Greening the City, One Person at a Time

By Virginia Myers Kelly

The environment is big news this summer. Flooding has taken out bridges and bike paths in Sligo Creek. Mercury is soaring. “Code red” days, when air quality is so bad people are warned to stay inside, are commonplace.

And this summer a documentary film about global warming joined X-Men, The Last Stand as on of the top ten most popular movies.

Joseph Horgan, a member of Friends of Sligo Creek, relaxes on a green roof that both gives Takoma Park homeowner Nina Garfield expanded outdoor space to enjoy and provides a place for stormwater runoff.

We examine what resident are doing: Thinking globally, acting locally.

Home is where the impact is

One of Takoma Park’s best known environmental crusaders is Mike Tidwell, whose home has become a showcase for affordable, clean-energy living. Tidwell, who founded the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (chesapeakeclimate.org), has conducted 34 tours of his home since he converted it to green energy in 2001.

Tidwell and his family are so committed to reducing energy consumption that their electric meter runs backward. Much of this is due to photovoltaic (solar) panels on the roof, which produce 70 percent of the household’s energy.

There’s also a solar hot water system and a corn stove for winter heat. Even before installing renewable energy systems, the family reduced energy consumption by 52 percent with a high-efficiency refrigerator, compact fluorescent light bulbs, drying clothes on a line, and switching off lights in unoccupied rooms. Tidwell converted his home to green energy for about $7,500, and with the energy savings his costs come out to $30 per month.

Anxious to spread the word, Tidwell hands out practical follow-up contacts.

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For updated schedule information, check the Tuesday, August 15 Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, August 1 - Monday, September 4 - City Council Summer Recess

Tuesday, August 8 - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Lilac Room)

Tuesday, August 15 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

Wednesday, August 23 - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Meeting Room)

Thursday, August 31 - 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.

Council-appointed Boards and Committee Vacancies

Arts and Humanities Commission. The commission serves in an official advisory role to the City Council on all matters related to the arts and humanities which promote, coordinate and strengthen public programs to further cultural development of the city.

Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center. The committee includes city residents who serve 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. Providing guidance and 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 on a regular basis when required.

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.

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 via e-mail to JessieC@takomagov.org. Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at 301-891-7267.

June 12 - Regular Meeting

Ordinance 2006-19, establishing the FY07 Tax Rate, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-20, establishing the FY07 Stormwater Budget, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich). Ordinance 2006-21, establishing the FY07 Budget (including FY07-11 CIP), was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich). Ordinance 2006-22, establishing the FY07 Management and Non-Union Staff Pay Plan, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-23, establishing the FY07 Police Pay Plan, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-26, authorizing FY07 Budget Amendment No. 6, was adopted by first reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-27, establishing the FY07 Fire Pay Plan, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-28, establishing the FY07 Fire Protection Services Budget, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-29, establishing the FY07 Management and Non-Union Staff Pay Plan, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-30, establishing the FY07 Management and Non-Union Staff Pay Plan, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

Ordinance 2006-31, establishing the FY07 Police Pay Plan, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Clay, Elrich).

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.

June 19 - Special Session

Resolution 2006-36, endorsing the proposed 2007 Community Legacy application, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Williams).

Resolution 2006-37, supporting Neighborhood Businessworks Program financing for the Old Takoma Business Association, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Williams).

Resolution 2006-38, authorizing submission of the City’s 2007 MML Legislative Action Requests, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Williams).

Resolution 2006-39, approving participation in the New Alternate Contributions Pension System offered by the Retirement and Pension System of Maryland, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Williams).

Ordinance 2006-29, authorizing the purchase of a dump truck, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Clay).

July 10 - Special Session

Single Reading Ordinance 2006-27, authorizing the purchase of a small bus for the Recreation Department, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Clay).

Single Reading Ordinance 2006-28, approving the purchase of a dump truck, was adopted by roll-call vote (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Clay).

Ordinance 2006-29, authorizing a contract for rent stabilization recodification services, was adopted at first reading (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Williams; VOTING AGAINST: Seamens; ABSENT: Barry, Clay).

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

A. Resolution 2006-34, providing for appointments to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

B. Resolution 2006-35, providing for appointments to the Facade Advisory Board

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.
Folk Fest Adds Hip-Hop

By Kevin Adler
Chairman, Takoma Park Folk Festival

What is folk music? It’s a question the Takoma Park Folk Festival producers have wrestled with for years. The Festival is designed with numerous goals in mind. We want to create an exciting program, with top-quality performances for people of all ages. We want performances to represent many folk traditions from around the world through music, dance, and storytelling. We want to bring back some of our most popular performers, the friends and neighbors who are part of the fabric of Takoma Park. We also want the Festival to be organic, to evolve, and to offer the unusual or unexpected.

Which brings us to hip-hop. This year, for the first time, we will have two hip-hop performers at our one-day extravaganza on Sunday, September 10, at Takoma Park Middle School—Stom the Unpredictable, an award-winning performer and songwriter who lives in Oxon Hill, will be at our 7th Heaven Stage, and the youth hip-hop dance ensemble Future Shock will be at the Grassy Nook.

“Hip-hop is an emerging form of folk music,” says Derek Hill, a member of the Program Committee. “It’s a spoken-word poetry set to music that’s live or recorded, or a combination of both. Plus it’s listened to by people of all ages and races, and its influence is everywhere. We’re hearing it reaching all ages and races, and its influence is both positive and negative. We’re seeing the world through music, dance, and storytelling. We want to bring back some of our most popular performers, the friends and neighbors who are part of the fabric of Takoma Park. We also want the Festival to be organic, to evolve, and to offer the unusual or unexpected.

The desire of many hip-hop artists to address political issues also reflects an important folk music tradition, Hill adds. “Folk artists who came out of the 1960s protest music tradition want to sing about social issues. Storm the Magnificent does the same thing.” Hill says.

“One of the great things about the Festival is that we can incorporate something new—often as we celebrate the music and musicians we who know and love,” says Pam Larson, co-chair of the Program Committee. “We introduced a Singer-Songwriter Showcase three years ago so that we could provide an outlet for folk singers who had not been part of the Festival in the past. Now, bringing in Stom and Future Shock is another example of our embrace. Plus, I’ve seen Future Shock, and they’re great. Lots of energy, and the kids will have a great time.”

This year’s Festival certainly embraces many musical traditions. Seven stages will showcase more than 50 music, dance, and storytelling performances, including Irish and Celtic songs, West African drumming, traditional and modern South American music, bluegrass, Cajun, lots of singer-songwriters, and a tribute to Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. “We really try to embrace and reflect the ethnic diversity of the area, while showcasing the talented performers,” says Diana Friedman-Chiu, who is in charge of programming the Festival’s World Stage. “I grew up here, in Silver Spring, and one thing that stands out is the international flavor.”

