

# Takoma Park

## NEWSLETTER

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

Published by the City of Takoma Park [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org)

February 2006

## Skateboard Park Location Remains Up in the Air

You see them rolling down sidewalks, hopping up and down curbs, haunting loading docks and searching out stairs and rails, the gritty grind of their wheels on pavement announcing their presence in the streets and neighborhoods of Takoma Park. They are the local skateboarders, always in search of new tricks - and a place to try them.

Now they have two possibilities, though each is proving to be as slippery as the waxed concrete ledges they ride all over town. One, right in Takoma Park, presents questions regarding operational costs; the other, in Silver Spring, is still casting about for a suitable location. City Council discussed the matter at its January 17 work session.

### In our own back yard

The Takoma Park option, first discussed in 2001, seemed a sure thing four years ago. Skaters and their parents, along with community members and the City Council, crowded Council chambers to embrace the idea of a neighborhood skate park built on the two dilapidated tennis courts behind Piney Branch Elementary School, at the Takoma-Piney Branch Neighborhood Park. Those concerned with losing the tennis courts got newly surfaced courts at the Takoma Park Middle School. Then the grant meant to fund the project was discontinued and the project was put on hold.

Today, funding for a complete reno-



PHOTO BY SAM RICCI

**Ele Rubenstein kick flips off the loading dock at CVS, a popular spot for local skateboarders. The community is considering a skate park for the city.**

## Braithwaite selected to direct public works

You may have seen her out raking leaves with the pick-up crews, muscling the truck's giant leaf vacuum into the piles collected in the street. Or perhaps you've heard her voice on the Public Works line, advising you about free mulch, or watched her testify before city council about energy efficiency in city buildings or trash truck purchases.

Now Daryl Braithwaite, who has been with the Department of Public Works for 16 years, has been selected as the department's director. She took on the position January 9, after serving as acting director since Al Lott left last year to become city manager of Albany, Georgia. Braithwaite was chosen as most qualified for her new position after a nationwide search.

Braithwaite has been Deputy Public Works Director since February 2002, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the five divisions of the Public Works Department: administration, building maintenance, equipment maintenance, sanitation, and stormwater management. She also coordinated the City's Capital Improvement Program, and has served as Public Works Man-

ager and Solid Waste Manager as well. As Recycling Coordinator, she made a particularly indelible mark creating a pioneering recycling program for the city.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my years with the City and feel honored to have had so many opportunities to work with residents, Council, and fellow staff to establish responsive, progressive, and environmentally proactive programs," says Braithwaite. "I am looking forward to continuing that work as director."

City Manager Barbara Matthews praises Braithwaite's administrative, management and customer service skills, calling her an "asset to the community."

Before coming to Takoma Park, Braithwaite was an environmental consultant and worked for Clean Water Action. She holds a degree in environmental science from Gannon University.



**Daryl Braithwaite**

agement of the Takoma-Piney park is included in the county's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget and, if approved by the County Council in May, is slated for construction in 2008. Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which owns the park, requested an additional \$75,000 from the County Planning Board to purchase skateboard equipment for the park. "We're ready to help out with the equipment and we're asking [the city] to do the supervision," says Ellen Masciocchi, who is guiding the project through Park and Planning.

Supervision would not be the only responsibility for the city, however, and City Council and staff are wrestling with the park's annual operating costs, estimated by Debra Haidunen, the city's Recreation Department director, to be \$50,000 plus funds to pay management staff. Other unresolved issues include utilities, entrance fees, equipment leasing, storage, shed construction, policing and safety, and portable toilets.

### Meanwhile, right next door

Add to the funding dilemma the news that Silver Spring is committed to building a skate park, but cannot find a site for it. If Takoma Park builds a park before a facility in Silver Spring

goes up, some suspect the city facility would become more regional and may even prompt the county to abandon the Silver Spring project. "If this is the only game in town, I think it's going to be different," says Haidunen, who wants to re-introduce the skatepark proposal to the community in light of the new circumstances.

Although Silver Spring's commercial business district plan (CBD) specifically calls for a skate park, "There's been this uncertainty about where and when we will get it," says Glenn Kreger, team leader for Silver Spring at Park and Planning. Some neighbors have opposed the possible acquisition of a private lot at the corner of Fenton Street and East West Highway, known as Fenton Gateway, for a skatepark, so planners are searching for alternatives on land already publicly owned. So far, they have found none suitable, and with land in this area among the most expensive in the county, Fenton Gateway becomes a financial challenge as well. The Tony Hawk Foundation has voiced support for a park and could be a source of funding, but favors unsupervised, fee-free facilities which may not meet approval at the county level.

With such a state of flux, a park in

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**City of Takoma Park  
offices will be closed on  
Friday, January 27  
from noon to 2 p.m.  
for an Employee  
Recognition event.**

Mayor & Council  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD  
20912

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## CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**Monday, January 23, 2006** - Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Tuesday, January 24, 2006** - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. (Provost's Conference Room, Montgomery College, Takoma and New York Avenues)

**Wednesday, January 25, 2006** - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Heffner Community Center)

**Thursday, January 26, 2006** - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

**Monday, January 30, 2006** - Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Monday, February 6, 2006** - Presentation and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

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

**Wednesday, February 8, 2006** - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Room Atrium Meeting Room)

**Monday, February 13, 2006** - Presentation, Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the

City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Tuesday, February 14, 2006** - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

**Tuesday, February 14, 2006** - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

**Wednesday, February 15, 2006** - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Azalea Room)

**Monday, February 20, 2006** - City Offices Closed for the Presidents' Day Holiday

**Tuesday, February 21, 2006** - Presentation, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Tuesday, February 21, 2006** - Meeting of the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, 7 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

**Tuesday, February 21, 2006** - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

**Thursday, February 23, 2006** - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

**Monday, February 27, 2006** - Presentation, Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

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

**Committee on the Environment.** This committee is charged with advising the City Council on all environmental issues, including but not limited to, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning, energy use and conservation, and recycling; reviewing and providing advice on City actions that affect environmental quality; educating Takoma Park residents, businesses, and government on environmental issues; conveying citizen views on environmental issues to Council and City staff; and working with City staff on environmental issues and projects. (Up to four vacancies. The committee also welcomes participation from non-members who would like to serve as resources to help committee members with a particular issue or special event.)

**Noise Control Board.** This seven-member board assists and advises the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance, and adjudicates noise disturbance complaints. (One vacancy.)

**Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee.** The seven-member committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the Nuclear-Free Zone Act. (Four current members' terms will expire March 31.)

**Personnel Appeal Board.** The five-member board is charged with hearing employee appeals pursuant to Chapter 4.04 "Personnel" of the Takoma Park Code. (Two current members' terms will expire March 31.)

**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 regarding police services and public safety. (Up to four vacancies.)

Interested applicants are encouraged to attend committee meetings before applying. To apply, 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 by e-mail to [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org). For more information contact the City Clerk, 301-891-7267.

## Speak with the Mayor

Have a meeting with Mayor Porter and let her know your issues and concerns. Meeting hours are every Wednesday, 11 a.m. to noon by appointment; and from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome for the evening hours only. To schedule a meeting, contact Executive Assistant Peggy Forster at 301-891-7230 or [peggyef@takomagov.org](mailto:peggyef@takomagov.org).



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).

### Regular Meeting - November 28, 2005

**Ordinance 2005-40**, authorizing a contract for installation of a pavilion and pathway at Toatley Fraser Park, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin Lane, Barry, Erlich).

**Ordinance 2005-41**, authorizing FY06 Budget Amendment No. 3, was accepted at first reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich).

### Special Session - December 5, 2005

**Resolution 2005-86** was adopted, authorizing execution of the National Capital Region Mutual Aid Agreement (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

**Resolution 2005-87** was adopted, adopting the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan (VOTING FOR:

Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

**Ordinance 2005-41** was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing FY06 Budget Amendment No. 3 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

**Ordinance 2005-42** was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the purchase of the Granicus web streaming application (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

**The Consent Agenda** was adopted as follows (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Williams; ABSENT: Seamens).

**A. Resolution 2005-88** Appointing Dan Turner, Katherine Kelley, and Andrew Kelemen (as PSCAC representative) to the Safe Roadways Committee

**B. Resolution 2005-89** providing for Council's 2005 Holiday Recess

**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.

## NOTICE

### Proposed conveyance of City of Takoma Park property and notice of public hearing

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Takoma Park intends to convey approximately 0.192 acres or 8,369 square feet of City-owned land located at Takoma Junction, on the sloped area behind the existing City parking lot and Columbia Avenue, to Montgomery County for use as a parking area for the Takoma Park Fire Station. The Takoma Park City Council has determined that this real property is not needed by the City for the public use. An Ordinance authorizing the conveyance of this real property to Montgomery County will be considered by the City Council on Monday, February 27, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Public comment on the Ordinance and the proposed property conveyance will be heard at that time. For more information, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267.

