Long Branch Area Set for Major Revitalization

Beijing Delight owner Siu Wong, left, plans to construct a mixed-use commercial building at her restaurant’s current Piney Branch/Flower Avenue site. Juan Chedrauy, above, Long Branch Business League director and owner of La Pollera restaurant, is excited about these and other changes in the Long Branch neighborhood.

By Susan Holliday

This is the first in a series of articles about the commercial centers of Takoma Park and the changes envisioned for them in the Takoma Park Master Plan. The plan resulted from extensive work by the Montgomery County Planning Department, which invited input from every Takoma Park neighborhood group, held public hearings, and consulted with the Takoma Park City Council and staff. The Council-approved plan, formalized by the Montgomery County Planning Board in December 2000, is the City’s guide for improvements over the next five to 15 years.

Siu and Kam Wong, who have owned and operated their Beijing Delight restaurant in Takoma Park for 12 years, are planning to rip down their building and change the face of their corner of the city. Located at the southeast corner of Piney Branch Road and Flower Avenue, the business is just one element of sweeping change in store for the Long Branch neighborhood.

While the Wongs have big plans that include demolishing two buildings just south on Piney Branch and constructing a three-story, mixed-use office building with retail on the ground floor, others in the area are working with Montgomery County to create some of downtown Silver Spring’s revitalization magic in their own backyards. They’ve attracted the interest of one investment group that has an approved site plan to erect a medical office building at the corner of Arliss and Piney Branch.

That development is expected to kick-start renovation throughout the Long Branch area, much as the Discovery Communications construction did for downtown Silver Spring.

“If you have the service or the food that people want, this is a good place to be,” says Siu Wong. “There’s plenty of potential in the population density here, and sooner or later we should have the Purple Line,” the light rail transit line proposed to run from Bethesda to New Carrollton.

“We need that development — we need it to grow,” says Juan Chedrauy, a director of the Long Branch Business League and owner of the La Pollera restaurant on Piney Branch Road. “The effects of that development will ripple out. If you want to attract new businesses and places to shop, you need investment.”

The business league has won support for the medical building and the influx of development it could spur from most of the approximately nine neighboring civic associations, but not all. Chedrauy says the business league and the Long Branch Advisory Committee — a citizens’ group that advises the county government — plan to work with all of the residents’ groups in coming months to gain their input and address their concerns.

City of Takoma Park staffers also are reaching out to everyone affected — businesses, residents, county, state and federal governmental groups — to make the benefits of the master plan a reality. “Our job is to advocate for the recommended master plan changes to be implemented,” says City Senior Planner Ilona Blanchard. The plan “is compatible with the Takoma Park vision of attractive, moderately-scaled commercial centers with parking behind, and interesting ground floor detailing [that is] good to walk around and pedestrian friendly.”

Traffic and pedestrian safety are prime worries for area residents and businesses alike. The county has slated the Piney Branch Road corridor for streetscaping enhancements in coming years, which should improve traffic, pedestrian safety and area aesthetics. The Urban Land Institute (ULI) suggests building two new secondary streets in what it calls the “suburban super block” bounded by Flower and Arliss Avenues and Piney Branch Road. In a February 2005 report on its Long Branch redevelopment study, the institute recommends laying the roads to create an “urban grid” for a safer, more walkable neighborhood that would also integrate the Long Branch Library and community center into the center of the community.

January Election Slated For Vacant Council Seat

You may have thought you were finished with election season, but the contest continues next month, January 30, with a special election in Ward 5 of Takoma Park.

Councilmember Marc Elrich, who represented the ward for 19 years, was elected to the Montgomery County Council in November, and will be vacating his seat effective December 3, 2006. He will be sworn in for County Council the following day. A special election must be held, according to City Charter, to fill out the rest of his term, which would end in November 2007, and a new council member will take Elrich’s position beginning February 12, barring a tie vote.

Not only is it unusual to have to fill a seat mid-term: This will also be the first election in the city to follow the instant runoff vote formula. Voters will rank candidates by order of choice, and, as “instant runoff,” the candidate with the majority of votes wins the seat. But if there is no majority, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes is eliminated, and the voters who selected that individual as first choice have their second choice votes redistributed to the other candidates. This continues until someone receives a majority of votes.

All voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Columbia Union College, Wilkinson Hall. Absentee ballots will also be available for those who cannot get to the polls on election day; applications for regular absentee ballots must be received by the city clerk by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23.

Voters will include only those registered at an address in Ward 5, who are registered by Tuesday, January 2, 2007. Candidates for the office must submit petitions to place their names on the ballot by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10; petitions must be signed by at least 10 eligible voters in the ward. There is no nominating caucus for this election.

For further details about the upcoming special election, see calendar on page 4 and notices on page 5.
Monday, December 4 – Interviews, Special Session and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Wednesday, December 6 – Meeting of the Recreation Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

Thursday, December 7 – Meeting of the Health Services Impact Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, December 7 – Meeting of the Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Monday, December 11 – Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, December 12 – Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Forsythia Room)

Tuesday, December 12 – Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Tuesday, December 19 – Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Friday, December 22 – City offices close at noon for the Christmas holiday

Monday, December 25 – City offices closed for the New Year holiday

Tuesday, December 26, 2007 – Council Recess – no Council meeting

Tuesday, January 2, 2007 – Voter Registration cut-off date for Ward 5 Special Election

Monday, January 8, 2007 – Closed Session, Special Session, and Worksession of the City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, January 9, 2007 – Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m., Location TBA

Wednesday, January 10, 2007 – Petitions to place a candidate’s name on the ballot for the Ward 5 Special Election must be received by the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on this date.

Monday, January 15, 2007 – City offices closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday holiday

Tuesday, January 16, 2007 – Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, January 22, 2007 – Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, January 23, 2007 – Last day to make application for regular Absentee Ballot for the Ward 5 Special Election, by 4 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 – Emergency absentee ballot begins for the Ward 5 Special Election

Wednesday, January 24 – Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Friday, January 26, 2007, 5 p.m. Any write-in candidate who wishes to be pre-registered as a write-in candidate and to have his/her name posted in the voting booth for the purpose of identifying him/her as a candidate for office, must file his/her name with the City Clerk by this deadline.

Monday, January 29, 2007 – Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, January 30, 2007 – WARD 5 SPECIAL ELECTION – Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Wilkinson Hall, Columbia Union College)

Tuesday, January 30, 2007 – ELECTION DAY. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk prior to the official closing of the polls on election day or postmarked on or before January 29

Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 7:30 p.m. – Special meeting of the City Council to receive the certification of the election results.

