Walking the Talk on Pedestrian Safety

By Ilona Blanchard

In 2003 and again last fall, groups of community members walked some of the more heavily trafficked neighborhoods of our community to see what could be done to be able to walk more safely in Takoma Park. They discovered many locations have no sidewalks, no crosswalks, no signals to tell people when to cross. In others, people run across the road to avoid being squashed by a car. The general consensus: It's time to stop talking and start addressing the safety hazards associated with walking and to develop ways to encourage people to walk safely.

The results of these discussions is the Takomable Communities Report. The report highlights the findings of these walking workshops and the recommendations of both community members and nationally recognized pedestrian experts Bob Chauncy of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking and Dan Burden of Walkable Communities, Inc. The report addresses pedestrian safety concerns along Piney Branch Road near the Takoma Middle School, on Flower Avenue, in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area, and in Takoma Junction. A summary of the findings of these efforts and the steps that are being taken to address identified concerns follows.

Piney Branch Road

Piney Branch Road (MD 320) is a 30-mph State Highway with high pedestrian usage, linking commercial areas, public facilities, the Takoma Metro Station, and multiple schools including Takoma Park Middle School. The street is mainly residential, traffic is heavy and people often travel above the speed limit. There is no sidewalk on the school side between Philadelphia Avenue (MD 410) and Grant Avenue. There are also cars turning quickly onto and from Piney Branch, and crosswalks without pedestrian signals or incorrect phase timed signals. The sidewalk near the elementary school, while adequate, is not shaded and the landscape buffer between it and the road is narrow.

The City and the State Highway Administration are working to make pedestrian safety improvements on and around Piney Branch Road. State Highway will add additional crosswalks and upgrade pedestrian signals at Philadelphia and Piney Branch, and they have been asked to add a no turn on red at Ray Road. The City intends to apply for funding for new sidewalk so children can walk to school without crossing so many streets.

Takoma Junction

Takoma Junction, despite its ample sidewalks, is decidedly unfriendly to walkers. Wide street crossings and few crossing options create a moat between businesses on either side of the intersection. The four-phase traffic light cycle causes walkers to despair of ever catching a walk signal. Community members also note that car drivers are no happier.

The light phasing has been reviewed by SHA, which determined that “the current timing is the most efficient possible given the intersection and congestion.” Workshop discussions revolved around how to make the Junction safer for shoppers, bicyclists, school children, and seniors without decreasing the accessibility or further inconveniencing drivers. Participants suggested crossing design changes that also beautify the area and call attention to businesses at the junction.

In the 2003 workshop, pedestrian expert Dan Burden recommended a roundabout, which was reinforced by the Safe Roadways Committee and supported by resolution of the Council. Residents participating in the walking workshop held this past fall offered several additional proposals for the junction including the recommended

continued on page 5

Get Your Money Back From Property Taxes

Property taxes in Takoma Park are a continuing source of concern to homeowners, and this season is no exception. Some relief is available, however, through the homeowners’ tax credit, a program many residents use to whittle down an often overwhelming tax burden. A total of 145 Takoma Park property owners already received $306,764 in property tax credits this year through the rebate program. In addition, last year more than 5,100 county residents pocketed an average property tax credit of almost $900. That’s a bundle.

Residents who want to join their neighbors in taking advantage of the tax credit must apply for the State Homeowner’s Property Tax Credit by October 31, 2006 — even if they’ve applied in the past. The state determines whether property owners receive credits at the state, county and city levels, and also notifies the city if its supplemental tax credit kicks in for individual residents.

To be eligible for the tax credit, homeowners must:

• Have a combined gross household income of $120,000 or less
• Have legal interest in the property
• Have a net worth of $200,000 or less
• Use the property on which the application is being made as a principal residence

Further details about qualifications are available on the form, called HTC-60, available along with other information, at http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/htc.html or by calling the county at 240-777-8950.

City payments are distributed in late May or June, though this year’s checks ran late due to delays at the state level, and were mailed out in July.

Inside this Issue

Living Takoma ......................................................... Page 3
Financial Fitness for Housing ........................................ Page 5
Police Seize Pirated Music ............................................... Page 9
Getting Ready for College ................................................ Page 10
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.

Board of Elections The City Council has established an elections board to plan and coordinate future elections. The Board is composed of six members, representing city wards.

Citizens Liaison Committee The committee is composed of two members who are appointed by the City Manager and approved by the City Council. The committee serves to foster communication among interested parties and the Council in the ongoing process for the development of a community center.

Citizens Rights Committee The committee is composed of three members who are appointed by the City Manager and approved by the City Council. The committee serves to protect the rights and democratic freedom in the City.

City Council and Committee Calendar

Urban Development Committee The committee is charged with providing input and advice to the Council on all environmental issues, including but not limited to, tree protection and environmental quality; educating Takoma Park residents, businesses, and visitors to comment on the proposal. An exact copy of the proposed regulation was available on the City web page. The meeting was attended by 15 residents, and an election was called to vote on the proposal. The committee voted 13-0 in favor of the proposal. The committee recommended that the proposal be submitted to the City Council for consideration.

City Council Interviews of Kenneth Baar, 6 p.m.
Knitting Together a Community
This is the first in an occasional series of articles highlighting little-known Takoma Park groups that foster the spirit of community so characteristic of the city.

By Susan Holliday

Glasses of wine and mugs of tea sit on the coffee shop tables beside skeins of colorful yarns. The click of knitting needles is barely audible above the music and conversation. The people ranged around the room look up from their work to smile and greet everyone who enters to join them.

Knit & Crochet Savory welcomes knitters and crocheters of all ability levels to their gatherings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Savory Café, 7071 Carroll Ave. While the group is intended for enthusiasts 10 years and older, the July meeting hosted one 7-year-old knitter and his knitting mom and dad — the rest of the needle workers were adults and teens.

