Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005 – PRESENTATION AND WORKSESSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005 – Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building) (At the discretion of the Mayor)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005 – Community Center Grand Opening Celebration, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005 – PRESENTATION, REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSESSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005 – Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 8 p.m. (Montgomery College Provost’s Conference Room, Takoma and New York Avenues)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2005 – Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building) (At the discretion of the Mayor)

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 e-mail from U.S. Mail, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267.

City Offices Move

City staff will be relocating from trailers and various parts of City Hall (7500 Maple Avenue) into new offices on the first and third floors of the expanded building beginning the end of September and continuing through the first weeks of October. Every effort will be made to continue serving the public throughout this disruptive time. Residents are asked for patience as desks, computers, phones, police communication systems, and internet access connections are moved. Up-to-date information will be posted on the City’s web page, www.cityoftakomapark.org.

The move into the first and third floor office space opens the main floor to community center use, the first phase of which opens in October.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience and look forward to serving you in our new office space.

Empleados de la Ciudad de Takoma Park serán reubicados en oficinas en el primer y tercer piso del edificio municipal (7500 Maple Avenue). La mudanza empezará la última semana de septiembre y continuará durante el mes de octubre.


Nos disculpamos con anticipación por cualquier inconveniente y esperamos servirles pronto en nuestras nuevas oficinas.

Committee Vacancies

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA). The seven to twelve 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. (One vacancy.)

Emergency Preparedness Committee. The committee is 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. (Two vacancies.)

Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee. The 12-member committee is charged with providing input and advice to the Council and the City’s public safety agencies about how the City can better meet the ongoing needs and concerns of residents in the area of police services and public safety. (Up to four vacancies.)

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. (One vacancy.)

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. (One vacancy.)

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

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

Director of Public Works – Takoma Park, MD (Pop: 17,299) Culturally and ethnically diverse community with residents who pride themselves on their political and civic activism, small town feel but yet ideally located near Washington, D.C. Position oversees street and park maintenance, refuse collection, fleet maintenance, urban forestry, and storm water management, with annual departmental operating budget of approximately $3.4 million, plus $600 capital budget of $1.5 million. Supervises staff of 33 FTE. Requires Bachelor’s degree in an accredited four-year college or university in engineering or related field and six years of progressively responsible public works management experience. PE certification desirable. Strong interpersonal, communication, and analytical skills essential. Starting salary low to mid-80s, depending on qualifications with excellent benefits. The City of Takoma Park embraces cultural diversity. Women and ethnic minorities strongly encouraged to apply. Position open until filled. First review as of October 18, 2005. Submit cover letter, resume, and five references to Human Resources, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Alternatively, fax to 301-270-8794 or e-mail to karenl@takomagov.org. EOE.

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.

September 6, 2005 – Special Session

Resolution 2005-45 was adopted, expressing appreciation to Public Works Director Alfred D. Lott (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams). Resolution 2005-66 was adopted, expressing the City of Takoma Park’s support of Montgomery County’s purchase of Hampshire Towers, 7333 and 7401 New Hampshire Avenue (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

Ordinance 2005-25 was adopted at first reading, authorizing FY05 Budget Amendment No. 3 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

Ordinance 2005-26 was adopted at first reading, accepting the bid of TRG Construction for the Community Level Phase of the Community Center Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

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Montgomery County Housing Fair and Consumer Protection Day
Saturday, October 2, 2005
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm
(Al lado de Gaithersburg High School)
506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

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

Feria de la Vivienda y Día de Protección al Consumidor
Sábado, 1° de Octubre, 2005
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm
(Al lado de Gaithersburg High School)
506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

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!

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

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

COLTA’s Corner & Decisions

By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved several capital improvement petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park. COLTA also decided on an illegal increase in rent complaint filed by a tenant. They appear in order of their petition numbers:

Capital Improvement Petitions

732 Maple Avenue (2005-40L)
On September 25, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from $3.18 to $98.72 on eight units at the property. The improvements included repairing bathroom walls and door. There was a new faucet, showerhead, tub, ceiling fan, refrigerator, counter top, blinds, floors, smoke detector, plastering living room and dining rooms, and painting. Some improvements were disallowed because they were under the $200 threshold.

7523 Maple Avenue (2005-41L)
On August 17, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from $18.61 to $98.61 on all six units at the property. The improvements included new roof, furnace, boiler pump, hallway painting, landscape, new kitchen tiles and cabinets, hardwood floors, carpentry, painting, new stoves and refrigerators, plumbing upgrades, new dishwashers, micro hoods, tiles, and electrical upgrades. Some improvements were disallowed because they were under the $200 threshold.

