

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

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

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

May 2006

City Budget Proposed; Public Welcome to Comment May 8

By Virginia Myers Kelly

It's your money.

Takoma Park residents should remember that as they consider the proposed budget for the city, presented to the City Council by City Manager Barbara Matthews on April 10. While there are no dramatic changes, the budget does reflect some revenue shifts and priorities set by the City Council regarding affordable housing, development, and community center completion. A complete description of the proposal is available in its entirety on the city's web site, <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/finance/fy07/proposed.html>. Takoma Park residents will have an opportunity to comment on the budget at a public hearing May 8.

Matthews' proposal shows \$19,303,920 in expenditures and \$18,211,236 in total revenues. The difference reflects the use of fund balance or reserve funds, including proceeds from the 2005 street loan and withdrawals from the Equipment Replacement Reserve.

Most of the budget involves the general fund, at \$17,444,564. That figure represents a relatively miniscule increase of \$12,330 over the FY06 general fund budget. The general fund covers general government, police, public works, recreation, housing and community development, communications, library, non-departmental outlay, capital outlay, and debt service. Outside the general fund are stormwater management, community center, and special revenue (federal and state grants for specific expenditures like community revitalization, law enforcement, and parks development).

Revenues are up

Revenues proposed for fiscal year 2007 (FY07) have increased mostly due to an increase in property values. Almost 49 percent of the city's operating revenues are derived from the property tax, revenues from which have steadily increased as properties continue to rise in value. Last year, the city set the property tax rate at .63 cents per \$100 of assessed property value - reduced from the previous year's .66 cents. Matthews' proposal suggests holding that line this year. Even with keeping the same tax rate, real property tax revenues will increase by about \$810,000.

The tax duplication payment for police services will be the same as the payment received in FY06. Based on the agreed upon rebate formula, the County advised the City that the amount for the next fiscal year would actually decrease because of a

continued on page 6



Photos by Debra Haiduven

The Annual Egg Hunt in Takoma Park was a sunny success. Held on the rain date, Saturday, April 15, the event drew about 250 people, most of them eager young egg-hunters like the ones shown here.

State Dollars Fund City Projects

In the annual fund-fest in Annapolis, Takoma Park scored close to \$1 million for projects in and around the city, including a \$360,000 state grant for the Takoma Park Community Learning Center. That money is expected to help pay for the gymnasium that was originally part of the center's layout, but was dropped due to expense. So far, the state, urged by the District 20 delegation of representatives, has contributed \$2.3 million for the project.

Another \$445,000 that can be used for the community center gym has been made available through the state's Program Open Space. Although the city council has not yet voted to proceed with plans to build the gym, they are

waiting for results from soil and site tests to see whether the project is viable. Suzanne Ludlow, the city's community and government liaison, says that with the open space funds and the 25 percent matching funds required from the city; the recent state grant; and the \$750,000 the Washington Adventist Hospital has pledged, the city has a pretty nice start on paying for a gym, though no guarantees. We've had some fairly sobering discussions with construction officials with the school district about how much gyms cost, says Ludlow, who notes escalating construction material costs. They're not cheap and we've got a difficult site.

Other state funds, secured in late

March, include \$300,000 for CASA of Maryland. The Takoma Park-based Latino-advocacy group is the state's largest to provide services such as tenant support, employment, legal advice, health care, and education to local immigrants. The grant will help pay for renovation of the McCormick-Goodhart Mansion as a multi-cultural service center in Langley Park.

Historic Takoma gets \$210,000 this year, after receiving \$50,000 last year. The non-profit organization will use the funds to renovate a Carroll Avenue building as a storage and exhibit facility, supporting its mission to preserve the heritage of the city. And the Silver Spring-Takoma Park Thunderbolts get \$50,000 for improvements at the baseball field they use at Montgomery Blair High School - so Blair athletes will benefit as well. The funds will pay for a new scoreboard, sound system, and protective fencing.

Montgomery County also received \$450,000 for the Easter Seals Inter-Generational Center on Spring Street in Silver Spring, an educational and day care center for seniors, and children and adults with disabilities.

Inside this Issue

Rain Barrels Conserve Water..... Page 4

Recreation Department Fun..... Page 8

Officer of the Year..... Page 11

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR

(Please note that due to construction in the Community Center, meeting schedules may change during April and early May. Call the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 for information.)

Monday, May 1 – Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Multipurpose Room, Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road)

Monday, May 8 – Public Hearings, Regular Meeting and Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium) Public Hearing:

- Constant Yield Tax Rate
- Proposed FY07 Budget

Tuesday, May 9 – Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Location TBA)

Tuesday, May 9 – Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (6 Grant Avenue)

Tuesday, May 9 – Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center, Lilac Room)

Thursday, May 11 – (Tentative) Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, May 15 – Worksession and Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, May 16 – Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Council Conference Room)

Tuesday, May 16 – Dialog on Pedestrian Safety Solutions, sponsored by the Mont.

Co. Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee and the Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, May 16 – Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

Thursday, May 18 – (Tentative) Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, May 22 – Regular Meeting Worksession and Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Thursday, May 25 – (Tentative) Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Thursday, May 25 – Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

Monday, May 29 – City Offices Closed for the Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, May 30 – (Tentative) Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

For updated schedule information, check the City's web page at <http://www.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.



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.

March 13 – Regular Meeting

Resolution 2006-14, authorizing the Mayor to sign the Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty and 2006 Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative Action Agreement, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

Ordinance 2006-9, authorizing transfer of land to Montgomery County for Fire Station rear parking area, was tabled for two weeks (VOTING TO TABLE: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

Ordinance 2006-10, authorizing agreement for financial and accounting services, was adopted at second reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

Ordinance 2006-12, authorizing FY06 Budget Amendment No. 5, was accepted at first reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

Resolution 2006-15 was adopted, commenting on State Highway Administration roadway and pedestrian safety improvements planned for University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

Resolution 2006-16, supporting the adoption of State Legislation (HB 1597 and SB 1006) to require the removal of mercury switches from scrap vehicles, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

March 20 – Special Session

Resolution 2006-17, Supporting State Legislation to Allow Local Governments to Purchase and Maintain Street Lighting Equipment, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

Resolution 2006-18, Requesting an Extension of the Public Comment Period on the Final Draft Inter County Connector (ICC) Environmental Impact Statement, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, and Williams).

Notice of Final Action Administrative Regulation Regarding Control of Noxious Growths and Undesirable Trees

The April 2005 edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter included notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation regarding control of noxious growth and undesirable trees. The regulation provides guidance for compliance with and enforcement of Section 12.08.040 and 12.12.080.B.1 of the Takoma Park Code. The intent of Section 12.08.040 is to protect residents from allergenic plants and protect manmade structures and the urban forest from damage from the overgrowth of invasive plant species. The intent of Section 12.12.080.B.1 is to promote the health of the urban forest by facilitating the removal and replacement of undesirable trees with trees that will make a valuable addition to the urban forest.

The notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation was published in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Regulations Ordinance (Authority: Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code) to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the proposal. An exact copy of the proposed regulation was available for inspection during regular office hours in the City Clerk's Office, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. The regulation was also posted on the City's web page.

No comments have been received by the City Clerk's Office since the notice appeared. This notice is to inform residents that the final regulation will become effective ten (10) days following publication of the May issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter.

Deadline for Filing for Property Tax Credits September 1, 2006

Homeowners and renters who have limited incomes only have until September 1, 2006 to submit their applications to the State of Maryland's Property Tax Credit Programs. Applications are available at www.dat.state.md.us or by calling Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Committee Vacancies

Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center. City residents are invited to participate in the Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center. The committee serves to foster communication among interested parties and the Council in the ongoing process for the development of a community center. Information about the committee is available on the City web page. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact your City Councilmember or the City Clerk's Office to request appointment.

