

Takoma Park

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

NEWSLETTER

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www.takomaparkmd.gov

March 2006

Funds Sought for Gym Construction

By Virginia Myers Kelly

Takoma Park is getting used to the ins and outs of the new community center – which door leads where? Can you direct me to the Azalea Room? And how about the elevator labels: B=1, 1=2, 2=3? The computer learning center is busy with seniors navigating log-ons and web sites, the art room fragrant with clay and pastels, city staff is settled in to new offices and the police are consolidated on the first floor. The transformation of the old administrative offices into a dance studio, teen room and a game room is underway.

But when might the city have the much-touted gym?

The controversial gymnasium – left off the initial phase of construction because of expense – is still right there on the center's master plan, snuggled into the northwest corner of the building near Grant Avenue, but several steps must be taken before it becomes a sure thing. City Council has not formally voted to pursue construction, though members did authorize \$13,510 for tech-

nical studies in September. The studies include soil borings to indicate viability of construction on that portion of the site and underground utility location surveys. City manager Barbara Matthews says she expects results any day now. Also, construction drawings have not yet been prepared.

But the biggest hurdle is funding.

To address this largest stumbling block, State Delegate Peter Franchot and Senator Ida Ruben, with co-sponsor delegates Sheila Hixson and Gareth Murray, last month introduced a \$1 million bond bill at the state level. The bill, a kind of matching grant, is one of many projects from all over the state considered by the legislature each year, and involves hearings that are expected to take place in early March. Decisions about bond money are made in May.

Community and government liaison Suzanne Ludlow says it is rare for projects to get full funding through bond bills, and she doesn't expect the full



PHOTO BY PATRICK RITTENHOUSE

Takoma Parkers play basketball wherever they can find space – here, a YES league player drives for a layup in the heavily scheduled Piney Branch Elementary School gym.

million dollars to come through. In fact, legislators have been introducing bond bills on a regular basis; Franchot remembers 11 years ago securing \$650,000 for the gym in the firehouse, but it was structurally unsound and the money

was never used. So far, the city has received \$2,350,000 for the community center from the state, says Ludlow.

Most of it that has been spent, she adds, and there is no money at this time

Continued on page 4

Condo Conundrum

Balancing affordable housing in Takoma Park

By Virginia Myers Kelly

Imagine seeing notices posted in your apartment building, your home: "Property for sale; tenants must vacate."

Panic.

Now imagine an opportunity to buy your own home in Takoma Park, something you thought you could never afford.

Joy.

These are the reactions Takoma Park faces as more and more rental units convert to condominiums or single family ownership. As one of the most popular rental areas in the region – more than 50 percent of residents rent

rather than own – the city has long been a haven for modest income singles, couples and families who either choose to rent, have never explored homeownership, or can't afford to buy. But with rental property owners selling and a housing market that forces buyers to look for low-cost alternatives – like condos – those numbers have begun to change. From 2003 to 2005, the number of licensed rental units in Takoma Park dropped from 3,852 to 3,601, or 5.8 percent.

The number of units converted or in the process of being converted to condos in 2005 and 2006 is 262, in large part due to the partial conversion of the 451-unit Hampshire Towers. Other converting properties are on Lee Avenue, Maple Avenue, and Sligo Creek Parkway.

Keeping rents low

The good news for renters is the city's 25-year-old rent stabilization law designed to maintain affordable rents. It establishes limits on rent increases. Those limits, based on the consumer price index, are typically 1.5 to 2.5 percent per year. It also establishes "allowable rent" ceilings to keep rents from jumping when new tenants come in.

The result is significantly lower rent in Takoma Park than in the rest of

Montgomery County: average monthly rent for units newly vacant, as of April 2005, was \$777 in Takoma Park; in Montgomery County it was \$1,167. The largest difference was in two-bedroom units, which average \$792 in Takoma Park, and \$1,379 in Montgomery County; efficiencies average \$584 in Takoma Park, and \$931 in the county.

In addition to keeping rents affordable, rent stabilization carries provisions that reward landlords with additional rent increases for capital improvements. It also allows landlords to apply for increases in rent due to hardship. The law is currently under review by city council as part of the city code and charter review.

Going condo

Over the years, housing advocates have maintained a difficult balance between encouraging home ownership – recognized as a toehold on financial security – and rentals necessary for those who choose to rent or may never attain home ownership. Not all tenants are low-income, but most do not buy because they can-

not afford to, or do not know how to approach the challenge of home ownership.

Enter the condo conversion. Here's how it works: a landlord decides to maximize revenue by selling units to tenants, or to anyone else who wants to buy on the currently hot housing market. With single family houses or townhouses in Montgomery County averaging \$429,000 last October, anything that sells for less is likely to be snapped up quickly. Tenants who can't afford market prices – in one recent conversion, one-bedroom units in a 60-year-old building were going for \$190,000 to \$200,000 – are out of luck, and out of a home, though there is some protection in terms of the time tenants have to move out and possible moving costs paid by the owner.

In another scenario, much better for tenants, the landlord sells the entire building. The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law then requires that tenants be notified, and they get first right to match a contract on the prop-

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CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

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

Public Hearing:

Transfer of land to Montgomery County for Fire Station rear parking area

Friday, March 3 - Meeting of the Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee - 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

Monday, March 6 - Interviews, Special Session and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, March 7 - (Tentative) Commission on Landlord-tenant Affairs hearing, 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, March 13 - Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Public Hearing:

- Traffic Calming on Sligo Mill Road
- Traffic Calming on Allegheny Avenue

Tuesday, March 14 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Room TBA)

Tuesday, March 14 - Meeting of the

Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Azalea Room)

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

Monday, March 20 - Interviews and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, March 21 - (Tentative) Commission on Landlord-tenant Affairs Hearing, 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, March 21 - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Council Conference Room)

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

Monday, March 27 - Public Hearings, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Public Hearing:

- Charter Amendment
- (Tentative) Opportunity to Comment on Current Rent Stabilization Ordinance

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

For updated schedule information, check the City's web page at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov> 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. 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. (Two vacancies; three current members' terms will expire March 31. Application deadline: March 9.)

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 on March 31. Application deadline: March 9.)

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 on March 31. Application deadline: March 9.)

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

Hospital relocation committee forming

The City Council is establishing a Health Services Impact Committee to evaluate the impact on health services in the community resulting from the proposed relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital. The Council seeks individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests to serve on the committee, including professionals in the public health field and residents who are dependent upon WAH for health services.

To apply to serve on the committee, send a cover letter and resume and/or statement of qualifications by March 31, 2006, to Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or via to JessieC@takomagov.org. Applications will be reviewed by the City Council. For additional information, call Jessie Carpenter at 301-891-7267.

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. For more information contact the City Clerk, 301-891-7267



For further information, or to receive a copy of the legislation, contact the City Clerk's office, 301-891-7267 or e-mail clerk@takomagov.org.

January 9, 2006 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2006-1, Naming the City of Takoma Park Municipal Complex, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich, Seamens).

Ordinance 2006-1, Amending the Takoma Park Code, Ch. 2, to Reflect the Name of the Municipal Complex as the "Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center," was accepted at first reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich, Seamens).

Resolution 2006-2, Appointing Melanie Fosnaught to the Tree Commission, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich, Seamens).

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

A. **Resolution 2006-3**, Appointing Enoch J. Bevel to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

B. **Resolution 2006-4**, Appointing Patricia Murphy to the Ethics Commission

C. **Resolution 2006-5**, Appointing Maxine Hillary to the Montgomery County Cable Advisory Commission
January 23, 2006 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2006-6, Recognizing CASA of Maryland, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

Resolution 2006-7, Recognizing the Spanish Catholic Center, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich).

Resolution 2006-8, Supporting the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Maryland (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Ordinance 2006-1, Amending the Takoma Park Code, Ch. 2, to Reflect the Name of the Municipal Complex as the "Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center," was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Ordinance 2006-2, Amending the City Code, Ch. 2, to Expand the Membership of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, was accepted at first reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

February 6, 2006 - Special Session

Ordinance 2006-3, Authorizing Execution of a Contract for a Wage Survey and Compensation Study, was accepted at first reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Notice of Public Hearing - Traffic Calming Request - 6400 Block of Sligo Mill Road

The City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 13, 2006, at 7:45 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as possible) on the request to install one or more speed humps or other traffic calming devices on the 6400 block of Sligo Mill Road.

The hearing will take place in the Community Center Auditorium (Council Chambers), 7500 Maple Avenue. Residents are urged to attend the meeting to express their views. Written comments addressed to City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, will also be made part of the record.

For further information, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or e-mail JessieC@takomagov.org

Notice of Public Hearing - Traffic Calming Request - Allegheny Avenue

The City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 7:45 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as possible) on the proposed installation of one or more speed humps or other traffic calming devices on the 6800 Block of Allegheny Avenue.