*For the most up to date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov, email Clerk@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7267.

First Reading Ordinance 2006-50 was adopted, approving certain changes to City Code Chapter 6.08 Housing Licensing and Commercial Occupancy Licenses (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Elrich).

Second Reading Ordinance 2006-48 was adopted by roll-call vote, amending Ordinance 2006-32 Designating Permit Parking Area 5, to include the portion of the New Hampshire Avenue Service Road from Prince George’s Avenue to the dead end just beyond 6806 New Hampshire Avenue (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Elrich).

Single Reading Ordinance 2006-51 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing a contract for window replacement for the Library (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Elrich).

Second Reading Ordinance 2006-49 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing FY07 Budget Amendment No. 2 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry, Clay, Elrich).

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

Resolution 2006-70, appointing Kea Woodruff to the Committee on the Environment

Resolution 2006-71, appointing Gayle Fisher-Stewart to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee.

November 6, 2006 – Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2006-52 was adopted, approving the installation of an additional speed hump on Willow Avenue (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Second Reading Ordinance 2006-52 was adopted by roll-call vote, approving certain changes to City Code Chapter 6.08 Housing Licensing and Commercial Occupancy Licenses (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

November 13, 2006 – Special Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2006-52 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the installation of an additional speed hump on Willow Avenue (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Second Reading Ordinance 2006-52 was adopted by roll-call vote, approving certain changes to City Code Chapter 6.08 Housing Licensing and Commercial Occupancy Licenses (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams). 

Resolution 2006-72 was adopted, establishing a date (January 30, 2006) for the Ward 5 Special Elections (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams).

Speak with the Mayor

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

December Office Hours: Tuesdays, December 5 and 12, 2 – 4 p.m. and Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The Mayor’s Office will close beginning December 14 and will reopen January 9, 2007.

To schedule a meeting, contact Executive Assistant Pegggy Washington at 301-891-7230 or peggyw@takomagov.org.
Bay Partner Community Program Lauds City Environmentalism

By Ali Khalilian and Martin Salmon

We did it again. The City of Takoma Park was recertified as a GOLD Chesapeake Bay Partner Community for its leadership and dedication to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The City was first designated as a GOLD member in 1999. Since then we have come a long way. Takoma Park is becoming ever more environmentally conscious, locally as well as globally.

The Bay Partner Community program started in 1997 with the commitment to protect and restore the rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Every year, local governments are certified as gold, silver, or bronze members based on environmentally beneficial actions undertaken, as a percentage of the benchmarks set by the Local Government Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council.

The evaluation criteria is based on four categories: improving water quality; promoting sound land use, protecting and restoring habitat, and engaging the community towards achieving these goals.

Takoma Park was recognized as a Gold member over 1,600 other local governments participating in this partnership. “The Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Awards celebrate the accomplishments of local governments in protecting and restoring the Bay,” says Penny Gross, chair of the local Government Advisory Committee. “Local governments are vital to achieving Bay restoration goals.”

While the City maintains its GOLD membership, its job is far from over.

The “stencil-a-drain” program is going on its third season with nearly one half of our inlets void of any signage that discourages dumping and polluting our waterways. Our goal for 2007 is to have all the inlets within the City stenciled. The process is simple, if you have any questions or want to learn more about our stencilling program, please go to the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on stormwater where you will see a link to a stencilling information booklet.

The most southern area of Takoma Park deserves special attention. Only four drains are marked with no dumping messages. We would like to invite the community to participate; the process is simple, safe, and fun. Previously, University of Maryland students, residents, boy scouts and girl scouts participated.

We would like to remind everyone of the function of the storm drain on your curbside. It does more thanuzzle water.

It leads directly into our natural water system, including Sligo Creek, the Anacostia and the Potomac Rivers. Unlike household drains that route water to a treatment plant, storm drains travel underground and funnel into our watersways untreated and when that water is tainted by pollutants, it creates stormwater pollution, which seriously impacts our natural water resources by polluting rivers. We can be part of bringing Sligo Creek back to health, which will in turn, help the Anacostia River and the Chesapeake Bay. Come out and stencil a drain! Storm drain stenciling makes a difference! Involve your entire neighborhood, school class or local community group with this worthwhile project.

If you are interested in participating call the Department of Public Works at: 301-891-7625 and reserve your stencilling kit.

City of Takoma Park — Holiday Hours
Friday, December 22, 2006
City Offices — Open 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Community Center, Computer Rooms — Open until 6 p.m.
Library Closed
Saturday, December 23
City Offices Closed
Community Center, Computer Rooms Closed
Library Open — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 24
City Offices Closed
Community Center, Computer Rooms Closed
Library Open — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday, December 25
City Offices, Library, Community Center, Computer Rooms — Closed

Saturday, December 30
City Offices Closed
Community Center Open — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Computer Rooms Open — 12 to 6 p.m.
Library Open — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 31
City Offices, Library, Community Center, Computer Rooms — Closed

Monday, January 2, 2007
City Offices, Library, Community Center, Computer Rooms — Closed

Monday, January 15
City Offices, Library, Community Center, Computer Rooms — Closed

Note: Police Department is always open.
COLTA’S CORNER

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

October 2006
Gilbert/Jackson v. Pounders

On October 18, 2006 COLTA issued an Opinion and Order on two consolidated complaints regarding the tenants’ allegations of a defective tenancy for which they sought reductions in rent. The tenants also alleged retaliation in amendments to the complaints, when they received notices to vacate following the filing of the initial complaints.

The COLTA Opinion and Order held that (1) the landlord’s failure to make previously ordered repairs did constitute a defective tenancy; (2) the continuation and compounding of property defects caused the tenants serious inconvenience and discomfort and reduced the value of their tenancies by 25 percent; (3) additional tenant allegations of property defects that were not raised in previous COLTA Cases (04-747, 04-751) and for which insufficient evidence was presented in the current case were not awarded damages; and (4) in accordance with Section 6.16.180 of the City’s Landlord-Tenant Law, the proximity in time of the tenants’ defective tenancy complaints and the issuance of the notices to vacate was in retaliation for filing their complaints. The notices to vacate were accordingly declared null and void. The Opinion and Order went on to state. However that Section 6.16.180 of the City’s Landlord-Tenant Law does not prohibit a landlord from issuing a notice to vacate at the end of a stated lease term. In addition to the 25 percent reduction in rent, the tenants were also awarded reimbursements of $2,859.35 and $2,710.24 in rent, respectively, for actual damages suffered.