The World Stage, as its name implies, is especially broad-ranging. This year the stage will include: Irish-Celtic sounds of Shen Fine (an abbreviation of “Shenandoah’s Finest”); Alicia Deen’s Latin American–influenced pop stylings; Eastern European Jewish music from Klezmorim; the Ziva Spanish Dance Ensemble; Cheik Hamala Dibate’s music from Mali; Peruvian flute musicians Yawari; and Russian music from the Samovar Folk Ensemble. “Oh just this one stage, we will have performers from four continents,” said Friedman-Chiu. “Because the singers and some performers come in native costumes, it’s also a very colorful sight.”

The children’s stage, known as the Grassy Nook, is almost as diverse. Performances include Future Shock’s hip-hop, Korean dance, Welsh storytelling, American storytelling, Uncle Pete’s comic antics, and Frank “Banjo Man” Cassel’s American classics for kids.

Other stages each have their themes, too: World folk music “gone big”; Abbott (traditional folk music); Grove and 7th Heaven (contemporary singer-songwriters); and Lenore Robinson Dance Stage (dance instruction).

For folks who tire of the music (as if that’s possible), there are many other entertainment and educational options all day. The juried Crafts Show and Sale will have 49 artisans with hand-crafted pottery, candles, textiles, woodworking, jewelry, and more. At least 100 Community Tables will represent local churches and schools, sports leagues, political candidates, environmental causes, and more. Two activities areas for kids will include games and face-painting with Cub Scout Pack 33, and hand-on art with Abrakadoodle, which provides "In the Culture of the World," which provides a wide variety of cultural crafts, foods, and activities.

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To contact the editor e-mail: tptnewseleitor@takomapark.org

Reel Fun with Your Home Movies
The Takoma Park Film Festival wants to see your home movies—really! In its first celebration of Home Movie Day, an annual, worldwide event featuring old Super 8, Regular 8 or 16mm home movies, the group is urging local families to share their footage. The affair will also feature experts on film preservation and speakers from local preservation societies.

Anybody may bring their Super 8, Regular 8 or 16mm home movies to the event, where film fest volunteers will inspect films for damage and add leader, if necessary, before projecting them. (Participants will also be asked to sign a waiver releasing us from any damage due to a film’s poor condition.) Participants can choose to introduce their films or speak over them as they are being projected. Representatives from local historical societies will speak to the cultural and historic importance of small gauge film, and organizers are hoping to have experts on film preservation on hand to make recommendations on handling and storage.

“There’s no such thing as a bad home movie,” says famed director John Waters. “These mini- underground opuses are revealing, scary, joyous, always flawed, filled with accidental art and shout out from attics and closets all over the world to be seen again. Home Movie Day is an orgy of self-discovery, a chance for family memories to suddenly become show business. If you’ve got one, whip it out and show it now!”

Takoma Park’s Home Movie Day will take place at the Community Center from 2 to 5 p.m. on August 12. It is free and open to all. For more information, see www.takomaparkfilmfestival.org/news.html or www.home movieday.org.

Deadline for Submissions: August 14
Next Issue: August 25

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You never know what you’ll get when you’re showing home movies — this underwater tea party surfaced at an annual Home Movie Day screening.
The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved two capital improvement petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park. They appear in order of their petition numbers:

**Capital Improvement Petitions**

**115 Lee Avenue (2006-29L)**

On July 5, 2006, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of $72.97 for one unit at the property. The improvements included electrical wiring, installation of new fixtures, lights, break box, plaster, and painting.

**8208 Houston Court (2006-36H)**

On June 25, 2006, a hardship rent increase petition was not granted because the landlord failed to show after adjusting for inflation, that the Net Operating Income (NOI) in the previous base year (1990) is larger than the Net Operating Income (NOI) in the petition year. The landlord has filed a request for a COLTA hearing which is scheduled for August 15, 2006.

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

Para someter solicitudes:

Las solicitudes estarán disponibles a partir del 14 de agosto de 2006. Los documentos para someter dicha pre-solicitud pueden ser recogidos en los lugares que se mencionan a continuación, en nuestro Condado: NO SE ENVÍARÁ POR CORREO NINGÚN SOLICITUD DE LA "HOC"; sólo llave a alguno de los siguientes puntos para obtener los documentos de solicitud:

- Todas las Direcciones Públicas del Condado de Montgomery
- Centro de Servicio Regional del Condado de Montgomery
- Agencias de Vivienda del Condado de Montgomery
- Montgomery Works Wheaton, Westfield Shoppingtown Plaza, 11020 Veirs Mill Road, 1st floor, Wheaton, Md.
- Montgomery Works Laurelstone, Laurelstone Mall, 701 Russell Avenue, 2nd, Gaithersburg, Md.
- En la página web de la "HOC": www.hocnc.org Todas las solicitudes remitidas a través de internet serán aceptadas.

Las solicitudes serán aceptadas si se remiten por correo a la dirección que se muestra a continuación o, en su defecto, si se envían a través de internet a www.hocnc.org. Por favor, mande sus solicitudes directamente a las oficinas de la "HOC".

**Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List**

**Waiting List Opens**

**August 14, 2006 - August 18, 2006**

The Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) of Montgomery County, Md., will open its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List on Monday, August 14, 2006. The Waiting List will close on Friday, August 18, 2006. To apply:

- Pre-applications will be available beginning August 14, 2006.
- Pre-applications can be picked up from various locations (listed below) in the County.
- NO PRE-APPLICATIONS WILL BE MAILED FROM HOC. The pre-applications can be picked up at:
  - All Montgomery County Public Libraries
  - Montgomery County Regional Service Centers
  - Montgomery County Non-Profit Agencies
  - Montgomery Works Wheaton, Westfield Shoppingtown Plaza, 11020 Veirs Mill Road, 1st floor, Wheaton, Md.
  - Montgomery Works Laurelstone, Laurelstone Mall, 701 Russell Avenue, 2nd, Gaithersburg, Md.
  - On the HOC websites: www.hocnc.org O EN-LINE APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED.
- Pre-applications will only be accepted by mail at the addresses shown below or ONLINE at: www.hocnc.org. Please do NOT deliver applications to HOC's offices. Mail complete applications to:

**Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List**

Post Office Box 629
Kensington, MD 20895-0629

El hecho de someter una pre-solicitud no garantiza la obtención de una vivienda o de una plaza en la Lista de Espera para la Selección de Vivienda, de acuerdo a la Sección 8. Todas aquellas pre-solicitudes recibidas por correo ordinario o a través de internet, entre el 14 y el 18 de agosto de año en curso, serán procesadas como si hubieran sido recibidas por la "HOC" al mismo tiempo.

