

Winter Employee Appreciation Day

All City Offices except for the Police Department will be closed Friday, February 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

**FEB. 18
CONFERENCE:**

**GOING GREEN
AT HOME**

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February 2007

Tiny Shopping Center Packs Big Impact

By Susan Holliday

This is the second in a series of articles to feature each of Takoma Park's commercial districts and the changes for business envisioned in the Takoma Park Master Plan. The Montgomery County Planning Department composed the plan after receiving input from every Takoma Park neighborhood group, public hearings, and the City of Takoma Park Council and staff. The City Council-approved plan, formalized by the Montgomery County Planning Board in Dec. 2000, is the City's blueprint for improvements over the next 5-15 years.

"Honey, run to the corner and pick up some..." Residents living within easy walking distance of handy shops – such as a grocery, hair salon or restaurant – often say that this convenience is part of the appeal of their Takoma Park neighborhood. City planners agree and, by realizing the Takoma Park Master Plan, hope to retain or improve the shops' prosperity while keeping residents and patrons safe and happy.

Look at the seven or so shops tucked among houses and apartments at the corner of Erie and Flower Avenues. If the address doesn't ring a bell, you may recall the corner's wavy red and black rooftop/awning that resembles a 1960s modernist holdover and makes the tiny commercial district stand out to passersby. The funky design was actually added 15 or so years ago, according to the architect Travis Price of Washington, D.C.

"It was a tight, tight budget," remi-



Restaurant owner Joaquin Vasquez at his Flower Avenue Pizza Movers, part of a small but vital commercial community in Takoma Park.

Photo: Susan Holliday

sniscs Price. He describes the "wild black strip" of the roofline as "sort of early deconstructivism, especially for this part of the world."

Though the façade makes some of the nearby residents wince, they love the convenience of the shops.

The corner grocery, GNH Market, is "our emergency grocery-shopping, essential-needs place," says Holly Pettit, for last-minute milk or a stick of butter. Her family, which has lived on Maple Avenue since 1985, frequents several of the shops, and even ordered from Ap-

pliance Distributors Unlimited on Erie Avenue when renovating their house. She recalls that the whole neighborhood mourned when the husband and wife owners of the dry cleaner were killed in a car accident several years ago, but that many residents remain loyal customers for the new owners of Lee's Cleaners.

Other residents echo her good feeling and recall after-dinner strolls with their

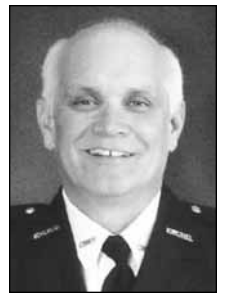
SHOPPING CENTER
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New Police Chief Selected

by Detective Andrew M. John
Police Information Officer

On January 8, 2007, Takoma Park City Manager Barbara B. Matthews announced the selection of Ronald A. Ricucci as the City's new Chief of Police. He will assume his duties on February 20, 2007.

Ricucci has years of experience in law enforcement, starting as a cadet and dispatcher at the Montgomery County, Maryland police department and including a total of 27 years there, until his retirement in the mid-1990s at the rank of Deputy Chief. Ricucci went on to serve as Chief of Police for Jefferson County, Kentucky and as director of Public Safety for the City of Louisville, Kentucky. He was Chief of Police for Front Royal, Virginia and in 2005 took his most recent position, as deputy director of security services for the Hillsborough County, Florida public school system. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland.



Ronald Ricucci

Ricucci was chosen following a nationwide search. The City utilized the services of an executive search firm (The Mercer Group, Inc.) to assist with recruitment. More than 90 candidates applied for the position. Applicants were evaluated against the desired qualifications set forth in a candidate profile, which was developed based on interviews conducted by The Mercer Group, Inc. with Councilmembers, City staff, community leaders, and City Manager Barbara Matthews. Semi-finalists for the position interviewed with two interview panels, comprised of the City Manager, City department heads, members of the Takoma Park Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, and a police chief from a local jurisdiction. In accordance with the City Charter, Matthews made the final selection.

"[Ricucci] will bring to the position a wealth of experience in municipal law enforcement which will be of tremendous benefit to the Takoma

NEW CHIEF
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Ward Five Gets New Representative

By the time you read this newsletter, Ward 5 will have voted for a new councilmember replacing long-time member Marc Elrich, who was elected to Montgomery County Council in November. For details on your new representative, see the city's web page, takomaparkmd.gov. You'll also find photos and descriptions of all the candidates

for this special election -- Alexandra Quéré Barrionuevo, Eric Hensal, and Reuben Snipper – and an explanation of the Instant Runoff Voting system adopted in 2006 and used for the first time in this election. We'll have more information about the election and new councilmember in the March edition of the Newsletter.

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Mayor & Council
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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, January 29 - Regular meeting and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, January 30 - Ward 5 Special Election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Columbia Union College, Wilkinson Hall Lobby, 7600 Flower Avenue

Tuesday, January 30 - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center, Room TBA)

Wednesday, January 31 - Special meeting of the City Council to receive certification of the election results, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, February 5 - Interviews and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, February 5 - Candidates' Final Campaign Contribution Report due to City Clerk

Monday, February 12 - Swearing-in of new Ward 5 councilmember, regular meeting and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, February 13 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Tuesday, February 13 - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Lilac Room)

Monday, February 19 - City offices closed for Washington's birthday holiday

Tuesday, February 20 - Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Thursday, February 22 - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Monday, February 26 - Regular meeting of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, February 27 - (Tentative) Commission on Landlord-tenant Affairs hearing, 7 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

Tuesday, February 27 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

Wednesday, February 28 - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

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

City Council Briefs

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

November 20 Special Session

Resolution 2006-73 was adopted, appointing Wolfgang Mergner to the Safe Roadways Committee as a representative of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Elrich)

November 27 Regular Meeting

Resolution 2006-74 was adopted, recognizing Ward 5 Councilmember Marc Elrich for his service to the City (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams)

First Reading Ordinance 2006-53 was accepted, regarding the Ward 5 Special Election of January 30 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Elrich, Seamens, Williams)

December 11 Regular Meeting

Resolution 2006-75 was adopted, recognizing State Senator Ida Ruben for her service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-76 was adopted, recognizing State Delegate Peter

Franchot for his service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-77 was adopted, recognizing State Delegate Gareth Murray for his service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-78 was adopted, recognizing County Executive Doug Duncan for his service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-79 was adopted, recognizing County Councilmember Howard Denis for his service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-80 was adopted, recognizing outgoing County Councilmember Tom Perez for his service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-81 was adopted, recognizing County Councilmember Steve Silverman for his service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-82 was adopted, recognizing County Councilmember Mike Subin for his service (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Councilmember Barry)

Resolution 2006-83 was adopted, ap-

proving a franchise agreement with Verizon Communications (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-84 was adopted, supporting certification of Takoma Park as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Community (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Second Reading Ordinance 2006-53 was adopted by roll-call vote, regarding the Ward 5 Special Election of January 30 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-85 was adopted, amending the City's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan to permit loans (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

Resolution 2006-86 was adopted, amending the City's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Loan Guidelines to permit on-line loans and ACH debit (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Barry)

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

A. Resolution 2006-87 reappointing Timothy Male to the Committee on the Environment

B. Resolution 2006-88 appointing Stephen Davies to the Noise Control Board

C. Resolution 2006-89 providing for the Council's holiday recess (December 12-January 8)

Vacancies on Council-appointed Boards and Committees

There are vacancies on the following Council-appointed boards, commissions, and committees. Potential members are encouraged to attend meetings prior to applying for appointment. Further information on committees, their meeting schedules, and applications for appointment are available at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees> or by contacting the City Clerk's office at 301-891-7267 (clerk@takomagov.org).

Arts and Humanities Commission
Board of Elections
Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center
Committee on the Environment
Council Compensation Committee
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Ethics Commission
Noise Control Board
Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee
Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee
Safe Roadways Committee

Further information is available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7267. To apply, send a letter of interest and resume or statement of qualifications to the City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or via e-mail to JessieC@takomagov.org.

CABLE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

The City is looking for a Takoma Park resident to serve on the Montgomery County Cable Communications Advisory Committee. Representative is required to attend one monthly meeting in Rockville. Some experience and interest in cable television, telecommunications or local government would be preferred.

Please send a letter of interest to: Lonni Moffet, Communications Director, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; call: 301-891-7236; or e-mail LonniM@takomagov.org.

Speak with the Mayor

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

Office hours are Tuesdays 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m..

Walk-ins are welcome for Wednesday office hours only.

To schedule a meeting, contact Executive Assistant Peggy F. Washington at 301-891-7230 or peggyew@takomagov.org.



Mayor Kathy Porter

Stormwater Management Bills Are on the Way

By Barbara Matthews
City Manager

By late February, each property owner in the City of Takoma Park will receive an invoice for the 2007 stormwater management fee for his/her property, reflecting an increase in the annual charge. This article is intended to answer possible questions that residents may have about this fee.

Who pays the stormwater management fee?

All non-governmental owners of developed real property in the City of Takoma Park are assessed a fee for stormwater management. It is not a tax but rather a fee based on the generation of stormwater runoff. Developed properties, even if the property is tax exempt, generate stormwater runoff and therefore are assessed the fee.