The hearing will take place in the Community Center Auditorium (Council Chambers), 7500 Maple Avenue. Residents are urged to attend the meeting to express their views. Written comments addressed to City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, will also be made part of the public record

For further information, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or e-mail JessieC@takomagov.org.

Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Charter Amendment

Pursuant to Section 502 (c) of the City Charter, the Council of the City of Takoma Park will hold a public hearing to consider a Charter amendment providing for an instant runoff voting system to be used in City elections for Mayor and Councilmembers and permitting greater flexibility in scheduling the City's nominating caucus and the date Councilmembers are duly sworn and take office.

Place of Hearing: Auditorium (Council Chambers), Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

Date and Time: March 27, 7:45 p.m.

All interested persons should attend the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or sent via e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org. The full text of the proposed amendment will be posted to the City's web page by March 8, 2006.

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.

COLTA's Corner



Housing Mailbox

Is a three-month deposit legal?

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

A tenant contacted the Mailbox and provided the following scenario: She had moved into a rental unit approximately two months before but had not received a written lease. She had provided the landlord with three months' security deposit. The tenant also questioned if the landlord had a rental license, if the monthly rent she was paying was legal and what her rights are regarding a notice to vacate she received from the landlord?

Answer: The Housing Mailbox is always pleased to address questions encompassing a myriad of issues as this one does. The Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law at Section 6.15.160 describes the requirements of a written lease. The city law does not preclude landlords and tenants from entering into verbal leases though such arrangements are not recommended since there is no written document which describes the responsi-

bilities of the parties nor provides written confirmation of the amount of the security deposit. Where the lease is verbal and has an effective date subsequent to April 2003 the presumption is that it is a one year lease (although should the tenant wish to vacate it may be viewed as a month-to-month lease) and the tenant is responsible for maintaining documentation of the amount of security deposit that is paid.

The amount of the security deposit that was allegedly paid in this situation exceeds the two months maximum amount noted at 6.16.120(b)(1) of the city law, which incorporates the state security deposit law by reference. The tenant should request that the landlord return one of the three months security deposit and/or file a complaint with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) if the Landlord refuses.

Whether the landlord has a valid rental license is a question for the city's Department of Housing License Unit (301-891-7234). Landlords who have complied with city rental housing license requirements have a license issued for an annually renewable one year period of time.

The tenant's question regarding whether she is paying a legal rent amount may be generally answered by determining if the rental unit is subject to the city's Rent Stabilization Law (RSL). This law is applicable to all rental property owners who own two or more separate rental units in the city. If this landlord's property is covered by the RSL, he/she can only charge the

amount permitted by the law. If the RSL does not apply, Unit (301-891-7216) should be contacted regarding this part of the tenant's question for further information.

Regarding the Notice to Vacate, the verbal lease as noted earlier is presumed to establish a one year tenancy. Pursuant to the city's Landlord-Tenant Law, tenants having a one-year lease may only receive a one-month written notice to vacate if the tenant has breached a lease term.

Since in this situation the tenant does not have a written lease, the landlord will have difficulty providing the required written advisement to the tenant regarding what specific lease term(s) has/have been broken. It should be noted that at the end of her 12-month (annual) lease term the landlord may issue this tenant a two-month, no-reason, no-fault Notice to Vacate. A landlord can give a two-month (no-reason/no-fault) written Notice to Vacate, but it cannot be given except at the end of the one-year term.

The tenant might request assistance from the Landlord-Tenant Unit which, with the tenant's permission, could contact the landlord regarding the Notice to Vacate and other city Landlord-Tenant Law issues raised in this scenario.

City tenants and landlords having questions regarding leases, security deposits and notices to vacate should direct them to the Housing Department's Landlord-Tenant Unit by calling 301-891-7215.

Deadline for Submissions:
March 13
Next Issue:
March 24

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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

Metro Development Workshop

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is sponsoring an all-day planning workshop for the community from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 4 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 7005 Piney Branch Road, NW, in Washington, DC.

All are welcome to attend and lunch will be provided.

The workshop will involve examining the area around the Takoma Metro that is being considered for townhouse development, and will give people an opportunity to talk about issues and concerns regarding what should happen at the site.

That feedback will be shared with the WMATA board.

To attend, RSVP to 202-962-2677 or skubly@wmata.com.

Maintenance Technician - Performs various routine maintenance work such as mowing grass, repairing pot holes, painting curbs, plowing snow. Req HS diploma or GED and six months to one year related exp. and valid driver's license. Salary Range \$12.69 - \$14.28 per hour negotiable depending on qualifications. Excellent Benefits. Position open until filled. Send completed city application or resume to HR, City of Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 or fax 301-270-8794. Equal opportunity employer.

Motor Equipment Operator - Operates heavy equipment such as: backhoe, trash truck, bobcat, tub grinder and performs other duties as assigned. Req. HS diploma or GED and, three to six months related exp. and Valid CDL (Class B). Salary Range \$15.11- \$17.01 per hour negotiable depending on qualifications. Excellent Benefits. Position open until filled. Send completed city application or resume to HR, City of Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 or fax 301-270-8794. Equal opportunity employer.

New Poetry Series Underway

Poets have a new venue in Takoma Park, with the newly launched Takoma Park Poetry Series. The city's poet laureate, Don Berger, and poet Kateema Lee kicked off the monthly series, which Berger organized, on Feb. 23 with a reading in the third floor atrium of the community center. Next will be Brian Gilmore and Kathleen O'Toole, on Thursday, March 16 at 7 p.m. The monthly readings, each set for 7 p.m., are listed below. Poets were culled from a pool of applicants who sent their work to Berger for selection. A reception will follow each reading. For more information, contact the Arts and Humanities Commission, ahc@takomagov.org or 301-891-7224.

Thursday, March 16

Brian Gilmore and Kathleen O'Toole

Thursday, April 6

Greta Ehrig and John Peacock

Thursday, May 18

Open Reading: features anyone who would like to read.

Will include

Martin FitzPatrick, Terra Greene, T.J. Mathews,
Annetta Dexter Sawyer

Thursday, June 8

Anne Dykers and Alan Rubenstein

Thursday, July 13

Open Reading, including Robert Ginsberg

Volunteer to Stencil-A-Drain

By Ali Khalilian, P.E.

Spring is right around the corner and we are ready to do it again. Thanks to volunteers participating in our "Stencil-A-Drain" campaign, last year we were able to stencil more than 150 drain inlet tops. Positive messages such as, "Drains to Chesapeake Bay" accompanied instructional ones like, "Do not Dump." We have kits available for a new round of stenciling. Please help protect water resources. Volunteer!

Stencil-A-Drain seeks to curb stormwater pollution through hands-on service learning techniques. The stenciling labels storm drain inlets with messages that remind people where the storm run off winds up and urges them not to dump anything down the drain that is not storm run off. Designed for 5th through 12th grade students, adults, local youth groups, and community or church groups, this is a worthwhile, educational program.

Volunteers can help us reach our goal of stenciling all storm drain inlets citywide. In addition, volunteers help distribute flyers describing the nature, source and fate of household pollutants and tips for helping to reduce the same. Call DPW or the city engineer at 301-891-7620 to volunteer.

Where does the pollution come from?

Storm drain inlets, located near curbside and streets, act as a conduit to local waterways: Sligo Creek, the Anacostia River and the Chesapeake



Bay. Unlike household drains that discharge directly to a wastewater treatment plant, storm drains travel underground and funnel directly to our waterways untreated. And when water is contaminated with pollutants, it creates stormwater pollution, which seriously impacts our natural water resources.

What are catch basins or storm drain inlets?

Catch basins and storm drain inlets are curbside receptacles whose sole function is to catch surface water runoff from rainfall and deliver it to the storm drain system, where it eventually flows to Sligo Creek.

How can you help reduce pollution?

Stenciling storm drain inlets is a great

way for concerned citizens to participate in helping reduce stormwater pollution. By stenciling a message on neighborhood storm drain inlets that flow ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay, you can help to educate others that only rain should go down the storm drain.

Storm drain stenciling is not difficult. The City of Takoma Park provides stenciling kits to individuals and groups who want to participate. Groups of two more people, with at least one adult over 18 years of age, are given kits that include all supplies necessary: stencils, paint, maps, gloves, and more. No minor less than ten years of age will be allowed to participate unless supervised by his/her parent or legal guardian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OTRA thanks to Mergner

The members of the Old Town Resident's Association would like to call attention to the valuable contributions Wolfgang Mergner has made to our neighborhood and the city. OTRA represents over 500 households in the area bounded by Carroll, Eastern, Philadelphia, and Holly Avenues.