**TODAS AQUELLAS FAMILIAS QUE ENVÍAN UNA PRE-SOLICITUD EN AGOSTO DE 2006 Y QUE NO HAN SIDO BENEFICIADAS EN EL PROCESO DE SELECCIÓN SEBIÉN REMITIR, DE NUEVO, OTRA PRE-SOLICITUD PARA, DE ACUERDO CON LAS DIRECTRICES PARA LA PARTICIPACIÓN EN LA LISTA DE ESPERA, LAS SOLICITUDES DEL PERIODO CORRESPONDIENTE A AGOSTO DE 2006 DEBERÁN DESESTIMARSE.**

La "HOC" realizará un sorteo para proceder a la selección de pre-solicitudes que opten a la selección así como entregadas a las familias solicitantes, durante un período de, al menos, 12 meses o hasta que de acuerdo a la Sección 8 de la Lista de Espera para la Selección de Vivienda, las solicitudes sean procesadas como si hubieran sido recibidas por la "HOC" en el mismo tiempo.

El número de teléfono de la Línea de Atención es el 301-992-5401. Dicha Línea de Atención comenzará su servicio el 1 de Agosto de 2006. El número TTY para personas con deficiencias auditivas es el 301-992-5072.
Adopt A Tree on “Main Street”

Even with record rainfall, the hot summer months can be awfully stressful for our publicly-owned trees. The Main Street Takoma Design Committee seeks to address this situation with the 2006 Adopt A Tree Program.

Through Adopt A Tree, businesses and residents along the Maryland portion of Main Street Takoma take care of publicly-owned trees between Takoma Junction and the state line, watering and picking up litter daily, until the end of October. For a $20 contribution, they get a logo watering bucket and a customized marker with the adopter’s name. Additional trees may be adopted for an additional $10 each. Eleven trees have already been adopted, so participants are encouraged to step up now!

It is hoped that regular, daily watering will help the trees make it through the summer months without succumbing to the heat stress and disease which annually take their toll.

Interested participants may learn more by contacting the Main Street Takoma Design Committee, designcommittee@mainstreettakoma.org. The 2006 Adopt A Tree Program is a project of the Old Takoma Business Association and its Main Street Takoma initiative for downtown revitalization and improvement.

New Funding for Main Street Takoma

Main Street Takoma has an additional $75,000 for facade improvement thanks to a matching fund program run by the state Department of Housing and Community Development. Funds will be distributed over a two-year period to pay for pre-approved improvements to the exteriors of existing commercial properties in the Maryland portion of Main Street Takoma, which stretches from Takoma Junction, down Carroll and Laurel Avenues, to the state line.

The Facade Improvement Program is administered by the Design Committee of Main Street Takoma. A fund of $15,000 was established for the FY2006-2007 cycle, and is already in use for projects in the downtown business district. The new funding, for FY 2007-2008, will offset up to 50 percent of the costs for an additional $150,000 of commercial restoration, renovation, and improvement.

Commercial tenants and property owners interested in learning more about matching funds for building improvements are urged to contact the Main Street Takoma Design Committee, designcommittee@mainstreettakoma.org.

Free Visual Smoke Alarms

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department has visual smoke alarms available. If you know someone who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing, please contact the fire station at 301-270-8209.

The Master Plan: Establishing a Vision

This article is part of an ongoing series by Housing and Community Development to explore the community vision for The City of Takoma Park — stable residential neighborhoods with linkages to public facilities and revitalized commercial centers — and the development framework that will achieve this vision. This series will explore the Takoma Park Master Plan 2000, and recommendations regarding commercial centers, neighborhoods, community-serving facilities, parks and open space, environmental features, and circulation systems. The Master Plan is comprehensive for the City of Takoma Park was developed with community members through advisory groups, community workshops, forums, and public hearings. More detailed information is available online at www.mnc-mncpcp.org. Printed copies are available from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 737 Grottoes, Silver Spring, Maryland. The Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance may be consulted on the “libraries” page of www.amlaw.com.

Commercial Revitalization – What’s the Vision?

What does the near future look like in Takoma Park? The city’s master plan, developed by community members, states it this way: a city of safe, attractive, community-serving, and convenient commercial centers, with places for people to gather, walk, talk, shop, ride bicycles, not just shop. It recommends sidewalks with improved streetscapes (wider walking places, trees and landscaping, and higher quality materials), and revitalization coordinated with Prince George’s County and the District of Columbia.

One main component is the Takoma Park/East Silver Spring Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone (CROZ), a new zone for all commercial property in Takoma Park with the exception of Main Avenue. It is intended to create attractive retail and residential buildings, comfortable streetscapes, and places to which people want to walk and bike. The CROZ allows the Planning Board to reduce parking as many people walk, bike and take transit to shop and socialize in Takoma Park, unlike more suburban areas of Montgomery County. In line with Smart Growth, the zone allows apartments, townhouses, and condominums above and below commercial units, such as exist in Old Takoma.

The strongest part of CROZ is a shift from “guidance” to “requirement,” meant to ensure new development is consistent with community vision and recommendations. The zone also reduces the size of new development required to go through site plan review to 1,000 square feet. The Planning Board may only approve site plans that are in conformance with the CROZ. The County will not issue permits to new development over 1,000 square feet in size if the Planning Board does not approve them.

Old Takoma – Vision for Main Street

The vision for Old Takoma, including Old Town and Takoma Junction, is of “a village center with traditional small town charm, providing unique stores and services to both nearby neighborhoods and regional visitors.” Each new development presents an opportunity to achieve this vision. The master plan recognizes the adjacent commercial area of Takoma, D.C. and the Metro Station, the appealing character, walkability, and variety of businesses. Recommendations include stores with main doors that open onto the sidewalk and big glass storefronts, and maintenance of the low-scale, small town, historic character of buildings. One recommendation, for streetscape improvements – especially between Old Town and Takoma Junction and between Old Town and Takoma Metro – has already been initiated by the City with funding from the state and county. Phase I of the project, with a public art connection; wider, buffered, well lit sidewalks; and shade trees, is already in place.

Finally, it recommends coordination among the various jurisdictions for improvements between Takoma Old Town and the area around the Takoma Metro station in D.C. The City is also working with Main Street Takoma to address possible parking solutions.

The Takoma Junction vision is an extension of Old Town, including successful, unique stores and services for adjacent neighborhoods and regional customers. The strengths include public spaces, neighborhoods you can walk to, and street-oriented retail. Recommendations include maintaining low-scale, small town, historic character, the Carroll Avenue Streetscape project and other streetscaping, that the new fire station will be sensitive to the historic character of the area, and that MNCPCP conduct a study to coordinate improvements in the area including the redevelopment of the public lot, traffic calming, pedestrian and bicycle access, and circulation issues.