## Voting Amendment Begins To Move Forward

The City Council placed a non-binding advisory question on the November 2005 election ballot, asking voters if they favored a change to an instant runoff voting system for future city elections. Of those voting on the question, 1,992 voted for the question and 390 voted against it.

Currently, the City Charter specifies that the candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected. In an instant runoff system, voters rank candidates (1, 2, 3 and so on). If no candidate receives a majority of the first choices, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated and those voters' second choice votes are redistributed to other candidates. This con-

tinues until one candidate receives a majority of votes and is elected.

The City Council has decided to proceed with the charter amendment process to consider changes to the City Charter to provide for instant runoff voting in city elections. The Council will also consider changes that would provide some flexibility in scheduling the dates for the Nominating Caucus and the inauguration of the City Council.

The process of amending the City Charter involves notice of a public hearing, a public hearing, adoption of a two-reading charter amendment resolution, and a series of publications of a fair summary of the charter amend-

ment. The charter amendment becomes effective 50 days after the resolution is adopted, unless a valid petition for a referendum on the charter amendment is signed by 20 percent or more of the qualified voters of the City.

The Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed charter amendment on March 27, 2006, 7:30 p.m., in the Community Center Auditorium. Additional information will be provided in the next *Takoma Park Newsletter*. For information about the proposed amendments, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or e-mail [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org).

**Deadline for Submissions:**  
**February 13**  
**Next Issue:**  
**February 24**

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**[www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org)**  
**Vol. 45, no. 5**

The *Takoma Park Newsletter* is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, [www.cityoftakomapark.org](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org).

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

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

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

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

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance. The *Newsletter* is printed on recycled-content paper.

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

## Dealing with Noisy Neighbors

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

**A tenant writes that she is having trouble sleeping due to noise coming from her neighbor's apartment. She has informed her landlord of the continuing problem and wants to know what else can she do.**

The tenant should advise her landlord in writing of the problem and request that the landlord contact the offending tenant. The tenant should also keep a written record of the noise incidents and corresponding complaints to the landlord.

If the problem continues, the tenant may wish to file a two-party noise complaint with the Noise Control Board. The complaint must be signed by two city residents within 10 days of the alleged violation of the Noise Ordinance.

The Noise Control Board was established by City Ordinance 2002-35 to (1)

advise the City on its noise control efforts; (2) to conduct hearings on citizen complaints of noise disturbances; and (3) to make findings of noise violations. The enabling ordinance defines a noise disturbance as any steady-state or impulsive noise occurring on either a continuous or intermittent basis that is: (1) unpleasant, annoying, offensive, loud, or obnoxious; (2) unusual for the time of day or location where it is produced or heard; or (3) detrimental to the health, comfort, or safety of any individual or to the reasonable enjoyment of property or the lawful conduct of business because of the loudness, duration, or character of the noise.

The burden of proof for establishing a violation of the Noise Control Ordinance is on the party who files the Noise Disturbance Complaint and the burden shall be met by a preponderance of evidence.

If the Noise Control Board finds in favor of the person bringing the complaint the board may order the violator to: (A) cease and desist from the conduct or activity which created the noise disturbance or to take other corrective action in order to abate or correct the violation of the Noise Ordinance; and/or (B) pay a fine to the City of up to \$200 per violation. If there are multiple violators, or if the board has determined more than one noise disturbance violation, the fine may be imposed on each violator. Should the board determine the existence of a repeat violation (i.e. the violator is found to have created a noise disturbance within one year immediately preceding the current noise disturbance) the board may order the violator to pay a fine to the City of up to \$400 for each violation.

*Information on the noise complaint process, and copies of the form, may be obtained from the City Clerk at 301-891-7267.*

## COLTA's Corner and Decisions



**By Jean Kerr, Housing Specialist**

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved two capital improvement petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park. COLTA also ruled on an illegal rent increase complaint.

### **Capital Improvement Petitions** **8320 Roanoke Avenue (2005-87L)**

On December 12, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$16.93 to \$32.68 on six units of the property. The improvements included replacing the hot water heater, a new range, bedroom soundproofing, new entrance door, hallway renovation, and replacing a retaining wall.

### **8313 Eastridge Avenue (2005-88L)**

On December 20, 2005, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$27.46 to \$92.35 on six units of the property. The improvements included replacing all plumbing lines, vinyl flooring, new refrigerator, replacing venetian blinds, painting bathroom, and refinishing wood floors.

**All rent increases are in addition to the annual rent stabilization allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken.**

### **COLTA DECISIONS**

**Moses A. Wilds, Jr., Landlord-Tenant Coordinator and**  
**Jean Kerr, Housing Specialist**

#### **November 2005** **Acadia v. Carter**

On November 29 in a case involving an alleged defective tenancy caused by the landlord's failure to repair an exterior water leak that resulted in damage to the tenant's rental unit, COLTA issued a decision that (1) the Landlord's Property Manager's failure to make good faith efforts to repair the interior water damage constituted a breach of

the Landlord's duty under Section 6.16.050 (obligations of landlords) of the Takoma Park Landlord Tenant Law; (2) the tenant's time waiting for scheduled repairs, loss of use of the bedroom closet, aesthetic unpleasantness and resulting stress of crumbling walls/ceilings, mildew and flaking paint decreased the value of the tenancy by 20 percent and (3) the landlord must pay the tenant \$558, which is 20 percent of the tenant's rent for the period from the complaint filing date until the complaint hearing date, as damages for creating the defective tenancy.

#### **December 2005**

#### **Laryce President-Neal & Houston Ave. Tenant Assoc. v. ZaZa Houston LLC**

On December 19 in a combined case involving an alleged defective tenancy caused by the absence of elevator service, COLTA issued a decision that (1) the Landlord had not made a good faith effort to repair the elevator and his conduct delayed the repair of the elevator resulting in a defective tenancy from April 11, 2005 through June 13, 2005; (2) the Tenant who failed to prove that the defective tenancy caused any specific physical injury, medical expenses, lost wages or housing costs and who had a pre-existing medical problem was not

entitled to an award of damages; (3) the value of each Tenant's tenancy was reduced as a result of the defective tenancy by 60 percent for sixth floor tenants to 20 percent for second floor tenants; (4) the Landlord was ordered to pay each tenant whose apartment is located above the first floor a rent refund derived by multiplying daily rent by 63 days and then multiplying that figure by their floor location percentage.

#### **Klockner v. Fred Korn Estate (2005-70T)**

On December 28, 2005, COLTA issued a decision on a tenant complaint that the landlord charged an illegal rent of \$850 when the tenant moved into the apartment. COLTA found that the maximum allowable rent for the tenant's apartment was \$618 at the beginning of the tenancy and \$652 from August 22, 2005 to present. COLTA further found that based on the lease, testimonies and documentation, that the landlord charged rent in excess of the lawful limit. COLTA ordered that the tenant rent be reduced to \$652 per month. COLTA further ordered that the landlord reimburse the tenant \$8,562 for illegal rents collected from September 2002 through October 2005 and any time thereafter.