The group, which meets on Savory’s lower level from 7 to 9 p.m., celebrated its fifth anniversary this year. Founded by Wallace Boyd and Michelle Strange, the group is free of cost and totally ad hoc - no sign-in sheets and no purchases required. “Just show up and we’ll be happy to talk and knit with you,” says the group contact person Jennifer Woods. Though no lessons are given for complete beginners, “we all help each other,” adds Woods.

The July meeting included about 16 first-timers and veterans, though none were total novices at their craft. The projects varied from basic to complicated, from socks and crocheted afghans to cardigans and halter tops. The chat was mostly about patterns and yarns and knitting classes, but not exclusively, touching on people’s work and local topics — and sometimes falling into a comfortable silence punctuated by knitting needles pulling yarn in and out, and in out.

“It’s a nice community,” said knitter Hannah Joyner. “Very welcoming.”

Knit & Crochet Savory, 7071 Carroll Avenue, fourth Tuesday each month. For more information, contact Jennifer Woods, 301-587-7174 or www.dcknitting.net.

Emergency Training Offered
Proactive citizens, who are interested in becoming front-line assistants during large emergencies and more skilled at assisting their communities at such times, can be Community Safety Advocates by registering in CERT, or community emergency response training. The program is modeled after the FEMA CERT program originally developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day Department in 1985. Trainees will attend seven classes over a three-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all-day

Next Issue:

September 22

September 2006

Takoma Singers Seek New Members
The Takoma Park Singers, a community chorus for mixed voices, is looking for new members. Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m.

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

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unpublished 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. 1950-92 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.
By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

Epstein v. Hall

On July 10 in a case involving the Tenant’s allegation that the Landlord wrongfully withheld his security deposit plus accrued interest and sought a refund of his security deposit and punitive damages, COLTA issued a decision that (1) the Landlord properly withheld a portion ($565) from the Tenant’s security deposit refund based on the Tenant’s admission of damage to the floor, written documentation of the tenant’s failure to comply with a floor protection lease provision and the reasonableness of the Landlord having the entire floor rather than damaged spots repaired; (2) the Landlord improperly withheld a portion ($530) of the security deposit refund because in accordance with Section 8-203(g) of the Maryland State Code incorporated by reference at Section 6.16.120A(g)(1) of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law, the repairs were not completed within 45 days after the tenancy ended; (3) the Commission did not find that the Landlord’s witholding of a portion of the Tenant’s refund was an intentional violation of the Tenant’s rights or an attempt to defraud him. No punitive damages (i.e. three times the amount of the security deposit) were awarded to the Tenant.

Montgomery County Housing Fair and Financial Literacy Day

Saturday, October 7, 2006
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park,
Summit Hall Farm (Next to Gaithersburg High School)
506 S. Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Ride-On bus #55 or #59 from points north and from Shady Grove Metro

You will learn about:
• Managing Money & Credit
• Home Safety, Utility Assistance & Conservation
• Avoiding Consumer Scams
• Buying or Renting Your First Home
FREE CREDIT REPORTS!

Entertainment, food, prizes and activities for children!
(Six drawings for a $500 prize towards your rent or mortgage.)
~FREE ADMISSION~

The Fair is organized by the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs in partnership with the Housing Fair Planning Committee, whose members include: the Cities of Gaithersburg and Takoma Park; Consumer Credit Counseling of Greater Washington; Montgomery County Financial Literacy Coalition; Habitat for Humanity; Housing & Community Initiatives, Inc.; the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; the Mid County, Up County and Silver Spring Regional Services Centers; and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. If interested in participating in the Fair, or becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, please call 240-777-3062.

Housing Mailbox

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

A tenant contacted the Mailbox and wants to know the current rent increase limit, how the annual rent increase limit is established, how often a landlord may increase the rent and how much notice a landlord must provide to tenants before increasing rent.

Since 1980, following its adoption by the Takoma Park City Council, the Rent Stabilization Law has maintained rents at an affordable level in the city. Rent Stabilization sets a limit on the amount the annual rent may be increased by landlords who have two or more rental units in Takoma Park. The annual rent increase limit or Rent Stabilization Allowance is established each year by the Department of Housing & Community Development using a formula that is equivalent to 70 percent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the Washington, DC Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA). The current Rent Stabilization Allowance increase is 2.8 percent effective for one year beginning July 1, 2006.

A landlord may increase the rent or after 12 months from the date of the last rent increase on an occupied rental unit. This date is known as the “Anniversary Date.”

A landlord must provide tenants with two months written notice of a rent increase which must be received by the tenants before the rent due date. For example, a tenant receiving a rent increase notice on June 28 who has a rent due date of the first of the month would begin paying the increase on September 1.

It should be noted that landlords may secure a higher increase than the amount allowed by the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance by filing and receiving approval of either a Capital Improvement Petition or a Hardship Petition. Capital Improvement Petitions may be filed for building materials and/or labor that have been added to a rental property that are not annually recurring and have a useful life of more than one year. Such improvements are often associated with maintaining a rental property’s compliance with the city’s Property Maintenance Code. Examples of capital improvements include but are not limited to replacing a roof, windows, a refrigerator or carpeting. Hardship petitions may be filed by landlords who can document that their net operating income in the base year of consideration (usually 1990) is greater after adjusting for inflation than their net operating income in the petition year.

Tenants and Landlords interested in additional information regarding the city’s Rent Stabilization Law should review Chapter 6.20 of the city’s Housing Code and contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or JeanK@takomagov.org.
Walking the Talk on Pedestrian Safety
continued from front page
roundabout, suggesting that State Highway compare the impact of a roundabout with that of reconfiguring the roadway and creating a more traditional crosses intersection. One benef-
fit of this proposal would be to add more space next to the busi-
nesses for residents to walk, talk, and sit at café tables or other side-
walk amenities.

