

Crossroads Farmers Market

Opens June 7

Every Wednesday
3-7

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

Independence Day

Parade, 10 a.m.,
Takoma Junction
through Old Town, to
Community Center
Fireworks, 9:30 p.m.,
TP Middle School

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

JUNE 2007

Police Fully Staffed, First Time in Nine Years

By VIRGINIA MYERS

For the first time since 1998, the Takoma Park Police Department can boast a full staff of officers and communications technicians. In mid-May, a hiring drive finally filled out the roster of 41 full-time officers and civilian personnel. Two part-time positions remain vacant, but should be filled by June 30.

The news comes after months of intensive recruiting, says Police Chief Ronald Ricucci. "I'm going to give credit to Captain Coursey, who was acting chief [immediately prior to Ricucci's January arrival]," he says. "He started an aggressive recruiting program, and he put the right person in the recruiting office, our officer of the year, Paula Gaskin." Gaskin talked up the department and conducted background investigations to find officers who would come to Takoma Park to stay.

The result, says Ricucci, is a department of officers who favor working for a relatively small department in a small community. Ricucci himself is an example: Though his career includes years in two different large jurisdictions, including Montgomery County, he says, "I get more satisfaction working in a small department. I think you can make a bigger difference."

Other draws for new officers include the



Officers on shift gather for roll call at the Takoma Park Police Department, where the ranks have finally filled to capacity. Enough support on the streets will help them work more efficiently and effectively, says Chief Ricucci.

Photo: Andrew John

take-home car program and a "pretty good" salary scale, says Ricucci. Raw recruits start at \$33,000 and go up to \$39,000 to \$43,000; experienced officers start in the low \$40,000s.

Since January, the department has hired four officers — two are experienced, and two have enrolled in recruit school. The commu-

nication team is now at full strength, and Ricucci has filled a supervisor position within its ranks — "essential," he says, in improving customer relations.

Out on the street, residents can expect to see more officers out and about, and more follow-up on the crimes that do occur.

Crime Rate Decreases with the New Year

Community Policing a Possible Factor

By VIRGINIA MYERS

In the first three months that Ronald Ricucci became Chief of Police in Takoma Park, part one offenses — homicide, rape, robbery, and stolen autos — have decreased by 10 percent. Coincidence? Ricucci isn't ready to say. But the improvement could easily be attributed to a leadership style that has facilitated a number of changes, namely:

- Enough new officers to fill out the roll call for the first time in nine years (see related article, this page)
- Intensified cooperation and collaboration with nearby jurisdictions
- Community policing effort that is department-wide

"Community policing is not a program," says Ricucci. "It's a philosophy." He used it as chief of police in Louisville, Kentucky, and in Front Royal, Virginia, decreasing crime rates and increasing citizen satisfaction.

In Takoma Park, Ricucci has shifted

COMMUNITY POLICING
continues on page 10

Prospect of Gentrification Taps Crossroads

By SUSAN HOLLIDAY

When people discuss the impact of the coming Purple Line on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads, which is slated to host a stop on the long-planned, cross-metro transitway, the prospect of one oft-mentioned outcome gladdens some and horrifies others.

Gentrification. Your feelings about the G-word — and the reasons why you frequent or disregard the Crossroads area — are exactly what planners from Takoma Park, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties aim to discover through the upcoming sector plan process. This is a joint county effort where both county planning departments from the Maryland-National Capital

Park and Planning Commission will work together to form a unified plan for the Takoma-Langley Crossroads area.

A sector plan gives more detailed attention to a segment of a master plan, in this instance the 2000 Takoma Park Master Plan. It allows for reconsideration of how rules, regulations and zoning will apply to the sector. The Crossroads commercial district is receiving this special deliberation because it is at the confluence of the Purple Line, a new transit center, and high-density pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The general plans for Montgomery and Prince George's County also emphasize transit-oriented development and have designated the Crossroads as a focal point, as has Maryland's statewide Smart Growth Initiative, which steers development incentives towards areas of existing infrastructure and away from agricultural and other precious resource areas.

In other words, all the governmental stars have aligned in a constellation pointing to big changes at the Crossroads.

Change is good, as long as it "maintains and emphasizes the multicultural nature of the area," says Mary Kendall, director of the area's Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement Program (CSAFE). CSAFE works with law enforcement, social services, residents and businesses to improve public safety. Kendall notes that

University Boulevard from College Park to Long Branch is known as Maryland's International Corridor. "Continuing that diversity is one way to build commercial appeal," says Kendall.

Erwin Mack can see both sides of the gentrification issue right in front of him. As executive director of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc., he simultaneously represents the interests of Crossroads mom-and-pop businesses, national chains and property owners. He's heard people talk vehemently pro and con. "Some say that as long as low rent is permitted we'll never upgrade the community," he says. "But if rents go up, what happens to all these people and the business owners?" he asks, gesturing out of his New Hampshire Avenue window to the busy street life below.

Mack's comments touch the real issue behind gentrification: displacement.

"Gentrification is not necessarily a bad thing," says Malaika Abernathy, senior planner with the Montgomery County Planning Department. "It means reinvestment and economic opportunity for business and housing. The bad thing is that displacement can occur."

The City and county staffs behind this sector plan process are determined to prevent

GENTRIFICATION
continues on page 5

INSIDE:

Walker Safety Page 3

Stencil a Drain Page 4

Summer Quest Page 8

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, May 28 - City holiday (Memorial Day), City offices will be closed.

Tuesday May 29 - Meeting of the Council Compensation Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

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

Tuesday, May 29 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, May 30 - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6:45 p.m. (Community Center Rose Room)

Thursday, May 31 - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Monday, June 4 - Public hearing, special session and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

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

Monday, June 11 - Regular meeting and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

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

Tuesday, June 12 - Meeting of the Council Compensation Committee 7 p.m. (Community Center Conference Room)

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

Monday, June 18 - Interviews, special session and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Thursday, June 21 - Meeting of the Noise Control Board, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Rose Room)

Monday, June 25 - No City Council meeting (Maryland Municipal League Convention - Sunday, June 24 through Wednesday, June 27)

Tuesday, June 26 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, June 26 - (Tentative) Commission on Landlord-tenant Affairs Hearing, 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Wednesday, June 27 - 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. Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org

April 16 - Regular Meeting

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-17 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing execution of a contract for Public Works uniform cleaning and rental (Absent: Clay).

Resolution 2007-6 was adopted, authorizing the lease of a portion of the City-owned parking lot at Takoma Junction to Montgomery County for temporary fire station use (Absent: Clay).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-16 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing FY07 Budget Amendment No. 3 (Absent: Clay).

The Consent Agenda was adopted (Absent: Clay). It consisted of:

A. Resolution 2007-7 providing for appointments to the Personnel Appeal Board

B. Resolution 2007-8 providing for appointments to the Facade Advisory Board

April 23 - Special Session

Resolution 2007-9 was adopted, recognizing Adventist Community Services Community Clean-Up participants (Absent: Barry).

Resolution 2007-10 was adopted, commenting on the proposed subdivision of 99 Ritchie Avenue.

First Reading Ordinance 2007-18 was accepted, authorizing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for 8508-10 Flower Avenue.

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-19

Vacancies on Council-appointed Boards and Committees

There are positions available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

Arts and Humanities Commission
Board of Elections
Committee on the Environment
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Ethics Commission
Facade Advisory Board
Health Services Impact Committee
Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee
Noise Control Board
Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee
Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee
Safe Roadways Committee

was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract for a survey of City residents.

April 30 - Regular Meeting

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-20 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the purchase of six additional mobile data computers for the Police Department.

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-21 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the purchase of five replacement portable radios and a console for the Police Department.

Second Reading 2007-18 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for 8508-10 Flower Avenue.

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-22 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing execution of a contract for consultant services for an Ethan Allen Gateway design charrette.

Resolution 2007-11 was adopted, amending the FY07 Program Open Space allocation.

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-23 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for the design of Jackson-Boyd playground.

May 7 - Special Session

Resolution 2007-12 was adopted, regarding Public Service Recognition week (May 7 - 13).

First Reading Ordinance 2007-24 was accepted, awarding a contract to architect for Auditorium/Council Chamber renovation study (Nay: Seamens).

First Reading Ordinance 2007-25 was accepted, awarding a contract for preparation of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

First Reading Ordinance 2007-26

was accepted, awarding a contract for audit services (Nay: Seamens).

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-27 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing execution of a contract for neighborhood traffic studies.

May 14 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2007-13 was adopted, recognizing National Police Week (May 13 - 19) and National Peace Officers' Memorial Day (May 15) (Absent: Barry).