7529 Maple Avenue (2005-40L)
On August 25, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from $18.61 to $98.61 on all six units at the property. The improvements included new roof, furnace, boiler pump, hallway painting, landscape, new kitchen tiles and cabinets, hardwood floors, carpentry, painting, new stoves and refrigerators, plumbing upgrades, new dishwashers, micro hoods, tiles, and electrical upgrades. Some improvements were disallowed because (1) the cost per item were under $200 or $250 for the rental property, and (2) the improvements were requested more than six months after completion of work that did not appear to require emergency repairs.

12 Grant Avenue (2005-53L)
On August 31, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from $7.63 to $12.69 on four units at the property. The improvements included new air conditioners and new refrigerators. All increases are in addition to the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken.

Landlord-Tenant Complaints

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

Lal v. Denchfield (2005-51T)
On September 6, 2005, COLTA issued a decision on a tenant’s complaint that the landlord illegally increased the rent. COLTA found that the landlord imposed an illegal rent increase above the maximum allowable rent for the tenant’s apartment. COLTA ordered that the landlord reimburse the tenant $3,696 for illegal rents.

Jackson/Gilbert v. Estate of Anthony Pounders
On August 9 in a case involving two tenants alleging retaliatory eviction in conjunction with their receiving notices to vacate, COLTA issued a decision declaring the notices in violation of Section 8-208.1 of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Code holds that retaliation is found where there is proximity between the date of a Commission Order determining the existence of a defective tenancy and the issuance of the notices to vacate.

Housing Mailbox

Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

A tenant wants to know if she has a right to challenge a two-month notice to vacate that she received in September 1, 2005. She had a one-year lease that started on August 1, 2004 but her landlord did not offer her a renewal.

In accordance with the revision of the Landlord-Tenant Relations law adopted in April 2003, Section 6.6.040 (Lease Term and Renewal Requirements) allows tenants who have an initial one-year lease that started after April 2003 to have one-year lease renewals each year unless the landlord can show a “reasonable cause” for not renewing the one-year lease. Reasonable cause could include the following: The landlord is selling the rental property, or wants the apartment for his own use, or does not want to renew the one-year lease term because the terms of the lease were broken by the tenant (e.g., rent payments in the previous year were not paid on time). If a landlord does not officially renew a one-year lease two months prior to the end of the lease term, the lease is presumed to be extended for an additional year, unless the tenant decides to give a one-month notice to vacate which can be given at any time.

Tenants having one-year leases that commenced prior to April 2003 (prior to the passage of revised Landlord-Tenant Law in 2003) are by law only entitled to an extension of the additional year after the initial lease term unless the landlord chooses to extend it for additional one-year terms beyond the second year. Tenants who signed one-year leases prior to April 2003 and have not received a new rental agreement at the end of the one-year lease period are deemed month-to-month tenants.

This tenant would therefore be presumed in the absence of having received a written reasonable cause letter from her landlord two months prior to the end of her original one-year lease term to have a one-year lease commencing from August 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006. She can contest the two-month notice to vacate.

Please contact Moses A. Wilds, Jr., Landlord-Tenant Coordinator at 301-891-7215 or at his city on-line address Moses@cityoftakomapark.org or if you have questions regarding the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law.
Learning Together

Ages 1½ – 3

While children participate in sensory, art, language, manipulative, and other fun activities, parents and care givers will cover topics such as setting limits, communicating with your young child, success in toileting and healthy eating. There is a $15 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Six Weeks.

When: Tues., Oct. 4 – Nov. 15, 2005
Time: 6:15 – 7 p.m.
Location: Rose Room – T. P. Com. Center
When: Fri., Oct. 7 – Nov. 18, 2005
Time: 10 – 10:45 a.m.
Location: Azalea Room – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $75
Non-Res. $85

Museums and Young Children

Ages 1½ – 3

In this class, an educator with several years experience in museum-based early childhood classrooms will guide you and your child through fun, hands-on museum-related activities in class and accompany the group on two museum trips. There is a $15 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Six weeks.

When: Mon., Oct. 3 – Nov. 7, 2005
Time: 10 – 10:45 a.m.
Location: Rose Room – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $80
Non-Res. $70

Montessori Morning

Ages 1½ – 3

This class is designed as an introduction to the Montessori environment. A certified Montessori teacher with several years experience will guide exploration of sensory, fine motor, pre-reading, pre-writing, and pre-math Montessori materials and activities. There is a $20 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Eight weeks.

Time: 11 a.m. – noon
Location: Azalea Room – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $80
Non-Res. $90

Time For Parents

For parents of 1½ – 3

Ages 1½ – 3

This courthouse will be led by an experienced Early Childhood Educator and parent who will guide you through several issues relevant to your family: healthy eating, sleeping, toilet learning, socialization, limit setting, and communicating with the young child. There is a $15 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Six weeks.