Committee 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.

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

Facade Advisory Board. The seven-member board provides design and historic advisory assistance for building and business owners located in the commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides recommendations to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission regarding permit applications.

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.

Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee. The seven-member committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the Nuclear-Free Zone Act.

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

Safe Roadways Committee. The Safe Roadways Committee advises the City on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic, and transit services; and, encourages residents to use alternatives to driving, including biking, walking, and transit services.

Interested applicants are encouraged to attend committee meetings prior to applying to serve. Contact the City Clerk for further information. 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 to JessieC@takomagov.org. Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7267.

COLTA S CORNER



By Jean Kerr
Housing Specialist

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved three capital improvement petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park. They appear in order of

their petition numbers:

Capital Improvement Petitions

7106-7108 Maple Avenue (2005-94L)

On March 12, 2006, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$5.14 to \$13.76 on all nine units at the property. The improvements included patching, sealing, and relining the parking lot, replacing front door closer, heat circulator pump, and toilet.

321 Boyd Avenue (2006-2L)

On March 17, 2006, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$14.72

to \$15.33 on three units at the property. The improvements included replacing the air conditioners.

8118 Roanoke Avenue (2006-7L)

On March 17, 2006, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$7.17 to \$8.65 on all three units at the property. The improvements included replacing the windows.

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

Deadline for Submissions:
May 15
Next Issue:
May 26

Editor
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Layout
Bonnie L. Down

Production
Sligo Computer Services, Inc.

www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 45, no. 8

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.org.

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

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

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

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

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

To contact the editor e-mail:
tpnewseditor@takomagov.org

Housing Mailbox

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

A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding her concerns about lead paint in the rental unit she plans to occupy with her young son. She has learned that the rental unit was built during the 1940s and wants to know how she can secure information about lead paint in a rental unit.

The Maryland Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Law, which went into effect on February 24, 1996 requires that property owners: (1) abate all lead-based paint hazards in rental properties constructed prior to 1950; (2) register their properties with Maryland's Department of the Environment's Lead Poisoning Prevention

Program and (3) provide tenants with lead educational materials. Property owners who comply with the law are entitled to limited liability protection if a child or pregnant woman is poisoned on their property. Takoma Park landlords are required to submit a copy of their state lead certification to the Department of Housing and Community Development in order to secure their rental license.

The law requires that landlords of rental units constructed before 1950 do the following:

1. Provide their tenant prior to moving in or on the move-in day with a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) brochure entitled Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home along with a copy of their lead inspection certificate;

2. Register their property with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and pay an annual \$15 registration fee;
3. Perform lead hazard maintenance known as Full Risk Reduction Treatments and provide tenants a copy of the Lead Paint Risk Reduction Certificate. This certificate is given to property owners who after completing the Full Risk Reduction Treatments have their property inspected by an inspector accredited by MDE. A copy of this certificate will be on file at the MDE.

For additional information call the state of Maryland Lead Hotline at 410-537-4199 or 800-776-2706. (TTY Users call 800-735-2258).

The Takoma Park City Council Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Washington Area Housing Partnership

Invite you to join them in a discussion of local housing issues

Affordable Housing Forum

Tuesday, May 23, 2006 • 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

At the Takoma Park Community Center • 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park



Preserving Affordable Housing in Takoma Park
Developing Housing Trusts
Best Practices in the Area



Come hear from the experts and join in the discussion

For further information, contact the City of Takoma Park
at 301-891-7119

Speak with the Mayor

Have a meeting with Mayor Porter and let her know your issues and concerns.

Meeting hours are every Tuesday, 2 – 5 p.m. by appointment; and every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome for the Wednesday evening hours only.

To schedule a meeting, contact Executive Assistant Peggys Forster at 301-891-7230 or peggyef@takomagov.org.

Harvest Water for Your Garden

By Michele McKeever
for the Takoma Park Committee
on the Environment

Do you want to reduce your water bill? Do you want to recycle a natural resource? Do you want to help the watershed? Do you want to help reduce pollution in our community? If you answered, yes to these questions, you may be interested in attending a rain barrel making workshop that Takoma Park's Committee on the Environment is sponsoring May 7.

The Water Problem: Droughts

Residential irrigation can account for 40 percent of domestic water consumption in a given municipality. Most of the water used outdoors is in the summer when most areas face water shortages. This water shortage period occurs at the same time plants and trees need water the most. As our population grows, we can expect to face more frequent water shortage situations: More frequent, longer droughts that lead to stress on our watershed, plants and animals, and water restrictions. Rising water prices are encouraging people to look for solutions. One easy and cost-effective solution is harvesting rainwater. Just look outside your window the next time it rains and imagine all the rain water that could be put to good use in your garden. Think about how paved surfaces are causing the rain to run off quickly, causing erosion, rather than soaking in slowly to be used by plants and streams over time as nature had intended. And think about how much money is literally going down the storm drain.

Harvesting Rainwater

Water harvesting is the capture, diversion, and storage of rainwater for plant irrigation and other uses. Coupled with the use of native and desert-adapted plants, rainwater harvesting is an effective water conservation tool because it provides free water that is not from the municipal supply. There are many benefits to harvesting rainwater.

When land is left in its natural state, the majority of rainfall soaks into forests and meadows, flows slowly underground, is filtered by natural processes, and eventually feeds streams, lakes, underground aquifers, and the Chesapeake Bay. The natural process of water soaking into the earth is destroyed when we cover the land with buildings, roads, and parking lots. The existing meadows and forests are replaced with roofs, concrete, and asphalt; all of which do not allow rain to penetrate the earth. Instead, the fallen rain quickly runs directly into storm drains, ditches, and streams, all without the benefit of filtration.

Harvested rainwater can help to improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees. Rain is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. Because it tends to have fewer sediments and dissolved salts than municipi-

pal water, rain water is ideal for a multitude of applications, including biodynamic and organic vegetable gardens, raised planter beds for botanicals, indoor tropical plants like ferns and orchids, automobile washing, and cleaning household windows.

Water harvesting not only reduces demand on our municipal water supply, it also helps the environment. The more rainwater you collect and use, the less need you will have to use chlorinated or other chemically treated tap water. The more we use rainwater, the less will go into storm sewers where it is mixed with oil and other toxic residues from streets, parking lots and other impervious surfaces. This stormwater runoff is frequently channeled into nearby streams and rivers, carrying pollutants and other contaminants into neighboring ecosystems and on to the Chesapeake Bay. These pollutants can include motor oils and gasoline that leak from vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens, and anything else that will float or dissolve in water. Pollution by this means is called non-point pollution, and is a huge problem. Collecting rainwater, whether via rain barrels or simply re-directing it to permeable areas of the property, can greatly enhance both your garden and local waterways. Water is taken up by your trees, shrubs and herbs and returned to the hydrologic cycle.

Besides helping the environment, an obvious reason for harvesting rainwater is to save money. You can collect a substantial amount of rainwater with a simple system such as a rain barrel. This extra water can have a significant impact on your water bill. Rain water diversion will also help decrease the burden on water treatment facilities and municipal drainage systems during storms.

One of the best reasons to start harvesting rainwater with rain barrels is that you will encourage others to do the same through example. By doing so, you will help to spread the culture of rainwater collection and in turn help your larger community and the environment.

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are containers which collect and store rain water from rooftops for later use, providing valu-



Photo by Virginia Myers Kelly

Mimi Iklé-Khalsa saves water by using her rain barrel to keep her Takoma Park garden healthy and growing. The city is holding a rain barrel-making workshop on May 7. For \$35, you can start saving water – and money – on your own.

able and useful opportunities for water conservation while also preventing the loss of stormwater as runoff. Water collected in a rain barrel would normally flow through your downspout, onto a paved surface, and eventually into a storm drain. Since the rain water is usually collected from the roofs of houses, it picks up very little contamination when it falls. You'll of course want to keep your roof clean of debris and potential contaminants to maximize purity.