How are the proceeds from stormwater management fees spent?

The City's Stormwater Management Fund is a dedicated fund. Revenues generated by the stormwater management fee are used to construct capital improvement projects that reduce flooding and improve water quality and to maintain stormwater systems throughout the City. These activities may or may not be in proximity to your property but they provide an overall community benefit by improving the functionality of the City's stormwater

systems. The monies are also used to ensure the City's compliance with state and federal requirements for erosion and pollution control associated with stormwater run-off.

Is the stormwater management fee collected as part of my property taxes?

No. Takoma Park's stormwater management fee is billed separately from real property taxes. Each property owner is responsible for remitting the applicable fee to the City of Takoma Park.

When is the stormwater management fee payable?

The fee must be paid within 30 days after the bill is mailed to the property owner and is overdue after that date.

What are the penalties for not paying the stormwater management fee on time?

If a property owner does not pay the applicable stormwater management fee by the due date, interest and penalties will accrue at the rate of 1.67 percent for each month or fraction of a month that the fee is overdue. Unpaid fees, including associated interest and penalties, may be collected by placing a lien on the property, by a lawsuit against the property owner or by including the property on the list of properties to be sold by Montgomery County at its annual tax lien sale.

How is the stormwater management fee on each property determined?

In the mid-1990s, the City retained a consulting firm to provide assistance in the development of a base rate and fee structure for the stormwater management program. The base rate was established based on the type of land use, the percentage of impervious area per lot, and the projected program costs for maintaining the City's stormwater system.

For the purpose of determining the stormwater management fee, property in the City is classified into either single family residential property or other developed property. The fee for each single-family residential lot is a flat amount equivalent to the base rate. The base rate is reviewed and set every year by the City Council.

The fee for other developed property is based on a formula that takes into account the base rate and the total impervious surface area of the property.

The City's stormwater management fee is not assessed based on the existence of flooding or stormwater problems in a particular area.

What is the base rate for 2007?

The base rate for 2007 is \$48. This is the amount that the owner of a single-family residential lot will pay.

The new base rate is higher than the rate assessed in 2006. Why?

The 2006 stormwater management base

rate was \$28.68. This rate was established by the Takoma Park City Council in 1999.

Since that time, the City's cost to inspect its stormwater management system and to install new maintenance structures has increased dramatically. For example, the City's current cost for TV inspection of the system costs approximately three times more than the program did in 1998.

Additionally, in recent years, the City has had to implement certain measures to comply with requirements of the Clean Water Act. Additional expenditures will be required in the near future in order to ensure the City's continued compliance with these requirements. For example, the City must upgrade its Geographic Information System; an initial investment of \$30,000 will be made in fiscal year 2007.

The City maintains a list of capital improvement projects designed to address concerns identified by both staff and property owners. Additional funding is also required to address these needs.

The new base rate of \$48 is below the reported national average.

Who should I contact if I have further questions?

For further information about the City's stormwater management program, please contact the City Engineer at 301-891-7620. The Finance Department staff can answer your questions about your invoice; they can be reached at 301-891-7212.

Ya Vienen las Facturas de Administración de Agua de Lluvia

escrito por Barbara Matthews
Administrador de la Ciudad de
Takoma Park

A fin de febrero, los propietarios en la ciudad de Takoma Park recibirán una factura de pago para la administración de agua de lluvia para su propiedad, reflejando el aumento en el cargo anual. La intención de este artículo es para contestar cualquier pregunta que tengan los residentes sobre este cargo.

¿Quién paga para la administración de agua de lluvia?

Los dueños de propiedades ubicadas en la ciudad de Takoma Park, que no son parte del gobierno, pagan para la administración de agua de lluvia. No es un impuesto más bien un pago basado en la producción de escurrimiento de agua de lluvia. Propiedades ubicadas en la ciudad de Takoma Park, aunque la propiedad sea libre de impuestos, producen escurrimiento de agua de lluvia y por esa razón pagan el cargo.

¿Como administran los fondos de la administración de agua de lluvia?

Los fondos van a una cuenta designada. Las ganancias generadas son utilizados para construir proyectos de perfeccionamiento de bienes de uso, que reducirá inundaciones y mejorará la calidad del agua y conservará el sistema para agua de lluvia por toda la ciudad. Estas actividades pueden ser o no pueden ser cerca de su propiedad pero dan un beneficio a toda la comunidad mejorando la función de sistema de agua de lluvia de la ciudad.

El dinero también se usará para asegurar la conformidad de la ciudad con los requisitos del estado y gobierno federal de erosión y polución relacionados con escurrimientos de agua de lluvia.

¿Los pagos para la administración de agua de lluvia son parte de los impuestos de propiedad?

No. El pago para la administración de agua de lluvia es un pago aparte de los impuestos de propiedad. Cada propietario es responsable por mandar los pagos pertinente a la ciudad de Takoma Park.

¿Cuando se paga la factura para la administración de agua de lluvia?

El pago se hará dentro 30 días después de la fecha que se manda la factura por correo al propietario.

¿Cuáles son las penalidades por no pagar la factura de administración de agua de lluvia?

Si el propietario no paga a tiempo, interés y cargos adicionales se acumulará al paso de 1.67% por cada mes o parte del mes que el cargo esta atrasado. Facturas que no se han pagado, incluyendo interés y penalidades, podrán ser colectadas por medio de un embargo a la propiedad, una demanda contra el propietario, o se incluirá la propiedad en la lista de embargo de propiedad que el condado de Montgomery pone en venta.

¿Cómo se determina el cargo para la administración de agua de lluvia por cada propiedad?

A mediados del 1990s, la ciudad retuvo

los servicios de una compañía que asistió en el desarrollo de una tarifa base y un sistema de pago para el programa de administración de agua de lluvia. Basado en el tipo de propiedad, el porcentaje de la superficie del terreno, y el costo para mantener el sistema de agua de lluvia, la tarifa base fue establecida.

Para determinar el cargo para la administración de agua de lluvia, las propiedades son clasificadas como viviendas unifamiliares o otra propiedad desarrollado. El cargo por cada terreno de vivienda unifamiliar es una cantidad fija equivalente a la tarifa base. El consejo revisa y dispone la tarifa base cada año.

El cargo para otras propiedades desarrolladas está basado en una formula que toma en cuenta la tarifa base y el impermeable área superficie de la propiedad.

El cargo para la administración de agua de lluvia no esta basado en la existencia de inundaciones o problemas de agua de lluvia en áreas particulares.

¿Cuál es la tarifa base para el año 2007?

La base tarifa de 2007 es \$48.00 USD. Esta es la cantidad que el dueño de una vivienda unifamiliar paga.

La tarifa base es más alto que la tarifa del año 2006. ¿Porqué?

En el año 2006 la tarifa base de la administración de agua de lluvia era \$28.68 USD. Esta tarifa base fue establecida por el consejo de la ciudad de Takoma Park en 1999.

Desde entonces, el costo a la ciudad para inspeccionar el sistema de agua de

lluvia y para instalar nuevas estructuras de mantenimiento ha subido drásticamente. Por ejemplo, el costo actual para las inspecciones de TV del sistema es aproximadamente tres veces más que en 1998.

Adicionalmente, en los últimos años, la ciudad a tenido que llevar al cabo ciertas medidas para cumplir con los requisitos del Acto de Agua Limpia. Gastos adicionales serán necesarios en el futuro para asegurar que la ciudad sigue cumpliendo estos requisitos. Por ejemplo, la ciudad tiene que mejorar su Sistema de Información Geográfica, una inversión inicial de \$30,000 USD se hará en el año fiscal de 2007.

La ciudad mantiene una lista de proyectos de perfeccionamiento de bienes de uso para dirigir las percupaciones de los empleados y propietarios. Fondos adicionales serán necesario para estas necesidades.

La nueva tarifa base de \$48.00 USD es bajo la cantidad nacional reportada.

¿A quien debo de contactar si tengo más preguntas?

Para más información acerca del programa de agua de lluvia de la ciudad de Takoma Park, por favor llame al ingeniero de la ciudad al 301-891-7620. El personal del departamento de finanzas puede responder a sus preguntas acerca de su factura, lo pueden hacer llamando al teléfono 301-891-7212.



Don't Let the Bedbugs BITE

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

Last summer, CBS News declared that infestations of bedbugs are on the rise in many U. S. cities. Indeed, bedbugs are real, and not the product of urban myth or fables. Although not known to transmit any human disease, they do leave behind itchy and often painful bite reactions, as well as costly extermination bills.

According to entomologists and exterminators, the bedbug resurgence is related to increased cheap international travel, with bedbugs returning as uninvited companions on luggage and clothing. Further aggravating the problem are changes in pest control practices, including the phasing out of DDT due to its human toxicity. The impact of the resulting resurgence is noted from Hawaii, where state lawmakers passed a prevention campaign resolution after infestations at some hotels damaged reputations and annoyed travelers, to New York City, where a city councilmember has proposed a Bedbug Task Force and the city housing authority has addressed the ever growing problem in its tenant newsletter. Locally, there has been a notable increase in the number

of bed bug complaints received by the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant office during the past two years.