When: Tues., Oct. 4, 11, 18, Nov. 1, 15, 29, Dec. 13
Time: 7–8 p.m.
Location: Lilac Room – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $65
Non-Res. $70

Fun Day Program

Grades 1 – 5

Ochsa day camp only students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up in the cafetiera and attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Children may bring a snack on half days and must bring a lunch on all fun Day Trips.

Tuesday, October 4
Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, Dulles, VA
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Res. $20 + Non-Res. $25

Thursday, October 13
Mini Golf in Laurel & Rollingcrest Pool in Chillum
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Res. $20 + Non-Res. $25

Friday, October 21 – North Run Farm, pumpkin patch, corn maze, pick your own pumpkin
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Res. $20 + Non-Res. $25

Infant and Child CPR

Six total hours of class time are required for this course. Upon successful completion of a written and skills exam, you will earn an American Red Cross Infant and Child CPR Certificate, good for one year. Instructor: Steve Cavallaro.

Session 1: Wed., Oct. 5 – Nov. 9, 2005
7 – 7:55 p.m.
Session 2: Sat., Oct. 8 – Nov. 12, 2005
2 – 2:55 p.m.
Location: Azalea Room – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $25/session
Non-Res. $30/session

Freedom From Smoking

This eight-week group session combines behavior change approach to guide you on your way to becoming a non-smoker and express yourself in dance! Wear leather or smooth-soled shoes; no sneakers. Maximum of 24, minimum of 8. Six sessions.

Session 1: Wed., Oct. 5 – Nov. 9, 2005
8 – 9:55 p.m.
Session 2: Sat., Oct. 8 – Nov. 12, 2005
1 – 1:55 p.m.
Location: Azalea Room – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $40/session
Non-Res. $45/session

Belly Dancing

Ages 11 and up

Come learn the foundations of this ancient Middle Eastern art form. No previous dance experience necessary. Dancers should wear comfortable, form-fitting attire that permits maximum mobility of the torso (to ensure correct movement). The dance may be performed barefoot, or with soft dance shoes, if desired. Taught by director of a local dance troupe and Takoma Park Resident, Maya Taahira. Maximum 25, minimum 6. Eight weeks.

When: Tues., Oct. 11 – Dec. 6, 2005
Time: Ages 11 – 17 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Ages 18 and up 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Auditorium – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $80
Non-Res. $90

Twoosy Doodler

Ages 20–36 months

This is a special art class just for toddlers and a parent or care giver. Little fingers will experiment with painting, gluing, sticking, printing, and creating, while developing fine motor, language and self-awareness skills.

There is an $18 materials fee paid to be paid to the instructor the first day of class.

Session 1: Tues., Oct. 4 – Nov. 15, 2005
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Session 2: Fri. Oct. 7 – Nov. 11, 2005
10:15 – 11 a.m.
Session 3: Sat., Oct. 8 – Nov. 12, 2005
9 – 9:45 a.m.
Location: Art Room – T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $55/session
Non-Res. $68/session

Physical Theater Creation and Performance

Ages 16 – Adult

 Expand your ability to effectively commu- nicate thoughts, feelings, and ideas on stage through heightened imagination, while en- hancing your capacity to collaborate within an ensemble. We will experiment with vari- ous ways of organizing our ideas into solo, duo, and group theater pieces; then we will co-create an original Physical Theater play and pencil/pen to first try at the end of the nine-week course. Maximum of 12, mini- mum of 7. Instructor: Leslie Sapp.

Time: 9 – 9:30 a.m.
Location: Auditorium T. P. Com. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. $225
Non-Res. $230

Line up for Ballroom

Ages 16 and up

The line dances have been choreographed to rhythms using traditional ballroom pat- terns modified for solo dancing. You can sign up alone or with a partner. Wear leather or smooth-soled shoes; no sneakers. Maximum of 24, minimum of 8. Six sessions.

Drawing and Portfolio Development

Ages 16 – 18

Landscape, portrait, self portrait, figure, and interior will be offered on a rotating basis. Katie Dell Kaufman will give demonstra-
Golfers Honor Morrissey, Benefit Library

Mike Morrissey was a lucky guy. He had a multitude of loyal friends, who for the past several years have celebrated his life and his affection for libraries by holding a golf tournament in his memory. More than $10,000 from these tournaments have been donated to the Takoma Park Library through the Friends of the Library. They have been used to fund learning materials for ESL classes, to purchase four public Internet workstations and bilingual children’s books, and to strengthen our after-school Homework Helper program with additional resources.

Though Mike lived in Takoma Park, most of his friends do not. The tournaments, and the auctions and festivities afterwards, are happy gatherings of his buddies and family members (who fly in for the occasion from all over the country) which seem solely to be opportunities for sharing warmth, good times, remembering Mike, and raising money for a neighborhood library that many of them will never visit. Last summer my colleague Liz and I attended their “after party” at Rumors in Bethesda. We were presented with bottles of wine, greeted effusively by sunburnt, happy golfers, and watched as the pledges mounted until they surpassed $4,000. The annual tournament has now become the largest single fundraiser on behalf of the Library.