Resolution 2007-14 was adopted, recognizing National Public Works Week (May 20 - 26) (Absent: Barry).

Resolution 2007-15 was adopted, authorizing submission of 2008-2009 "Safe Routes to School" grant application (Absent: Barry).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-24 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract to architect for Auditorium/Council Chamber renovation study (Nay: Seamens; Absent: Barry).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-25 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for audit services (Nay: Seamens; Absent: Barry).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-26 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for preparation of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Absent: Barry).

Resolution 2007-16 was adopted, providing for appointments to the Emergency Preparedness Committee (Absent: Barry).

**Only negative votes, abstentions, and absences are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at Clerk@takomagov.org.*



Mayor Kathy Porter

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.

A Walk in the Park: Keeping Takoma Park Safe

By PAUL GRENIER

Takoma Park resident and member of the city's Safe Roadways Committee Robert Patten was trying to get across busy East-West Highway when he noticed a teenage girl in front of him stepping into the roadway—directly into the path of oncoming traffic.

Patten shouted and the girl froze just as one car came screeching to a halt and another swerved to avoid her. The problem, Patten said, wasn't that the iPod the teen was listening to prevented her from hearing what was going on. "She heard me when I shouted at her. She was in another world. She was completely oblivious."

Warmer weather entices more people outside to take a stroll, and with schools out for the summer, this number includes a large contingent of children, many of whom, at the middle school and high school age, are unaccompanied by adults. Patten worries that young people often don't realize how important it is to stay alert as they make their way through the City. For one thing, the vision of "even middle-aged drivers is getting poorer," he says, and there are lots of things—for example, the thin metal strips that frame the car's front window—that can obstruct a driver's vision.

What to do? Young people, and of course everyone else, should always make eye contact with drivers. To make being noticed easier, Patten urges all pedestrians, especially at night, to wear light-colored, reflective clothing.

Between 2000 and 2005, the average number of pedestrians killed each year on America's roadways has hovered near 4,900. And according to the Federal Highway Administration, some 65 percent of those incidents occurred at non-intersections. A glance at the data for Montgomery County for pedestrian accidents confirms this trend. One comes across the phrases "pedestrian crossing mid-block" or "not in crosswalk" with alarming regularity.

In fact, the truth is a bit more complicated than the above statistics suggest. As Takoma Park's Senior Planner Ilona Blanchard points out, crossing mid-block with good sight distances is sometimes better than crossing at an intersection. "There are fewer vehicles to watch for, and the pedestrian doesn't have to look out for cars turning into the roadway from side streets," Blanchard notes. In all cases, however, the pedestrian should always look left, then right, then left again.

Multi-lane throughways like New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard present a particular hazard. Year after year,



Greg Castano waits at the Takoma Junction pedestrian crosswalk with daughter Edie Marie and dog Bette. The light there is so long, most pedestrians cross illegally rather than wait.

Photo: Virginia Myers

pedestrians get killed on these roads. On such larger roads, cars travel faster, lengthening the distance between where the driver brakes and where the car actually stops. "People need a lot more clear space than they think they do," says Patten. Crossing when the signal says 'walk' is the only safe thing to do.

Unfortunately, even following the rules is no guarantee of safety when drivers themselves are out of control—as was illustrated last summer when Benedicte Kouayip was killed by a hit-and-run driver as she crossed New Hampshire at the crosswalk by Shoppers Food Warehouse.

According to Kouayip's friend, Martin Gakam, who was also in the crosswalk at the time, the driver was speeding so fast that neither even saw the vehicle coming before it was too late. The incident occurred late at night, as the two were leaving a wake for a deceased friend.

Better Drivers

Drivers need to pay far closer attention to pedestrians—both those on sidewalks as well as those on the roads. Drivers "just aren't aware," says Jay Lee, a parent of three. It's a constant struggle, he says, just "getting

people to stop for crosswalks, even though [they're] plainly marked—even though I'm plainly standing in the crosswalk with my children."

Old Takoma is a particularly hazardous area, Lee adds. "People seldom stop at the intersection of Park and Carroll where I cross with my children on the way to school."

The whole Metro area, Lee says, "needs a new culture of respect for pedestrians."

One citizen-initiated effort to do just that is the PACE program, the idea of which is to slow neighborhood traffic by forming a cadre of driver-leaders who push the radical concept of driving the speed limit.

PACE drivers pledge not only to treat people walking or bicycling respectfully, but also to leave themselves enough time to get places without speeding. They advertise their philosophy with 'PACE Car' bumper stickers on their automobiles.

Other safe driving practices include not using a cell phone while driving or engaging in other activities that distract attention from the road.

Changing the System

Although much added safety can be accomplished at the level of improved individual behaviors—both on foot and behind the wheel—the City of Takoma Park is working on improving walkability with some structural changes as well. These can range from the relatively straight-forward—such as improving the timing at signal lights—to more complicated solutions that require convincing the State Highway Administration to add crosswalks and narrow lanes.

The City has also hired a consultant to recommend traffic calming solutions for the Long Branch-Sligo Creek, New Hampshire Gardens and Pinecrest neighborhoods. More sidewalks are being built, and where feasible, buffer strips are being added to put more space between man and machine.

But some problems persist. For Greg Castano, another Safe Roadways Committee member, one of the biggest is at Takoma Junction, where he can frequently be found pushing his young daughter in a stroller. "I basically cross [here] illegally every time," he says. "The lights are so poorly timed . . . This is the worst intersection known to man."

Although the State Highway Administration has determined the timing is as good as it will ever be given the constraints of the intersection, the City has demanded further study. So state officials have recently been out to look at signal timing, according to Takoma Park Planner David Suls. Another consideration is to restructure the intersection into a traffic circle.

Such possibilities are due in part to the Safe Roadways Committee, an 11-member group of safety advocates that has pushed for structural and other changes along the area's most dangerous highways. The group's bi-monthly meetings are open to the public, and there is at least one vacancy on the committee for those interested in getting involved. For more information, contact the City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org



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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.

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COLTA's CORNER

By JEAN KERR, HOUSING SPECIALIST

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

Capital Improvement Petitions

8320 Roanoke Avenue (2007-10L)

On April 10, 2007, a capital improvement

petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$6.46 to \$9.61 on three units at the property. The improvements included replacing the bathroom floor and vanity, kitchen floor, electrical wiring, kitchen counter and sink. One improvement for painting the cabinets was disallowed because it was petitioned and approved in a previous petition filed by the landlord.

208 Lincoln Avenue (2007-11L)

On April 15, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$36.08 on a unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the stove, vanity cabinet, carpentry, plumbing, vinyl floor and painting.

5001/2 Tulip Avenue (2007-13L)

On April 18, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$17.80 on a unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the stove and painting.

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



HOUSING Mailbox

By MOSES A. WILDS, JR.
LANDLORD-TENANT COORDINATOR

Can Air Conditioning Boost Rent?

A tenant contacted the Mailbox asking, "My landlord has requested an increase in the air conditioning fee because of increased electricity costs. Can he do this and what is the required notice period?" She also wants to know if there is a maximum amount a landlord may charge for rental of a window air conditioner.

Section 6.16.110 of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law indicates that fees for air conditioning services must be disclosed at the beginning of the tenancy or should have been provided to the tenant when City Ordinance 2004-36 was passed in December 2004. A landlord may not charge a fee for air conditioning if air conditioning has previously been included in the rent.

viously been included in the rent.

Section 6.110.B. of the law indicates that a landlord may raise an air conditioning fee associated with electricity costs but must provide two month's written notice of any increase in the fee. An electricity fee increase may be no higher than the amount being charged to the landlord by the utility company. At the written request of a tenant, a landlord must provide the tenant with copies of applicable bills from the utility provider and an explanation of how the increased fee was calculated. A tenant who has requested verification of utility costs and has not received copies of the bills from the landlord is not obligated to pay such a fee until the verification is provided to the tenant.

In accordance with **Section 6.16.110.C.** of the law and Landlord-Tenant Administrative Regulation No. 3-06, the maximum amount that may be charged for the rental of a window air conditioner is \$35 per month. This rental fee may only be charged for the months of May through September. Tenants may, **if permitted by their lease**, provide their own window air conditioner if the unit is equivalent in size, configuration and energy efficiency standards to the unit being rented by the landlord.

Please call 301-891-7215 or contact me by e-mail at MosesW@takoma.gov if you have questions about air conditioning fees or other landlord/tenant issues.