City of Takoma Park, Maryland
2007 – Ward 5 Special Election

Election Timetable

Tuesday, January 2, 2007
Voter Registration cut-off date. All new registrations and changes of address must have been received by the Montgomery County Board of Elections (or postmarked by Saturday, December 30, 2006). Voter Registration applications for non-U.S. Citizens must have been received by the City Clerk’s Office by 5 p.m. on January 2, 2007. There will be no exceptions. Takoma Park residency must be met by December 31 (30 days prior to the election) in order to vote in the election.

Wednesday, January 10, 2007, 5 p.m.
Petitions to place a candidate’s name on the ballot for the Special Election must be received by the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on this date.

Friday, January 19, 2007, 5 p.m. (or January 20 postmark)
Candidates’ Initial Campaign Contribution Reports due to City Clerk — to include contributions received since November 8, 2005.

Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 4 p.m.
Last day to make application for regular Absentee Ballot.

Wednesday, January 24, 2007
Emergency absentee balloting begins.

Friday, January 25, 5 p.m.
Any write-in candidate who wishes to be pre-registered as a write-in candidate and to have his/her name posted in the voting booth for the purpose of identifying him/her as a candidate for office, must file his/her name with the City Clerk by this deadline.

Tuesday, January 30, 2007 – ELECTION DAY + Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk prior to the official closing of the polls on election day or postmarked on or before January 29.

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 p.m.
Special meeting of the City Council to receive the certification of the election results.

Friday, February 2, 5 p.m.
Deadline for contesting the results of the election and validity of Absentee Ballot voting.

Monday, February 5, 4 p.m.
Final Campaign Contribution Report due to City Clerk.

Monday, February 12, 2007
New Ward 5 Councilmember takes office. Swearing-in at 7:30 p.m.

Housing Mailbox

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

A tenant wants to know what type of notice a landlord is required to give to entering the tenant’s apartment and if she must be present when the landlord or the landlord’s repair person makes the entry.

A landlord or his/her agent’s entry into a tenant’s apartment is governed by the requirements of Section 6.16.140 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law. The landlord must provide the tenant at least 48 hours written notification of the landlord or the agent’s intent to enter the rental unit. The landlord’s written notice must inform the tenant of the entry date, the approximate time frame of the intended entry, and the phone number of the landlord or managing agent. If the tenant has requested repairs, the landlord or agent may enter the rental unit to make the repairs without giving the tenant written notice if the repairs occur within two weeks of the tenant’s request. In the event of an emergency, the landlord or agent may enter the rental unit without giving prior written notice to the tenant.

Tenants are to receive written 48-hour notice of upcoming code inspections being conducted by Montgomery County. It should be noted that tenants may not unreasonably withhold consent to enter their rental unit. A tenant may have to be present (except when the tenant has requested a code complaint inspection) when entry is made into the rental unit. If the tenant is not present, the landlord must leave a Report of Entry in plain view advising the tenant of: (1) the names of all individuals who entered the rental unit; (2) the date and time of the entry; (3) the reason for the entry and any work performed; (4) the time of departure from the rental unit; and (5) the address and telephone number of the landlord.

Finally, while a landlord and a tenant may mutually agree to a schedule for showing an occupied rental unit to a prospective tenant or purchaser, a landlord or agent may not install a lock box which provides access to any individual rental unit. Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city’s Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.
Election Notices • Elección Especial

NOTICE OF WARD 5 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY AND NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice of Council Vacancy
Ward 5 City Councilmember Marc Elrich has been elected to serve on the Montgomery County Council, where he will be sworn in on December 4, 2006. He has announced his resignation from the City Council effective December 3, 2006. Pursuant to Section 308 of the City Charter, if a vacancy on the City Council occurs more than 240 days before the next regularly scheduled City election, a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

Notice of Special Election
The Ward 5 special election will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2007. The single polling place will be located at Columbia Union College, Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Council Term
The term of office for the person elected will be from February 12, 2007 to November 19, 2007. Subsequent term(s) will follow the normal two-year Council term schedule, with elections held in November of odd-numbered years.

Qualifications of Candidates
Candidates for the Ward 5 City Council seat shall have resided in Ward 5 for at least six months immediately preceding the election (at least since July 30, 2006). Candidates shall be qualified voters of the City. Councilmembers shall maintain their principal residence in the City and in their ward during their term of office. Councilmembers are prohibited from holding other publicly elected offices during their term of office and are prohibited from serving on any City board, commission, or other body that has authority to adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes.

Petitions for Candidacy
In order for a candidate’s name to be placed on the special election ballot, he or she must submit a petition at least 20 days prior to the election, on a form provided by the City Clerk, and signed by at least ten eligible voters in Ward 5. There is no nominating caucus for the special election. Petitions must be received by the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10.

Absentee Ballots
Voters who may be absent from the City on election day or cannot personally vote at the polls on election day because of illness or physical disability may apply to vote by absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23. Emergency absentee balloting begins January 24 for voters required to be absent on the day of election for any reason of which the person becomes aware after the time for applying for an absentee ballot.

Instant Runoff Voting
Pursuant to Charter Amendment Resolution 2006-1, an instant runoff voting system shall be used, allowing voters to rank candidates in order of choice. In an instant runoff system, rank candidates (1, 2, 3 and so on). If no candidate receives a majority of the first choices, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated and those voters’ second choice votes are redistributed to other candidates. This continues until one candidate receives a majority of votes and is elected.

Voter Registration
Only voters registered at an address in Ward 5 may vote in the special election. The voter registration cut-off date for the election will be Tuesday, January 2, 2007. All new registrations and changes of address must have been received by the Montgomery County Board of Elections by 5 p.m. on January 2 (or be postmarked on or before Saturday, December 30, 2006). Non-U.S. citizen voters must be registered with the City Clerk’s Office by 5 p.m. on January 2, 2007. There will be no exceptions. Voter registration forms are available at the Takoma Park Community Center and at the Takoma Park Library.

Additional information will be posted at http://www.takomaparkmd.gov.

If you have questions, please contact the City Clerk’s Office: 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org

A sample ballot will be mailed to all Ward 5 registered voters prior to the Special Election.

AVISO DE UN PUERTO VACANTE DE CONSEJAL DEL DISTRITO 5 Y AVISO DE ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL

Aviso de puesto vacante de consejaz
Marc Elrich, consejal del distrito 5, ha sido elegido para servir en el condado de Montgomery, para lo cual tomó juramento el 4 de diciembre del 2006. El señor Elrich ha anunciado su renuncia de consejaz del distrito 5, la cual se hará efectiva el 3 de diciembre del 2006. Conforme a la sección 308 de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad, si hay un puesto vacante en el Consejo con 240 días antes de la próxima elección ordinaria de la Ciudad, se convocará a una elección especial para cubrir dicha vacante.