Simply put, OTRA would not exist if it weren't for Wolfgang. He was one of a group with the original vision for a revived community organization.

He gave generously of his time and resources to bring the vision alive.

He then served as OTRA's founding president. As we transition to new leadership, we would like to thank him for his vision and effectiveness.

With gentle cajoling and considerable persistence, Wolfgang motivated us to organize. From calling meetings to putting out signs and speaking at City Council meetings, Wolfgang has taken steps to organize the community.

He has also provided a calm, but effective voice for addressing the growing issues that impact our community: crime, public safety, and development, to name a few. We know that Wolfgang will continue to be active in the community. We will strive to match his commitment!

—The Members of the Old Town Residents' Association

Leaf Mulch Delivery Available

The Public Works Department has leaf mulch available for pick up and delivery again this year. The mulch is made by grinding leaves collected each fall in the City's vacuum leaf collection program. The mulch can be used as a soil amendment or a top dressing around plants and trees. Mulch is available at the Public Works Yard, 31 Oswego Avenue. You can self-load mulch at any time. Loading of trucks is done for a fee and scheduled by calling 301-891-7633. The City also delivers mulch to your home for the prices listed below.

Deliveries will be scheduled on Fridays, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. To schedule a delivery you may call Public Works at (301) 891-7633. Payments (check or money order only) for delivery must be mailed and received by Thursday afternoon at the Public Works Department, 31 Oswego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. **MULCH DELIVERIES WILL BE MADE TO YOUR DRIVEWAY ONLY.** If you do not have a driveway, special arrangements for delivery must be arranged through the Public Works Department.

Mulch prices:

Resident	Price	Outside The City	Price
3 yards delivered	\$45	3 yards delivered	\$65
7 yards delivered	\$65	7 yards delivered	\$105
10 yards delivered	\$65	10 yards delivered	\$105

Your dump truck can also be loaded for a fee of \$20 for a small truck and \$30 for a large truck.

Call Public Works to schedule loading at 301-891-7633.

Funds sought

Continued from front page

for the gym, with the exception of the promised \$750,000 from Adventist HealthCare, an amount expected to come to the city in yearly increments over five years, once plans are finalized.

County politicians are pushing for funding as well. Ludlow says County Councilmember Steve Silverman is asking the county executive to include \$500,000 for the gym in his proposed budget, due out in mid-March. Even if the executive does not include it, residents can lobby county councilmembers to insert it in the budget as they consider and eventually approve it. City staff is also combing criteria for federal funds, but has not yet found a grant or program that matches the gym project.

The total cost of the gym is estimated by city manager Matthews to be \$2.5 million to \$3 million, based on discussions with James F. Knott Construction about the prior gym design—but she says she'd want to have more work done for a more accurate estimate.

Meanwhile, kids play pickup basketball in chilly winter parks and the recreation department organizes activities in heavily booked gyms at the elementary and middle schools and in the small recreation center on New Hampshire Avenue. Local kids who play in county and other leagues use facilities all over the county and in Prince George's County and D.C. One 12-year-old basketball player, Blake

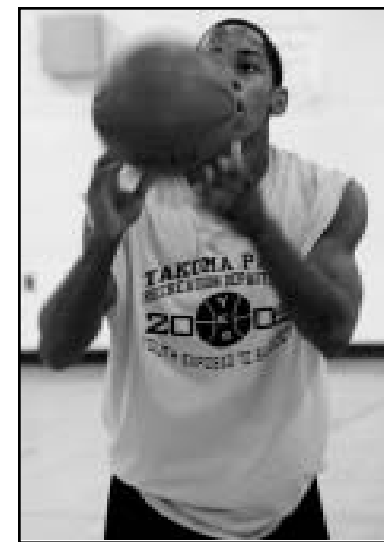


PHOTO BY PATRICK RITTENHOUSE

Basketball is just one use for a gym should it be built.

Morgan Gamber, has used 15 different facilities in her short career, and typically spends eight hours a week in the car to get to them. As difficult as this is, her mother and sometime coach, Sera Morgan, says, "The most important thing is that the new gym could become the hub for the Takoma Park children and teens who need it the most. Most Takoma Park kids do not have parents who can routinely drive them to sports activities several miles away."

Morgan's former team, Big Yellow Taxi, in the county's Rising Star league, held yard sales and hired out to rake leaves and cut grass so they could pay gym fees. With a price tag of up to \$3 million for a city gym, the solution may be more difficult for Takoma Park.

Montgomery College Continues Expansion

The sounds of construction are competing with the roar of metro trains as the building continues on the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College. First the Health Sciences Center, facing Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring, opened in January 2004, with 98,000 square feet for the college's health sciences programs, business training center, and a health center operated by Holy Cross Hospital. The long-awaited pedestrian bridge across the train tracks connects the building to the Takoma Park campus.

Still under construction is the Student Services Center, slated to open this year at New York Avenue and Fenton. It includes admissions, registration, computer labs, a cafeteria and bookstore. An art gallery, studios and offices will go into the converted Giant bakery at King Street and Georgia Avenue. It is expected to open in 2007, and is designed to serve the community as well as the college.

Finally, a Cultural Arts Center will be installed at Georgia and East West Highway some time in 2008. This center will include a 500-seat theater, another theater with 125 seats, and a glass-walled dance studio. It, too, will invite community use, possibly providing a draw that will book-end Silver Spring, with the downtown area at the other end of the commercial district. Groundbreaking on this last phase of the expansion is expected late this year.



Above: Montgomery College is expanding with four new buildings for its Takoma Park campus.



Left: The Student Services Center is almost completed.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Condo conundrum

Continued from front page

erty. They in turn can partner with a developer to convert, which often leads to better insider prices significantly lower than the market rate. According to Linda Walker, Takoma Park's affordable housing coordinator, the average insider price for a x-bedroom unit is \$130,000; new units in Silver Spring currently sell for \$300,000 to \$400,000.

The only hitch to the insider price story is that once the renter buys, he or she can later sell at market price. "It's affordable for the first time condo owners," explains Walker, "but then the price once sold is not going to attract a low-to moderate-income person."

The conclusion, for those anxious to keep housing affordable, might be to keep rentals available and to develop more programs to maintain affordable condo units over time.

At Hampshire Towers, 7333 and 7401 New Hampshire Avenue, tenants have the best of both worlds: half the units will be rental, the other half condo. Tenants, notified their building was on the market, are working with nonprofit Community Preservation and Development Corporation to buy and renovate, and are currently negotiating prices. According to tenant association president Marvin Binion, an active participant in the

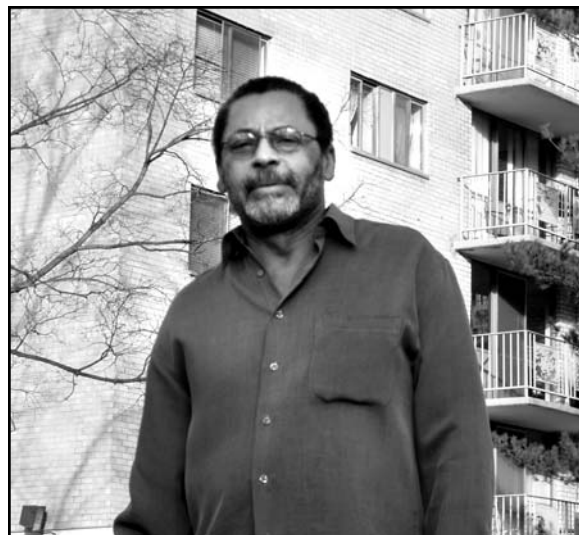


Photo by Virginia Myers Kelly

Marvin Binion, president of the Hampshire Towers tenant association, is pleased to become a new homeowner as his building converts from rental apartments to condos. He is helping his neighbors navigate the conversion, but some have opted to remain renters.

conversion, insiders can expect to pay from \$141,000 to \$231,000, depending on the level of renovation, for a three-bedroom unit. Housing advocates are helping tenants clean up credit and understand the paperwork necessary to get in on this deal.

"I think it's just great to be able to take over," says Binion, who is purchasing a unit himself. A resident since 1997, he loves the location, the ample parking, and looks forward to sprucing up the deteriorating building.

Regulating conversion

At Hampshire Towers, renters can stay – but others are not so lucky. Walker sees plenty of renters desperate to find a new place when a landlord decides to convert. Some protections are in place for low-income elderly or disabled people, but they are limited.

Currently, extended leases are available by law for 20 percent of the occupied units in the building; only those who meet the income limitation of 80 percent of the median income for the local area and are elderly or handicapped qualify, and the rule does not apply unless the building has 10 or more units.

