

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. . ."   
 Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

# Takoma Park

## NEWSLETTER

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# Washington Adventist Prepares to Pack Up: What's Next?

By Virginia Myers Kelly

When Washington Adventist Hospital announced on September 22 it would be leaving its primary campus in Takoma Park, the city council was dismayed and some residents were disappointed. A long-time neighbor was leaving.

"We are disappointed to hear that the Washington Adventist Hospital Board of Trustees has announced management plans to relocate Washington Adventist Hospital outside Takoma Park," the city council said in an official statement. "We regret the potential loss of a long-standing community partner."

Since that statement was issued there's been much talk about the possibility of a two-campus approach to hospital expansion, with one campus staying in Takoma Park. There has been speculation about what other sites Adventist HealthCare would be able to attain for its facility, should it follow through on its plan to leave. "It's not easy to develop a new site elsewhere, and they may run into some roadblocks," says Suzanne Ludlow, community and government liaison. Still, she says, she expects Washington Adventist's primary campus will pack up and go, as announced. "My feeling from talking with folks is that they are committed to leaving."

The news has been all over the papers, and discussed in council chambers as

well as in dog parks and on the street. Adventist HealthCare is shifting its "vision" for its next 100 years of service, according to a press release. In addition to moving Washington Adventist Hospital to a new campus "within the hospital's current service area," a move that requires regulatory approval, it will bring new services to the community. There will be a health care center at Arliss and Flower Avenue, in the Long Branch community, and another, also "within the service area," combining clinical care, research, and health career training focused on under-served populations such as African American, Asian, and Latino.

Adventist has also pledged a contribution of \$750,000 for the Takoma Park community center gymnasium, announced plans to work with CASA de Maryland on expansion of health care for the immigrant community, and committed itself to redesigning its board of directors to "better reflect the diversity of the community served by the hospital." Acknowledging that the expansion that created years of struggle within its neighborhood drove the realignment of its strategic plans,

Washington Adventist president Jere Stocks expressed the belief that access and quality of services will be improved through these measures.

That leaves the city with some new health care facilities on the horizon — though which horizon has not yet been made clear by the vague "in service area" description —



Photo by Virginia Myers Kelly

The main building of Washington Adventist Hospital shows just part of the 16.2-acre campus that will be left behind when the institution exits Takoma Park.

and a 16.2-acre property that will more than likely be vacant in about six years.

The best way to proceed, suggests Ludlow, is to begin a discussion of what residents want to replace the hospital. What are some appealing options? Which choices would we want to avoid? While the hospital is privately owned, and will make a decision regarding its property sale with no restrictions other than zoning, a word from the community might be welcome, she suggests.

Because the hospital site is zoned R-60 residential, single-family homes on 6,000-square-foot lots are the first possibility, once the land is subdivided. Ludlow, in a memo to the city council, points out that the steep slope along the Sligo Creek Hiker-Biker Trail would likely go undeveloped. Counting that land and rights-of-way, the remaining parcel would allow 30 to 60 single family homes, depending on environmental restrictions. Twenty percent of these would, by county law, be affordable homes; the others would probably be "very expensive," says Ludlow.

But homes are not the only possibility here. The R-60 zoning could be challenged under a provision that allows re-examination of the Master Plan in the event of a "change or mistake." Any use could be proposed. If this were the case, the city council would have more weight in the decision; if zoning remained R-60, the council could issue statements but would have no binding influence.

Even if the zoning does not change the possibilities are many. Under R-60, allowable uses include embassies, adult foster care, publicly supported rescue squads, churches, memorial gardens, convents, monasteries and other places of worship, fire stations, housing projects, respite care, libraries, museums, parks, playgrounds, private swimming pools, agriculture, and kennels. Special exceptions broaden the choices further, to include boarding houses, group homes, housing or daycare for elderly and/or handicapped people, charitable institutions, hospice care, hospitals, vets, offices, and private clubs.

Ludlow highlights parkland as a particular possibility, as the community has expressed a need for playing fields, for baseball and soccer, and courts for basketball. This option might create too much vehicular traffic, though. She describes the possibility of a senior living community with residences and small shops. Or maybe a Chautauqua-type institute, offering two-week art classes and writing seminars. "It's kind of fun to brainstorm," says Ludlow.

The driving force will be the hospital's choice of a buyer, but whatever the future holds, the community will undoubtedly be involved. As the hospital creates an "expanded vision" for its future, the city will be forced to explore its own ideas about what kind of development should take over a campus that Adventist apparently outgrew.

## Vote on November 8

It's time to exercise your right to vote in city elections. Polls will be open for you to cast your vote from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Municipal Building. On the ballot: Mayor, Council members, and an advisory referendum question on instant runoff voting. For a brief guide to candidates, see pages 6 and 7. Get out there and vote!

### Inside this Issue

County could owe \$1 million	Page 3
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Film festival arrives	Page 11

## Community Center Opens Monday!

Doors open October 24  
(October 22 opening postponed)

For more information  
see [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org).

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## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2005** — Last day to make application for regular Absentee Ballot

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2005** — Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2005** — Emergency Absentee Balloting begins

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2005** — Meeting of the Ethics Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center — Rose Room)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2005** — Council Meeting cancelled due to November 8 City Election

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005** — Election Day — Polls Open 7 a.m. TO 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005** — Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (Location TBA)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005** — Meeting of the City Council to Receive Certification of Election Results, 7:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005** — Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center — Rose Room)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2005** — Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building).

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2005** — Veteran's Day — City Offices Closed

**(Tentative) MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005** — Presentation, Regular Meeting and Work Session of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005** — Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005** — Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7:00 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2005** — City Council Inauguration, 7:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2005** — Thanksgiving — City Offices Closed

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2005** — City Offices Closed

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2005** — Presentation, Regular Meeting and Work Session of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)

**(Tentative) MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2005** — Presentation and Work Session of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (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).

### September 12, 2005 — Regular Meeting

**Ordinance 2005-27** was accepted at first reading, setting forth the 2005 Nominating Caucus and City Election (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Resolution 2005-67** was adopted, concerning Federal legislation on cable franchising issues (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-26** was adopted, as amended since first reading, authorizing a contract for renovation of the second half of the Community Plaza Level of the Community Center (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-28** was accepted at first reading, authorizing FY06 Budget Amendment No. 1 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

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

**Resolution 2005-68** was adopted, authorizing the issuance of temporary parking permits during Eastern Avenue construction (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Resolution 2005-69** was adopted, appointing Jay Lee to the Safe Roadways Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

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

**Resolution 2005-70**, appointing Albert Nunez to the Committee on the Environment

**Resolution 2005-71**, appointing Lucinda Stickney Dugger to the Arts and Humanities Commission

### September 19, 2005 — Special Session

**Resolution 2005-72** was adopted, concerning a response to Hurricane Katrina (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-29** was accepted at first reading, amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 14.04, to expand the authority of the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-30** was accepted at first reading, increasing the local supplement to the State Homeowner Property Tax Credit Program (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-28** was adopted, as amended since first reading, authorizing FY6 Budget Amendment No.

1 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-31** was accepted at first reading, authorizing the purchase of a Non-Channelized, Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) Antenna System for the Police Department (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-32** was adopted, authorizing the purchase of a leaf collection vacuum (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-33** was accepted at first reading, authorizing an agreement for financial and accounting services (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

### September 26, 2005

**Resolution 2005-73** was adopted, approving guidelines for the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Revolving Loan Fund (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-29** was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 14.04, to expand the authority of the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-30** was adopted, increasing the local supplement to the State Homeowner Property Tax Credit Program (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-27** was adopted, setting forth the 2005 Nominating Caucus and City Election (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-34** was accepted at first reading, amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 5, Elections, to allow children under the age of 13 to enter the voting booth with a voting adult (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-31** was adopted, authorizing the purchase of a Non-Channelized, Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) Antenna System for the Police Department (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-33** was adopted, authorizing an agreement for financial and accounting services (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

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

**Resolution 2005-74**, appointing Len Clay, Aaron Houston, and Darren Morgen to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

**Resolution 2005-75**, appointing Art Gary and Emily Schabacker to the Ethics Commission

**Resolution 2005-76**, Appointing Pat Howell to the Tree Commission

### October 6, 2005 — Special Session

**Resolution 2005-77** was adopted, placing an Advisory Referendum concerning Instant Runoff Voting on the 2005 City Election Ballot (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**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.