What are Bedbugs

Bedbugs are insects or more specifically "true bugs" with piercing mouthparts adapted to feed on human blood. They are sometimes called red coats, chinchies or mahogany flats, and the adult is described as oval, wingless and approximately one-fifth inch long. The life cycle stages of a bed bug are egg, nymph and adult, and its entire life cycle spans five weeks to four months, depending on temperature and availability of food. Females lay about 200 eggs, usually at the rate of three to four a day, in cracks and crevices in the floor or bed. Eggs are white and about one millimeter long; nymphs look like adults but are smaller.

Nymphs and adults generally feed at night and hide during the day in any wall or floor crack the thickness of a playing card. Both male and female bed bugs feed as their only source of nutrition on the blood of people sleeping at night or in the absence of humans on the blood of other animals such as cats, dogs and mice. A bed bug can in-

gest six times its weight in blood, taking just three to 10 minutes before they are engorged and drop off their feeding site. After eating they crawl into a hiding place where they remain for several days digesting their food.

Bed bug bites are often found on the upper body, including but not limited to the neck, arms and shoulders. Although usually painless bites may produce welts, inflammation and itching. Other signs of bedbugs are dark spotting from bed bug fecal matter on bedframes, box springs and mattresses, blood spots on sheets and walls and egg cases/shed skin inside cracks and crevices near beds.

Bed Bug Entry and Location

Occasionally bed bugs may be picked up while sitting in a theater or traveling on public transportation, or brought into a residence on clothing, luggage or firewood. Pets and other animals found in or near the home may also be a host for bed bugs which may enter homes and feed on humans.

After being carried into a home bed bugs are primarily situated in places where people sleep and found in such locations as:

- Bed frame and head board cracks;
- Mattress and bed frame seams, tufts and folds;
- Under chairs, couches, beds, dust covers;
- Under rugs and the edges of carpets;
- Between curtain folds;
- In or under drawers and drawer rails;
- Behind baseboards, electrical plate covers, loose wallpaper;
- Behind posters and paintings;
- In wall cracks, TV's, radios and clocks

Bed bugs can also travel to adjacent rooms or other rental units along pipes, electrical wiring and other wall openings.

Bedbug Management / Treatment

Because many of the insecticides commonly used today are repellent to bed bugs they may respond to an application by scattering away from the treated areas resulting in an inadvertent spreading of the problem.

State Departments of Health, academicians and others involved in pest control support a multi-faceted approach for managing and treating bedbug infestation problems. Commonly known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) this plan generally includes cleaning, selected room modifications and insecticidal treatment.

Selected IPM Program recommended activities include:

- Examining all items in infested rooms for bedbugs;
- Launder bedding and other affected clothing in hot water and dry in a hot dryer;
- Thoroughly vacuum and revacuum infested areas and all room furnishings. The disposable vacuum bag should be sealed and placed in an external disposal site;
- Encasing the affected mattress and box springs in a plastic allergen-generated cover for at least one year;
- Seal cracks and crevices on baseboards, floors and bed frames;
- Remove all unnecessary clutter that may provide harborage for bed bugs;
- Move the bed frame away from the wall and tuck all bed coverings so they avoid contact with the floor.

Homeowners experiencing bed bug problems should consider contacting a licensed Pest Control Operator (PCO) who is knowledgeable and experienced in managing bed bug infestations.

Tenants experiencing bed bug problems should immediately contact their landlord and/or property manager to discuss respective obligations and reach agreement on a plan to manage the infestation. As a general rule landlords are obligated to provide safe and habitable accommodations for tenants. Tenants are obligated to cooperate with landlords in addressing a bed bug problem by doing such things as preparing the rental unit for inspection and treatment by a Pest Control Operator.

Finally, when discarding infested furniture, cut or poke holes in its upholstery making it undesirable or make the discarded furniture unusable and never resell or donate infested furniture.

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



**COLTA's
CORNER**

By Jean Kerr, Housing Specialist

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

Capital Improvement / Hardship Petitions

6901 Westmoreland Avenue (2006-58L)

On December 28, 2006, a capital

improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$192.71 on one unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the bathroom vanity, bathroom faucet, Venetian blinds and painting.

8304 Eastridge Avenue (2006-60L)

On December 27, 2006, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$25.27 to \$127.52 on all six units at the property. The improvement included replacing windows in all units, replacing A/C units, stove, refrigerator, carpet, vinyl tiles, toilet,

medicine cabinet and painting. Two improvements were disapproved because the costs per item were under the \$200 per unit or \$2,500 for the rental facility to qualify as a capital improvement.

All increases are in addition to the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken except the rent increases on the hardship petition which already included the Rent Stabilization Allowance.

The GYM

WHAT DO YOU THINK, TAKOMA PARK?

Community Workshops Scheduled for February 10 and 11

By Suzanne Ludlow,
Community and Government Liaison

It's been nine years since the Community Center planning and construction began, and the process continues this month as city staff and council consider the pros and cons of adding a gym as part of the complex. Since 1998, city residents, staff and Council have worked to create a facility that would meet many community needs: The old Takoma Park Municipal Building and Library were joined, added to and partially renovated, resulting in the Takoma Park Community Center. The work was done in phases, as funds were raised. Phase One of the Community Center opened in the fall of 2005 with a computer learning center, senior room, art room and four meeting rooms. Phase Two opened in the summer of 2006 with a game room, teen lounge, dance studio and additional meeting room. In addition, some work on the building is continuing: a second elevator is being installed and specifications for building and room signs are being finalized.

But some members of the community and the City Council are hoping for additional improvements: the construction of a gymnasium, renovation of the auditorium, and installation of a new facade on older sections of the building. The gymnasium, in particular, has been a focal point of fundraising activity.

In July 2006, the Takoma Park City Council directed staff to contract for a feasibility study for the gymnasium. The goal was to see how much it would cost to construct a gymnasium addition to the Community Center given what had been learned about utility line locations and soil conditions on the site as well as rising construction costs. The firm of ANCL Architects was retained to do the study. They issued their findings on November 1, 2006.

ANCL found that the cost of building a gymnasium and related facilities would range between \$5.5 and \$8 million, if construction could begin during the summer of 2008. The \$5.5 - \$8 million figure was substantially higher than had been previously estimated. Much of the higher cost is due to the soaring cost of construction materials nationwide. And, some of the costs were due to assumptions as to what the City might want regarding the type of gymnasium and related facilities.

Not just a gym

ANCL initially developed three concepts for a gymnasium addition based on desired use by the

City's Recreation Department and suggestions by the Community Center Liaison Committee, as well as parking needs. In addition to a gymnasium, each of the concepts included locker rooms and a storage area and at least some underground parking. Some of the concepts also had a small fitness room and an office. Two of the concepts included moving the Police Department's holding cells, which are currently located close to the building's Grant Avenue entrance.

The higher than expected cost figures presented in the feasibility study led to brainstorming about ways to reduce the cost. Suggestions included eliminating any new underground parking, minimizing the need for retaining walls, and investigating different building techniques. The City Council directed staff to extend the contract with ANCL to explore these or other options that might lower the cost.

Pursuant to this request, ANCL has developed three additional configurations for which cost estimates are being obtained. The cost estimates should be available by the end of January.

Community Workshops Scheduled

We need your input as to whether or not the City of Takoma Park should pursue construction of a gymnasium! On Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11, the City will hold two identical community workshops on the gymnasium. The workshops will begin promptly at 2:30 p.m. and will end at 4:30 p.m. Groups will look at different options and issues, with the topics being rotated so that all groups will see all options. Participants will be able to share opinions both in a group setting and individually on feedback comment forms. The Sunday session will have one group facilitated in Spanish. Please participate in this free event! We really want to know if you believe the City should build a gym and if so, what it should include and look like.

Once the workshops are held, the City Council will discuss the project. The evening of Monday, February 12, has been tentatively set as the date for the Council to discuss the outcome of the public workshops and consider next steps.

For more information on the community workshops, as well as detailed information on the concept plans for the gym as they become available, please go to the City's webpage at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Or, contact Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS ON THE COMMUNITY CENTER GYM

Saturday, February 10, 2007

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall
Grace United Methodist Church
7001 New Hampshire Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

Sunday, February 11, 2007

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

The Sunday workshop will include a special track for Spanish-speaking participants.

El Gimnasio - ¿Que Piensan, Takoma Park?

Uds. Están Invitados a Participar en un Taller Comunitario

Vamos a tener dos talleres idénticos el 10 y el 11 de febrero. Los participantes estarán divididos en grupos para discutir todas las opciones y asuntos de tener un nuevo gimnasio en Takoma Park. El taller del 11 de febrero tendrá un grupo conducido en español. Para más información, llamar a Sofía Visurraga al 301-891-7204.

TALLERES COMUNITARIOS

Sábado, 10 de febrero

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall
Grace United Methodist Church
7001 New Hampshire Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

Domingo,* 11 de febrero

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

*El taller del domingo tendrá un grupo conducido en español.

Tools to Go Green at Home

Green is the big color this year - but this 70s style may be here to stay. Finally, the DC Metro area has a selection of suppliers, contractors, programs and architects to support not just state-of-the-art green office buildings, but also your average homeowner. To showcase this growing trend, Takoma Park Housing and Community



Development is offering a Green Building Conference that will help area residents and residential contractors learn how to go green, provide an opportunity for networking, and find out how to save money and our environment in the long run.

