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**Winter 2006  
 Program Guide**  
 Takoma Park  
 Recreation Department

# Takoma Park

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

## NEWSLETTER

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.cityoftakomapark.org

December 2005

# Community Center Comes to Life

By Virginia Myers Kelly

Finally. That's been the feedback from Takoma Parkers who jumped right in and began taking classes at the new Community Center in November. Finally, the construction is far enough along that programs are running. Finally, you can park up front. Finally, the years-long planning and delays have culminated in actual use.

There is plenty more to come, but at least some programs are underway. Four meeting rooms are scheduled with the usual community meetings - noise control board, arts and humanities committee, emergency preparation committee, etc. The art room, perhaps the most significant of the new spaces opened so far, started in with a collage class the very first day the center opened; other art classes include drawing and painting. Computers are set up in four rooms - two public access, one for seniors, and a fourth, geared with teens in mind, for creating music and videos. City staff are settling in to their brighter third floor quarters (though they don't have much more room than they had in their old space), slowly unpacking files and furniture. The police department has a larger lobby and a new interview room next to it, and though office space is smaller, the entire department is now all on one floor. Furniture is arriving daily, and art, which went up in mid-November, has begun to make the space feel friendlier.

Things are finally coming together. Completed portions have freed up space in the middle of the building for Phase II. Over the next seven months, construction there will be completed for a teen lounge, dance studio, game room, an additional meeting room and offices for the Recreation Department. By the end of this phase, the building will be tied together to allow easy passage from the library through the community center.

Debra Haiduven, director of the Department of Recreation, stands in the center of the hubbub of the transforma-

tion, as the rec department's offerings have expanded dramatically since the center has begun to come on line. For the past couple of years, she says, she'd cut back on programs due to limited space. "All we had was the big room upstairs and the chambers," she says. "Now we have a lot more potential." She is especially excited about the art room. "This room has opened up a lot of possibilities," she enthuses. "It's big, it's spacious, it's got tremendous light." There are also sinks for washing up and mixing materials, and supplies provided through Takoma Foundation fundraising, making the room "well stocked."

Perhaps more important are the local artists who have come forward to teach, reflecting a dimension that many don't consider - new opportunities exist not only for students, but artists have a new outlet as well. Their involvement has been "so gratifying," says Haiduven, who is hoping to enlist others to build on their creative energy. That extends to programs beyond art, as well. "We are looking for teachers of all ilks," says Haiduven. "As long as it's legal and marketable and interesting, we'll try anything."

Some of the more unusual offerings so far include a belly dancing class - underway even before the dance studio is open - a smoking cessation class, a Montessori class, tiny tots Spanish, and a popular kinder music series. Haiduven notes a surge of interest in tot programs, some of which will eventually land in the dance studio. Its light-filled, open space and sprung floors serve not just dancers, but also active tots who will scramble around on mats. On the other end of the spectrum, the seniors room is expected to prove popular.

Research indicates high local interest in such things as learning to e-mail grandchildren and researching medical issues on computers there, but she hopes seniors will treat it as a drop-in center as well. Computers have already been installed.

Once the game room and teen lounge are completed, Haiduven anticipates teens will flock to the building. They are



The community center will be celebrated on December 11 at 2 p.m., with grand festivities including music and demonstrations of some of the activities that will enliven the space inside all year 'round. For a map of the new facility, see the recreation department insert, this issue.

expected to use the computer labs heavily as well. "We're very, very excited to have the space," says Haiduven. "We've really been balancing all the needs in the community in a very small area for a

while. This seems luxurious to us, but I think it's a matter of time before it's all filled up... We want people to come here and feel like it's theirs."

## Good Turnout For City Elections

It was an historic election: the first in Takoma Park's new, not-yet-completed, Community Center. Despite the new territory, city staff report last month's voting day, November 8, went smoothly. Paper ballots made it feel a bit like voting for student council - go behind a cardboard partition, mark an X in the box of your candidate, put your ballot in the box (Should we fold it? Might someone see our secret vote?) and get your sticker: Yo Voté, I Voted.

According to Jessie Carpenter, the city clerk, who served as election administrator, 2,500 people showed up to vote, out of 9,756 registered voters and another 519 non-U.S. citizen voters. "I was really pleased with the turnout," says Carpenter, who attributes participation to the contested mayoral and Ward 2 contests, and to campaigning by supporters of the IRV referendum, who contacted voters door to door. Overall, she says, "It was really a pretty vibrant process."

Results, already reported widely in the local press, were as follows: Kathy Porter won a fifth two-year term as mayor with 1,479 votes, or 59 percent, to the 1,022 votes for her opponent, Seth Grimes. Rudy Arredondo, who dropped out of the mayoral campaign, garnered 16 votes. For the Ward 2 City Council seat, Colleen Clay won with 352 votes, or 53 percent, to 316 votes for Eileen Sobek. In Ward 3, city council incumbent Bruce Williams took the election with 455 votes, or 80 percent of the vote, with write-in candidate Dan Robinson taking 98 votes. Other councilmembers ran and retained their seats unopposed: Joy Austin Lane, Ward 1; Terry Seamans, Ward 4; Marc Elrich, Ward 5; and Doug Barry, Ward 6.

Voters also chose to pursue instant runoff voting, a system that uses ranked choices to establish election winners. The referendum simply establishes voter preference. To pursue this further and work toward possible implementation, explains Carpenter, the Council will be discussing the matter further. If they decide to implement "IRV," as it is known, they would have to adopt a charter amendment resolution to enact the change. Voters clearly favored IRV, 1,992 to 390.

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Mayor & Council  
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## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**Monday, December 5** — Closed session, presentation, special session, and work session of the City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)

**Tuesday, December 6** — Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Thursday, December 8** — Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Monday, December 12** — Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (location TBA)

**Tuesday, December 13** — Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Rose Room)

**Tuesday, December 13** - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (TBA)

**Wednesday, December 14** — Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

**Tuesday, December 20** — Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Tuesday, December 20** — Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs Hearing, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Tuesday, December 20** — Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. (Montgomery College Provost's Office Conference Room)

**Friday, December 23, 2005** — City offices close at noon

**Monday, December 26** — City offices closed for the Christmas holiday

**Thursday, December 29** — Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m., Municipal Building Council Chambers

**Monday, January 2** — City offices closed for the new year holiday

**Tuesday, January 3, 2006** — Presentation and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Tuesday, January 3, 2006** — Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Monday, January 9, 2006** — Presentation, regular meeting and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Tuesday, January 10, 2006** — Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

**Tuesday, January 10, 2006** - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (TBA)

**Thursday, January 12, 2006** — Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Monday, January 16, 2006** — City offices closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

**Tuesday, January 17, 2006** — presentation and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Tuesday, January 17, 2006** — Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Tuesday, January 17, 2006** — Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. (Location TBA)

**Tuesday, January 17, 2006** — Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building)

**Wednesday, January 18, 2006** — Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

**Monday, January 23, 2006** — Presentation, regular meeting and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Municipal Building Council Chambers)

**Thursday, January 26, 2006** — Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m., Municipal Building Council Chambers

For updated schedule information, check the City's web page at <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org> or contact the City Clerk. If you would like to receive a weekly e-mail of the City Council agenda, or if you would like to receive a weekly agenda by U.S. Mail, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267.

## Committee 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.

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

**Safe Roadways Committee.** The Safe Roadways Committee advises the City on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic, and transit services.

**Ethics Commission.** This 7-member commission is charged with overseeing the implementations of and adherence to the City's Ethics Ordinance. (Application Deadline: 12/20/05)

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.

### 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.



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).

### October 10, 2005 – Regular Meeting

**Resolution 2005-78** was adopted, approving Community Development Block Grant Projects (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-35** was accepted at first reading, authorizing a contract for tenant capacity building (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-36** was accepted at first reading, amending the Takoma Park Code to clarify the policy on appointment of a PSCAC representative to the Safe Roadways Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-34** was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 5, Elections, to increase the allowable age for a child to enter the voting booth with a voting adult (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-37** was accepted at first reading, authorizing FY06 Budget Amendment No. 2 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

**Ordinance 2005-38** was accepted at first reading, appointing election judges for the 2005 City Election (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

### October 17, 2005 – Special Session

**Ordinance 2005-39** was adopted, authorizing the purchase of a salt storage facility (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich, Ritzo).

### October 24, 2005 – Regular Meeting

**Resolution 2005-79** was adopted, approving the Community Center Public Art Policy (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Williams; VOTING AGAINST: Seamens; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Resolution 2005-80** was adopted, authorizing an application for Community Legacy Program Funding (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Resolution 2005-81** was adopted, appointing a member to the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-35** was adopted, authorizing a contract for tenant capacity building (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-36** was adopted, amending the Takoma Park Code to clarify the policy on appointment of a PSCAC representative to the Safe Roadways Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-37** was adopted, authorizing FY06 Budget Amendment No. 2 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Ritzo).

**Ordinance 2005-38** was adopted, appointing election judges for the 2005 City Election (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 consisted of the following:

**Resolution 2005-82**, providing for an appointment to the Emergency Preparedness Committee

**Resolution 2005-83**, providing for an appointment to the Personnel Appeal Board

**Resolution 2005-84**, providing for an appointment to the Ethics Commission

### November 9, 2005 – Special Session

**Resolution 2005-85** was adopted, recognizing Goldie Jeanne Hawn as an outstanding daughter of Takoma Park (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Ritzo, Seamens, Williams).

