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Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

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

**HAPPY
FOURTH!**

Parade 10 a.m.
Fireworks 9:30

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

JULY 2007

City Budget Passes After Deliberation

By VIRGINIA MYERS

The Takoma Park City Council passed the FY08 budget Monday, June 18 after months of meetings, two public hearings and some unexpected, last-minute deliberation. A few tweaks on proposed expenditures will give the City a full-time coordinator for senior programs at the Recreation Department (from 19 to 30 hours), provide City Council members with new PDAs and increase assistance for homeowners struggling to pay rising property taxes.

City Manager Barbara Matthews' proposed budget was largely accepted by the City Council. The proposed tax rate of \$0.61 per \$100 of assessed valuation — a two-cent decrease from last year — was accepted. But Matthews' proposed \$19,411,809 in expenditure for the general fund increased to \$19,692,559, mostly due to incomplete projects that are carrying over from 2007.

The largest chunk of extra funding, \$50,000, will cover increased costs to the City as it supplements the State Homeowner Property Tax Credit. The credit, designed to relieve property tax increases for low-income residents, comes from the state and the county, but many local jurisdictions, including Takoma Park, supplement state and county funds. In 2004, Council voted to increase the supplement from 15 percent of the state credit to 30 percent, then voted for another increase, to 50 percent, in 2005.



Max Nieman chooses one of his favorites — broccoli — at the Sunnyside Farm produce stand run by Gustavo Diaz. Max and his mom, Lucy Shivan, were shopping at the Wednesday farmer's market newly opened at Takoma Langley Crossroads. The market, open each Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m., is designed to serve local residents, including the immigrant population; many of the farmers speak Spanish, including Diaz, and some offer Latino specialties like empanadas.

Photo: Virginia Myers

Recently, the state changed the way it calculates qualification for the credits, and the number of homeowners receiving benefits increased dramatically. The \$50,000 in Takoma Park's budget covers 165 homeowners who received the credit in FY07.

Also added to the originally proposed budget is \$9,500 to purchase personal digital assistants (PDAs) or "alternative constituent communication" devices for councilmembers. And, \$5,000 was set aside for grants to non-profit organizations. The grants could be used for such projects as the city's recent participation as a co-spon-

sor for Historic Takoma's House and Garden Tour.

The new position at the Recreation Department — and the associated \$25,000 increase in the budget — was the result of discussion regarding part time and contractual, temporary labor versus full time employment. Councilmember Terry Seamens said he was concerned that the City was hiring individuals on a part-time basis as a way to avoid paying health care benefits. An evaluation of part-time employment from the city manager (see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2007/061107-2).

pdf) clarified various positions in Public Works, the Library and the Recreation Department and prompted some discussion, though councilmembers agreed to more thoroughly examine the issue over the next year.

They did, however, establish their informal intent: "We would rather have people who work full time with benefits than people who work part time and contract in order to save on benefits," summarized Mayor Kathy Porter. "That's been a long standing council opinion." She suggested a resolution to that effect, and consideration of the resolution as the city manager organizes the FY09 budget. Porter also suggested there might be some support for a living wage policy.

As for the senior activities coordinator, Carole Ank, who handled much of that

BUDGET continues on page 12

Festive Fourth is Planned

With the Chief of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, Jim Jarboe, and TPVFD Auxiliary President Edna Fiske in the lead, this year's Independence Day Celebration will kick off its theme, Saluting Our Public Servants, at 10 a.m. July 4 with a parade beginning at Takoma Junction. With more than 60 floats and entries, including Columbia Union's Acro Airs Acrobatic Team, the Takoma Park Child Development Center, Washington Revels and D.C. Pan Jammers Steel Band, Body Love Belly Dance and five VFW posts, along with scores of politicians and public representatives, the parade will wind around through old town, Maple Avenue, and past the Community Center.

Evening events will begin at Takoma Park Middle School at 7:30 p.m. with music from Takoma Zone and the Takoma Park Community Concert Band. Parade winners will be announced, and a round of patriotic songs will precede fireworks, set to begin at 9:30 p.m. Rain date is the first clear evening.

For more information about this traditional celebration see www.TakomaPark4th.org.

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2007 Election Notice and Voter Registration Reminder

**Nominating Caucus
Tuesday, October 2**
**Election Day
Tuesday, November 6**

Don't miss out on your opportunity to vote! All Takoma Park residents wishing to participate in the Nominating Caucus or in voting in the November 6, 2007 City Election, must be registered at a City address with the Montgomery County Board of Elections or, for non-U.S. Citizens, with the City Clerk's Office. Voter registration information is available on the City's web page (www.takomaparkmd.gov) or by calling City Offices at 301-891-7100.