There are many facets to building green, and this conference will explore quite a few of them in a six hour period. For example, did you know that when you take out that "old" flooring or closet you call a bathroom, there are destinations besides the landfill for that material? Paul Hughes, a deconstruction specialist and Jim Schulman of Community Forklift can help you figure out what to do with that material, and maybe give you ideas for reusing or finding used/recycled resources as well.

Worried rainwater from your property is degrading Sligo Creek and the Anacostia? Learn about techniques to channel, store, and use all that water. Brit Slattery from Audubon Maryland-DC will be giving tips on attracting birds to your back and front yards, and so many people will be talking about energy, energy efficiency, sun energy, design for better energy use, energy tax credits, and wind energy that you will need to go to www.takomaparkmd.com to see the program. Area architects will give the details on green roofs, building in a historic district, and holistic green design. Find out first hand from a homeowner what she went through to remodel green. Plus you'll learn everything you need to know about composting, the urban forest, and green finishes for your home.

GOING GREEN AT HOME continues on page 7

Going Green at Home TAKOMA PARK GREEN BUILDING conference



Are you renovating?
Landscaping?
Refinishing?
Concerned about
energy or the earth?
This is for you.

Sunday, February 18
11 AM - 5 PM
Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

For more information on workshop sessions
and to register, go to:

www.takomaparkmd.gov

RECREATION



Bryant Marshall helps two young Takoma Park boys with their art project at the annual holiday party sponsored by the VFW at the Takoma Park Recreation Center.

Photo: Debra Haiduven

MONTESSORI MORNING 1

AGES 1 1/2 - 3 1/2
 You've heard about the benefits of the Montessori approach for young children, now experience it! A certified Montessori teacher with several years experience will guide exploration of sensory, fine motor, pre-reading, pre-writing, and pre-math. Parent education materials will be provided with each session. There is a \$20 materials fee paid to the instructor the first day of class. Instructor Alicia Sar. Maximum 12, Minimum four. Six weeks. Additional classes will be added if needed.

When: Fri., March 9 - April 20
 Time: 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.
 Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Community Center
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$65
 Non-Res. \$75
 No class April 6.

BRIGHT MINDS - SCIENCE FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

1 1/2 - 3 1/2
 Children will explore the wonders of the natural world through the seasons and their senses. Each session will feature hands-on safe experiences; parent resources will be provided to continue exploration at home. Materials fee of \$15 due to the instructor the first day of class. Instructor Kirsten Sandberg- Da Silva. Maximum 12, Minimum five. Six weeks.

When: Thurs., March 8 - April 19
 Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
 Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Comm. Center
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$65
 Non-Res. \$75
 No class on April 5.

1,2,3 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 skill building activities. Measuring, sorting, proportion and counting are some of the concepts we will explore as we cook up fun and tasty foods. Parent resources will be provided each session. A \$15 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class. Maximum 12, Minimum five. Six weeks. Instructor: Kirsten Sandberg-Da Silva.

When: Thursdays, March 8 - April 19
 Time: 4 - 5 p.m.
 Location: Heffner Center, 42 Oswego Avenue
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$65
 Non-Res. \$75
 No class on April 5.

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 make Dr. Seuss' red fish blue fish swim? You and your child will do this and many other fun language, sensory, fine and gross motor activities inspired by favorite children's books. Maximum of 12, Minimum of five. Six weeks. Instructor: Alicia Sar.

When: Fri., March 9 - April 20
 Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Comm. Center
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$65
 Non-Res. \$75
 No class April 6.

ONE SESSION PARENT SUPPORT SEMINARS

The following one-time session, for parents of young children (birth - 4 years), is one of a series that provides tools and strategies to support children's positive growth and development. Parenting resource materials will be provided. Each session is \$25 for T.P. City Res. and \$30 for Non-Res. (material included). Azalea Room, Takoma Park Community Center. Minimum of four.

Encouraging Literacy in Young Children

Did you know that reading to your child 20 minutes each day lays the foundation for learning to read? This class presents ideas and activities to help prepare for a life-long love of reading. Learn the research and rationale behind encouraging literacy in even the youngest child.

When: Wed, Feb. 28
 Time: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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 and Piney Branch Elementary Schools. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or prepare for their day at school. For more information call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.

When: Mon. - Fri., through June 14
 Time: 7 - 9 a.m.
 Location: Azalea Room, T.P. Comm. Center
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$175 per nine weeks
 Non-Res. \$215 per nine weeks

Payments are made in equal installments, unless

Help Wanted!!

The City of Takoma Park is seeking part time bus drivers with a CDL license to operate the new 22 passenger bus. Hours vary and include daytime, weekend and evenings. More hours are available during the summer months. Will be accepting several qualified drivers as contractors to accommodate the need. \$15/hour. If interested, call Matt Corley at 301-891-7226.

otherwise arranged with the Recreation Director. Payment is due at time of registration, and the last payment is due on March 30. 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).

FUN DAY PROGRAM 2007

Grades K - 5
 The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day closings and activities and performances on scheduled half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. On half days only students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up in the cafeteria and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Bring a snack! Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early. On whole days off of school meet in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center.

When: Tue., Feb. 27
 Activity: Nicolo Whimsey, Learn to spin plates and juggle
 Time: 1 - 5 p.m.
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$10
 Non-Res. \$15

When: Tue., March 27
 Activity: National Aquarium in Baltimore
 Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$20
 Non-Res. \$25

FAMILY FRIDAY FUN

Looking for a little action, adventure, and comedy for the family? On the third Friday of each month join area families for a fun filled evening of movies and popcorn. Movies are free and will be shown in the auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center. Refreshments available for a small fee.

When: Fri., Feb. 16
 Movie: Princess Diaries - Rated G
 Time: 7 p.m.

FAMILY DAY TRIPS

Want to plan a family outing but don't have the time? Let us do the work for you! Trips are geared for families with children 6 years and older. One family member must be at least 18 years old. Meet in the parking lot of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, one half hour before the trip departs.

Advanced registration is required. See each trip for deadline. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing a snack or lunch is recommended.

INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING AT EARTH TREKS

Maximum of 14. Release form required.

Date: Feb. 24
 Location: Earth Treks, Rockville, MD
 Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Fee: T.P. Res. \$35/participant
 Non-Res. \$40/participant
 RSVP: Feb. 16



Starletta Byrd earns community service credits while assisting school age kids in the Kidzcity program at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue.

Photo: Debra Haiduven

ANATOMY OF HIP-HOP

Grades 6-12.
An introduction to the basic concepts of pop and hip-hop music composition, you will learn to create sounds and instruments using virtual synthesizers, basic concepts of editing and manipulating existing audio, the practical use of microphones for recording vocal tracks, how to edit, mix, and finalize your project, create an mp3 from it, and put it into iTunes as a final product. Instruction takes place on Saturdays and kids can sign up for studio time with instructors during the week. If interested send an e-mail to musicpro@takomagov.org or stop by the Recreation Department.

When: Saturdays starting February 17
Location: Music/Video Lab, T.P. Comm. Center

DRAWING AND WATERCOLOR

Ages 11- 14
In this class you'll have fun learning techniques of black and white and color drawing, watercolor painting, pen and ink and mixed media. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Develop observational skills and explore personal expression through color, texture, light, form and movement. Materials/model fee of \$25, paid directly to the instructor, Katie Dell Kaufman, is due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Six weeks.

When: Tuesday, March 6 - April 17
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T. P. Comm. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. \$130
Non-Res. \$140
No Class on April 9.

COLLAGE

Ages 18 and older
Have fun working with memorabilia and items of personal significance, while learning how collage methods can enhance your art making process. Covers a variety of collage techniques with found and altered materials, and instruction in supports, priming and preparing surfaces. Suitable for beginners and experienced students. Basic materials (adhesives, supports, papers and paints) will be available (some personal or found collage elements may be added). Materials fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, Katie Dell Kaufman, is due on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Six weeks.

When: Wed., March 6 - April 17
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T. P. Comm. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. \$200
Non-Res. \$220
No Class on April 3.

THREE-PIECE JEWELRY/GIFT BOX SET

Ages 6 and older
Create a beautiful three-piece jewelry/ gift box set using sponge painting techniques. You will work with up to three paint colors to create a one of a kind piece. One session.
When: Thurs. Feb. 1
Time: 3:45 - 6 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Comm. Center
Fee: T.P. Res. \$22
Non-Res. \$32

SILVER FOXES ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

Game room open for Seniors Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop in and join a friend in ping pong, pool, foosball or just to socialize.

LINE DANCING

Date: Wednesdays, Ongoing
Time: 11 a.m. - noon
Line dancing is a great way to exercise with music. No experience necessary. Drop in and enjoy the fun. Meet in the Dance Studio located near the rear entrance of the new Community Center building. No transportation provided. Class leader/instructor is Takoma Park resident, Barbara Brown.

GENTLE EXERCISE AND YOGA FOR SENIORS

Date: Fridays, Ongoing
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

This non-aerobic movement class, geared specifically for individuals in attendance, gives basic movement exercises to strengthen muscular development both seated and if able, standing with support. Coordination movements, walking or in a chair (wheelchairs okay) you will use gentle motivation, musical inspiration and yoga principals to bring oxygen to the blood, fluidity to the joints and laughter to the soul. Drop-ins are welcome. Location: Dance Studio located near the rear entrance of the new building. No transportation provided.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Date: Thursday, February 22
Time: 2 - 3 p.m.
The Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) provides monthly free blood pressure screenings. Meet in the Senior Room of the Community Center. No transportation provided.