# Inauguration Day



Photo by Clyde Lassell

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Mayor Kathy Porter, left, formalizes the beginning of City Council terms for (left to right), Colleen Clay (Ward 2), Terry Seamens (Ward 4), and Marc Elrich (Ward 5) at the inauguration ceremony November 21. Porter was also sworn in to a fifth term. Others elected were Joy Austin Lane (Ward 1), Bruce Williams (Ward 3), and Doug Barry (Ward 6). See story, page 1.**



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**Editor**  
 Virginia Myers Kelly  
**Layout**  
 Bonnie L. Down  
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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.

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

## Loans Available for Tenants Buying Rentals

By Linda Walker,  
 Affordable Housing Manager

*Is your apartment building being sold?* Are you interested in exercising your options to purchase it? Many tenants do not know that Takoma Park's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law, which has been in existence since 1986, allows tenant(s) or tenant associations the right to match any third party contract that an owner has accepted when selling his/her rental property. This right exists for tenants residing in single family houses all the way up to multi-family high-rises. It is, however, important to move quickly once you have received a notification that the rental property is being sold, as there are deadlines for sending your letter of interest. For instance, for a single family house, you have seven days to respond. For properties with two to six apartments, you would have 14 to 21 days, depending on whether you are responding to the offer by yourself or with another tenant. For properties with seven or more apartments, you have 45 days to organize a tenant association and send in your letter of interest.

For the past two years, Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo, the City's community organizers, have helped tenants understand their rights under this law and assist them in forming tenant associations. The program helped tenants at 717 Sligo Creek Parkway, at 7333 — 7401 New Hampshire Avenue (Hampshire Towers) and 251 Manor Circle assess the true opportunity of purchasing their buildings.

Is it possible that a tenant or a newly formed tenant association can make that dream of home ownership a reality? The answer is yes, but of course the price of the property has a lot to do with whether a tenant-initiated purchase can be successful. In an effort to assist tenants with purchasing a rental property, in September 2005

the City Council approved guidelines for the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Revolving Loan Fund. This loan fund is available to tenants residing in rental facilities of seven or more apartments. For buildings of this size, the law requires the establishment of a tenant association.

Once Rozanne and Mario assist tenants in forming a city-registered tenant association, the group can apply for a loan from the City of up to \$25,000 to pay for pre-development costs associated with the purchase process. Acceptable costs include an attorney retainer, an engineering inspection, title and abstract search, an appraisal, or technical assistance. As the city has recognized how

difficult it is for tenants to come up with money for these up-front expenses, it paves the way for the purchasing process to start. The loan is repayable to the City with zero percent interest at the time of closing, which assures that the money will be available to other tenant associations at a future date.

So if you receive a notice from your landlord that your rental facility is being sold, don't just assume you should move out or that there will be a new owner. Contact Linda Walker, Affordable Housing Manager, at 301-891-7222 for more information about your rights under the law, the possibilities of purchase, and the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Revolving Loan Fund.

## COLTA's Corner



### Tenant Compensated For Neighbor's Excessive Noise

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

#### Pressey v. Kisozi Group, Inc.

On October 21, in a case involving an alleged defective tenancy caused by the Landlord's failure to prevent excessive noise disturbances from a neighbor, COLTA

issued a decision that (1) the Landlord's failure to address the excessive noise problem was a breach of the implied warranty of quiet enjoyment; (2) the excessive noise caused by the neighbor adversely affected the Tenants' use of their apartment as a residence; (3) the Landlord's failure to address the excessive noise decreased the value of the Tenant's tenancy by 10 percent resulting in a monetary award to the Tenant of \$948 reflecting 10 percent of the Tenant's monthly rent for an 11-month period; and (4) a Notice to Vacate issued to the Tenants' after the filing of their COLTA Complaint is retaliatory and pursuant to Section 6.16. 180 of the Takoma Park Code which incorporates the state law provisions regarding retaliation (Section 8-208.1 of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland) is null and void.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS COMMERCIAL REDEVELOPMENT 8435 Piney Branch Road Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park, Maryland is seeking proposals for the acquisition and redevelopment of 8435 Piney Branch Road, a commercially zoned property owned by the City and located in the Long Branch neighborhood. Redevelopment proposals must reflect the development goals of the Long Branch Task Force and the guidelines set forth in the Takoma Park Master Plan. Proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. on January 17, 2006. Additional information can be found at [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org) or by calling 301-891-7224.

### RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE 8425 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park is soliciting bids for the purchase of 8425 Piney Branch Road, a single family, three-bedroom, one-and-a-half-story brick house located in the Long Branch neighborhood. The property is to be sold as is. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5 p.m. on January 17, 2006. Additional information can be found at [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org) or by calling 301-891-7224.

# How "Strong" Is the Mayor of Takoma Park?

By Suzanne Ludlow

Community and Government Liaison

I don't know how many pounds she can bench press, but I do know that the Mayor of the City of Takoma Park is not a "strong mayor."

Takoma Park has a Council-Manager form of government. This form of government is not like Washington, D.C. or New York City, where the mayor is responsible for day-to-day operations. Instead, the Mayor of Takoma Park is one of seven councilmembers jointly charged with setting city policy, approving a budget and tax rate, and hiring the City Manager. The City Manager is the one responsible for the day-to-day operations of city departments and services. All city staff report to the City Manager, with the exception of joint responsibility for the City Attorney.

Councilmembers in Takoma Park are kept very busy, nonetheless. Takoma Park Council meetings occur nearly every Monday night. In theory, the first and third Mondays of the month are supposed to be the more informal worksession meetings, and the second and fourth Mondays are the more formal meetings where votes on ordinances and resolutions take place. Usually, however, there is a mix of the two each Monday evening, and the meetings can last until 11 p.m. or later.

Besides preparing for and attending the Monday night meetings, Councilmembers attend many community meetings and participate in regional and state organizations. Councilmembers spend

quite a lot of time meeting with constituents and communicating with them via e-mails or phone calls. Most Councilmembers have full time jobs and must perform Council-related activities around their work schedules.

Councilmembers hold two-year terms, with the election for all of them held in November of odd-numbered years. The Mayor is the only "at-large" member of Council meaning a member who is elected by residents of the entire city. The other six councilmembers are elected by residents of their respective wards only.

In Takoma Park, the Mayor has one vote on Council like each of the other councilmembers. In some communities, the mayor only votes in the case of a tie, but that is not the procedure in Takoma Park.

The position of Mayor does include a few special functions. He or she sets the agenda for Council meetings and presides over the meetings. (However, there are Council-adopted procedures regarding agenda items and how the meetings are run that limit the flexibility the Mayor has over these functions.) The Mayor is also able to issue "Mayoral Proclamations," such as acknowledging "Lead Poisoning Prevention Week."

Because the Mayor has the title of "Mayor," there are many functions that he or she is requested to attend or participate in as the formal representative of Takoma Park. When dignitaries visit from other countries, they are pleased to be able to meet the Mayor. Often the Mayor testifies before the County Council or State Legislature on matters of

importance to the City Council. The presence of the Mayor usually gives weight to the impression that the position being represented is the official position of the City of Takoma Park.

Frequently, letters are addressed to the Mayor when a person isn't sure whom to contact. All such letters are opened by city staff, copied to the entire Council and directed to the appropriate city department for action, if necessary.

All citizen questions and concerns about city policies should be directed to Councilmembers. (See box with Council contact information.) For the most efficient response to questions and concerns about regular City services, contact the City Manager or specific department head.

Not sure whom to call? Call the City's main number during work hours at 301-891-7100, look at the City's web page at [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org), or look in the front of the Takoma Park Business Directory and Survival Guide. City Manager Barbara Matthews is happy to hear from you. She can be reached at [BarbaraM@takomagov.org](mailto:BarbaraM@takomagov.org) or by calling 301-891-7230. One way or another, we'll help you get the information and assistance you need. We may not have a "strong mayor," but we have a strong city government: Council and staff here to serve you!

If you have questions about the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, other members of Council, and the City Manager, please contact Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison at [SuzanneL@takomagov.org](mailto:SuzanneL@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7229.

## Contact City Council

**Mayor Kathy Porter**

[portertakoma@verizon.net](mailto:portertakoma@verizon.net)  
301.270.8680

**Joy Austin Lane, Ward 1**

[JoyAustinLane@aol.com](mailto:JoyAustinLane@aol.com)  
301.270.6524

**Colleen Clay, Ward 2**

[colleen\\_clay@msn.com](mailto:colleen_clay@msn.com)  
301-270-6888

**Bruce Williams, Ward 3**

[Brwilli@aol.com](mailto:Brwilli@aol.com)  
301.891.0728

**Terry Seamens, Ward 4**

[terryseamens@aol.com](mailto:terryseamens@aol.com)  
301.565.0190

**Marc Elrich, Ward 5**

[marcelrich@starpower.net](mailto:marcelrich@starpower.net)  
301.587.2685

**Doug Barry, Ward 6**

[DougB@takomagov.org](mailto:DougB@takomagov.org)  
301.439.2140

# TASDI's Read on Our Library

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 between \$1.1 million and \$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 the Takoma Park Library by Keith Berner, a member of the TASDI committee, is the fifth and final edition in a series to inform residents about tax duplication issues confronting the City. To view the entire TASDI report, see <http://www.takomagov.org/admin/tax/index.html>

By Keith Berner

The Takoma Park Maryland Library. Its official name lacks one key word that one usually associates with city libraries: "public." Indeed, under Maryland law, only county libraries are eligible for designation as "public libraries." Over the years, this county-centric model has resulted in the disappearance of all municipal libraries in the state, except one: ours.