This year’s tournament will be held on October 3. If you would like additional information, or to be a participant or sponsor, contact Ellen Robbins at the Library.

Civil Discourse with Chris Phillips

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, with so many Americans seeing up close the effects of decisions made by our politicians, it is ever more evident that there is a need to talk with one another about what affects our lives and our souls, in an honest way that asks real questions and listens to the ponderings of others.

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 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.

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.

The Ombudsman Reports

Jordan Dewar’s picture was in September’s Newsletter as a Summer Quest winner. The smiling picture was lovely and the nice things written about her were all true. The mistakes were: she is only 7 years old, not 8! And she is now in the third grade at St. Bernadette’s School. She technically finished Summer Quest on July 25, but of course kept on reading all summer long. Jordan was reading everything from Tin Tin to Cam Jenson, but she said she particularly loves Robin Hood.

Library Programs in October

Programs for College Bound
Various subjects, see article, Thursdays Sept. 29, Oct. 6 and Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

Neighborhood Circle Time
Open to all preschoolers & their adults each Tuesday at 10 a.m. Informal sing-alongs, poetry, finger games, and nursery tales, with participant-leadership welcomed. All ages; no preregistration required!

Civil Discourse with Chris Phillips
Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

Lost Souls, Unsafe Places: Haunted Stories for Halloween with Candace Wolf
Thursday, October 27, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

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

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Lost Souls, Unsafe Places: Haunted Stories for Halloween with Candace Wolf
Thursday, October 27, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

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

Programs for College Bound
Continue at the Library

It’s not too late to pre-register for our popular speakers’ series for college-bound students and their parents. The following scheduled programs are free and open to the public:

Thursday September 29, 7:30 PM – Educational consultant Dr. Lori Potts Dupre helps students get started on the college selection process. Which schools might provide the right fit for you? Potts-Dupre has visited over 300 colleges nationwide.

Thursday October 6, 7:30 PM – Dr. Herm Davis, author of Financial Aid for Dummies, will discuss the financial aid application process, which schools might provide the right fit for you? Potts-Dupre has visited over 300 colleges nationwide.

Thursday October 20, 7 PM – Ms. Ilhan Cagri and her son Yahya Mokhtarzada are expert in preparing students for the new SATs. Cagri is a linguist who has taught and designed SAT preparation classes in a variety of settings.

Thursday October 27, 7:30 PM – Educator and college consultant Judith Bass will discuss with families the types of college support services available for students with learning disabilities and AD/HD.

Call the Library 301-891-7259 to pre-register or for more information.
Election 2005

NOMINATING CAUCUS

The City’s Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, at Council Chambers, 750 Maple Avenue. Only qualified voters of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, 18 years of age or older, who will be registered to vote for City offices at the time of the Caucus, are eligible to participate in the Caucus. The Caucus is open to the public. All candidates for Mayor and Councilmember will be present at the Caucus, and they will each have the opportunity to speak to the audience. The audience will be provided with a schedule of speakers. After each candidate speaks, he or she will be asked to respond to audience questions. Those who will be called upon to vote in the Caucus will be determined by the clerk. Only those who will be able to vote for Mayor and Councilmember at the November 8, 2005, Election will be eligible to vote in the Caucus. All those who will be able to vote for Mayor will also be eligible to vote for Councilmember. Those who will be able to vote for Councilmember will also be eligible to vote for Mayor. Those who will be able to vote for only one position will vote for the one who will be the candidate for the position they are able to vote for.

The Nominating Caucus will be held in the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, according to Section 604 of the Municipal Code of Takoma Park. This year, the date of the Caucus is October 4, 2005. The only place to vote will be Council Chambers, 750 Maple Avenue. If you are unsure about your voter registration status, you may call the Takoma Park City Clerk’s Office at (301) 891-7267. Your vote in the Caucus is important! Candidates who fail to gain a majority on the second ballot will be eliminated. The third ballot will be a choice between the candidates who remain on the ballot after the second ballot. The third candidate will be declared the winner. If a candidate fails to gain a majority on the third ballot, the Caucus will be declared invalid. A special election will be held to fill the position. Any person who is a registered voter in the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, on the date of the Caucus may participate in the Caucus.

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THE CRIME REPORT

Robbery
On September 11 at 8:30 p.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was putting groceries into the trunk of his car when he was approached by a subject who displayed a handgun and demanded his car. The victim struck the subject with a rock and removed the subject’s wallet from his pocket. The subject fled on foot and no injuries were reported.

On September 7 at 6:30 a.m. at the intersection of Ethan Allen Avenue and Woodland Avenue, a strong armed robbery was attempted. The victim, an adult male, was walking alone when he was approached by four subjects. One subject asked the victim a question then struck the victim repeatedly while searching the victim’s pockets and the other subjects held him down. The subjects fled when they could not find anything in the victim’s pockets. The victim suffered minor injuries.