TIP OF THE MONTH



Pick Up Dinner in Your Yard

Believe it or not, it's time to start planning your spring garden. Eating locally means you won't be contributing to the carbon dioxide emissions from produce trucks wheeling their way in from California, and you can't get any more local than picking produce from your own back yard. If all you have is a deck or a window box, you can still grow kitchen herbs, cherry tomatoes, peppers, chives – a host of options that will thrive even in containers. Now is the time to gather your seeds and perhaps start a few plants indoors; for more on that, see the Horticulture Club notice, below.

Start Your Garden Now

Come learn all about starting plants from seed with the Takoma Park Horticultural Club, 7:30 -9 p.m., Wednesday, February 21 in the Azalea Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Master Gardener Gary Cahn will share his research, tips, tricks and over 30 years experience starting vegetables and annuals from seed. No matter the weather outside, February is the perfect time to get a jump on spring by starting seeds indoors. Planting medium, lighting, and watering needs will be discussed as well as seed sources for plants unavailable at nurseries. For more information, contact [Cindy Walczak@helix.nih.gov](mailto:Cindy.Walczak@helix.nih.gov), or call 301-588-6899.

GOING GREEN AT HOME

continued from page 5

The last hour will be a time for participants to lead or join discussion groups on topics of their choice. Two speakers have already volunteered to lead a discussion: Alan Abrams on the intrinsic values of green building and Gary Skulnick on energy aggregation.

And there is more. Vendors and exhibits include electric vehicles from a sports car to a scooter, books on green building, a stove that burns renewable resources (including corn), light bulbs and finishes for your home and much, much more.

The City of Takoma Park and the region are blessed by many talented and dedicated professionals who are participating in the conference. In addition, this program has sponsorship from the Department of Recreation, which is hosting the conference in the Community Center, the Takoma Committee on the Environment, the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission Go Green at Home, the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op, and Honest Tea.

The Takoma Park Green Building Conference will take place February 18 in the new Community Center from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The registration fee is \$5. Early conference registrants will have an opportunity to purchase a box lunch from Mark's Kitchen for an additional fee of \$10. For more registration information and program information, please go to www.takomaparkmd.com or contact Housing and

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER • FEBRUARY HOURS

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. and Saturday
12:30 – 5:30 p.m., Ages 7-19
Sunday, 2 – 5:30 p.m., Ages 7-19

Teen Lounge

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.
Ages 13 – 19

Hours subject to change
Membership is required

7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290

Library Adds International Music

By Nic Fontem
Technical Services Coordinator

Last summer the Library purchased more than 30 international dance music CDs for its music collection, with selections from Africa and the Caribbean including such countries as Senegal, the Congo, Guinea, Togo, Cameroon, Mali, Eritrea, Kenya, Tanzania and Cuba. The collection continues to grow since the Library acquired its first international dance music in 2001; so many patrons have expressed interest and enthusiasm that staff has added new picks every year since then.

While popular dance music has been a constant request, the Library has tried to vary this year's selection to include some very celebrated artists. Miriam Makeba's "Definitive Collection," for instance, a snapshot of a career spanning more than 30 years, manages to convey a taste of her later career, and includes collaborations with Dizzy Gillespie and Nina Simone. Other big names in the recent acquisition include Salif Keita (Mali), Obour Atumpan (Ghana), Bozi Boziana and the Extra Musica Orchestra and Tout Puissant System (Congo Democratic Republic), Oliver N'Goma (Gabon), Africando (Latin America) and Teddy Obinna (Nigeria).

In an attempt to bring our readers a richer sampling, we sorted some compilations that have been judged as the best by music publishers, featuring various artists' best songs - this, in a bid to inject a sustained dance party. We took advantage of many albums that feature various artists grouped together to produce intense, varied and fresh top dance tunes. Some of such albums include, "Afrique: le Meilleur des Chansons Africaines," "Abidjan System Dance," "Doudou Ndongolo," "Prodada Compil," "Cameroon Zouk Stars," "Congo African Mosaic," "Sono Hits," and "Best of Makossa Love."

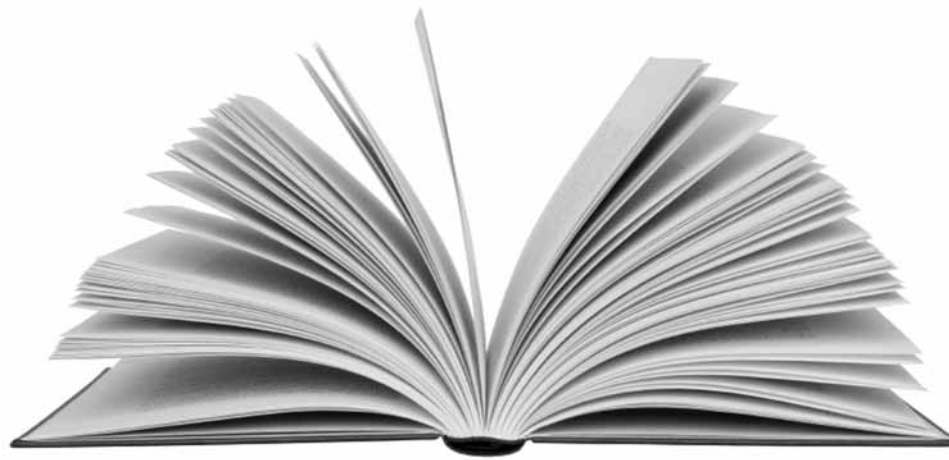
We hope our patrons will find these new additions enjoyable, as well as our entire international music collection. We appreciate the interest, and we encourage your feedback and suggestions.

Online book club begins

Book lovers may now participate in an online book club sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Located at the Library web site (www.takomapark.info/library), "Dear Reader" is a set of online book clubs that enables readers to sample a variety of books in different categories: fiction, business, mystery, non-fiction, romance, audio, teen, science fiction and pre-publication titles.

Subscribers simply enter an e-mail address and choose from as many of the categories as they wish. Each day they are sent a five-minute portion of the book selection for that week. During the week readers have an opportunity to sample the first few chapters. If they want to read further, they can look for the book at the Takoma Park Library, another library or a local bookseller. This



LIBRARY Notes



Laura Kleinmann, who hosts "Spanish Storytelling Saturday," throws herself into her work; her son, Phillip, keeps a close watch.

Photo: Karen MacPherson

is a great way to introduce yourself to the work of many different authors!

We'd like to know what readers think of this new Library service, so check it out and tell us how you like it. And don't forget that the Friends of the Library also sponsor a live, in-person reading club that meets every other month. (See the article on this page.)

Friends Group Discusses "Grapes of Wrath"

The Friends of the Library invites all interested readers to participate in an informal discussion of "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck, to be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Opening in the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression of the 1930s, "The Grapes of Wrath" gives us a description of the conditions that led to ruined crops and massive foreclosures on Oklahoma farmland. John Steinbeck's novel is explicitly political as it dramatizes the impact of corporate and banking self-interests on farmers and migrant laborers, specifically the Joad family, as they leave the devastated land behind and head west to what they believe will be a better life.

Multiple copies of "The Grapes of Wrath" are available at the Library, provided by the Friends. For more information, contact the Library or check out the Friends web site at www.ftpml.org.

Just for Teens

Attention, Takoma Park teens! We've got several Library activities of interest to you:

First, check out our new online teen book club, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park, Md. Library. See the article about the online book clubs on this page for information about the club, just one of several online book clubs you can join via our Library website.

We also have an in-person Teen Book Club, aimed at middle- and high school students, which meets on the third Thursday of the month from 5-6 p.m. This month, we're meeting on Thursday, Feb. 15. Next month, we'll meet on Thursday, March 15. Instead of reading and discussing one book, we each talk about the books that we're reading on our own. Snacks are provided. Please call 301-891-7259 if you have any questions. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

Don't forget our Teen Book Buzz blog. To get to it, go to the Library's website, look on the left-hand side of the page and click on Teen Book Buzz. We're looking for teen contributions to the blog, so if you've read a book you love (or hate!) write up a brief review and send it to Karen MacPherson, the children's/teen librarian at karenm@takomagov.org.

We also have a graphic novel wiki, which contains reviews by Library Assistant and graphic novel expert Dave Burbank, as well as local students. Check it out by clicking on "graphic novels" under "wikis."

New "Older Reader" stickers for picture books

Picture books aren't just for preschoolers anymore. In fact, many new picture books are aimed at readers in kindergarten and above. Books like "Pink and Say" by Patricia Polacco and "Show Way" by Jacqueline Woodson, for example, have themes that would be difficult for preschoolers to grasp, and also could be disturbing for little ones. Other picture books have longer texts than many preschoolers find enjoyable, but are the perfect length for older readers. Of course, the final choice of which books children read is up to parents. To aid parents' choices, we've begun putting "for older readers" labels on the spines of picture books that have content or text aimed at readers in kindergarten or above. Let us know what you think!

Takoma Park Library CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2007

Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday
10 a.m. at the Library

La Hora de Juego en Espanol

Thursdays, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8
10 a.m. at the Library
Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks

Sabado Gigante para Ninos en la Biblioteca!