Anuncio de la elección del 2007 y recordatorio de inscripción electoral

Reunión Electoral de Nominaciones

Martes, 2 de octubre

Día de Elección

Martes, 6 de noviembre

¡No se pierda la oportunidad de votar! Todo residente de la Ciudad de Takoma Park que desee participar en la reunión electoral de nominaciones del 6 de noviembre del 2007 debe estar registrado en una dirección municipal en la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery o en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal, si no es ciudadano estadounidense. Información sobre inscripción electoral se puede obtener en la página web de la Ciudad (www.takomaparkmd.gov) o puede llamar las Oficinas de la Municipalidad al 301-891-7100.



CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, July 2 - Reception celebrating the 10th anniversary of Takoma Park unification, 6:45 p.m. (Community Center Atrium)

Monday, July 2 - Special Session and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Wednesday, July 4 - City Holiday (Independence Day). City offices will be closed.

Monday, July 9 - Public hearing and regular meeting of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Public Hearing, July 16 (tentative) Proposed revisions to rent stabilization

Tuesday, July 10 - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, July 10 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Lilac Room)

Tuesday, July 10 - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Forsythia Room)

Wednesday, July 11 - Meeting of the Health Services Impact Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Azalea Room)

Monday, July 16 - Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, July 17 - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Monday, July 23 - Regular Meeting of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, July 24 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, July 24 - Commission on Landlord-tenant Affairs hearing (Southern Management Hardship Petition Ap-

peal), 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Wednesday, July 25 - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Thursday, July 26 - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Monday, July 30 - (Tentative) Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

*For the most up-to-date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. 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.

City Council Action

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.

May 21 - Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2007-28 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code Section 6.20.060(C)(8), equalizing hardship rent increases for landlords with and without mortgages.

May 29 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2007-17 was adopted, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (ABSENT: Austin-Lane)

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-28 was adopted by roll-call vote, amending Takoma Park Code Section 6.20.060(C)(8) equalizing hardship rent increases for landlords with and without mortgages (ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

Resolution 2007-18 was adopted, appointing Anne Ludlow to serve on the Emergency Preparedness Committee (ABSENT: Austin-Lane).

June 4 - Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2007-29 was accepted, adopting the FY08 tax rate.

First Reading Ordinance 2007-30 was accepted, adopting the FY08 stormwater budget (the Council acting as the Stormwater Board).

First Reading Ordinance 2007-31 was accepted, adopting the FY08 Budget (including FY08-12 CIP Budget) (ABSTAIN: Seamens).

First Reading Ordinance 2007-31 was accepted, adopting the FY08 AFSCME pay plan.

First Reading Ordinance 2007-32 was accepted, adopting the FY08 management and non-union staff pay plan.

First Reading Ordinance 2007-34 was accepted, adopting the FY08 police pay plan.

First Reading Ordinance 2007-35 was accepted, authorizing FY07 Budget Amendment No. 4.

June 11 - Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-35 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing FY07 Budget Amendment No. 4 (ABSENT: Barry).

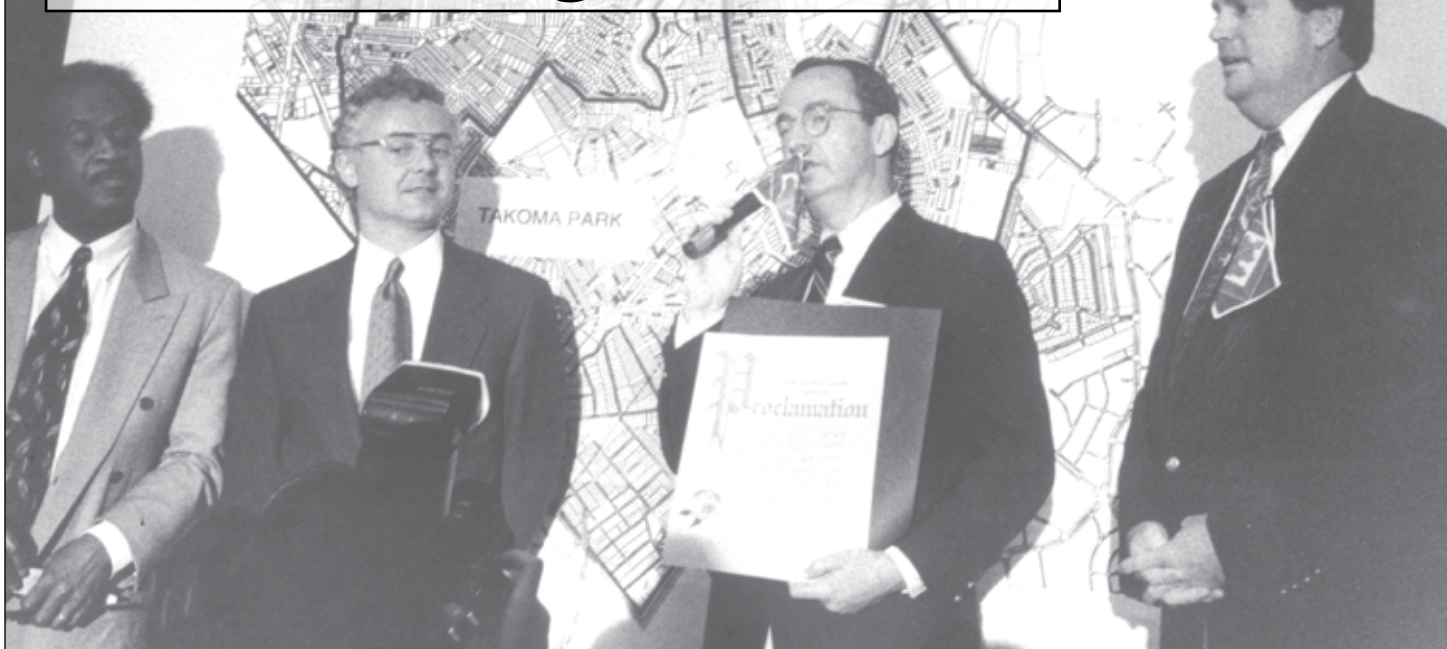
*Only negative votes, abstentions, and absences are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at Clerk@takomagov.org.