Flower Avenue
Flower Avenue (MD 787) is a main route in Takoma Park for Columbia Union Col-
lege, Washington Ad-
ventist Hospital, and commercial and resi-
dential destinations. The intersection of Flower and Piney Branch is sur-
rounded by four corners of busy retail; three of those have street-front parking lots.
Both roads have multiple bus routes resulting in many riders walking across the intersection on a daily basis. The most pedestrian unfriendly features are the uneven, and utility-cluttered side-
walks found along this roadway that need to be entirely rebuilt, missing side-
walks on Piney Branch and the Montgomery County side of Flower, and poorly timed pedestrian signals across wide walkways.

Takoma-Langley Crossroads
The Takoma-Langley Crossroads has a history of danger. There were nine pedestrian injuries there in 2004 and a fatality in the previous year. Busy shopping center parking lots, scores of bus transfers, and day labor-
er gatherings at University Boulevard (MD 193) and New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) generate lots of bus transfers, and safety features like these are paramount. Other areas of pedestrian safety concern are Takoma Junction, Flower and Piney Branch, and the area around Takoma Park Middle School.

Accessibility Assured At Takoma Park Folk Fest
By Dana Marlowe
At the heart of the Takoma Park Folk Festival is the core concept of fun for everyone—with an emphasis on every-
one. This year’s Festival, which will be held on Sunday, September 10, at Takoma Park Middle School, will con-
tinue the tradition.

There is a stage solely devoted to child-oriented performances and an area for kids to play games, get their faces painted, and do hands-on crafts. The Community Tables groups cover a huge range of causes and interests, and they connect with all types of audi-
ences, including socially, environmen-
tally, and more. Musicians welcome audience participation, and dance instructors practically demand it.

“It’s hard to go to the Festival with-
out being swept up in the action,” says Kevin Adler, Festival chair. “We try to be as welcoming as possible, with no admission fee and seven performance stages so there’s always something new to experience.”

Attendees with disabilities will find
the Festival has gone beyond the re-
quise allotment for accessible park-
ing, and rented wheelchair-accessible shuttle buses for its routes from the Metro and off-site parking, and pro-
vided American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters at several stages, and cre-
ated large-print site maps and sched-
ules for people with vision difficul-
ties. There is also a Braille-equipped program available, and the festival web site, www.TPFF.org, works well with different kinds of assistive tech-
nology, such as refreshing Braille displays, screen readers, and screen magnifiers.

“When we say we are celebrating our community, we mean all of our community,” says Adler.

The Takoma Park Folk Festival will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2006, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., rain or shine. It’s free to all visitors. It will take place at the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd, Takoma Park. For more information, go to www.tpfF.org.

Financial Fitness, Home Ownership Classes Offered
The Department of Housing and Community Development in partner-
ship with the Recreation Department is pleased to announce it is sponsoring two new classes, one on Financial Fit-
ness (budgeting and learning to live within your means) and the other on First-Time Home Buying. The classes will be held in the fall and are being offered at no cost. Pre-registration is required and limited to 40 persons per class. Please see the Fall Recreation Guide for the application or contact Linda Walker at LindaW@takoma-
gov.org or 301-891-7222.

Financial Fitness. Learn how to create a budget and live within your means. How many of you truly have a budget that you can stick to? Do you find it impossible to save, but long to eventual-
ly buy a house or a car? Staff from The Housing and Community Initiatives, Inc., a local non-profit organization will conduct this informative and help-
ful class. Learn how to gain control over your spending and attain your financial goals. This class will be offered twice, Thursday, September 21 from 7 - 9 p.m. and Thursday, October 19, from 7 - 9 p.m. Both classes are in English.

First Time Home Buyer Seminar (Offered in Spanish and English). Buying a home is one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime. The Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), a nonprofit affordable housing organi-
ization, will be held on Sunday, September 10, at 2:00 p.m. Both classes are in English.

Tip of the Month
Let the Light Shine
It’s one of the first things the environmental “Ten Things to Do” lists suggest. Change those light bulbs to compact fluorescents. They use 60 percent less energy than conventional bulbs (lasting up to ten times longer), save you money on your electric bill, prevent 300 pounds of carbon dioxide from polluting the atmosphere (according to climatecrisis.net), and emit plenty of light.
They screw into just about any socket a conventional bulb uses, including that funny light over your dining room table, and they accommodate lamp shades, too. Locally, you can buy compact fluorescents at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op, Piney Branch Hardware, and some local grocery stores.
RECREATION

The Recreation Department has moved to its new permanent home on the Community Center level (where Housing and Community Development used to be). Thank you for your patience while we were located in the trailers. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After office hours and on weekends the public may drop off program registrations at the front desk of the Community Center until 10 p.m., Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2 – 6 p.m. on Sunday. Checks and money orders only, please – no cash. Drop off after hours (checks or money orders, no cash) in the gray mail box at the rear entrance of the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Takoma Park Recreation Department phone: 301-895-7290.

Learn How to DJ

Grades 6 – 12

Have you ever wanted to DJ but did not know where to start? This class covers equipment setup, mixing and scratching, how to mix genres, mixing tricks, ear training, and music theory. Instructor: Simon Moon

Time: 7 – 8 p.m.
Location: Music/Videolab, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Residents $30
Non Residents $35

Jazz Dancing

An introduction to jazz movement including warm-up stretches, isolations, basic steps, and combinations as well as across the floor movement. Six weeks.

When: Mon. or Fri., Sept. 18 – Oct. 27
Time: Mon., ages 6 – 7 p.m.
Mon., ages 13 and Up 7 – 8 p.m.
Fri., ages 8 – 10 5 – 6 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Residents $60
Non Residents $65

No Class on Mon., Oct. 9.