Stencil a Drain for the Bay

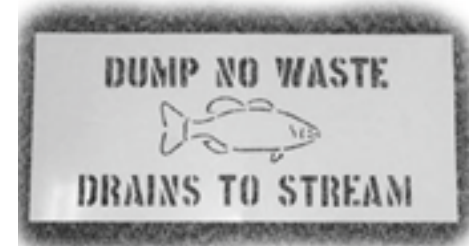
By ALI KHALILIAN

You can help educate others about the fate of storm water runoff through our storm drains by stenciling a message next to storm drains in your local area. The message reads: "Dump no waste: drains to stream." Stencils and handouts that inform others about storm drain stenciling are available free of charge to groups or individuals in Takoma Park.

The Department of Public Works has a number of resources available to you to help make your project a success. To see step-by-step directions on how to plan and carry out a storm drain stenciling project in your area, a tips list of important things to do in order to successfully carry out your project, a sample liability waiver, and a reporting form can be found at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks/stormwater.html>.

Why is Stenciling Important?

Toxic chemicals, like motor oil and household cleaning products, wash directly from streets, garages, and driveways into our storm drains, untreated, into rivers and the Bay. Toxic chemicals are harmful to fish, fish eggs and other wildlife living in and around the rivers and Bay. Contamination has a cycle! Raccoons, deer, birds and other wildlife that drink the water or eat contaminated fish or other aquatic animals may also become sick. Eventually, humans eat the contaminated animals or fish. Polluted water can also contaminate the soil



in which people grow fruit and vegetables; these can absorb contaminants and cause sickness. Some places such as Washington, D.C. and Maryland, draw their drinking water from rivers.

When people dump in storm drains, garbage and pollutants drain directly into rivers, making it impossible for treatment plants to filter pollutants before they go into rivers, lakes or the Bay. It's a sad story, but some people use their storm drain as a dump for garbage and wastes, instead of for the intended purpose of collecting rainwater. Some people believe that they can dump motor oil, soap suds, household cleaners, paints, antifreeze, pesticides and other hazardous wastes into their storm drains because they are small amounts of waste.

Although water is the most abundant liquid on earth, according to the World Wildlife Fund only 2.53 percent of it is fresh, while the rest is salty. And of the fresh water, two-thirds is locked up in glaciers and permanent snow cover. What is available, in lakes, rivers, rainfall and wetlands, is very valuable, especially since fresh water is becoming more scarce. Help Sligo Creek and the Chesapeake Bay by stenciling a drain. It's fun and easy!

City Honors Pat Powell

By LINDA WALKER
AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANAGER

Patricia Powell, organizer and President of the 641 Houston Avenue Tenant Association, was honored at the Tenant Association Summit held on April 21 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Without her efforts, it appeared that the owner of the 28-unit rental property was on the road to converting to market-rate condominiums, which would have been priced much higher than what the tenants could afford. The eventual sale of the property to Montgomery Housing Partnership, a non-profit housing organization, has assured that the facility will remain affordable rental units.

In addition to her advocacy efforts in her own building, Powell has been instrumental in helping county and state legislators understand that tenants in Montgomery County need more rights than they currently have, when a property is being converted to condominiums. In the District of Columbia, for example, tenant associations have the right to vote whether they want their rental properties to be converted to condominiums. A 51 percent "no" vote by tenants residing in a building means that a condominium

conversion cannot take place. That is exactly what the tenants in Takoma Park and Montgomery County need, Powell believes. Otherwise, the number of affordable rental units will continue to disappear. The city has already lost more than 250 units due to condo conversions. Tenants in the city and the county will need to organize and discuss how they can facilitate needed changes to state and county laws.

So, for the 17 representatives of various tenant associations attending the second Tenant Association Summit on April 21, it was a motivational meeting. The discussion was lively as Takoma Park community organizers Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo facilitated the meeting. Topics included, "How Your Tenant Association Can Make a Difference" and "How to Form and Strengthen Your Tenant Association." As organized associations, tenants really do have much more power than tenants by themselves. Just ask Powell, who certainly will tell you that it worked for the tenants in her building.

The next meeting of Tenant Associations will be June 20. If you would like to be a part of this meeting or if you need help in organizing a tenant association in your building, please call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Literacy Tutor Opportunities

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that will make a difference in someone's life? The Literacy Council of Montgomery County has more than 200 adult students on its waiting list who need tutors. Become a volunteer literacy tutor and teach an adult to read, write or speak English. No foreign language skills are necessary. Tutors work one-on-one or with small groups and typically meet with students in libraries or community centers at mutually convenient times. Tutor orientations will be held at the Wheaton Library on June 25 from 7:30 to 9 p.m., and at the Rockville Library on July 9 and August 29 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Advance registration is required. Call 301-610-0030 for further information, or email info@literacycouncilmcmd.org.

GENTRIFICATION

continued from page 1

displacement by gathering problem-solving ideas from as many area stakeholders as possible. The process will be "all inclusive," says Aldea Douglas, planner coordinator for the Community Planning Division of the Prince George's County Planning Department. Now in the "pre-planning stage," both counties together will be hiring a consultant to design and conduct extensive community outreach, in English and Spanish.

They'll work to get input from transit users, potential transit users, businesses and residents within a half-mile radius of the New Hampshire Avenue-University Boulevard intersection. The specific areas of concern stretch along New Hampshire Avenue between Quebec Street at the north and Sligo Creek Parkway and Erskine at the south, including Hampshire Towers, and the length of University Boulevard from Carroll Avenue to the power line west of Riggs Road.

From the get go, City staff encouraged the bi-county collaboration and will continue as an active partner in the planning. "The City is closer to the neighborhoods and the businesses," said Takoma Park Senior Planner Ilona Blanchard. "We can assist with the local perspective and with community outreach."

Staff members from all three jurisdictions will be going into the community to distribute information about the process. "We'll be creating ways to engage the community at a very grassroots level," says Abernathy. Her office is partnering on an outreach project with Impact Silver Spring and hopes to have information kiosks in area apartment buildings.

The goal is to "get the right people to come to the table," says Abernathy, to participate in charrettes, which involve the collaboration of all project stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan or design at the beginning of a project. The consultants will lead the charrettes as "hands-on workshops, allowing the community to illustrate their issues," says Abernathy. They'll have community leaders on site to help familiarize their constituencies with the subjects and technical people to help people visualize the possibilities.

Douglas and Abernathy anticipate that the sector plan process will be complete in September 2009, 24 months after it begins this fall. Purple Line planning is clicking along as well, according to Michael Madden, project



Sarah's Fabrics Owner Xa Thi Danh and her assistant Graciela Pelaez show cloth available at the Takoma Park store on University Boulevard at the Crossroads. They represent one of the many immigrant-owned businesses in the area.

Photo: Susan Holliday

manager in the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Office of Planning. While some of the transit route's cross-county alignment is still being decided, a Crossroads station stop is undisputed.

The answers to the remaining Purple Line questions will certainly impact the surrounding Crossroads sector, says Madden. Light rail or bus rapid transit? An aerial structure through the intersection or at grade level? Widen the roadway on one side or both sides? Madden expects these solutions to be hammered out by this time next year, in time to help finalize the sector plan.

A sector plan would've aided in the mostly completed MTA design of the Takoma/Langley Park Transit Center proposed for the northwest corner of the Crossroads intersection, Madden says ruefully. In the planning business, dealing with multiple government jurisdictions, "things don't always progress

in a logical fashion, but it sounds like we can work together," says Madden. "We'll be coordinating with [the sector planners] pretty closely, giving input."

Some Takoma Parkers take a so-what attitude to changes at the Crossroads - even people who live nearby in Wards 2 and 6. Why bother to participate in a charrette when you don't go to the Crossroads?

"People's perception of the area distracts them from the reality," explains Aldea Douglas. "It's a vibrant area, but traffic keeps them away, or the fear of crime. They say, 'I don't go there' and it's precisely because they don't go there that it affects them." Residents who avoid the Crossroads need to get involved in the sector planning process to make the area a place they want to visit, says Douglas, and the upcoming charrettes offer them the perfect opportunity.

Tree Talk

Will This Oak Fall?

"Tree City" is not a moniker that comes automatically to Takoma Park. The town arborist, Todd Bolton, works hard to help residents monitor the city's canopy of green to insure it is healthy and preserved. More importantly for some, he comes to the rescue when residents are afraid one of their trees is ready to topple and perhaps tear down the roof in the process.

Using my own backyard as an example, I invited Todd to answer questions typical of Takoma Park tree-huggers - and others. The first question: will the giant pin oak towering over my back bedroom threaten my roofline, my gutter, and my family?

No.