Key Recommendations for Old Takoma Include:

• Street-Oriented Retail
• Streetscape improvements for pedestrian and bicycle access
• New development needs to be sensitive to the scale and character of the area
• Address traffic calming, circulation, and adequacy of parking
• Coordinate with the District of Columbia for streetscapes and new development, especially around the metro
• Maintain low-scale, small-town, historic character of the area

Establishing a Vision

What’s the Vision?

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One main component is the Takoma Park/East Silver Spring Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone (CROZ), a new zone for all commercial property in Takoma Park, except for Main Avenue. It is intended to create attractive retail and residential buildings, comfortable streetscapes, and places to which people want to walk and bike. The CROZ allows the Planning Board to reduce parking as many people walk, bike, and take transit to shop and socialize in Takoma Park, unlike more suburban areas of Montgomery County. In line with Smart Growth, the zone allows apartments, townhouses, and condominiums above and below commercial units, such as exist in Old Takoma.

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The vision for Old Takoma, including Old Town and Takoma Junction, is of a “village center with traditional small town charm, providing unique stores and services to both nearby neighborhoods and regional visitors.” Each new development presents an opportunity to achieve this vision. The master plan recognizes the adjacent commercial area of Takoma, D.C. and the Metro Station, the appealing character, walkability, and variety of businesses. Recommendations include stores with main doors that open onto the sidewalk and big glass storefronts, and maintenance of the low-scale, small town, historic character of buildings. One recommendation, for streetscape improvements – especially between Old Town and Takoma Junction and between Old Town and Takoma Metro – has already been initiated by the City with funding from the state and county. Phase I of the project, with a public art connection; wider, buffered, well lit sidewalks; and shade trees, is already in place.

Finally, it recommends coordination among the various jurisdictions for improvements between Takoma Old Town and the area around the Takoma Metro station in D.C. The City is also working with Main Street Takoma to address possible parking solutions.

The Takoma Junction vision is an extension of Old Town, including successful, unique stores and services for adjacent neighborhoods and regional customers. The strengths include public spaces, neighborhoods you can walk to, and street-oriented retail. Recommendations include maintaining low-scale, small town, historic character, the Carroll Avenue Streetscape project and other streetscaping, that the new fire station will be sensitive to the historic character of the area, and that MNCPCP conduct a study to coordinate improvements in the area including the redevelopment of the public lot, traffic calming, pedestrian and bicycle access, and circulation issues.
### Talent Showcase

**Ages 8 – 14**

What is your strong suit? Music? Tragedy? Improvisation? How about comedy, monologues, singing, dancing, magic tricks? In a theatrical setting we’ll discover and share them with family and friends at a Friday performance. Minimum 10, Maximum 20.

**Actor’s Workshop Theater Camp**

**Kindermusik® Camps**

#### Around the World

**Ages 5 - 7**

In “Around the World,” children will experience the cultures of Germany, Japan, Africa, England, and Mexico. During each class, one country is “visited” and explored through dialogue, singing, dancing, magic tricks? In a theatrical setting we’ll discover and share them with family and friends at a Friday performance. Minimum 10, Maximum 20.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When: Monday - Friday, August 7 – 11</th>
<th>Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee: T.P. City Resident $150 • Non-Resident $170</td>
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#### Paint Me a Story

This class combines popular library books and art for imaginative fun. The students, lead by the teacher, combine reading and art with age-appropriate books (including *In the Tall Tall Grass*, *Henri Rousseau, A Jungle Expedition*, and *Planting a Rainbow*.) and create art using lessons designed to accompany the stories. Children learn about *Henri Rousseau*, using tempera paints and printing with leaves; *Georgia O’Keefe* with chalk pastels to create flowers; as well as *Mary Cassatt*’s *825* materials fee paid to the instructor on the first day of class.

**Talent Showcase**

When: Monday - Friday, August 7 – 11 | Time: 1:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue

Fee: T.P. City Resident $115 • Non-Resident $125

### Abrakadoodle Mini Doodler Camps

**Twoosy Doodlers**

When: Monday – Friday, August 7 – 11 • Time: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

Fee: T.P. City Resident $90 • Non-Resident $90

**Mini Doodlers**

When: Monday – Friday, August 7 – 11 • Time: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

Fee: T.P. City Resident $110 • Non-Resident $110

### School Year Programs

#### Morning Addition

**Grades K-6**

New this year! Staff will be available to provide informal recreation activities. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or prepare for their day at school. For more information please call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233. Minimum enrollment of 15 must be met by August 21, or program will not be held.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When: Monday – Friday, August 28, 2006 – June 14, 2007</th>
<th>Time: 7 – 9 a.m.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee: T.P. City Resident $700 non-Resident $850</td>
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</table>

#### The Afternoon Addition

**Grades K – 6**

Same name, different program. This revamped and energizing program will put greater emphasis on leisure and recreation programs utilizing our new facilities including but not limited to the computer learning center, dance studio, art room, game room, athletic fields, library, and more. We have some exciting activities planned this year including: drama, music, art, special guests, sports, field trips, study time, and playtime that will enlighten, empower, and enrich minds and imaginations. For more information please call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233. Enroll today, space is limited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When: Monday – Friday, August 28, 2006 – June 14, 2007</th>
<th>Time: 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. on full days 1 – 6:30 p.m. on early release days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee: T.P. City Resident $1,100 non-Resident $1,300</td>
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</table>

- Payments are made in four equal installments, unless otherwise arranged with the Recreation Director; #1 due at time of registration, #2 due November 3, 2006, #3 January 26, 2007, and #4 March 30, 2007.
- On half days of school, the After School Program will be open from 1-6:30 p.m. The Recreation Department provides Fun Day Programs on half days and some holidays for an additional fee.
- The Morning and Afternoon Addition will not operate on the days schools are closed: holidays or other school closings (including inclement weather, professional days, winter or spring breaks, or school emergency closings).
- Recreation Staff will escort children who attend T.P. Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School to and from Takoma Park Community Center on whole and half days.
- A discount will be offered to those who register for both Morning and Afternoon Additions — T.P. City Resident: $1,600 • Non-Resident: $1,950

#### Takoma Park Community Center

**Summer Hours • June 26 – August 13, 2006**

**Game Room**

Monday through Friday
4 – 6:30 p.m. • Ages 7-12
7 – 9:30 p.m. • Ages 13-19
Saturday • Ages 7-19
12:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday • Ages 7-19
2 – 5:30 p.m.