Vacancies on Council-appointed Boards and Committees

There are positions available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Additional information can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

- Arts and Humanities Commission
- Board of Elections
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
- 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
- Tree Commission

One City, One County: Remembering Unification



Mayor Ed Sharp reads the Unification Proclamation July 1, 1997, with a map of divided Takoma Park behind him. From left, Ike Leggett, Derek Berlage, Sharp and Doug Duncan.

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Remember when a phone call to the Takoma Park Police Department was answered with a question: What county do you live in? Or what about when you called to get a permit for building that shed out back? Whether or not you were allowed to build depended upon which side of the county line you stood. If you were unlucky enough to be one of the homes that sat right on the county line, you had to figure out which county got your tax dollars.

This was Takoma Park before unification.

For those who remember, they were days of confusion and conviction - for 17 years, activists fought to erase that county line and make it so that Takoma Park would be solely in Montgomery County. This year, July 1, 2007, marks the 10th anniversary since that battle was won.

It began in 1980 when Sammie Abbott, the famously feisty, then-new mayor of Takoma Park, put unification on his long "to do" list of initiatives. It remained a popular issue through 14 attempts to pass it through the state legislature.

When Takoma Park was founded, it was rural enough for county lines to be relatively inconsequential. As it grew, however, wrangling over who paid for what began. Fifty-seven percent of the City, and two



City and state officials with resident activists in Annapolis.

thirds of its population fell to Montgomery County, the other 43 percent (and one third population) to Prince George's. Residents paid twice - once to the city and again to the county - for some services. Counties reimbursed the city for services it provided, but reimbursement was uneven.

Besides this, different systems for services like stormwater management (now controlled by the city), zoning and police services made paperwork a nightmare. Police officers sometimes were required to show up in court in both counties at once; in a city newsletter article at the time of unifi-

cation, then-City Manager Beverly Habada remembered one officer receiving a bench warrant because he couldn't be in two places at once. Even getting a taxi was complicated across county lines.

Police services, as well as the quality of the county school systems, were two forces driving the activists for unification - but political climate proved to be the tipping point. To unify the City, activists needed a state law, but the Prince George's legislative delegation and especially the Prince George's County Executive at the time, Parri Glendening, resisted giving up their portion of Takoma Park for years. Then former Takoma Park Mayor Stephen DelGiudice was elected to the Prince George's County Council, and Glendening began running for governor. Things shifted. An election year approached, politicians traded favors. In March, 1994, the unification bill passed 134-1 in the House of Delegates; it passed in the Senate 33-2. Then in November 1995, city residents voted in a binding referendum to unify the City; the move was official July 1, 1997.

The City celebrated with a week of events, including "Montgomery County's Biggest Block Party," a bike parade, and a ceremony complete with cake. And that year's fireworks were especially bright: they lit up with the words: "One City, One County."

CDBG Grant Applications Available

**Deadline 4 p.m.
Monday, August 20**

The City of Takoma Park is accepting proposals for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted to the Housing and Community Development Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. 20912 no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, August 20, 2007.

CDBG funds will be awarded to non-profit organizations or in support of a neighborhood-initiated project. To be eligible for funding, the project must principally benefit low and moderate income households or neighborhoods in Takoma Park. Funds may be used for activities which support local affordable housing initiatives, further neighborhood revitalization efforts, provide economic development opportunities, and/or improve community facilities and services.

Funding is limited and cannot be considered as a permanent funding source. Applications submitted for CDBG funding should be either for a one time expenditure, such as a public improvement project, or for a new and needed service. Most projects proposed for CDBG funding should be designed so as to be able to complete their task in approximately one year. Funds will be available on or about January 1, 2008.

Applications can be accessed on the City's website at www.cityoftakomapark.org or by contacting Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov.

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.