But, it turns out, this was a good question. The big, old oak is sandwiched between two existing cinderblock retaining walls in my shady backyard, and after reading about root rot (Newsletter, May 2007) I thought it might be suffocating. But Bolton says the tree's roots go so far down and out that the retaining walls are no barrier to their health. For every one inch of diameter at the tree's trunk, roots spread one and a half feet from the tree's center. That means my 24-inch-diameter oak has roots that reach 36 feet out, in all directions.

That's a relief.

Next question: when should I prune? If branches are "dead, dying, or diseased," says Bolton. For more details, see next month's newsletter.

--Virginia Myers

Main Street Takoma Gives Trees a Chance

As a result of the recent Carroll Avenue streetscape project, the City now has dozens of new trees in the Old Takoma commercial district. Dozens of thirsty new trees. Indeed, it takes a few years for young trees to establish their root systems and consistent watering is crucial to their survival.

To give the new trees a fighting chance in the summer months, last year Main Street Takoma established its Adopt A Tree program. In exchange for a \$20 contribution (to cover the cost of materials) and a promise to water regularly from spring until fall, volunteers receive a large bucket with holes in the bottom. It's meant to rest for awhile in the tree box so that more water goes to the tender roots and less runs off onto the street or sidewalk. Additionally, a decorative plaque bearing the participant's name is placed by his or her tree.

Even with last summer's blistering heat, most of the new trees fared well, thanks to the efforts of more than 20 Adopt A Tree volunteers. If you think you might want to adopt a tree, please contact the Main Street Takoma Adopt A Tree program coordinator, Michele Morgan, at 301-270-1254, or visit www.MainStreetTakoma.org. Main Street Takoma is a community-based initiative of the Old Takoma Business Association.

Crossroads Farmers Market Opens June 6

Every Wednesday, 3-7

Opening Season Celebration June 20

7676 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park, just south of New Hampshire and University

Fresh seasonal fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers and baked goods

Local farmers and food producers

Wide variety of ethnic produce

Accepts electronic food stamps, credit and debit cards

RECREATION

JUNE
ACTIVITIES

Tremendous Trips

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '07)
Looking for something exciting to start out your summer break? We've got what you're looking for. Each day offers a different experience. Sign up for one trip or pre-register for them all and get a discount. Minimum enrollment must be met.

When:
Mon. 6/18 - Udvar-Hazy ASM and IMAX, Dulles, VA
Tues. 6/19 - Bowling and Roller Skating, Laurel, MD
Wed. 6/20 - Water Park and Mini Golf, Gaithersburg, MD
Thurs. 6/21 - Cameron Run Water Park, Alexandria, VA
Fri. 6/22 - Discovery Theater, Los Quetzalitos and National Zoo, Washington, D.C.

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$20/trip
Non-Res. \$25/trip
Register for the whole week:
T.P. Res. \$90
Non-Res. \$115

Creative Adventures

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '07)
Don't sit around all summer wishing you had something to do! Join us on a new adventure each week with plenty of opportunities to discover arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature activities, special events, and trips to various fun locations.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 25 - August 10
Time: Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee weeks 1, 3 - 7:
T.P. Res. \$110/week
Non-Res. \$125/week
Fee week 2:
T.P. Res. \$95/week
Non-Res. \$110/week

Special offer!
Get week #2 FREE if enrolling for all seven weeks.

Extreme Horizons

Grades 6 - 8 (as of September '07)
If you are looking for an all-around great time for the summer then this is the place for you. Try your hand at rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and swimming. Learn some awesome yo-yo tricks, express yourself through art. Each week we'll have a trip to a theme park. Fee includes a camp t-shirt, all field trips and special events. No camp July 4. Maximum of 13.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 25 - August 10
Time: Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fees weeks 1, 3 - 7:
T.P. Res. \$180/week
Non-Res. \$200/week
Fee week 2:
T.P. Res. \$165/week
Non-Res. \$185/week 2007

Extended Care Options

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular

camp hours. Activities include games, outdoor play, and sports. Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: Creative Adventures, Extreme Horizons, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/ Softball Camp, Basketball and Soccer Camps.

Fee per week for Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
T.P. Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$40
Fee per week for After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.
T.P. Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$40

Fun Day Program 2007

Grades K - 5
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.

When: June 14 (or last day of school)
Time: 1 - 6 p.m.
Location: MLK Outdoor Water Park
Fee: T.P. Res. \$10
Non-Res. \$15

Music, Movement and Math

Grades entering K - 4 (as of September '07)
An integrated curriculum encourages children to match patterns in music and math, create unique musical ideas and build a group composition, dance to express geometric shapes, paint a picture of a musical composition and more! Math activities are age-appropriate and build on the MCPS curriculum. Children will play a variety of percussion, wind and keyboard instruments. Instructors Dana Frye and Marianna Previti, M Ed, have more than 30 years of combined teaching experience and are current PBES teachers.

Grades entering K - 1
(Maximum of 16, minimum of 14)
When: July 9 - 13
Grades entering 2 - 4
(Maximum of 20, minimum of 18)
When: Aug. 6 - 10
Time: 9 - 11:30 a.m.
Location: Heffner Comm. Ctr., 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$160
Non-Res. \$180 **< New, lower price!**

Suto Dance Camp

Come join the fun and learn the many aspects of dance in this intensive one week dance workshop. Choreography, dance history, dance craft and terminology of jazz, hip hop, ballet, and ballroom will be covered. Dance attire (leotards, tights, dance pants and shoes) is not mandatory but recommended. No jeans, cell phones or chewing gum is permitted. Bring a bag lunch and snack. Instructors Bobby Gene and Patty Suto are excited about bringing their 20 years of experience to this new camp to Takoma Park.

Ages 8 - 12
When: Mon. - Fri., July 23 - 27
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Dance Room, T. P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$245
Non-Res. \$250
Ages 13 - 17
When: Mon. - Fri., July 30 - Aug. 3
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Dance Room, T. P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$245
Non-Res. \$250

Silver Foxes

Line Dancing

Barbara Brown will lead the group. Line dancing is a great way to exercise with music. No experience necessary. Drop in and enjoy the fun. Meet in the Azalea Room located near the Reception Desk of the Community Center building. No transportation provided.

Date: Wednesdays, Ongoing
Time: 11 a.m. - noon

Gentle Exercise and Yoga for Seniors

Gentle motivation, musical inspiration and yoga principals strengthen muscular development both seated and if able, standing with support to bring oxygen to the blood, fluidity to the joints and laughter to the soul. There will be coordination movements, walking or in a chair (wheelchairs okay). Drop-ins are welcome. Dance Studio located near the rear entrance of the new building. No transportation provided.

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

Blood Pressure Screening

The Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) provides monthly free blood pressure screening. Meet in the Senior Room of the Community Center. No transportation provided.

Date: Thursday, June 28
Time: 2 - 3 p.m.

U.S. SPORTS INSTITUTE

Sports Squirts

A great way to introduce children 3 to 5 to soccer, basketball, softball, hockey and lacrosse. No previous experience is required to participate. All the sports promote hand-eye coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills.

Ages 3 - 5
When: Mon. - Fri., July 9 - 14
Time: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field - 7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Fee: T.P. Res. \$80
Non-Res. \$90

Multi Sports Camp

Give your child the unique opportunity to experience 15 different sports from around the world. All activities and games take place under the guidance of qualified coaches who are chosen for their ability to inspire, motivate and encourage campers. For more information check out the U.S. Sports Institute website at www.ussportsinstitute.com. Please register for this camp through the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Minimum of 10 for each session.

Ages 5 - 7
When: Mon. - Fri., July 9 - 14
Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field - 7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Fee: T.P. Res. \$140
Non-Res. \$150

Ages 7 - 14
When: Mon. - Fri., July 9 - 14
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RECREATION

Location: Ed Wilhelm Field - 7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Fee: T.P. Res. \$160
Non Res. \$180

Alternative Games

Ages 11 and older
For D&D veterans, Dave Burbank, the man who brought you D&D, has taken the game to a new level. Can you escape from the Zombie hordes in the City of Takoma Park?! Or send your Battlemech into battle to defeat your opponent!? Learn to use your hidden powers to survive the streets in the future. We'll play the usual (and unusual) mix of action, adventure and strategy games. Maximum of 12, minimum of five, so sign up early. Four weeks.

When: Thurs., July 5 - 26
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.
Location: Auditorium, T. P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$40
Non-Res. \$45

Puppy Kindergarten

Teach your puppy the foundation skills: attention, sit, come when called, leave it, settle and beginning leash walking. Learn what is and is not normal doggy etiquette! This class is for puppies 14 months and under who are not aggressive with other dogs or people.