Takoma Park likes to consider itself a special place, so its dogged insistence on maintaining the only municipal library in the state makes sense. City residents are untroubled by the lack of the word "public" in its name.

When it comes to finances, however, our library's "orphan" status costs us dearly, as only "public" libraries are eligible for most government and other grants. The result is that Takoma Park taxpayers foot the bill for 84 percent of the institution's operating budget, a bit more than \$761,000 in fiscal year 2005.

The remaining portion of library revenues comes from fines (\$20,000) and from an annual county payment

(almost \$90,000 or about 12 percent).

Last spring, TASDI considered whether the library duplicates Montgomery County services, how duplication might be eliminated, and how library costs might otherwise be reduced.

Unlike other county rebates, the county library payment is not mandated by law nor considered a "rebate." Rather, it is a vestige of when Takoma Park was divided between Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and a state law provided for payments to libraries in such split municipalities. With unification, the law became moot, but city leaders negotiated ongoing payment.

A frugal Takoma Parker might ask why we simply didn't turn our library over to the county when we unified. The reason: county regulations call for a distance of at least 2.5 miles between county library branches and the Takoma Park library is about 2 miles from two existing county branches, Silver Spring and Long Branch. Any decision by Takoma Park to cease operating the library itself would pose a significant risk that the county would close the library.

What's so special about the Takoma Park library? In many respects it does what nearby county branches do. But its location sets it apart, and its independence allows for a collection and programs geared specifically to the needs of the surrounding community. The Takoma Park Library

- is the only library inside the city's borders which is open to the public;
- provides a greater number and diversity of children's programs than nearby county branches;
- is located close to Takoma Park Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary and Takoma Park Middle Schools;
- serves as a de facto afternoon "study hall" for scores of latch-key children;
- is an evening venue for tutoring and other learning activities, for children and adults who lack private vehicles but live within walking distance;
- is central to the city's commitment to literacy training for a culturally diverse local population;
- provides local, direct control of collections, acquisitions, and programs; and
- houses Takoma Park horticulture and history collections.

TASDI concluded that our local library provides service that is unique, but its significant cost justifies a careful look at ways to increase revenues and or decrease costs.

TASDI considered and rejected any attempt to gain increased funding from Montgomery County at this time. Given the city's lack of legal standing, committee members were concerned that raising the topic with the county could risk a backlash and threaten the existing payment.

Instead, TASDI considered (but did not necessarily endorse) two other possibilities:

1. Reduce costs by streamlining services: Reduce the collection and focus on core areas. Limit collections to niche interests, and programming to a particular constituency, such as children, or to services such as literacy training or other educational classes.

2. Pursue creative fundraising: Though much outside funding is off-limits to our "non-public" library, TASDI was skeptical that all funding possibilities have been sufficiently examined by the city, library staff, and the nonprofit group Friends of the Takoma Park Library.

The Takoma Park City Council at its October 17 meeting discussed TASDI's recommendations with Takoma Park library staff, the Friends of the Takoma Park Library, and TASDI members. There was broad consensus that creative solutions are called for in thinking about the library's future, and discussions will likely continue in the months ahead.

## Holiday Gifts to Help Others

By giving an alternative gift this holiday season, gift givers can support local, national and international charities while honoring their friends and family members. They might purchase heat for an elderly person for a week, or pay for a water filtration system for a rural household in Haiti. Socially conscious shoppers can find these kinds of alternative gifts at the Seventh Annual Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair, on December 3 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Avenue.

The idea is to give gifts that are different, simpler and more meaningful, according to Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington, an all-volunteer organization that is sponsoring the event with the church. Some shoppers give alternative gifts in lieu of traditional gifts, they say, while others complement traditional gifts, like a scarf or favorite book, with a donation to charity. Because of recent national and international tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina and last year's tsunami, Americans are increasingly

aware of those in need, here in the U.S. and around the globe. Alternative gift fairs give them an outlet for their generosity and an opportunity to share "the true spirit of giving" with family members and friends.

At The Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair, holiday shoppers will find a wide range of gift-giving opportunities from organizations with established track records of helping people and the environment. Holiday or all-occasion cards will also be available, and the market will feature live music and holiday treats. Last year, the sixth annual Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair raised \$22,000 for local, national, and international nonprofit organizations.

Alternative gifts are all tax-deductible. Cash and checks are accepted. Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington, Inc. (AGGW) is an all-volunteer organization formed in 2004 to promote gifts that support local, national and international charities. AGGW gift fairs have raised more than \$24,000 for charities. For more information, visit [www.aggw.org](http://www.aggw.org).

## Water, Water Everywhere: Storm Solutions

By Ali Khalilian  
P.E. City Engineer

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, in addition to tsunamis and earthquakes, continue to be the talk of the town - and the continent — these days. At the Civil Engineers Conference in Los Angeles this year, numerous investigations and recommendations were presented, discussed and analyzed.

While we do not have to deal with overpowering forces such as tsunamis and hurricanes in Takoma Park, even seemingly routine storm events can generate less obvious, but creeping long term problems that affect the quality of life. This past year, a few nuisance storm-related problems were finally resolved on Poplar Avenue, Hickory Avenue, Boundary Avenue, Glenside Drive, Maple Avenue, Takoma Avenue, and the bike trail. This October a long standing stormwater discharge onto the Sligo Creek sloping banks causing erosion and sedimentation of the waterways was solved by rerouting the stormdrain through Heather Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. The project should contribute to reduction of sediment loading on Sligo Creek.

Friends of Sligo Creek is lending the City a helping hand and sharing member skills, experience, and talent with the community. These dedicated folks are creating the City of Takoma Park's first community-owned rain garden in Forest Park. The State and Montgomery County have also lent advise and expertise. The City has provided funds, materials, and a long-



Among the volunteers painting storm drains to keep pollution at bay, and out of the Bay, were these students from the Student Planning Association at the University of Maryland.

term maintenance commitment. We thank you Friends.

Thanks also go to our volunteers in the Stencil-A-Drain Program. This program started in spring 2005 and by July we had painted environmental messages on nearly 100 inlet structures. Volunteers were asked to distribute flyers covering the common pollutants and tips on prevention.

This program is an ongoing one with nearly 500 more inlet structures waiting to be decorated with "Flows to Chesapeake Bay" and "No Tirar Basura." The City is in need of more volunteers to continue this project. Call Ali Khalilian at 301-891-7620 for more information.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Hospital: "Good That It's Leaving"

While many residents of Takoma Park are unhappy and even shocked that Washington Adventist Hospital has announced a decision to leave its Takoma Park campus in a few years, I think that the decision is probably the right one for the hospital and a good one for the residents of Takoma Park. Here's why.

From the hospital's point of view, the current 13-acre campus is too small, and is surrounded by single-family houses and feisty neighbors. WAH wants to expand, and is finding it very difficult. Neighbors, centered around the group Sensible Growth, have effectively pressured the hospital to limit its expansion plans.

Now, if the hospital follows through on its announced departure plan, City residents will incur some disadvantages. The closest emergency room will be farther away (though a WAH urgent care unit may open nearby). In addition, Holy Cross Hospital has just completed an expansion and can probably handle additional patients.

And the departure of WAH will also bring substantial benefits to the City's residents. (The closer you live to the hospital, the more you'll feel that.) My recent stint as editor of the *Takoma Park Newsletter* convinced me that the biggest long-term threat to Takoma Park's quality of life is the ever-increasing flow of traffic. It brings noise, air pollution, road hazards, and makes it more difficult and unpleasant to go to work, school, shopping or recreation.

WAH is the biggest "trip generator" in Takoma Park. Major expansion plans made it clear that the hospital's administrators hoped to have greater and greater numbers of employees and patients visiting the complex. And of course, the hospital is accessed not by major roads but by small secondary roads (Carroll, Flower, Maple and Sligo Creek Parkway). The hospital's expansion would have worsened the quality of life for a large part of Takoma Park — not to mention the aggravation of years of construction.

In addition, WAH as a nonprofit institution pays no City or county property taxes. It does make a small "payment in lieu of taxes."

That's why, even though the hospital (founded as the Washington Sanitarium 100 years ago) is a fondly remembered piece of Takoma Park history, it's good that it's leaving.

The key question becomes, what then happens to this important piece of property in the heart of Takoma Park? I'd suggest that, since the area is zoned for single-family residential, that would be an appropriate use. (It could also bring the property back on the tax rolls, which helps us taxpayers.) Affordable housing should be included.

And whatever gets built on the current WAH site, I hope that we'll pay special attention to what is probably its most sensitive environmental feature, namely, its long border with Sligo Creek Park. It would be wonderful if we could increase the size of the green buffer between the creek and the paved surfaces and buildings on the property. If we can plant native species in the buffer, provide good watershed and habitat, and keep contaminated runoff from entering the creek, that would be a lasting benefit to the stream valley and the people who use it.

One last note: in mid-October I responded to a phone call from a poll-taker who asked in great detail about my attitudes toward WAH. (Perhaps you've gotten a similar call?) The call included a veritable barrage of propaganda about what a beneficial presence WAH is in the community, questions about which politicians I saw as reliable opinion leaders about the hospital, and whether I thought it was bad that WAH was considering leaving its old site. I believe the poll must have been commissioned by WAH or its parent organization, Adventist HealthCare.

I must ask, what is the real purpose of this so-called poll? Perhaps WAH has not really decided to leave, but is engaged in a sneaky, prolonged process of threats and bargaining with the City and the community to try to win concessions so that it can stay on the Carroll Avenue campus. I'd like to believe that the leadership of Adventist HealthCare would not engage in such an unprincipled stratagem.