Aviso de eleción especial
La eleción especial del distrito 5 sera el martes 30 de enero del 2006. Las cabinas de votación sera ubicado en el Columbia Union College, Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Las cabinas de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7 a.m. hasta las 8 p.m.

Periodo de mandato de consejaz
El periodo del mandato para la persona que resulte electa abacerá desde el 12 de febrero del 2007 hasta el 19 de noviembre de 2007. El/los periodo/s subsiguiente/s seguirán el programa regular de consejaz de dos años, con elecciones que se celebrarán todos los años impares, en Noviembre.

Cualificaciones de los candidatos
Los candidatos para cubrir la posición de consejaz del distrito 5 deberán haber residido en el distrito 5 por lo menos seis meses justo antes de la eleción (al menos desde el 30 de seis meses del 2006). Los candidatos deberán estar inscritos para votar en la Ciudad. Los miembros del Consejo deberán tener su residencia principal en la Ciudad y en su distrito electoral durante su periodo de mandato. Los miembros del Consejo tienen prohibido ocupar cualquier otro puesto para el cual hayan sido elegidos publicamente, durante su periodo de mandato y tienen prohibido servir en un consejo de administración de una ciudad, comisión u otra entidad que tenga autoridad para actuar como árbitro o bien para resolver litigios.

Peticiones para la candidatura
Para que el nombre de un candidato aparezca en la boleta de la eleción especial, él o ella deberá presentar una petición al menos 20 días antes de la eleción, utilizando un formulario que le facilitará el Secretario municipal. Dicha petición deberá estar firmada por al menos 10 votantes aptos del distrito 5. No se formará un comité de nominaciones para esta eleción especial. El Secretario municipal deberá recibir las peticiones antes del miércoles 10 de enero, a las 5 p.m.

Voto en ausencia
Los votantes que vayan a estar fuera de la Ciudad el día de la eleción especial o que no puedan ir a votar a las urnas en persona el día de la eleción especial, debido a alguna enfermedad o incapacidad física pueden solicitar hacer su votación a través de una boleta ausente. El Secretario municipal deberá recibir las solicitudes para las boletas ausentes antes del martes 23 de enero, a las 4 p.m. La solicitud de las boletas ausentes de emergencia comenzarán el 24 de enero para aquellos casos de votantes que tengan que estar ausentes el día de las elecciones por una razón de la cual no tuvieron conocimiento hasta después que finalizó el periodo habilitado para solicitar una boleta ausente.

Segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediata
Conforme a la Resolución de Enmienda de la Carta Constitucional 2006-1, deberá ponerse en práctica un sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato, que les permita a los votantes clasificar a los candidatos según su orden de preferencia. A través del sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato los candidatos clasifican a los candidatos (1, 2, 3 y así sucesivamente) Si ninguno de los candidatos es elegido por la mayoría como primera opción, el candidato que tenga la menor cantidad de votos para ocupar la primera opción se elimina y los votos para la segunda opción se redistribuirán entre otros candidatos. Este proceso continúa hasta que uno de los candidatos reciba la mayoría de votos y sea elegido.

Inscripción de los votantes
Solamente los votantes que estén inscritos en una dirección del distrito 5 podrán votar en esta eleción especial. La fecha límite para la inscripción de los votantes para esta eleción será el martes 2 de enero del 2007. El Consejo Electoral del condado de Montgomery deberá recibir todas las inscripciones nuevas y los cambios de dirección antes del 2 de enero del 2007, a las 5 p.m. (también aceptará las inscripciones que tengan la estampilla postal con fecha de o antes del sábado 30 de diciembre del 2006). Los votantes que no sean ciudadanos americanos deberán inscribirse en la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal antes del 2 de enero del 2007, a las 5 p.m. Sin excepciones. Los formularios para que los votantes se inscriban están disponibles en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park y en la biblioteca de Takoma Park.


Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, sírvase ponerse en contacto con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal, llamando al 301-891-7214 o a través del correo electrónico jessiec@takomagov.org

Antes de que tengan lugar las elección especial, se les enviará por correo una boleta de muestra a todos los votantes del distrito 5 que se hayan inscrito para votar.
**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: 301-891-7290.

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**Youth Community Basketball Program**

**Grades 3 – 4**

Pass, dribble, shoot, rebound – it’s a simple game. Learn the game the right way at the Takoma Park Recreation Department’s Youth Community Basketball Program. Clinics instructed by the area’s finest teachers. Junior ball, modified rules, 4-on-4, small court.

**Boys**

- **Location:** Piney Branch Elementary School
- **When:** Sat., Dec. 9, 2006 – Mar. 3, 2007
- **Clinic Dates:** Dec. 9, 16
- **Time:** Grade 3 9 – 10:15 a.m.
  Grade 4 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.
- **Fee:** T.P. City Residents $40
  Non-Residents $45

**Girls**

- **Location:** Piney Branch Elementary School
- **When:** Sun., Dec. 10, 2006 – Mar. 4, 2007
- **Clinic Dates:** Dec. 10, 17
- **Time:** Grade 3 1 – 2:30 p.m.
  Grade 4 1 – 5 p.m.
- **Fee:** T.P. City Residents $40
  Non-Residents $45

No program Dec. 23, 24, 30, 31, Jan. 13, 14, and Feb. 17, 18.

**Men’s Basketball League**

You’ve been clamoring for it. Well, now you got it — the Takoma Park Men’s Basketball League — so you better not bring that weak stuff to this gym. Seven weeks plus playoff. * Playoffs dates to be determined

**Takoma Park Basketball League**

**Grades 5 – 6**

Takoma Park’s very own basketball league is back! Quality instructional clinics, practice time and games, a community-based, convenient alternative to a county-run program. Intermediate ball, high school rules, full court, 5-on-5. Teams will be formed after the second clinic. Nine weeks.

