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 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 on Airlie and Flower Avenue, in the Long Branch community, and another, also “within the service area,” combining clinical care, research, and health care 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 an 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 of a hospital 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 would be improved through these measures.

That leaves the city with some new health care facilities on the horizon — although which horizon has not yet been made clear by the vague “in service area” description — 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.
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 TBD)

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 (Tentative)

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.

For updated schedule information, check the City’s web site at http://www.citytakomapark.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.

Committee Vacancies

Emergency Preparedness Committee. The committee is established to provide an open and public forum for citizens to provide input and assist in the area of police and fire 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 Council on 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 for the police and fire services. (One 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. Candidates may also send a resume and letter via e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org. Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk at 301-891-7267.

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 adopted at first reading, authorizing FY06 Budget Amendment No. 1 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution 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; 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 adopted 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 Morgan to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

Resolution 2005-78, 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).
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 reallocate its service delivery system or demand fairer County payments. 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 City 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 Planning 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 County over rents that landlords may charge. The County claims that no rebate is due 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 City'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 it is not justifying its expense (even if it were less than what the City otherwise would have spent). Recall the rebate rules: the City 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 (identity code enforcement, landlord-tenant services and other housing services that are similar house 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 recommends 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 saved the City money and improves services.

After some discussion over the County'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 City, 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 City effort would nonetheless occur, triggering again the case for a City 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.

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 of $48.03 on one unit at the property. The improvements included new dish washer, refrigerator, carpeting, painting, and electrical wiring. 700 Chaney Drive (2005-45L). On September 16, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent 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 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. 7300 Flower Avenue (2005-56L). On September 18, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases for $55.89 on six units at the property. The improvements included new thermal windows, electrical wiring, and smoke detector system. For Housing Services

By John Conger

The 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 reallocate its service delivery system or demand fairer County payments. 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
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. Neighboring streets 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 current leaf collection plan is to have leaves picked up 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 Thursday, November 16 and December 14. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Thursday, November 17 and December 11. Leaf collection begins November 7 and ends December 23. During the first half of the collection schedule the collection crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. In the last weeks of the season, 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 providing. Please contact Public Works by phone: (301) 891-7693. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at (301) 891-7626.

Recycle Old Electronics

Takoma Park will host an Electronic 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 accept the following items: computers and all their related equipment (CPU, monitor, printer, keyboard, modem, mouse, speaker) cameras, TVs, electronic 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.takomagov.org.

General Election Regulations

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 because of physical inability 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 returned to 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 have 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.

ELECTIONS BYWARDS – 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 Council member who represents 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 closing date for new registrations and for changes of address is November 2, 2005.

Reglamentación 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) está 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 tablas 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 rústicas partidistas. Las boletas electorales se entregarán en inglés y español.

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

VOTO EN AUSENCIA REGULAR – Los votantes que por cualquier motivo inevitable no puedan estar el día de la elección, pueden solicitar un voto en ausencia. Si la persona no solicitó voto en persona, puede designar en la solicitud a un votante registrado de la ciudad para que actúe como su agente y reciba y entregue la boleta electoral (los candidatos y sus familias no pueden actuar como agentes). Se le debe llenar y presentarse al Secretario Municipal antes de que se entregue la boleta electoral al agente. El voto se hará en los horarios regulares y se entregará en el lugar para votar.

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 voto en persona, puede designar en la solicitud a un votante registrado de la ciudad para que actúe como su agente y reciba y entregue la boleta electoral (los candidatos y sus familias no pueden actuar como agentes). La solicitud debe llenarse y presentarse al Secretario Municipal antes de que se entregue la boleta electoral al agente. El voto se hará en los horarios regulares y se entregará en el lugar para votar.

Si se otorga un boleta para voto en ausencia de cualquier tipo, debe votar usando ese método aún si sus planes cambian y usted puede presentarse a votar en persona el día de la elección.

ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES POR DISTritos – Los miembros del Consejo son elegidos por los votantes de sus respectivos distritos. Lo que significa que sólo las personas registradas en una dirección en 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 muda a otro sin haber notificado a la Junta Electoral (para ciudadanos estadounidenses) o a la Secretaría Municipal para los que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses, no 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 por el 10 de octubre de 2005.

2. Pile leaves away from cars. Do not park your car in front of a leaf pile if possible. If you must, 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 mound leaves against air 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 1.5 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.
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 Pimpee 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 Madsen, 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 lung aggressive at other dogs will be welcome. Limit eight dogs. Six weeks.

**Recreation**

**Indoor Soccer Program**
Grades 1 - 4
The Takoma Park Recreation Department Indoor Soccer Program is back! It’s bigger and it’s better! Learn how to play this beautiful game and have fun at the same time. Imagine that.

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

**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**
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 bringing spending money is required. Please call 301-891-7280 to RSVP for the trip no later than one week before trip.

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club**

**Silver Fox Trips**

**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.
**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,
- 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 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, 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, 301-270-8680

**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

JoyAustinLane@aol.com

---

**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.

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.
Colleen Clay

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; sobeckcouncil@aol.com; 301-891-3106.

Eileen Sobeck

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 301-270-6888.

Terry Seamens

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; sobeckcouncil@aol.com; 301-891-3106.

Eileen Sobeck

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.

Doug Barry
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 tapped! Greta’s work has received support from The Maryland State Arts Council, The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, The Lannan Foundation, and The Council, The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

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.

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.

“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 Carbonet: 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 Capt. 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, DC, it 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 stations.

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.

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
**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 Fire Station have responded to 268 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 195 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.

**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 older children playing on beds or climbing on furniture placed near windows can accidentally become tangled or caught in window cords, or even strangle.
- Tragically, nearly a dozen children die each year from window cord accidents. Don’t let this happen to your child.

**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.

**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 his pocket. The first subject then searched and removed property 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 suspect fled the scene on foot. None of the victims were injured.

On October 4 at 12:20 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 her car and followed the victim into the lobby of her building while yelling 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 10:22 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 suspect 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.

On October 4 at 8:30 p.m. and October 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the 7500 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 and 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.

**Home Fire Facts**

- Eight out ten fire deaths in homes occur as a result of fire starting 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.

**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 a 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, an adult male was arrested on an open Fairfax County, VA warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

On October 14 at 11:46 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 burglary 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, an adult male was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property, burglary, and vagrancy. He was arrested on a Fairfax County, VA warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

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.
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.

Parking enforcement officers respond to parking complaints for on-street parking issues. A time-of-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 by 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 ticket 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 officer, 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 cannot “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 form 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, 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 results 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 over-time 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” 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
• Overtaking Parking
• Parking within 40 ft. of intersection, within 25 ft. of stop sign, within 15 ft. of a fire hydrant or 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, or on a sidewalk or curb
• Blocking/obstructing view of a slow or speed sign

$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 they 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 asking 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 to patrol within the city, anyone with concerns about recurring traffic violations should contact Sgt. Kurt Gilbert at 301-891-7142 or kurtg@takomapark.gov 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.

**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)

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

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

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS Tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for $15 (pick up) or send an email to: cabletv@takomavorg. for more information.

**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_techsheet.pdf for cost savings.

---

**Takoma Park Newsletter**

November 2005

---

**Takoma Park City TV November 2005 Programming Schedule**

Programming subject to change without notice.

Takoma Park City TV
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
Email: cabletv@takomavorg
Web: www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable
301-891-7118
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.
- 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.

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.