Bob Guldin

Ward 1

*Takoma Park Newsletter* editor, 2002-2005

## Facade Improvement Grants Available

Commercial building owners and business owners in the Takoma Park, Maryland portion of Old Takoma, which extends from Old Town to Takoma Junction, are eligible for reimbursement of pre-approved improvements, up to 50 percent of job costs. These reimbursement funds are intended for exterior improvements, and may include such things as signage, canopies, painting, cleaning, waterproofing, roofing or display window maintenance. Applications are currently available, and will be reviewed

and approved on a rolling basis. For more information, contact John Hume, Main Street Takoma Design Committee Chair, [hume@sligocreek.com](mailto:hume@sligocreek.com), or the Old Takoma Business Association, at 240-253-4229.

The Facade Improvement Grant program, funded with a \$15,000 commitment from the State of Maryland's Neighborhood Business Works Program, is a project of the Old Takoma Business Association and its Main Street initiative for downtown revitalization and improvement.

# RECREATION

For Complete Program Listing, see Winter Guide, inserted in this newsletter.

## Recreation Department Updates:

Our offices are temporarily located behind the new community center in Trailer #1 and Trailer #2. Trailer #1 is where you can register for all programs and receive information. Office hours are 8:30-5. Phone number is 301-891-7290. Bear with us as we excitedly await the completion of phase two!

## Youth Community Basketball Program

### Grades 3 - 4

Pass, dribble, shoot, rebound - it's a simple game. Don't complicate it. Learn the game the right way at the Takoma Park Recreation Department's Youth Community Basketball Program. Basic fundamentals will be taught, goals will be achieved - the heavens will rejoice at the completion of this nifty nine-week program. Clinics instructed by 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

### Girls

**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Avenue  
**When:** Sundays, December 11, 2005 - March 5, 2006

**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

No program December 25, 2005, January 1, 15 and February 19, 2006.

Volunteer coaches are needed!!!

## Takoma Park Basketball League

### Grades 5 & 6

Takoma Park's very own basketball league is back! It's bigger! Of course it's better, too! The Takoma Park Basketball League offers quality instructional clinics, practice time and games. It's a community-based, convenient alternative to a county-run program. Clinics instructed by the area's finest teachers. Intermediate ball, high school rules, full court, 5-on-5. Teams will be formed after the second clinic. Nine weeks.

### Boys Division

**When:** Saturdays, December 10, 2005 - March 4, 2006

**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary, 7510 Maple Avenue

**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

**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary, 7510 Maple Avenue

**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$40  
Non-Resident \$45

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



Photo by Debra Haiduven

Photo by Debra Haiduven



## 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 all the ballers out there 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, 2005 - March 2, 2006

For workout, practices, and regular season dates for age groups Grade 7-9 and Grades 10-12, see enclosed brochure.

**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, at 7 p.m. at the Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue. The grade 7 - 9 draft will be held Friday, December 9, 7 p.m.; the grade 10-12 draft will be held Monday, December 12, 7 p.m., at the Municipal Building.

## Basket Weaving Level I Holiday Round Basket

### Ages 7 and up

In case you missed the first class or just want to make another basket the holiday round basket is an excellent beginning base for all future basket-weaving lovers. Create this beautiful basket just in time for the holidays. You will use round reed weaving on a drilled wooden base. A materials fee of \$15 is due to the instructor.

**When:** Saturday, December 10, 2005

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Location:** Forsythia Room - Takoma Park Community Center

**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$15  
Non-Resident \$25

## Day Trips

Join us on the road as we visit an exciting location each month. We will meet in the Senior Room of the Takoma Park Community Center a half hour before the trip is to depart. Most trips are free unless noted. Be sure to bring spending money. Please call 301-891-7280 to RSVP for the trip no later than one week before trip.

**Date:** Thursday, December 22, 2005

**Location:** Seneca Park

Festival of Winter Lights

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Fee:** \$3 per person

## Introduction to Reflexology

Learn to heal and energize yourself with your own hands through Reflexology. This is an ancient science/art that is based on the premise that specific reflex areas located in the hands, feet, and ears correspond to specific body parts. Thumb, finger and hand pressure techniques applied to the reflex areas result in stress and pain reduction, causing a physiological change in the body by allowing it to return to a stage of homeostasis (balance). Reflexology activates the natural healing power of the body, allowing the client to be the healer. Better health may be two feet away! Instructor: Maebelle Algee.

### When:

**Session 1:** Saturdays, January 14, 21, 2006

**Session 2:** Saturdays, March 11, 18, 2006

**Time:** 1 - 3 p.m.

### Location:

**Session 1:** Forsythia Room - T.P. Community Center

**Session 2:** Lilac Room - T.P. Community Center

**Fee:** T.P. Resident \$30 per session  
Non-resident \$40 per session



Photo by Carey Antoszewski



Photo by Debra Haiduven

## Holiday Collection Schedule for December and January

There are several holidays that the City observes in December and January. Trash and recycling routes will be affected.

**The City will be closed on Monday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday.**

There will be no Monday yard waste collection. Monday's recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, December 27.

**The City will be closed on Monday, January 2 for the New Year's Holiday.**

There will be no Monday yard waste collection. Monday's recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 3.

**Martin Luther King's Birthday will be observed Monday, January 16.** There will be no Monday yard waste collection. Monday recycling will be collected on Tuesday, January 17.



# Takoma Competes For Golden Roscoe

As part of its Main Street Takoma initiative, the Old Takoma Business Association announces its first annual Golden Roscoe award for creativity, good design and general excellence in business window display for the 2005 holiday season. An independent panel of judges will observe commercial window displays in the Main Street Takoma area, which runs from the Takoma Junction in Maryland to the Takoma Theater in Washington, DC, beginning November 25 and continuing into December. The business

judged to have the best seasonal-themed display window will receive the much-coveted, one-of-a-kind, 2005 Golden Roscoe award and all the bragging rights that come with it. No entry is required, and the winner will be announced December 13, at the Old Takoma Business Association holiday celebration. For more information, please contact the Old Takoma Business Association at 240-253-4229, or contact John Hume, Main Street Takoma Design Committee Chair, hume@sligocreek.com.

## Holiday Safety Tips

### Shopping Tips

While shopping, be aware of the people and potential hazards around you in stores, at an ATM and on the sidewalks.

- \* Make eye contact with people you pass.
- \* When using an ATM, choose one in a well-lit, open location. Do not count your money at the machine; flashing cash attracts attention and if the amount received was wrong, you can't argue with the machine. An ATM is located in the police lobby.
- \* If possible, leave your purse at home. Whenever possible carry keys, ID, and necessities on your person, perhaps in a fanny pack or wallet attached with a chain to belt loops.
- \* Safety in numbers applies: when possible, shop with someone.
- \* Try not to load yourself down with too many packages. If necessary, make trips to store packages in your vehicle. Store them in a locked truck or where they are not obvious temptations.
- \* Daytime shopping can be safer due to better visibility.
- \* At night, be cautious in dark or isolated garages or parking lots.
- \* Keep your cell phone handy.

### Tips at Home

A shining Christmas tree surrounded by packages makes a lovely picture, but also serves as a temptation to burglars. Consider closing shades or drapes.

- \* Keep doors and windows locked. Use timers on lights and a radio when you are away.
- \* Record the serial numbers from new electronic purchases and keep them stored safely. An engraver may be borrowed from the police to mark new items through Operation ID.
- \* Know if and when your neighbors are away from home and report strangers leaving with bundles or packages. Be aware of strangers approaching a neighbor's home or vehicle. Don't hesitate to call the police if someone's behaviors make you uncomfortable.
- \* If you plan to be away for three days or more, register for the **House Check** program (at 301-270-1100) and an officer will patrol by your home daily to check for signs of unauthorized entry.

Finally, remember, if confronted comply with property demands. Money can be replaced. Try to recall as many details about the suspect as possible to provide a good description to police.

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# Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

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# LIBRARY

## Winter Solstice Celebration

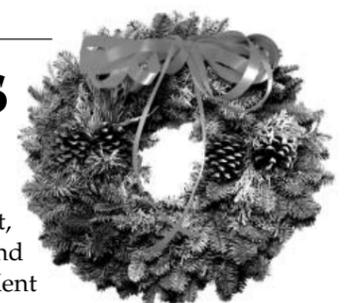


Thursday, December 15 will mark the fifteenth year that Takoma Parkians will help ensure the return of the sun to our neck of the woods with candles and drumming, a melange of the contemplative and of high-spirited merrymaking. Bill Jenkins, our favorite ethnomusicologist, will be bringing his array of rhythm instruments from all over the world. The Foggy Bottom Morris Men will again delight and amuse us with their customary high jinks and stick dances.

Cultures all around the world recognize and celebrate the power and importance of the sun for life on Earth. In the Northern Hemisphere, when the sun threatens to disappear in December, it has long been traditional to hold festivals of light. So here in our mini global-village Takoma Park, with so many varied cultures and religions, the Winter Solstice offers an opportunity to gather as one community to celebrate the return of the light.

Let us gather at 7:15 on Thursday evening, December 15, ready to take up our drums and rattles, and warm ourselves at the fires of neighborly good spirit. All ages are invited to participate.