**Boys Division**

- **When:** Sat., Dec. 9, 2006 – Mar. 3, 2007
- **Clinic Dates:** Dec. 9, 16
- **Time:** 1 – 3 p.m.
- **Location:** Piney Branch Elementary
- **Fee:** T.P. City Residents $40
  Non-Residents $45

**Girls Division**

- **When:** Sun., Dec. 10, 2006 – Mar. 4, 2007
- **Clinic Dates:** Dec. 10, 17
- **Time:** 2:30 – 4 p.m.
- **Location:** Piney Branch Elementary
- **Fee:** T.P. City Residents $40
  Non-Residents $45

No program Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 14 and Feb. 18

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**Indoor Soccer Program**

**Grades 1 – 4**

The Takoma Park Recreation Department Indoor Soccer Program is back! Nine weeks. Participants will be grouped into teams in two separate divisions: grades 1-2 and grades 3-4. Full court, 2-on-2, 5-on-5. New this year! Designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff provides informal recreation activities and escorts the children to Takoma Park and Piney Branch Elementary Schools. Children have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or to prepare for their day at school. Call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.

- **When:** Monday – Friday, ongoing – June 14, 2007
- **Time:** 7 – 9 a.m.
- **Location:** T.P. Community Center
- **Fee:** T.P. City Residents $175 per quarter
  Non-Residents $215 per quarter

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**Morning Addition**

**Grades K – 6**

New this year! Designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff provides informal recreation activities and escorts the children to Takoma Park and Piney Branch Elementary Schools. Children have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or to prepare for their day at school. Call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.

- **When:** Monday – Friday, ongoing – June 14, 2007
- **Time:** 7 – 9 a.m.
- **Location:** T.P. Community Center
- **Fee:** T.P. City Residents $175 per quarter
  Non-Residents $215 per quarter

• Payments are made in four equal installments, unless otherwise arranged with the Recreation Director. The first is due at time of registration.

• Morning 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).

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**Abrakadoodle Art Camp**

**Ages 6 – 10**

**Buzz, Ribbit and Roar**

Get into nature with fish, frogs, bugs, turtles, and dinosaurs. Campers create two projects each day, creating their own wacky world. A $58 materials fee to be paid to instructor the first day of class. Be sure to bring a snack.

- **When:** Tuesday – Friday, Dec. 26 – 29
- **Time:** 9 a.m. – noon
- **Location:** Art Room, T.P. Community Center
- **Fee:** T.P. City Residents $95
  Non-Residents $105

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**Halloween Treats 2006**

**Game Room**

Monday through Thursday
2:30  5:30 p.m. Ages 7 12
6  9 p.m. Ages 13 19
Fridays until 9:30 p.m.
Saturday Ages 7 19
12:30  5:30 p.m.
Sunday Ages 7 19
2  5:30 p.m.

Hours subject to change. Membership is required.

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**Takoma Park Edition Center**

**Fall Hours • December – January 31, 2007**

**Game Room**

Monday through Thursday
2:30  9 p.m.
Fridays until 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 12:30  5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2  5:30 p.m.

**Teen Lounge**

Ages 13 19

Monday through Thursday
2:30  9 p.m.
Fridays until 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 12:30  5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2  5:30 p.m.

*Game Room and Teen Lounge will be closed on December 22 – 25, 30, 31, January 1 and 15.
Community Programs Assist Those in Need

By Linda Walker
Adequate Housing Manager

Takoma Park, Montgomery County, and the State of Maryland offer a number of programs that can help residents in financial need. Whether the hardship is due to increased utility bills or to an unforeseen emergency, these programs have meant so much to many families living in Takoma Park.

Montgomery County Rental Assistance Program — This program helps low income families who have difficulty paying the rent. Subsidies from $50 to $200 are available. If you are at least 62 years old, or disabled, or a household of two or more, and your monthly gross income does not exceed the program limits (for one person, $2,633; two people, $3,008; three people, $3,388, etc.) then you should contact the Department of Health and Human Services at 8818 Georgia Avenue to apply for this program. You must have a signed lease and provide financial information.

Energy Assistance Program — The Maryland Energy Assistance Program and the Electric Universal Service Program help eligible families with winter heating and electricity costs. Montgomery County’s Office of Home Energy (240-777-4450) oversees these programs and applications are available through that office. Documented financial information is required. Monthly gross income limitations for energy assistance are as follows: for one person household, $1,633; two people, $2,200; three people, $2,76, etc. You do not have to receive separate utility bills to be eligible for this program and the utility cost can be included in the rent.

Adventist Community Services — Because Takoma Park residents have annually responded to the city’s campaign for financial donations, this local social service organization is able to help residents in need on a case by case basis. Although there are no formal criteria, distribution are limited, tenants who are behind in their rent because of a financial emergency, or need a limited amount of money for a necessity may contact Adventist Community Services at 301-585-6556 to speak to a counselor.

For those interested in contributing a tax deductible donation to this fund, please send a check made out to the City of Takoma Park and indicate somewhere on the check that it is for the Emergency Assistance Program. Donations can be sent to the Finance Office, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. 20912. A letter acknowledging your donation will be mailed to you.

Accessible Homes For Seniors — This is a new pilot program sponsored by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with the Maryland Department of Aging. The program provides zero percent interest, deferred loans for a term of 30 years to finance accessibility improvements in a home owned by a senior (55 years and older). If a senior resides in the home of a relative, eligibility is determined on a case by case basis. Household income cannot exceed 80 percent of the Washington, DC MSA median (one person household, $51,240; two people, $58,560). Eligible improvements include widening of doorways, purchase and installation of exterior ramps, purchase and installation of accessible showers, grab bars and lever handles. To receive an application, call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Contribute Castoffs To be Turned into Art

Before you throw away all that clutter in your attic, consider donating your interesting two-dimensional materials (papers and fabrics) to the adult collage class offered through the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Collage artists need materials such as wallpaper samples, aged papers (letters and book pages), old prints and engravings, Time magazine (specifically, math or science textbook pages, maps, graphs, postage stamps, graph and lined papers, old advertisements, tickets, calendar pages, hand or machine printed music, calligraphy, typography, foreign language newspapers, labels from cans, book jackets, old photographs, fabrics (prints and solids), lace, linen, cheesecloth, burlap, pages with symbolic imagery (old alphabets, star charts, religious/spiritual texts, geometric shapes, diagrams for mechanical inventions, topographical maps, elemental symbols, chemical symbols, alchemical symbols), playing cards, game cards, tarot cards, papers with interesting textures and patterns, sonogram, mammogram images and x-ray film. We love neat stuff. Questions about donations should be directed to Katie Dell Kaufman at kdkaufman@pobox.com. The drop-off box is in front of the Recreation Department Office at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Old Town Festivities Celebrate the Season

Old Takoma is extending the warmth of the season with winter festivities from December 15 to December 23. Listen for music in the Gazebo on Carroll Avenue every night at 6:30, including area groups like the 18th Street Singers, Brass Quintet of the Takoma Park Band, the Montgomery Blair High School choral group and the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist church choir. Additional music will be under the tent at the Ecco Park site on Maple and Carroll. Shops will stay open late, with hot drinks and snacks to warm visitors, and unique items for gift giving. The Takoma Park Seventh Day Adventist Church is staging a free, live nativity pageant, with camels and sheep at 7:30 each evening. For more information, call Roz Grigsby, 240-253-4229.