On August 23 at 8:20 p.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an armed robbery occurred. The victim, an adult male, lost a store after making a purchase and was approached by a subject with a knife to the victim’s side and demanded his money. When the victim refused, the subject struck the victim and removed the victim’s wallet. Nephropathies were incurred.

Auto and related theft
Between September 11 at 5 p.m. and September 12 at 9:55 a.m. in the unit block of Columbia Avenue, a 1995 Honda Civic was stolen.

Between September 5 at 9 p.m. and September 6 at 8 a.m. in the 400 block of Lincoln Avenue, an auto theft was attempted. A window and the ignition of the 2005 Chrysler minivan were damaged in the attempt.

Between August 25 at 11 p.m. and August 26 at 5:30 a.m. in the 6700 block of Allegheny Avenue, a 1999 Dodge Caravan was stolen.

Between August 30 at 4 p.m. and August 31 at 7:30 a.m. in the unit block of Columbia Avenue, an auto theft was attempted. A window and the ignition of the 2004 Dodge van were damaged. Property was taken.

Between August 30 at 6 a.m. and August 31 at 10:30 p.m. in the 6700 block of New Hampshire Avenue, a 1989 Toyota Camry was stolen.

On August 21, between 10 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. in the 600 block of Houston Avenue, an auto theft was attempted. A window of a blue Colorado was broken.

On August 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the 7400 block of Helly Avenue, an auto theft was attempted. The ignition on the 1996 Honda Civic was damaged. Property was taken from the vehicle.

Between August 24 at 10 p.m. and August 25 at 9 a.m. in the 7100 block of 13th Avenue, an auto theft was attempted. A window of the car was broken.

Between August 24 at 7 p.m. and August 25 at 8:40 a.m. in the unit block of Valleyview Avenue, a 1993 Honda Civic was stolen.

Burglary
On September 10, between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the 3300 block of Eastridge Avenue, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unlocked window. Property was taken.

On September 12, between 8:05 a.m. and 10:35 a.m. in the 7400 block of Maple Avenue, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unlocked door. Property was taken.

Between September 12 at 4:30 p.m. and September 13 at 6 a.m. in the 7600 block of Wildwood Drive, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unlocked window on the ground floor of the home. Property was taken.

On September 15, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. in the 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an open basement window. Property was taken.

On September 4, between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. in the 7300 block of Maple Avenue, a burglary occurred. The lock of a detached shed was cut off to gain entry. Property was taken.

On September 7, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. in the 500 block of Philadelphia Avenue, a residential burglary occurred. The front door of the home was forced open. Property was taken.

On August 21 at 6:30 p.m. and August 22 at 12 a.m. in the 1995 block of Sherman Avenue, a burglary occurred. An unsecured shed was entered. Property was taken.

ARRESTS
On September 9 at 10:06 p.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., a juvenile male was charged with Theft Under $500.

On September 11 at 10:40 p.m. in the 1000 block of Larch Avenue, an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for 2nd Degree Assault stemming from a domestic assault that occurred on September 9 at the same location.

On September 10 at 12:33 a.m. in the 6900 block of Westmoreland Avenue, a juvenile was charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Driving While Impaired by Alcohol and Violating a License Restriction.

On September 11 at 3:01 p.m. in the 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue, an adult male was arrested and charged with driving on a revoked license, failure to yield to oncoming traffic, failure to control speed to avoid collision, driving under the influence of alcohol, and driving while impaired by alcohol.

On September 14 at 2:50 p.m. in the 7600 block of Takoma Avenue, an adult male was charged with Visual Surveillance with Prurient Intent after he was seen photographing a woman in a public bathroom.

On September 2 at 4:35 a.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., a criminal citation for Possession of CDS Paraphernalia was issued to an adult male.

On September 5 at 11:15 p.m. in the 7800 block of Lockney Avenue, an adult male was arrested on an outstanding Prince George’s County warrant for 1st Degree Assault, Armed Robbery and 2nd Degree Assault.

On August 26 at 10:20 a.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an adult male was charged with Trespassing, Public Intoxication, and Open Alcohol Container.

On August 28 at 9:50 a.m. in the 6700 block of Eastern Avenue, an adult male was arrested and charged with 1st Degree Burglary, Destruction of Property, Resisting Arrest, Theft, and Possession of Stolen Property after officers responded to an alarm and found the suspect exiting the home with property. The suspect had forced a ground level window open to gain entry.

On August 29 at 9:25 a.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd., a criminal citation for Theft under $100 was issued to an adult male.

On August 29 at 10:38 a.m. in the 7500 block of New Hampshire Avenue, an adult male was charged with Destruction of Property.