Must have current vaccination records. Kids 10 and up with adult are welcome. Limited to six dogs. INDOOR LOCATION. Instructor Gretchen Savoy, with more than 20 years of dog training experience. Six weeks.

When: Sat., June 17 - July 29
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Location: Heffner Park Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$85
Non-Res. \$95

T-Ball Program

Grades K - 1
We emphasize the fundamentals at this t-ball program. Participants will be assigned to individual teams after registration and will be called by league director or coach after team assignments are made by Thursday, May 31. All participants will meet at Hodges Field (7511 Holly Avenue, behind Takoma Elementary) at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 2. Eight weeks.

When: Sat., June 2 - July 21
Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Location: Jequie Park, Spring Park, Hodges Field
Fee: T.P. Res. \$35
Non-Res. \$40

Abrakadoodle Art Camps

Pirate Island

Ages 6 - 8
Create a treasure map, make your own funky island and sea monster - hey is that your parrot on my shoulder? There is a \$58 material fee due the first day of camp. The material fee covers a take-home kit: props, games, stories, and music used in class and an extended learning activity. Be sure to bring a lunch or snack to be eaten during the break. Maximum of 20, minimum of eight.
When: Mon. - Fri., July 23 - 27
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Location: Heffner Comm. Ctr., 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$100
Non-Res. \$110

Wild 'n Wacky Art

Ages 6 - 8
Transfer your energy to creative fun art such as feather printing, kirigami, string painting, marble painting, split landscapes and more while learning about a variety of artists. There is a \$58 material fee due the first day of camp. The material fee covers a take-home kit: props, games, stories and music used in class and an extended learning activity. Be sure to bring a lunch or snack to be eaten during the break. Maximum of 20, minimum of eight.
When: Mon. - Fri., July 23 - 27
Time: 12:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Heffner Comm. Ctr., 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$100
Non-Res. \$110

Anime

Ages 8 - 12
Anime is the Japanese art of animation and Camp Abrakadoodle teaches step by step instruction on how to create that unique look. There is a \$58 material fee due the first day of camp. The material fee covers a take home kit: props, games, stories, and music used in class and an extended learning activity. Be sure to bring a lunch or snack to be eaten during the break. Maximum of 20, minimum of eight.
When: Mon. - Fri.,
Session 1: July 16 - 20
Session 2: July 30 - Aug. 3
Session 3: Aug. 13 - 17
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Location: Heffner Comm. Ctr., 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$100/session
Non-Res. \$110/session

Studio 1

Ages 7 - 12
Collage, drawing, line art, x-ray art, 3-D, patterning, poster art, and more. There is a \$58 material fee due the first day of camp. The material fee covers a take home kit: props, games, stories, and music used in class and an extended learning activity. Be sure to bring a lunch or snack to be eaten during the break. Maximum of 20, minimum of eight.
When: Mon. - Fri.
Session 1: July 16 - 20
Session 2: July 30 - Aug. 3
Session 3: Aug. 13 - 17
Time: 12:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Heffner Comm. Ctr., 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$100/session
Non-Res. \$110/session

Takoma Park Recreation Department
Teen Pre-Summer Sizzler

Free!

Ages 13-18
Friday, June 1
6-10 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
301-891-7283

Food, Demonstrations, Music,
Party Photos, Giveaways

Junior Thunderbolts
Baseball Begins

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts will hold five week-long baseball camps and four one-day specialty camps this summer for boys and girls ages 8 to 15. Week-long camps are June 18-22 and June 25-29 at Columbia Park, 14900 Old Columbia Pike, in Burtonsville and July 9-13, July 16-20 and July 23-27 at Nolte Local Park, 220 Denver Avenue, in Silver Spring. They cost \$195. Specialty camps will be at Nolte on July 2 (pitching/fielding, beginner to intermediate), July 3 (hitting/fielding, intermediate to advanced), July 5 (pitching/hitting, intermediate to advanced) and July 6 (hitting/fielding, beginner to intermediate). Specialty camps are limited to 25 players per day. They cost \$100/day. All the camps run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. After care is available for week-long camps (with minimum 20 registrants).

Information (including the refund policy) and registration forms are available at www.tbolts.org or call 301-270-0198.

These camps are not affiliated with the Takoma Park Recreation Department.



2007 THUNDERBOLTS HOME SCHEDULE

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play in the Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League, a wooden bat league composed of seven teams in the D.C. area. Top college players are recruited to play for the team. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring.

Home games are at
Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium
51 East University Blvd., Silver Spring, Maryland
(in the Four Corners Area)
For more information and schedule, see
www.tbolts.org

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER • SUMMER HOURS

June 23 - August 12

Game Room
Monday through Friday
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Senior citizens only
12:30-5 p.m. Summer camps
5-7:30 p.m. Ages 7-12
7:30-9:30 p.m. Ages 13-19
Saturday 1-5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2-5:30 p.m.

TZone (Teen Lounge)
Monday through Friday
4-9:30 p.m.
Saturday 1-5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2-5:30 p.m.

Hours subject to change
Membership is required

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

Have Your Kids Heard the Best Books on Tape?

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Has your child listened to a good book lately?

Listening to books—on CD, cassette or MP3 player—is fun. But it also can help kids develop vocabulary and improve their reading fluency because they can listen to more difficult books than they can read in printed form.

Listening to books is particularly helpful for children whose native language isn't English or who have reading challenges. And it's a great way to spark the interest of reluctant readers.

We hope to offer an event at the Library this summer to highlight the many benefits of audio books. Meanwhile, here's a look at some new books on CD. All are part of the library's growing collection of audio books:

"The Little Golden Treasury," four classic "Golden Book" stories for preschoolers: "The Poky Little Puppy," "Scuffy the Tugboat," "Tawny, Scrawny Lion" and "The Saggy Baggy Elephant." Sound effects add extra interest, as does a musical soundtrack at the beginning and end of each story. (Ages 3-6).

"George and Martha," by author/illustrator James Marshall, five comic tales about two hippos who are best friends. This is part of a read-along series, which includes a copy of the book with the CD. Reader Jeff Loeb uses different voices



LIBRARY News

for George and Martha as he brings out the humor inherent in Marshall's story. (Ages 4-7).

"The Higher Power of Lucky," by Susan Patron. This book tells the story of a spunky orphan named Lucky who worries that Brigitte, her guardian, might give up and move back to France. Lucky, still shell-shocked by her mother's sudden death, decides she needs a Higher Power, just like the "anonymous" people seek in their 12-step meetings. It takes a near-tragedy to help Lucky come to terms with her mother's death and understand how much she is loved by Brigitte. Concludes with an interview with Patron. (Ages 8-12).

"Room One," by Andrew Clements. Sixth-grader Ted Hammond loves reading mysteries, so he's thrilled when he gets involved with what seems like a real-life mystery: helping a homeless family that has holed up in an abandoned house. But this mystery is more complicated than Ted first realizes, and he discovers that solving real-life mysteries, even with help, is a lot messier than in books. (Ages 8-12).

"The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to the Nation: Volume One: The Pox Party," by M. T. Anderson. This disturbing, yet fascinating tale won a Michael Prinz Honor for best young adult book, and is meant for readers in high school and beyond. Set in 18th century Bos-

ton, the story revolves around an African-American boy who is given a classical education by the white scientists and philosophers with whom he lives. It takes years before Octavian realizes that he and his mother, an African princess, actually are part of a morbid scientific experiment to determine the intelligence of Africans. (Ages 14 up).

LIBRARY Briefs

Thanks for the Helping Hand

As the school year comes to a close, the Library staff would like to extend a huge "thank you" to the two adults who faithfully and cheerfully volunteer to help kids with homework after school. Karen Petersen has come every Tuesday and Thursday, and helped numerous children improve their reading skills. Louise Jung has come on Wednesdays to help kids with math. Thanks to both of you - the kids are better prepared because of your contributions.

Circle Time Expands

We're now offering Circle Time twice on Tuesday mornings as a way to make it more pleasant for everyone. At Circle Time, our Children's Room gets so filled each week with babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups that it's hard to move around! While it's exciting to see so many youngsters enjoying Circle Time, we think that it might be more fun for everyone if there were more room. So, as an experiment, we're going to do one Circle Time at the regular time - 10-10:30 a.m. - and a second Circle Time from 11-11:30. We'll ask those who come for the 10 a.m. Circle Time to please move on to their next activity so we can make room for the 11 a.m. crowd. Depending on how this works - and on feedback from participants - we may make this a permanent change. Let us know what you think!