Inexpensive rain barrels can be made from food grade plastic barrels or heavy-duty trash cans, or they can be purchased pre-made from numerous nonprofit agencies, commercial manufacturers, and retailers. In May, the Committee on the Environment will hold a workshop to allow you to make your own rain barrel, using recy-

cled 55-gallon food grade plastic barrels, which you will be able to take home with you at the end of the workshop. The workshop will be held on Sunday, May 7 at 1 p.m. at Heffner Park on Oswego Avenue in Takoma Park. All tools and materials will be provided. Cost for the workshop will be \$35. To register, call 301-891-7633.

Make Your Own Rain Barrel

Sunday, May 7 • 1 p.m.

Heffner Park Building
on Oswego Avenue



\$35 fee for materials
Call 301-891-7633 to register

Main Street Takoma Organizes Spring Clean-Up

Spring is here, so it's time to clean Old Takoma up and get ready for visitors.

Main Street Takoma will hold its 2006 Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The rain date will be the following Saturday, May 13.

People of all ages are needed to pitch in and polish up the Main Street corridor, which stretches from 4th Street, NW to Takoma Junction. It will be a

chance to pick up street litter, clean last year's notices off telephone poles, spruce up tree boxes, and practice some hands-on environmentalism. This year's date is the day before the Takoma Park House and Garden Tour, which annually brings a great number of visitors to the area.

To invest sweat equity in Old Takoma, meet up with other volunteers at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 13 at Takoma Junction, Laurel Avenue, or at

4th Street NW and Blair. Volunteer organizers, financial sponsors, and many helping hands are also needed. Interested individuals and organizations should contact the Main Street Takoma Design Committee, design-committee@mainstreettakoma.org.

The 2006 Spring Cleanup Day is a project of the Old Takoma Business Association and its Main Street Takoma initiative for downtown revitalization and improvement.

LIBRARY

Friends Reading Group Meets

The reading group sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will meet in the Library on Wednesday, May 31 for a discussion of *The Known World* by Edward Jones.

Set in Manchester county, Virginia, 20 years before the Civil War began, this novel unfolds with overlapping plot lines, time shifts, and details of life under slavery. Caldonia Townsend is an educated black slave owner, the widow of a well-loved young farmer named Henry, whose parents had bought their own freedom, and then freed their son, only to watch him buy himself a slave as soon as he had saved enough money. Although a fair and gentle master by the standards of the day, Henry Townsend had learned from his former master about the proper distance to keep from one's property. After his death, his slaves wonder if Caldonia will free them. When she fails to do so, but instead breaches the code that keeps them separate from her, a little piece of Manchester County begins to unravel.

Copies of *The Known World* are on reserve in the Library. All are invited to join us for this informal discussion at 7:30 p.m.

Book Sale Returns

The Friends semi-annual book sale will be held on Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Library lawn. Our space for book donations is limited, so call first! Those who wish to volunteer are encouraged to contact Ellen Robbins at the Library.

The Friends book sales have long been a major fund-raiser for the Friends. Proceeds have been used to fund computer equipment, lanyards, special programs, books, and reference databases. Find bargains and support the Library by attending the book sale on May 27!

The Mystery Patron

We are still puzzling over who might have placed an intriguing grey envelope into our blue library book return on April 1. This unknown patron gave us a good laugh as we were forced to look with fresh eyes at the sign on the book drop. The L-I at the beginning and the Y at the end of Library had worn off during the many moves the poor book drop had endured during construction of the Community Center.

The grey envelope was addressed: TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY. The message continued: I am so happy to find a bra return box. I have looked for one for years. Please let me know if I have any late fines, Thank you. Ms. A. Pril Fools. Inside was a slightly stretched-out grey sports bra.

Round up the usual suspects!

Library Programs for May

Friends Semi-Annual Library Book Sale

Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Library lawn (*see story*)

FTPML Reading Group

Discussion of *The Known World* by Edward Jones
Wednesday, May 31, 7:30 p.m. (*see story*)

Spring Session of the Twosies

For two-year-olds and parent or caregiver
Preregistration required: group-size limited
Four Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
(April 19, 26,) May 10, 17

Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks

Each Thursday at 10 a.m. beginning February 2
Spanish immersion for children
18 months to five years
No pre-registration required

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
Participant-leadership welcomed.
All ages; no pre-registration required

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



City of Takoma Park, Maryland Notice of a Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

The City Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2006, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 9.9% from \$1,163,361,412 to \$1,278,931,719.
2. If the City of Takoma Park maintains the current tax rate of \$0.6300 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 9.9% resulting in \$728,093 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.573, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax of \$0.6300 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 9.9% higher than the constant yield rate and will generate \$728,093 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2006, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 for further information.

Katherine Paterson Honored Once More

By Jillian Hershberger

Children's & Youth Services Coordinator

Katherine Paterson, the multi-honored, world famous children's book author who Takoma Park is proud to claim as a one-time beloved resident has recently been awarded the newly established Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for 2006. The award of 5 million Swedish crowns is the world's largest for children's and youth literature and the second-largest literature prize in the world. The award was founded by the Swedish government in 2002 to honor the memory of Sweden's favorite author who wrote the Pippi Longstocking stories, among other books.

Authors, illustrators, story-tellers and promoters of reading are eligible for the award for life-long work or artistry. The website states that the body of work must uphold the highest artistic quality and evoke the deeply humanistic spirit that Astrid Lindgren treasured.

The jury made the following statement about their choice of Katherine Paterson for this award:

Katherine Paterson (USA) is a brilliant psychologist who gets right under the skin of the vulnerable young people she creates, whether in historical or exotic settings, or in the grim reality of the USA today. With a deft aesthetic touch she avoids simple solutions, building instead on the inner strength and courage of her main characters.

Katherine and her husband, the Rev. John Paterson (pastor of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church in the 1960s and 70s) and their son David were guests at the Takoma Park Elementary School in the spring last year when a tree was replanted in memory of the little girl whose friendship with David and subsequent tragic death led to Katherine's writing of the *Bridge to Teribithia*. The book won the Newbery Award in 1978. (Read the full story by Diana Kohn at http://www.takoma.com/archives/copy/2005/06/features_takomaarchives0605.html)

Sadly, at the time of that visit, Katherine and John's dear friend Gene Namowicz, another Takoma Park children's writer and the Takoma Park Maryland Library's patron saint, lay seriously ill in Washington Adventist Hospital. Katherine's second Newbery Award book, *Jacob Have I Loved*, was dedicated to Gene, and after her death in early June 2005, Katherine and John sent a substantial check to our library in her memory. We have still not decided on the appropriate memorial for Gene, but we have not forgotten.