# Welcome Home...

## Native Fish Return to Sligo Creek

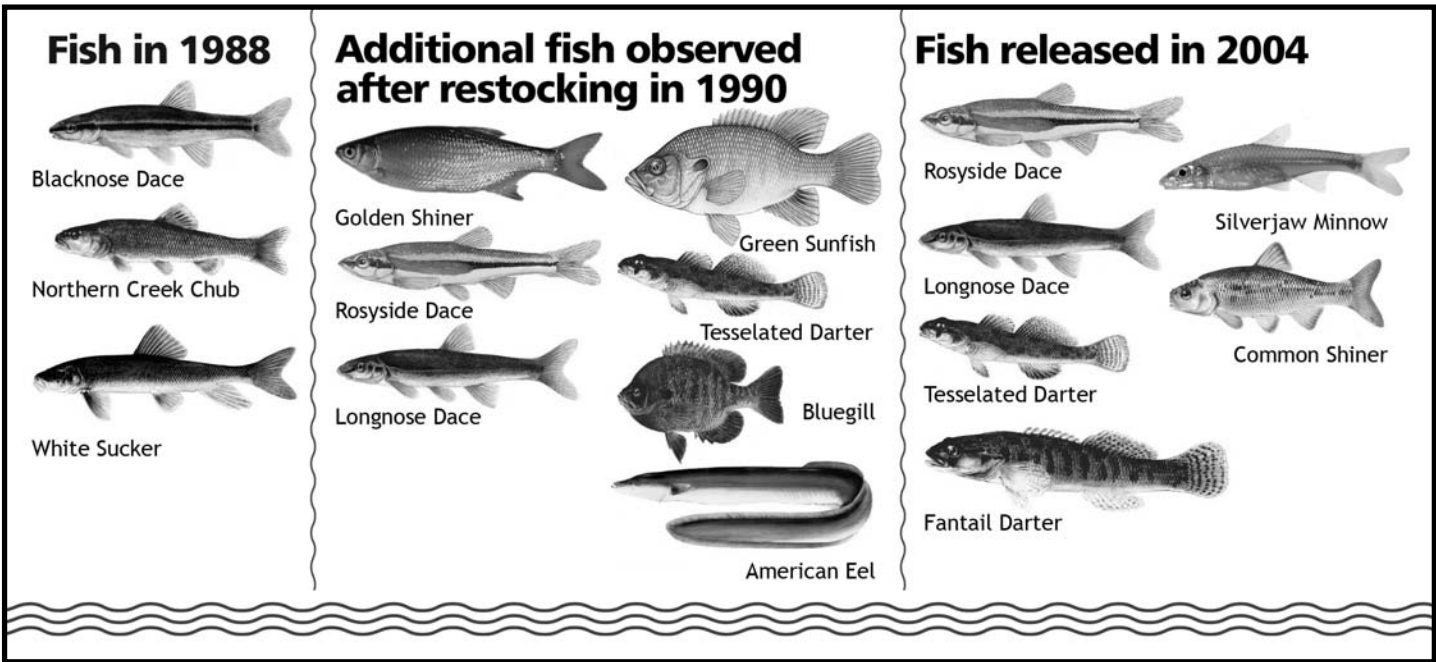
By Ethan Goffman

"Welcome Home!" read the banner straddling Sligo Creek, hoisted by a gaggle of kids. The children then wet their hands and gingerly placed the squirming minnows into Sligo Creek. It was spring of 2004 and the fish were indeed returning to a lost home; they were native species that had disappeared from Sligo Creek decades ago.

The children are members of Friends of Sligo Creek, which supports county restocking efforts in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. The group also monitors water quality, works on stormwater reduction, and removes invasive species, among many efforts that make the stream more habitable for aquatic creatures. "To be able to make real permanent change, it takes a commitment from the people in that watershed," says Keith Van Ness, Senior Aquatic Ecologist of the county's Department of Environmental Protection. "And that's what's happened now with the Friends of Sligo Creek."

Montgomery County's aquatic restoration may be unique. Restoring lost fish species simply has not been done. "Very few studies or restoration practices have anything to do with restocking," explains Susan Flanders Cushman, a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "There wasn't a lot of knowledge about this," agrees Van Ness. "It wasn't like you could open a text book and see Native Fish Restoration 101."

So, in 1990, an interagency group



led by Jim Cummins of the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin started from scratch. "The question was where are you going to get these fish," Van Ness explains. "To be ecologically sensitive, you want to get fish that are at least in the same watershed."

Initially, the county chose a healthy nearby stream, the Northwest Branch, where fish genetics most closely match Sligo Creek's original inhabitants. Wearing otherworldly electric backpacks and knee-length boots, biologists electroshocked the fish, swooped in with nets, and transported them to Sligo Creek.

Released near the Sligo-Dennis Av-

enue Recreation Center, the species eventually made their way downstream to Takoma Park.

The dream of introducing fish would never have become reality without a program to treat a stream degraded by urban runoff. The problem is worst after rainstorms, when torrents rush madly into urban streams. In an earlier state of nature, most stormwater is absorbed into the ground, but as areas are covered by impervious surfaces, such as parking lots and roofs, water impact and velocity increase. Over time the process changes the shape and flow of a stream, harming fish habitat.

Beginning in 1989 Montgomery

County fought this urban denigration with retention ponds to capture sediment, stone walls to fight erosion, and reforestation. Adding root wads and woody debris provided friendly habitat for fish to hide and breed.

But the challenge of cleaning an urban stream remains immense. Stormwater management is key, increasingly through such community projects as rain gardens and rain barrels, says Mike Smith of the Water Quality Committee. The effort also requires a long-term com-

Continued on next page

## Reporting Illicit Discharges

Federal Regulation defines any non-storm water discharge into a stream (MS4) as illicit. NPDES Phase II communities such as Takoma Park's are required to actively engage in Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination process. Public Reporting is one important measure toward clean water act objectives.

Recently numerous residents as well as the Friends of Sligo Creek reported illicit discharge south of Maple Avenue at the twin 72-inch storm conduits outfall. The origin has been identified as a construction site in the District of Columbia. "Investigation and elimination" is underway by DC's Environmental inspectors, the county and state.

Public awareness is an important component in the elimination of pollutants from our water resources. Here is how all can help:

When jogging or walking your dog along Sligo Creek you may notice some unusual color or muddy water, large quantities of floating debris, foam or oil sheen. Report it to DPW, MDE or Montgomery County Department of Environment. The following indicate potential illicit discharge:

- Unusual color or cloudiness
- Strong pungent or musty odor
- Floating debris
- Surface scum or foam

- Oil sheen
- Algae
- Dead vegetation or inhibited growth
- Dead animals
- Stains on channel bottom or sides
- Pipe corrosion
- Presence of dry weather flows

To report illegal spills, dumping, connections, or local emergencies related to the storm drain system or the sanitary sewer system, call one of the following numbers:

Department of Public Works:  
301-891-7633 or 301-891-7620  
MDE- 301-665-2850  
MGC DEP 240-777-7746

**Prohibited Discharges**

- Dumping hazardous chemicals into storm drains
- Improper disposal of auto and household toxins
- Improper connections to storm drain system (floor drains, sanitary sewer lines, etc.)
- Sanitary wastewater
- Pet waste and lawn clippings
- Cooking grease
- Industrial process water
- Chlorinated pool water
- Commercial car wash wastewater
- Wash-down of loading areas
- Wastewater treatment plant effluent
- Dumping of liquid waste

**Permissible Discharges** (admissible when managed)

- Landscape irrigation
- Diverted stream flows
- Rising groundwater
- Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration
- Uncontaminated pumped (Sump pumps) groundwater
- Foundation drains
- Air conditioning condensate
- Springs
- Water from crawl space pumps
- Lawn watering runoff
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- Residual street wash water
- Discharges or flows from fire fighting activities

## Recent Dump Threatens Creek

As this story was being edited, news came that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) discharged millions of gallons of chlorinated water into Sligo Creek near Kemp Mill. The discharge, which occurred from January 6 to 9, immediately killed 162 dusky salamander, 93 juvenile sunfish, 76 blacknose dace, and a variety of others within half a mile of the discharge, and effects were apparent down to Dennis Avenue, scene of earlier fish stockings.

WSSC failed to notify the Maryland DEP before the discharge, which continued for three days. Maryland law prohibits the discharge of chlorine or chlorine products at rates that exceed 0.1 milligrams per liter, according to the Friends of Sligo Creek web site. This level was almost certainly surpassed. At press time WSSC officials were not yet prepared to comment.

Despite the dump, the fish population is expected to recover. The Maryland DEP pumped the Dennis Avenue pond for maintenance, but otherwise plans no cleanup; Keith Van Ness explains that, as the water flows downstream, it becomes less chlorinated through dilution and dissipating into the atmosphere.



## Native Fish

*Continued from previous page*

mitment. "To impact aquatic life . . . is a pretty tall order," says Smith. "It's a decades long process."

To succeed, the restocked species must be able to breed through several generations. Many restored species, like the Longnose Dace and Tessellated Darter, have done so; others, like the American Eel, returned on their own.

Three native species that survived the pre-1990 period of urbanization make up the bulk of the population. Of these the Blacknose Dace is by far the most common, as the species survives pollution and temperature extremes. Now the hardy fish is one of some 13 species you may spot splashing to the surface, or gliding in the murky depths of Sligo Creek.

Fish, of course, are only one species in a complete aquatic ecosystem. Van Ness remembers mentioning spring frogs to a small boy helping put fish back into the creek. Had the child heard their nightly chorus? No, he had never heard a frog call. "I'm thinking, what a way for a child to grow up," says Van Ness.

In 1992 the county began an amphibian restoration program, transplanting egg masses to vernal pools and wetlands, where they won't be eaten by fish. Maintenance of these vernal pools is one way to support restoration.

Monitoring of these newly introduced frogs is done in pitch darkness entirely by hearing, explains Wilpers. Frog presence is reported on a four-point scale, from nothing, to a single frog, to overlapping noises, to a full-throated frog chorus. Although Frog Watch now reports a strong frog presence in Wheaton, the amphibians have not made their way down to Takoma Park's faster moving waters. Still the chorus has returned to northern Sligo Creek, to elicit childish wonderment once more.