Hip Hop

Ages 12 and up

An opportunity for self expression to today's top 10, Hip Hop and R&B music, this class includes simple warm-up exercises, body isolation, and basic popular dance moves, such as Nellie, B-Boy steps, Top Rock, and slide.

When: Fri., Sept. 22 – Oct. 27
Time: 6 – 7 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Residents $60
Non Residents $65

Belly Dancing

Ages 11 and older

Learn the foundations of this ancient Middle Eastern art form, including mixing and stretching, how to mix genres, mixing tricks, ear training, and music theory. Instructor: Simon Moon

Time: 7 – 8 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Residents $60
Non Residents $65

Beginning Piano

Ages 6 – 18

The Piano Adventure School of Music 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 students. Four weeks.

When: Wed., Sept. 27 – Oct. 18
Time: Ages 6 – 8 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Ages 9 – 12 7:45 – 9 p.m.
When: Tues., Sept. 26 – Oct. 17
Time: Ages 13 – 15 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
Ages 16-18 7:45 – 9 p.m.
Location: Rose Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Residents $100
Non Residents $110

Movement for Mommies

Ages 11/2 – 3 1/2

A gentle, motivated, fun atmosphere for adults and babies to explore principals of stretching, yoga, creativity and movement, and dance. This 45-minute retreat allows everyone to work at their own level while joyful connecting with others. Please bring extra baby blankets for baby. Maximum 12, minimum six. Six weeks. Instructor: Rosanna Young.

When: Wed., Sept. 18 – Oct. 23
Time: 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $65
Non Resident $75

Do a Little Dance

Ages 3 – 4

A motivated, fun atmosphere for little ones to explore the principals of dance, stretch, and yoga. Explore rhythm, music in our bodies. Movement, and various movement techniques, along with the guided use of props. Parents and care givers will be invited for the last 15 minutes of class to participate and/or observe, depending on the lesson. Maximum 12, minimum six. Six weeks. Instructor: Rosanna Young.

Time: 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Residents $65
Non Resident $75

Read All About It: Bringing Books to Life

Ages 1 1/2 – 3 1/2

Would your child like to create an Eric Carle collage, or Dr. Seuss' red fish blue fish swim? You and your child can try these and other fun activities inspired by favorite children's books. Each week features a different author, with circle story time as well as individual and small group activities. Minimum five, maximum 12 weeks.

Instructor: Alicia Sar.

When: Mon., Sept. 18 – Oct. 23
Time: 4:30 – 5 p.m.
Location: Rose Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Residents $96
Non Residents $106

Montessori Morning 1

Ages 1 1/2 – 3 1/2

Designed as an introduction to the Montessori environment. A certified Montessori teacher with several years experience guides exploration of sensory, fine motor, pre-reading, pre-writing, and beginning understanding of numbers and counting. Parent education materials provided with each session. There is a $20 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Minimum four, maximum 10. Six weeks. Instructor: Alicia Sar.

When: Fri., Sept. 15 – Oct. 20
Time: 9:45-10:45 a.m.
When: Sat., Sept. 16 – Oct. 21
Time: 10 – 11 a.m.
Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $65
Non Resident $75

First School Choices

Looking for the right preschool for your child's first learning experience? Your child's formal learning experience will shape his or her future learning. Session provides guidance on how to find the right school for the best for your child and family as well as tools for making that difficult decision.

When: Wed., Sept. 27
Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $20 per session
Non Resident $25 per session

Bright Minds – Science for Young Explorers

Ages 1 1/2 – 3 1/2

Children will explore cause and effect, how colors change, the magical properties of cornstarch, and much more. Come ready for a fun and messy time. Parent resources will be provided to continue the exploration. There is a materials fee of $15 due to the instructor the first day of class. Minimum five, maximum 12. Instructors: Kirsten Sandberg-Da Silva and Alicia Sar.

Time: 10 – 11 a.m.
or
When: Sat., Sept. 16 – Oct. 21
Time: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $65
Non-Resident $75

2.3 Cooking Up Math with Me

Ages 1 1/2 – 3 1/2

Combine a young child's love for hands-on cooking with age-appropriate pre-math skills building. Measuring, sorting, proportion, and counting are some of the concepts that we will explore as we cook up fun and tasty foods. Parent resources will be provided each session. Minimum five, maximum 12. Instructor: Kirsten Sandberg-Da Silva.

Time: 10 – 11 a.m.
Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $65
Non Resident $75

Time: 4 – 5 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $65
Non Resident $75

Arts Alive

Ages 2 – 4 1/2

An educator with several years experience in museum-based early childhood classrooms guides you and your child through fun, hands-on, museum-related activities that will enhance your child's creativity and imagination. Includes metro-accessible museum trips to explore themes including movement, "All About Me" and "Our Watery World." Parent resource materials provided. There is a $15 materials fee due to the instructor the first day of class. Minimum five, maximum 10. Six weeks. Instructor: Kirsten Sandberg-Da Silva.

When: Sat., Nov. 4 – Dec. 16
Time: 10 – 11 a.m.
Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $65
Non Resident $75

2006 Takoma Park Newsletter

September 2006

* Takoma Park Community Center * Fall Hours – August 28 – December 22, 2006*

Game Room

Ages 13 19

Monday through Thursday
2:30 – 5:30 p.m. Ages 7 12
6 – 9 p.m. Ages 13 19
Friday until 9:30 p.m.
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 Thursday
2:30 – 9 p.m.
Friday until 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 September 14 and November 10, 23, and 24*
Kindermusik® Village: Zoom Buggy!

Newborn to 18 months

A unique blend of multi-level activities including creative movement, vocal play, object and instrument exploration, and a colorful literature component stimulates your baby's growth and development and engages all the senses. There is a materials fee of $29, payable to instructor on first day of class (CD, book, journal, art banner, and case). Maximum eight, minimum four. Eight weeks.