## Committee Vacancies

**Emergency Preparedness Committee.** The committee was established to provide community input to and assist in the City's planning and preparations for emergency operations and to involve residents in providing appropriate assistance during emergency operations. Applicants should have some professional background in emergency preparedness or operations and be available to perform committee duties during the day when required. (One to two vacancies.)

**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.)

**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 to two vacancies.)

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

# County Could Owe \$1 Million For Housing Services

*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 housing and community development services, by John Conger, a member of the TASDI committee, is the fourth in a series to inform residents about tax duplication issues confronting the City. To view the entire TASDI report, please visit: <http://www.takomagov.org/admin/tax/index.html>*

By John Conger

The Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues (TASDI) spent several months reviewing the Takoma Park budget and examining areas of service duplication between the County and the City. Under county policy, the County must provide a rebate to the City for a City service equal to what it would have spent if it had responsibility for that service.

The Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development administers programs and services that cover housing, code enforcement, community and economic development and grants management. The Department's budget is just under \$1 million. In reviewing the programs and finances of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the TASDI Committee was surprised to discover that the City of Takoma Park receives no rebate from Montgomery County for any of the

Department's programs and services, even though some of the services are similar or duplicative.

Although County and City-provided housing services are similar, the County's decision to deny any rebate to Takoma Park stems largely from the City's use of "rent stabilization" or regulatory control by the City over rents that landlords may charge. The County claims that no rebate to the City for licensing or inspection activities that support rent stabilization is warranted, since, if the County had exclusive responsibility for housing programs and codes, it would not devote resources to such activities. The County makes a similar argument for refraining to provide any rebate to reimburse the City for the activities of the Committee on Landlord-Tenant Affairs.

The County's rationale is particularly ironic in the case of housing inspections. Recently, Takoma Park and Montgomery County worked out an arrangement

for the City to contract its housing inspection functions to the County. On the surface, this is a great deal because it saves the City about \$50,000, and the County actually provides higher-quality service, devoting more staff to the activity, due to more frequent inspections contracted by the City. The irony is that the County is using its inspections staff to do a job the City staff had been doing, and they are charging us (even if the charge is less than what the City otherwise would have spent). Recall the rebate rules: the County is supposed to provide funds to the City for the work the County would have to do if the City didn't. One could conclude, therefore, that the County should take on any of the City's functions for free if the County performs that same function for other parts of the county.

The TASDI Committee recommends that the City identify code enforcement, landlord-tenant services and other housing services that are similar to those performed by the County and demand a fair rebate. The recent experience involving the contracting-out of inspections responsibility to the County is instructive because it shows that the County can perform these functions and that they are, in fact, duplicative.

If the County continues to resist payment of a fair rebate, TASDI also recom-

mends that the City examine the handoff to the County of the rental housing inspection program as a potential model for other City functions. Contracting this service to the County saves the City money and improves services.

After some discussion over the City's rent stabilization program, the Committee concludes that it was not within its mandate to evaluate Takoma Park's housing policy. It is clear, however, that the City performs many housing functions that duplicate County activities, albeit with a different code.

The City also administers programs involving community development and grants. In examining these management costs, TASDI discovered that the City actually acquires more grant money than it spends under this account. In essence, the City's efforts to apply for grants are an investment that yields more funds to invest in the City. While these functions could be ceded to the County, the City would lose its voice in deciding what grants would be applied for and how they would be spent. At the same time, were Takoma Park not engaged in this area of activity, some County effort would nonetheless occur, triggering again the case for a County rebate.

Given all of these facts, TASDI concludes that Montgomery County should be providing Takoma Park close to \$1 million in rebates for its housing and community development efforts. Instead, the City hasn't received a dime.

## COLTA's Corner



### Capital Improvement Petitions Approved

By Jean Kerr  
Housing Specialist

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved several capital improvement petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park. They appear in order of their petition numbers: **6444 5th Avenue (2005-46L)**

On September 2, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase for \$88.03 on one unit at the property. The improvements included new dishwasher, refrigerator, carpentry, dumpster, carpet, painting, and electrical wiring. **700 Chaney Drive (2005-45L)**

On September 16, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$28.12 to \$81.73 on all six units at the property. The improvements included installation of electric circuits for air conditioners, new roof, windows, replaced cement step, fascia, gutter, and installed foundation drainage. **7300 Flower Avenue (2005-56L)**

On September 18, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent

### Home Disclosure Requirements Change

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

Under a law that took effect on October 1 sellers of Maryland real estate are now obligated to reveal what they know about problems that may not be visible and which endanger life and limb. Applicable to sellers of single-family residential dwellings with four or fewer units, the new law requires that sellers must disclose any latent defect(s) of which the seller has actual knowledge. A latent defect is defined under the new law as material defects in property or an improvement to the property that a buyer would not reasonably be expected to ascertain or observe by a careful visual inspection, and that would pose a threat to the health or safety of the buyer or person living in the property.

Sellers are not required to find the defect(s) but are required to disclose those defects they know about. Those exempt from the new disclosure requirements include (1) sellers of a house which has never been occupied or for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued within a year before the buyer and seller enter into a contract; (2) foreclosure sales by lenders or bankruptcy sales by a court-appointed trustee and (3) transfers connected with an estate, guardianship, conservatorship, or trust.

increases ranging from \$6.52 to \$38.92 on six units at the property. The improvements included new oak floor and trims, replaced kitchen, tub, faucet and drain, landscaping, and termite treatment. **8312 Roanoke Avenue (2005-58L)**

On September 17, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases

The new Maryland disclosure requirement follows a national movement away from the centuries-old concept of *caveat emptor* (let the buyer beware). This concept worked during earlier times when buyers and sellers were viewed as being on equal footing in terms of evaluating property, and the true value of the property was the land, not the building. The typical house or barn had little that could not be readily seen. In today's real estate world there are myriad possible defects that a buyer cannot be expected to discover without expert help. Such problems could include a defective septic tank or serious wiring problems. Accordingly, Maryland lawmakers decided that home buyers were at a disadvantage when it came to determining the conditions of properties. Sellers under the new law don't have to investigate whether there are problems, pay for repairs or reveal everything about their house, but they must disclose latent (hidden) defects they're aware of that would threaten health or safety that the buyer or home inspector could not easily detect.

For additional information, contact the Maryland Real Estate Commission by calling 410-230-6230.

for \$55.89 on six units at the property. The improvements included new thermal windows, electrical wiring, and smoke detector system.

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

**Deadline for Submissions: November 7**  
**Next Issue: November 18**

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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)

# Fall Leaf Collection Program Begins

Loose leaf collection will be provided by the City from November 7 through December 23. Leaves will be collected by special vacuum-equipped trucks. Residents can rake out their leaves at their convenience. Most City streets will not have assigned collection days. Neighborhoods in the City will be divided into zones, each of which will have two collection trucks and crews assigned to them. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Collection can be delayed by rain or freezing conditions.

Some streets will have assigned and posted collection due to the heavy traffic. 7000 to 7800 Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, and the 7900 to 8600 block of Flower Avenue will have collection on Wednesday, November 16 and December 14. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Thursday, November 17 and December 15.

Leaf collection begins November 7

and ends December 23. During the first half of the collection schedule the collection crews will concentrate

ing. Please contact Public Works by phone: (301) 891-7633. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at (301)

## Leaf Collection

- Collection will occur continuously from November 7 to December 23.
- Residents can rake leaves at their convenience, there is no assigned collection day. (However, the major traffic streets in the City will have assigned collection days.)
- Residents should place leaves inside the curb, free of branches and debris.
- Streets **will not** be posted with collection signs.
- Vacuum leaf collection will end December 23, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.
- Leaf Collection Hotline for reporting piles, (301) 891-7626.

on picking up large piles of leaves. Towards the last weeks of collection crews will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves and clean streets and rights of way.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are provid-

ing. Please contact Public Works by phone: (301) 891-7633. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at (301)

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1. Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. **Do not** rake leaves into the street. Wet leaves can create traffic hazards.

2. Pile leaves away from cars. **Do not** park your car in front of a leaf pile if possible and when raking please try to avoid piling leaves where cars are parked.

3. The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. **Do not** include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.

4. **Do not** pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.

The City also operates the weekly Monday collection for bagged grass, leaves, branches and brush all year long. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than four feet long and less than three inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in a trash can. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled on weeks with a Monday holiday.

## Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

It's that time of the year, so please make the changes on October 30.

Although smoke alarms are present in 95 percent of American homes, 20 percent do not work due to worn or missing batteries — this means nearly 19 million homes are at needless risk. The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when most families are sleeping.

A working smoke alarm can often provide the critical extra seconds people need to get out safely.

## Recycle Old Electronics

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

## Telephone Book Recycling

The City will collect telephone books for recycling on the week of December 12 - 16. Place phonebooks on the curbside on your recycling day that week. Place the phonebooks next to your other recycling items. If you have any questions, please contact Public Works at (301) 891-7633.

## General Election Regulations

Tuesday, November 8, 2005, is Election Day. The single polling place (the Municipal Building) will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Paper ballots will be used in the 2005 City Election. Each of the six wards will have separate voting booths. Ballots will contain the names of all candidates for Mayor, the names of Council candidates from one ward only, and one advisory referendum question. City elections are nonpartisan and no party labels will be displayed. Ballots will be provided in both English and Spanish.

**ABSENTEE BALLOT RULES** - Takoma Park residents who are registered to vote in the November 8, 2005 City Election may vote by absentee ballot under the following circumstances:

**REGULAR ABSENTEE BALLOT** - Voters who will be unavoidably absent from the City for any reason on Election Day, or because of physical disability are unable to come to the polls in person, may request an application for a regular absentee ballot from the City Clerk. Completed applications must be filed with the Clerk not later than 7 days prior to the election, 4 p.m., November 1. Upon verification of a voter's eligibility, an absentee ballot will be issued—either by mail or in person. The completed ballot must be received by the Clerk prior to the closing of the polls at 8 p.m. on Election Day.

**EMERGENCY ABSENTEE BALLOT** - During the period of November 1 through November 8, qualified voters who find they will be unable to come in person for certain unavoidable reasons which occurred after November 1, may apply for an Emergency Absentee Ballot. If the applicant does not apply and vote in person, he or she may designate in the application a registered voter of the City to act as agent in picking up and delivering the ballot (candidates and their families may not act as agents). The application must be completed and filed with the Clerk prior to issuance of a ballot to the agent. As with regular absentee voting, a ballot cannot be issued until the voter's eligibility has been established, and the ballot must be returned to the City Clerk prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day.

If you are issued an absentee ballot of either type, you must vote by that method, even if your plans change and you find you can vote in person on Election Day.

**CITY ELECTIONS BY WARDS** - Councilmembers are elected by the voters of their respective wards. This means that only those persons registered at an address in a particular ward may vote for a Councilmember who is to represent that ward. If a person is registered at an address in one ward and has moved into a different ward without notifying the Board of Elections (U.S. citizens) or the City Clerk's Office (non-U.S. citizens), he/she must vote in the ward in which he/she is registered. It will not be possible to transfer from one ward to another on Election Day. All changes must have been made by October 10, the City's cut-off date for new registrations and for changes of address.

## Reglamentaciones Para La Elección General

El martes 8 de noviembre de 2005, es el día de la Elección Municipal. El único lugar para votar (la Municipalidad) estará abierto de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Para la elección municipal del 2005, se utilizarán boletas/papeletas electorales impresas. Cada uno de los seis distritos tendrá cabinas electorales separadas. Las boletas electorales tendrán los nombres de todos los candidatos para Alcalde, los nombres de los candidatos para el Consejo para un solo distrito y la pregunta sobre el referendo. Las elecciones municipales son elecciones no partidistas, por lo tanto no se verán rótulos partidarios. Las boletas electorales se entregarán en inglés y español.

**NORMAS PARA EL VOTO EN AUSENCIA** - Los residentes de Takoma Park que estén empadronados/registrados para la elección municipal del 8 de noviembre de 2005, podrán votar en ausencia en las circunstancias siguientes:

**VOTO EN AUSENCIA REGULAR** - Aquellos votantes que por cualquier motivo inevitable no puedan estar presentes el día de la elección, o que debido a una incapacidad física no les sea posible trasladarse hasta el sitio electoral, pueden pedir al Secretario Municipal una solicitud de Voto en Ausencia Regular. Las solicitudes completadas deben entregarse al Secretario Municipal a más tardar para el 1 de noviembre a las 4:00 p.m., 7 días antes de la elección. Una vez verificada la elegibilidad del votante, se entregará una boleta para voto en ausencia regular - por correo o en persona. El Secretario Municipal debe recibir la boleta electoral completada antes del cierre de los comicios a las 8:00 p.m. del día de la elección.

**VOTO EN AUSENCIA DE EMERGENCIA** - Durante el periodo del 1 al 8 de noviembre, los votantes calificados que por motivos inevitables, ocurridos después del 1 de noviembre no puedan votar en persona, pueden pedir una solicitud para Voto en Ausencia de Emergencia. Si la persona no solicitó ni votó en persona, puede designar en la solicitud a un votante registrado de la ciudad para que actúe como su agente y recoja y entregue la boleta electoral (los candidatos y sus familiares no pueden actuar como agentes). La solicitud debe llenarse y presentarse al Secretario Municipal antes que se entregue la boleta electoral al agente. Tal como en el caso de Voto en Ausencia Regular, no se emitirá una boleta hasta que se haya comprobado la elegibilidad del votante y una vez emitida, el Secretario Municipal debe recibir la boleta electoral completada antes del cierre de los comicios del día de la elección.

Si le otorgan una boleta para voto en ausencia de cualquier tipo, debe votar usando ese método aun si sus planes cambian y usted puede presentarse a votar en persona el día de la elección.

**ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES POR DISTRITO** - Los miembros del Consejo son elegidos por los votantes de sus distritos respectivos. Lo que significa que sólo las personas registradas en una dirección de un distrito en particular, pueden votar por un miembro del Consejo que será el representante de dicho distrito. Si la persona está registrada en una dirección de un distrito y se mudó a otro sin haber notificado a la Junta Electoral (para ciudadanos estadounidenses) o a la Secretaría Municipal (para los que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses), dicha persona debe votar en el distrito en el que está registrado. No será posible hacer una transferencia de un distrito a otro el día de la elección. Todos los cambios deben haberse realizado para el 10 de octubre que es la fecha límite de la municipalidad para nuevos empadronamientos y cambios de domicilio.



# RECREATION

Due to construction delays, some of our fall programs have been postponed or canceled. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. Don't give up!!! We will be offering most classes again in the Winter season, beginning in January. Look for our Winter Guide in the December edition of this newsletter.

## Fun Day Program

Exciting field trips on scheduled whole-day closings and activities and performances on scheduled half-day closings. Participants will meet at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. On half days only students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up in the cafeteria and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Activities subject to change and may be cancelled due to low registration. Children bring a snack on half days and lunch on all-day trips.

- #5. **Tuesday, November 1**  
**BAPA Imagination Stage-Cinderella and Ice Skating**  
**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**\$20 Residents • \$25 Non-Residents**
- #6. **Thursday, November 10**  
**Sudha Bhagwat — See your name in Sanskrit, learn a traditional Indian Dance, wear a sari or a tuki.**  
**1 - 6 p.m.**  
**\$10 Residents • \$15 Non Residents**
- #7. **Friday, November 11 • Unicycle Lady — Learn to spin a plate, juggle and many other clowning techniques.**  
**1 p.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**\$10 Residents • \$15 Non-Residents**

## Standard First Aid and CPR 16 and Up

Standard First Aid and CPR give you the skills to recognize and provide basic care for sudden illness and injury until medical personnel arrive. Six hours of class time required. Upon successful completion of a written and skills exam earn an American Red Cross Standard First Aid certificate good for three years and an Adult CPR certificate good for one year. Choose one session.

- When: Saturday, November 12**  
**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
- Location: Rose Room — Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$25**  
**Non-Resident \$30**

## An Introduction to Professional Voice Acting

Designed for those with little or no previous acting or voice-over experience. Participants learn the basics of professional Voice Acting for commercials, animation, books on tape, documentaries, children's material, and more. Discuss the recording studio, types of

voices, hear recorded samples of the professional voice of Heather Kay, instructor from the Creative Voice Development Group.

- When: Wednesday, November 9**
- Time: 7 - 9 p.m.**
- Location: Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$10**  
**Non-Resident \$15**

## Dog Training Classes

Choose a class that is right for you and your best friend. Bring current vaccination records to the first class. Kids 10 and up with an adult are welcome! Indoor Location. Instructor: Elizabeth Marsden, The Logical Dog.