Along with amphibian life, the county and Friends of Sligo Creek are now working to bring in more sensitive fish species such as the Rosie Sided Dace and the Silver Jawed Minnow. It is too soon to know if these will survive. Still the creek has come a long way, with fish darting through its waters, numerous insect species dancing above, salamanders slithering the banks, all nestled by a thickening tree canopy. Wilpers recently spotted a Great Blue Heron above the revitalized creek, which now provides plenty of food and habitat. "The entire world is a garden," he exclaims, "and we're the gardeners."

## Getting involved in the arts

### Cultural Directory underway

Shouldn't you be included in the new Takoma Park Cultural Directory?

Individuals and organizations alike will benefit from a listing in the Arts and Humanities Commission's new Cultural Directory. Increase the public's awareness of your work. Expand your exposure in the Takoma Park arts and humanities community.

Participation in the directory is free.

### Reading series seeks poets

The City of Takoma Park and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission are happy to announce the first Takoma Park Poetry Series. The series will begin this winter and will feature some of the finest poets in the city and surrounding area.

To be considered for a spot in the series, poets can send three to five poems to Poet Laureate Don Berger at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or mail or drop them off with Sara Daines at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave, Takoma Park MD 20912. The submission deadline is Friday, January 25.

The series schedule, which will include open-mike events, will be posted in early February. All readings will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center. Readings are free and open to everyone. A reception will follow each.

### Artists invited to exhibit at new center

Would you like to exhibit your work in the Takoma Park Community Center?

The Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking proposals for exhibits in the Takoma Park Community Center. Exhibits may feature the work of a group of artists or craftspeople or the work of an individual. The exhibit may highlight the culture of a select ethnic group, the work of a poet or novelist, historical events, and other arts and humanities-related subjects.

### Getting involved with arts and humanities

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of activities planned for this coming year. You can help with a one time project or event, or become involved in a standing committee. Just let us know what you are interested in and how much time you have. We'd love to have you get involved.

*For more information on any of these activities, contact the Arts and Humanities Commission c/o Sara Daines, at 301-891-7224 or email [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org).*

## Horticulture Club Grows Garden Network

The Takoma Horticulture Club has launched a new website, [www.takomagarden.net](http://www.takomagarden.net). The product of many local gardening experts, the site offers local and up-to-date information about gardening, including recommended shrubs and perennials, local gardening services, and resources of all types - books, magazines, television, and blogs. And just for inspiration, the site includes photographs of the "Gardens of Greater Takoma."



Carole Galati's Takoma Park garden is featured on the new Takoma Gardens web site.

the site, and hopes its new users will continue to contribute suggestions for further content, links, and garden photographs. Contact her at 301-270-5481 with your ideas. Information about the Takoma Horticulture Club itself is still available on its website, [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org).

In addition to gardening, the site includes advice from local experts about environmental concerns affecting property owners, such as invasive plants, effects on the watershed, and the possibility of switching to organic techniques and growing native plants.

City employees have contributed information about city services benefiting the homeowner; the site covers local leaf pick-up, availability of free mulch, and free tree advice by the city arborist.

Susan Harris, president of the club and designer of the site, solicited numerous local gardening and environmental experts for help with

*All through the long winter,  
I dream of my garden.  
On the first day of spring,  
I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth.  
I can feel its energy, and  
my spirits soar.*

—Helen Hayes



### "Wildlife Gardening"

is the topic of a free public event  
Wednesday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.  
at Heffner Park in Takoma Park  
(on Oswego Avenue  
near the Department of Public Works).

The speaker, Jim Gallion of the University of Maryland, will teach the four elements needed to restore or create wildlife habitat.

Sponsored by the Takoma Horticulture Club.

For more information, visit our website,  
[www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org),  
or call Susan at 301-270-5481.



# RECREATION

## 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 a.m. - 5 p.m. Phone number is 301-891-7290. Bear with us as we excitedly await the completion of phase two! Drop off: Checks or money orders only - NO CASH - Front desk of Community Center from 5 - 10 p.m. M-F. 10-6 Sat.

## Baby Sitting Class

### Ages 9 - 14

*This class is designed for kids ages 9-14 interested in babysitting.*

Topics covered will include: CPR, Fire Safety, First Aid, Infant and Child Care and Personal Safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of class and exam. This class is sponsored by the Takoma Park

Volunteer Fire Department, venerable Fire Chief James Jarboe presiding.

Six weeks.

**When:** Mondays,  
February 6 - March 20  
**Time:** 7 - 9 p.m.  
**Location:** Rose Room, Takoma Park  
Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** Free

No Class on February 20.

## Puppy Kindergarten

Teach your pup or teenaged dog the foundation skills: attention, sit, come when called, leave it, and beginning leash walking. Positive reinforcement training using NO PUNISHMENT and lots of fun. Learn what is and isn't normal doggy etiquette! Pups from four months to 18 months who are not aggressive toward other dogs or people are welcome. Must have current vaccination records. Kids 10 and up with adult are welcome! Limited to six dogs. Indoor location, six weeks.

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Marsden,  
The Logical Dog

### Session: II

**When:** Saturdays,  
March 4 - April 8  
**Time:** 10 - 11a.m.  
**Location:** Heffner Park Community  
Center, 42 Oswego Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$85  
Non Resident \$95

## Basic Dog Manners

Teach your adult dog good manners: attention, sit, come when called, leave it, beginning leash walking and more. Positive reinforcement training using NO PUNISHMENT and lots of fun. Dogs 18 months or older who are not aggressive towards other dogs or people are welcome. Must have current vaccination records. Kids 10 and up with adult are welcome!

Limited to six dogs.

Indoor location, six weeks.

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Marsden,  
The Logical Dog

### Session: II

**When:** Saturdays,  
March 4 - April 8  
**Time:** 11 a.m. - noon  
**Location:** Heffner Park  
Community Center,  
42 Oswego Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$85  
Non Resident \$95

## Kids Crochet

### Age 6 - up

Do you love yarn and all the cool things you can make from it? Learn how to finger knit, crochet and make cool projects including bookmarks, hats, scarves, toys and more! Suitable for complete beginners and those who already know how to crochet. A \$10 materials fee due to instructor at first class.

Six weeks, Instructor Amy O'Neill Houck.

**When:** Thursdays,  
February 23 - March 30  
**Time:** 4 - 5p.m.  
**Location:** Rose Room, Takoma Park  
Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Residents \$60  
Non Residents \$70

## Design Your Own Poncho

### Adult - 12

If you know how to knit and purl you can design. Choose your yarn, we'll discuss and design styles, stitch patterns, sizing, gauge and learn about fitting and finishing. Suitable for beginners who can cast on, knit and purl. Materials not included.

Three weeks, Instructor Amy O'Neill Houck

**When:** Saturdays,  
March 18 - April 1  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Rose Room, Takoma Park  
Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Residents \$70  
Non Residents \$80



## Kindermusik Village®

### Ages newborn - 1.5

Kindermusik® is a community of parents and babies, sharing and caring for each other. Babies in this multi-age class are changing more rapidly than at any other time in their development. Therefore, each activity presents features and choices for lap babies, crawling babies and walking babies, participating at his/her level. Come join us each week for 45 minutes of rocking, massage, dancing, exercising, singing, playing, clapping, and more! In addition to the registration fee, an at-home materials fee of \$30 is to be paid to the instructor on the first day of class. Your at-home materials include a Kindermusik Cock-A-Doodle Moo! CD, a home activity journal, a Cock-A-Doodle Moo! book, and art banner.

Maximum of 10, minimum of five.  
Eight weeks.

**When:** Wednesdays,  
February 15 - April 5  
**Time:** 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.  
**or** Thursdays,  
February 16 - April 6  
**Time:** 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Heffner Community Center,  
42 Oswego Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$85/session  
Non-Resident \$95/session

## Kindermusik Our Time®

### Ages 1.5 - 3

A music and movement program for children and their parent or care giver. Our Time focuses on your child's emotional development as his/her confidence, curiosity, self control and communication begin to take shape. During our 15-week session, we come together each week for 45 minutes of singing, chanting, listening, moving, dancing, and simple instrument playing. The required at-home materials include a double CD, two story books, a family activity book, and a specially designed instrument. A materials fee of \$50 is payable to the instructor on the first day of class.

Maximum of 12, minimum of five. 15 weeks.

**When:** Wednesdays,  
February 8 - May 24  
**Time:** 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.,  
**or** Thursdays,  
February 9 - May 25  
**Time:** 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.  
**Location:** Heffner Community Center,  
42 Oswego Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$145/session  
Non-Resident \$155/session

No class  
April 12 and 13.

## FUN DAY

### Grade K-5

The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day closings and activities and performances on scheduled half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. On half days only students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up in the cafeteria and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Trips, activities, and performers are subject to change. They may also be canceled if minimum registration is not met. Children may bring a snack on half days and must bring a lunch on all-day Fun Day Trips. Space is limited, sign up early.