Saturday, Feb. 3
10:30 a.m. at the Library
Spanish story time with Laura Kleinmann

Make Your Own Valentines

Monday, Feb. 12
7-8:30 p.m. at the Library
Please call 301-891-7259 to register

Friends of the Library Reading Group Book Discussion

"The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck
Tuesday, Feb. 13
7:30-9 p.m., Takoma Park Community Center
All are invited

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate February as Black History Month, the Library is featuring displays of books by and about African-American authors in the Children's Room. We'll spotlight both fiction and non-fiction - including picture books - and put a particular emphasis on the winners of the prestigious Coretta Scott King Award, which is celebrating its 37th year. The prize, named for the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., is awarded annually by the American Library Association. Come in and create your own Black History Month celebration by checking out some of these books!

VALENTINE MAKING

Forget those store-bought valentines! Come have fun making your own valentines for family and friends at the Library on Monday, Feb. 12, from 7-8:30 p.m. We'll start the evening by reading a story or two, then spend the rest of our time turning construction paper, glue, markers, stickers and sequins into beautiful, one-of-a-kind valentines. You can choose to make a few, special valentines, or turn out enough for everyone in your class. You provide the creativity - we'll provide the materials, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park, Md. Library. This event is perfect for children ages 5 and older, but younger children are most welcome with an adult helper. Please register by calling 301-891-7259, so we can be sure to have enough materials.

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:
Detective A/Lt. T. Collington

ROBBERIES

On December 8 at 11:15 p.m. in the 7100 block of Carroll Ave., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male and female were walking when a subject ran up behind them, grabbed the woman's purse and implied he had a gun. The male victim and the subject struggled for a short time before the subject broke away and fled. He was seen getting into a 1990 burgundy Honda Accord with DC tags being driven by another subject.

On December 22 at 2:52 p.m. in the 7000 block of Carroll Ave., a commercial armed robbery occurred. Two subjects entered the store, brandished handguns, ordered the six employees and three customers to lay on the ground and demanded cash from the register and safe. They also took cash from two employees before they fled on foot. No one was injured.

On January 14 at 11 a.m. in the 7000 block of Carroll Ave., a commercial armed robbery occurred. Two subjects entered the restaurant. One forced a customer to sit down and watched the front door while the other subject displayed a handgun and ordered one of the two employees to open a register and safe. After taking cash from both, the subjects fled in a white vehicle.

BURGLARIES

On January 2 at 11:08 p.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. A window was broken to gain entry. Cash and property were

taken.

On January 2, between 11:20 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the 8200 block of Roanoke Ave., a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unsecured window. Property was taken.

On January 3 at 9:50 a.m. in the 1000 block of Heather Ave., a residential burglary was attempted. A door frame was damaged in the attempt.

On January 3, between 9:45 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. in the 900 block of Jackson Ave., a residential burglary occurred. Entry was opened through an unsecured window. Property was taken.

On January 3, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. in the 7300 block of Garland Ave., a residential burglary was attempted. A door screen was damaged in the attempt.

On January 16, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the 8300 block of Eastridge Ave., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the apartment was made. Property was taken.

On January 12, between 9:45 am and 4:26 p.m. in the 8100 block of Roanoke Ave., a residential burglary occurred. Entry was gained through an unlocked window. Property was taken.

AUTO AND RELATED THEFT

Between January 14 at 5:45 p.m. and January 15 at 8:04 a.m. in the unit block of Lee Ave., an auto theft was attempted. The steering wheel column of the 1998 Honda Civic was damaged.

Between January 15 at 5:30 p.m. and January 16 at 4:30 a.m. in the 7400 block

of New Hampshire Ave., an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2000 Honda Civic.

On January 2 at 10:30 p.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an auto theft occurred. It is unknown what method was used to steal the 2002 Chrysler Sebring.

Between January 13 at 11:54 p.m. and January 14 at 12:13 am in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., an auto theft was attempted. The ignition of the 2002 Honda Accord was damaged.

ASSAULT

On December 23 at 2:17 a.m. in the 8000 block of Maple Ave., a first degree assault occurred. An adult male was approaching his home on foot when he noticed a maroon Cadillac Fleetwood with an adult female inside parked in front of a family member's Ford van. As he approached the female to ask her what she was doing there, the victim noticed that a rear window of the van was broken then saw an adult male come around from the rear of the van with a bolt cutter in one hand and a handgun in the other. The subject ordered the victim to the ground and threatened to shoot if he did not comply before fleeing in the Cadillac. The victim was not injured. On December 24 at 2:05 a.m. at the intersection of Eastern Ave. and New Hampshire, a Takoma Park Police officer spotted a Cadillac with two subjects fitting the vehicle and subject descriptions in the assault and pursued the vehicle for some distance before the Cadillac stopped after running into a curb. The driver fled on foot, but was caught by the officer a short distance away. The female was also apprehended. Numerous charges and warrants will be sought.

ARRESTS

On December 2 at 1:45 a.m., Takoma Park Detectives with the cooperation of the Metropolitan Police Department arrested an adult male in the 900 block Kearney St., NE, Washington, D.C., charging him with first degree murder in connection with the homicide that occurred on November 29 in the 7500 block of Maple Ave.

On December 8 at 5:20 p.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for conspiracy to commit attempted first degree murder, conspiracy to commit first degree assault, intimidating a witness, false statement to a police officer, obstructing and hindering an arrest in relation to an incident that occurred March 26, 2006, in the 7600 block of Maple Ave.

On December 10 at 6:43 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for second degree assault in relation to an incident that occurred in the 7500 block of Maple Ave. on December 10.

On December 15 at 10:49 p.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for attempted first degree murder and conspiracy to commit attempted first degree murder for an incident that occurred on March 26, 2006 in the 7600 block of Maple Ave.

On January 3 at 12:09 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving an uninsured vehicle.

On January 12 at 1:45 a.m. in the 7100 block of Carroll Ave., an adult female was arrested and charged with first degree assault, second degree assault and reckless endangerment after police responded to a call from an adult male who had been stabbed. The victim and suspect are married. The victim was treated at a hospital and released.

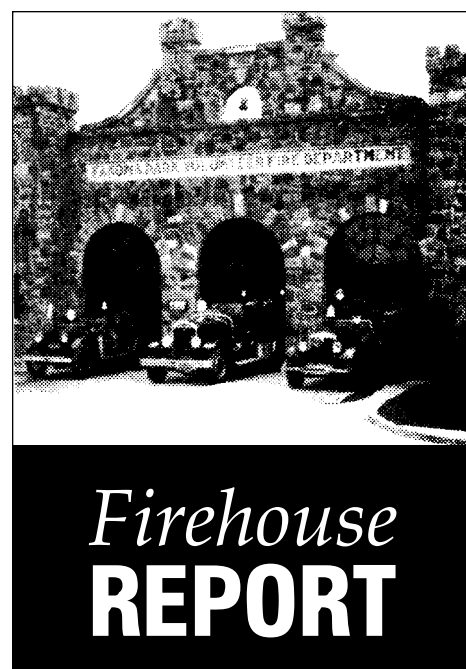
The Takoma Park Fire Department in 2006, responded to 979 fire-related incidents and 2,717 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a grand total of 3,696. This is a decrease of 9 incidents in comparison to totals of 2005 - 1,107 and 2,598 - for a grand total of 3,705. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers of the TPVFD, we want to thank all the members of the department, the volunteers and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service personnel assigned to the Takoma Park station for their commitment in helping the citizens of Takoma Park. And a very special thanks to all of you that put your life on the line when riding to all the calls during 2006.

New Takoma Park VFD Volunteer

At the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department membership meeting held December 13. Kenva Crawford was voted into the department. The TPVFD is still looking for more interested people to join. If interested, please contact Mike Livingston at the fire station, 301-270-8209.

Children Receive Toys

In December 2006, the Takoma Park VFD conducted its 26th Annual Toy Drive. More than 150 children through-



out the area received toys. On behalf of the TPVFD, we would like to thank the following for their support: the Takoma Park Lions Club, Takoma Park VFD Auxiliary, North Silver Spring Lions Club, Takoma Park Child Development Center, Antoinette Toni Suggs of Long and Foster and residents who donated toys.

A Farewell To John T.

On December 12, 2006, Assistant Fire Chief John T. Baker of the Takoma

Park Volunteer Fire Department passed away at his home from a long illness. Everyone at the fire station knew him as John T. A member of the department for more than 55 years, John was also a member of the Auxiliary for 24 years. He was a Lifetime Member, past President, Board member, and Recording Secretary of the department. He served on many of the department committees. At the July Fourth Parades, you could always find him there, getting the building and apparatus ready for the parade. He would also assist with getting the fire trucks lined up for the parade. He held fire officer ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. He was very active in riding the ambulance and trucks to emergencies for many years. At present, he is 7th on the TPVFD "all time" response list, with 14,094 calls.

John T. received many awards over the years, from the department, City and County, for emergency response, training and community activities. He is a member of the Maryland State Firemen's Association Hall of Fame and for many years served as Chair of the department's delegation to MSFA Convention. He was also the MSFA Sergeant-at-Arms during several of the conventions. On behalf of the entire membership of the Takoma Park VFD, John T. will be truly missed by all of us. He did his job, and he did it well.