## Basic Dog Manners

Teach your older puppy or adult dog the basics: 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. Limit eight dogs. Six weeks.

- Location: Heffner Park Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue.**  
**No class November 26.**
- When: Saturdays, November 5 - December 17**
- Time: 11 a.m. - noon**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$85**  
**Non-Resident \$95**

## Youth Community Basketball Program

Pass, dribble, shoot, rebound - it's a simple game. Don't complicate it. Learn the game the right way with the fundamentals in a nifty nine-week program with the area's finest teachers. Junior ball, modified rules, 4-on-4, small court.

- Boys**
- Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Avenue**
- When: Saturdays, December 10, 2005 - March 4, 2006**
- Clinic Dates: December 10, 17**
- Time: 9 - 10:15 a.m. grade 3**  
**10:30 - 11:45 a.m. grade 4**
- Practice Dates: January 7, 21, 28**
- Regular Season: February 4, 11, 25, March 4**
- Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$40**  
**Non-Resident \$45**

- Girls**
- Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Avenue**
- When: Sundays, December 11, 2005 - March 5, 2006**
- Clinic Dates: December 11, 18**
- Time: 1 - 2:30 p.m.**
- Practice Dates: January 8, 22, 2006**
- Regular Season: January 29, February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 2006**
- Time: 1 - 5 p.m.**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$40**  
**Non-Resident \$45**

No program December 24, 25, 31, January 1, 14, 15, and February 18, 19.



## Indoor Soccer Program

**Grades 1-4**  
 The Takoma Park Recreation Department Indoor Soccer Program is back! It's bigger! It's better! Learn how to play this beautiful game and have fun at the same time. Imagine that! Nine weeks. Participants will be grouped into teams in two separate divisions: grades 1-2 and grades 3-4.

- When: Sundays, December 11, 2005 - March 5, 2006**
- Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue**
- Clinic Dates: December 11, 18**
- Time: 1 - 2:30 p.m. grades 1 & 2**  
**3 - 4:30 p.m. grades 3 & 4**
- Practice Dates: January 8, 22, 29**
- Game Dates: February 5, 12, 26, March 5**
- Time: 1 - 6 p.m.**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$40**  
**Non-Resident \$45**

Volunteer coaches are needed! No program December 25, 2005, January 1, 15 and February 19, 2006.

## Takoma Park Basketball League

**Grades 5 & 6**  
 Takoma Park's very own basketball league is back! Quality instructional clinics, practice time and games, a community-based, convenient alternative to a county-run program, with the area's finest teachers.

- Boys Division**
- When: Saturdays, December 10, 2005 - March 4, 2006**
- Clinic Dates: December 10, 17**
- Time: 1 - 3 p.m.**
- Practice Dates: January 7**
- Time: 1 - 4 p.m.**
- Regular Season: January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 25, March 4**
- Time: 1 - 4 p.m.**
- Weeknight practices:**  
 One hour per week  
 beginning January 4, 2006  
**Tuesdays or Thursdays, between 7 - 9 p.m.**
- Location: Piney Branch Elementary, 7510 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$50**  
**Non-Resident \$55**

No program December 24, 31, January 14 and February 18.

- Girls Division**
- When: Sundays, December 11, 2005 - March 5, 2006**
- Clinic Dates: December 11, 18**
- Time: 2:30 - 4 p.m.**
- Practice Dates: January 8, 22**
- Time: 3 - 5 p.m.**
- Regular Season: January 29, February 5, 12, 26, March 5**
- Time: 3 - 5 p.m.**
- Location: Piney Branch Elementary, 7510 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$40**  
**Non-Resident \$45**

No program December 25, January 1, 15 and February 19

## Table Games

What kind of table games do you enjoy playing? Cards, Dominoes, Monopoly, Quinto, Chicken Foot, Rummikub, Mexican Train and others? Join in the fun and play to win.

- When: Tuesdays, November 1 - 29**
- Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
- Location: Senior Room - Takoma Park Community Center**
- Fee: Free.**

## Y.E.S. Basketball Program

**Grades 7 - 12**  
 Winter Y.E.S. Basketball League is back for an extended engagement! Just like our classic summer league, Winter Y.E.S. provides ballers a great hoops program at a great price. Each player MUST attend one scheduled evaluation workout in order to play. Get your game on.

- When: November 29 - March 2, 2006**
- Call for dates and times according to age.**
- Location: Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road**
- Fee: T.P. City Resident \$20**  
**Non-Resident \$25**

No program on December 27, 29.

We need volunteer coaches! Call for more details. Mandatory Coaches Meeting, Tuesday, November 22, 2005, 7 p.m. at the Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue. Grade 7 - 9 draft Friday, December 9, 7 p.m.; grade 10-12 draft Monday, December 12, 7 p.m., at the Municipal Building.

## Silver Foxes Senior Club

The Senior Room in the new Community Center will have comfortable furnishings in a relaxed atmosphere, available seven days a week including some evenings. The expanded program will include a variety of new activities. We welcome your suggestions. For calendar or to get on the mailing list, contact the Recreation Department, 301-891-7280.

Silver Fox Trips meet at the Senior Room of the Takoma Park Community Center a half hour before the trip is to depart. Most trips are free unless noted, but bring spending money. Please call 301-891-7280 to RSVP for the trip no later than one week before trip.

- Date: Friday, November 4**
- Location: U.S. Botanical Gardens**
- Time: 9:30 a.m.**
- Fee: Free, but bring money for restaurant**
- Date: Thursday, December 22**
- Location: Seneca Park Festival of Winter Lights**
- Time: 6 p.m.**
- Fee: \$3 per person**

## Senior Day Buffet

This is the day everyone looks forward to. Play bingo first then partake of an all-you-can-eat buffet. The food is good and we enjoy the camaraderie of other seniors at this monthly event. If you need transportation, please call 301-891-7280 to arrange for pickup.

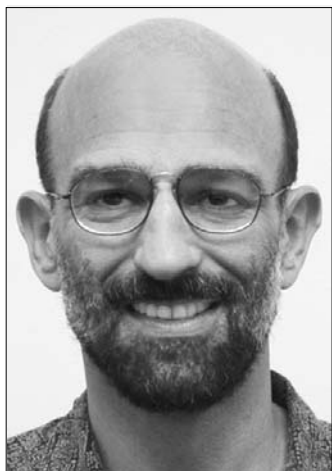
- When: November 16**
- Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
- Location: Old Country Buffet, 240 North Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg, MD**
- Fee: \$7.13 (\$6.61 with discount card)**
- RSVP: 301-891-7280**



Photos by Debra Haiduven

# Statements from Candidates for City Office

## ★ Mayor ★



**Seth Grimes**

Takoma Park is an extraordinary place, yet we as a city face difficult challenges.

The incumbent mayor's four terms have given us

- a police force that has been 10 percent understaffed since 2001,
- huge Community Center cost overruns and no gym,
- a decade of neglected roads before last year's emergency \$2 million bond, and
- reactive, haphazard approaches to city finances, WAH's planned departure, development, and environmentalism.

In my years as a Takoma Park resident, business owner, and school and community volunteer, I have immersed myself in pedestrian safety, policing, and development concerns, in city finances and governance, and in ways to better serve lower-income residents, kids, and seniors.

I will provide the innovative leadership we have lacked to rebuild consensus around our shared ideal of a liveable, diverse, affordable community.

Business as usual just isn't good enough for Takoma Park. It's time for change for the better.

I will provide the innovative leadership we have lacked. I will rebuild consensus around our shared ideal of a liveable, diverse, affordable, and progressive community.

[www.sethgrimes.org](http://www.sethgrimes.org), [seth@sethgrimes.org](mailto:seth@sethgrimes.org), 301-873-8225



**Kathy Porter**

I am proud of our accomplishments, but we still face challenges. Major crimes are at a 10-year low, but our police should be more visible and communicate better with residents. The first phase of our community center is finished, despite construction difficulties, and I am committed to adding a gym. We achieved a win-win at Montgomery College — campus expansion with neighborhood preservation — and I want to do the same with development at the Metro and in Old Takoma. We made environmental progress by purchasing wind power; we are leaders in efforts to allow cities to buy "green" electrical power and sell it to residents at a savings. We have increased tax rebates from the county, and I will use my relationships with county officials to get more. Overall, our progressive policies promote a diverse, eclectic Takoma Park, and I will do everything I can to keep it that way.