Montgomery County legislators, with support from the City Council, are working to expand those protections to a larger percentage of tenants. Suzanne Ludlow, Takoma Park's community and government liaison, says tenant veto of a condo conversion is another consideration: in Washington, D.C., if 51 percent of the tenants don't want the conversion, it cannot occur. To address these and other issues, five bills have been introduced in the state house and senate (see <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2006/022106-6.pdf> for brief descriptions).

The city council voted to support staff efforts to lobby for these bills, in an effort to keep affordable housing available in Takoma Park. If you have questions about a notice from your land-

lord regarding possible condo conversion or renovation, you can contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Rent Stabilization Discussions

City Council is continuing its review of rent stabilization.

Residents may participate in the process by listening in and/or commenting:

•
Monday, March 6

Worksession, continued discussion of capital improvement rent increase petitions

•
Monday, March 20

Worksession, hardship rent increase petitions (*tentative*)

•
Monday, March 27

Public Hearing, opportunity to comment on current rent stabilization ordinance (*tentative*)

•
Monday, April 3

Worksession, discussion of comments received at the public hearing (*tentative*)

•
Monday, April 10

Worksession, wrap-up discussion; provide direction to staff (*tentative*)

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 Peggye Forster at 301-891-7230 or peggyef@takomagov.org.

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 a.m.-6 p.m Saturday.

Montessori Morning 1

Ages 1 1/2- 2

You've heard about the benefits of the Montessori approach for young children, now experience it! A certified Montessori teacher with several years experience will guide exploration of sensory, fine motor, pre-reading, pre-writing, and pre-math Montessori materials and activities. Parent education materials will be provided with each session. There is a \$20 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Maximum 10, minimum 4. Six weeks. Instructor Alicia Sar.

When: Thursdays, March 9 - April 20
Time: 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.
Location: Azalea Room - T. P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$60
 Non-Resident \$70

No class April 13.

Montessori Morning 2

Ages 2- 3

Experience the benefits of the Montessori approach as a certified Montessori teacher guides exploration of sensory, fine motor, pre-reading, pre-writing, and pre-math Montessori activities. Parent education materials will be provided at each session. There is a \$20 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Maximum 10, minimum four. Six weeks. Instructor Alicia Sar.

When: Thursdays, March 9 - April 20
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 noon
Location: Azalea Room - T. P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$60
 Non-Resident \$70

Arts Alive

Ages 1 1/2- 3 1/2

Discover exciting ways to bring your local museums alive. An educator with several years of experience in museum-based early childhood classrooms will guide you and your child through fun hands-on museum related activities that will enhance your child's creativity and imagination. Three metro accessible museum trips are planned to explore topics such as animals, transportation, and dance. Parent materials will be provided each session. There is a \$10 materials fee due to the instructor the first day of class. Maximum 10, minimum four. Six weeks. Instructor Kirsten Sandberg-DaSilva.

When: Fridays, March 10 - April 21
 OR Saturdays, March 11 - April 22
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Location: Rose Room - T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$60/session
 Non Resident \$70/session

No class April 14 and 15.

Fun Day Program

Grades 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. Trips, activities, and performers are subject to change. They may also be cancelled if minimum registration is not met. Children must bring a lunch. Space is limited, sign up early.

When: Friday, March 31
Location: African American History Museum and National Aquarium
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$20
 Non-Resident \$25



PHOTO BY DEBRA HAIDUVEN

Drawing, Painting, and Collage

Ages 12 - 15

This class will include instruction in black and white and color drawing from observation, watercolor painting and collage. The class offerings will be a rotating group of assignments - different each term - and students will use line, shape, and materials techniques. Materials/model fee of \$25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Maximum of 12, minimum of six. Six weeks. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

When: Wednesdays, March 8 - April 19
Location: Art Room - T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Time: 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$125
 Non-Resident \$135

No class April 12.

Drawing and Portfolio Development

Ages 16 - 18

This is for those students interested in improving their drawing from observation. The subjects of landscape, portrait, self portrait, figure and interior will be offered on a rotating basis. Katie Dell Kaufman will instruct in graphite, charcoal, trois crayons, oil and chalk pastels and will give demonstrations, critiques and individual instruction appropriate to each student's level. All materials will be provided for students and a materials/model fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Maximum of 12, minimum of six. Six weeks.

When: Thursdays, March 9 - April 20
Location: Art Room - T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Time: 3 - 5:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$170
 Non-Resident \$190

No class April 13.

Drawing

Ages 16 and up

The sessions will alternate between black and white materials (charcoal, conte crayon, black and white pastels) and color materials (colored pencils, oil pastels, and chalk pastels.) Subject matter will include figure, portrait, self portrait, still life, and interior.

This class is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced students. Katie Dell Kaufman will provide demonstrations, individualized instruction, group critiques and all drawing materials. Materials/model fee of \$35, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Six weeks.

When: Thursdays, March 9 - April 20
Location: Art Room - T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Time: Noon - 2:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$200
 Non-Resident \$220

No class April 13.

Continued on page 12

Belly Dancing

Ages 18 and up

Come learn the foundations of this ancient Middle Eastern art form. Suitable for all shapes and sizes, belly dance provides an aerobic workout that's gentle on the body and exhilarating for the spirit! No previous dance experience necessary. Dancers should wear comfortable, form-fitting attire that permits instructor's viewing of their torso (to ensure correct movement). Bring a scarf to tie around your hips. This dance may be performed barefoot, or with soft dance shoes, if desired. Taught by director of local dance troupes, Maya Taahira. Maximum 25, minimum six. Eight weeks. For more information about belly dancing e-mail instructor at mayat@bodylovebellydance.com.

When: Tuesdays, March 7 - April 25
Time: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: Auditorium - T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$80
 Non-Resident \$90

Design Your Own Poncho

Adult

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. Maximum of 10, minimum of five.

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

When: Saturday, April 8
 (Rain Date: April 15)
Time: 11 a.m. Sharp
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field, 7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary)
Fee: Free



PHOTOS BY DEBRA HAIDUVEN

Annual Egg Hunt 2005

Ages 2 and under; 3 - 4; 5-6; 7 - 8

Look over there! Oh look, there's another one. Wow, there are so many eggs. They are everywhere! Come join us for an exciting eggstravaganza. Bring your baskets and a great eye. There are prizes in those eggs.

Looking for Donations for Music/Video Lab

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

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

Program Assistants and Leaders for Afternoon Addition, needed for after school program. PT role, responsible for assisting in planning and conducting programs in art, sports, drama and other activities for children. Applicant must be a high school graduate. Experience with children and CPR and First Aid cert. a plus. \$8-10/hr. depending upon experience.

Takoma Park Summer Camps are looking for kid-loving, fun individuals to work this summer. PT role, responsible for assisting in planning, assisting and conducting programs in art, sports, drama and other activities for children. Experience with children and CPR and First Aid cert. a plus. \$6-10/hr. up to 40hr/week depending upon experience.

City of Takoma Park is an EOE. Fax resume/application 301-270-8794 or send it to 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 Attn.: Recreation Department. Deadline: open until filled.

Book Club Gathering

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library bi-monthly book club will be held on Wednesday April 5, 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center.

All are invited to participate in a discussion of the novel *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson. It tells the story of Ruth and her younger sister Lucille - both grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great aunts, and finally of Sylvie, the eccentric and remote sister of their dead mother. The family house is in the small town of Fingerbone in the Far West on a glacial lake, the same lake where their grandfather died in a spectacular train wreck and their mother drove off a cliff to her death. Fingerbone is a town "chastened by an outsized landscape and extravagant weather, and chastened again by an awareness that the whole of human history had occurred elsewhere." Ruth and Lucille's struggle toward adulthood illuminates the price of loss and survival.

Copies of the book are available for checkout at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Please join us for a lively literary discussion!

Festive Friends Meeting Scheduled

Please join us on Tuesday March 28, as the Friends of the Library hold their annual meeting and elect new members to the Board of Directors.

There will be musical entertainment by Don Bridges, refreshments and opportunity to meet new friends and greet old ones at this event, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

The Friends are the major promotional and fund-raising arm of the Library. They have contributed more than \$15,000 in gifts, including public computer workstations and software, special performances and programs, furnishings, reference tools, bi-lingual and ESL materials, and more than 1,000 lanyards for children's library cards.

Positions open for re-election this year include president, vice president, secretary, and two member-at-large positions. Members of the Friends whose dues are current are eligible to serve on the Board and vote in the election. New and renewed memberships will be accepted at the meeting. If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends or in being part of the Library's future by serving on its Board of Directors, contact nominating committee member Karen Petersen at 301-891-2588 or by e-mail at kkpeters@earthlink.net.

Meanwhile, all are invited to join us on March 28. Bring family and friends!

Voter Registration at the Library

Representatives from the Montgomery County Board of Elections will be at the Library to register voters on the following Saturdays: March 11 and March 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They will return in Spring and late Summer before the election primaries, date to be announced.