When: Wed., Sept. 20 – Nov. 8
Time: 11 – 11:45 a.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident $90
Non-Resident $100

Kindermusik® Our Time: Milk and Cookies

Ages 18 months – 3 years

Singing, moving, listening and interacting socially, and playing simple instruments uncovers an engaging musical world while building confidence, self-control, and communications skills. Singing, imitating sounds and rhyming fosters language, creative movement to musical "moods" develops balance, timing, and spatial awareness. With an accompanying parent or care giver. There is a materials fee of $47, payable to instructor on first day of class (CDs, books, xylophone, and bag). Maximum 12, minimum four. Fifteen weeks.

When and Times: Mon., Sept. 18, 2006 – Jan. 8
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 20 – Jan. 3
10 – 10:45 a.m.
Thurs., Sept. 21 – Jan. 4
10:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident $160
Non-Resident $170

No class Nov. 22, 23 and Jan. 1.

Kindermusik® for the Young Child

Ages 5-7

A group approach to music education. Vocalize and sing, move and dance expressively, listen actively, play instruments (simple pre-keyboard and others), and learn musical concepts. Students are introduced to the glockenspiel and explore playing this instrument based on key concepts they have learned. At-Home materials include a glockenspiel, activity book, and backpack. Maximum eight, minimum four. Eight weeks.

When: Tues., Sept. 19 – Nov. 28
Time: 2 – 2:45 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident $120 for family with one child
$190 for family with two children, each additional child $75
Non-Residents: $130 for family with one child
$200 for family with two children, each additional child $50

No class Nov. 7.

Kindermusik® Imagine That: Hello, Weather, Let's Play Together

Ages 3 – 5

A musical journey of discovery and exploration limited only by the power of imagination. Parents are invited to participate in the last 15 minutes for Sharing Time of the 45-minute class. There is a materials fee of $58, payable to instructor on first day of class (pretend play component, book, ankle bells, rain shaker, activity book, CDs, and backpack). Maximum eight, minimum four. Fifteen weeks.

When: Thurs., Sept. 21, 2006 – January 11
Time: 2 – 3 p.m.
Location: Forsythia Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $180
Non-Resident $190

No class November 23.

Kindermusik® Family Time: Our Kind of Day

Multiple Ages, Newborn – 7

A one-room preschool approach to music. With older children ready to show the little ones how it's done and the younger ones eager to learn, Family Time becomes a multi-layered learning environment. There is a materials fee of $60, payable to instructor on first day of class (CDs, books, egg shakers, family guide, hand puppet and finger puppet, domino game). Maximum 10, minimum six. Ten weeks.

When: Tues., Sept. 19 – Nov. 28
Time: 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.
Location: Forsythia Room, T.P. Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident $90
Non-Resident $100

Morning Addition

Grades K-6

New this year! This before school program is designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff will be available to provide informal recreation activities and will escort the children to Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or to prepare for their day at school. For more information call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.

Time: 7 – 9 a.m.
Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident $700
Non-Resident $850

• 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 Takoma Park 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 Addition:
T.P. City Resident $1,000
Non-Resident $1,100

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 call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233. Enroll today, space is limited.

Time: 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. on full days
1 – 6:30 p.m. on early release days
Location: T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Resident $1100
Non-Resident $1300

Abrasakadoodle Art Education

There is an $18 materials fee to be paid to the instructor the first day of class. Maximum 10, minimum four. Six weeks. Each session is $68 for T.P. Residents and $78 for Non-Residents.

Twoosy Doodlers

Ages 20 – 36 months

Featuring all new lessons from the newly released 2006 curriculum, this is an art class just for toddlers and a parent or care giver. This is an “I Can Do It!” class that is fun, creative and filled with learning opportunities for both the child and care giver.

Time: 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Community Center
Fee: T.P. City Resident $120
Non-Resident $130

Mini Doodlers: Around the World

Ages 3 – 5

Inspire the artist in your little one with Abrakadoodle! Travel to exotic places with Abrakadoodle using paint, printing, sculpture, collage and color. Come with us as we explore Ecuador to create beautiful birds, Africa to create masks, India to create festival elephants, Mexico to create sun sculptures, and more! Get your ticket today.

Session 1: Wed., Sept. 20 – Oct. 25
Location: Art Room, T.P. Community Center
Time: 4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

Recreation continued on page 12
On July 14 at 2 a.m. in the 7700 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was standing outside talking to friends when he was approached by four subjects. One began arguing with the victim and tried to take his duffel bag. When the victim punched the subject, the subject pulled a handgun out of a bag he had hidden in a bush and began firing at the victim as the victim ran away. The victim was not injured.

On July 17 at 3:55 a.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an adult male was waiting at a bus stop when he was approached by two subjects who asked for money. After the victim gave them one dollar and refused to give more, the subjects dragged him and asked for money. After the victim punched the subject, the subject pulled his gun and fired on the victim.

On August 13 at 5:20 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was attacked while walking and robbed of his cell phone. He received minor injuries.

On July 23 at 8:30 p.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., a vandalism to an auto occurred. A witness saw a subject smash the windshield of the 2005 Honda Accord with a baseball bat.

On August 16 at 2:38 a.m. in the 6800 block of Eastern Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. A window was broken to gain entry, property was taken.

On August 16, time unknown, in the 7400 block of Glenisdale Dr., a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an open window. Property was taken.

On July 19 at 3:46 p.m. in the 6400 block of 5th Ave., a 2000 Toyota Camry was stolen by unknown method.

On July 23 at 8:30 in the 7300 block of Maple Ave., a vandalism to an auto occurred. The victim asked for money and was told to get out of his car.

The victim was not injured.