**Reptile World - See amazing reptiles, touch a giant snake!**

**When:** Monday, February 27  
**Time:** 1 - 5 p.m.  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$10  
Non-Resident \$15

## Twoosy Doodlers

### Ages 20 - 36 months

This is a special art class just for toddlers and a parent or care giver. Little fingers will experiment with painting, gluing, sticking, printing, and creating, while developing fine motor, language, and self-help skills. This is an "I Can Do It!" class that is fun, creative, and filled with learning opportunities for both the child and the care giver! There is an \$18 materials fee to be paid to the instructor the first day of class. Maximum of eight. minimum of four. Six weeks.

### Session 2:

**When:** Tuesdays,  
February 28 - April 4  
**Time:** 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.  
**Location:** Art Room - T.P. Community  
Center, 7500 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$68/session  
Non-Resident \$78/session

## School Age Doodlers

Engaged through the Piaget method of child-centered learning, students are introduced to a new master artist each week, then create their own masterpieces using the artist's style, materials, and techniques! Fun, hands-on classes create a safe learning space for children as they experiment with paints and pastels, collage, origami, bamboo brushes, modeling compounds, and more! Children are continuously introduced to new artists and techniques so no class is ever the same. Abakadoodle classes are not just for the future artists among us - classes are structured to bolster self-confidence and pride in creating a piece of art, while teaching art history, techniques, and skills. There is an \$18 materials fee to be paid to the instructor the first day of class. Maximum of 10, minimum of four. Six weeks.

## Mini Doodlers

### Ages 3 - 5

### Session 2:

**When:** Tuesdays,  
February 28 - April 4  
**Time:** 4 - 4:45 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Room - T.P. Community  
Center, 7500 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$68/session  
Non-Resident \$78/session

## Doodlers

### Grades 1-5

### Session 2:

**When:** Tuesdays,  
February 28 - April 4  
**Time:** 5 - 6 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Room - T.P. Community  
Center, 7500 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. City Resident \$68/session  
Non-Resident \$78/session.



## Looking for Donations for Music/Video Lab

Please call Debra at  
301-891-7226 to arrange drop off.

## The Rec. Dept. is seeking equipment for new lab in the community center:

- ♦ portable piano keyboards
- ♦ camcorders (analog or digital)
- ♦ blank camcorder tapes
- or DVD-RW discs
- ♦ tripods



## Keying into Computer Lab



PHOTO BY REBECCA BROWN

**Shuko Tamad, library instructional assistant in the new computer lab, assists a patron in obtaining his first e-mail account. The lab has been a popular feature since it opened in December.**

## FTPML Reading Group

The Friends Reading Group will be discussing  
T. Coraghessan Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain*  
in the Atrium Room of the Takoma Park Community Center,  
Wednesday evening, February 1, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

*The Tortilla Curtain* is a novel about the conflict between well-to-do  
U.S. citizens and illegal Mexican immigrants  
who have crossed the border in order to make a new life.  
Set in southern California, the novel explores  
societal and personal conflicts between ideals and racism,  
shedding light on the dark side of the American Dream.

The Library has multiple copies of the book to loan.  
Please call the Library for more information, 301-891-7259,  
or check the Friends website at [www.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org).

## Babe Ruth Plays On

Girls and boys ages 6 - 18 can sign up for the 2006 season of **Takoma Park-Silver Spring Babe Ruth League** baseball and softball. To register online, go to [www.takomabaseball.org](http://www.takomabaseball.org). To register by mail, print out registration forms provided on the website and mail in as directed.



Walk-in registration can be completed at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, on the following dates: Fri., Feb. 24, 6 - 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 25, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Fri., March 17, 6 - 8:30 p.m.; Sat., March 18, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Fri., April 7, 6 - 8:30 p.m.; or Sat., April 8, 6 - 8:30 p.m. We coordinate our schedules with Takoma Park Soccer so your child may play both sports. Scholarships are available for players in the free school lunch program. Accommodations are available for kids with disabilities or unpolished skills. For more information, call 301-270-0100.

## LIBRARY

### Winter Solstice Gives Way to Imbolc

The beauty of the cycle of the year is that anywhere on the circle can be seen as a new beginning. Though the annual Winter Solstice celebration was postponed on account of inclement weather, the next solar festival, **Imbolc**, falls on February 1 (or 2) and suggests the hope for spring.

The name Imbolc refers to the lactation of the ewes, the flow of milk that "heralds the return of the life-giving forces of spring." The website <http://www.celticspirit.org/imbolc.htm> gives a lyrical description of this time of year:

*In most parts of the British Isles, February is a harsh and bitter month... But although the season was so cold and drear, small but sturdy signs of new life began to appear: lambs were born and soft rain brought new grass. Ravens began to build their nests and larks were said to sing with a clearer voice.*

Bill Jenkins, our favorite ethnomusicologist, and the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will bring a evening similar to our traditional Winter Solstice program to this celebration of light and hope for the lengthening of the days. Dueling schedules have led to a late date for Imbolc: Thursday evening, February 9 at 7:15 p.m., barring a February snowstorm, is the planned date to redeem our lost Winter Solstice celebration.

Many thanks are due to all who drummed and prayed, lit candles, and otherwise encouraged the sun to return. Your efforts were met with success; the days are indeed getting longer.

### Spanish Immersion Circle Time

Thursday mornings at the Library soon promises to be as lively and busy as Tuesday mornings, with its perennially popular Circle Time (in English.). The new Spanish Immersion Circle Time will be offered for children 18 months to 5 years each Thursday morning at 10 a.m. in the Children's Room by "Señora Lupe." The initial phase of the Circle Time will run from February through June.

Lupe Marks, a native Spanish speaker with a degree in Spanish and education, brings rich and varied experience in working with young children through games, stories, song, and dance. The Takoma Park Maryland Library is quite pleased to be able to offer this program through the generous support of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of Mike Morrissey.

Please spread the word to friends and neighbors about this program. For more information you may call the Library at 301-891-7259 or contact Lupe Marks at 240-899-7468 or [lupemarks@yahoo.com](mailto:lupemarks@yahoo.com).

### Library Programs for February

#### FTPML Reading Group

Discussion of *The Tortilla Curtain*  
by T. Coraghessan Boyle  
Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 - 9 p.m. (*see story*)

#### Imbolc (in lieu of Winter Solstice!)

Thursday, February 9, 7:15 p.m.  
All ages invited (*see story*)

#### Winter Session of the Twosies

For two-year-olds and parent or caregiver.  
Preregistration required: group-size limited  
Four Wednesdays, 10 a.m.  
February 1, 8, 15, March 1 (*note: not Feb. 22*)

#### Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks

Each Thursday at 10 a.m., beginning Feb. 2  
Spanish immersion for children  
18 months to five years  
No Preregistration Required (*see story*).

#### 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 preregistration 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

On January 10 at 7:40 p.m. in the **800 block of Anne Street**, an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was walking alone when he noticed two subjects ahead of him. After he lost sight of them, he heard sounds behind him and turned to find the subjects pointing handguns at him. One demanded money and the other hit the victim with his gun when he did not immediately comply. Both searched his pockets and took his wallet. The victim was ordered to walk away and the subjects fled on foot. The victim refused medical treatment for a minor injury.

On November 17 at 9:10 p.m. in the **400 block of Boston Avenue**, an armed robbery was attempted. An adult female was walking home when a dark blue minivan pulled up behind her. A subject exited the minivan and immediately approached her, displayed a gun and demanded her bag. The victim refused to hand over her property and screamed. The suspect then hit her with the gun and fled in the minivan. The victim received treatment for a minor injury.

On November 18 at 9:38 p.m. in the **7000 block of Westmoreland Avenue** an adult female was walking alone when a subject approached her from behind, implied he had a gun and demanded money. The victim handed over cash and the subject walked away. The victim was not injured.

## Burglaries

Between January 7, 4 p.m. and January 8, 9:30 a.m. in the **6700 block of Conway Avenue**, a burglary occurred. The lock on a shed door was broken. Property was taken.

Between December 24, midnight and December 26, 8:37 a.m., in the **7500 block**

**of New Hampshire Avenue**, a burglary occurred. The unknown person broke the storefront window and entered the building, then stole the victim's property.

On November 17, between 7:10 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. in the **unit block of Philadelphia Avenue**, a residential burglary occurred. A window air conditioner on a first floor window was removed in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

On November 17, between 9:30 a.m. and 7:25 p.m. in the **7600 block of Maple Avenue**, a residential burglary occurred. A deadbolt lock was pried open and the door forced open. Property was taken.

On December 2, between 10 a.m. and 11:25 a.m. in the **unit block of Pine Avenue**, a residential burglary occurred. A side door was pried open to gain entry. Property was taken.