**Teen Lounge • Ages 13-19**

Monday through Friday
4 – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2 – 5:30 p.m.

- Hours subject to change.
- Membership is required.

- Game Room and Teen Lounge will be closed on August 18
Picture Books for Older Readers

By Karen MacPherson

Picture books aren't just for the youngest readers anymore. Instead, authors and illustrators are increasingly using the picture books' spacious, visually-focused format to create books designed to attract school-age readers in a new way. These picture books often are wonderfully rich in text and illustration. But there is a catch: many tackle challenging themes not always appropriate for younger readers. Yet these ARE picture books, and don't necessarily belong on the shelves with novels or non-fiction.

This can be a conundrum for librarians and booksellers, and makes it ever more important for parents and other adults to preview the books they choose for their children. And, parents of older children may want to consider picture books for kindling the interest of a reluctant reader, or adding to the literary life of one already hooked on books.

Here are some top-notch picture books for older readers:

- *Fireboat*, written and illustrated by Maira Kalman, tells the compelling story of an aging fireboat named the *How the Heather Looks* written and illustrated by Sylvia van Ommen, details a discussion about death — what it means, what it feels like, etc. — between two friends. While fairly light-hearted, it raises some difficult (and fascinating) issues that might be too intense for preschoolers.

- *Zen Shorts*, which won a Caldecott Honor this year, may be my favorite picture book for older readers. Here, Jon Muth, who both wrote and illustrated the book, relates three Zen tales narrated by Stillwater, a panda. Illustrations are delightful, but it is the stories that make this book so powerful, as Stillwater offers gentle lessons in persistence, patience, generosity, and letting go.

- *Author Rosemary Wells teams with artist Petra Mathers to bring a legend to life in *The Miraculous Tale of the Two Maries*. Beautifully written and illustrated, this book tells of two friends who are just 17 when they are killed in a fierce ocean storm. But the two strike a deal with God, who allows them to live in a netherworld where they can do good deeds for their families and friends.

- *Golem*, written and illustrated by the late David Wisniewski, is a disturbing, thought-provoking combination of art and text. In it, Wisniewski retells the story of a rabbi who shapes a terrifying man of clay — a "golem" — to ensure the safety of the Jews of Prague. But the plan doesn't work out as the rabbi had hoped, and even as the golem begs for his life, the rabbi is forced to destroy him.

- *The Miraculous Tale of the Two Maries*. Two Maries. Pink and Say — to ensure the safety of the Jews of Prague.

End of Summer Quest

Attention, Summer Quest participants! Gather with us on Monday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m. to mark the official end of the Summer Quest program with a party. We want to celebrate your summer reading achievements in the latest Summer Quest adventure created by artist/storyteller extraordinaire Dave Burbank. In keeping with Summer Quest's recycling theme, we will recycle via a raffle — the oversized bear who used to live in the Children's Room. All readers who have completed the Summer Quest program will be eligible for a raffle, and we will choose one lucky winner to take home the bear. But everyone will get to do crafts and games at the party, as we share some of our favorite books of the summer. Please let us know if you are coming, and see you there!
This blotter is not intended to be inclusive of all crime and arrests reported to the Takoma Park Police Department.

Prepared by: Det. A/Lt. T. Collingon

**Robbery**

On July 09 at 8:24 p.m., in the 600 block of Kennebec Ave., a strong armed robbery occurred. A food delivery driver was approached by three subjects who demanded cash and a cellular telephone, then fled in a red vehicle. The victim was not injured.

On July 07 at 11:31 p.m., in the 1300 block of Erskine Ave., an armed robbery occurred. Two adult males had just gotten off a bus at New Hampshire and Erskine when they saw a black two door Honda with MD plates drive past and stop. Two subjects exited and approached the victims. One held a handgun to the side of one victim while the other subject held a large knife to the other victim’s side, while the victim and his friends fled on foot. No one was injured.

On July 11 at 3 p.m., in the 7200 block of Hilton Ave., an adult male attempted to enter a business by throwing a rock into the window. Property was reported stolen.

**Burglary**

On July 11 at 11 p.m., in the 700 block of Hilton Ave., an adult male entered an adult female as she exited her residence and asked for directions to a nearby street. The victim complied, entered her vehicle and left the area. When she returned home she noticed her property stolen. The suspect fled in a blue 1993 Chevrolet pickup truck. The victim was not injured.

**Assault**

On July 09 at 9 a.m., in the 600 block of Houston Ave., a second degree assault occurred. An adult male assaulted his girlfriend inside an apartment and fled before police arrived. The victim was transported to a hospital and released for minor injuries. A warrant for 2nd degree assault has been issued for the suspect.

On June 28 at 7 p.m., in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an adult standing at a bus stop with two friends was approached by a subject who pulled a butcher knife from his pants and held it in a threatening manner toward the victim. The victim and his friends fled on foot. No one was injured.

**Car and Related Theft**

On July 01 at 10:31 p.m., in the 7200 block of Carroll Ave., an adult male stole a 1991 Nissan Maxima by unknown means while it was parked at a local garage for repairs.

**Burn Threat**

On July 12 at 8:45 p.m., in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave., an unknown suspect called a local hospital and reported that a bomb was at the location. The hospital was evacuated and the area secured. Several police agencies from the nearby jurisdictions responded with explosive detection dogs and conducted searches resulting in no explosives or suspicious packages being located.

On July 09 at 1:24 a.m., in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an adult male entered a business and ignited a fire. The property was reported damaged.

On July 09 at 3:50 a.m., in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm.

On July 03 at 5:13 a.m., in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., two adult males and one adult female were arrested and charged with possession of crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

On July 06 at 11:12 p.m., in the 7100 block of Carroll Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with assault and battery.

On June 16 in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an outstanding warrant with the Montgomery County warrant for violation of probation.

On June 16 in the 900 block of Merrimac Dr., an adult male was arrested and charged with D.C. warrant for arrest and assault.

On June 17 in the 8400 block of Lockney Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with second degree assault.

On June 17 in the 1200 block of Kirkland Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

On June 18 in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

On June 21 in the 8600 block of Flower Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with traffic violation.

On June 25 at 12:53 a.m., in the 7700 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear in court.

On June 26 at 3:18 p.m., in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an adult male entered a business and attempted to cash a counterfeit check. An employee suspected the check was forged and notified her employer. The suspect was arrested.

On June 30 and July 3, between 2 p.m. and 10 a.m., in the unit block of Jefferson Ave., an unknown subject forced entry into a residence through a garage door. The victim and his friends fled on foot. No one was injured.

On July 02 and July 05, between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m., in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an unknown subject entered a business by throwing a rock through the front glass window. Property was reported stolen.