## Winter Garlands And Wreaths



Karen Nelson Kent, the Library resident floral artist, will again offer a hands-on class, this time in garland and wreath-making, on Monday, December 5, at 7 p.m. Kent will share her experience and some secrets on dressing the home with fresh seasonal foliage and touches of whimsy. All materials will be supplied, though participants are welcome to bring personal supplies and pruners, as well as pine cones, berries, or other objects which might be included in the project.

Karen Nelson Kent has become a sought-after teacher at Brookside Gardens. She is the owner of "Floral Diversity" and this year was inducted into the highly prestigious American Institute of Floral Designers. Her holiday workshops have become a tradition here at the Library.

Class size is limited, and the last several years' workshops were at capacity, so we request that you call the Library, 301-891-7259, to reserve your spot.

## Library Programs for December & January

### Winter Garlands and Wreaths

Karen Nelson Kent  
(see story)  
Monday, December 5, 7 p.m.  
Pre-registration necessary: supplies provided

### 15th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, December 15, 7:15 p.m.  
All ages  
(see story)

### Note: Winter Session of the "Twosies"

4 Wednesdays in February at 10 a.m.  
Sign-up begins in January

### Neighborhood Circle Time

Open to all preschoolers and their adults  
Each Tuesday at 10 a.m.  
Informal sing alongs, poetry, finger games, and nursery tales, with participant leadership welcomed  
All ages; no pre-registration required!



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

# THE CRIME REPORT

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

## Robberies

**Ritchie Avenue, unit block:** On November 2 at 10:26 p.m. an armed robbery occurred. An adult male who was attempting to deliver a pizza was confronted by a subject in a threatening manner. The victim managed to spray the subject with pepper spray before a second subject hit him several times with a pipe then removed property from his pockets and fled on foot. The victim was admitted to a hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

**Maple Avenue, 7500 block:** On October 22 at 12:38 a.m. an armed robbery occurred. An adult female exited her car and was attempting to find the keys to her residence when she was grabbed from behind and forced down to the ground. A subject pointed a small black handgun at the victim and demanded her purse. After the victim handed over her property, the subject fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

## Burglaries

**Ethan Allen Avenue, 300 block:** On October 31, between 10 a.m. and 6:50 p.m. a burglary occurred. The front door of the residence was forced open to gain entry. The door jam was damaged.

Property was taken.

**Kansas Lane, 6700 block:** On October 31, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. a burglary occurred. The front door was forced open to gain entry. Property was taken.

**Maple Avenue, 8000 block:** On November 2 between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. a burglary occurred. The lock on a detached shed was broken off to gain entry. Property was taken.

**Sligo Creek Parkway, 8000 block:** Between November 1 at 6 p.m. and November 2 at 7 a.m. a burglary occurred. The lock on a detached shed was broken off to gain entry. Property was taken.

**Sligo Creek Parkway, 1000 block:** On October 26 at 11:40 a.m. a burglary occurred. The front door of the home was forced open to gain entry. Property was taken.

**Larch Avenue, 900 block:** On October 26, between 8:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. a burglary occurred. A basement door was forced open to gain entry. Property was taken.

## Auto and Related Theft

**Linden Avenue, 1100 block:** On November 11, between 1 a.m. and 1 p.m. an auto

theft occurred. The keys to the 1993 Ford Explorer were stolen from the owner's home by a subject who was known to the owner.

**Maple Avenue, 7300 block:** On November 14 at 1:25 p.m. an auto theft was attempted. The door lock of the 2000 Dodge Caravan was damaged in the attempt.

**New Hampshire Avenue, 6800 block:** On October 28 between 12:45 p.m. and 1 p.m. an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1998 Jeep Cherokee.

**Belford Place, 400 block:** Between October 28 at 4 p.m. and October 29 at 11 a.m. an auto theft was attempted. A door lock and the ignition of the 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 were damaged in the attempt. Property was taken from the vehicle.

**New Hampshire Avenue, 6900 block:** Between October 30 at 6 p.m. and October 31 at 6:25 a.m. an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2004 GMC C4500 truck.

**Freemont Avenue, unit block:** Between October 30 at 2 p.m. and October 31 at 7 a.m. an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1995 Dodge Caravan.

**Boyd Avenue, 400 block:** Between November 2 at 7 p.m. and November 3 at 5:30 a.m. an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1998 Acura Integra.

**Intersection of Cedar and Tulip Avenues:** Between October 24 at 9 p.m. and October 25 at 8 a.m. an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 1999 Pontiac Grand Am.

**New Hampshire Avenue, 6300 block:** On October 22 at 5:09 p.m. an auto theft was attempted. The owner of the 2005 Chrysler Impala observed a subject in his parked car tampering with the steering column. When the owner approached, the subject ran to a gold Chrysler waiting nearby and fled. A door lock was damaged.

## Assault

**New Hampshire Avenue, 1400 block:** On October 21 at 11:49 p.m. a first degree assault occurred. The victim, an adult male pulled his vehicle over after being hit by another vehicle with several subjects inside, who then sped off. The victim was speaking to another citizen immediately afterward when both heard the sound of gunshots and the victim realized that he had been hit. The victim was transported to a hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

## ARRESTS

**On November 11 at 2:08 a.m. at the intersection of Maplewood Avenue and Maple Avenue,** an adult male was arrested on an open Prince George's County warrant for a 2nd Degree Assault.

**On November 12 at 5:02 a.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd.,** an adult male was arrested and charged with 1st Degree Assault, Possession of a Firearm, Possession of CDS and Use of a Handgun in the Commission of Crime.

**On November 14 at 11:37 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue,** a criminal citation for trespassing was issued to an adult male.

**On November 15 at 12:28 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Avenue,** an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for a 2nd Degree Assault.

**On October 29 at 9:31 a.m. in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue,** two adult males were arrested and charged with Possession of CDS and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia.

**On November 1 at 9:27 p.m. in the unit block of Darwin Avenue,** a criminal citation was issued to an adult male for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

**On October 22 at 11:58 a.m. in the 8600 block of Flower Avenue,** an adult male was charged with Trademark Counterfeiting, Prohibited Transfer of Recorded Sounds or Images, Resisting Arrests and Soliciting without a License.

**On October 27 at 9:50 a.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd.,** an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County Warrant for Failure to Appear in Court on an alcohol related charge.

## The Firehouse Report

The Firehouse Report As of Oct. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 924 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,169 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,093 incidents this year. Totals for 2004 were 869 and 2,189 respectively, for a total of 3,058, representing an increase of 35 incidents.

## Nearly 4,000 Die in U.S. Fires in 2004

A study released on July 11, 2005 from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) shows that there were 3,900 fire fatalities last year in the United States, and just as in previous years, most (82 percent) of these fatalities occurred in homes. The total fire death toll decreased slightly by 0.6 percent from 2003, and there was a 1.4 percent increase in fire deaths in homes. The yearly report noted that nationwide, there was a fire death every 135 minutes in 2004. In all, 17,785 people were injured in fires in 2004, a slight decrease of 1.4 percent. As with fire deaths, most (77 percent) reported fire injuries occurred in homes, or about 13,700 injuries. There was a fire injury every 30 minutes in 2004. Property damage from fires decreased by 20.2 percent to \$9,794,000,000. Nearly all of this decrease reflects the absence in 2004 of any fires as large as the two southern California wildfires of 2003, which together produced losses of \$2

billion. Of the 2004 total, \$8,222,000,000 occurred in structure fires and \$5,833,000,000 in homes. In 2004, public fire departments responded to 1,550,500 fire in the U.S., a slight decrease of 2.2 percent from the previous year. But these was a slight increase of 1.3 percent in structure fires to 526,000. There was also 266,500 highway vehicle fires, down 6.8 percent from last year. The report made recommendations to reduce the continuing annual toll of home fires and the resulting injuries and deaths. They are: More widespread public fire safety education to avoid serious injury or death if fire occurs; more use and maintenance of smoke alarms; more development and practice of escape plans; wider use of residential sprinklers; more fire safety designed into more home products; and more attention to the special fire safety needs of high-risk groups, including the very young, older adults, and the poor.

## From the Takoma Park Lions Den

On behalf of the Takoma Park Lions Club, we want to give a special thanks to the citizens and businesses throughout the area for their help in donating used eyeglasses and hearing aids to our annual drive. So far this year, we have collected 1,932 pairs of eyeglasses and 18 hearing aids. On November 1st, members Keith Van Ness and Jim Jarboe delivered them to the District 22-C Lions Eye Bank. Some of the eyeglasses will be recycled and others will be sent to developing countries. You may drop used

eyeglasses and hearing aids at the following locations: Takoma Park Library, Takoma Park Fire Station and the Takoma Park Post Office. The Takoma Park Lions Club is one of the oldest clubs in the area...76 years! One of the most important services the club provides is eye care, i.e., eye examines, eyeglasses, etc. Your kind donations will help us continue to help people in the city that need assistance. If you can make a financial donation, send it to the Takoma Park Lions Club, P.O. Box 11226, Takoma Park, MD 20913. Thank you.



## Annual Toy Drive For Needy Children Celebrating 25 Years!

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, in partnership with the Takoma Park Lions Club and the Takoma Park VFW Post 350 will again be collecting toys for needy children throughout the area. Starting December 1 to December 20, you may drop off toys (new or like new) at the fire station. Also, if you know families that are in need of toys for their children (ages 11 and under) please contact Pam Taylor or Jim Jarboe at the fire station (301-270-8209) after December 1.



## Christmas Tree Sales

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will again be selling trees. The trees are due in after Thanksgiving. Once they are in and the tree lot set up, we will open up for business. Same location as last year, in the Co-op parking lot (Carroll Avenue & Ethan Allen Avenue). Hours: Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Roping and wreaths will also be available.