Recognizing the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

Join the City of Takoma Park as we celebrate the life and times of the late Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. in words, song, and dance.

When: Friday, January 12, 2007
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road
Fee: Free
Happy Holiday Reading

By Karen MacPherson

Celebrate the upcoming holidays — Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and Chinese New Year — with some of these great new books, many of them selected by the Association of Library Service to Children as this year’s best holiday books, and all available at the Library.

Eight Wild Nights: A Family Hanukkah Tale. Author Brian P. Cleary uses rollicking rhymes to describe the happy chaos of a large family holiday gathering. The illustrations by David Udovic mirror the energy of Cleary’s irreverent text. (Ages 5-8)

A Christmas Carol. Illustrator PJ. Lynch adds new luster to Charles Dickens’ classic Christmas tale. This is a great edition for a family read-aloud session. (Ages 5 up, if read aloud).

Hanukkah at Valley Forge. Author Stephen Krensky and artist Greg Harlin join talents to offer a fictionalized account of an actual meeting between Gen. George Washington and a soldier celebrating Hanukkah. (Ages 6-10)

Christmas in the Trenches. Illustrator Henri Sorenson brings to life John McCutcheon’s stirring song about a World War I Christmas when German and English soldiers briefly stopped fighting to celebrate the holiday together. (Ages 6-10)

On Christmas Eve. In author Ann Martin’s heartwarming tale, eight-year-old Tess is determined to stay up late on Christmas Eve to ask Santa for a special wish: healing her best friend’s father from cancer. (Ages 7-10)

Yoon and the Christmas Mitten. Yoon, a young Korean girl newly arrived to America, persuades her parents to celebrate the family’s first Christmas in this picture book for school-age readers written by Helen Recorvits and illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska. (Ages 5-8)

Prairie Christmas. Author Elizabeth Van Steenwyk portrays how ten-year-old Emmie helps her mother, a frontier doctor, with a difficult Christmas Eve delivery. Evocative illustrations by Ronald Himler highlight the story’s drama.

The Year of the Dog: A Novel. A young girl decides she must make a new start - and some new friends - during the Chinese Year of the Dog in this delightful coming of age story by Grace Lin. (Ages 7-10)

All New Crafts for Kwanzaa. Learn about this African-American holiday by trying some of the 22 projects in this book by kids’ craft guru Kathy Ross. Illustrations by Sharon Lane Holm make it even easier to follow Ross’ clear directions. (Ages 5 up)

My First Hanukkah Board Book and My First Christmas Board Book. These two chunky board books published by DK present the holidays through simple text and appealing photos of various symbols, from Christmas trees to Hanukkah gelt. (Ages 1-3)

Library Programs

December 2006 and January 2007

La Hora de Juego en Español
Thursdays, December 7 and December 14, January 4 and January 11
10 a.m. at the Library
Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks

Sábado Gigante para Niños en la Biblioteca!
Saturday, December 2 and January 6
10:30 a.m. at the Library
Spanish story time with Laura Kleinmann

Friends of the Library Reading Group

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Learning Center Lobby

Kids Make Holiday Gifts at the Library
Monday, December 11, 7 p.m.
Come and make simple gifts for family and friends. Materials will be provided. Please register by calling 301–891–7259.

Winter Solstice Celebration
Thursday, December 21
7 p.m. at the Library
Featuring drummer Bill Jenkins and the Morris Dancers

5th Annual Dungeons and Dragons Intro for Parents and Educators
Interested kids also welcome to attend with parents.
Monday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.
Please call 301–891–7259 to register.

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

D&D Intro for Parents and Teachers

Dave Burbank, Library staffer and artist extraordinare, will present the 5th annual Introduction to “Dungeons & Dragons” for parents and teachers on Monday, January 15, at 7:30 p.m. “D&D” is a type of verbal videogame in which kids use their imaginations to play characters in old-fashioned adventure stories. “D&D” is a social activity, leads kids to reading books, and is both creative and cooperative. In this program, Dave will explain the basics of the game, and then lead participants in a D&D adventure. Parent-child teams are welcome. Please call 301–891–7259 to register.
THE CRIME REPORT

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. Collington

Robbery

On October 25 at 3:13 p.m. in the 7200 block of Carroll Ave., a robbery occurred. An employee of a gas station was counting money inside a booth when a subject approached, reached in through the open door of the booth, snatched a bundle of cash and fled on foot. No weapons were displayed and the victim was not touched.

On October 13 at 7:49 p.m. in the 7800 block of Kennewick Ave., an assault occurred. An adult male was walking alone when six subjects accosted him, punched him, and knocked him to the ground. The subjects fled on foot without taking anything from the victim. The victim was treated at a hospital for minor injuries.

On October 16 at 2:46 p.m. in the 8000 block of Maple Ave., a 1991 Toyota Camry was stolen. A subject posed as a car wash employee at a car wash and drove off in the car.

On November 6 at 9:50 a.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County Warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving an uninsured vehicle.

On November 8 at 2:25 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., a warrant for taking a motor vehicle, theft over $500 and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was issued to an adult male.

On November 6 at 3:48 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., a Montgomery County warrant for unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, theft over $500 and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was issued to an adult female.

On November 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave., a Takoma Park warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of theft under $500 was served on an adult male.

On November 2 at 10:29 p.m. in the 7200 block of Central Ave., citations for possession of alcohol/under the age of 21 were issued to an adult male and an adult female.

The Firehouse Report

As of October 31, 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 847 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,229 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,076 incidents this year. Totals for 2005 were 914 and 2,168 respectively, for a total of 3,082, representing a decrease of six incidents.

Cooking is Leading Cause of Home Fires and Injuries

It’s that time of the year, when families gather during the holidays to share good times and that special dinner. Members of the fire department want to remind you and your family of a few safety tips when cooking. The National Fire Protection Association advises that cooking equipment is involved in more than $1,000,000 reported home fires each year, and most of those involve the kitchen stovetop. Most cooking fires occur because of unattended cooking.

Safety Tips:
- Pay attention to your cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.

Blood Drive 2007

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Takoma Park Lions Club will be sponsoring the Blood Drive at the City Community Center on January 22, 2007. Please mark your calendar.