On June 13, between 2:30 p.m. and 11 a.m., in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave., an unknown suspect entered an office by unknown means and vehicle. Investigation revealed the truck was stolen.

**Forger**

On June 26 at 3:23 p.m., in the 600 block of University Blvd., an adult female was arrested on an outstanding warrant for larceny.

**Firehouse Report**

As of June 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park Station responded to 822 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,247 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,769 incidents this year. Totals for 2005 were 509 and 1,296 respectively, for a total of 1,805 representing a decrease of 36 incidents.

Welcome New Members

At the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department membership meeting held on July 12 Daniel Blankfeld and Victor Esch were voted into membership. If you are interested in joining, please contact the fire station at 301-270-8209.

A Few Fire Safety Tips

- **Gasoline-powered engines.** Lawn mowers, motor bikes, chainsaws, and lawn and garden tractors are useful machines that require the safe handling of gasoline. A single spark can ignite gasoline vapors, causing fire and explosion. Allow gasoline powered engines to cool completely before refueling them. After filling the tank, close the gasoline container before starting the engine. Soak up spills using clay cat-box litter. When refilling a portable gasoline container, set it on the ground first. Never fill gasoline containers while they’re in a car trunk or on a truck bed. Make sure that portable gasoline containers are never completely full. Gasoline vapors expand under ordinary climate conditions and can build up dangerous pressure levels in a too-full container. Leave some room for expansion and be sure the container is capped tightly. Transport gasoline in your trunk with the trunk lid ajar. Never carry containers of gasoline in your passenger compartment. Never smoke near gasoline or other flammable liquids.

- **Barbecuing.** Use barbecue grills only outdoors. Barbecues, being serious fire hazards, and they produce toxic gases that can be lethal in enclosed spaces.

- **Gasoline.** Transport gasoline in your trunk with the trunk lid ajar. Never carry containers of gasoline in your passenger compartment. Never smoke near gasoline or other flammable liquids.

- **Furnaces.** Gasoline-powered engines. Lawn mowers, motor bikes, chainsaws, and lawn and garden tractors are useful machines that require the safe handling of gasoline. A single spark can ignite gasoline vapors, causing fire and explosion. Allow gasoline powered engines to cool completely before refueling them. After filling the tank, close the gasoline container before starting the engine. Soak up spills using clay cat-box litter. When refilling a portable gasoline container, set it on the ground first. Never fill gasoline containers while they’re in a car trunk or on a truck bed. Make sure that portable gasoline containers are never completely full. Gasoline vapors expand under ordinary climate conditions and can build up dangerous pressure levels in a too-full container. Leave some room for expansion and be sure the container is capped tightly. Transport gasoline in your trunk with the trunk lid ajar. Never carry containers of gasoline in your passenger compartment. Never smoke near gasoline or other flammable liquids.

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Police Cast Wider Net To Fill Ranks

Takoma Park Police are going to Ocean City — but it’s not to catch some sun. Rather, they hope to snap police recruits to fill in the force, which is still suffering from attrition. It’s widely known that Ocean City and other resort communities hire temporary help over the summer, and those officers may be looking for more permanent work in the fall.

The recruitment outreach is part of an effort that also includes an expanded vehicle incentive program, that allows more officers to use take-home cruisers. In 2001, the City revamped the police retirement program, moving from a 38 percent at 30 year retirement to 50 percent at 25 years, similar to other area agencies. Also, the department offered a signing bonus to already-certified officers, removed the required written exam for academy graduates, and offered to reimburse academy graduates for their tuition.

The increased effort in recruiting and retaining officers addresses the five to 12 percent annual attrition rate — a reasonable range in the industry, but not in Takoma Park, which is still recovering from losing 24 percent of its police staff in 2001. That year three officers, with more than 80 years of police experience, retired in one evening. Two officers, medically retired, two left police work, and three went to different agencies. The events of 9/11/01 also changed the environment for public safety recruiting, especially in this metropolitan area, with new police departments starting, others expanding, and federal agencies offering better salaries and benefits.

In the past 28 months, Takoma Park has hired 11 officers, a quarter of the agency’s authorized strength of 41 sworn officers. Each hire requires months of processing, background investigation and testing. Despite the effort, the agency remains seven officers short of its authorized level with 13 officers leaving in the same period.

Here’s how it happened: In 2004, the Department hired five officers, but lost four — one to retirement, two to medical retirement, and a fourth who died after a long illness just after his retirement. In 2005, the agency hired four (one who did not complete field training) and lost four. Fifth officer left the agency in 2005 but returned in 2006 after sampling another agency.

Last September, the Takoma Park Police reserved three spots in the University of Maryland Police Academy, anticipating that it would hire candidates to send to training. Two Takoma Park cadets have since graduated, completed field training and now patrol independently on the streets.

In July the Department asked UMMA to reserve five spaces for more candidates, and has embarked on a focused effort to identify and hire cadets for the classes that begin in late October. Last year the recruiting team worked intensely with the Municipal Police Academy at Prince George’s Community College, led by a former Takoma Park officer and the alma mater of numerous current officers. Academy students not contracted with another department were recruited, and six completed the Takoma Park exams. One withdrew when an agency with less stringent entry requirements made an offer, and three failed physical, psychological and polygraph testing. Two academy graduates were hired, but one left during field training, deciding police work was not his calling. The recruiting team continues to work with current “uncommitted” cadets at the academy.

The Ocean City recruiting project includes Sgt. Rick Bowers, who began his career as a seasonal employee there. It will include on-site written and oral exams, and the department hopes to find recruits for each of the five academy spots over the course of the visit — those cadets would take up field training in March 2007.

At the same time, Ofc. Paula Gaskin processes local applicants, including already-certified officers. Freed from patrol duties to concentrate on applicant processing, she’s administered two officer written exams and one dispatcher exam this year, and facilitated 18 oral interviews, the second step in hiring, for officers and seven for dispatchers. With recruiting team members she’s conducted background investigations, which must cover at least 10 years, for 11 officer candidates and five dispatchers.

Over the past year, in addition to standard newspaper classifieds outside the metropolitan area and in ethnic newspapers, the Department has worked intensely with the Municipal Police Academy at Prince George’s Community College, led by a former Takoma Park officer and the alma mater of numerous current officers. Academy students not contracted with another department were recruited, and six completed the Takoma Park exams. One withdrew when an agency with less stringent entry requirements made an offer, and three failed physical, psychological and polygraph testing. Two academy graduates were hired, but one left during field training, deciding police work was not his calling. The recruiting team continues to work with current “uncommitted” cadets at the academy.