## Arrest in Reported Rape

On Monday, Nov. 7, Takoma Park Police arrested a 20-year-old Hyattsville man on numerous charges, including first degree rape, for a Nov. 5 assault in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue.

Sean Wallace of the 6700 block of New Hampshire Avenue, Hyattsville, was located in Washington, D.C. with the assistance of private citizens and the Metro Transit Police. He is currently being held without bond at the Montgomery County Detention Center on charges including armed robbery, first degree assault, kidnapping, false imprisonment, and car jacking. Takoma Park officers received a report from Montgomery County Police early Sunday stating that the suspect allegedly raped a 25-year-old woman, whom he had invited into a hotel room, at knife point. He reportedly forced the woman to drive her car to her home to obtain money. She was able to text-message a roommate, who contacted the police. When the suspect saw police arriving at the woman's residence, he fled in her vehicle almost striking two uniformed Montgomery County officers.

Sunday evening a citizen contacted Takoma Park officers and provided information that assisted in locating the suspect, who initially agreed to return to Maryland to clarify the allegations. After interviews and investigation, the suspect was charged for numerous crimes, including three counts of assault on a police officer as well as destruction of property. The Montgomery County Police Silver Spring District investigative unit participated with City detectives in the investigation.

## Bank Robbery Suspect Arrested

Police arrested a 29-year-old man on Nov. 2 for a series of bank robberies in the Washington metro area, including an attempted robbery in Takoma Park.

The man, arrested in the 300 block of 62nd Street NE, Washington, D.C., was wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Prince George's County Police for a string of 20 bank robberies in the region over the last six months, including 15 in Prince George's County. Donnell Duane Berry was located as a result of a long-term investigation aided by tips from the public and support from the media.

He is charged with an attempted bank robbery about noon on Oct. 11, in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue. Based on the suspect description and evidence collected, Takoma Park investigators provided information connecting this suspect to the FBI as a part of its ongoing investigation. Homicide Investigation Continues

After receiving a report from a citizen, responding Takoma Park Police discovered a body in a wooded area off the 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue on the afternoon of October 24. The body was located near the 1100 block of Linden Avenue, in the jurisdiction of a Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) park.

The man was identified as Antonio Jimenez Lazaro, 20 years old, of Riverdale. The next day the Medical Examiner's office ruled the death a homicide. The crime is being jointly investigated by the MNCPPC-Montgomery Police and the Takoma Park Police.

Significant progress has been made in the investigation, indicating the death most probably was not a random act that poses a continuing threat to the public in that neighborhood. Additional details cannot be released at this time to preserve the integrity of the investigation.



Det. Cyndy Conrad joined staff of the Helen Smith Girls' Home in Ward 5 for a pre-Thanksgiving dinner, open to all Takoma Park Police officers as well as the residents, their families and teachers. Conrad, (right) with staff members Tessa Nelson and Gloria Wilson (left to right), received a certificate of appreciation for her work with and for the residents; awards were also given to Cpl. R. Rodriguez and Det. F. Webb.

### Police Officer Candidates Sought

City of Takoma Park, Md, seeks candidates for immediate openings. Department and City sized for opportunities and recognition. Benefits include car allowance or take-home cruiser, uniform allowance after probation, tuition reimbursement, bilingual incentive and shift allowance. Applicants without experience receive cadet salary during academy. For lateral entry, certified officers receive \$2,500 hiring bonus. Competitive base salary from \$38,779 annually dependant on experience. Retirement 50 percent at 25 yrs. Must pass written exam, oral interview, medical & psychological exams and background check. Minimum requirements: high school diploma or GED, 21 years of age and USA citizen at the time of academy graduation, excellent physical condition including vision correctable to 20/20 (uncorrected cannot exceed 20/100), and possess a valid driver's license. Minorities encouraged to apply. Contact Recruiting at 301-891-7130, Takoma Park Police, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Applications accepted until positions are filled. Equal opportunity employer.

# POLICE NEWS

## City Police Respond in Parks

Although a total of ten parks in the city are classified as primarily MNCPPC-Montgomery Park Police jurisdiction, Takoma Park officers can still be expected to respond to complaints or incidents there. Reports for crimes or incidents will be written by Park Police.

In park location emergencies, residents should always, however, call 9-1-1 indicating the nature of the emergency (police, fire, ambulance) and the park name. Appropriate officers will be dispatched. For calls reaching Takoma Park Communications, a Takoma Park officer will be dispatched and Park Police will be contacted.

For ongoing crime or safety concerns in the parks, residents should contact the Park Police at 301-949-8010. The Takoma Park COP Team, supervised by Sgt. Kurt Gilbert at 301/891-7124, may also be able to help with on-going concerns.

Sligo Creek, of course, is the largest M-NCPPC park, with others being

- Becca Lilly Neighborhood Park (7330 Glenside Drive)
- Hillwood Manor Park (1301 Elson )
- Opal A. Daniels Park (7515 Hancock Avenue),
- Takoma Urban Park (7035 Carroll Avenue, aka the Gazebo Park)
- Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park (2 Darwin Avenue, aka Ed Wilhelm Field)
- Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue, the park around the center)
- Silver Spring Park/Philadelphia Urban Park (7700 Chicago),
- Long Branch Park (intersecting Carroll Avenue) and
- Takoma Park Neighborhood Park (7298 New Hampshire Avenue, undeveloped for active recreation)
- Sligo Creek includes two playground areas: the North Playground at 7000 Sligo Creek Parkway and Stream Valley Unit 1 between Chaney Drive and Piney Branch.

Both agencies have jurisdiction to respond to crimes, incidents and traffic complaints in these parks. In 2005, the two agencies worked together on one suicide and one homicide in which the deceased was found in a MNCPPC park. As noted, the Park Police will be responsible for final reports in most criminal incidents.

## Keeping Watch Over Hillwood Neighborhood

In late September, police met with residents of the Hillwood Manor Apartments and the Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Association to discuss the residents' concerns regarding safety in their neighborhood, east of New Hampshire Avenue between Highway 410 and Erskine Avenue.

A perception of increasing crime and concerns about inappropriate or potentially criminal behavior in the Hillwood Manor Park were the major issues raised by residents. They also expressed concern that the park was in disrepair, with overgrowth and shrubbery untrimmed and increased graffiti, possibly gang-related. The residents perceived lack of attention by law enforcement and governmental agencies, allowing for increased crime.

In addition to residents and elected officials, the meeting was attended by Ofc. Joe Butler, Det/Cpl Richard Poole, and Chief Cindy Creamer of the

Takoma Park Police and Lt. Baker and Officer Gentry of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission-Montgomery Police.

Baker told residents that Park Police are responding to their concerns by increasing patrols, conducting a park survey and making recommendations for "crime prevention through environmental design" (CPTED); assigning a gang-task force officer to inspect park graffiti; and requesting that MNCPPC maintenance improve upkeep. He also noted that his counterparts in MNCPPC-Prince George's division will be advised of resident concerns, because the area abuts that jurisdiction as well.

In November, Baker reported that 37 park checks had been run in Hillwood Manor Park over 40 days. These checks will be continued. The CPTED survey has been completed and recommended maintenance be-

# Nuclear Wastes: Coming Soon to a Railroad Track Near You!

By Ethan Goffman

After years of monitoring nuclear weapons and helping the city steer clear of companies supporting their manufacture, the Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee has a new charge: to keep railways and the neighborhoods through which they pass safe from nuclear harm. On October 10, the City Council expanded the Committee's charter to include nuclear waste transportation issues.

The committee, a volunteer group of citizens appointed by the City Council, is taking the lead to oppose shipment of nuclear wastes through the city, warning that such shipments could be susceptible to accidents or terrorist attack. "The city could be rendered uninhabitable," says lawyer Robert Rini, committee member. "This is not like you'd have a chemical cloud that would dissipate over an hour. The effects of nuclear waste and radiation are very long-lasting." Rini backs up the warning with statistics: from 1999 to 2004, there was an average of about one derailment or collision per month in D.C. alone. "It only takes one accident to cause a tragedy of immense proportions," he says. "I've personally seen the results of freight cars tumbling off the tracks," adds Jay Levy, chair of the Committee since 1996. "I've seen it twice in Takoma Park, as well as accidents within two miles."

### Shipments imminent

Although in 1995 the city passed a

resolution against nuclear waste shipments, it has no legal standing. As two repositories near completion in Arizona and Utah, shipments could start soon, so Rini says action is critical. "Given the stakes, we felt that the city had no choice but to at least express its concern about the transportation of nuclear waste, and it's done that. And we're looking for a way that we could do more than just make a political statement."

For Levy, the issue harkens back to his activism in the 1970s, when he fought the transportation of nuclear wastes along with the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Levy approached the city with a resolution that in 1983 became the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act, prohibiting work on nuclear weapons within city limits and establishing the Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee. Although more than 300 cities are now nuclear free zones, "ours is unique, because we have the strongest one," explains Levy. It not only prohibits nuclear weapon production, it prohibits the city from investing in, or buying from companies involved in making nuclear weapons.

### Watchdog and teacher

In addition, the Committee plays "watchdog." In 1984, for instance, when the police department wanted to buy radios from Motorola, a company then involved in the nuclear industry, the Committee found a better alternative that saved the city money. The Com-

mittee also works to educate the public, and has produced a film series, local cable shows, and forums, and participated in international commemorations and peace actions.