[portertakoma@verizon.net](mailto:portertakoma@verizon.net), 301-270-8680

The statements from candidates are provided as a service to voters in the upcoming City election. No endorsement of any candidate is intended. Each candidate was asked to submit a statement of up to 150 words, which is reprinted here as submitted. Every effort has been made by the Newsletter to provide equal access to all the candidates.

In accordance with the Newsletter guidelines, statements from candidates for mayor are listed first, then statements from Council candidates in order of ward number. In contested races, candidates are listed alphabetically.

The election takes place Tuesday, November 8, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue.

### Notice:

Rudy Arredondo dropped out of the mayoral contest due to unexpected work obligations.

### Advisory Ballot Question / Pregunta del Referendo

#### Instant Runoff Voting

The City Charter now provides that the candidate receiving the largest number of votes for each office is elected to that office, even if that candidate does not have a majority of votes. A runoff election is held only in the event of a tie vote.

The City Council should amend the Charter: to adopt an instant runoff voting system that allows voters to rank candidates in order of choice (1, 2, 3, and so on) to produce a majority vote for a candidate without a runoff election in the event that no candidate receives a majority of the first choices.

#### "Balotaje" Instantaneo

El reglamento de la ciudad estipula que el candidato que reciba la mayor cantidad de votos para cada oficina municipal es elegido para esa oficina, aun si dicho candidato no obtiene la mayoría de votos. El "balotaje" segunda vuelta de elecciones sólo se realiza en caso de empate de votos.

El Consejo Municipal debería enmendar dicha cláusula: para adoptar un sistema de balotaje instantáneo que permita a los votantes clasificar a los candidatos según su preferencia (1ro., 2do., 3ro. y así sucesivamente), para lograr un voto mayoritario para un candidato sin tener que ir a una segunda elección, en caso que ninguno de los candidatos haya logrado la mayoría de votos como la primera opción.

[Vote FOR to support the proposal. Vote AGAINST to oppose it. / Vote a FAVOR de la propuesta. Vote en CONTRA de la propuesta.]

## ★ Ward 1 ★ Joy Austin-Lane



Thank you to the residents of Ward 1 for continuing to entrust me as your city representative. For the last four years, I have loved working together with you on our shared vision for Takoma Park. This great city is continually renewed by diverse perspectives and fresh ideas. I remain committed to advocating for your interests at the city, county, state and federal levels of government. Thank you for your efforts to make Takoma Park an even better place to live.

I am proud to represent you on the Takoma Park City Council.

Sincerely,  
Joy Austin-Lane  
301- 385-2900  
[JoyAustinLane@aol.com](mailto:JoyAustinLane@aol.com)

★ Ward 2 ★

Colleen Clay



I came to Takoma Park for the excellent public schools, diverse neighborhoods, and small town sensibility. I want to use my experience as a professional city planner, fair housing investigator, and community development and affordable housing policy specialist to insure that Takoma Park remains a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for all our residents. We face challenges from rapidly increasing city costs, decreased sense of neighborhood safety, traffic congestion, and new building developments that may reshape the heart of downtown. I support an honest fiscal analysis of city services to realign spending on highest priority issues, such as regionally comparable police pay, without increasing property taxes. Our city should identify our needs and seek out developers that match our vision. Change is happening all around us. We must proactively plan for the change we desire, change we can live with, and change from which we can benefit. See [colleenclay.com](http://colleenclay.com). Contact [colleen\\_clay@msn.com](mailto:colleen_clay@msn.com), 301-270-6888.

Eileen Sobeck

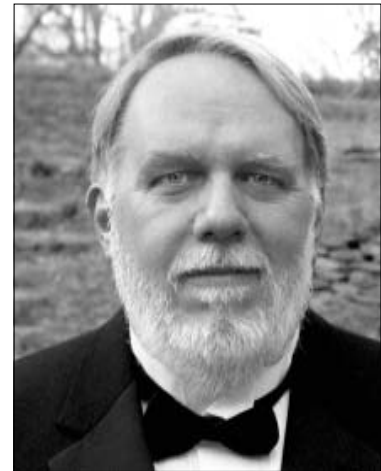


Photo by Julie Waitt (Takoma Voice)

For the past 15 years I have lived in Takoma Park with my husband and our two children. As an outgrowth of my longtime involvement in our community, I am seeking to represent Ward Two on the City Council. Traffic and quality of policing are important issues in our neighborhoods. We need to collaborate with our neighborhood groups to identify the sources of problems and find systemic solutions. The next few years will also be crucial in defining and preserving the character of our town. There will be increased development pressure, both for housing and at commercial sites. We need to attract and support development appropriate for our unique community. This will require working with business interests, community groups, and multiple layers of government to balance conflicting interests and forge compromise where it may initially seem impossible. I have the experience and leadership skills required to address these challenges effectively. [www.eileensobeck.com](http://www.eileensobeck.com); [sobeck4council@aol.com](mailto:sobeck4council@aol.com); 301-891-3106.

★ Ward 3 ★

Bruce R. Williams



I'm pleased and gratified to have served as Councilmember from Ward 3 for the last twelve years. I've worked with residents to solve many problems that confront us, and I've helped build consensus on many issues. I've worked closely with officials from the county, region, and state to make sure that our voices are heard in decisions that affect our quality of life. I've championed reducing the property tax burden for low income homeowners to the fullest extent allowed by state law, and I've helped tenants to buy their building so they could continue to live in our community. I would like to continue to work to make sure that important issues on the horizon, particularly completion of the community center including a gym, and redevelopment of properties in and adjacent to the ward, are resolved with the best outcomes informed by thorough input from residents. [brwilli@aol.com](mailto:brwilli@aol.com), 301-891-0728

★ Ward 4 ★

Terry Seamens



The coming years promise great opportunities for Takoma Park residents. The community center and numerous development projects in the area will bring a new vitality to the city. Meanwhile, the many conversions of apartments to condominiums, escalating taxes and the booming housing market threaten to make it too expensive for current residents to live here. The loss of the hospital presents additional long-term planning challenges. Council members will have to lead the community through the coming years as we strive to improve our city while protecting the place we call home. As we face these challenges, I will advocate for responsible spending, look for opportunities to reduce costs while maintaining services, and seek more accountability within our government. I will work with community members to ensure we have a gym for our young people, and create programs that address Ward 4 needs. Another priority is for people to feel safer in our neighborhood. My door is always open for my constituents and other city residents. You can contact me at 301-565-0190 or [TJSeamens@aol.com](mailto:TJSeamens@aol.com).

★ Ward 5 ★

Marc Elrich



I'm honored that I can continue to serve our community. Takoma Park is a model city, shown in no way more important than its commitment to affordable housing. Today we face efforts to displace many of our low-income residents. I will continue to work with the County and State to draft legislation allowing us to preserve our diverse community. Our new City Manager has improved the City's management and fiscal accountability, but management is no panacea for minimizing taxes while maintaining services. We face a real challenge in getting our fair rebate of duplicated taxes from the County, but as Rockville and Gaithersburg also concluded, City services provide more than what we'd get from the County. I urge you to resist the demagoguery of candidates promising more police, increased pay, added services, with no service cuts, and no tax increases. Voodoo economics doesn't work in Washington, nor in Takoma Park. I can be reached at [marcelrich@starpower.net](mailto:marcelrich@starpower.net), 301-587-2685.

★ Ward 6 ★

Doug Barry



Takoma Park is a tale of two cities. One is a model of vitality, creativity and social justice. The other is a vulnerable oasis on the verge of being engulfed by urban social problems and skyrocketing property values. Our challenge: preserve what's good and fix what's not. Here's my plan:

- Build up the police department to full strength and improve responsiveness.
- Work with Montgomery County local governments and the Council to get a fair share of rebate money.
- Strengthen housing code enforcement and improve the appearance of our residential and commercial areas.
- Finish the community center and build an affordable gym—a proven way to reduce youth crime and gang involvement and to create community.
- Redevelop the New Hampshire Avenue corridor, attracting much needed mixed income housing and more retail.

I'll work hard to make Takoma Park the same great place for all its citizens. 301-439-2140.