Poetry Lovers Unite

About 40 aficionados of poetry attended the ninth annual Favorite Poem Evening at the Library last month. Seventeen participants, including State Senator Jamie Raskin and his wife Sarah Bloom Raskin read published poems that had particular significance for them, by W.H. Auden, James Wright, W. B. Yeats, Joe Salerno, Li-Young Lee, Gabriela Mistral and others. Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger hosted the event, which concluded with a small reception and refreshments donated by the Friends of the Library.

The annual readings began in 1999 as a collaborative project of the English Department of Columbia Union College, the Takoma Park Library and the Friends of the Library - modeled on similar events begun by then-National Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, and replicated in cities throughout the country.

Summer Quest Launches Reading Fun

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Kids — looking for a different kind of summer reading challenge this summer? Try the Summer Quest program at the Takoma Park, Md. Library. Our library is the only one in Maryland that creates its own summer reading program!

Each year, Dave Burbank — library assistant and artist extraordinaire — develops a unique adventure story and story board for Summer Quest participants, who range from preschoolers to teens. Our latest Summer Quest launches with a "get reading" gathering on Monday, June 18 at 7 p.m. We'll have a couple of Summer Quest programs, too — campfire craft-making and a special Harry Potter event — and celebrate the end with a party in September.

When kids enroll in our Summer

Quest program, they choose a character from a dozen or so choices, or they can create their own; name their character; and, if they want, color it in. Kids take home one copy of their character; the other copy is used to record their progress on the giant-sized Summer Quest story board in the Children's Room. In addition to their character, kids also take home a smaller version of the story board, plus a copy of the story — this year it will be focused on the rainforest.

To play Summer Quest, kids read the story to find out what types of books they need to move their character along the story board. At each point in the story, there will be a different type of book to read. For example, kids might be asked to read an adventure story, or maybe a funny book. Sometimes, they will need to read a tall book or a book about a differ-

ent culture. Books on tape and books that are read to kids also count. Kids earn "extra powers" by reading extra books. All books must be ones that are checked out from our library.

Each time kids finish a book, they tell us at the library's main desk. We'll mark down what they've read, and update their character's position on the story board in the Children's Room.

Many kids play Summer Quest just to finish; others want to win, by being the first to finish, or by reading a whoppingly, staggeringly large number of books. Others challenge themselves by reading books that are harder than those they usually read, and some win by just having fun!

For more information about Summer Quest program, contact Karen MacPherson, children's/teen librarian, at 301-891-7262 or karenm@takomagov.org.

Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.
At the Library.

La Hora de Juego en Espanol

Thursday, June 7
10 a.m. at the Library
Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks.

Sabado Gigante para Ninos en la Biblioteca!

Saturday, June 2, 10:30 a.m.
Spanish story time with Laura Kleinmann.

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

JUNE 2007

Crafts for Father's Day and Teacher Appreciation

Monday, June 4
7 p.m. at the Library
Kids, come make gifts for your dad, stepdad, grandfather or the other special man in your life. We'll also have materials to make a teacher appreciation gift. Please call 301-891-7259 to sign up.

Summer Quest Kick-Off

Monday, June 11
7:30 p.m. at the Library
Come get started with our new Summer Quest program. Everyone welcome! Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

Bedtime Story Time

Monday, June 25 7 p.m.
We'll begin with a 15-minute time for toddler stories, then switch into stories geared for kids ages 5 up. Bring your teddy bears (or other stuffed favorites). Pajamas, pillows and blankets are welcome. Please call 301-891-7259 to sign up.

Friends Celebrate Continued Success

The Friends of the Library Annual Meeting on March 27 featured music by the Cajun band Snake-sauce. Two new members were elected to the Friends Board - Joshua Wright as treasurer and Michele Morgan as member at large.

Friends donations to the Library totaled just under \$8,000 during the past year, and included books for the Friends' Reading Group, craft and teaching materials, shelving for a burgeoning young adult collection, an on-line book club, books and supporting materials for a spring program series for babies and their parents, and numerous speakers and story-tellers.

The Friends also donated half the proceeds from last spring's book sale (about \$600) to help rebuild the Long Beach Public Library in Mississippi after it was flooded by Hurricane Katrina.



Firehouse REPORT

As of April 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station responded to 323 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 923 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,246 incidents this year. Totals for

2006 were 332 and 807 respectively, for a total of 1,139, representing an increase of 107 incidents.

Baby Sitter Graduates

On March 12, 2007 the following completed the Baby Sitter Safety class: Nora Josephine Langer, Jordana Rubenstein Edbery, Julia Nolan, Mattan Berner-Kadish, Genevieve Kules, Christine O'Brien, Nick Hall, Marina Sabonis-Helf, Juila Lewandeo, Lindsey Ganey, Jalynd Sanders, Christopher Freeman. Assisting Jim Jarboe with the class was Sandy Egan, EMT; Mike Livingston, TPVFD; and Cpl. Tina Smith, TPPD.

Takoma Park VFD Honors Its Own

The following were honored at the Takoma Park VFD Banquet held on April 21, 2007:

Chief Stephen J. LaScola Top Responder Awards

1st Place James Mullen
2nd Place Mike Livingston
3rd Place Steve Novik
4th Place Deanna Stewart
5th Place Sherry Novik

In Station Standby Hours

1st Place Elmer Hamm

2nd Place James Mullen
3rd Place Deanna Stewart
4th Place Mike Livingston
5th Place Felipe Ramirez

President's Award - Pam Taylor
Fire Chief's Award - Mike Livingston
Special Recognition Award - Pam Taylor

Tip of the Helmet Community Service Recognition Awards

Stan Herrmann, Dave Hooker, Tom Horne, Bob Jarboe, Mike Livingston, Pam Taylor; and from the Takoma Park Lions Club - Ray Messick, Keith Van Ness, Gloria Mitton and Mike Hall; from the North Silver Spring Lions Club - Doris Messick and Pat Van Ness.

Service Years Recognition

Robert Hamilton 65, Edna Fiske 60, Hilda Baker 55, Jim Jarboe 50, Ted Jarboe 50, Marjorie Fiske 25, Richard Willey 25, Stan Herrmann 20, Linda Lyon 10, Mike Livingston 5, James Mullen 5, Felipe Ramirez 5.

Blood Drive

A Blood Drive will be held at Holy Cross Hospital on Tuesday, June 5, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be sponsored by the Takoma Park VFD, Takoma Park Lions Club and Holy Cross Hospital.

Elderly Couple Dies in Kensington House Fire

Could this tragedy been prevented? The fire is under investigation. The fire marshal's office believes it started in the kitchen. Were there smoke alarms in the house? If so, did they work at the time of the fire? We may never know the answers.

Within the last year and half, there have been more than eight fire deaths in the county; most victims were elderly. This must stop! If you know of any elderly people, family or neighbors, stop by and check on them. Look around. Do they have smoke alarms? Do they work? Do they cook? Should they cook? In the event of a fire, do you think they can get out of the house on their own? When it comes to fire safety, we must have smoke alarms in the home, on all levels. We must have a fire escape plan.

City Offers Parking Permits by Mail

Parking permits for designated permit-parking areas throughout the city expire on June 30. To ease the process and to encourage early registration, the Police Department will offer permits by mail, as well as in-person purchasing.

Residents need only to complete the attached form and return it, with payment, to the Police Department. Photocopies of the current vehicle registration card for each vehicle and a driver's license for at least one owner must be submitted with this form. These attachments must show a current Takoma Park address in the requested permit area.

A decal and year sticker for each registered vehicle will be mailed back within three business days of receipt. Two visitor parking



**Police
BEAT**

permits will be included for each address. An additional \$1 will be charged for permits sent by mail.

Citizens in several neighborhoods throughout the city requested that street parking be limited to residents, to ease a problem of commuter parking on residential streets.

The Permit-by-Mail program is available only to residential addresses. Be sure to include day and evening phone numbers in case any questions arise in processing.

Those operating a business in the permit areas should submit the names of employees on a company letterhead with their request. Not more than three employee permits are allowed. A home-based business must show evidence of a currently-operated business, which is current on pay-

ment of personal property taxes.

A limited number of Area B permits (one year only) are available to residents who live farther than .75 miles from the Takoma Metro station. Nine Area B permits are available only through in-person application at the Police Administration window, on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning Monday, June 27, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The space for Area B parking was decreased last year due to Metropolitan Trail construction. At the time, nine permits had been distributed and the Council agreed to continue offering this number in the future.

Applicants will need to show all normal identification and vehicle registration.

Questions regarding permit parking can be answered at 301-891-7102 during regular business hours. The form below is available on-line at www.takomaparkmd.gov under "Police Quick Links."