On July 15 at 10:21 a.m. at the intersection of New Hampshire and Erskine Aves., an adult female was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence and several traffic related charges.

On July 17 at 5:29 a.m. in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., police responded to a call for an injured and disorderly subject. An adult male with a cut hand was found with CDS in his possession. He was transported to a hospital for treatment. A warrant for possession of CDS and vandalism will be obtained by police.

On July 19 at 2:40 a.m. in the 600 block of Houston Ave., a criminal citation for possession of CDS paraphernalia was issued to an adult female.

On July 22 at 9:50 a.m. in the 600 block of Houston Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for 2nd degree assault.

On July 21 at 6:07 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open Prince George's County warrant for theft over $500 and a violation of probation.

On July 15 at 4:12 a.m. in the 400 block of Beech Ave., two juvenile males were arrested and charged with multiple counts of attempted arson and two counts of arson. The arson

On July 14 at 3:38 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., two adult males were arrested and charged with intoxication in a public place, trespassing and resisting arrest.

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Finding a Few Good Police Takes Time
Second in a series on city police recruitment

By Carol Bannerman

Some jobs are simple to fill and to obtain. A waitress can see a help wanted sign in a window, walk into a café and be making tips by dinner time. Obviously, not every job is that easy and policing certainly is one example of that.

The process for recruiting, hiring and training officers can take up to nine months, depending on their background and experience. For an officer already certified in Maryland, the process can take just a few months, but he or she will spend at least 90 days in field training with an experienced TPPD officer in order to learn the policies and practices and the layout and characteristics of the City itself. An experienced officer from another state would also have to attend a month-long "compliance academy" to become familiar with Maryland laws and practices.

Aspiring police officers begin the process by competing in a three-hour written police exam and signing a statement of eligibility for employment. (In the last year, Takoma Park Police have several cadets who have completed a Maryland police academy, sanctioned by the state, most of which last 18 to 26 weeks. Once sworn in as a Takoma Park officer, the candidate will complete field training, before beginning solo patrol.)

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Successful candidates are paid a cadet salary during the academy, which is paid for by the Department. (In the last year, Takoma Park Police have several cadets who have completed a Maryland police academy, sanctioned by the state, most of which last 18 to 26 weeks. Once sworn in as a Takoma Park officer, the candidate will complete field training, before beginning solo patrol.)

Assisting an investigator from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the Takoma Park Police confiscated more than 3,400 pirated and fraudulent music CD's in August. Another RIAA investigator, working with Prince George's County Police, took possession of thousands of additional music discs at a nearby business, which also contained equipment used to copy music.

Illegal production and distribution of sound recordings is estimated to cost the music industry more than $300 million annually.

The Takoma Park team, supported by Andy Pappas of the RIAA, seized the materials at four shops on University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue. Additional investigation was required for music CDs located at a fifth site. The shopkeeper was advised on the requirements for sale of recorded music.

Pappas was accompanied in the five-hour process by officers from Criminal Investigations, Patrol, and the Community Oriented Police (COP) Team, A/Sgt. Richard Poole, Cpl. Rick Cannatella, and Cpl. Tina Smith. Throughout the operation, Pappas provided on-the-job training to the officers on elements used to identify fraudulent electronic music, which the officers say will be valuable in their regular patrols.

The operations began with a tip to TPPD from a confidential source. Criminal Investigations contacted the RIAA for assistance in addressing the concern.

The Recording Industry Association of America is the trade group that represents the U.S. recording industry with the mission to foster a business and legal climate that supports and promotes its members' creative and financial vitality. RIAA members are the record companies that create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 90 percent of all legitimate sound recordings produced and sold in the United States. In addition to enforcement efforts such as the Takoma Park foray, the association conducts education programs at legitimate CD duplication companies and for educators. For more information, visit www.riaa.com

Statement of Employability
To meet the Preliminary Selection Standards for Police Officer with the Takoma Park Police; an applicant must:

Controlled Dangerous Substances:
1. Have not had a lifetime maximum of 20 uses or ingestion of marijuana.
2. Have not used or experimented with marijuana within the past three years.
3. Have not used any Controlled Dangerous Substance, other than marijuana, within the past three years.
4. Have never used Cocaine or Cocaine Metabolites, PCP, LSD, heroin or any other hallucinogenic drug, experimentally or otherwise.
5. Have not sold, offered for sale, induced or attempted to induce another person in the use of illegal drugs

Driving:
6. Have not been convicted of driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated in the past three years.
7. Have not been convicted of two or more traffic violations involving motor vehicle accidents in the past three years.
8. Have not committed an act contrary to the moral conscience of the general public.
9. Have or can obtain a license to drive in the applicant’s jurisdiction of residence or Maryland

Domestic Violence:
10. Have never been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

Criminal History:
11. Have not committed a felony crime as a juvenile after age 15.
12. Have not been convicted of a felony crime.
13. Have not been convicted of a misdemeanor involving "moral turpitude" — that is, involving commission of an act contrary to the moral conscience of the general public.
14. Have not been dishonorably discharged from the Armed Services of the United States (if having served).
15. Have not committed any serious undetected crimes for which they have not been arrested.
Turning to Non-fiction For Kids

By Karen MacPherson

Is your child looking for a good book to read? Send them to the non-fiction shelves in the Children’s Room. On those shelves, kids will find books about all kinds of subjects, from ants to knights to cooking to soccer.

In fact, non-fiction books often are a great answer for reluctant readers. Unfortunately, well-meaning adults tend to equate “reading” with “reading fiction,” and forget to offer non-fiction to kids.

That’s what prompted children’s librarians to establish the Robert F. Sibert Medal, given to the most distinguished non-fiction book of the year as chosen by a panel of librarians. Although overshadowed by the better-known Newbery and Caldecott Medals, the Sibert Medal is raising awareness about the importance of non-fiction for young readers and has helped establish a core collection of well-written non-fiction for kids. For a list of past Sibert Medal winners, go to: www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawards/sibertmedal.