Looking for your 15 minutes of fame?

Look no further!

Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Day Celebration Saturday, October 20, 2007

Share your talents and your interests with your community

- Sign up and lead a discussion on your favorite author!
- Sign up and share your fancy footwork or a wonderful voice with your neighbors!
- Sign up and share with all Takoma Park the radical philosophies of Karl Marx and his brother, Groucho!

Get in touch and be part of the celebration!

Sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Commission and the City of Takoma Recreation Department

For more information on how you can become involved, please contact the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission at 301-891-7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org

Credits Relieve Tax Burden

Deadline September 1

You may be entitled to some money -- but the deadline for notifying the state is September 1, 2007! The Maryland Tax Credit Programs are designed to help low income home owners and renters by limiting the amount that they must pay in property taxes. To receive the tax credit, an application and all supporting documentation must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation no later than September 1 of each year.

Legislation enacted in the Maryland Legislature in 2006 increased the maximum property assessment eligible for credit from \$150,000 to \$300,000 and also revised the net worth requirement to exclude IRAs and qualified retirement saving plans. So even though your home may be assessed for any amount, it's only the first \$300,000 of its assessed value that will be counted for this credit. You must apply for this program every

year even though you may have received a tax credit in the past.

To obtain an application for the home owners' or renters' tax credit programs, you can call the State of Maryland at 1-800-944-7403, access it on their website, www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html or call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Tenant HelpLine Coming to Your Neighborhood

Do you have a question regarding your rights as a tenant? Do you know if the rent you are paying is legal under the City's rent stabilization program? If you can't seem to fit in the time to call or visit the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant office during regular business hours, beginning in July, the office staff will be coming to your neighborhood.

If you are interested in having us set up shop for a few hours on a weekday evening or on a weekend day on a convenient corner in your neighborhood, please contact the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs at 301-891-7222.

COLTA's Corner Cases

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

Williams v. Reden Management

On May 30, COLTA issued a decision in a case involving a former tenant's request that her security deposit plus interest and any penalty allowed under the city's Landlord-Tenant Law be returned. COLTA's decision held that (1) the landlord did not comply with Section 8-203(g) of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code when it failed to send to the tenant's last known address

within 45 days of the termination of the tenancy, a written list of damages claimed together with a statement of the cost actually incurred; (2) the landlord's failure to comply with Section 8-203(g) resulted in the forfeiture of its right to withhold any portion of the tenant's security deposit and (3) the tenant was awarded a total of \$587.50 which represented the \$500.00 security deposit plus interest of \$87.50 (five six-month periods at 4 percent simple interest per year = \$50; and five six-month periods at 3 percent simple interest per year = \$37.50).



HOUSING Mailbox

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

A Tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding what types of evictions may be considered retaliatory under the city's Landlord-Tenant Law, and asked whether the city's law addresses the payment of attorney fees and court costs.

Under Section 6.16.180 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law, which incorporates Section 8-208.1 of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, a landlord may not evict a tenant:

1) Solely because the tenant or his/her agent has filed a good faith written complaint or complaints with the landlord or against the landlord with any public agency or agencies;

2) Solely because the tenant or his/her agent has filed a lawsuit or lawsuits, against the landlord; or

3) Solely because the tenant is a member or organizer of any tenants' organization.

In accordance with Section 8-208.1(c), in any eviction proceeding where retaliation is raised as a defense and results in a judgment in favor of the tenant, the court may enter judgment for reasonable attorney fees and court costs against the landlord. Conversely, if any eviction proceeding the court finds that a tenant's assertion of a retaliatory eviction defense was in bad faith or without substantial justification, the court may enter judgment for reasonable attorney fees and court costs against the tenant.

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@takoma.gov.

Facelift for Main Street Facades

Have you noticed how good our Main Street is looking?

Business and commercial property owners along Carroll, Laurel and Westmoreland Avenues in Takoma Park have been using money received through grants from the Main Street Takoma Façade Improvement Program to spruce things up. Through grants from the State of Maryland, Main Street Takoma has received \$65,000 over the last two years and applied for an additional \$100,000 in fiscal year 2008. The program gives matching grants to building owners and operators for up to 50 percent of the cost of pre-approved improvements to the outsides of their buildings.

Several local buildings have benefited from façade grants, including: Savory Café, House of Musical Traditions, Shampoo, Park Florist, and Summer Delights, as well as Historic Takoma's

new office at Takoma Junction.

Everyone wins when the buildings along the streets of our business district look well maintained. Pedestrians feel safer, shoppers feel more inclined to browse, businesses get more customers, and residents enjoy the choices and benefits offered by a healthy retail community.

The application process is relatively simple but requires at least two bids and all required permits to be in place. Funds are limited, but some money is still available for projects this year. For more information on receiving a Façade Improvement Grant or how you can be involved, please visit www.MainStreet-Takoma.org.

Main Street Takoma is a community-based initiative of the Old Takoma Business Association.



NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RENT STABILIZATION ORDINANCE

Takoma Park Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md.

Monday, July 16, 2007
7:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact:
Linda Walker, 301-891-7222,
or **Sara Anne Daines**, 301-891-7224

The Takoma Park City Council will be holding a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 16, 2007 to gather comments on proposed amendments to the City's rent stabilization ordinance. A copy of the proposed amendments can be found on the City's website at www.takomaparkmd.gov after July 2, 2007.

We encourage you to attend the hearing and be a part of this discussion. You may also submit your comments in writing to the City Clerk at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912 or by email at Clerk@takomagov.org.



NOTIFICACIÓN DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA A ENMIENDA PROPUESTA DE LA ORDENANZA PARA LA ESTABILIZACIÓN DE RENTA

Ciudad de Takoma Park
El Auditorio de la Ciudad de Takoma Park
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD

lunes, 16 de julio de 2007
7:30 p.m.

Para más información por favor comunicarse con:
Linda Walker, 301-891-7222
o **Sara Anne Daines**, 301-891-7224

El Consejo de la Ciudad de Takoma Park estará llevando a cabo una Audiencia Pública a las 7:30 p.m. el lunes, 16 de julio de 2007 para reunir comentarios a enmienda propuesta a la Ordenanza de la Ciudad para la Estabilización de Renta. Puede encontrar información relacionada con la Enmienda Propuesta en la página de la Ciudad www.takomaparkmd.gov después del 2 de julio de 2007.

Le invitamos a asistir a la audiencia y a participar de la discusión. También puede someter sus comentarios por escrito a la Secretaría de la Ciudad 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 o por correo electrónico a Clerk@takomagov.org.



Revolution in Cycling hits Takoma Park

By PAUL GRENIER

Globally, from Portland to Paris, cities are advocating expanded use of bicycles for urban transportation.

This increased bicycle use, it is assumed, will help cut pollution and greenhouse gasses, save money and resources, and improve the health of an increasingly sedentary public.

The United States has seen a surge of interest in promoting bicycle use in recent years. This past May 18th was national 'Bike to Work Day.' Many American cities, including both Washington, D.C. and Takoma Park, are investing in new routes, trails and bike racks, along with cycling education programs, to encourage more biking.

But despite these efforts, the US still lags far behind its European counterparts. A full eleven percent of Germans, twenty percent of Danes and twenty seven percent of the Dutch bicycle commute to work regularly, compared to only one half of one percent of Americans.

America, to be sure, differs from Europe in many ways. We lack those traffic-calming cobblestone streets, the pedestrian-friendly old city centers. We have huge SUVs on our roads, not those little Smart cars that look like they could fit in your backpack.

But it appears that a good part of the difference is also cultural. In Europe, bicycles are generally accepted as having an equal right, with cars, to use of the streets. What is more, many European countries have a long tradition of bicycle clubs where cycling know-how is passed on from generation to generation.

And according to the new school of American cycling experts, the last two points are key. It is precisely an increase in safe bicycling know-how, plus a broader cultural shift toward acceptance of bicycles as normal vehicles on the road, that promises the biggest payoff--both for individual biker safety and for society at large.

The New Thinking

Mathematics professor Boris Kunin, who is also an expert cyclist, phrased this new 'bikes belong here' mentality with admi-



This year's Bike to Work Day on May 18 drew thousands of cyclists, including many from Takoma Park. Here, Washington area bikers pedal toward Freedom Plaza, where a rally showed broad commitment to more bike use in the city and its suburbs.

Photo Courtesy of Washington Area Bicyclist Association

nable precision.

"Motorists," he said, "are much more accustomed to other motorists doing things in certain ways--executing turns, for example, in a certain way. That is why the majority of experienced cyclists subscribe to the view that bicyclists fare best when behaving, and being treated as, vehicles."

Despite popular beliefs to the contrary, Kunin says that bike lanes, bike paths and other 'facilities' that segregate cyclists from the real world of traffic are generally more dangerous places for cyclists than were the roads themselves.

Allen Muchnik, an adult cycling instructor with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), agrees. "Operating a bike on public roads is the safest and most efficient way to operate a bicycle."

Bike paths, despite their pastoral appearance, frequently have sharp bends and hidden turns which become literally life-threatening places when fast-moving cyclists collide head-on.

Bike lanes, which put bicycles off to the right side of car lanes, make it harder for a cyclist to make a left turn. And a cyclist going straight ahead at an intersection belongs to the left of the cars making right turns.

Worst of all, such lanes communicate to drivers that cyclists are an unpredictable and alien--as opposed to a normal--vehicular presence on the road.

Some of the 'new thinking' purists--such as cycling engineer John Forester, author of the widely revered book *Effective Cycling*--

oppose bike lanes with almost a religious fervor.

Muchnik's opposition is more measured. In conditions of fast-moving, single-direction traffic, and where there are few or no intersections, bike lanes make sense, he says.