Permit-Area Parking (please print legibly)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: Takoma Park State: MD Zip Code: _____-____ Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

- ☐ A photocopy of the current registration card for each vehicle is attached.
☐ A photocopy of the current Driver's License for at least one resident is attached.

Vehicle #1 _____ (license plate #) ☐ One-year permit (\$12.50) ☐ Two-year permit (\$20)
Vehicle #2 _____ (license plate #) ☐ One-year permit (\$12.50) ☐ Two-year permit (\$20)
Vehicle #3 _____ (license plate #) ☐ One-year permit (\$12.50) ☐ Two-year permit (\$20)

Postage and handling for Permits by Mail, add \$1.00.

List additional vehicles on a separate sheet. Current registration showing the address in the permit parking area must be attached for each. Two Visitor Permits will be included per household that purchases a permit.

TPPD USE ONLY: ☐ Area 1 ☐ Area 1A ☐ Area 2 ☐ Area 2A ☐ Area 3 ☐ Area 4

**Return this form to
TPPD**
Permit Parking,
7500 Maple Avenue,
Takoma Park, MD
20912

*Permits will be mailed
within three business days
of receipt.*

Summer Security Tips

With the summer months approaching many of us will be going on vacations, venturing outdoors and spending time away from our homes. The following tips will help to protect your property and enable you to enjoy your summer months crime free.

Property Safety

■ Register your bicycles with the Takoma Park Police.

■ Consider the national "Watch Your Car" program if you don't often drive at night.

■ Never leave a key in your car and lock its doors. Consider installing secondary security (such as steering locking mechanism or alarms) and then use it. Don't leave valuables visible in the vehicle.

■ Engrave personal property and keep a written record of serial numbers or other identifying markings. (Computer, music, camera equipment, tools and lawn mower)

■ Install and use appropriate door and window locks; if you need advice, request a Home Security Survey free of charge from your TPPD Beat Officer.

■ Incorporate safety in your vacation plans (stop mail and papers, use timers on lights) including a request for a House Check by officers.

Home Security Advice

Many Takoma Park Police officers are trained in the inspection of homes for security concerns. An officer will survey your residence for issues that may be making you or the house vulnerable and will make suggestions for improving your personal and property security. The service is free. Renters need permission of their landlord to conduct the survey. Contact your beat officer at 301-891-7101 to arrange a Home Security Inspection.

COMMUNITY POLICING

continued from page 1

an existing policy that had assigned community policing — an approach that stresses contact with residents and merchants in the areas the police are assigned to protect—to just four officers. The rest of the department, he says, didn't feel as much responsibility for getting to know their communities.

Now they do. Ricucci believes in community policing that is practiced by every member of the department. "People told me when I came here we were unfriendly," he says, recalling the complaints he received just five months ago when he began his tenure as Chief. They said, "We didn't smile and we didn't answer the phone [in a] friendly [way]." So Ricucci uses roll call to tell all the officers: "I want you to walk. I want you to talk. I want you to smile."

Police are starting to get out of their

cars, says Ricucci. They're talking to people about problems in their neighborhoods, and they're taking more time with residents who call in to the information line at the department. When there is an incident that merits close attention, like the robberies in Old Town earlier this year, the "detail," or work around the issue, involves officers frequenting the businesses. Reaction has been favorable: "People told me it was good to see how visible we were," says Ricucci.

On a broader scale, the department has increased the number of informational emails sent to neighborhood listserves, and the number of press releases to newspapers and other media outlets. "I don't have a problem putting out [information about] a robbery," says Ricucci. "I believe in operating open. . . I try to build trust with the community so they'll trust me when something really bad happens."

He urges residents and merchants to

make it a two-way exchange, by calling in information about crimes or suspicious activity, adding that many crimes could be prevented if residents just called in. "That's a part of community policing," he says. "Get involved." In an emergency, call 9-1-1; for suspicious activity or other concerns, call 301-270-1100.

Ricucci himself is more involved—he calls at all hours of the day and night to be sure the phones are answered in an accessible and friendly way. He is out meeting other law enforcement leaders in surrounding communities. And he works closely with other city department heads. Recently, when the traffic light at Philadelphia and Maple Avenues was blocked by tree foliage; Ricucci worked with Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite, who was able to fix the problem promptly. Public Works also keeps the police cars running. Similarly, Ricucci works with code enforcement staff to

address neighborhood problems involving deteriorating property that might attract a criminal element. He coordinates with Yovonda Brooks in finance to help pay for crime prevention, and with Karen Hampton in human resources to fill out the department with new staff. "This is a good team and it makes my job a lot easier," says Ricucci of city management.

Outside the city, Ricucci has officers working with Montgomery County police on gang prevention; others are involved with an alcohol taskforce that addresses underage and public drinking. And there's a new street crimes unit of three plain clothes officers.

All of it is connected to community response, communication and openness — changes that are making a big impact on the image of the police department and, if statistics continue to show a decline in crime, an impact on safety in the City of Takoma Park.

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 April 18 at 4:57 p.m. in the 6400 block of Westmoreland Ave., an armed robbery occurred. Two adult males were approached by three subjects who pulled up nearby in a late model black Chevrolet Impala. Two of the subjects had handguns. One pointed a handgun at one victim and demanded money. When the victim replied that he had none, the subject hit him, knocking him to the ground, then made the same demand of the second victim. All subjects fled after the second victim handed over his wallet. The victims were not injured.

On April 19 at 10 p.m. in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., a strong arm robbery occurred. An adult female who had just exited a bus and was walking home, was approached from behind by two subjects who pushed her down, grabbed her purse and fled in a grey vehicle. The victim was not injured.

On April 24 at 9:08 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., a strong arm robbery occurred. Two adult males were approached by six to ten male and female juveniles. The male subjects hit, kicked and knocked the victims down before taking their belongings. All subjects fled on foot. One victim received treatment at a hospital for a minor injury.

On April 24 at 9:45 p.m. in the 100 block of Philadelphia Ave., a strong arm robbery occurred. Two adult males were walking when they were approached by two male subjects from behind. One subject grabbed one victim, searched his pockets and took the contents before both subjects fled on foot. The other victim fled while the first victim was being robbed. Neither victim was injured.

On April 24 at 9:53 p.m. in the 7600 block of Piney Branch Rd., a strong arm robbery occurred. An adult male was riding his bike and stopped at a corner when a subject walked toward him, punched him and knocked him to the ground. A second subject then approached and began hitting

the victim. Both subjects searched the victim's pockets, took property and fled. The subjects attempted to carry the victim's bike away, but abandoned it a short distance away. The victim was treated at a hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

On April 27 at 9:50 p.m. at the intersection of New Hampshire Ave. and Erskine Ave., a strong armed robbery was attempted. An adult male waiting at a bus stop was approached by approximately 15 juveniles who punched him, knocked him to the ground and demanded his money. The victim was able to run away from the subjects without handing over his property. The victim was not injured.

On May 5 at 10:30 p.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an armed robbery occurred. An adult male was approached by two subjects. One subject cut the victim with a sharp object. The other subject knocked the victim to the ground and both kicked the victim before taking his property and fleeing on foot. The victim reported the crime on May 6 when he sought medical attention for a non-life threatening wound.

Burglaries

Between April 13 at 8:30 p.m. and April 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the 7800 block of New Hampshire Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. The front door was forced open. Property and cash were taken.

On April 15, between 6:46 and 10:46 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. Entry to the store was gained through a hole that was made in a wall from a hallway. No property was taken.

Between April 19 at 6 p.m. and April 20 at 7:30 a.m. in the 6700 block of Conway Ave., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the home, which was under construction and unoccupied, was gained. Property was taken.

On April 20, between 7:30 and 8 a.m. in the 200 block of Dogwood Ave., a residential burglary occurred. A window on the first floor was pried open. Property was taken.

On April 22 at 2:30 a.m. in the 7300 block of Holly Ave., a residential burglary was attempted. The homeowner was awakened by noises outside his house and saw a subject wearing a dark jacket trying to remove a window screen. After a few minutes, the subject gave up and walked away.

Between April 21 at 6 p.m. and April 22 at 5:30 a.m. in the 7300 block of Piney Branch Road, a residential burglary occurred. A third floor window was broken to gain entry. Property was taken.

Between May 2 at 5:30 p.m. and May 3 at 2:50 p.m. in the 700 block of Erie Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the business was gained. Property was taken.

Auto and Related Theft

On April 13, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. in the 6600 block of Westmoreland Ave., a 2001 Pontiac Grand Pre was stolen by unknown means.