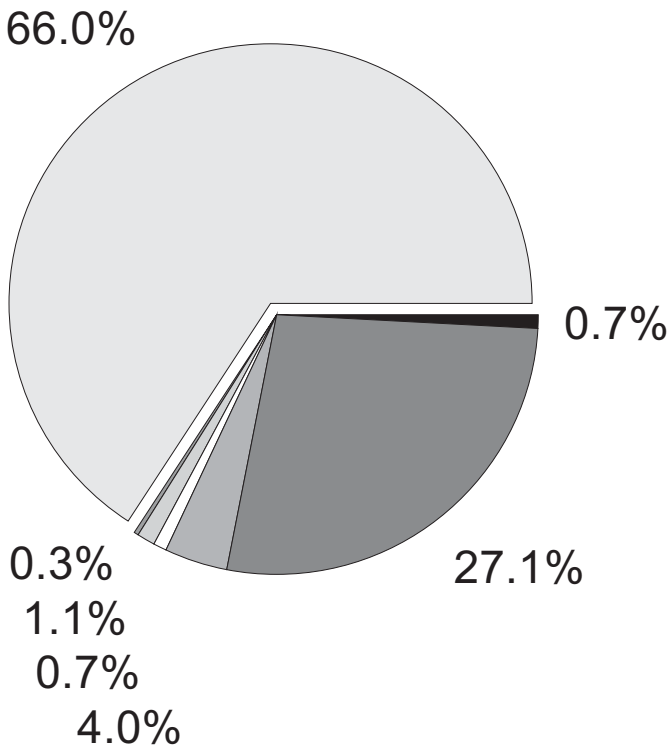
Katherine Paterson has won numerous book awards including the National Book Award, but the one most closely resembling the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is the Hans Christian Anderson Award given by the International Board on Books for Youth. Katherine traveled to New Delhi for that award in 1998. She was also been designated as one of 78 Living Legends by the Library of Congress for its Bicentennial in 2000. All Takoma Park can concur most heartily.

FY 07 Budget • General Fund

Revenues by Type

TOTAL = \$16,509,092

- Taxes & Utility Fees - \$10,899,792 (66.0%)
- Licenses & Permits - \$56,754 (0.3%)
- Fines & Forfeitures - \$178,000 (1.1%)
- Use of Money & Property - \$111,000 (0.7%)
- Charges for Service - \$661,600 (4.0%)
- Intergovernmental - \$4,478,646 (27.1%)
- Miscellaneous - \$123,300 (0.7%)



City Budget

continued from front page

decrease in average police salaries due to staff turnover. In order to hold the City harmless, the County Executive s proposed budget maintains the FY07 tax duplication payment at the prior year level. The City was successful in negotiating a higher payment for the additional crossing guard hired for the Philadelphia /Cedar crossing.

State police protection revenues are projected to decrease by approximately \$38,000 compared to the FY06 budget. The monies received by the City are based on police-related expenditures. The amount in prior years was higher due to the police-related component of the Community Center project.

Also, income tax revenues are projected to go up by \$101,000, and revenue from the recreation department is expected to increase by \$81,600 due to increased programming now possible because of the facilities in the community center.

Spending priorities

Significant changes to expenditures reflect the priorities set by the city council for the upcoming year: preserving affordable housing, completing the Community Center, promoting appropriate development, in particular along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor, and making tax duplication payments from the county fairer.

Several new expenditures are found in the Housing and Community Development Department,

where proposed funds would pay for an additional code enforcement officer and an additional planning intern to concentrate on the New Hampshire Avenue corridor; \$100,000 for consulting related to development; \$25,000 for neighborhood traffic studies; and funding for tenant capacity building and housing tax credit programs.

For the police department, the budget proposal includes \$114,940 for the expanded take-home car program for police officers, designed to boost recruiting; and two new part-time positions, for maintaining accreditation and to help with property and evidence. Another \$20,000 is proposed for emergency preparedness supplies. The Recreation Department has requested a 15-seat, handicapped-accessible bus, for \$53,000. The Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund, which provides funding for the future replacement of vehicles and equipment, would get \$300,000. And under capital improvements, \$45,000 would go to pedestrian safety, including \$25,000 for modifications at Glenside and Wildwood.

Under stormwater management, separated from the general fund areas described above, fees are increasing from \$28.63 per single-family residential lot, an amount established in 1999 and unchanged since then, to \$48, per a recent City Council decision. The additional revenue will help pay for a dramatic increase in inspection and maintenance costs since 1999. The fund covers construction, maintenance and repair of storm drains, inlets, channels, and ditches.

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007					
	General Fund	Stormwater Management Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Community Center Fund	Total
FY 2007 Revenues	16,509,092	376,500	890,069	435,575	18,211,236
FY 2007 Expenditures	17,444,564	348,881	894,708	615,767	19,303,920
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(935,472)	27,619	(4,639)	(180,192)	(1,092,684)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Sale of property	0	0	0	0	0
Operating transfers in (out)	(149,831)	0	4,639	145,192	0
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(149,831)	0	4,639	145,192	0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(1,085,303)	27,619	0	(35,000)	(1,092,684)
Fund Balance					
Beginning of year	4,270,398	76,407	450,331	35,000	4,832,136
End of year	3,185,095	104,026	450,331	0	3,739,452

Also separate from the general fund is the community center portion of the budget, funded by intergovernmental revenues, other financing sources, like the Takoma Foundation, as well as loans and transfers. Proposed revenues total \$580,767; another \$360,000 in state bond bill funds are anticipated as reimbursement, but are not reflected in the budget proposal, as city council has not yet approved the gym project they would finance. Community

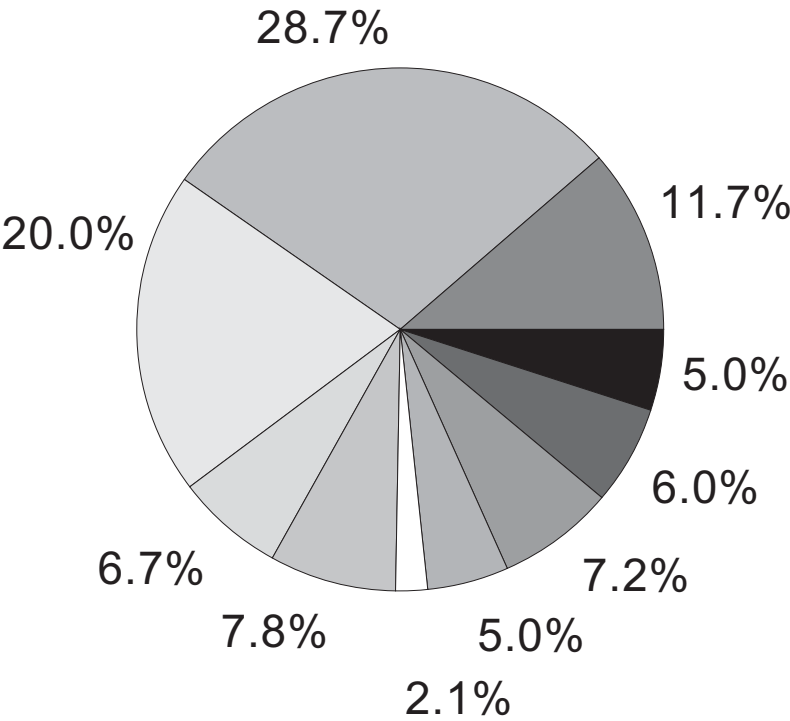
Center expenditures for FY07 are proposed at \$615,767, and would cover completion plus exploration of the proposed gymnasium: conceptual design, parking, and associated costs. Residents can comment on the proposed budget and related services for FY07 by attending the May 8 public hearing. The City Council will hold several work sessions on the proposed budget during the month of May. A final vote is scheduled for June 12.