This year’s Sibert Medal winner is Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley by Sally M. Walker. A fascinating, carefully-documented look at how scientists are piecing together the up-close-and-personal look at blood secrets of a Civil War submarine. Filled with photographs, Bartoletti’s powerful, thought-provoking book spurs young readers to ask themselves what they would have done had they lived in Germany at the time of Hitler. Hitler Youth makes fascinating reading for kids ages 12 up.

Other new non-fiction books in the Children’s Room:

• Freshmen Riders, by Ann Bausum, chronicles the efforts of a group of black and white civil rights activists to desegregate interstate transportation in the Deep South in the 1960’s. (Ages 12 up)

• Author Louise Borden and artist Robert Andrew Parker combine talents to tell a riveting tale of World War II through the eyes of a schoolgirl in Across the Blue Pacific. (Ages 7-10)

• A lost bird finds a wonderful new home in The True Story of Stellaluna written and illustrated by Matteo Pericoli. (Ages 5-10)

• Kids get fun, interactive history lessons in How To Be An Egyptian Princess by Jacqueline Morley and How To Be a Revolutionary War Soldier by Thomas Ratliff. (Ages 7-12)

• Author Trudee Romanek offers an up-close-and-personal look at blood in Squirt! (Ages 8-12)

• New how-to books include: Knitting (with projects great for both boys and girls, including a basketball net and guitar strap); Junk Drawer Jewelry; Quick Knits; Horse Crafts; Chock Fall of Chocolate; and Birdfeeders. (Ages 8 up)

• Got a bit of time and a cardboard box? Create something special with the help of The Cardboard Box Book, written by Danny Walsh and his two sons, Jake and Niall. (Ages 7 up, or younger with adult help).

• In The Forbidden Schoolhouse, author Suzanne Jurmain tells the story of a white woman named Prudence Crandall, who fought a lonely battle against racism when she opened the first New England academy for young African American women in Canterbury, Connecticut in 1833. (Ages 10 up).

Spanish Storytime Begins

Join us for our first monthly family storytime — in Spanish — on Saturday, Oct. 7. The program will be led by Laura Kleinnmann, a bilingual storytelling expert and the media specialist at Oyster Bilingual Elementary School in Washington, D.C. The hour-long program will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Library Programs for Fall

Summer Quest Party
Monday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Young readers celebrate the end of the summer’s reading program and save some pennies for a winter trip.

Toswies
Four Wednesdays at 10 a.m. • October 4, 11, 18, 25
For two-year-olds and parent or caregiver
Preregistration required: group-size limited
Sign up at the desk starting September 1

Friends of the Library Reading Group
Wednesday, October 4
Discuss The Life of Pi, by Yann Martel
All are invited • Call 301-891-7259 for time and place

Spanish Storytime
Saturday, October 7 at 10:30 a.m.

College Prep Series
Three dates in October (see story)
Financial aid, SATs and overview

Morrisey Golf Tournament
Monday, October 16
Fundraise in memory of Mike Morrisey
Sign up to play, or sponsor a player
Details and entry forms at the Library

Shivery Stories
Jeepy and author Candace Wolf
Recommended for ages six up.

You may call 301-891-7259 or stop by the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Avenue, to pre-register for these scheduled programs, which are free and open to the public.

Brought to you with support from the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

For College Bound 2006

Thursday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.
Financial Aid for College

Herm Davis
Dr. Herm Davis, author of Financial Aid for Dummies, will discuss the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work-study, college savings plans, the FAFSA application and more. One of the nation’s foremost college aid authorities, Davis heads the National College Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit organization providing information to students, and directs College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. He is a 30-year veteran in providing financial aid and scholarship information.

Wednesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.
Going to College: An Overview

Lori Potts-Dupre
Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre will help you get started on the selection process. Which schools might provide the right fit — academically, financially and personally for you? Topics include sorting out your personal criteria and goals, the admissions process, competitiveness, where do I go from here? Potts-Dupre has a private counseling practice in Takoma Park. She advises students and families on college options and choices. A former faculty research associate at the University of Maryland, where she taught in the honors undergraduate scholarship program, Potts-Dupre has visited and evaluated more than 300 colleges nationwide. She enjoys helping students define and achieve personal and educational goals.

Wednesday, October 18, 7 p.m.
How to prepare for SATs/ACTs

Ilhan Cagre
Dr. Ilhan Cagre returns with her son Yahya Mokhtarzada to demystify the dreaded SATs. They have spent the past two years preparing students for the new SAT that was introduced in the spring of 2005, and they will bring along their experiences and insights on this new format. Cagre is a linguist who has taught and designed SAT preparation classes for Montgomery County Public Schools, in private schools and as a private tutor. Parents and students have found her insights, as well as those of her sons, practical and helpful.

You may call 301-891-7259 or stop by the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Avenue, to pre-register for these scheduled programs, which are free and open to the public.

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Library.

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Recommended for ages six up.
Police News continued from page 9

Takoma Park Opens Child Sex Abuse Investigation

A routine patrol stop and follow-up investigation in Takoma Park led to a wide-ranging area-wide investigation in early August. A bus driver, also a volunteer football coach, eventually was arrested for child sexual abuse and drug distribution.

The investigation began in late July when a resident mentioned that strangers were parking late at night in an apartment building parking lot in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue. When Sgt. Mark Hammond routinely cruised the area at about 4 a.m. on July 31, he saw a car with a Virginia license plate occupied in the rear seat by two individuals.

After running a computer check on the vehicle, he confronted the occupants, a man and woman. After providing identification and receiving a warning for trespassing, the man was released. Officers questioned the identity of the woman, who initially claimed to be an adult, and transported her to the station.