Toys for Needy Children

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will again collect new toys for needy families, from December 1 through 22. You may drop toys off at the fire station, 7201 Carroll Avenue. For information, please contact the fire department at 301-270-8209. Do not call before December 1. This year will mark the 26th year for the toy drive.

Takoma Park Lions Send Firetrucks Around the World

By Sherman Cohen, Secretary

The 100-foot hook and ladder fire truck has arrived at Station 7 in Lima, Peru. This was the second delivery the Takoma Park Lions Club has sent to Lima, where firefighters often don’t have the equipment they need to fight fires. The fire truck is being retrofitted and repaired in Lima.

Lions Club President Jorge Alfaro and his brother Carlos plan to go to Lima to instruct the Peruvians on the operation of the fire truck. Both Jorge and Carlos were firefighters in Lima before they came to America with their families. The ladder truck once served in Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ, a small borough between Atlantic City and New York City and was driven by Jorge Alfaro from Avon-by-the-Sea to Silver Spring for shipment to Peru. The mayor of Avon-by-the-Sea’s son-in-law is a firefighter in Montgomery County. Jorge Alfaro was an assistant fire chief in Peru before he moved with his family to Silver Spring.

“The government is buying equipment, but it’s not enough,” says Alfaro. “There are places where there are shanty towns and they don’t have a single fire station.” Alfaro’s brother, Carlos, organized the donation of a retired fire truck from the Hillandale Fire Station five years ago. Also gathered from area fire stations were a Dodge van, a Jeep Cherokee, oxygen tanks, fire hoses, firefighters’ coats, boots, gloves, helmets, and other supplies sufficient to fill a small shipping container.

Carlos Alfaro is a 30-year Montgomery County firefighter/ EMT and a member of a Lima Peru Lions Club as well as a Takoma Park Lion. He is recuperating from a bout of cancer.

The Takoma Park Lions Club also has a pumper fire truck planned for shipment to Honduras. Current requirements won’t allow the fire trucks to be used in active service any longer and both fire trucks are considered antiques by today’s American standards, but that won’t stop the fire trucks from being an important resource in Peru, according to Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Chief Jim Jarboe, also a Takoma Park Lion. A new hook and ladder truck today would cost as much as $750,000 and a new pumper truck could cost as much as $400,000. The two fire trucks were acquired for slightly less than $1,000.

ARRESTS

On November 6 at 9:50 a.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County Warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving an uninsured vehicle.

On November 8 at 2:25 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., a warrant for taking a motor vehicle, theft over $500 and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was served on an adult male.

On November 8 at 15:2 P.M. in the unit block of Lee Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS.

On November 6 at 10:29 p.m. in the 7200 block of Central Ave., citations for possession of alcohol/under the age of 21 were issued to an adult male and an adult female.

On November 6 at 3:48 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., a Montgomery County warrant for unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, theft over $500 and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was issued to an adult female.

On October 31 at 10:30 a.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., a Takoma Park warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of theft under $500 was served on an adult male.

On October 31 at 1:34 a.m. in the 1000 block of University Blvd., an adult female was arrested and charged with auto theft, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and theft over $500.

On November 1 at 4:10 p.m. in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave., a Takoma Park warrant for illegal possession of a handgun and second degree assault was served on an adult male.

On October 21 at 4:35 a.m in the 8000 block of Flower Ave., an adult male was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and failure to drive right of center.

On October 25 at 3 p.m., warrants for theft over $500, auto theft, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and conspiracy were served on an adult male and an adult female related to an auto theft that occurred on October 21 in the 1100 block of University Blvd.

On October 25 at 3 p.m., a warrant for second degree assault was served on an adult male related to a domestic assault that occurred on September 28 in the 700 block of Maplewood Ave.

On October 26 at 12:31 p.m. in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with illegal possession of a handgun by a prohibited person, possession of a stolen firearm, illegal possession of a handgun with a felony conviction, and second degree assault on a police officer after an incident that occurred in the 7300 block of Cedar Ave.

More Police News on page 10
Officers Train to Be Ready and Safe

Sworn members of Takoma Park Police Department go through in-service training, defensive tactics and officer survival skills.

October 17 and 19. The training, mandated by the state, is crucial to enhance officer safety and keep them current on new or improved survival skills.

Home Security Advice

Many Takoma Park Police officers are trained in the inspection of homes for security concerns. An officer will survey your residence for issues that may be making you or the house vulnerable and will make suggestions for improving your personal and property security. The service is free. Renters need permission of their landlord to conduct the survey. Contact your beat officer at 301-891-7100 to arrange a Home Security Inspection.

If you leave your home vacant for more than three days, whether for vacation or business, request a vacant house check. An officer will visit your home daily during your absence and inspect for any signs of suspicious activity. Call the police dispatcher at 301-270-1100, to request a vacant house check. Be prepared to provide information about the duration of your absence, vehicles parked in the driveway, and emergency notification information.

For additional information or questions about this program, call your appropriate beat officer.

Long Branch Revitalization

Funds for Revitalization

The Long Branch neighborhood is part of the Takoma Park/East Silver Spring Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone (CROZ), an addition to the Montgomery County zoning ordinance designed to foster economic vitality and an attractive community character, including an enhanced pedestrian/cyclist environment and a combined residential-commercial use to implement the master plan.

The county is devoting many staff hours to working with the businesses and residents in the CROZ to make the redevelopment efforts successful. But change is slow in coming, “Current incentives provided by the CROZ are not effective, as evidenced by the private sector not utilizing the incentives,” cites the ULI report. “More importantly... the CROZ does not provide for the level of density and building heights necessary to encourage redevelopment in the Long Branch commercial center.”

Takoma Park businesses in the Long Branch neighborhood also qualify for Enterprise Zone tax incentives. Businesses are eligible for state and local tax abatements and deductions, loan assistance and other business revitalization programs. The Enterprise Zone incentives have been available since 2003, but relatively few area businesses and property owners have taken advantage of them.

Full commercial occupancy ironically inhibits property owners from availing themselves of the tax incentives to greatly expand or change their buildings, according to Melanie Isis, business development specialist for the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs. To do so would necessitate closing or relocating the existing businesses, even temporarily, “and it’s hard to step away from that rental income,” says Isis.

Siu Wong of Beijing Delight is planning to use all of the financial assistance available for her new building and intends to keep her restaurant open during construction. She gestures as she describes the planned changes to her corner of the intersection, as if she can already see it going up in her mind’s eye. “It will be costly,” Wong says, “and we’ll need the Enterprise Zone to help.”