FY 07 Budget • General Fund

Expenditures by Department

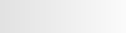
TOTAL = \$17,444,564

- General Government - \$2,032,564 (11.7%)
- Police - \$5,004,113 (28.7%)
- Public Works - \$3,493,716 (20.0%)
- Recreation - \$1,170,268 (6.7%)
- Housing & Comm Dev - \$1,352,076 (7.8%)
- Communications - \$357,981 (2.1%)
- Library - \$871,265 (5.0%)
- Non-Departmental - \$1,249,977 (7.2%)
- Capital Outlay - \$1,041,291 (6.0%)
- Debt Service - \$871,313 (5.0%)



TAKOMA PARK FY 2007 BUDGET SUMMARY - GENERAL FUND						
	Audited FY03	Audited FY04	Audited FY05	Budgeted FY06	Estimated FY06	Proposed FY07
REVENUES						
Taxes and utility fees	8,115,007	8,618,452	9,826,025	9,975,839	9,974,777	10,899,792
Licenses and permits	30,686	60,841	63,610	66,854	56,024	56,754
Fines and forfeitures	130,455	104,539	179,323	186,000	193,000	178,000
Use of money and property	174,989	67,280	130,511	106,000	155,500	111,000
Charges for service	569,734	535,401	662,179	580,000	570,600	661,600
Intergovernmental	3,403,661	3,494,647	4,013,828	4,440,346	4,481,899	4,478,646
Miscellaneous	652,055	382,952	212,079	289,880	263,385	123,300
Total Revenues	13,076,587	13,264,112	15,087,555	15,644,919	15,695,185	16,509,092
EXPENDITURES						
General Government	1,827,489	2,027,868	1,872,710	1,940,949	1,820,620	2,032,564
Police	3,938,440	4,129,507	4,317,704	4,642,381	4,575,141	5,004,113
Public Works	2,979,599	3,127,512	3,298,099	3,451,797	3,285,648	3,493,716
Recreation	875,888	911,957	899,148	1,109,234	974,780	1,170,268
Housing and Community Development	758,430	955,228	907,969	1,091,921	994,870	1,352,076
Communications	220,524	299,080	323,696	347,919	341,917	357,981
Library	650,934	685,218	726,621	866,172	804,042	871,265
Non-departmental	403,593	606,117	607,466	886,815	557,540	1,249,977
Capital outlay	1,042,789	394,641	1,166,388	2,202,562	1,741,872	1,041,291
Debt service	1,054,932	307,088	373,930	892,484	856,285	871,313
Total Expenditures	13,752,618	13,444,216	14,493,731	17,432,234	15,952,715	17,444,564
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(676,031)	(180,104)	593,824	(1,787,315)	(257,530)	(935,472)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Bond proceeds	380,000	19,475	2,005,000	0	0	0
Sale of Property	0	0	0	388,000	388,000	0
Operating transfers in (out)	(330,929)	(3,019,513)	(403,141)	(429,444)	(745,163)	(149,831)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	49,071	(3,000,038)	1,601,859	(41,444)	(357,163)	(149,831)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(626,960)	(3,180,142)	2,195,683	(1,828,759)	(614,693)	(1,085,303)
FUND BALANCE						
Beginning of year	6,496,510	5,869,550	2,689,408	4,885,091	4,885,091	4,270,398

Comment on the Proposed Budget and Related Services for FY07



Attend the May 8 Public Hearing

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.

Dungeons & Dragons

Grades 4 – 12

Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game set in medieval times. Dave Burbank is your guide on this amazing journey using your mind. Five weeks. No class on April 27.

When: Thursdays, May 18 – June 15
Time: 4 – 6 p.m.
Location: Auditorium, T. P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$30/session
Non-Resident \$40/session

Alternative Games

Ages 11 and older

For D&D veterans, Dave Burbank, the man who brought you D&D, has taken the game to a new level. Can you escape from the Zombie hordes in the City of Takoma Park? Or send your Battlemech into battle to defeat your opponent? Learn to use your hidden powers to survive the streets in the future. We ll play the usual (and unusual) mix of action, adventure, and strategy games. Maximum 12, minimum five participants, so sign up early. Four weeks.

When: Saturdays, May 6 – 27
Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Azalea Room, T. P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$40
Non-Resident \$50

Youth Marble Tournament

Ages 7 – 14

The Takoma Park Recreation Department is once again holding a Marble Tournament to qualify youth between ages of 7 and 14 for the National Marble Tournament held in Wildwood, New Jersey the week of June 18. All participants must pre-register for this tournament by Friday, May 19. There will be two separate tournaments, boys and girls.

When: Saturday, May 20
Time: Boys 10 a.m.
Girls 1 p.m.
Location: Jequie Park (Takoma & Albany Avenues)
Fee: Free

Coping with Challenging Behavior

Has your child become a picky eater? Feeling tired because he or she is waking up every night? Or are you embarrassed that your child hit another at the playground? Children pass through many stages as they grow, at times developing behaviors that can be very frustrating. This session will provide the practical tools and

parenting resources to help you understand and deal with your child in a positive and constructive manner as he/she moves forward. Instructors Alicia Sar and Kirsten Sandberg-DaSilva.

When: Wednesday, May 17
Time: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$25
Non-Resident \$30

Introduction to Professional Voice Acting

This two-hour class is designed for those with little or no previous acting or voice-over experience. Participants will be introduced to the realistic basics of professional voice acting for commercials, animation, books on tape, documentaries, children s material, and more. This class will discuss the recording studio, types of voices, and how it all works. Participants will have the opportunity to hear recorded samples of the instructor s professional voice at the end of the class. Instructor: Heather Kay from the Creative Voice Development Group.

When: Wednesday, May 10
Time: 6:30 – 9 p.m.
Location: Forsythia Room, T. P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$10
Non-Resident \$15

Nutrition and Cooking Classes

Food for Life is an eight-class series dedicated to cooking foods to help in cancer survival and prevention. All classes are free and are cosponsored by The Cancer Project. You may attend one or all of the classes but registration is limited, so sign up soon. For more information go to www.CancerProject.org.

Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
When: Alternate Tuesdays (see below)
Time: 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Resident Free
Non-Resident \$10
May 2, Flavoring Fiber; May 16, Discovering Dairy Alternatives; May 30, Replacing Meat; June 13, Planning Healthy Meals; June 27, Antioxidants & Phytochemicals; July 18, Immune-Boosting Foods; August 1, Maintaining a Healthy Weight.

Takoma Park Baseball Clinic

Grades 2 – 6

Learn how to play the American pastime properly! Remember the Flying Dutchman, Big Six, Big Poison, Little Poison, Shoeless Joe. Bring a glove and a water bottle. Four weeks. Program cancels in case of nasty weather.

When: Grades 2 – 3: Tuesdays, May 23 – June 13
Grades 4 – 6: Thursdays, May 25 – June 15
Time: 3:45 – 5 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field, 7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$10
Non-Resident \$15



Photo by Carey Antoszewski

Y.E.S. Basketball Program

Grades entering 6 – 12

You reach, I teach. All shake, no bake. Welcome back to the one and only Takoma Park Youth Exposed to Success Program. Eight games plus at least one playoff game and a t-shirt for each player.

Location: Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$20
Non-Resident \$30
Grades entering 6 – 8: workout Monday, May 22, 6 – 7:30 p.m.; regular season Tuesdays, June 6 – July 25, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Grades entering 9 – 10: workout Tuesday, May 23, 6 – 7:30 p.m.; regular season Wednesdays, June 7 – July 26, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Grades entering 11 – 12: workout Wednesday, May 24, 6 – 7:30 p.m.; regular season, Thursdays, June 8 – July 27, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

We need volunteer coaches!
Call 301-891-7282 to sign up.

Adult Yoga

Ages 16 and older

A class that practices a gentle flow focusing on increasing strength, flexibility, and balance. Other benefits include relaxation, stress relief, increased body awareness, and self-acceptance. Feel the synergy! All levels of practitioners are welcome. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing. Instructor: Sytera Field. Co-Sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Ten weeks.

When: Tuesdays
Session I: April 18 – June 20
Session II: June 27 – September 5
Time: 6 – 7 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$65
Non-Resident \$70

No class July 4.

Tai Chi For Healthier Lives

Ages 16 and older

Tai Chi helps the weak to become strong. The strong to become gentle. The stiff to become agile and the mind and body to become harmonized. An ancient Chinese practice to strengthen shaking legs, lubricate rusty joints, soften tight muscle, and increase awareness of sensitivity and balance. The goal is to develop a neutralized mind and relaxed body to face everyday challenges. Instructor: Christie Sue Cheely. Co-Sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Ten weeks.