A Farewell to Deputy Chief Charles K. Prince, Jr.
On behalf of the entire Takoma Park VFD, we want to thank Deputy Chief Charles K. Prince, Jr. for a job well done throughout his 50 years with the department. Chief Prince passed away on August 28, 2005. Chief Prince has given thousands of hours of volunteer hours via of responding to emergencies in Takoma Park. He will truly be missed by all of us at TPVFD

The Fill-the-Boot
As of August 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded 729 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,726 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 2,474 incidents this year. Totals for 2004 were 717 and 1,726, respectively, for a total of 2,443, representing an increase of 33 incidents.

A Fire Safety Tip
In the event of a power outage in your home, you may find it necessary to use a candle. Your fire department recommends using a flashlight. But if you do use a candle, NEVER leave it unattended.

TPVFD’s Annual Fill-the-Boot
On Friday, September 2, in three hours, members collected $3,100 in front of the fire station. With the donation, the Fire Connection took the amount. Half of the donation will be used to help kids in need with clothing; Tom Horne, Dave Hooker, Deanna Stewart, Ntshianne Satio, Sherry Novik, Jim Jarboe, Tina, Ashlee and Andrew Willey. Also to Bruce Allen, Steve Novik, and Rusty Willey for counting the money.
State Highways Selects Takoma for Walkable Communities Workshops

The State Highway Office of Safety is sponsoring four Walkable Communities Workshops in Takoma Park, Oct. 24 and 25. A pedestrian expert Bob Chauncy of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking will lead the workshops, which include presentations and on-site observation of pedestrian conditions in selected areas. The four areas, selected because of high pedestrian use, are Pinney Branch between Philadelphia and Ritchie Avenue, Takoma/Langley Park, Takoma Junction, and Flower Avenue. This series will determine ways to further promote walking in the city while highlighting the existing safety issues with a focus on children, elderly, and the physically disabled.

“Takoma Park’s walkability has always been an integral part of the city’s character and a reason for the success of its small businesses,” says Mayor Kathy Porter. “We want to enhance this advantage of our community, and prevent pedestrian injuries.”

The series begins with Chauncy’s presentation of working examples of pedestrian programs, facilities, and policies from communities around the world. Each workshop features a trainer-led ‘walkabout’ where participants go on site to identify satisfactory and unsatisfactory pedestrian conditions. The workshops conclude with a determination of what changes might be needed and specific guidance on how to implement them. Chauncy is Director of Policy Analysis at the National Center for Bicycling and Walking and he has co-authored a number of studies on state and city planning practices involving cyclists and pedestrians. Previously, he was the first paid executive director for Maryland statewide advocate group for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Location TBA. For more information and to RSVP please contact David Suls at (301) 891-7219 or DavidS@takomagov.org.

Police News

Resident Call Leads to Two Car Theft Arrests

Carol A. Bannerman
Police Affairs Specialist

On a night that called out Takoma Park police officers, 33 times, one resident told the station made one of those incidents stand out: it led to the pursuit and arrest of two individuals suspected of car theft on Hickory Avenue, and may have helped stem one of the most prevalent crimes in the city – theft from auto.

Officers have always encourage residents to alert for suspicious activity around autos. “The chances of the police catching someone in the act of committing a crime are pretty slim for many reasons,” says Capt. Ed Coursey, commander of patrol units. “There are many more citizens out there than police and they have a better chance of seeing something as it happens. If residents call, call quickly, and with some detail, it can make the difference in catching a suspect in the act or shortly thereafter. It’s the help that makes a real difference and we can’t express enough appreciation.”

At 2:48 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 6, while patrolling in Old Town, Ofc. E. Mueller was dispatched to Hickory Avenue. A resident reported he had been awakened by a noise and had seen two men exit his neighbor’s van, climb into a silver minivan and drive towards Elm Avenue.

Where Were the Police?

At 2:41 a.m., Cpl R. Rodriguez and Ofc D. Palmer, W-Sector officers, had just cleared a call about rowdy teenagers in the 400 block of Manor Circle. A resident reported he had been awakened by a noise and had seen two men exit his neighbor’s van, climb into a silver minivan and drive towards Elm Avenue.

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Facility Threat Investigated

A note threatening the Washington Adventist Hospital was discovered in a stairwell early on Labor Day, Sept. 5. Following security routines, admission to the hospital was restricted. A preliminary search by Takoma Park police and hospital security did not reveal any danger, but explosive-detection canines were requested from other agencies. Two units each from Montgomery County, National Institutes of Health, and Metro Transit police responded to search the 318-bed facility. Arson kits to resume normal operations was issued about three and a half hours after the note’s discovery.

Takoma Park detectives are conducting an investigation into the threat.

Homeowners at Halloween

Make sure your yard is clear of hazards that can trip youth: ladders, hoses, dog tethers, and flower pots.