On April 14, between 4 and 5:30 p.m. in the 7900 block of Takoma Ave., a 1996 Chrysler Sebring was stolen by unknown means.

On April 16, between 2:50 and 3 p.m. in the 7100 block of Holly Ave., a 2001 Dodge Stratus was stolen by unknown means.

Between April 23, time unknown and April 24 at 7:09 a.m. in the 7400 block of Garland Ave., an auto theft was attempted. A door lock and the ignition of the 2003 Dodge Ram pick-up were damaged.

Between April 24 at 10:30 p.m. and April 25 at 7:30 a.m. in the 7800 block of Cole Ave., a 1995 Honda Civic was stolen by unknown means.

Between April 27 at 3 p.m. and April 28 at 5:32 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., a 1998 Chrysler Cirrus was stolen by unknown means.

On May 2, between 10 and 12:18 p.m. in the 8100 block of Lockney Ave., a 1995 Dodge Caravan was stolen by unknown means.

On May 9 at 1:30 a.m. in the 7300 block of Jackson Ave., a 1999 Acura Integra was stolen. The owner saw the car being driven away after the car alarm was triggered. No description of the driver was given.

Arrests

On April 14 at 1:45 a.m. in the 1000 block of University Blvd., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On April 14 at 4:02 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for fourth degree burglary and trespassing in reference to an incident that occurred on January 29, 2006 in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave.

On May 2 at 12:10 p.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with drinking alcohol in public.

On May 4 at 4:53 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult female was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of driving on a suspended license.

On May 6 at 4:02 a.m. at the intersection of Laurel Ave. and Carroll Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and several traffic related offenses.

On May 6 at 12:09 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and several traffic related offenses.

On May 8 at 7:02 p.m. in the 7600 block of new Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of an open alcohol container in public.

On May 9 at 10 p.m. in the 7300 block of Carroll Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with failure to appear in court on a charge of hit and run.



Sligo Adventist School sixth-graders Lindsey Charles, left, and Christine deGuzman have some fun picking up trash along New Hampshire Avenue as part of an annual, city-wide cleanup effort for Earth Day last month. The event, which teaches students about environmental stewardship as well as community activism, is organized by local Seventh Day Adventist schools.

Photo: David Waller

Folk Fest Celebrates 30 Years

BY NICK SCORZA

This September will mark the 30th anniversary of the Takoma Park Folk Festival, and the Festival's organizers have some special things in mind to celebrate. "Thirty years is a substantial accomplishment," said Festival committee director Kevin Adler. "We are very proud of the way the community continues to embrace the Folk Festival."

The Festival committee plans to celebrate the anniversary in two ways: first, by inviting back musicians who performed in the very first Folk Festival, many of whom have stayed connected to the community and the local music scene. "It's incredible, really," said Adler, "when you think these folks are still in the area and still playing music. We're celebrating their longevity as much as they are celebrating our anniversary." Secondly, the Festival

committee plans to produce a live CD of performers to be distributed after the Festival. "We have some logistical and creative issues to address in order to make this happen," Adler said, "but we're confident we can get it done."

The first Takoma Park Folk Festival took place in 1978, organized by community activist and later Mayor Sam Abbott. It featured 11 acts performing on one stage. Since then, the Festival has grown to encompass seven stages, with talent and diversity that rivals many national festivals. Through all this, the Festival has maintained its grassroots spirit. Thirty years later, it is still organized by volunteers, and still celebrating the wealth of musical and artistic talent that is Takoma Park.

To find out more about the Takoma Park Folk Festival, visit our web site at www.tpff.org.



Sunday September 16, 2007
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Rd.
(near Rt. 410)
Takoma Park, MD



Lori and Cletus performing on the Grove Stage during the 2005 Takoma Park Folk Festival.

Photo: Courtesy Phil Stoecker

Jazz Fest Plays June 9

The 12th Annual Jazz Fest, June 9 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Jeque Park, features "body music," played without instruments. So listen for whistling, yodeling, scat, and tap dancing along with Jazz Band Brawl winners the Oscillators and others. Also featured: food, crafts, flea market, and an opportunity to jam with other musicians. See www.tpjazzfest.org.

Check out Jazz Fest, Azalea Awards and B-ball



location of the Washington Adventist Hospital.

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:

- Community Oriented Policing: Intradepartmental Collaboration
- Governor O'Malley Visits Montgomery College, TP
- Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Tours of TP
- Soapbox Derby
- Ward 4 Walking City Council Meeting-

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 email to: cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

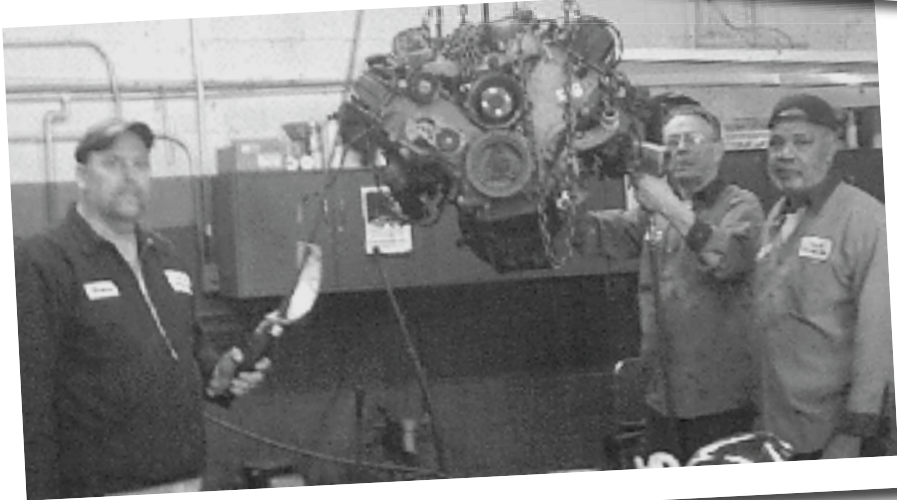
PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - JUNE 2007

	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 Suvre
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 Suvre	
5:00 PM	Music da camera	Takoma Park Snapshots	Government Focus	Haiti a Suvre		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 Suvre		Haiti a Suvre	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 Suvre		
1:00 AM	Road to Recovery		Community Bulletin Board				

City Celebrates Public Workers

Last month the city celebrated Public Works Week May 20-26. Although they may not be at the microphone during City Council meetings, Public Works staffers are the folks residents see every day hauling our trash, digging gardens in our parks, repairing our streets, and generally making sure the city runs smoothly. This collection of snapshots, taken by Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite (who is frequently at City Council meetings, briefing members on the inner workings of car purchasing, trench drains and the economics of recycling), shows a few of them in action.

Clockwise from right, Jasper Varn repairs asphalt on Jefferson Avenue; mechanics Robert Allen, Nelson Matchett and Paul Ross replace a police car engine; Elmer Driggers mans the recycling truck; and Ilandus Knight and Anthony MacDonald take care of spring planting.



Council Compensation Survey

The Takoma Park Council Compensation Committee has designed this survey to collect public opinions about the salary of Takoma Park's Mayor and City Councilmembers. Currently, the Mayor's annual salary is \$8,000; each Councilmember receives \$6,000 annually.

1. Do you know the number of hours per week the Mayor and Councilmembers spend on their official duties?

- ☐ Yes, please list _____
☐ No

2. Please rate each statement by how strongly you agree or disagree.

(5= strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=no opinion, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree, DK= don't know)

- a. The Mayor's salary is fair. _____
b. The City Councilmembers' salaries are fair. _____
c. The salary of the Mayor should be raised. _____
d. The salaries of Councilmembers should be raised. _____
e. Increasing the salary for the Mayor will increase the quality of candidates for Mayor. _____
f. Increasing the salary for Mayor will increase diversity among candidates for Mayor. _____
g. Increasing the salary for Councilmembers will increase the quality of candidates for Council. _____
h. Increasing the salary for Councilmembers will increase diversity among candidates for Council. _____
i. Increasing the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers would encourage people to run for the wrong reason. _____

j. Increasing the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers will result in an improved City government. _____

3. To decide fair salary for the Mayor and City Councilmembers, the following factors should be considered (check all that apply):

- ☐ a. Comparisons with same/similar positions in other jurisdictions
☐ b. Workload and duties
☐ c. Time spent working on Mayor/Council business
☐ d. Inflation
☐ e. Cost of Living
☐ h. Mayor/Council-related business expenses

4. Are you a Takoma Park resident?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Please add any comments below:

**Return this survey to: City of Takoma Park, Office of the City Clerk
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
Or fill out on-line at takomaparkmd.gov**