Library Programs for March

Classically Different Adventures
with Storyteller/Performer Arianna Ross
Monday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

Socrates Café with Chris Phillips
Tuesday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

Friends of the Library
Annual Meeting (in Library)
Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. (see story)

Winter Session of the Twosies
For two-year-olds and parent or caregiver
Preregistration required: group-size limited
Four Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
Beginning March 1 (last of four programs)

Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks
Each Thursday at 10 a.m.
Spanish immersion for children
18 months to five years
No preregistration required
More information from the Library or from Lupe Marks at 240-899-7468

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

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



LIBRARY

Civil Discourse and Philosophical Discussion With Chris Phillips

Chris Phillips, the peripatetic teacher of philosophy for children, returns to the Takoma Park Maryland Library on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. Phillips will lead adults and children ages 8 and up in an evening of philosophical discussion using the elenctic, or indirect mode of inquiry, that Socrates used.

Chris and his wife Cecilia have visited the Takoma Park Maryland Library on many occasions to lead these discussions, most recently in October. Each time there has been a new crowd with no way to anticipate which way the discussion will go. But each adventure into philosophical inquiry has been fascinating.

Information about the Society for Philosophical Inquiry (SPI), founded by Chris and Cecilia Phillips, and the associated gatherings for philosophical discussions, can be found at www.philosopher.org.

Phillips' most recent book, *Six Questions of Socrates*, has joined his previous books, *Socrates Café* and the children's book *The Philosophers' Club* in the collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. He is hard at work reworking a draft of his newest book.

Please join us! Call 301-891-7259.

"Classically Different Adventures" with Arianna Ross

Arianna Ross is a storyteller/performer who grounds her storytelling in traditional tales intertwined with her international experience living and story-gathering in countries as diverse as Egypt, Ireland, Indonesia, and Spain. She will be returning to the Library on Monday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Ross has developed an array of programs, a repertoire she calls "Tapestries." In this program she takes a classic folktale like Thumbelina and explores it from the perspective of other cultures.

Arianna Ross has trained in theatre, dance, voice, and photography in the United States. She has spent three years studying acrobatics, music, martial arts, and performing with Bansi Kaul's troupe Rang Vidushak all over India. She is deeply concerned about nurturing the bonds that connect us all in her storytelling.

Her programs allow for active participation from the audience and are suitable for the whole family. Please join us. Call 301-891-7259 to pre-register. And thanks, as always, to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for supporting these family programs.



Arianna Ross

Come and Share Your Favorite Poem!

The Eighth annual "Favorite Poem" evening, sponsored jointly by the English Department of Columbia Union College and the Takoma Park Maryland Library, will be held on Thursday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. Modeled after the national event begun by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, this event has attracted poetry lovers of all ages and occupations to come together and share a poem that has been meaningful to them at some point in their lives.

If you are interested in participating in this year's event, choose a poem that you have read or admired by a published poet (other than poems written by you or your friends). Please include an English translation for poems written in a language other than English. Inspiration may be found in the hundreds of books of poetry available at the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

So that we may include the names of the poems, the poets, the readers and their occupations in a program to be distributed at the event, please submit this information by April 10 to the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Attn. Ellen Robbins, or to the English Department, Attn. Wendy Wripley, Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park MD 20912, or by e-mail to Wendy at wripley@cuc.edu.

Questions may be directed to Ellen at the Library at 301-891-7258. This year's event will be held in a location to be announced in the April Newsletter. As in previous years, the Friends of the Library will sponsor a reception following the readings.

Got Books?

The Friends of the Library are accepting donations of gently used books at the Library for their Spring book sale. Please bring your donations of books of some general interest and in good condition to the Library during open hours. Donations of more than five books must be boxed.

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 13 at 8:45 p.m. in the **7300 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, an armed robbery was attempted. An adult male and adult female were entering an apartment building from the parking lot when a subject exited the building, pointed a handgun at them and demanded their belongings. One victim yelled something while pointing behind the suspect in order to distract him and when he turned away, the victims ran off. Neither victim was injured and no property was taken.

On January 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the **intersection of Flower and Erie Ave.**, an armed robbery occurred. An adult male walking alone was approached by three subjects. One grabbed the victim in a choke hold and put a knife to his side while the others searched the victim's pockets, taking the contents before releasing the victim who then walked away.

On January 15 at 7:12 p.m. at the **intersection of Wabash and Flower Avenues**, an adult male walking alone was suddenly approached by four subjects who beat him and removed his wallet and cell phone from his pockets before fleeing on foot. The victim refused treatment for minor injuries.

On January 19 at 10:28 p.m. in the **100 block of Lee Ave.**, an attempted armed robbery occurred. An adult male walking alone was approached by two subjects. One implied he had a gun in his pocket, the other demanded the victim's wallet. The subjects fled without taking

any property when another citizen opened a window nearby. The victim was not injured.

On January 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the **1100 block of University Blvd.**, a strong arm robbery occurred. An adult female waiting at a bus stop was approached from behind; the subject grabbed her book bag and after a brief struggle ran off with the bag. The victim was not injured.

On January 29 at 7 p.m. in the **6800 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, an armed robbery occurred. An adult female employee of a business was approached by a subject with a handgun demanding money. When the victim opened the cash register, the subject reached over the counter, removed cash, then fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

On January 31 at 8:10 p.m. in the **6500 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, an armed robbery occurred. An adult male walking alone noticed two subjects exit a blue van. Subjects approached the victim, one implied he had a gun and demanded money. The victim handed over his wallet and the subjects fled in the van. The victim was not injured.

On January 31 at 8:30 p.m. in the **6300 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, an armed robbery was attempted. An adult male was pumping gas when a dark blue Ford Aerostar Van pulled up to the pump beside him. A subject exited, approached the victim, implied he had a gun and demanded money. The victim told him he didn't have any and the

subject fled in the van. No property was taken and the victim was not injured.

On February 1 at 10:23 p.m. in the **6300 block of Westmoreland Ave.**, an armed car-jacking occurred. An adult male was exiting his white 1990 Honda Prelude in front of his home when a dark Nissan Maxima pulled up behind him and two subjects exited and approached him. One pointed a handgun at the victim, the other subject removed property from his pockets. The first subject then entered the victim's car and after a brief struggle drove the car away. The second subject fled in his own car. The victim was not injured.

On February 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the **7500 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, a strong arm robbery occurred. An adult female was getting into the passenger side of her vehicle, when a small dark colored vehicle pulled up beside her. A subject exited the vehicle and grabbed the victim's purse. The victim tried to hold on, but let go when the subject threatened to shoot. She did not see a gun. The subject fled in his car. The victim was not injured.

On February 4 at 11:30 p.m. at the **intersection of Wildwood Drive and Jackson Ave.**, an armed robbery was attempted. An adult male was riding his moped when he noticed a car behind him. When the victim stopped at the intersection, the car cut in front of him, knocking the moped over. The passenger in the vehicle pointed a handgun at

the victim and demanded his money. The victim ran off without giving the subject anything and the vehicle left. The victim was not injured.

On February 5 at 6:30 a.m. in the **900 block of East West Hwy.**, a strong arm robbery occurred. An adult male making a purchase at the window of a gas station office heard voices behind him and was struck and knocked to the ground by two subjects while a third stood by. After striking the victim several times, a subject removed property from the victim's pocket then all three fled in an older model small grey car.

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ARRESTS

On January 13 at 12:42 p.m. in the **1300 block of University Blvd.**, a male juvenile was arrested and charged with theft under \$500 after a merchant called to report a shoplifting.

On January 15 at 11:47 a.m. in the **7400 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, an adult female was arrested on an open Montgomery County Warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

On January 15 at 4:55 p.m. in the **1300 block of University Blvd.**, an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of theft over \$500.

On January 17 at 1:13 p.m. in the **1100 block of University Blvd.**, an adult male was arrested and charged with theft under \$50 after a merchant reported a shoplifting.

On January 21 at 1:04 a.m. in the **6900 block of Woodland Ave.**, an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County Warrant for forgery, fraud, and theft less than \$100.

On January 23 at 3:17 p.m. in the **7500 block of Maple Ave.**, an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving an uninsured vehicle.

On January 28 at 3:32 p.m. in the **8400 block of Flower Ave.**, an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Howard County for failure to appear in court on a violation of probation charge.

On January 28 at 4:20 p.m. in the **6700 block of Conway Ave.**, an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On January 31 at 12:10 p.m. in the **1100 block of University Blvd.**, an adult female was arrested and charged with theft under \$500 after a merchant reported shoplifting.

On February 1 at 10:40 p.m. in the **7500 block of Maple Ave.**, an adult male was arrested on an open warrant from Montgomery County for Failure to Appear in Court.