## Aztlan: Native American Storytelling, Song, and Dance

The Thanksgiving season is now traditionally celebrated at the Takoma Park Maryland Library with a visit from Tomas Shash, spokesperson and elder of the Aztlan Native American Cultural Arts Center in Gardner, Colorado. This year's visit from Tomas and various members of his family will take place in the Children's Room on **Monday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m.**

Tomas, or "Eaglebear" as he is affectionately known by his Takoma Park fans, seeks through song, dance, and storytelling to provide insight into the lives of Native American people today. The group expresses values of the Native American people and the community in which they live: respect for elders, giving a helping hand to friends and neighbors, helping mom and dad, listening to teachers, and taking care of Mother Earth. The members of the Aztlan center are descendants of the Mimbreno Apache and the Mexican Indian people.

In the past, Tomas has brought at least some of his family of nine children who are accomplished dancers and storytellers in their own right. One of his sons is now married to a woman from Mexico and has been learning the Aztec dances to augment the Apache dances.

The Friends of the Library have generously offered to pay for this special event. Please let us know you will be attending by calling 301-891-7259.

## The Art of Circle Time

Circle Time for preschoolers of all ages as well as their parents, grandparents, nannies, and older siblings, is an on-going weekly program that has sustained a loyal following for many years. Because Circle Time happens every Tuesday that the Library is open, volunteer leadership is vital for those Tuesdays when a children's librarian is not "in residence." Last year and this year, the library has been blessed by the gifts of Greta Ehrig, an award-winning "singersongwriterpoet," arts educator, and creativity counselor. Ehrig's next appearance will be on November 15.

Greta Ehrig believes that everyone has a well of creativity just waiting to be tapped! Greta's work has received support from The Maryland State Arts Council, The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, The National League of American Pen Women, The Lannan Foundation, and American University, where she holds an MFA in Creative Writing. In addition to writing and performing her own poetry and music, she has developed a preschool music curriculum ("BaBy JaMS!") and coaches both children and adults, individually and in group settings. For more information, visit [www.GretaEhrig.com](http://www.GretaEhrig.com)

## LIBRARY

### "New" Old Books Revive Classics Among Library Patrons

By Jillian Hershberger  
Children's and Youth Services

A bitter-sweet challenge for any children's librarian is to try to help figure out the names of long-ago favorite books for nostalgic adults who want to re-read the stories that made a lasting impression on them. Many of these books have fallen into obscurity, but sometimes they are not only identified but actually re-printed.

The *New York Review of Books* has entered its fifth year of publishing a "classics" series which reintroduces some of the many remarkable books that have fallen out of print, or simply out of sight, in recent years. To my delight, the classics now include

some children's books which I have been adding to our children's collection. The books are lovely examples of book-making, all with a signature dark-red cloth spine, and includes titles such as *Carbonel: the King of the Cats* by Barbara Sleigh and *The Wind on the Moon* by Eric Linklater. I particularly recommend Esther Averill's cat stories, many of them starring the enchanting Jenny Linsky, the shy little orphan cat who goes to live with Captain Tinker, who knits her a bright red woolen scarf to go with her black fur and yellow eyes.

*Vive la Jenny Linsky* and all the other characters in these books who have been given new life by the NYRB Classics.

### "Radio Rules" Features Local Producers

By Steve Mencher

Takoma Park is the center of the public radio revolution. Because of its roots as an activist community, and its proximity to National Public Radio headquarters in Washington, TP may have more world-class radio producers per capita than any town in America. On Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Library, we'll present four award-winning independent producers whose work you've heard daily on your favorite public radio station.

Marika Partridge directed NPR's "All Things Considered" for 14 years, and now reviews music and produces features for public radio; Neenah Ellis recently produced a year-long series

of sound portraits of centenarians, called "One Hundred Years of Stories," which she gathered into a best selling book; David Schulman creates "Musicians in Their Own Words" for Morning Edition and other NPR newsmagazines; and Emily Hanford just moved to Takoma Park from North Carolina, where she was news director at WUNC for five years, garnering dozens of awards for the station as it moved to an all-news and information format.

They'll play excerpts from their favorite work, take questions, and talk about the power of radio, and future directions for audio from podcasts to satellites. Former NPR producer Steve Mencher will moderate the discussion.

### Library Programs in Late October through November

#### Lost Souls, Unsafe Places

Haunted Stories for Halloween with Candace Wolf  
Thursday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.  
School-age children through adult

#### Tomas "Eaglebear" Shash

Monday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.  
All ages (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 preregistration required!

#### Special Circle Time

with Greta Ehrig  
Tuesday, November 15, 10 a.m. (see story)

#### Radio Rules

Four award-winning TP radio producers share their work.  
Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

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



### Forum on Gang Activities Discussed

A second forum on gang activities in the area has been scheduled for Thursday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m., to be held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. This second forum will focus on prevention and intervention, with an emphasis on the role of parents, schools, youth programs, the faith community, and others. Guest speakers will be comprised of specialists and experts on the subject from several different organizations such as Montgomery County, Montgomery County Public Schools, Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Latin American Youth Center, and Identity, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to Latino youth. The forum will be hosted by Councilmember Doug Barry (Ward 6). Residents are encouraged to attend this very important event. It will be broadcast live on Takoma Park City TV-13 and replayed during November. For more information, please contact Executive Assistant Peggye Forster at 301-891-7230, or by email at [peggyef@takomagov.org](mailto:peggyef@takomagov.org)



# THE CRIME REPORT

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

## Robbery

**On October 8 at 9 p.m. in the 6300 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, an armed robbery was attempted. An adult male, an employee of a business, was working outside when he was approached by three subjects in a vehicle. Two of the subjects exited the vehicle and approached the victim while asking about merchandise sold inside. The subjects then demanded the victim's keys and other property while one subject pointed an unknown object at him. The victim refused and the subjects got back into their vehicle and fled. The victim was not injured.

**On October 11 at 12:30 p.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, a bank robbery was attempted. A subject entered the bank, handed a note to a teller demanding cash and threatening the teller. He did not display a weapon. The teller hit her alarm button and walked away from her window without handing over any cash. The suspect then left the scene.

**On September 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the 7100 block of Cedar Avenue**, an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was walking alone when he was approached by two subjects. One subject demanded the victim's money and told him that the second subject had a gun, although the victim never saw a weapon. The victim handed over the contents of one pocket. The first subject then searched and removed prop-

erty from another pocket then struck the victim several times before both subjects fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

**On October 2 at 9:45 a.m. in the 6300 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, an armed robbery occurred. A subject entered the business through an open rear door and confronted five employees with a handgun. The victims handed over cash. The subject fled the scene on foot. None of the victims were injured.

**On October 4 at 12:30 a.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, an armed robbery occurred. An adult female was parking her car outside of her apartment building when she noticed three subjects sitting in a parked green Jeep. As she exited her car, two of the subjects exited their car and followed the victim into the lobby of her building while asking for directions. Once inside the lobby, one of the subjects placed an unknown object to the victim's head and demanded her property. The victim handed over her property and the subjects fled in the vehicle. The victim was not injured.

**On October 4 at 10:02 p.m. in the 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, an armed robbery occurred. A subject entered a restaurant displaying a handgun and demanded money. An employee handed over cash from the register and the subject fled. No one was injured.

## Auto and related theft

**On October 8, between 2:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue**, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1989 Toyota Camry.

**Between October 9 at 9 p.m. and October 10 at 2:55 p.m. in the unit block of Manor Circle**, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1999 Chrysler Sebring.

**Between October 4 at 8:30 p.m. and October 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the 7300 block of Jackson Avenue**, an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1999 Acura Integra.

## Burglary

**On October 6, between 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the 7700 block of Garland Avenue**, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an open window. Property was taken.

**On October 1 at 11:19 a.m. in the 7300 block of Piney Branch Road**, a residential burglary occurred. A screen was removed and a window opened to gain entry. No property was taken.

**On October 3, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the 7100 block of Maple Avenue**, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an open window. Property was taken.

**On October 3, between 7 p.m. and 8:12 p.m. in the 7500 block of Chestnut Avenue**, a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained by breaking a basement window. No property was taken.

## ARRESTS

**On October 8 at 2:03 a.m. in the 8200 block of Flower Avenue**, an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol, failure to stop at stop sign and failure to drive right of center.

**On October 11 at 9:10 a.m. in the 6800 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, a female juvenile was arrested on an open Fairfax County, VA warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

**On October 13 at 3:16 a.m. at the intersection of Riggs Road and East-West Highway**, an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving while suspended.