Between November 20 at noon and November 21 at 6:30 a.m. in the **7500 block of Jackson Avenue**, a burglary occurred. A detached shed was entered through an unlocked door. Property was taken.

On November 17, between 7:10 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. in the **unit block of Philadelphia Avenue**, a residential burglary occurred. A window air conditioner on a first floor window was removed in order to gain entry. Property was taken.

## Auto and Related Theft

Between January 6 at 8 p.m. and January 7 at 3:30 p.m. in the **7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, a 1995 Chrysler Cirrus was stolen by unknown method.

On January 8 at 6:10 p.m. in the **6700 block of Gude Drive**, two theft from vehicles occurred. Windows of a 2002 Honda CRV and a 2003 Mazda MPV were smashed to gain entry. Property was taken from both.

Between January 7 at 8 p.m. and January 8 at 9:50 a.m. in the **7400 block of**

**Wildwood Drive**, a 2000 Honda Civic was stolen by unknown method.

Between January 11 at 10 p.m. and January 12 at 5 a.m. in the **6400 block of 4th Avenue**, a 2004 Dodge Intrepid was stolen by unknown method.

On December 30, at 10:30 p.m. in the **6400 block of 4th Avenue**, a 1996 Jeep Cherokee was stolen by unknown method.

On December 23 between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. in the **7800 blk. of Cole Avenue** a 2005 Scion Truck was stolen by unknown method.

On December 23 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., in the **6400 blk. of Sligo Mill Rd.**, unknown method was used to steal a 1995 Honda Civic.

On December 24 between 3:10 a.m. and 3:15 a.m., in the **1000 blk. of University Blvd.**, an auto theft occurred. The owner left his 1992 Nissan Sentra with the key in the ignition with the engine running and unattended.

Between December 23 at 9 p.m. and December 25 at 4 a.m., in the **7400 blk. of New Hampshire Avenue**, a 1993 Plymouth Voyager minivan was stolen by unknown method.

Between December 23, 4 p.m. and December 25, 7:45 p.m., in the **7300 blk. of Wildwood Dr.**, an attempt auto theft occurred. The person attempted to steal a 1999 Jeep Cherokee by damaging the door lock and breaking the ignition.

On December 26, 9:23 p.m., in the **7800 blk. of Cole Avenue** a stolen 2002 Isuzu XL7 truck was recovered. The two suspects used the vehicle's keys to steal the vehicle. The suspects fled from a Takoma Park Officer after a brief pursuit. No arrests were made.

On December 27 between noon and 3 p.m., in the **7300 blk. of New Hampshire**

**Avenue**, a 2002 GMC Yukon truck was stolen by unknown method.

On December 27, 10:30 a.m., in the **1000 blk. of Larch Avenue**, a 1996 Ford Mustang was stolen by unknown method.

Between December 27, 8 p.m. and December 28, 6:10 a.m., a **1994 Acura** was stolen by unknown method.

Between December 23, noon and December 29, 9:38 a.m., in the **700 blk. of Chaney Dr.**, a 1995 Dodge Caravan was stolen by unknown method.

On December 16, between 2 p.m. and 2:05 p.m., in the **1000 block of Larch Avenue**, a 2002 Jeep Liberty was stolen by unknown method.

Between December 21, 5 p.m. and December 22, 5:45 a.m. in the **200 block of Hodges Lane**, an auto theft was attempted. A window was pried open and the ignition in the 1997 Honda Civic was damaged.

On December 22 at 7:08 a.m. in the **7700 block of Greenwood Avenue**, an auto theft occurred. The owner left her 2004 Honda CRV with the key in the ignition, engine running, doors unlocked and unattended.

Between December 21 at 6:30 p.m. and December 22 at 8 a.m. in the **7100 block of Cedar Avenue**, a 1996 Plymouth Voyager was stolen by unknown method.

## ARRESTS

On January 9 at 6:45 pm in the **7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, an adult male was charged with Drinking an Alcoholic Beverage in Public.

On January 11 at 8:15 am in the **600 block of Houston Avenue**, an adult male was arrested and charged with 2nd Degree Assault and Violation of a Protective Order.

On December 31 at 9:44 p.m. in the **7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, four juvenile males were arrested after a routine traffic stop when a computer check showed their vehicle to have been reported stolen in Washington, D.C. They were charged with Auto Theft, Theft over \$500 and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle.

On January 1 at 1:09 a.m. in the **500 block of Albany Avenue**, an adult male was arrested and charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Violation of License Restriction, Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Driving While Impaired by Alcohol.

On January 2 at 1:03 a.m. at the intersection of **New Hampshire Avenue and Larch Avenue**, an adult male was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Driving While Impaired by Alcohol.

On December 27, at 6:15 p.m., in the **900 blk. of Merrimac Dr.**, an adult male was arrested and charged with shoplifting.

On December 18 at 11:27 p.m. in the **8000 block of Flower Avenue**, an adult male was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Driving while Impaired by Alcohol and Driving Without License.

On December 16 at 12:14 a.m. in the **1000 block of East West Highway**, an adult male was arrested and charged with 2nd Degree Assault, Disorderly conduct and Disorderly Intoxication.

On December 18 at 2:20 a.m. in the **7300 block of Takoma Avenue**, an

**Call for Volunteers**  
If you are interested in becoming a member of TPVFD, please contact the fire station at 301-270-8209.

## The Firehouse Report

The Takoma Park Fire Department responded in 2005 to 1,107 fire-related incidents and 2,598 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a grand total of 3,705. This is an increase of six incidents in comparison to totals of 2004 - 1,197 and 2,592 - for a grand total of 3,699.

During 2005, there were two serious fires in Takoma Park, resulting in major damage to two homes. Unattended cooking, smoking materials, electrical and heating appliances still lead in causes of home fires. We all need to do our part in this New Year to have no serious fires. We must have a fire escape plan for the entire family, and working smoke alarms on all levels of the home. Have a Fire Safe New Year, from all the men and women at Fire Station 2.

## Free Visual Smoke Alarms Available

If you know that someone who is deaf or hard of hearing could use a free visual smoke alarm, please contact the Takoma Park VFD at 301-270-8208. We will deliver, and install.

## Blood Drive Scheduled

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, in partnership with the Takoma Park Lions Club, is sponsoring a Blood Drive Monday, January 23 at the Takoma Park Community Center, from 3 to 8 p.m.

## Baby Sitters in Training

The next training class will start on Monday, February 6. Classes will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center on Monday evenings, from 7-9 p.m. for sitters ages 11 to 13 years. Sitters must attend all six sessions to receive credit. Topics include fire safety, infant and child care, CPR, first aid and personal safety. If interested, please contact the City Recreation Department.

## Dinners for Needy Families

On November 23 Takoma Park VFD members Bob Jarboe, Dave Hooker, and Jim Jarboe picked up and delivered 31 turkey dinners to families throughout the area. A special thanks again to the following organizations for donating money to purchase dinners: Takoma Park VFD, Takoma Park Lions Club, Takoma Park VFW Post 350, and the American Legion Post 41 Auxiliary. This marked the 11th year for the annual event.

## Toys for Needy Children

The Takoma Park VFD celebrated its 25th year collecting and distributing toys to children throughout Takoma Park. Special thanks to the Takoma Park Lions Club for being a partner for the past 11 years. And thanks to the North Silver Spring Lions Club for donating toys, and to R.S. Automotive and the Lions Club for funds for additional toys. Thanks also to volunteers Mike DeVore, Bob Jarboe, and Jim Jarboe, TPVFD; Keith Van Ness, TPLC; Pat Van Ness, NSSLCL; and PFC Tina Smith, Sgt. Mark Hammond, Det. Cyndy Conrad and Diana Dean, TPPD. A job well done!





## Busted: Underage Drinking Parties are Illegal

Takoma Park Police have responded to several incidents over the last few months in which juveniles have been drinking alcohol. Such gatherings can result in referral to the juvenile courts and have academic repercussions. In two incidents, the youths' high school learned of the parties and reported the students in jeopardy of suspension.

When police encounter youth who have been drinking, they identify them through field investigation reports and their parents are called to pick them up. Any subsequent involvement with the police can result in citations and referral to the Juvenile Justice System.

In December on a school snow-day, officers were called to a North Takoma home where nearly two dozen youth were partying. The residence's supervising adult was at work. More than 20 youth had been drinking, were field interviewed, and their parents were called to pick them up. The host was charged with underage possession. Because this was not the Department's first involvement with him, officers requested that Juvenile Justice charge him further.

Blair High School, which many of these youth attend, indicated the students would be subject to suspension. Reactions among parents have been mixed: Officers report that some were more concerned with police interviewing their children than with illegal alcohol consumption. Others indicated their children would face consequences at home. A number of residents have requested a more aggressive police department response to underage drinking.

Consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 is illegal, except for that involved in a religious observance. It should be noted that minors who are drinking are often also in possession of drugs, commonly marijuana, and tobacco; they can be arrested for possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or tobacco. Persons with knowledge of underage drinking parties can report incidents to 301-270-1100 and officers will be dispatched to any incident in progress.

### Illegal Drinking: a Primer

■ **If you are under 21** it is illegal to drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle with 0.02 percent or more blood alcohol (that's less than one drink!). If you do, you may be fined \$500 and your license may be suspended for one year.

■ **In 2004, 15 people died** in Montgomery County in automobile crashes involving drivers under age 21. Forty percent of those crashes involved alcohol.

■ **If you are under age 21** and are found in possession of alcohol, are in a car with alcohol or are where alcohol is served, you can receive a civil citation even if you were not holding the alcohol. If under 18, your parents will be notified and you may be fined up to \$500 for a first offense and up to \$1,000 for a second offense. Youth and parent can be required to attend driver safety or alcohol education classes (\$40-90).

■ **If you are 18-20 years old**, you will be required to appear in court (\$20 court cost, \$30 injury compensation board and \$500-2,000 for a lawyer). You may be fined up to \$500 for first offense or up to \$1,000 for a second offense. You may be required to do community service hours (\$150). You may be placed on probation (\$25 per month) or mandatory urinalysis (\$50 each).

■ **If you present a false I.D.** or an I.D. that is not your own to purchase alcoholic beverages or to gain entry to a bar where alcohol is sold you may receive a civil citation and face the above penalties. You may receive a traffic summons for possession or displaying a false or altered driver's license.

■ **If you receive a traffic summons**, you must appear in court and you will need legal representation.

■ **If you are found guilty**, you may be jailed for up to two months and/or fined up to \$500 and you may receive 12 points on your driver's license. (12 points means you will lose your license.)

■ **If you possess intoxicating beverages** on school grounds, your driving privilege will be suspended for 30 to 90 days.

A violation of these laws could follow a youth for the rest of a life. Many job and college applications ask about arrests and those who have been arrested must answer truthfully. Some employers who require security clearances for employees can request a court order to open even juvenile records.

### Repercussions for Adults

■ **An adult found guilty** of obtaining alcohol for a minor or allowing a minor other than their own child to drink in their home can be fined \$500.

■ **An adult convicted** of contributing to the delinquency or a violation by a minor (a criminal charge) could be fined up to \$2,500 and spend three years in jail. The minor need not be convicted or found delinquent for the adult to be held responsible.

■ **Parents are responsible for their child's behavior.** Parents can be required to pay up to \$10,000 for damage done by their child.

■ **If someone is injured** as a result of a child's drinking, the child and his or her parents can be sued. Adults can also be sued for allowing minors to drink in their home, or for injury resulting from what they allowed to take place.

## POLICE NEWS

### Minivans, SUVs, Hondas Remain Theft Targets

For most of 2005, vehicle theft reports decreased, an encouraging trend that began in 2003. But the final quarter of the year saw a significant increase in vehicle theft. A preliminary review of the vehicle theft reveals that the prey of choice remains the minivan and Honda models, with SUVs, trucks, and police-type vehicles increasingly seen as targets.

In the first nine months of 2005, the police took 117 vehicle theft reports, an 11 percent decrease from the same period in 2003 and four percent less than 2004. The final three months were a different story, with a total of 67 reports taken, twice the number in the final quarter of 2003. Most of these reports came from eastern Takoma Park, police beats V3, X7 and X8 (Wards 3 and 6).

The suburban minivan remains a preferred target, with at least 14 Dodge Caravans and Plymouth Voyagers stolen. Honda vehicles were equally popular with Civics and Accords accounting for 13 and 10 reports respectively.

A combination of various SUV makes and models accounts for 14 additional vehicle thefts. Targets ranged from the Honda CRV to the Mercedes ML43 and included six Jeep products. An additional eight trucks were also taken. Police-type vehicles (Grand Marquis and Crown Victoria) accounted for seven thefts.

The Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council recommends that every vehicle should be equipped with at least one level of security in addition to the manufacturer's locks. Models that are such popular targets should use secondary security every time they are parked.

The Council recommends a steering wheel lock as an easily used, inexpensive option. The lock is an effective deterrent to theft. Often referred to as a "Club," after the most well-known brand, a steering wheel lock is a bar, hooked onto the steering wheel of a parked vehicle, making steering difficult if not impossible.

The Police Department offers a steering wheel lock, usable on most makes and models, for \$10, a significant discount off the retail price. These locks may be purchased at the police station at any time. Persons seeking to buy one outside regular business hours should speak with the Dispatcher on duty and bring exact payment.

The COP Team continues to be available to make presentations to community groups of any size on the practices that can contribute to auto theft prevention. To schedule a program, contact him at 301-891-7124.

Most of the suspects arrested last year for vehicle theft were identified by officers on routine patrol or traffic enforcement. Residents can assist by reporting suspicious behaviors related to auto thefts. Examples of suspicious behavior related to auto theft are:

- someone quickly parking a car and getting into another waiting vehicle
- poorly parked cars not regularly seen in the area,
- a stranger changing tags on a car, or
- a vehicle with multiple riders slowly cruising an area.

If you see someone "drop" a vehicle and hurry to a waiting vehicle, it is useful to provide a description of the fleeing vehicle (make, model, color, distinctive elements like body damage and — ideally — a license plate number).

### Deceased Found

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, a man was located deceased in the stairway to the rear of a commercial building in the 1300 block of University Boulevard. The 29-year-old Hyattsville man, a native of Guatemala, has been identified but release of his name is being withheld until notification of next of kin.

The medical examiner found the death was caused by alcohol intoxication complicated by hypothermia. There was no indication of foul play.

### Parking, Sidewalks and Snow Storms

Vehicles parked on snow emergency routes may be ticketed and towed. These routes, posted with signs as snow emergency routes, include most state highways through the city. The city follows the county's designation of snow emergencies.

Police officers exercise discretion on parking violations during snow emergencies. Generally during emergencies, the state rule prohibiting parking with "left wheels to curb" is not enforced. If possible, backing into a parking space can make exiting easier. If a vehicle is parked in a way that obstructs other traffic (too close to an intersection or in other unsafe ways) a ticket may be issued.

If you are tempted to abandon a stranded vehicle, a phone call to Police Communication (301-270-1100) is advised. Courtesy might be extended or an officer can advise whether you need to call a towing company.

Some city streets, by residents' petition, become sledding streets; be aware of these in planning your route.

### City Sidewalks

Snow and ice must be removed from city sidewalks by 7 p.m. on the day it accumulated, or four hours after daybreak on the day of accumulation, whichever is later. Residential, rental and commercial properties must adhere to these rules, and the sidewalks in front of commercial establishments must be cleared of snow and ice between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Police News continued on page 11

Police News continued from page 9

## Speed, Lack of Attention Affect Winter Collisions

The image of a winter accident is of a dark and stormy night with the pavement wet with sleet and snow obscuring visibility. The reality of winter vehicle collisions in Takoma Park contrasts with that picture. Most collisions actually happen in clear weather during the day with the causes being failure to give full time and attention to driving or moving too fast for conditions.

A review of accident reports from January through March 2005 reveals that more than 60 percent of Takoma Park's 68 motor vehicle collisions took place during the daytime. Fully half were the result of failure to pay full attention to driving. Officers observe that in bad weather motorists pay more attention to their driving, compensating for the conditions.

Speed clearly contributes to the numbers, with three out of five collisions occurring on streets with the highest posted limits and speeds: New Hampshire Avenue, University Boulevard, Piney Branch Road and Hwy. 410.

The highest legal speed in the City is 35 mph, allowed only on New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. Sections of Hwy. 410 and Piney Branch Road allow a maximum of 30 mph. Most Takoma Park residential streets are posted for 25 mph, with lower

speeds required when posted or if conditions warrant.

### Winter Safe Driving Tips

\* Turn on headlights when precipitation requires use of windshield wipers: this is a safety precaution and state law.

\* Before starting a car, be certain the wipers are not frozen to the glass. Consider installing winter wiper blades.

\* Before driving, remove all ice and snow from the vehicle and windows. Snow on the hood and front fenders makes it hard to judge distances; it can obscure lights; snow and ice flying off a car roof is a hazard for other motorists.

\* Chains, snow tires or radials must be used on designated snow emergency routes when an emergency is declared. All-season tires are recommended for all four wheels on a front-wheel drive cars.

\* Adjusting your speed to the conditions of the roadway and surrounding vehicles is the most vital factor in safe winter driving.

\* Comply with posted speeds; 25 mph is the maximum on most City streets.

\* Don't use a wireless phone while driving.

\* Consider conditions: drop your speed on wet or leafy streets and at night.