On February 3 at 11 a.m. in the **1100 block of University Blvd.**, an adult male was arrested for theft under \$500 when a store employee reported a shoplifting.

On February 6 at 11 p.m. in the **6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue**, an adult female was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for Possession of CDS Paraphernalia.

The Firehouse Report

Serious Fire Hits Home

On the evening of Friday, February 10, a home in the 6400 Block of Kansas Lane suffered major fire damage. There was approximately \$100,000 in loss to the home, but no injuries. The cause of the fire: A space heater too close to window coverings.

It Could Happen to You

Statistics show that, on average during our lifetime, each of us can expect to be involved in two or three fires serious enough to call the fire department. Whether your fires occur at home, in a hospital, or a hotel, the same principles for survival apply.

People who have planned in advance what to do in a fire emergency and have the determination to survive are most likely to do so. Those who deny the danger, feeling that fire will never happen to them, are most apt to succumb. Listed are a few safety tips that will help you survive a fire.

- Install smoke alarms on all levels of the home. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year when you change your clocks.
- Have a fire escape plan for your family. Make sure you know two ways out of each room, especially the bedrooms. Review and practice regularly.

A Few Fire Safety Tips

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- When using the fireplace, make sure there is a screen installed.
- Space heaters need to be at least 36 inches away from any objects.
- Never smoke in bed and keep matches and lighters up high and out of reach of children.

Thanks for Blood Drive

On behalf of the Takoma Park VFD and the Takoma Park Lions Club we want to thank all of you that donated during our recent Blood Drive. A special thanks to our emergency family for donating: Chief Cindy Creamer, Capt. Ed Coursey, TPPD, Steve Novik and Stan Herrmann, TPVFD. And to our helpers: Mike Hall, Ray Messick and Keith Van Ness, TPLC, Doris Messick and Pat Van Ness, SSLC. Note: Our next Blood Drive will be in April.

Volunteering... Can Be An Experience of a Lifetime!

Have you ever thought of being a firefighter or EMS provider? Serve your community by providing emergency fire and rescue service. Take a few minutes to stop by the station and talk to the volunteers about what it is like to be a volunteer member. For further information call 301-270-8209.

Need a speaker?

We will be glad to provide your group or organization with a speaker to talk on any subject relating to the fire department or fire and injury prevention. If you are interested, please contact the fire station at 301-270-8209.



Thieves Run with Running Car

Given the frequency of vehicle theft in this metropolitan area, a vehicle should never be left running unattended. Not for a few minutes. Not at any time of day. Leaving a car running and unattended is not only a dangerous practice, it is a violation of state law.

The truth of the danger was made clear the afternoon of Feb. 16. A man pulled into a driveway in the 6700 block of Cockerille, exiting to drop something off on the home's porch. When he turned around he saw two suspects entering his 1994 Camry and pulling out into the street. As officers were responding to that call for service, a report was radioed for a vehicle stolen four blocks away.

The same thieves spied newer and better prey. They stopped the Camry and entered a 2001 silver Sequoia which had been left running, unattended in the 6400 block of Fifth Avenue.

An officer later observed that earlier that morning a resident had been upset with the officer who wrote the man citations for leaving his vehicle obstructing traffic on New York Avenue, also running, keys in the ignition, and unattended. The officer notes many residents have gotten into the bad habit of leaving their vehicles running while they use an ATM or while picking up coffee in a shop.

As one element in an attempt to decrease vehicle thefts, Takoma Park officers will be strictly enforcing the state law regarding unattended vehicles:

Transportation Section 21-1101a states... a person driving or otherwise in charge of a motor vehicle may not leave it unattended until the engine is stopped, the ignition locked, the key removed and the brake effectively set.

The fine associated with this violation is \$60 and one point.

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The victim had minor injuries and refused treatment.

On February 6 at 10:36 a.m. in the **7100 block of Maple Ave.**, a robbery/home invasion occurred. An adult was in an upstairs room when an unknown subject entered the room, told him to get on the floor, and demanded property and money. After the victim told the subject his money was downstairs, the subject left the room and then left the house. Property was taken. The victim was not injured. The suspect may have entered through an unlocked door.

On February 7 at 7 a.m. in the **6500 block of New Hampshire Ave.** an armed robbery occurred. An adult male standing in a parking lot was approached by two subjects. One pointed a handgun and demanded the victim's wallet and phone. The victim complied and the subjects fled in a green four-door Honda Accord. The victim was not injured.

Burglaries

On January 13 at 9:50 p.m. in the **7600 block of Flower Avenue**, a dorm room door was left open by the victim and property was taken.

Between January 19 at 7:45 p.m. and January 20 at 8:15 a.m. in the **7500 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, a lock and door were damaged in an attempted commercial burglary.

Between January 20 at 11 p.m. and January 21 at 3:30 a.m. in the **7900 block of Lockney Ave.**, a small window pane beside a residence's back door was broken and the door unlocked by reaching in through the broken window. Property was taken.

On January 23, between 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the **7100 block of Maple Ave.**, a glass pane in the back door of a residence was broken to gain entry. Property was taken.

Between January 27 at 3 p.m. and January 28 at 11:30 a.m. in the **1000 block of Elm Ave.**, the lock of a detached shed was pried off. Property was taken.

On February 3, between midnight and 4:30 p.m. in the **7400 block of Glenside**

Drive, a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry was gained. Property was taken.

Between February 3 at 11:01 p.m. and February 6 at 3:23 p.m. in the **1000 block of University Blvd.**, a window in the rear of a building was broken to gain entry. Property was taken.

Auto and related theft

Between January 15 at 5 p.m. and January 17 at 12:20 p.m. in the **1100 block of Holton Lane**, a 1998 Plymouth Voyager minivan was stolen by unknown method.

On January 28, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the **7600 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, a 1990 Toyota Camry was stolen by unknown method.

Between January 27 at 5:05 p.m. and January 28 at 3 p.m. in the **1200 block of Elson Place**, a 1994 Plymouth Voyager was stolen by unknown method.

On January 30, between 12:30 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. in the **7100 block of New Hampshire Ave.**, a 1997 Honda Accord was stolen by unknown method.

Between January 20 at 6 p.m. and January 30 at 8 p.m. in the **600 block of Elm Ave.**, the driver's side door lock of a 2004 Ford Expedition was damaged in an attempted auto theft.

Between February 1 at 4 p.m. and February 2 at 7:30 a.m. in the **7000 block of Westmoreland Ave.**, a 2002 Mini Coupe was stolen by unknown method.

On February 5 between 8:30 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. in the **800 block of Colby Ave.**, a witness saw four people tampering with a 1996 Jeep Cherokee and scared them off. The ignition was damaged in the attempted theft.

On February 6, between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the **7500 block of Maple Ave.**, a victim's keys were stolen from a gym locker by an unknown suspect, who then drove the victim's 1999 Toyota Camry a short distance before hitting a tree and abandoning the car.

Between February 6 at 9:30 a.m. and February 7 at 8:10 a.m. in the **6700 block of Conway Ave.**, a 2002 Chrysler Sebring was stolen by unknown method.

POLICE NEWS

Arrest Made for Armed Robbery

Takoma Park Police have charged two men in a robbery that occurred just after 10 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1. The men were detained by Washington Metropolitan Police two hours after the robbery. The pair is charged with robbing two brothers who were walking in the 6400 block of Orchard Avenue. A car carrying several men stopped the brothers and demanded property, including their Northface jackets and a cell phone.

Washington, D.C. officers later spotted the vehicle, which was similar to one involved in a D.C. crime, and initiated a pursuit. The car crashed on Chillum Manor Road, Hyattsville, and the pair was detained by officers from Washington and Prince George's County. Takoma Park officers responded to the scene and, after further investigation, the two were arrested.

A 25-year-old man from Hyattsville and 20-year-old man from Washington, D.C. were held at the Montgomery County Detention Center. Each is charged with two counts of armed robbery, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, first degree assault and theft under \$500.

Detectives are continuing investigation of this and other recent robberies, including an armed carjacking in Takoma Park that occurred about 10 minutes later and several blocks away from this crime.

The victims, 16-year-old and 26-year-old Takoma Park residents, were not physically injured in the robbery.

"Cooperation among law enforcement is an important factor in this area," said Lt. Richard Cipperly, TPPD investigations commander. "We greatly appreciate the assistance of the Metropolitan and Prince George's County Police in this arrest and on a continuing basis."

Emergency: Who You Gonna Call?

During emergencies, residents should call 9-1-1 using their home phones. Using a cell phone, however, is a different story. The Takoma Park Police have long encouraged anyone making an emergency call for police assistance from a cell phone to dial the TPPD dispatcher directly at 301-270-1100, which should be programmed into a resident's cell phone.