She and her husband had considered just renovating the existing buildings and renting out the additional space: “But that’s short-term thinking.”

Police News

Holiday Safety Tips

As the holiday season approaches, homes and property become attractive targets to criminal elements. Protect yourself, your family, and your property.

Shopping Tips

While shopping, be aware of the people and potential hazards around you in stores, at an ATM and on the sidewalks.

• Make eye contact with people you pass.
• When using an ATM, choose one in a well-lit, open location. Do not count your money at the machine; flashing cash attracts attention and if the amount received was wrong, you can’t argue with the machine. An ATM is located in the police lobby.
• If possible, leave your purse at home. Whenever possible carry keys, ID, and necessities on your person, perhaps in a fanny pack or wallet attached with a chain to belt loops.
• Safety in numbers applies: when possible, shop with someone.
• Try not to load yourself down with too many packages. If necessary, make trips to store packages in your vehicle. Store them in a locked truck or where they are not obvious temptations.
• Daytime shopping can be safer due to better visibility.
• At night, be cautious in dark or isolated garages or parking lots.

• Keep your cell phone handy.
• Keep doors and windows locked. Use timers on lights and a radio when you are away.
• Record the serial numbers from new electronic purchases and keep them stored safely. An engraver may be borrowed from the police to mark new items through Operation ID.
• Know if and when your neighbors are away from home and report strangers leaving with bundles or packages. Be aware of strangers approaching a neighbor’s home or vehicle. Don’t hesitate to call the police if someone’s behavior makes you uncomfortable.
• If you plan to be away for three days or more, register for the House Check program (301-270-1100) and an officer will patrol by your home daily to check for signs of unauthorized entry.

Finally, remember, if confronted comply with property demands. Money can be replaced. Try to recall as many details about the suspect as possible to provide a good description to police.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

First Annual

OPEN STUDIO TOUR AND HOLIDAY ART SALE

Saturday, December 16
Noon to 5 pm
Takoma Park and Old Takoma

Open Studio Tours, Art for Sale, Music, Holiday Windows

Visit with local artists during our open studio tours - a wonderful opportunity to get to know the artists and their work.

Art makes the perfect gift - stop by the Takoma Park Community Center where the work of local artists and crafters will be featured.

Explore Old Takoma - discover the uniqueness of our community and the creativity of our businesses as they decorate for the holiday.

Make a day of it - stay for dinner and the Takoma Park Seventh Day Adventist Church’s Bethlehem nativity drama.

Tour maps available as of December 1 at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park or on-line at www.takomaparkmd.gov

Sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission in partnership with ASalon, a Takoma DC arts cooperative
County Awards Video Franchise to Verizon

On November 28, the Montgomery County Council approved a franchise agreement with Verizon Maryland to use the public right-of-way for a cable system. The County agreement was negotiated in conjunction with the co-franchising participating municipalities, including the City of Takoma Park. Takoma Park City Council is scheduled to consider the Franchise Agreement at its December 11, 2006 meeting. Residents are advised to check the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov for updated information as it becomes available.

Celebrating the Creative Spirit of Our Community
The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission and Poet Laureate Don Berger are proud to present the

TAKOMA PARK POETRY SERIES
Readings begin at 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland

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December 14: OPEN READING featuring any who’d like to read their poems
January 18: Rhonda Williford and Maria Mazzenga
February 15: Martin FitzPatrick and Sheema Kalbasi
March 15: Louise Beach, Brandon Johnson and Ernie Wormwood
April 19: OPEN READING featuring any who’d like to read their poems
May 17: Tom Alderson, Ryan Holman and Laura Lauth
June 21: Cheryl Quimba and Don Berger
July 19: OPEN READING featuring any who’d like to read their poems

For more information
contact ahc@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7224

Vote for Art Project
Now that the election is over — the question is what are you going to do with all of those yard signs you have proudly displayed over the past three, four, maybe even five months? Consider participating in the Arts and Humanities Commission’s “Vote for Art” project.
The Commission is looking for the donation of used political lawn signs. All types and sizes of paper signs (not the plastic ones please) will be accepted as part of the Commission’s Spring “Vote For Art” Public Art Project. The donated signs will be white washed and the public will be invited to create a “new” campaign sign promoting a cause significant to them. Art supplies will be provided. The new signs will be unveiled on neighborhood lawns throughout the City of Takoma Park on Arts Advocacy Day, March 13, 2007.
The project’s goal is to bring attention to the creativity of Takoma Park as well as highlight the importance of supporting arts and education programs in the public schools.
For more information contact Sara Daines at 301-891-7224 or by email at AHC@takomagov.org.

Exhibit and Performance Highlights Local Artist

Jesters Manuscripts
Decoding the Past of Juggler and Jester
Work by David Camero
Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD
A reception — with performance — celebrating the artist and his work will be held on Friday, December 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the atrium lobby.
City Snow Removal Gears Up

In preparing for each winter’s snowstorms, the Public Works Department is providing this information about the City’s snow response process.

For the purposes of snow and ice control, the City is divided into five zones, and each is assigned a snow/ice removal vehicle. Each zone contains three types of roadways which receive different snow removal responses.

First Response: These roads carry the most traffic and connect neighborhoods. Roadways with steep inclines are also included.

Second Response: Neighborhood streets connected to the first response streets. Roadways with slight inclines are also included.

Third Response: Small streets with few homes or courts and alleys.

City crews are first dispatched to the First Response streets. Once these roads are passable they proceed to the Second Response areas. After these receive treatment, the Third Response streets are addressed. The listing of streets by response category follows below this article.

The goal of the City’s snow response process is to have a snow/ice removal vehicle make at least one pass down each street within an eight-hour period during the storm. Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until the roads are cleared. Often, when severe weather is on the way, the City begins anti-icing procedures on the First Response streets by applying salt and/or sand before the snow falls. Once snowfall has accumulated to an inch or more, the snow plows are put into use. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, clearing snow from your sidewalk or driveway we ask that you pile it in a yard, property owner/manager — and is required, for safety reasons, by City law. When clearing snow from your sidewalk or driveway we ask that you pile it in a yard, where possible, and not out in the street. Piles of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles.

There are several holidays that the City observes in December and January. Trash and recycling routes will be affected.

Monday, December 25
There will be no Monday yard waste collection.
Monday’s recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, December 26.

Monday, January 1
There will be no Monday yard waste collection.
Monday’s recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 2.

Monday, January 15
There will be no Monday yard waste collection.
Monday recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 16.