For example, Muchnik would favor bike lanes, especially if combined with other traffic calming measures, along Takoma's New Hampshire Avenue.

Reducing car speeds, he says, "is the biggest thing that would help bicyclists." It would be great for pedestrians, too.

Close to home

The acceptance of bikes as a part of the road, as noted above, also involves a cultural shift. In this respect Takoma Park appears to be ahead of the pack. According to Jay Lee, member of the city's Safe Roadways Committee, Takoma is not only a place where locals do a lot of biking, it is also something of a biker destination.

"I've noticed on the weekend that bikers come into the city from D.C. and from outside the city to visit the farmer's market, or go to Mark's Kitchen," Lee said. Local parks and trails, such as those in Sligo Creek, are also an attraction for family cyclists.

The Safe Roadways Committee, whose members include a number of avid cyclists, has recently been enthusiastically planting bike racks throughout the city.

On Maple Avenue near Sligo Creek Parkway, the committee is funding the installation of 'sharrows,' or chevron and bicycle symbols, directly onto the road surface. The symbols serve a dual-purpose: to remind drivers to share the road, and to help bicyclists keep a safe distance from opening car doors.

The City of Takoma Park has also dedicated a chunk of a national Safe Routes to School grant to training school children in safe cycling skills. The classes will be taught by specialized instructors from WABA, and will hopefully nurture a whole new generation of people prone to two-wheelers.

GREEN TIPS



Beat the Price of Gas

With gas prices still topping \$3 a gallon at many stations, it's time to keep your emissions and costs down by carpooling, using public transit, biking, or walking. Look into telecommuting. If you do drive, consider a hybrid, bio-diesel, or low-mileage vehicle. In any automobile, be sure your tires are properly inflated to save as much as 3 percent on gas mileage, and change your oil every 3,000 miles for engine efficiency. And if you're biking, look for the new racks planted around Takoma Park by the Safe Roadways committee. For more info (and inspiration) about biking, see story, this page.

Tree Talk

Prune and Snip

While you're busy watering your thirsty garden this summer, don't forget about your trees. Not only do they need water -- they also need pruning, and this is as good a time as any to do it.

Continuing our discussion with City Arborist Todd Bolton, we learned that the old oak in the backyard could use a little trim -- but not much. Eying a neighbor's tree, Bolton warned against too much pruning and, specifically, a technique called "lion tailing." This "outdated, old fashioned" practice, says Bolton, involves trimming all the leaves and small branches but the ones at the ends of the tree's big branches -- hence the name, lion tail. It puts extra stress on the structure of the branch because all of the weight is at the end and can create sunscald, which causes bark to peel. It also can remove too much of the leaf surface from the tree, reducing the amount of photosynthesis performed so that the tree may end up starving, so to speak.

This may feel like a technicality best left to tree care experts. There are many companies out there who can prune your trees, for a price. The City keeps a list of possibilities. But your trees may not even need pruning. Bolton says to use the trilogy, "dead, dying, diseased" to determine which branches to remove. If there are only a few, and they are safely away from anything they could harm should they fall, you can allow them to fall naturally. Or, if it seems like a small job, you might be able to do it yourself, with a good ladder, a pruning saw, knowledge of pruning techniques, some energy and a lot of nerve. If you do hire a service, the price will vary, but most companies charge over \$150 per hour, and pruning a large tree can take several hours. Only Maryland Licensed Tree Experts are allowed to do tree work for pay in the City of Takoma Park.

As for my backyard oak, I'm going to let the branches fall where they may, and send my 16-year-old son monkey-climbing up to get the bigger ones.

RECREATION

JULY
ACTIVITIES

Creative Adventures

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '07)

A new adventure each week, with arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature activities, special events and trips to various fun locations.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 25 - August 10
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fees 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)

An all-around great time, with rock climbing, horse-back riding, mountain biking and swimming; yo-yo tricks, art and weekly trips to theme parks. 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: 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

Extended Care Options

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.

Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
T.P. Res. \$30 per week
Non-Res. \$40 per week

Silver Foxes

Line Dancing

Line dancing is a great way to exercise with music. Barbara Brown will lead the group. No experience necessary, drop-ins are welcome. No transportation provided.

When: Wed., Ongoing
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio,
T.P. Comm. Ctr.
(near rear entrance)

Gentle Exercise and Yoga for Seniors

Gentle motivation, musical inspiration and yoga principals strengthen muscular development both seated and if able, standing. There will be coordination movements, walking or in a chair (wheel-chairs okay). Drop-ins are welcome. No transportation provided.

When: Fri., Ongoing
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio,
T.P. Comm. Ctr.
(near rear entrance)



Friends ham it up at the Summer Sizzler held in June for the teens in the community.