The transportation issue, however, poses a particular challenge. As two facilities — Arizona's Yucca Mountain and Utah's Goshute reservation — come on line, they could become repositories for waste produced at the North Anna plant in Virginia and the Calvert Cliffs plant in eastern Maryland. There is "some time urgency because as soon as either of these repositories opens they'll start moving wastes," says city attorney Sue Silber. But because the transportation of nuclear wastes is a federal prerogative, a blanket law resembling the original Nuclear Free Zone Act would likely bring on immediate litigation from CSXT, who has already sued Washington, DC for their law against moving hazardous waste through the city. "Transportation is very heavily regulated and preempted by the federal government, especially regarding nuclear waste," says Silber. If Takoma Park were to pass legislation, "it would have to be some narrow, very carefully drawn resolution."

"We haven't really found a clear path," says Rini, yet the committee continues to search, in cooperation with law firms and with Washington, D.C. Rini points out that "at least one DC judge thought the federal government

had the authority to act to regulate transportation of hazardous chemicals." He also explains that a New York law requiring escort over bridges to Manhattan has been upheld by courts. And a Las Vegas, Nevada law against transporting nuclear wastes "has not yet been challenged, for whatever reasons."

### Dilemmas and awareness

Even if the committee should block transportation of nuclear wastes through Takoma Park, the next question is where the wastes would go. Levy feels it should be diverted to less populated areas, where a terrorist attack is less likely. Rini, by contrast, believes that, "it's better to leave it where it is and guard it with your life than to make it more vulnerable in shipping it all over the country." He adds that, "We wouldn't support moving nuclear wastes from Takoma Park through somebody else's community, that's not right either."

The lack of consensus notwithstanding, the Committee continues to monitor this thorny issue and disseminate information as it becomes available. Even without legal remedies, says Levy, "we still want to make citizens aware that there is this danger."

Those interested in supporting the Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee should attend their next meeting on Thursday, January 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. For more information contact Jay Levy at: [jjl27@juno.com](mailto:jjl27@juno.com).

# Save Money, Save Energy This Winter

By Albert Nunez and Catherine Tunis



**Here's a three-fer:** save energy, save money, and help the environment, too. Fuel costs may be rising rapidly, but there are a few easy tricks you can pull to keep costs down.

**Can you change a light bulb?** Compact fluorescent light bulbs use 25 percent of the energy used by incandescent bulbs for the same amount of light. **Do you have a computer?** Set computers to "go to sleep." Your computer monitor can go into a low-power sleep mode during periods of computer inactivity. See <http://www.energystar.gov/powermanagement/index.asp> for instructions.

Sealing air leaks is another quick energy saver. Caulk, seal, and weatherstrip all openings to the outside to keep cold air from pumping up your heating bill. Don't forget the plumbing, electrical, telephone, and air conditioner openings in exterior walls, floors, and ceilings. Air sealing can save up to 10 percent of your energy bill, and will keep insects out, too. Cut pieces of foam meat trays to fit behind switch plates and electrical outlets on outside walls. An infrared photo or video can show exactly where the most heat is escaping from your home.

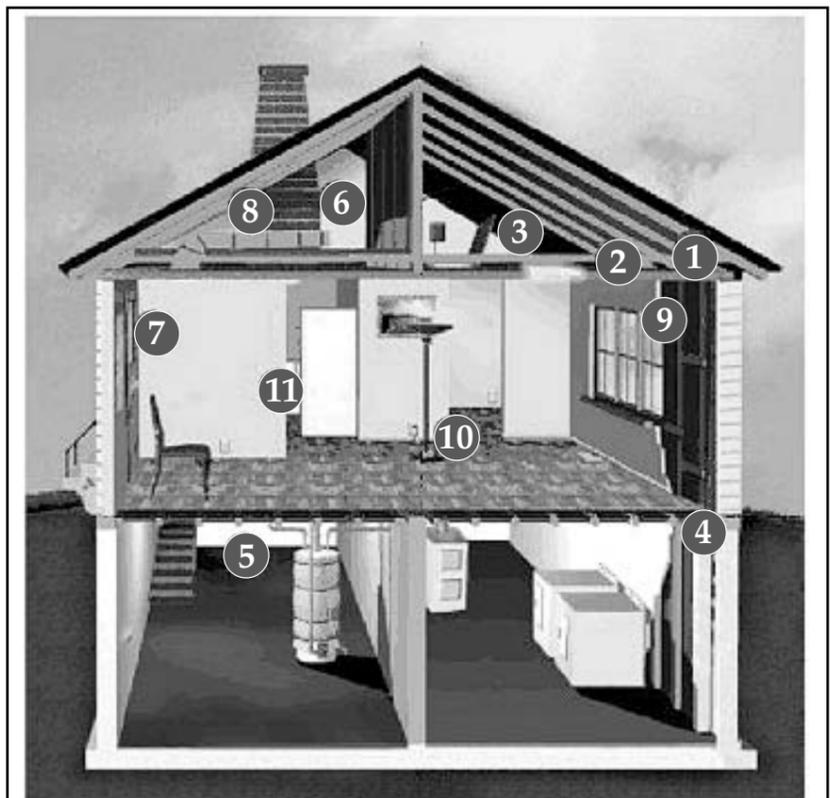
In our area, the recommended level of insulation for attics is R-49. This is considerably more than most Takoma Park homes have.

Behind heating and cooling, refrigerators are the largest energy users in the home. An ENERGY STAR refrigerator uses 15 percent less energy than required by current federal standards and 40 percent less than conventional models sold in 2001. Look for the ENERGY STAR label when buying a refrigerator or any appliance. Visit <http://www.energysavers.gov> for instructions on calculating the electrical use of your appliances.

Thinking about buying a new car? Be sure to check the fuel efficiency of your choices (<http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles>). Of course, you can save gas by walking, bicycling, and/or using public transportation.

The US Department of Energy has produced a very informative booklet titled "Energy Savers - Tips on Saving Energy & Money at Home." It is packed with ideas on how to save energy. It has information on insulation, sealing air leaks, heating and cooling, heating water, windows, lighting, appliances, home office, and driving. You can order the booklet by sending an email to [rebuildorders@rebuild.org](mailto:rebuildorders@rebuild.org) or link to and download the booklet at [http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/pdfs/energy\\_savers.pdf](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/pdfs/energy_savers.pdf). The City will order a limited number of booklets that will be available in the Library.

More information about reducing your home heating bill is available at the federal government's "Energy Savers" website <http://www.energysavers.gov/>



### Sources of Air Leaks In Your Home

Areas that leak air into and out of your home cost you lots of money. Check the areas listed below.

- |                   |                           |                                    |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Dropped ceiling | 5 Water and furnace flues | 9 Window frames                    |
| 2 Recessed light  | 6 All ducts               | 10 Electrical outlets and switches |
| 3 Attic entrance  | 7 Door frames             | 11 Plumbing and utility access     |
| 4 Sill plates     | 8 Chimney flashing        |                                    |

**Hillwood**

*continued from page 9*

gun. Gang experts from both counties have been consulted and reported no intelligence exists of gang activity in the park.

Takoma Park officers conducted speed monitoring on Erskine Avenue and reported that, despite perceptions, most traffic is within the established speed limit due to the installed speed humps. Officers noted that motorists were not completing stops at intersections and at least one officer has begun regular enforcement of stop signs along that roadway. Patrols by city officers have been increased in the area, some accompanying Park Police. On October 4 Takoma Park officers assisted Park Police in the arrest of two juveniles in the park.

Since July 1, Takoma Park police have received reports of three stolen vehicles, one attempted stolen, one recovered stolen, two vandalism to vehicles, and five thefts from vehicles in this area (Erskine, Elson, 13th, 14th, Linden, and Myrtle). The successful thefts from auto included an installed CD player, loose compact discs, and a cordless drill, as well as cash. The vehicles targeted included: Honda Civic, Accord and Prelude; Toyota Corolla, Takoma, and Rav 4; a Tahoe, Durango, and Audi.

In late July, an alert resident reported suspicious behavior in the neighborhood. Responding officers detained five individuals, including two female juveniles, and located six car radios in a vehicle operated by one subject. None of the property could be identified as stolen property and the five were released. One was charged with operating a vehicle while suspended. In early October a resident reported loitering suspects on a street near the park. Responding officers from the city and Park Police took two city juveniles into custody for possession of drugs and alcohol.

As officers continue patrol in the area, residents are urged to: — report suspicious activity — maintain records of valuables installed in vehicles to enable tracking if they are stolen — use secondary security on vehicles to deter vehicle theft — not leave portable valuables in parked vehicles, especially overnight.

**Making a Complaint Against an Officer**

Any resident or citizen may make a complaint against a police officer for misconduct, unfair treatment, and policy or procedure violations, among other inappropriate behavior. The resident first will talk with the on-duty supervisor, who will discuss Departmental policy as it relates to the specific incident. This may be done in person or by telephone.

If the resident wishes to make a formal charge, a Citizen Complaint Form (available in English or Spanish) is provided. The supervisor is responsible for making sure the form is completely filled out, legible, and signed. A photocopy will be given to the citizen.

A charge alleging brutality must be filed within 90 days by an individual with first-hand knowledge of the event. Also, such complaints must be notarized; Police Administrative staff can provide notary services during normal business hours.

Complaints alleging corruption, brutality, improper use of force, breach of civil rights and criminal misconduct are conducted by Criminal Investigations detectives. Others are reviewed by Division Commanders or other supervisory staff.