## Rent Stabilization: Opportunity to Comment

The Takoma Park City Council will continue its review of rent stabilization beginning this month. We encourage you to become a part of this discussion. You may submit your comments in writing to the City Clerk at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912 or by email to [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org). You are

also welcome to attend the Council meetings. The following aspects of rent stabilization will be considered during the months of January and February 2006: annual rent increase allowance, Jan. 23; rent increases upon vacancy and exemptions from rent stabilization, Feb. 6; and the capital improvement rent increase petition, Feb. 21.

For more information, contact Linda Walker, 301-891-7222.

Arrests continued from page 8

adult female and two adult males were arrested and charged with Possession of CDS and Possession of CDS Paraphernalia.

On December 18 at 8:48 p.m. at the intersection of Wildwood Drive and Lancaster Avenue, three juvenile males were arrested and charged with Attempted Armed Robbery, 1st Degree Assault and 2nd Degree Assault after an adult male reported that he had been confronted by four subjects in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue. They demanded money and threatened to hit him with sticks. When the victim refused and ran, one of the subjects followed him, displaying a gun and demanding

his money. The victim again ran off and noticed a police officer in a parked cruiser and ran to him for help. Three of the subjects were apprehended.

On December 12 at 4:08 a.m. in the 7700 block of Garland Avenue, an adult male was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. He was also served with an open Montgomery County warrant for Failure to Appear in court on a charge of Open Alcohol Container.

On December 2 at 10:54 a.m. in the 7400 block of Baltimore Avenue, an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for 4th Degree Burglary.

## Skateboard Park

continued from page 1

Takoma Park could become "an interim regional facility," says Kreger, though he does not see it as a substitute for what was meant to draw users from a broader area.

### If we build, who will pay?

Here the Takoma Park skatepark funding takes a new twist. If a city park attracts people from all over the county, should the county pay for it? Takoma Park already pays for its own recreation programs, and county tax rebates for recreation are iffy at best (see Sept. 2005 *Takoma Park Newsletter*). "We might be the neighborhood that's willing to take [the park] on," suggests councilmember Marc Elrich. "We can take it, they [the county] can fund it."

But if the county is willing to pay \$75,000 for skate park equipment, "why look a gift horse in the mouth?" wonders councilmember Joy Austin Lane. The project could be a pilot; if it didn't work out it would be \$75,000 plus the city's \$50,000 well spent, for the year.

Because the skate park came up past 11 p.m. during the council's work session, Council decided to postpone further discussion; it did approve Haiduven's continued pursuit of the park in Takoma-Piney Branch, but stopped short of agreeing to budget \$50,000 in operational costs. The issue will resurface during budget meetings,



Skaters take to the street on Ellsworth Drive in Silver Spring, where a temporary skate park was torn down for development. Planners are looking for another site. Below left, Ele Rubenstein does a hippie jump over caution tape; below, right Tyler Kelly goes "boneless" with makeshift obstacles.

PHOTO BY JESSICA YEH

and Haiduven warns that costs could go as high as \$90,000 when necessary management personnel are included. For now, it seems Council will wait to see if Silver Spring is going to build a park, and queries will be made into county funding for operational costs of a Takoma Park facility.

In the mean time, watch out for skaters in search of ramps, rails and stairs.



PHOTO BY SAM RICCI



PHOTO BY SAM RICCI

## Takoma Park City TV Events in February 2006

### Music, basketball, gang forum featured

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 recorded the City's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration, and this will be cablecast later in the month.

Newly released Folk Festival performances from the 27th Annual Folk Festival festival include: Iona plus A Bunch of Ballads; and Smooth Kentucky plus Joni Mitchell Tribute.

**Takoma Snapshots in February** includes:

- Community Oriented Policing: The Right Direction: Driving Tips

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.



**The Golden Roscoe Award, recognizing exceptional holiday window display, went to S&A Beads at the Old Takoma Business Association holiday party. From left, employees Ann Scher, and Cheryl Moody, owner Larry Silverman, and employee Therese Robinson.**

### Clarification

Public Works would like to clarify that, in case of snow, all sidewalks not only in front of but adjacent to a property are the responsibility of the property owner and must be cleared of snow and ice.

## Takoma Park City TV February 2006 Programming Schedule

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

## Help Your Neighbors in Need

By Linda Walker,  
Manager - Office on  
Landlord-Tenant Affairs

With so much suffering and need in other parts of the country and the world, we often don't realize that there are those right here in our own community facing financial crises each and every day of their lives. For this reason, the Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund was created by the City Council in 2001. This fund helps residents of Takoma Park who are experiencing crises such as health issues, pending evictions, or notice of a utility cut off, often due to loss of employment or financial circumstances beyond their control.

Donations made to the Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund are tax-deductible and are sent by the City to a designated non-profit organization which distributes the money based on the availability of funds and the presented need. Since 2003, the City has

maintained an agreement with Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Inc. to administer this program. Recipients often are referrals from the City's Landlord-Tenant Office, but many residents go directly to this well-known community service center themselves.

Ron Wylie, Executive Director of Adventist Community Services, states he would welcome seeing this fund grow, as the need is so great. Although more than \$5,000 was distributed to Takoma Park residents last year, serious cuts in FEMA money will now reduce federal and county funding they receive this year.

You can help those in need by contributing to the Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund. Please use the form provided below to send in your contribution. A letter acknowledging your donation will be sent to you. We thank you for supporting this program and the service that it provides to the community.

Please detach and send to **City of Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund**, Finance Office, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, 20912.  
For questions, call 301- 891-7222

I wish to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Emergency Assistance Fund.

Check should be made out to "City of Takoma Park"

Name and Address of Contributor:

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You will receive a letter acknowledging your donation within 30 days of receipt. Thank you for supporting this program and the service it provides to the community.



## City Forever

for Ida Summy

*"I've accumulated filing cabinets  
On road materials.... and the serious study of  
Music before I get too old. One saving grace  
in the fight to save my own home..."*

Etta Mae Davis

"O I won't live way out in the country," B wrote,  
"We'll never have any neighbors and  
nobody'll be able to find us."  
High up, near heaven,  
Each Citizen of the Moment whose vision  
To such of his friends as desired country  
Houses I have heard him say and as he saw a growth  
Of stunted pine and scrub growth  
Tied with no end of briar and poison vines,  
One settler: seventy houses, five stores,  
And a meeting hall,

Ida Summy at the Hillman House  
Over a game of cards suggesting  
"k", not to mistake it with Tacoma,  
Washington, he, a great stickler for pure water, cure  
For all the ill flesh receives,  
As of ideas,  
I have heard him say it was while he was in  
Search of a spring  
Which he found,  
An affordable elegance, stressing the railroad.

We meet  
Here at the arrival of  
And introduced to, join  
Into the company  
Or presence, of experience,  
To undergo, deal with, or oppose,  
Into conformity  
With the wishes,  
And assemble to occur together  
In one person  
Maybe, here,

The ribbon's  
Real chance of it  
Being cut, the Center  
Glad you're in it,  
Part of an object  
surrounded by the rest,

*For he who makes two blades of grass grow, the ways  
Named for trees set under the forest trees with singing birds,*

Gathering places, figures  
Named again and brought from earlier,  
Frame church in a field at Piney Branch,  
Pamela Favorite, and Favorite's Store,  
The streetcar at Wildwood, Our Lady of Sorrows,  
White elephants and firetraps,  
Joseph Colea's Progress Market —

Look, it's Margaret,  
Leona, Joseph and Frank Colea,  
and unidentified man.  
It's Hallie  
Mooers with masks, Hallie Mooers  
With the pet crow,  
Morrison in his Back Acres azalea garden in Pass Christian  
Same as today, suited to azalea culture and because  
Dr. E. Clyde Smith (with sword) sang the part of KoKo, Mr.  
Huck made the beautiful paper ornaments,  
"Mr. Lee" sang to the young,  
The William Orton family in a touring car, paused, it feels,  
At the whistle of Annie Cotton.

Air of the mountains,  
Health of the pines,  
You will find twelve rooms  
From the daily cares  
In the loud room  
And the quiet.  
A sprung wooden floor and mirrors,  
Chairs, good light,  
A large screen,  
Sinks and a kiln.

*This poem was written by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger, on the  
occasion of the grand opening of the Community Center, December 11.*

## Community Center Celebration



Local government officials gather to cut the ribbon on the much-heralded Takoma Park Community Center at the Grand Opening Event, December 11. From left, Steve Silverman, Nancy Floreen, Doug Barry, Bruce Williams, Sheila Hixson, Peter Franchot, and Ida Ruben.



Balloons add to the festivities.



Don Berger, the city poet laureate, reads a poem composed for the occasion.



Takoma Park residents check out the new Community Center, officially opened in December.