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The new hot line coincides with provisions in a new state law that mandates increased registration, prolonged parole, more frequent reporting to parole officers, submission of DNA samples and automatic notification of all schools (private as well as public) in the county where the offender resides. To get a notification call when sex offenders move nearby:

- Call 1-866-559-8017
- Enter your phone number and selected ZIP code(s). You may register multiple contact phone numbers and zip codes.

When state officials receive notice that a registered sex offender is moving into that area, you will receive a notification call.

Sex Offender Alert Available

A new state service allows individuals to request automatic telephone notification when a registered sex offender moves into a community. The new hot line coincides with provisions in a new state law that mandates increased registration, prolonged parole, more frequent reporting to parole officers, submission of DNA samples and automatic notification of all schools (private as well as public) in the county where the offender resides.

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When state officials receive notice that a registered sex offender is moving into that area, you will receive a notification call.

The Takoma Park Police have teamed with a city nonprofit group to make the recycling of used cell phones more convenient. Donations are coordinated by Secure the Call, a nonprofit coalition of more than 120 local organizations in the D.C. Metro-Baltimore area that provides the 9-1-1-only cell phones to at-risk community members.

The police lobby contains an enclosed barrel in which donors can leave used cell phones and any accessories, such as batteries, chargers, earphones and instruction books. Secure the Call, headquartered at 6950 Carroll Avenue, will pick up donations on a regular basis.

Secure the Call wipes the donated phones clean of any old numbers and information of any kind. The group returns the phones to coalition partners who in turn distribute them to the community for use by seniors, domestic violence victims, bus drivers, and others. Donations are tax deductible; a tax form is available at the group’s website, www.securethecall.org. Anyone associated with a school, company, or other site that would like to host a cell phone recycling barrel can contact that website or call 301-891-2900.
to visitors. “I consider my house a community laboratory,” he says — and an inspiration.

Meanwhile, on Holly Avenue, Bill Hutchins has another sort of lab operating. An architect focused on green building (www.HelcionWorks.com), he experiments with salvaged materials and products made from recycled material as well as energy-efficient utility systems and constructs. The result is a home full of surprises — a stair rail sculpted of scrap metal and pipe, recycled glass bathroom tile from a women’s cooperative in Vermont, 90 percent recycled structural beams, kitchen counters pieced together from someone else’s leftovers. Different kinds of wood create a variety of surfaces for walls and floors.

For energy efficiency, there’s a corn stove implanted by radiant heat floor from a biomass furnace in the basement; the furnace uses renewable vegetable oil rather than petroleum products. Solar panels generate electricity; and a green roof of growing plants reduces stormwater runoff and cools the house at the same time.

On a larger scale, but just outside the city limits, Eastern Village Cohousing (EVC, near the Metro station), was named Green Project of the Year by the National Association of Home Builders, got a design award from Environmental Design and Construction magazine and a green roof award from Green Roofs for Healthy Cities. It also has a Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating for elements such as recycled-content, rapidly renewable building materials, construction waste recycling, energy-efficient windows and appliances, water-saving plumbing fixtures and other eco-details.

Green on Top

Takoma Park now boasts three green roofs — the one on Hutchins’ home on Woodland Avenue was renovated to include a green roof in 2002. Nina Garfield, who owns that home, decided to transform a second-story deck into a green roof when she converted the porch below to an enclosed room. Hutchins was the architect.

“It creates a local ecosystem and creates a cooling effect, explains John Shepley, who installs green roofs and helped plant the one at Garfield’s. “The best benefit is that they sequester the rainwater that falls on them,” keeping pollution-saturated rainwater from flowing into streams and Ed Margtach, chair of the stormwater committee for Friends of Sligo Creek, says a green roof is like a rain garden, just higher up. FOSC is encouraging individuals to plant both, he says, an idea recently made available for such projects (see http://fosc.org/StormwaterMgmt.htm). “We’re trying to use these beautiful solutions to help the environment,” says Margtach.

Cooking with corn

Beth Bloch and Hutchins have corn stoves, but they are not the only ones. In fact, there are enough families — 45 — in Takoma Park and the surrounding area burning corn in their stoves to merit an “urban grain bin,” the new term for a corn silo, set right at the city’s Public Works station. A corn co-op manages purchasing and pick-ups.

Burning corn is so clean that even when one considers the CO2 emitted during its farm production, it has far less impact on the atmosphere. Tidwell explains that through no-till planting (which avoids release of CO2 by turning the soil) and organic fertilization, and considering the CO2 corn absorbs as it grows, burning corn releases 85 percent less CO2 than natural gas.

Greasing the gears with biodiesel

Hybrid cars, which use a mix of gasoline and electricity, are more and more common around Takoma Park. Zip cars are also popular, and there are three in the immediate area, used by hundreds of locals who choose to pay an hourly or daily fee to use them, and avoid the cost of owning a vehicle and the temptation to drive it everywhere.

Bio-diesel is also making major inroads. Currently, a biodiesel collective in Takoma Park purchases and brews fuel made from vegetable oil, rather than petroleum products. Takoma Parkener Nadine Bloch, who has been using biodiesel since 1998, says the group is also trying to establish a biodiesel fueling station, either through the city or a private supplier.

Biodiesel comes in three flavors: waste vegetable oil (WVO), from commercial kitchens; straight vegetable oil (SVO), which is fresh; and a mix of conventional diesel and oil. Bloch gets her WVO from Mark’s Kitchen. Each uses renewable resources, and 100 percent biodiesel produces almost 80 percent less carbon dioxide. City vehicles fueled by biodiesel use a 20 percent oil mix — though Bloch suggests they could run on 40, 60 or even 100 percent biodiesel. Drawbacks include cold-weather limitations (100 percent biodiesel coagulates in cooler temperatures) and less efficiency (it burns 10 percent faster than conventional diesel).

Bloh suggests that solutions like biodiesel are no final solution, however. “Long term solutions do not include everybody running on non-renewable resource-driven individual transport units,” she says. “For me it’s really about shifting the paradigm and that would mean changing our modus operandi from valuing money to valuing time.”

Two wheels, two feet

Avoiding motorized vehicles altogether is an obvious way to cut down on emissions, and Takoma Park has more than its share of public transportation advocates as well as bike commuters and telecommuters who walk across a room to the “office.”

City Council passed a resolution supporting Bike to Work Day, a regional event that included at least 70 Takoma Parkers. The city recently installed 36 bike racks and has five more planned throughout the city. Maple Avenue is set to get bicycles painted on the street to indicate cars must share the lane. And to support public transportation, Takoma Park installed bus schedule and map holders at local stops.

There has been some discussion about discounts for city employees on public transportation as well.