**On October 13 at 9 a.m. in the 6200 block of 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, MD**, Takoma Park detectives served a warrant on an adult male charging him with 1st Degree Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Malicious Destruction of Property, Telephone Misuse and Stalking for incidents that occurred in Takoma Park in the 7200 block of Central Avenue beginning in 2004 through August 22, 2005.

**On October 12 at 3:40 p.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd.**, an adult male was arrested and charged with two counts of 4th degree burglary and theft.

**On October 12 at 9:50 p.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue**, a male juvenile was arrested and charged with two counts of 2nd degree assault, trespassing and resisting arrest.

**On September 30 at 4:09 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue**, an adult male was charged with 2nd degree assault.

**On October 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, a male juvenile was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property, rogue and vagabond, attempted theft from auto and false statement to a peace officer.

**On October 4 at 7:51 p.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd.**, an adult male was charged with trespassing. A computer check found an outstanding Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on another trespassing charge.

**On October 3 at 8:25 p.m. in the 7600 block of Piney Branch Road**, two male juveniles were charged with trespassing.

## The Firehouse Report

As of September 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 828 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,957 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 2,785 incidents this year. Totals for 2004 were 794 and 1,956 respectively, for a total of 2,750, representing an increase of 35 incidents.



## Home Fire Facts

- Eight out ten fire deaths in the U.S. occur in the home.
- Every 74 seconds, a home burns.
- Sprinklers and smoke alarms together cut your risk of dying in a home fire 82 percent relative to having neither — a savings of thousands of lives a year.

## Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

Fire kills more people in the United States annually than all natural disasters combined. In fact, more than 4,500 individuals perish in fires each year, and, ironically, most fire deaths occur in the very place where we feel safest, our own homes. Home fires often happen at night when people are sleeping. In less than four minutes, a room can become engulfed in flames before anyone awakes. Those most at risk are the very young and older adults, who may have difficulty making a quick escape. Sadly, on an average day in this country, four children will die from fire.

Although smoke alarms are essential in every household, they're designed to detect, not control a fire. Home fire sprinklers complement the smoke alarm's work, providing a way to fight flames immediately. In less time than it would take most fire departments to arrive on the scene, home fire sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a fire. There's less damage, and less chance of deadly smoke and gases reaching your family.

## Window Cord Safety Tips

*What You Should Know, What You Can Do...*

### Children And Window Cords Don't Mix!

- When window cords are within reach, it takes only a few seconds for a young child to accidentally strangle.
- Infants placed in cribs near windows may be able to grasp a dangling window cord, pull it into the crib and unintentionally wrap it around their neck.
- Toddlers and pre-schoolers playing on beds or climbing on furniture placed near windows can accidentally become tangled or caught in window cords.
- Tragically, nearly a dozen children die each year from window cord accidents. Don't let this happen to your child!

## Be Cord Smart!

The Window Covering Safety Council urges parents and caregivers to check all windowed areas of the home for potential window cord hazards by following these important cord safety rules:

- Move cords, beds and other furniture away from windows, preferably to another wall.
- Keep all window cords out of the reach of children. Make sure that tasseled pull cords are short, and that continuous-loop cords are permanently anchored to the floor or wall.
- Lock cords into position when lowering horizontal blinds or shades.
- Repair window blinds, corded shades and draperies manufactured before 2001 with retrofit cord repair devices...or replace them with today's safer products.
- Consider using cordless window coverings in children's bedrooms and play areas. A wide variety of cordless products are now available.

## TPVFD Needs You!

The Takoma Park VFD is looking for new members. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the fire station at 301-270-8209.

Police News continued from previous page

## Parking High on Residents' Concerns

Requests for more parking enforcement and complaints about parking tickets received remain among the most common calls to the Takoma Park Police. A brochure answering most questions is available in the Public Safety Plaza level lobby.

Police and parking enforcement officers respond to parking complaints for on-street parking issues. A time- or vehicle-specific complaint can be made to on-duty officers by calling the main police dispatch office at 301-270-1100. Complaints about recurring problems or general concerns can be addressed the COP Team through Sgt. Kurt Gilbert at 301-891-7124 or to the Sector Specialist for the area of concern. Concerns about parking violations on private property should be made to Code Enforcement at 301-891-7119.

### The Ticket Isn't Fair

Despite the popular misconception that an officer or the Chief of Police can negate a ticket, the law states that a validly written parking citation cannot be voided except by the court. This means that if a citation was written by an officer citing a legitimate parking violation, then the only recourse for the recipient is to request a court date and argue a case in front of a judge.

A police official, such as the Chief, can recommend to the court that a ticket be voided if the official believed the officer did not correctly interpret a parking code. For example, if an officer wrote a ticket for parking on a snow emergency route and the street wasn't designated as one, the Chief could recommend to the court that the ticket be voided.

More commonly, people come to the police department saying they didn't know of a law and shouldn't have been ticketed. If such situations, the Department can not "recall" the ticket.

### I'll Take the Judge, How Do I Go to Court?

If the vehicle owner wishes to contest the ticket or explain the circumstances, he or she may request a court date. Simply fill out the appropriate area and return the ticket by mail or in person to the Takoma Park Police.

The time and date of the trial will be

sent by mail. The notification of the court date can take from one to two months to receive. The courthouse is located at 8552 Second Avenue, Silver Spring.

### Maybe I'll Pay the Ticket

A parking ticket can be paid online at the City website, [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org) using a credit card. It may be paid at the Municipal Building, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or by mail at City of Takoma Park, ATTN Parking Enforcement, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Make a check or money order payable to the City of Takoma Park, indicating the ticket number on the check, including penalties if paying late.

### Penalties? You Mean I Owe More?

By City ordinance, the cost of most tickets double on the 15th day after it is written. An administrative fee of \$15 is added 30 days after the violation. (The only tickets that don't double are handicapped and fire lane violations, which start at \$250 and have \$100 added on the 15th day.)

Nonpayment of citations result in a "flag" on the registration of vehicles owned by the vehicle owner. Until payment is made, it will not be possible to renew vehicle registration on any of them.

### Parking Fines and Rules Changes

Fines for parking violations increased March 1, bringing the City's fees in line with Montgomery County and surrounding municipalities. The greatest increase was for parking overtime at meters, which more than tripled from \$10 to \$35. For most violations, the current fines range between \$35 and \$45. The amounts were set after a comparison with other area municipalities, as well as Montgomery County.

In March, new parking rules were added. Parking within 15 feet of a bus stop is prohibited, which should enable buses to pull closer to the curb and improve pedestrian safety. Parking or storing an unregistered vehicle on a highway or other public property is prohibited. "Unregistered"

# POLICE NEWS

## Permit Parking Neighborhoods

At the request of residents, some areas in the City have been designated permit parking only, to alleviate nonresidents excessively using street parking. Parking is permitted only by vehicles showing a valid sticker or visitor pass during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. Residents should make sure their guests are displaying the visitor pass during those hours.

Residents in those permit parking areas may purchase a parking sticker for their vehicles registered to an address in the residential permit area. Each residence will also be given two visitor permits. Permits, which expire June 30, may be purchased for one or two years at the Police Administration window.

Residents who do not own a car may request a "special permit" at no charge. They must show a Maryland drivers license or identification card with address in the permit area. At no cost they will receive two visitor permits for guests.

Cars displaying a "visitor" permit should park within 500 feet of the residence to which the permit is issued. A violation of this can receive a ticket with a \$40 fine.

Residential parking permit areas have signs advising motorists of the requirement. These are neighborhoods that can experience significant commuter traffic, such as near the Metro, colleges, and shopping areas. (See shaded area on map below.)



means any vehicle that does not have valid registration plates or which has expired or fictitious registration plates or stickers attached to the vehicle.

### What is "Left Wheels to Curb"?

On a two-way street, any time a vehicle crosses the center line to park against the flow of traffic, and therefore putting the "left wheels to the curb," the vehicle can be ticketed. In

recognition of the driving safety issues involved, Takoma Park Police enforce this state rule, except during snow emergencies. The rule does not apply on one-way streets.

To answer additional questions you may have regarding parking questions, contact the Parking Enforcement Coordinator, Lakyia Coles at 301-891-7112.