Investigation of a complaint should be concluded within 30 to 60 days, depending on the type of complaint. Investigations will be postponed until conclusion of any court case, if the event involves one. Interim reports are required periodically for uncompleted inquiries. Investigations are conducted in accordance with the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights. The Professional Standards Manager, currently Capt. Edward Coursey, supervises the complaint process, including notification of the citizen at the investigation's conclusion.

If a complaint pertains to acts of race, national origin, sex or other protected class discrimination or harassment, the citizen may also contact the city's EEO Representative, Karen Hampton, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912, telephone 301-891-7201.

The Professional Standards Manager will review any complaint believed to have been made falsely against a police employee and contact the State's Attorney's office to request a review when necessary.

**Cable Committee Representative Needed**

The City is looking for a Takoma Park resident to serve on the Montgomery County Cable Communications Advisory Committee. Representative is required to attend one monthly meeting in Rockville. Some experience and interest in cable television, telecommunications or local government would be preferred. Please send a letter of interest to: Lonni Moffet, Communications Director, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; call: (301) 891-7236; or email to: LonniM@takomagov.org

**Takoma Park City TV Events in December & January 2006**

City TV will be showcasing some of the area's finest performers as we play music from Takoma Park's Jazz Fest, Taste of Takoma, Street Festival and other events. Other Special Local Events will include the replays of the Second Town Hall on Gang Violence and the YES League Basketball Championships. In January, City TV will tape the City's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration; replays of previous years' events will be featured throughout the month.

Newly released Folk Festival performances from the September 2005 festival include: Iona plus A Bunch of Ballads; and Smooth Kentucky plus Joni Mitchell Tribute.

**Takoma Snapshots in December** includes:

- Community Oriented Policing: Be Prepared
- Community Service Day with the College Park Scholars and the City Gardener
- Street Festival Highlights.

**January Snapshots** will include:

- Community Oriented Policing: Gangs In Our Community
- Halloween Parade and Festivities
- Meet the New Ward 2 Councilmember: Colleen Clay
- Community Center Grand Opening Highlights

Visit our Web site at [www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/cable) to access show listings and times and other specific programming information.

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

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

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	PreSchool Power!		Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Coffeehouse	NASA Programming		Haiti a Suivre
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Music da camera	Government Focus	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	CaribNation		Takoma Park Folk Festival	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Media Watch on Hunger
NOON		Community Bulletin Board			City Council Meeting (REPLAY)		
1:00 PM	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			Takoma Park Folk Festival
2:00 PM	Media Watch on Hunger		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming		Music da camera			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	PreSchool Power		Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Haiti a Suivre	
5:00 PM	Music da camera	Takoma Park Snapshots	Government Focus	Haiti a Suivre		Takoma Snapshots	
5:30 PM	Chinese News						
6:00 PM		Community Bulletin Board	Chinese News	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board
7:00 PM		National Gallery of Art		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	City Council Meeting (LIVE)	Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
8:00 PM					Takoma Park Folk Festival		
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Haiti a Suivre		Haiti a Suivre	Coffeehouse
10:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
11:00 PM		NASA Programming	Takoma Park Snapshots		Haiti a Suivre		
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots						
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)

# City Snow Removal Operations

In preparing for each winter's snowstorms, the Public Works Department is providing this information about the City's snow response process.

For the purposes of snow and ice control, the City is divided into 5 zones. Each zone is assigned a snow/ice removal vehicle. Each zone contains three types of roadways which receive different snow removal responses.

**First Response:** These roads carry the most traffic and connect neighborhoods.

Roadways with steep inclines are also included.

**Second Response:** Neighborhood streets connected to the First response streets.

Roadways with slight inclines are also included.

**Third Response:** Small streets with few homes or courts and alleys.

City crews are first dispatched to the First Response streets. Once these roads are passable they proceed to the Second Response areas. After these receive treatment, the Third Response streets are addressed. The listing of streets by response category follows below this article.

The goal of the City's snow response process is to have a snow/ice removal vehicle make at least one pass down each street within an 8 hour period during the storm. Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until the roads are cleared. Often, when severe weather is on the way, the City begins anti-icing procedures on the First Response streets by applying salt and/or sand before the snow falls. Once snowfall has accumulated to an inch or more, the snow plows are put into use. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the City treats all roadways with sand and salt.

The City provides snow plowing, sanding and salting on City roadways except for the following roadways which come under the responsibilities of

State Highway Administration (301-948-2477) or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning (301-650-2600).

**Roadway**

- Carroll Avenue
- Flower 8600-7700 (east bound lane)
- Philadelphia Avenue
- Piney Branch Road
- Takoma Avenue
- Sligo Creek Pkwy

**Snow Response Agency**

- State Highway
- Park and Planning



However, as City vehicles often travel these roads to get to the streets the City is responsible for clearing, the City vehicles supplement the other agencies snow removal activities.

All residents are encouraged to remove vehicles from the roadway, if possible, when a snow storm has been predicted. The fewer cars on the street, the easier and safer it is for plows to clear the roadways. On those streets that are marked Snow Emergency Routes — like Maple Avenue — all parked cars are required to be removed from the street.

Please remember that removal of snow in driveways and sidewalks in front of residential or commercial property is the responsibility of the resident or property owner/manager — and is required, for safety reasons, by City law. When clearing snow from your sidewalk or driveway we ask that you pile it in a yard, when possible, and not out in the street. Piles of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles.

The City can provide special services to residents who have health issues which require them to be able to use their street to access health care. Residents need to contact the Public Works Department to make those arrangements. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633 between 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**First Response Roads:**

- 13th Avenue
- 14th Avenue
- 4th Avenue
- Allegheny Avenue
- Anne Street
- Aspen Avenue (off Sligo Creek)
- Aspen Court
- Baltimore Avenue
- Boston Avenue
- Boyd Avenue
- Cedar Avenue
- Central Avenue
- Cherry Avenue
- Chestnut Avenue
- Community Center & Library Lot
- Columbia Avenue
- Conway Avenue
- Domer Avenue
- Dundalk Road
- Elm Avenue
- Erskine Avenue
- Ethan Allen Avenue
- Flower Avenue (8600-7700) west bound lane only
- Flower Avenue(7700-7200)
- Garland Avenue (Carroll to Flower)
- Geneva Avenue
- Glenside Drive
- Grant Avenue

- Gude Avenue
- Heather Avenue
- Holly Avenue
- Holton Lane (east of New Hampshire)
- Houston Avenue
- Jackson Avenue - Ethan Allen to S.C. Pkwy.
- Kennebec Avenue
- Larch Avenue
- Lee Avenue
- Lincoln Avenue
- Maple Avenue
- Maplewood Avenue
- Old Carroll Avenue
- Orchard Avenue
- Oswego Avenue
- Park Avenue
- Pine Avenue
- Poplar Avenue
- Prince Georges Avenue
- Ritchie Avenue
- Sherman Avenue
- Sligo Mill Road
- Takoma Avenue
- Valley View Avenue
- Westmoreland Avenue
- Wildwood Drive
- Willow Avenue
- Winding Hill Way

**Second Response Roads:**

- 2nd Avenue
- 5th Avenue
- 13th Place
- Albany Avenue
- Aspen Avenue (7000)
- Auburn Avenue
- Belford Drive
- Birch Avenue
- Belford Place
- Boundary Avenue
- Buffalo Avenue
- Carroll Service Road
- Chaney Drive
- Chicago Avenue
- Circle Avenue
- Orchard Avenue
- Cockerille Avenue
- Colby Avenue
- Cole Avenue
- Darwin Avenue
- Davis Avenue
- Devonshire Road
- Dogwood Avenue
- Eastridge Avenue
- Elson Place
- Elson Court
- Elson Street
- Erie Avenue
- Garland Avenue (Carroll to City Line)
- Glaizewood Avenue
- Greenwood Avenue
- Hammond Avenue
- Hancock Avenue
- Hayward Avenue
- Hickory Avenue
- Hilltop Road
- Hillwood Manor

- Hilton Avenue
- Hodges Lane
- Holton Lane
- Hopewell Avenue
- Houston Court
- Hudson Avenue
- Jackson Avenue (700 - 900)
- Jackson Avenue (1100 - 1200)
- Jefferson Avenue
- Kansas Avenue
- Kennewick Avenue
- Kentland Avenue
- Kingwood Drive
- Kirklynn Avenue
- Lancaster Road
- Larch Avenue (N. H. to 410)
- Little Eastern Avenue
- Lockney Avenue
- Manor Circle
- Merrimac Drive
- Merwood Drive
- Minter Place
- Mississippi Avenue
- Montgomery Avenue
- New York Avenue
- New Hampshire Service Road
- Roanoke Avenue
- Sheridan Avenue
- Spring Avenue
- Spruce Avenue
- Sycamore Avenue
- Trescott Avenue
- Tulip Avenue
- University Service Road
- Wabash Avenue
- Walnut Avenue
- Woodland Avenue

**Third Response Roads:**

- 1st Avenue
- Alfred Drive
- Barclay Avenue
- Beech Avenue
- Boyd Court
- Cherry Avenue (off Flower)
- Cleveland Avenue
- Crescent Place
- Edinburgh Lane
- Elwyn Court
- Freemont Avenue
- Glaizewood Court
- Glengary Place
- Haverford Road
- Hayward off Sligo Creek Pkwy
- Heather Alley
- Highland Avenue
- Holt Place
- Linden Circle
- Margaret Drive
- Palmer Lane
- Ray Drive
- City Owned Parking lot on Carroll Ave



Photos by Debra Haidtven

Fun at Halloween!