Photo: Debra Halduven

After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.
T.P. Res. \$30 per week
Non-Res. \$40 per week

Music, Movement and Math

Grades entering K - 4 (as of September '07)

An integrated curriculum encourages children to match patterns in music and math. 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, PBES teachers with more than 30 years of combined teaching experience.

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

Suto Dance Camp

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. Bring a bag lunch and snack. Instructors Bobby Gene and Patty Suto.

Ages 8 - 12
When: Mon. - Fri., July 23 - 27
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T. P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$245
Non-Res. \$265

Ages 13 - 17
When: Mon. - Fri., July 30 - Aug. 3
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T. P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$245
Non-Res. \$265

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. 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

U.S. Sports Institute

Sports Squirts

A great way to introduce children 3 to 5 to soccer, basketball, softball, hockey and lacrosse. 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.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$80
Non-Res. \$90

Multi Sports Camp

This camp introduces 15 different sports from around the world, with guidance from qualified coaches chosen for their ability to inspire, motivate and encourage campers. For more information see 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.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$140
Non Res. \$150

Ages 7 - 14
When: Mon. - Fri., July 9 - 14
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field
7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Fee: T.P. Res. \$160
Non Res. \$180

All Sports Institute Camps will be located at Ed Wilhelm Field - 7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)

Wheat Allergies Class

16 and older

Gather interesting ideas and suggestions on how to deal with this situation in your kitchen, when you eat out and what snacks to take along on a daily basis. This is an interactive class. Bring your own ideas and suggestions to share. Handouts included. No cooking takes place in the class. Instructor: Diane Tuckman.

When: Tues., July 10
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.
Location: Rose Room, T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$35
Non-Res. \$40

Belly Dancing

Ages 11 and older

Suitable for all ages, shapes and sizes. Dancers should wear comfortable, form-fitting attire that permits instructor's viewing of their torso (to ensure correct movement); midriff baring is optional. Bring a scarf to tie around your hips. Instructor, Maya Taa-hira. Maximum of 25, minimum six. Six weeks. For more information about Belly Dancing e-mail instructor at mayat@bodylovebellydance.com

When: Tues., July 10 - Aug. 14
Time: Beg. 7 - 8 p.m.
Inter. 8 - 9 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$65
Non-Res. \$75

R E C R E A T I O N



June Gable, knitting instructor assists a student in the Senior room of the Community Center.

Photo: Carey Antoszewski

Beginning Ceramics

Ages 16 and older

Space is limited for the potter's wheels so sign up quickly. All students will learn about wedging, correct use of tools and glazing. A \$25 materials fee paid directly to instructor includes a 25-pound bag of clay and open studio time on Sundays. Instructor John Baker. Maximum of eight, minimum of four.

When: Mon., July 29 - Sept. 2
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fees: T. P. Res. \$135
 Non-Res. \$145

Kung Fu

Grades K - Adult

Master Robert G. Thompson, Sifu has brought the tranquil art of Kung Fu to Takoma Park. There is a one time, non-refundable fee (children \$50, adults \$75), paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.. Five weeks.

Ages 5 - 15

When: Sat., July 14 - Aug.11
Time: Beg.10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
 Inter. 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
 Adv. 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Ages 16 and up

When: Thurs., July 12 - Aug.9
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.

Location: Dance Studio, T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fees: Children T.P. Res. \$75
 Non-Res. \$85
 Adults T.P. Res. \$95
 Non-Res. \$105

Takoma Park Soccer will take to the Takoma Park Middle School fields again this summer, with two weeks of full-day Monday-through-Friday camp for children from five through 13, from July 23 through August 3. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with before- and after-care available through the Takoma Park Recreation Department at (301) 891-7290.

Primary instruction comes from Blair varsity boys coach Adrian Baez (whose team won the County 4A championship last fall) and kindergarten teacher Peggy Baez, with a number of soccer-playing college and high school students as counselors. The fee is \$175 per week, and a 9-to-Noon option for younger children is \$85 per week. The camp is headquartered on the field and in the gyms at Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd.

Camp fees pay for about 800 scholarships each season for the spring and fall Takoma Park Neighborhood Youth Soccer league. For more information contact Howard Kohn at kohn@erols.com.

THE CAMP IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE TAKOMA PARK RECREATION DEPARTMENT.
FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT KOHN@EROLS.COM



Afternoon Addition members participated in Mama Eltsah's class, highlighting art from around the world.

Photo: Carey Antoszewski

Abrakadoodle Art Camps

Pirate Island

Ages 6 - 8

Create a treasure map, make your own funky island and sea monster.

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 - Crazy! Goofy!

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.

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.

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.

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

For all Abrakadoodle camps, a \$58 material fee is due the first day of camp to cover props, games, stories and music used in class. Bring a lunch or snack for break. Maximum of 20, minimum of eight.