Pets can easily be frightened by the hectic evening events; control them for their own protection.
Is Realigning Our Police Coverage A Safe Bet?

Editor’s Note: In April, the 21-member Residents’ Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) found that rebates paid to Takoma Park by Montgomery County in compensation for city services fell at least $1.1 million and perhaps up to $4.5 million short each year. 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 is part of a series to inform residents about tax duplication issues confronting the City. Next month’s article will focus on housing and community development service duplication. To view the entire TASDI report, please visit: http://www.takomagov.org/admin/tax/index.html.

This year Montgomery County will return to the City of Takoma Park $5.3 million in reimbursement for police, crossing guard, road maintenance, and park maintenance services that the City provided in lieu of the County. The County’s rebate for police operations — $2.5 million in FY05 — is a significant part of that County payment. It represents only about half of what the City spends on police services, in large measure because the County contends it would not, in the absence of a municipal police force, provide the same level of protection and services that the City currently provides.

In light of the more than $2 million shortfall by the County to Takoma Park, the Residents’ Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues presented recommendations to the City Council that focused on better assuring a fair, accurate rebate, as well as reducing police costs. In short, the Committee recommended that the City redouble its effort to obtain higher rebates to cover costs, and at the same time, identify those City expenditures that will focus on housing and community development services that the City is currently providing.

The Committee underscored the County’s position that it would not, in the absence of a municipal police force, provide the same level of protection and services that the City currently provides. In light of the more than $2 million shortfall by the County to Takoma Park, the Residents’ Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues presented recommendations to the City Council that focused on better assuring a fair, accurate rebate, as well as reducing police costs. In short, the Committee recommended that the City redouble its effort to obtain higher rebates to cover costs, and at the same time, identify those City expenditures that the City is currently providing.

The next program will be Focus on the Role of Parents, Schools, and Prevention Agencies, focusing on the family role of parents, schools, and prevention agencies, regarding gang activity in the area, is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, at 7:30 pm in the Lilac Room, T. P. Com. Center.
The Takoma Park City Council joined a nationwide effort to oppose pending legislation which threatens local control of its public rights-of-way and the regulation of cable and telecommunication providers.

On Wednesday, December 12, 2005, the Council unanimously passed a Resolution opposing three bills currently pending in Congress. The bills, HR1146 and S1349, the so-called “Video Choice Act of 2005,” introduced in June by Maryland Rep. Albert Wynn (D) and Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), would grant national franchises to “Competitive Video Service Providers,” such as telephone and utility companies. Another bill, S1584, “The Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act,” introduced by U.S. Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., would abrogate all existing cable television franchises.

Current cable services are regulated by local governments with detailed Franchise Agreements or contracts. These bills would take away local regulation and give it to the federal government. In Takoma Park and Montgomery County, the franchise agreements define a variety of technical, financial, and customer service standards as well as entrance and exit mechanics. Federal control would eliminate local government as an arbiter of residents’ complaints. Takoma Park’s local community needs would not be met, and public, educational and government channels and facilities would be jeopardized.

Community access channels, such as City TV-13, operated by the City of Takoma Park, would be threatened due to major decreases or complete elimination of funding from franchise fees and cable rates. As estimated for Council that in the worst case scenario, the City could stand to lose in excess of $1.7 million over the next seven years, money which currently goes to support equipment and operating expenses for City TV.

Many local governments and public interest media organizations are aligning opposition to these bills. NATOA, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the Alliance for Community Media, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties are among the leaders opposing these bills on the Hill.

“These bills would dismantle the ability of local government to protect the public interest within our borders,” says Mayor Mary Sue Coleman. “This deregulation of cable and broadcasting is that these are public resources.” The Council directed staff to distribute the resolution to Congress and other elected officials such as members of the Maryland Municipal League and the Council of Governments. Residents are also urged to communicate with their representatives. More information is available on the City web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org.

Film Fest Kicks Off Pre-Festival Events

The Takoma Park Film Festival Committee has devised a series of activities that will climax with the November’s film festival. On Saturday, October 22, film buffs can sample snippets of this year’s Takoma Park Film Festival offerings at the grand opening of the Takoma Park Community Center, the host site of this year’s highly anticipated film festival. The film screening will take place in the center’s auditorium after the 2 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In homage to the close ties between cinema and radio, the Takoma Park Film Festival will host an evening of radio features and radio, the Takoma Park Film Festival Committee. In charge of a small dedicated group who are making the film festival happen on the very thinnest of shoe strings. This core group could really use your help, either by donating funds (small amounts appreciated too) or by volunteering (small discreet tasks are available) to support this showcase of local talent. Contact us today at filminfo@takomaparkfilmfestival.org.

Trashing Old Electronics Just Doesn’t Compute

Recovery

Takoma Park will host an Electronic Equipment Recycling Event on Saturday, November 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. behind the Library at Maple and Philadelphia Avenues. Bring your old or unwanted electronic equipment for refurbishment or recycling.