The advantage of 9-1-1 is that if a call is interrupted, or disconnected, the address from which the call was made can be identified and officers can be dispatched. Takoma Park Police procedures require officers to respond to the location of any disconnected emergency call to assure the welfare of the potential caller.

The city's proximity to wireless towers in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County are the rationale for direct emergency calls to Takoma Park dispatchers. A 9-1-1 call from a cell phone will go through the nearest available tower, with the connection made to that jurisdiction's emergency call center, which could be in either of those jurisdictions or in Montgomery County. Thus, 301-270-1100 is the most direct access from a cell phone to Takoma Park Police.

For fire emergency calls, the Fire Department recommends always using 9-1-1 for emergencies, whether land line or cell phone, and engines will be dispatched no matter where the call originates or is received. Career firefighters recommend that a caller immediately state the county of the problem and the nature of the emergency, such as "Montgomery County, fire emergency" or "Takoma Park medical emergency."

Fire departments are quite different from police agencies, which have jurisdictional boundaries. Firefighters respond regularly across county boundaries and it is not unusual to have teams from more than one station respond to a fire.

When traveling on a state or interstate highway, motorists generally can use #7-7 to reach the state police. Although not all states have established this number, it can be used in Maryland to reach the state police barracks for emergency assistance.

Reminders from School Crossing Guards

School children, pedestrian parents and motorists are reminded that school crossing guards offer the direction for when to stop or proceed at intersections.

Takoma Park guards have noted that some parents disregard the guards' directions and cross according to their own decision. This practice can be dangerous and confusing to motorists.

It may establish bad habits for children who may later follow the adult's example.

The guards also report that many motorists attempt to go around stopped trash trucks, Metro buses, and other vehicles on Maple and Philadelphia Avenues.

Motorists are reminded that crossing a double yellow line is always prohibited, except when making a left-hand turn.

Police News continued from page 9

Crime Up from Lowest Rate Last Year

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part One crimes for 2005 show an increase of 11 percent in the City over figures for 2004, which had recorded the lowest numbers in 10 years. With a total of 875 UCR Part One crimes, last year registered the second lowest total reports in 11 years.

Property crimes (burglary, larceny and vehicle theft) increased by 12 percent and personal crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault)

by 1 percent. Takoma Park detectives are investigating a homicide with the MNCPPC Montgomery Police after a body was discovered in October 2005 on park property located within the city off New Hampshire Avenue, but in Park jurisdiction for recording purposes.

Rape showed the greatest percentage increase, with the number increasing from two to six. None of these sexual assaults involved a stranger. Investigation of sev-

eral rapes ended with the determination that the complaints were unfounded.

Vehicle theft grew 15 percent over 2004. For most of 2005, vehicle theft reports had decreased, an encouraging trend that began in 2003, but the final quarter was a different story. From January to September, vehicle theft reports were 4 percent lower than the same period in 2004. The final three months of 2005, saw vehicle theft reports at 76

percent higher than the end of 2004.

Burglary and vehicle theft figures appear to be in the middle of the range that can be expected based on a review of crimes over the past 10 years. Aggravated assault (an attack on another person, usually with a weapon, for the purpose of causing bodily harm) was at a 10-year low in 2005. Robbery and larceny were both in the low end of the anticipated range.

City of Takoma Park UCR Part One Crime Statistics 1995-2005												Comparison	
Crime/Yr	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	04-05%	Range*
Homicide	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	--	.24-1.99
Rape	9	6	11	5	9	5	4	6	9	2	6	+200	3.67-9.00
Robbery	99	103	89	73	50	97	70	92	67	58	66	+14	59.2-93.8
Agg. Assault	77	26	35	50	37	27	28	25	30	28	17	-39	24.3-39.3
<i>Personal Total</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>9.7-134.1</i>
Burglary	215	151	167	151	158	137	150	107	156	133	144	+8	128.8-162.3
Larceny	606	573	550	609	477	494	562	639	447	410	462	+13	456.9-601.1
Vehicle Theft	163	200	132	140	147	166	198	230	176	156	180	+15	141.2-202.2
<i>Property Total</i>	<i>984</i>	<i>924</i>	<i>849</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>782</i>	<i>797</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>976</i>	<i>779</i>	<i>699</i>	<i>786</i>	<i>+12</i>	<i>762.8-929.6</i>
UCR Part One	1170	1062	985	1029	879	927	1013	1099	887	787	875	+11	868.4-1057.8

* Range computed for ten-year period 1995-2004 based on average and standard deviation

Crime Index Explained

The Crime Index is a nationwide, cooperative program to assess the nature and type of crime in the nation. Seven categories of crime were identified and have been used since 1930 to present a reliable set of criminal statistics. An eighth category, arson, was added in 1979 but is not represented in this report.

Personal or "Violent" Index Crimes involve force or threat of force, generally considered crimes against persons.

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter: willful, non-negligent killing of one human being by another, based on police investigation rather than court, medical examiner or judicial body.

Rape: carnal knowledge of a woman, forcible and against her will, including assault and attempt to commit rape by force or threat of force; statutory rape not included.

Robbery: taking or attempting to take anything of value from a person by force or threat of force.

Aggravated assault: unlawful attack by one person on another for the purpose of inflicting bodily injury, usually involving a weapon.

Property Index Crimes are offenses dealing with property, committed without force or threat of force.

Burglary: the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft; it includes three subcategories of forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.

Larceny-theft: the unlawful taking of property from the possession of another (including shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, bicycle theft) in which no force, violence or fraud is used. Embezzlement, forgery, and confidence games are not included.

Motor Vehicle Theft: includes stealing of automobiles, buses, motorcycles, etc, or attempted theft.

Arson: willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn a house, public building, motor vehicle or personal property of another; an investigation must determine the fires were willfully set.

Crime in the United States, published annually by the FBI, contains more complete information on these definitions and national statistics. It can be found in the Reference Section of the City Library.

Register for Alerts

In recent years, the three-digit number 9-1-1 has been synonymous with "emergency communication" between citizens and public safety agencies. It's the number people count on to reach police, fire, or medical emergency providers.

Communication is a two-way street, however, and government agencies have tried various avenues to send information back into the community. TP Alert is the latest program to provide immediate emergency information to residents. The program is part of the RSAN, or Roam Secure Alert Network, developed with the Council of Governments, in jurisdictions throughout the Washington Metropolitan area.

TP Alert

Residents can register for TP Alert on the city's worldwide web home page, www.takomaparkmd.gov to receive notices about various categories of concern: traffic, crime, recreation and public works, City office closures, and Montgomery County weather and traffic alerts. In addition to selecting the class

of alerts, the resident can choose to register a variety of devices: e-mail accounts, cell phone, text pager, BlackBerry and/or wireless PDA.

When an incident occurs, authorized senders will instantly notify registrants about the incidents. The technology of the receiving devices means cell phone and text pager alerts will contain the basics of an incident, with most e-mails providing more detailed information and instructions.

Authorized senders in the police department will send traffic and crime alerts. Traffic alerts primarily will be emergency road closures and re-openings on major thoroughfares, including state roads and Maple and Eastern Avenues. Crime alerts will be sent for area searches that involve helicopters, canine or multiple jurisdictions as well as crimes or events that in the perspective of law enforcement officers clearly pose an immediate threat to the public.

Staff in other departments will provide information about City government

closures, Recreation Department closures, and events involving Public Works. City residents can also choose to receive pass-through alerts from Montgomery County related to weather and transportation. For example, during the mid-February snow storm, TP Alert registrants received announcements of the snow storm warning, county schools closure, and the opening of a warming center in Gaithersburg over a five-day period.

Registration for TP Alert is free of charge. Depending on an individual's own carrier, the recipient may or may not be charged for the received text alerts.

The RSAN system is also used internally by government agencies. An emergency management edition provides two-way, interoperable communication for fire, police, emergency management and security agencies during routine and crisis incidents. The RSAN Coop edition is used to communicate with government employees. The system can reach 18,000 devices per minute, working reliably even during incidents when cell phones and other systems are overloaded.

Neighborhood Safety Contacts and Other Communication Avenues

The Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, with the Takoma Park Police, initiated a program of Neighborhood Safety Contacts several years ago. These are residents who agreed to serve as liaison between the PSCAC, the police and their own neighborhoods. Many of these contacts have served as the go-between to share e-mails regarding safety concerns and crime alerts. The police department will continue to send alerts to Neighborhood Safety Contacts, but anticipates that most will also register for TP Alert. (To identify your area's NSC or to become one, contact the PSCAC through co-chairs, Andy Keleman at 301-270-0314 or Buddy Daniels at 301-270-5789.)

The police department's webpage continues to operate a Police Bulletins section, which includes the weekly crime blotter, as well as notices of recent crime events and safety concerns. The Police Bulletins include an option for subscribing to the blogline, which alerts subscribers whenever an item is posted.