When: Thursdays
Session I: April 20 – June 22
Session II: June 29 – August 31
Time: Beginner 7 – 8 p.m.
Intermediate 8 – 9 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$60/session
Non-Resident \$65/session

Open registration at Piney Branch Elementary on Thursday, June 1, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Movin' and Groovin'

Gentle, motivated, fun class for adults and babies to explore principals of stretching, yoga, creative movement, and dance. We will work with various movement styles for adults to find their bodies again, lengthen, strengthen, and dance while encouraging babies to explore rhythm, coordination and movement as well as play with props and enjoy gentle massage. This 45-minute retreat allows everyone to work at their own level while joyfully connecting with others. Bring extra baby blankets for baby. Maximum 12, Minimum five. Six weeks. Instructor Roxanna Young. <http://www.roxannayoung.com>.

Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Resident \$80
Non-Resident \$90

Ages Newborn to 7 months

When: Mondays, May 1 – June 12
Time: 11 – 11:45 a.m.

Ages 8 Months to 2 years

When: Mondays, May 1 – June 12
Time: 10 – 10:45 a.m.

BASIC PIANO

Beginning Piano

The Piano Adventure School of Music is coming to Takoma Park. This program consists of 15 minutes of music theory followed by 60 minutes of piano instruction for a group of four students. Structured to teach the fundamentals of music with an emphasis on development skills via a comprehensive curriculum that includes technique, ear training, written theory and method. A \$20 material fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class to cover piano books and equipment shared by all four students. Four weeks.

Location: Rose Room, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Residents \$100
Non Residents \$120

When: Mondays, May 1 – 22
Time: Ages 6 – 8, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Ages 9 – 12, 7:45 – 9 p.m.

When: Tuesdays, May 2 – 23
Time: Ages 13 – 15, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Ages 16 – 18, 7:45 – 9 p.m.

Beginners 1

For students with a little experience. See Beginning Piano plus: introduction to standard repertoire and a variety of styles: classical, pop, blues, jazz, and ragtime. A \$20 material fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class. It covers piano books and equipment shared by all four students. Four weeks.

Location: Rose Room, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Residents \$100
Non Residents \$120

When: Mondays, June 5 – 26
Time: Ages 6 – 8, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Ages 9 – 12, 7:45 – 9 p.m.

When: Tuesdays, June 6 – 27
Time: Ages 13 – 15, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Ages 16 – 18, 7:45 – 9 p.m.

continued on page 12



Photo by Debra Haiduvén

Photo by Carey Antoszewski



Folk Fest Seeks Artisans and Crafters

From funky to fine art, crafters are sought for the 29th Takoma Park Folk Festival. Whether artists work in metal, clay, glass, wood or yarn, they can apply now to reserve a booth at this well-attended annual event.

To ensure the highest quality of merchandise, the craft show will be juried. Applications are due by June 1. Crafters are invited to send five 35-mm color slides to the craft panel. Four slides should depict work that the artisan will offer at the festival and one slide should depict the display booth. Judges will select crafters for quality of work, artistic and economic variety and appearance of display. The show is open to all artisans who design and execute their own work. Only original work may be offered for sale; commercially-produced merchandise, imported items, articles assembled from plans, kits or molds and articles composed primarily of pre-manufactured components are not eligible for exhibit or sale.

The festival attracts thousands of fans of folk and world music from across the region, and crafters can anticipate lots of foot traffic and interest in their work. They must set up displays before 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 10 and attend the booth until 6:30 p.m. The festival is held rain or shine, at the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road in Takoma Park. The site is accessible by car, bus, or Metro (with free shuttle buses). On-site parking is reserved for the handicapped, and there is free satellite parking at the Montgomery College Parking Garage.

The Takoma Park Folk Festival, an all-volunteer event, raises funds to support local youth groups in Takoma Park and the surrounding area. For information about applying for a booth, visit www.tpff.org or call 301-589-0202.



Takoma Park City TV Events in May 2006

City TV crews have had a busy spring, and May should bring new programming from the March Jazz Band Brawl, the April Tastes of Takoma as well as highlights of Arbor Day, Egg Hunt, Earth Day and Favorite Poem events, all wonderful Takoma Park celebrations of spring!

Takoma Snapshots include:

Community Oriented Policing: Police Department Accreditation
Tastes of Takoma Highlights
Takoma Horticultural Club's 90th Anniversary
Takoma's Favorite Poems

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.

Some City TV programming, including Council meetings, Snapshots and the bulletin board, is now available on the website as a live and archived webstream. All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also 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 April 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)		Takoma Park Folk Festival
1:00 PM	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			
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	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Haiti a Suivre	
5:00 PM	Music da camera		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.gov/cable

Who would've thought a tape measure could save your child's life?

The #1 killer of children is car crashes. With a booster seat, your child is 59% less likely to be hurt or killed in a car crash. If they're under 4'9" you should put them in a booster seat. It raises them up so the seat belt and shoulder strap restrain them in the right places. So, pull out the tape measure and see how your kids measure up.



If they're under 4'9", they need a booster seat.

www.boosterseat.gov

THE CRIME REPORT

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

Prepared by: Lt. Richard Cipperly

Robbery

On March 31 at 9:45 p.m. in the 1400 block of Erskine St., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male entered his car, parked in front of his home, when two subjects approached him. One demanded he open the locked door and get out of his car while pointing a gun at him. The victim stepped out of his car, the second subject searched his pockets and removed property. Both subjects fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

On April 3 at 1:40 a.m. in the 900 block of Merrimack Dr., an armed robbery was attempted. Two masked subjects entered a business, pointed a handgun at two employees. One managed to flee to a back room to call police. The subjects fled with no property. The victims were not injured.

On March 17 at 6:19 p.m. in the 6600 block of Eastern Ave., an armed robbery occurred. An adult female was exiting her car when she was approached by two subjects. One displayed a handgun and demanded money. The victim gave him cash from her pockets, and the second subject entered her vehicle and took her wallet from her purse. The suspects fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

On March 17 at 9:18 p.m. in the unit block of Lee Ave., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male who had just made a food delivery was approached by two subjects after he got back into his car. One subject opened his car door, pointed a handgun at him and demanded money. After taking money, the suspects walked away. The victim was not injured.

On March 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the 100 block of Elm Ave., an armed robbery occurred. A woman was walking when two subjects approached her and demanded her purse. One implied he had a gun. After the subject took her bag, both subjects entered a waiting silver colored Dodge pickup truck with Maryland tags. A subsequent computer check showed the truck had been reported stolen in Prince George's County on the same date. The victim was not injured.

Assault

On April 2 at 10:16 a.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., an assault with a firearm occurred. An adult male heard his car alarm go off, saw an unknown subject standing next to his car and yelled at the subject from his apartment window. After the subject motioned the victim over, the victim exited his apartment and while walking toward his car, noticed an older model dark colored Cadillac parked behind his vehicle with two subjects inside. The subject he saw previously exited the Cadillac and pointed a handgun at the victim. The victim immediately ran back into his building. He was not injured.

Burglary

On March 21 at 4:30 p.m. in the 7000 block of Eastern Ave., a residential burglary occurred. The homeowner returned to his home and noticed his front door open. He walked around to the back of his house and saw a subject leaving that area. The back door had been forced open and property was taken.

On March 23, between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the 8100 block of Hammond Ave., a residential burglary occurred. A basement window was pried open to gain entry. Property was taken.

On March 24 between 8:05 a.m. and 3:29 p.m. in the 8200 block of Roanoke Ave., a residential burglary occurred. An air conditioning unit was removed from a ground floor window and a door was unlocked by reaching through the open window. Property was taken.

On March 30 at 3:54 a.m. in the 6800 block of New Hampshire Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. The front door window was smashed. Property was taken.