• Recycling electronic equipment keeps hazardous metals out of the environment.

We will accept the following items: computers and all related equipment (CPU, monitor, printer, keyboard, modem, mouse, speaker), cameras, TVs, electric typewriters, fax machines, answering machines, telephones, VCRs, radios, stereos, CD and tape players, scanners, copiers, fax machines, and other small electronic equipment.

Most electronic equipment contains potentially hazardous metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and chromium. These materials need to be handled properly and not released into the environment.

For questions or additional information call (301) 891-7615 or visit www.cityoftakomapark.org.

Takoma Park City TV

October 2005 Programming Schedule

The election season will begin in Takoma Park the first week of October, with the Nominating Caucus Wednesday October 5. This will be aired live on City TV, and replayed throughout the month. Additional election coverage will be provided at the Takoma Voice Candidate’s Forum, scheduled for October 16 at 7 p.m. The election will be held on Tuesday November 8, and City TV will air results as soon as they are available.

Look to City TV Special Events for replays of two other important community meetings held in September – The Town Hall on Gang Violence held September 14, and the Community Presentation on Metro Development held September 15.

The event will be replayed over the next month; please see the City website for specific times and dates.

Replays continuing throughout October include the Independence Day Parade and the Basketball Championship from the Recreation Department’s YES League. City TV covered 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 this month. City TV crews will also be taping at the Old Town Street Festival on October 2, and those performances should appear starting next month.

Takoma Snapshots in October includes:

• Community Oriented Policing: Crime Prevention
• Takoma Park Folk Festival Highlights

Visit our Web site at www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable to access show listings and times and other specific programming information.

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

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

Takoma Park City TV October 2005 Programming Schedule

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>Community &amp; Bulletin Board</td>
<td>City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snippets</td>
<td>Takoma Park Building Board</td>
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Programming subject to change without notice.

Takoma Park City TV

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

Email: cablevt@takomagov.org
Web: www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable

Takoma Park Newsletter

October 2005 Page 11
Halloween Events

Costume Contest
The FREAKS come out in the afternoon. Get all decked out and strut your stuff. Categories include: most original, funniest, and scariest. Ages 2 and under; 3 - 4; 5 - 7; 8 - 10; 11 - 12; Teen and Adult. Join in the Fun!

When: Saturday, October 29, 2005
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: Intersection of Carroll and Laurel Avenues, Old Town Takoma Park
Fee: FREE!

Halloween Parade
All are welcome to walk in this parade, following the firetruck down the parade route. What a sight to see all the costumed characters marching down the street, carrying glow sticks and having a great time! Beginning at Carroll and Laurel Avenues, following Carroll Avenue to Fire House, left onto Philadelphia Avenue and ending at Piney Branch Elementary School.

When: Saturday, October 29, 2005
Time: Approximately 5:45 p.m. (Immediately following the Costume Contest)
Fee: FREE!

Canine Costume Contest
Halloween is going to the dogs. Dress your dog up for this new event. Categories include cutest, scariest, funniest and most original; within two divisions puppies and adult dogs. Dogs must be leashed and under control by handler.

When: Saturday, October 29, 2005
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: At Heffner Community Center
Fee: FREE!

Halloween Bash
Join us for refreshments, sponsored by the Takoma Park Lions Club, at Piney Branch Elementary School Multipurpose Room, following the Halloween Parade. Come dance to Zydeco Crayz, a band suitable for all ages. We’d like to thank the Takoma Park Lions Club, who graciously served the Takoma Park community for several decades with its kindness and support.

When: Saturday, October 29, 2005
Time: Approximately 6:30 p.m. (Immediately following the parade)
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School
Fee: FREE!

Safety Ideas
For Halloween
• Motorists be attentive
• Homeowners control pets
• Never Trick-or-Treat alone
• Visit homes with lights on
• Cross at crosswalks
• Accompany younger children
• Use flame retardant costumes
• Try make-up instead of masks
• Never go inside a home

COMEl CELEBRATE With US
We are opening the first phase of the Takoma Park Community Center on Saturday, October 22, from 2-5 p.m. Ribbon-cutting at 2 p.m., followed by live music, dancing and other performances.

Grand finale — Chopteeth, our own dance-your-toes-off band!

Fun for all ages!
Indoors & outdoors — step dancing, jazz, hands-on art (bring your kids!), acrobatics, drumming, karate, tap dancing, fencing, concert music, plus a special exhibition of local artwork and a preview screening from the Takoma Film Festival (with discussion)

Takoma Food Vendors!
Sponsors:
City of Takoma Park
Takoma Foundation
Takoma Park Recreation Committee
Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Commission
Takoma Park Film Festival

Faces at the Folk Festival

Photos by Lonni Moffet