Police crime notices are also sent directly to AlertTakoma@yahoo.com.

New Web site and Webstream Launched

City staff invite you to visit the City's newly redesigned website at www.TakomaParkMD.gov.

Web visitors have access to a wealth of information about City services, programs, contact information, and more. The updated City Code is available and the entire site is searchable. Visitors may view - and post - to the City calendar and message boards, establish an RSS feed from the Police Bulletins page, and download current and archived City Council Agendas and background materials. Patrons may pay parking tickets online or download a City application for employment.

The site is fully searchable and has links to many community resources. It should be noted that City Staff email addresses will not change.

Starting with the March 6 Council meeting, web visitors will be able to watch live, on-line video of City Council meetings. These meetings will be the same video viewers watch on Takoma Park City TV-13. Following the meeting, all Council meetings and packet items will be archived and keyword searchable. Windows Media Player 9 or higher is required to view the streaming video, but this application should be compatible with Mac and Linux operating systems. Web site visitors should go to TakomaParkMD.gov and click on links to "online video." Visitors will be able to view council meetings live, or view specific portions of archived council meetings by clicking on selected agenda items. Citizens can also use keyword

searches to view items of interest, or view by selected meeting date. In time, documents such as maps associated with related agenda items will also be linked to the videos. All staff background materials are already available on the City web site (on the City Clerk's page) but they will also be linked to video streaming pages.

The City's technology partner in this endeavor is Granicus Inc., of San Francisco. Granicus specializes in working with municipalities to provide streaming video services. Takoma Park is the first municipality in Maryland to utilize Granicus' unique agenda-based solution. "We have wanted to web-stream Takoma Park City TV programming for a long time," says Lonni Moffet, the City's Communications Manager. "The Granicus application provides searchable, on demand access to Council meetings and other City TV programming on the web. This is a great resource for anyone who is interested in what's happening in City government."

"Granicus improves internal and external access to public meetings and public documents," adds City Clerk Jessie Carpenter. "The searchable archiving will allow the Clerk's office to provide a greater level of customer service on legislative matters."

Live streaming will begin with the March 6, 2006 Council meeting. Other City TV programs will be available online starting at the beginning of March.

Takoma Park-Silver Spring Babe Ruth League

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. 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:

- Friday, February 24 (6 - 8:30 p.m.),
- Saturday, February 25 (10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.),
- Friday, March 17 (6 - 8:30 p.m.),
- Saturday, March 18 (10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.),
- Friday, April 7 (6 - 8:30 p.m.),
- or Saturday, April 8, (10:30 a.m. - 1 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.



Takoma Park City TV Events in March 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 YES League Basketball Championships and the City's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration from January.

Newly released Folk Festival performances from the 2005 festival include Ruthie & The Wranglers, plus The Usual Suspects; and Oscar Brand with Billy Kemp plus Joe Hickerson. Other new releases since the beginning of 2006 include Lori Kelley and Cletus Kennelly plus The Jones Family.

Takoma Snapshots in March includes:

- Community Oriented Policing - Alternative Weapons
- A Winter Visit to Memorial Park
- Clare Christopher's "Once Upon Takoma"

Visit our Web site at www.takomaparkmd.gov/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 for more information.

Takoma Park City TV March 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
Web: www.takomaparkmd.org/cable

Picture This: Local Photographers Exhibit

The main atrium of the new Community Center hosts an exhibit of local photographers' work starting the last week of February, and continuing through the month of March. Come to the



opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 10 and meet the seven Takoma Park photographers whose work will be on display. The exhibit, called Photography is Alive and Well and Takoma Park, includes artists Dasent, Shelly Jones, T.J. Mathews, Don Olson, Rob Rudick (who is curating the show), Nicholas Sechler, and Ken Wyner. The show is the first in a series of art exhibits sponsored by the arts and humanities commission.

Left: Ken Wyner's photo of the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art appeared on the cover of the American Institute of Architects directory, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of architect I.M. Pei's design.



Right: Rob Rudick's photo of a shining chrome auto grill will be included in the exhibit.

Folk Fest Sponsors T-shirt Design Contest

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is launching its 2006 TPFF T-shirt Design Contest. Organizers want you to get inspired and produce a design that brings to mind the most wonderful aspects of Takoma Park and the Folk Festival - and will look great on a t-shirt.

Winner will receive \$100 and a t-shirt. Up to three Honorable Mention selections will be made. Deadline for entries is May 1. For contest rules and an application form see www.tpff.org.

There are few restrictions on the entries. Artwork can be color or

black-and-white, and in almost any media -- painting, drawing, a computer-generated image, clay, fabric, and so on. The image can incorporate the words "Takoma Park Folk Festival," but that is not required. Everyone is welcome to participate: kids and adults, professionals and amateurs. Several people can even combine on a single design.

For more information about helping to plan this year's Festival, go to www.tpff.org or call 301-589-0202. The Festival will be held on Sunday, September 10, at Takoma Park Middle School on Piney Branch Road.

Recreation *Continued from page 6*

Collage

Ages 18 and up

This class is for those who are interested in exploring new ways of combining materials and media. Students will be introduced to a variety of techniques including hand altered papers, found materials and creative two and three dimensional assembly. This class is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced students. Basic materials (adhesives, supports, papers and paints) will be provided (some personal or found collage elements may be required in addition to materials provided) A materials fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum six. Six weeks. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

When: Wednesdays, March 8 - April 19
Location: Art Room - T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Time: Noon - 2:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$200
 Non-Resident \$220

No class April 12.

Spring Break Camp

Grades K-6

Join us as we discover Korea, the Land of the Morning Calm - a country which is more than 4,000 years old! Storytelling and Korean literature will accompany adventurers who wander around the history of the Three Kingdoms wearing a hanbok! Young naval strategists will make a "turtle boat" and those entranced by the wind will fly kites. Paint temples and royal palaces in the morning and then practice Tae Kwon do in the afternoon. The Embassy of Korea has invited the young diplomats to their Embassy to see artifacts hundreds of years old and taste kimchi and bee-bim bop. Learn about Asian Hip Hop and break dancing! Come along and explore! Be prepared to use all of your senses.

When: Monday - Friday, April 10 - 14
Time:
 Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
 Camp Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$95
 Non-Resident \$105
 Before Care: \$20
 After Care: \$20

Takoma Foundation Accepting Grant Proposals

The Takoma Foundation is accepting applications for grants of \$500 to \$1,000 to be distributed this spring to local groups working to meet the cultural, civic, economic, environmental, and educational needs of residents of Takoma Park and surrounding neighborhoods. The grants, said Foundation treasurer Bruce Baker, "are geared toward building a vibrant and healthy Takoma Park community by meeting the diverse needs of its people."

The grants are intended to empower neighborhood and community groups to engage in projects that they might not otherwise be able to afford. "We want to match the energy of neighborhood groups with resources to bring people together in activities that build a better community," Baker said.

The semi-annual grant-giving program funds a broad range of activities, from neighborhood cleanups to opportunities for disadvantaged youth, from sports leagues, arts, and recreation, to residents in need, and the Independence Day parade.

Organizations interested in applying for grants can get forms and guidelines at www.takomafoundation.org or pick up applications at the Takoma Park community center or library. For questions, contact Bruce Baker, Bruce.L.Baker@verizon.net or 301-589-3633.

The deadline for grant applications is April 3, 2006. Grants will be reviewed during April, and decisions will be made in time for funds to be distributed in mid-May 2006.

Contributions to assist the Foundation in making grants can be made by check to: Takoma Foundation, c/o Montgomery County Community Foundation, 8720 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Established in 1988, the Takoma Foundation has provided more than \$20,000 to local charities, PTAs, civic associations, and other nonprofit and social service groups to support initiatives and events in the community. Recipient organizations are located in Takoma Park as well as nearby Silver Spring and Takoma DC.

Among last year's grants: \$800 to Passion for Learning, Inc. for an after-school homework club at Piney Branch Elementary School; \$1,000 to Rolling Terrace Elementary School for a writer/artist-in-residence; \$1,000 to Takoma Park Boys and Girls Club, Inc. to subsidize sports equipment costs; \$500 to Friends of the Takoma Park Library for the Takoma Park Film Festival; \$500 to Career Transition Center Inc. for Arts on the Block; and \$500 to Manna Food Center to distribute food to needy residents of Takoma Park's Franklin Apartments.

Coming soon!

The 2006 Spring/Summer Community Guide will be enclosed in the April newsletter. Make sure you save it since it will include all classes and summer camps from April through the end of August.

Visit the City's newly redesigned website at www.takomaparkmd.gov
 (Note: City Staff e-mail addresses do not change.)

See story on page 11