NEW CHIEF

continued from page 1

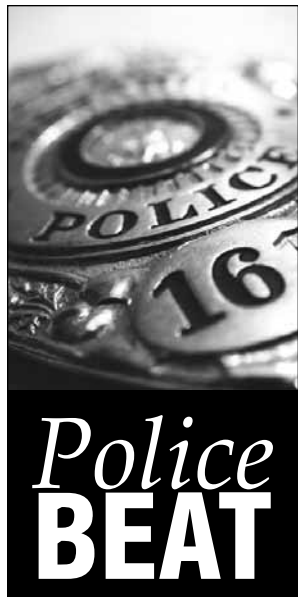
Park Police Department and to the City of Takoma Park," says Matthews. "During the selection process, I was highly impressed by Chief Ricucci's commitment to community-oriented policing and cross-jurisdictional cooperation, as well as his collaborative approach to working with his staff. I am excited about having him join our organization."

"I am honored to have been selected as the Police Chief of Takoma Park," says Ricucci. "I am looking forward to meeting the staff of the department and the residents of the City. It is my goal to take the department's service to the community to a new level of excellence."

Although Ricucci's first day with Takoma Park is not until February 20, the Chief is in close communication with Command Staff so that he can hit the ground running when he arrives in Takoma Park. Section heads and officers are preparing mission briefs and section status reports to bring Ricucci up to speed on the daily operations of the department and the department's current mission, including concerns and initiatives which may require special attention.

Volunteers Turn Out to Promote Pedestrian Safety

By Gretchen Hilburger
Montgomery County CSAFE
Community Organizer



Police BEAT

"Honk honk!" A car horn interrupted my thoughts and brought to my attention that the light had just turned green. As I drove across University Boulevard at the traffic-filled intersection with New Hampshire Avenue, I was gearing up for the last Collaborative Supervision and Focus Enforcement (CSAFE) Takoma Park pedestrian safety activity in 2006.

I had spent the past month preparing for it by recruiting volunteers, gathering safety materials, helping coordinate the logistics of where to set up the police and volunteers, and so much more. As I pulled into the parking lot next to the Prince

George's Community Policing Center, police from three adjoining jurisdictions in the Takoma Langley Crossroads area -- Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Takoma Park - along with some volunteers, bundled up in coats and scarves and hats against the wind, congregated to put the plans into place.

When the 40 or so volunteers gathered together in a circle, it was clear they represented the many facets of this community: of all ages and backgrounds, they included teens from Takoma Academy, parishioners from local churches, parent groups, government agencies, and members from the community who just wanted to get involved. We played a quick ice-breaker game, then passed out bright orange safety vests, plastic baggies with candy canes, and a stack of bilingual safety brochures for each person to distribute. Volunteers spread out in pairs, with each pair including a bilingual person, ensuring that pedestrians would get the important information we were going to share.

For two hours the group walked across the intersection



The recent pedestrian safety event at Takoma Langley Crossroads involved many volunteers spreading the word about using crosswalks and staying safe in this busy area.

Photo by Gretchen Hilburger

and alongside the streets, within a few blocks north and south on New Hampshire Avenue, and to the west on University Boulevard, spreading the word about pedestrian safety, encouraging the people they encountered to use the crosswalks instead of jay-walking and putting their lives at risk.

They involved other community members to help with passing out brochures. On one corner, a group of Spanish-speaking day laborers joined in by shouting to their peers, "Parese! Use el cruce de calle!" when they began to cross the street in an unsafe area. Even Santa Claus joined in, visiting with parents and children and wishing them a safe and happy holiday and, of course, teaching them about crosswalk safety.

Overall, the afternoon was a great success. Community volunteers were proactive about their own public safety and were working to educate others as to how they can do the same. Once again, CSAFE achieved its Community Mobilization goal.

Winter Safety Tips

By Det. Andrew M. John,
Police Information Officer

Parking in Snow Storms

Vehicles parked on snow emergency routes may be ticketed and towed. These routes, posted with signs as snow emergency routes, include most state highways through the city. The city follows the county's designation of snow emergencies.

Police officers exercise discretion on parking violations during snow emergencies. Generally during emergencies, the state rule of not parking with "left wheels to curb" is not enforced. If possible, backing into a parking space can make exiting easier. If a vehicle is parked in a way that obstructs other traffic (too close to an intersection or in other unsafe ways) a ticket may be issued.

If you are tempted to abandon a stranded vehicle, a phone call to Police Communication (301-270-1100) is advised. Courtesy might be extended or an officer can advise whether you need to call a towing company.

Some city streets, by residents' petition, become sledding streets; be aware of these in planning your route.

Winter Safe Driving Tips

- Turn on headlights when precipitation requires use of windshield wipers: this is a safety precaution and state law.
- Before starting a car, be certain the wipers are not frozen to the glass. Consider installing winter wiper blades.
- Before driving, remove all ice and snow from the vehicle and windows. Snow on the hood and front fenders makes it hard to judge distances; it can obscure lights; snow and ice flying off a car roof is a hazard for other motorists.
- Chains, snow tires or radials must be used on designated snow emergency routes when an emergency is declared. All-season tires are recommended for all four wheels on front-wheel drive cars.
- Adjusting your speed to the conditions of the roadway and surrounding vehicles is the most vital factor in safe winter driving.
- Comply with posted speeds; 25 mph is the maximum on most City streets.
- Don't use a wireless phone while driving.
- Consider conditions: drop your speed on wet or leafy streets and at night.

Speed, Lack of Attention Affect Winter Collisions

By Detective Andrew M. John,
Police Information Officer

The image of a winter accident is of a dark and stormy night with the pavement wet with sleet and snow, obscuring visibility. The reality of winter vehicle collisions in Takoma Park contrasts with that picture. Most collisions actually happen in clear weather during the day, and are caused by failure to give full time and attention to driving or moving too fast for conditions.

A review of accident reports from January through March 2005 reveals that more than 60 percent of the 68 motor vehicle collisions took place during the daytime. Fully half were the result of failure to pay full attention to driv-

ing. Officers observe that in bad weather motorists pay more attention to their driving, compensating for the conditions.

Speed clearly contributes to the numbers, with three out of five collisions occurring on streets with the highest posted limits and speeds: New Hampshire Avenue, University Boulevard, Piney Branch Road and Highway 410.

The highest legal speed in the City is 35 mph, allowed only on New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. Sections of Highway 410 and Piney Branch Road allow a maximum of 30 mph. Most Takoma Park residential streets are posted for 25 mph, with lower speeds required when posted or if conditions warrant.



Don't Forget to Shovel!

Snow and ice must be removed from city sidewalks by 7 p.m. on the day it accumulated, or four hours after daybreak on the day of accumulation, whichever is later. Residential, rental and commercial properties must adhere to these rules, and the sidewalks in front of commercial establishments must be cleared of snow and ice between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, will be considered for publication. Name, address, and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling, and grammar.

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

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



A World of Communication at the Computer Center

By Phil Shapiro

Where in Takoma Park can you get help writing your resume? Apply for a job online? Locate tax forms on the web? Find immigration forms on the web? Set up a free e-mail account? Apply for social security online? Check your credit ratings? Plan an airline or car trip? Complete your writing assignments? Practice your computer skills?

If you said the Takoma Park Computer Center, you'd be right. The center opened in mid-December 2005, and has been serving large numbers of people ever since.

Located in the new community center adjacent to the Takoma Park Maryland Library, the Center includes 24 Linux stations with high-speed web access and the OpenOffice.org office suite, which allows people to do word processing, spreadsheets, drawings and presentations through Microsoft Word and Excel files. Patrons also enjoy Internet radio stations here, bringing their own headphones and USB-to-mini adapters available from the staff at the library reference desk.

With 92 different nationalities living in Takoma Park, it makes sense that these public access computers accommodate speakers of foreign languages. People can sign in using Spanish, French, Portuguese, Hindi, Swedish and 30 other languages. Takoma Park has a large

number of residents from Francophone African nations who love checking their e-mail here.

On weekdays, Center staffer Phil Shapiro, who speaks basic French, is available from noon to 6 p.m. He is also learning Amharic, an Ethiopian language. Our weekend staff person, Moises Blanco, speaks Spanish and English, and will be offering beginning computer instruction. Our evening staff person, Ivy Barkakati, brings youthful energy to helping people and has considerable computer experience, especially with Linux and MAC systems.

Some youth and adults use the computer center to practice their typing skills via instructional web sites; others check soccer scores, read newspapers from back home, check school grades, etc. Shapiro likes to teach the OpenOffice.org drawing program, which lets you add speech bubbles to any photo or graphics.

Seniors in our community can take the Introduction to Computers class for Seniors on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This six-week, \$10 class offered by the Recreation Department is team-taught by Shapiro and volunteer Jim Mueller, who spent three sessions in the Peace Corps. Jim, a senior himself, has an uncanny way of explaining things in a simple way.

Seniors have the added benefit of free printing (up to five pages per day) on the four computer stations in the seniors

Spam-a-lot Delays City E-mail

Those of us who use e-mail on a regular basis are all too familiar with the increasing amount of spam which hits our e-mail boxes on a daily basis. Offers for mortgages, pills, and untold riches, among other nonsense, fill up e-mail boxes for business and residential customers alike. The City of Takoma Park is not immune to this phenomenon.