Auto and related theft

Between March 30 at 9 p.m. and March 31 at midnight in the 7000 block of Woodland Ave., a 2002 Toyota Prius was stolen by unknown method.

Between April 2 at 10 p.m. and April 3 at 5:30 a.m. in the 7700 block of Maple Ave., a 1990 Infiniti Q45 was stolen by unknown method.

Between April 3 at 6:30 p.m. and April 4 at 7 a.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., a 1996 Jeep Cherokee was stolen by unknown method.

Between March 16, time unknown and March 18 at 9 p.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., a 1996 Dodge Caravan was stolen by unknown method.

On March 19 at 4 p.m. in the 6900 block of Laurel Ave., an auto theft occurred. The owner of the 2002 Chrysler Towne & Country minivan parked and entered a store. As she exited the store, she saw three subjects speeding off in her vehicle. They were followed by a black Jeep Wrangler.

Between March 23 at 11:30 a.m. and March 24 at 11 a.m. in the 6600 block of New Hampshire Ave., a 2005 Yamaha dirt bike was stolen by unknown method.

On March 24 between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. in the 7000 block of Carroll Ave., a 1997 Plymouth Breeze was stolen by unknown method.

On March 29 between 11:50 p.m. and 11:58 p.m. in the 7500 block of Piney Branch Rd., a 2001 Toyota Avalon was stolen by unknown method.

On March 25 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the 6700 block of New Hampshire Ave., a 1995 Honda Accord was stolen by unknown method.

ARRESTS

On April 5 at 1:50 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with four counts each of forgery and uttering and ID theft and one of theft by scheme over \$500.

On April 3 at 11:39 p.m. in the 6900 block of Woodland Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with theft over \$500 and a female juvenile was arrested and charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On March 17 at 1:02 a.m. in the 600 block of Houston Ave., an adult female was charged with driving while intoxicated and driving under the influence of alcohol.

On March 17 at 10:15 a.m. in the 7700 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS, possession of CDS paraphernalia and possession of CDS packing material for distribution.

On March 19 at 12:27 a.m. at the intersection of Carroll Ave. and Laurel Ave., an adult female was charged with fleeing and eluding and several traffic related charges.

On March 20 at 11:59 a.m. at the intersection of Anne St. and Wildwood Dr., an adult male was charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia. A second adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for failure to appear in court on charges of 1st and 2nd degree assaults.

On March 21 at 12:51 a.m. in the 8600 block of Flower Ave., an adult female was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

On March 24 at 3:30 a.m. at the intersection of East West Highway and New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and several traffic related offenses.

On March 25 at 5:59 p.m. in the 8300 block of Roanoke Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with 1st and 2nd degree assault, reckless endangerment and concealed deadly weapon as a result of a call to police of a domestic assault.

On March 26 at 10:25 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with attempted murder, 1st degree assault and two counts of carrying a dangerous and deadly weapon as a result of an incident that occurred at the same location and date at 2:10 a.m.

On March 26 at 3:23 a.m. in the intersection of New Hampshire Ave. and Sligo Creek Pkwy., an adult male was

The Firehouse Report

As of March 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 254 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 620 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 874 incidents this year. Totals for 2005 were 244 and 664, respectively, for a total of 908, representing a decrease of 34 incidents.

Carbon Monoxide... Guard Against A Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide can be a sneaky enemy. Because it is invisible, odorless, and tasteless, it can hurt you before you even know it's there. Avoiding dangerous activities and checking for good ventilation can prevent most CO buildup. CO alarms can warn you if a problem occurs.

Sources of Carbon Monoxide

Any machine that burns fuel can produce carbon monoxide. Many ordinary household appliances and machines may produce CO, including:

- Non-electric, fuel-fired furnaces.
- Gas water heaters, stoves, and dryers.
- Gas-powered generators.
- Fireplaces, wood stoves, and charcoal grills.
- Lawnmowers, leaf blowers, etc.
- Cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

These machines can produce CO if they do not have enough fresh air flowing around them. If CO builds up near you and your family, you can be poisoned, injured, even killed.

Don't Let It Get to You

Carbon monoxide can be found in many places. How can you keep from being affected by it? A little bit of prevention goes a long way. Prevent CO emergencies by avoiding dangerous activities. Never run your car or other gas-powered vehicles in the house or garage, even if the garage door is open. Do not use a charcoal grill or a gas-powered generator inside a house, tent, or other enclosed space.

A Bit of Backup

Prevent a carbon monoxide tragedy by installing CO alarms. CO alarms look like smoke alarms. In fact, you can purchase a single alarm unit that detects both smoke and carbon monoxide. Note: Should you have any questions regarding carbon monoxide or smoke alarms, please contact your local fire department.



Fire in High-Rise Buildings

Know when to go...In some high-rise apartment buildings, the safest action when a fire alarm sounds may be to stay inside your apartment or condo and protect yourself from smoke until the fire department arrives. Some building evacuation plans may require you to go to a safe area inside the building and wait for the fire department to supervise evacuation. Consult your building management and know what to do in advance. Your building manager should post evacuation plans where everyone can see them. One very important safety tip: Never use an elevator during a fire!

Emergency Kit For Every Household

Every household should keep basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. The following suggested emergency supplies are basic, but individuals should consider their family's unique needs and living situation to create an Emergency Supply Kit that is right for their family.

A disaster supply kit is a collection of basic items that a household would probably need to stay safe and somewhat comfortable during and after a disaster. The supplies should be stored in a portable container(s), easily accessible in an emergency. The kit should be reviewed every six months as the household needs change. Emergency supplies might also be kept in each vehicle and at a place of employment.

The basics include:

Three- to five-day supply of nonperishable food and manual can opener

Three- to five-day supply of water (one gallon of water per person per day)

Portable battery-powered or crank radio or battery-powered television with extra batteries

Flashlight and extra batteries

First aid kit and first-aid manual

Sanitation and hygiene items (hand sanitizer, moist towelettes, toilet paper)

Whistle

Extra clothing and blankets

Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils

Photocopies of identification and credit cards

Cash and coins

Map of the local area

Special needs items such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solution and hearing aid batteries

Tools

Depending on a household's needs it could include hearing aid batteries; infant formula, diapers and formula; pet supplies

This information comes from the FEMA publication *Preparing for Disaster* (FEMA 475) (A4600). It and other emergency preparedness materials (below) are available online at www.fema.gov, www.redcross.org and www.ready.gov. The publications are also available by calling FEMA at 1-800-480-2520.

Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness (IS-22): suggestions for every type of natural and manmade disaster.

Helping Children Cope with Disaster (FEMA 478) (A4499)

Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs (FEMA 476) (A4497)

Food and Water in Emergency (FEMA 477) (A5055)



Emergency Preparedness
& Neighborhood Safety

POLICE NEWS

Officer of the Year 2005

Photo by Carol Bannerman



Jim Jarboe, Lions Club president and TPVFD chief, presents a plaque to Cpl. Rick Cannatella, Officer of the Year.

Cpl. Rick Cannatella has been named Police Officer of the Year for 2005. He was selected for his overall outstanding performance of patrol duties as well as his dedication to the agency in a variety of additional tasks.

Last year among his 40 total arrests, Cannatella affected eight arrests related to drug possession, four for auto theft, and eight for robbery and burglary. The committee commented on the follow-up he dedicates to his cases, including work with the States Attorney. Much of

his patrol work focused in his assigned beat in the sector along New Hampshire Avenue and University.

Cannatella is also a firearms instructor, armorer, and member of the agency's honor guard. He has been actively involved in procuring emergency preparedness equipment: with his supervisor he applied for and received surplus military equipment, which he is repairing and outfitting for police use. He is an active member of the department's uniform committee and works on detailing and equipping cruisers. Cannatella has previously received two Honorable Service medals and several Command Recognition awards, and received the Unit Citation in 2004 with Squad One. He joined the Department as a dispatcher in 1997 and became an officer the next year.