Eating for the environment

Related to transportation fuel consumption is food consumption — because the food travels an average 1,200 miles, trucked or flown in from distant farms, before it hits your plate. To avoid this environmental cost, many locals grown their own produce, or walk to the Farmer’s Market and buy the locally grown goods there. The Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op just launched an initiative to increase local products and produce. The store indicates what products are from nearby purveyors. Even the chain groceries carry local produce.

Another popular way to ensure food is locally grown is Community Supported Agriculture, or CSA. Mike Tabor, an environmental advocate and farmer, runs a CSA that includes 15 Takoma Park households, plus a racoon who likes to help herself to fresh cherries. For a set fee, each member household picks up a box of straight-from-the-farm produce from the front porch of his Takoma Park home, once a week. Tabor accepts WIC and food stamps, and will trade work for produce: “They’ll bring me the ten interesting things,” he says — from margarine to donuts.

Wrapping it up

The City’s Committee on the Environment established Arbor Day, when hundreds of trees are given to residents; it’s distributed tree care brochures, helped run rain barrel workshops, protected open space, and educated the city through web sites and articles.

There is a new effort to turn backyards into wildlife sanctuaries, through the National Wildlife Federation. More people are considering scraping their gasoline lawn mowers for push mowers, and many are tearing out lawn altogether in favor of native plants that require fewer resources to maintain.

There are countless small acts that add up — turning light switches, using both sides of the paper, choosing a non-plastic or paper cloth bag for carrying groceries, walking to work.

We’ve recounted some of the more significant ones here. See the sidebar for more resources, and watch for a monthly environmental tip in each issue, to keep us all on track.

Resources

- Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- An Inconvenient Truth
- Local Harvest

A clearning house of locally relevant news on environmental practice and policy, plus contacts and tips to help you reduce your emissions: Chesapeakeclimate.org

Information about the science of global warming, tips on how to reduce emissions: Climatetopics.com

A directory of food stores, restaurants, farms, farmer’s markets and other food outlets that offer locally grown products: localharvest.org
City TV Wins National Awards

On July 7, 2006, in historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, Takoma Park City TV was honored for Overall Excellence in Government Access for stations with budgets under $200,000. The Award was presented at the 2006 Hometown Video Festival at the annual Alliance for Community Media conference.

Likened to the Emmys for public, educational, and government access channels, the Hometown Video Festival celebrates the vast array of access programming throughout the country. The Alliance received over 1,400 entries for awards this year.

The Overall Excellence Award is the top award to access channels like City TV and reflects the myriad programming about City government and community activities available on City TV.

City TV also received an award in the category of Government Profile. This award was granted to City TV and Executive Producer Paula Rehr for a Snapshots Community Policing Segment called “Going to the Dogs.” This segment features TPPD’s canine teams with handlers, Cpl. Keith Largent and Cpl. Doug Malarkey, along with city businessman John Urciolo explaining how canine (K9) is used and its value in public safety. The Community Policing segment is a monthly feature of the Snapshots magazine series, and is co-produced by Paula Rehr and Police Department Public Affairs Specialist Carol Bannerman.

City TV received the Overall Excellence Award once before, in 2002. Numerous other awards over the last five years have included Government Programming Awards (GPA) for Performing Arts featuring the Takoma Jazz Band Brawl and Jazz Fests, and others from Hometown including “Humane Society PSA.”

Help your neighborhood by clearing the overgrown vegetation from your sidewalk!

Overgrown bushes and weeds are a Class D offense and provide cover for muggers or other criminals.

City of Takoma Park Code

Takoma Park City TV

City TV Special Events in August will include replays of the various Takoma Voice-sponsored Candidate’s Forums held during June and July. Look for new shows from Independence Day, the Takoma Jazz Fest and the most recent poetry reading held at the Community Center.

Takoma Snapshots in August includes:

- Community Oriented Policing: It Does Compute!
- Independence Day Highlights
- City TV’s Hometown Award for “Overall Excellence in Government Access”
- New Art Exhibit at the Community Center

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.

Many City TV programs, including Council meetings, Snapshots, Special Local Events and the bulletin board, are now available on the City 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.
Prize-winning Celebration

The Fourth of July dawned hot and steamy. Parade participants sweated it out with style, and were awarded with the following prizes:

1st Prize, Bands: Takoma Park Folk Festival
2nd Prize, Bands: The Morning Few
1st Prize, Senior Drum and Bugle Corps: Mecca Temple #10
2nd Prize, Drum Corps: Finesest Parade Marching Wildcats - Thundercats
1st Prize, Drum Corps: Mecca Temple #10
2nd Prize, Drum Corps: Seahawks Pathfinders, Seabrook SDA Church
1st Prize, Men’s Honor Guard: Wicomico County Memorial Post 10159, VFW
1st Prize, Veterans Group: Montgomery County Chapter #641
2nd Prize, Veterans Group: Department of Maryland, Ladies Auxiliary, VFW
1st Prize, Civic Unit: Children’s School
2nd Prize, Civic Unit: Takoma Park-Silver Spring Food Co-op
1st Prize, Fraternal Unit: Anwar Temple #219, Prince Hall Shriners
2nd Prize, Fraternal Unit: Mecca Temple #10
1st Prize, Clown Unit: Rainbow Clowns
2nd Prize, Theme Float: Girl Scout Service Unit 8
1st Prize, Non-theme Float: National Hook-Up of Black Women
2nd Prize, Non-theme Float: Takoma Park Literary Society
3rd Prize, Non-theme Float: Ritchie Citizens Association
1st Prize, Senior Pom Pons: Finesest Parade Marching Wildcats
1st Prize, Junior Pom Pons: Finesest Parade Marching Wildcats
1st Prize, Girls Drill Team: Lady Diamonds, Takoma Park Recreation Dept.
1st Prize, Boys Drill Team: Boy Scout Troop 33 and Cub Scout Troop 33
1st Prize, Girls and Boys Drill Team: Takoma Park Literary Society
1st Prize, Color Guard: Takoma Park Police Department
Best Appearing Costumed Individual: Uncle Sam, Jeffrey Silverstone
Best Appearing Costumed Group: Palapa, Indonesian Dance and Music Group
1st Prize, Judges Award: Columbia Union College Acro Airs
1st Prize, Judges Award: Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School
1st Prize, Directors Award: Poison Ivy Rights League
1st Prize, Directors Award: Campaign to Stop the ICC
1st Prize, Directors Award: Washington Rampage
1st Prize, Antique Car: Rick Ehrmann, 1964 Chrysler
2nd Prize, Antique Car: Erwin Mack, 1909 Ford Touring
Best Appearing Antique Pumper: Len Newman, Burtonsville VFD

Photos by Lonni Moffet