The City's Information Systems team has spent countless hours adjusting spam filters and implementing new software to help staff receive the e-mail which is required for daily work, and not be inundated with unnecessary and offensive spam. Some spam gets through, regardless, as the spammers are very clever. Worse, some important e-mail does not get received or delivered, leaving sender and receiver frustrated.

Recently, City staff have been espe-

cially dismayed that e-mails sent by staff have not been received by the intended recipients, even when responding to a sent e-mail. In particular, we have identified problems sending or receiving from correspondents at the RCN/Starpower, Verizon and Sprintmail domains, but there is little doubt other domains are impacted. Sometimes these e-mails "bounce," and the sender gets a notice, but sometimes they just disappear with no notice to either party.

Prompt customer service is very important to the staff of the City of Takoma Park. Please pick up the phone and give us a call at 301-891-7100 if you haven't received a response to an e-mail within a business day or two of sending it. We may not be ignoring you, we may not have received your message or you may not have received ours!

room. In typical Takoma Park fashion, "seniors" is defined very generously as "50 years or older."

For people with laptops, our computer center offers unlimited wireless access to the Internet. Our library also has wireless Internet.

The busiest time in our computer center is from 3 to 6 p.m., when the students are out of school. The 6 to 8 p.m. shift gives you a better chance of finding an available computer.

Our computer center also has one room reserved for quiet study, such as taking a test online. Room B does not allow talking or cell phones. To assure access

to adults who are applying for jobs and doing other vital work, on weekdays between 3 and 6 p.m. Room B is available only to those 16 years and older.

What is the price of admission to our computer center? All of this is free, with the use of your library card, seven days a week. You must have your library card to use the computers.

Want to stay in the loop on news from the Takoma Park Computer Center? Visit our wiki and blog at <http://takomapark.seedwiki.com>. Come teach us what you know, too. In a vibrant community, we all learn from each other.

Takoma Park City TV Events in February '07

It has now been almost a year since the City started providing live webstreams and archives of City Council meetings on the City website. If you visit the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov, and click on View City TV Live!, you will see the searchable archives of our year's worth of programming. This includes, of course, all Council meetings, but such other City and community events as the Azalea Awards, the WMATA Compact Hearing on Takoma Metro Development, and all of the episodes our City TV's monthly Takoma Snapshots program. In January, City TV released "Your Vote Counts: Introduction to Instant Runoff Voting" (IRV). IRV will be used for the first time in a City election for the special election on January 30, and will be in place for general City elections this fall.

New programming this month will include releases from the Old Town Street Festival, including Robert Lighthouse Blues Band, and the Junkyard Saints. Also airing in February will be the 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration



held at Takoma Park Middle School. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for specific program information each month.

Takoma Snapshots will feature the following episodes:

- COP: TPPD - A Look Back
- Poetry Series
- Living the Dream
- Takoma's Open Studio Tours

Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS Tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are also available on DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY 2007

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	PreSchool Power!		Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Coffeehouse	NASA Programming		Haiti a Suivre
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Music da camera	Government Focus	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	CaribNation		Takoma Park Folk Festival	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Media Watch on Hunger
NOON		Community Bulletin Board			City Council Meeting (REPLAY)		
1:00 PM	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			Takoma Park Folk Festival
2:00 PM	Media Watch on Hunger		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming		Music da camera			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	PreSchool Power		Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Haiti a Suivre	
5:00 PM	Music da camera	Takoma Park Snapshots	Government Focus	Haiti a Suivre		Takoma Snapshots	
5:30 PM	Chinese News						
6:00 PM		Community Bulletin Board	Chinese News	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board
7:00 PM		National Gallery of Art		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	City Council Meeting						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			Takoma Park Folk Festival		
10:00 PM				Haiti a Suivre		Haiti a Suivre	Coffeehouse
11:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming	Takoma Park Snapshots		Haiti a Suivre		
1:00 AM	Road to Recovery		Community Bulletin Board				

Programming subject to change without notice.
Takoma Park City TV
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7118

Email: cabletv@takomagov.org
Web: www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable

Jazzfest Begins Band Search

The eleventh annual Jazz Band Brawl, the annual ensemble competition/fundraiser for the Takoma Park JazzFest, will take place from 2:30 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, at Takoma Station jazz club, 6914 Fourth St., N.W., Takoma, D.C. Requested donations at the door will be \$15 regular and \$10 youth/senior.

Bands of various sizes and jazz styles submitted recordings to be included in the Brawl, and were winnowed down to three finalists who will play one-hour sets in front of judges and audience in the final round of the Brawl, on February 11 at Takoma Station. The prize for the winner of the competition is an appearance at the Saturday, June 9 main festival in Takoma Park's Jequie Park for the JazzFest's standard \$600 performance fee. Second and third prizes will be announced later.

Previous Jazz Band Brawl victors include the Chris Bacas-Phil Cunneff Quartet, the Unified Jazz Ensemble, the Darryl Brenzel Quartet, the Nicki Gonzalez Band, the Charles Wright Trio, the James Cotton Quartet, Neal Anderson Quartet, One Step Up, PostModern Blues and the Karen Lovejoy Group.

Jazz historian and disc jockey Rusty Hassan of WPFW-FM, the Brawl's judge representing the media, has taken part in the Brawl from its inception. Judges representing academia and the JazzFest organization will be announced later.

The theme for this season's main Takoma Park JazzFest will be "Body Music - Soloists Without Instruments." In addition to the Brawl winner and a jam session, musicians will include Takoma Park's own double Grammy winners Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer yodeling in front of a Western Swing band, championship whistler Chris Ullman, a tap dancer, a scat singer and ragtime, Harlem Stride and classic boogie-woogie pianist "Perfessor" Bill Edwards. A group from Takoma Park Middle School will step dance during intermissions.

A tent will protect the crowd from rain or sun, and the midway will be filled with food vendors, artists and crafters, community organization and business tables and a jazz flea market. It will occur from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 9, 2007, and is free.

For further information call 301-589-4433 or log onto tpjazzfest.org.



Karen Lovejoy of the Lovejoy Group was the 2006 Jazz Band Brawl winner.

Photo: Lonni Moffet

SHOPPING CENTER

continued from page 1

small children to get treats at the stores.

Several of the business owners interviewed mirror the residents' feelings. "It feels like a community, you look out for each other," says Nancy Mack, co-owner of Denis Sleep Shop on Erie Avenue. If the employees at Blake and Wilcox Plumbing next door see that she's out when a bedding delivery arrives, they'll cover for her. "It's almost like a family," says Mack.

"Good neighborhood, big trees, calm, safe," nods GNH Market owner Moon Tae.

Achieving the Master Plan Vision

The Takoma Park City Council's mandate to the City staff has been to review the Master Plan vision of a low-scale neighborhood-serving center, which includes both retail and service businesses, and is safe, successful, attractive, and convenient; and to work with the community to identify and prioritize small-scale projects to improve the area. The staff wants to get the biggest bang for the City taxpayers' buck.

"You can do a lot with a little bit of money," says Takoma Park Senior Planner Ilona Blanchard. "Small changes that are easy to implement can make a big difference." Already the City installed bike-locking posts at the corner to encourage more shoppers on bicycles. It hopes to see sidewalks installed on the Montgomery County side of Flower Avenue.

Other concerns (besides the obtrusive corner rooftop design) are prompted by the growing traffic on Flower Avenue. Cars turning from Erie Avenue have bad sightlines, and the corner has no crosswalk for pedestrians.

Parking has presented no problems, the shop owners agree. Even Appliance Distributors Unlimited Manager Tim Godby says his store's five dedicated parking spots are enough for the vans and trucks making pickups.

The area is zoned for low-density residential and small-scale commercial, meaning that any commercial building that's three stories has to "look small" to fit with the residential character, says Blanchard. Traffic, pedestrian access and parking would be factored into any future building changes. Property owners seeking to expand their buildings would not receive any Enterprise Zone funding help because the area is outside the designated zone. However, the tiny commercial district does fall within the Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone, a part of the Montgomery County zoning ordinance intended to promote economic vitality and an appealing community character.

While the City is concerned about the impact of



GNH Market owner Moon Tae stands among his store's wares.

Photo: Susan Holliday

Washington Adventist Hospital's coming departure, the business people interviewed thought the impact on their livelihoods would be minimal. The plumbing, bedding and appliance shops have a regional customer base. Pizza Movers owner Joaquin Vasquez shook his head at the prospect of reduced business. Only grocery owner Moon Tae could see a potential minor business decline. Still, he says he would be "very sad" if the hospital leaves because he believes the hospital presence better serves the "older people in the neighborhood."

ERIE / FLOWER MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP

Housing and Community Development staff will be meeting with residents and businesses on Feb. 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Columbia Room, Wilkinson Hall, Columbia Union College, to review Master Plan recommendations and gather ideas and input on infrastructure changes to improve the area.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

The City observes Presidents' Day on Monday, February 19. As a result there will be no yard waste or recycling collection on that day. Monday's recycling route will receive collection on Tuesday, February 20. Yard waste collection will resume the following week on Monday, February 26.

If you have any questions, please contact Public Works at 301-891-7633.