As time and interviews progressed, Sgt. Richard Poole of Criminal Investigations determined the potentially broader implications of the case, having just completed training on prostitution investigations with the Montgomery County Police Vice and Intelligence Unit. Poole contacted investigators in that unit, who recommended involving federal law enforcement.

The female admitted to Poole she was a 15-year-old high school student and reported that she had been in the car working as a prostitute. She said this was the direction of a man she knew as a coach at her Bowie school. Based on the work of FBI Special Agent William McDermott, the Washington Metropolitan Police arrested the bus driver/coach, Anthony Burroughs that evening. Also arrested later was a police officer with another jurisdiction, who is charged with child sexual abuse.

Based on information developed in interviews with the juvenile, Takoma Park officers have charged the male in the Maple Avenue stop with pandering and fourth degree sex offense.

This event is another example of the necessary partnership for controlling crime and improving public safety. A resident’s concern report to the police prompted patrol at a suspect location. Patrol officers acted on potentially suspicious behavior, while criminal investigators used their training and expertise to address the crimes in an efficient and effective manner.

School Opens: Drive Safely

The after-school hours of 4-8 p.m. are the most dangerous time of day for young pedestrians, especially those in elementary school (ages 5 to 9). As school starts, parents should review basic pedestrian rules with their children and identify the routes the parents consider the most safe. Younger students “back to school” also signals the start of a coordinated campaign among law enforcement throughout the region focusing on traffic enforcement in school zones and on bus routes.

If they are unable to walk with their children every day, parents should set aside a few days to walk with their young students to model safe behaviors and set the family’s own rules for safe routes and habits. The safer routes are those with the most pedestrian traffic, sidewalks, and crossings controlled by a guard or signal. Children should use sidewalks whenever they are available and cross streets only at corners or in crosswalks.

Takoma Park Police urge parents to encourage their children to use sidewalks and be cautious: A walking lane has been created in the city lot behind the library and community center. Traffic coincides with school starting times and pedestrians should use either sidewalks on Maple and Philadelphia or the walkway, rather than the parking lot itself.

The police receive numerous complaints about students walking in the street and in parking lots, both dangerous practices. If a child bikes or rides a scooter, safety rules should be reviewed. Takoma Park school crossing guards are posted at Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch (two guards), on Maple Avenue at Sherman, Grant and Philadelphia, and on Philadelphia at Holly and Cedar. All of these posts are staffed during the elementary school hours (8:20–9:20 a.m. and 3:20–5:30 p.m.). The Takoma Park crossing guards and Maple at Grant are also staffed during the middle school periods (7:20–8 a.m. and 2:40–3 p.m.).

For Motorists

The 2006 “Back to School” enforcement campaign, sponsored by the Council of Governments, begins in September. In past campaigns, police cited thousands of motorists for speeding in school zones from Prince George’s County to Gaithersburg and Fairfax.

The speed limit in city school zones is 15 m.p.h. When controls are displayed and fines are doubled for exceeding the limit. In general, the maximum speed for most city streets is 25 m.p.h. The fine for passing a stopped school bus is $270 and two vehicle must complete stop when encountering a school bus with its manual stop extended and lights flashing.

Takoma Park includes seven school zones and numerous bus routes. Use caution when traveling in these areas. If driving children to school, parents should consult the school’s own plans forentrances, exits and drop-off points.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) operates five coordinated regional traffic enforcement campaigns annually.
Official Notice of Designation of Residential Permit Parking Area 5

The City Council adopted Ordinance 2006-32 on July 31, 2006, designating the 6700 block of Prince George’s Avenue, the 400 and 500 blocks of Belford Place, the 6700 block of Conway Avenue, the 6800 block of Belford Drive, and 6800-6806 New Hampshire Avenue, as part of a new Residential Permit Parking Area 5.

The days and hours for the “parking by permit only” restrictions in Area 5 will from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m., seven days a week. Only vehicles displaying a valid Area 5 parking permit or visitor permit may park in the area during posted hours.

Persons residing within the boundaries of the designated area may obtain a parking permit from the City if they wish to park their vehicle in the restricted zone. One permit may be issued for each registered motor vehicle within the designated area. Two-year permits will be sold to permanent residents at a cost of $20. One-year permits will be sold to tenants with less than a two-year lease at a cost of $12.50.

Attest: Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk

Grant Money Available

Now is the time for brilliant ideas that will benefit the entire community: it is the season for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposals. The City of Takoma Park is currently accepting proposals for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services — all directed at ensuring the residents of the city have decent housing, a suitable living environment, and plenty of economic opportunity. Among projects funded in the past: health assessment visits for Victory Towers residents, food distribution for low-income residents on Maple Avenue, sports programs for at-risk youth, streetscape improvements at Takoma Langley Crossroads and Maple Avenue, and assessment of city sidewalk access for people with disabilities. Any resident can apply.

Applications are due Monday, September 11, 2006 and are available online. For more information, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7224 or SaraD@takomagov.org.

Official Notice of Council Action on Traffic Calming Petitions

On July 31, 2006, the City Council voted to authorize the installation of one or more speed humps on the following blocks: Lower Conway Avenue (Ordinance 2006-33)

6800 Woodland Avenue (Ordinance 2006-34)

Attest: Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk

Special Events

Touch a Truck

For all those who love trucks — Breaker, breaker we got us a convoy. Check out the Takoma Park Recreation Department and Public Works Touch A Truck, featuring a Bobcat, Street Sweeper, Dump Truck, Trash Truck, and many others. Step inside each monster truck and dig it! This program is geared towards children ages 1-6. The first 175 truckers get a construction hat.

When: Sun., Sept. 17
(rain date September 24)

Location: Public Works Garage Area, Oswego Avenue

Time: 1 – 3 p.m.

Fee: Free!