He was selected by an awards committee comprised of Chief Creamer, Lt. Cipperly, Sgt. Gilbert, Ofc. Gaskin and Ms. Cole. Cannatella and others will be honored at a Departmental dinner in May. Other awards cited by the committee include: Ofc. Stanley McLean, Meritorious Service Award, given to a member who, intelligently and in the line of duty, performs an act involving risk of life or conspicuous bravery. Last October, at a serious multiple-vehicle accident on New Hampshire Avenue, Ofc. McLean fought down flames and pried open the door of a burning vehicle. Although injured himself, McLean extinguished flames inside the vehicle and pulled the trapped and burning motorist from the car.

The Awards Committee noted that high morale and continuing productivity contributed to naming Sgt. Richard Bowers supervisor of the year as leader of Squad 1, which received the Unit Citation, for the second consecutive year.

Others to be honored include Det. C. Conrad, D/Sgt. T. Collington, Disp. A. Guarini, Diana Dean, Linda Rettberg, Carol Bannerman and Sgt. Frishkorn.

Police Arrest 12 in Drug Investigation Raid

Takoma Park Police arrested 12 suspects during a search warrant executed at a home in the 7800 block of Cole Avenue, at approximately 9 p.m. Thursday night, March 30.

The effort was the result of a four-month investigation begun based on intelligence provided by a patrol officer and a private citizen. The search located drugs, drug paraphernalia, and other evidence. Three of the suspects were detained on open warrants; the remaining suspects received criminal citations and were released.

The house was cited by Takoma Park's housing department for numerous code violations and boarded up by Public Works staff. A week later investigators received a call from a private investor who indicated he had purchased the home for renovation and eventual rental as a single family residence.

Personnel serving the warrant included TPPD Criminal Investigations, two patrol squads and the Montgomery County SWAT team, consisting of Montgomery County Police and Sheriff officers.

Learn About Policing Careers

Do you wonder what it takes to become a police officer?

Have you considered what opportunities are available at the Takoma Park Police Department?

For more information, contact the Police Recruiting Team by calling Sgt. Ty Collington or Ofc. Paula Gaskin at 301-891-7128.

Just interested in learning how an officer spends an evening on patrol?

To schedule a ride-along with a Takoma Park officer, complete a Ride-Along Application, available any time from the Dispatcher on duty at 7500 Maple Avenue.

May is the second month of the Maryland Chiefs Challenge, when police officers statewide are strictly enforcing use of seat belts and child safety restraints.

Buckle up every time you drive and protect your children too.

Register Now for Experienced Driver Refresher Course

The AARP Driver Safety course will be offered June 8-9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Takoma Park Community Center. The eight-hour classroom course is being sponsored by the Takoma Park Police and its Community Oriented Policing squad.

The course is open to anyone aged 50 years or older. Those who complete the full class will be awarded a certificate, which may be recognized by their insurance company for an insurance discount.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is designed to sharpen driving skills, compensate for normal age-related changes, and help motorists drive more safely by reducing traffic violations, crashes, and chances for injuries. Typically younger drivers have safety issues related to speed and reckless or impaired driving. Generally, older motorists have problems in driving situations that require quick response, full vision and interaction with other drivers. These will be addressed in the class, taught by an experienced motorist, trained by the AARP.

Registration for the course is \$10 per person, covering all materials and refreshments. The class will meet in the third-floor Atrium Meeting Room. Return the coupon below to the Takoma Park Police. Class size is limited to 20 people, who must be at least 50 years of age (unless registering with someone that age). Call 301-891-7124 for more information.

Four out of five of AARP graduates say they changed driving behavior as a result of taking the course. More than 700,000 people complete the AARP Driver Safety Program each year.

AARP Driver Safety Class Sponsored by the Takoma Park Police

Name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone

☐ I am at least 50 years of age or older ☐ Enclosed is \$10 (check payable to AARP)

Return registration and payment to:



Photo by Carol Bannerman

Chris Eckford was sworn in as a Takoma Park Police officer April 17, joined by Mayor Kathy Porter, right, and Police Chief Cindy Creamer. Eckford served as a Takoma Park dispatcher for three years before becoming a Howard County police officer in 1998. A Florida native, he returned to that state as a deputy sheriff in 2004. Two devastating hurricane seasons encouraged his return to Maryland. He will serve his 90-day field training with Squad 2. Eckford is the father of two.

Recreation
continued from page 6

Drawing and Watercolor

Ages 11 – 14

Have fun learning techniques of black and white and color drawing, watercolor painting, pen and ink, and mixed media. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting), and floral studies. Develop observational skills and explore personal expression through color, light, form, and movement. Materials/ model fee of \$25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Six weeks.

When: Tuesdays, May 2 – June 13
Time: 3 – 5 p.m.
Location: Art Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$130
Non-Resident \$140

No class on May 16.

Drawing and Portfolio Development

Ages 15 – 18

If you enjoy drawing from observation and are thinking you may want to put together a portfolio for college entry or just enjoy the process of making art, this class is a great choice. Landscape, portrait, self-portrait, figure still life, floral, and interior will be offered. Katie Dell Kaufman (former Director of Admissions at the Corcoran College of Art and Design) will instruct in graphite, charcoal, trois crayons, oil and chalk pastels and give demonstrations, critiques, and individual instruction appropriate to each student's level. Materials/ model fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Six weeks.

When: Thursdays, May 4 – June 8
Time: 3 – 5:30 p.m.
Location: Art Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$175
Non-Resident \$195

No class May 16.

Drawing

Ages 18 and up

This class will begin with black and white materials (charcoal, conte crayon, or black and white pastels) and end with color materials (colored pencils, oil pastels, or chalk pastels.) Subject matter will include figure, portrait, self portrait, still life, and interior. 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, due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Six weeks.

When: Thursdays, May 4 – June 8
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$200
Non-Resident \$220

Collage

Ages 18 and up

Come explore new ways of combining materials and media. You will be introduced to a variety of techniques, work with found and altered materials, and creative two and three-D assembly. Personal expression, using items of personal significance and ways of integrating art and life are all part of the experience of learning how collage can bring your artwork to life. Instruction will be given in using supports, priming and preparing surfaces, and adhering various collage materials. Suitable for beginners as well as more experienced students. Basic materials (adhesives, supports, papers and paints) provided (some personal or found collage elements may be required in addition to materials provided). Materials fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Six weeks.

When: Tuesdays, May 2 – June 13
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident \$200
Non-Resident \$220

No class May 16.

Donate to
Parade Benefit Yard Sale

The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee is holding a
Yard Sale on Saturday, May 20
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
on the Takoma Park Library grounds,
101 Philadelphia Avenue
to help defray the expenses for the
July 4th parade and fireworks.
The committee needs your help!

Spring Clean your house for a good cause.

Donations of quality items in good and clean condition for the yard sale are needed. Knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, furniture, collectibles, household items, bicycles, toys, appliances (only if they work, please), exercise equipment, office equipment, etc., are welcome. All donations (no clothes please) should be brought to the Municipal Building back entrance, 7500 Maple Avenue, Friday, May 19, between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. If you need help with large items, or for further information, call 270-8121 or 270-6876.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Takoma Park Jazz Fest
presents

Odd Instruments

Including a circus calliope, theremin, skiffle, and scat
Saturday, June 10
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Jequie Park
Fenton St./Takoma Takoma Park, MD

To volunteer, call Reggie Coates, 202-829-3088.
To become a board member or help produce the event,
call Dave Lorentz, 301-589-4433.



More
Fun
At
Easter
2006



Photos by Debra Haidtven