## Common Parking Violations

### \$25-45 fines:

- Parking Outside Designated Space for meters
- Overtime Parking
- Parking within 40 ft. of intersection, within 25 ft. of stop sign, within 15 ft. of a fire hydrant of bus stop, within 3 ft. of another vehicle, in excess of 12 in. from curb, within 5 ft. of a driveway, within an intersection
- Double Parking
- Impeding traffic
- Parking on a crosswalk, on a bridge/underpass, on a sidewalk or curb
- Blocking/obstructing view of a slow or speed sign

- Violating official sign or residential permit parking
- Parking in excess of 72 hours
- Left Wheel to curb
- Making other than emergency repairs
- Parking a commercial vehicle in residential zone
- Parking an unregistered vehicle on the street

### \$100 fine:

- Parking on a snow emergency street

### \$250

- Parking in a handicapped zone
- Parking in a fire lane

## Traffic Concerns

The School Crossing Guards are reporting several repeated instances of unsafe driving in the areas around Takoma Park schools. Motorists are reminded to follow the direction of crossing guards, whose primary goal is the safety of city children as the go to and from school.

Of special concern are motorists who turn at Philadelphia, Piney Branch, and Maple against the direction of the crossing guards. The guards also report that some motorists are making u-turns in crosswalks to access the Piney Branch Elementary School, putting both the guard and walking students in jeopardy. Parents may consider stopping their cars adjacent to the crosswalks and allowing the guards to assist the children across Maple Avenue, rather than entering the already congested school parking area.

The COP Team will be focusing on traffic enforcement throughout the month of November, in squad details as well as with patrol units. Although the team has an identified list of locations and violations to cover, anyone with concerns about recurring traffic violations should contact Sgt. Kurt Gilbert at 301-891-7142 or [kurtg@takomago.org](mailto:kurtg@takomago.org) to add to the schedule.

Police News continued on page 12

# Film Festival Arrives



The 4th Annual Takoma Park Film Festival, November 18-20, features five programs of provocative and visionary films by people who live, work, or claim Takoma Park as their spiritual homeland.

This year's eclectic selections underscore the rich diversity of Takoma Park's cinematic community.

All films are free and will be screened at the Takoma Park City Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD, 20912.

Some filmmakers will answer audience questions following screening of their films.

For more information and full schedule go to [www.takomaparkfilmfestival.org](http://www.takomaparkfilmfestival.org).

## Friday, November 18, 8 p.m. Opening Night

### Pee Stains and Other Disasters

by Michael Horelick, 101 mins., 2005

Sixteen-year-old buddies Ben and Thomas work their way through a confusing maze of family upheavals, amped up skateboarding and meeting girls. Their friendship is tested in unexpected ways in this sweet, totally awesome, coming-of-age story. (Brief nudity, sexual situations and strong language)

# Planning to buy a new vehicle?

*Whatever color you choose, make it "green."*

EPA's web site can help you choose the cleanest most fuel-efficient car, van, or small truck that meets your needs. You can see the fuel efficiency ratings and emissions ratings for most vehicles sold in the United States, find the most efficient vehicles, look up a specific vehicle, sort by type of vehicle, or sort alphabetically. Information about a vehicle's environmental performance is presented in two ways: "Overall" (giving both the emissions/air pollution performance and the fuel economy/global warming values) and "Within-Class" (which rates vehicles within a class according to their combined emission and fuel economy performance). Because different models of the same vehicle are sold in different parts of the country, efficiency may vary depending on your location-check the maps. Find the information you need to choose the "greenest" vehicle at <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles>.

## Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs — A Great Idea!

Do you think you don't have the time or expertise to install energy efficient equipment? Think again! If you are using incandescent light bulbs in your light fixtures, you can save approximately 75 percent on your lighting costs by replacing those old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs are available in many sizes and shapes to fit nearly every light fixture. While compact fluorescent bulbs are initially more costly to buy than incandescent bulbs, they last up to ten times longer and save so much electricity over the life of the bulb that you come out way ahead. Also, the price of compact fluorescent bulbs has been dropping as more people realize what a good idea they are! Check out the compact fluorescent bulbs at your local hardware store, home center, or discount store. More information is at <http://www.epa.gov/smallbiz/lighting.html>.

## Emergency Exit Signs Can Save Money!

If the exit signs in your building are more than a few years old and use incandescent bulbs, replace them with new LED exit signs and your investment is repaid in less than two years! See [http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/small\\_business/led\\_exitsigns\\_techsheat.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/small_business/led_exitsigns_techsheat.pdf) for cost savings.

# Takoma Park City TV Events in November 2005

The City of Takoma Park Election will be held Tuesday, November 8. City TV programming running up until the election includes the Nominating Caucus which was held on Wednesday October 5, and the Takoma Voice Candidate's Forum, held October 16. Polls are open until 8 p.m. on Election Day, and City TV will broadcast the results live as soon as they are available. These results will also run on the cable bulletin board (and the City website).

Look to City TV Special Events for replays of another important community meeting held in October — The Second Town Hall on Gang Violence held October 27.

Also running this month are the Basketball Championships from the Recreation Department's YES League and replays of the Public Meeting on the Metro Development.

Newly airing Folk Festival performances from the September 2005 festival include: Takoma Zone plus Lea; and A Bunch of Ballads plus Nick Annis. Also new this month is the Folk Festival Showcase; Smooth Kentucky plus Dulcie Taylor, and Iona plus Michelle Swan.

Takoma Snapshots in November includes:

- Community Oriented Policing: Be Prepared (Emergency preparedness)
  - Street Festival Highlights
  - Community Service: College Park Scholars with City Gardener Mike Welsh
- 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 send an email to: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

## Takoma Park City TV November 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				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 Folk Festival		
10:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		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		
1:00 AM	Road to Recovery		Community Bulletin Board				

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)

# Street Festival 2005



Photos by Lonni Moffet

Police News continued from page 10

## Two New Officers Hit the Streets

Takoma Park Police are pleased to announce the hiring of a new Communications Dispatcher, two certified police officers and two police cadets in early October.

Two certified officers began work October 10. Iraj Almas and Thomas Black, both 26, have been assigned to 90-day field training with Team 3 (training officers Cpl. Erwin and Ofc. Gaskin) and Team 1 (Cpl. Rodriguez and Cpl. Carter, training officers) respectively. They are recent graduates of the Prince George's Municipal Police Academy. Black, a native of Montana, moved to Maryland to pursue Olympic weightlifting for the past six years. Almas has lived in the Washington area for 11 years, graduating from Bladensburg High School.

Matthew Barber, currently a Montgomery County correctional officer, and David Quante joined the Department October 17 and began training at the University of Maryland Police Academy a week later.

Alexandra Escudero, a Takoma Park resident, joined the Department on October 24 as a Communications Dispatcher. She will also undergo three months of field training with experienced dispatchers. Roberto Rojas, a part-time parking enforcement officer, and Danelo Reque were selected for openings as School Crossing Guards.



Capt. Edward Coursey, Operations Commander, reviews first-day paperwork with Ofc. Black (left) and Ofc. Almas.

## Staying Safe on Standard Time

As clocks revert to standard time, darkness coincides with the rush hour. As that happens, street robberies tend to occur in late afternoon and early evening. Also, motorists need to pay greater attention to pedestrian traffic with both walkers and motorists exercising greater caution.

Drivers should check for pedestrians where they are expected, exercising caution for any child or incapacitated pedestrian. Walkers should wear light-colored or reflective outer wear and in using "due care and caution" to avoid injury, should not enter a street so closely that a driver cannot yield.

### Community Participation

- Trees and bushes should be pruned to encourage light and discourage hiding places.
- Leave porch lights on at night and/or use motion-activated lights.
- Participate in a citizen patrol.

### Walking Tips

- Walk on the lighted side of the street.
- Walking with attention and purpose makes one look less like a possible target of crime. "Being aware" means not using headphones, talking on a cell phone, or reading while walking.
- Try to walk with others.

- Program your wireless phone for 301-270-1100, the Police Dispatch office, and carry it visible, which can demonstrate that you aren't "alone".
- If a situation makes you uncomfortable, go with your intuition; approach the nearest home, business or call box and call the police immediately.
- If you are arriving late at night, phone ahead for a cab to be at the Metro station when you arrive or arrange a ride with a friend or neighbor.
- Cooperate with property demands if confronted by a thief; try not to comply with travel to a different location.
- Notify the police immediately if a crime occurs to allow for visual and K-9 searches. Call boxes are located at 7205 and 7319 Cedar, 7201 Maple, and the Gazebo on Carroll. To summon police, open the door and push the button hard. Even if you can't answer the dispatcher, the police will respond.