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
 5:30-7:30 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

Harry Potter Arrives in Takoma Park



LIBRARY News

The Takoma Park Maryland Library invites you to a Harry Potter festival of epic proportions. Join us on July 21 to hear Jim Dale read "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," from the brand new CD. Come in your pajamas, bring pillows, and plan to stay all day or just for a few hours. The audiobook will be playing from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and pizza will be provided at lunchtime for those who sign up ahead of time. We'll do a drawing, and one lucky winner will get a copy of the new book.

Come back again on July 30 for more magical entertainment, at a "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Party," from 6:30-9 pm. We will have lots of fun activities, including:

- Harry Potter Jeopardy
- Fortune telling by "Professor Trelawney"
- Make your own spells and potions



- Performances of skits from the books and movies by local kids and adults (you can sign up at the library ahead of time to do this)
- Harry Potter-themed dessert potluck. Use your imagination. What kind of desserts do the Death Eaters like? Nothing containing serpents, spiders, or blast-ended skrewts, please! Please let us know if you are bringing a dessert.
- Prizes, including a copy of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" on CD and other Harry Potter novelties will be awarded.
- Come in costume — there will be awards for the best ones!

Look for other exciting "Harry Potter" events starting at the end of June. For more information, visit the library at 101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, Md or call 301-891-7259.

Summer Mysteries Coax Kids Into Reading

Kids: looking for a good mystery to while away a summer day? Try one of these new mysteries:

Her name is Enola Holmes and she is the much-younger sister of the celebrated fictional detective Sherlock Holmes and his brilliant older brother Mycroft. Enola is a girl with spunk and smarts, which are put to the test when her mother disappears on Enola's 14th birthday. Enola's older brothers, both conventional Victorians, believe that a finishing school is the best place for their untamed sister. Enola, however, has other plans. After a daring escape from her country home, Enola heads to London where - using all of Sherlock Holmes' methods of disguise and then some - she sets herself up in London as a woman detective, solving cases as she avoids her brothers' attempts to discover her whereabouts.

In Enola Holmes, author Nancy Springer has created a highly appealing heroine whose efforts to determine her own fate will ring true to young readers on the cusp of adolescence. So far, Springer has written two Enola Holmes mysteries: **"The Case of the Missing Marquess"** and **"The Case of the Left-Handed Lady."** A third mystery, "The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets," is scheduled for publication next year. Fans of Nancy Drew will love this series, as will readers just looking for a good book to read. (Ages 9-12).



Sherlock Holmes also is a main character in another promising new kids' mystery series titled **"Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars."** Authors Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin take their inspiration from the original Sherlock Holmes tales, in which the great detective utilizes the talents of a group of street urchins for some of his cases. The boys eventually became known as the "Baker Street Irregulars" in honor of the street on which Holmes lived.

The first book in the new Mack/Citrin series is called "The Fall of the Amazing Zalindas." In the book, the authors flesh out the characters of the Irregulars as they assist Holmes in an investigation of the murders of three circus tightrope walkers. The boys' work proves in-

valuable, as does the help provided by a gypsy girl named Pilar, whose family is part of the circus.

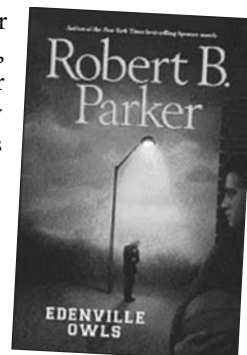
Mack and Citrin's fast-paced, suspenseful story will keep readers turning the pages. Numerous illustrations by artist Greg Ruth add to the fun in this book, which also features an eye-catching vintage design. (Ages 8-12).

Those Fairy Tale detectives -- Sabrina Grimm and her younger sister Daphne -- are back with another case to solve in **"Once Upon A Crime."** In this fourth book of their adventures, the Sisters Grimm find themselves in New York City chasing down a murderer as well as unearthing a secret about their mother, whose disappearance with their father launched the girls' career as detectives.

As usual, author Michael Buckley has great fun with his characters, especially the fairy tale creatures known as "Everafters." Daphne thinks it's wonderful to be living in the midst of such storybook characters; Sabrina, however, just wishes things could be normal, and that her parents would somehow reappear.

Although the books in this lively, creative series can be read separately, it does help to read them in order to better understand the background. Other books in the Sisters Grimm series include: "The Fairy-Tale Detectives," "The Unusual Suspects," and "The Problem Child." (Ages 9-12).

Best-selling adult mystery author Robert Parker shares his talents with a younger audience in **"Edenville Owls"** (Philomel, \$17.99). Setting his tale just after World War II, Parker tells the story of a 14-year-old boy named Bobby, who wants to help protect his attractive young English teacher from a man who seems to be intent on hurting her. Bobby also has other things on his mind, especially his suddenly-awkward friendship with his best friend Joanie, and his tenacious efforts to help his un-coached basketball team win a championship. Parker's usual spare writing style works well here, helping to build suspense as Bobby discovers that the menacing man is the leader of a virulent anti-Semitic group bent on racial violence. Although Bobby seems to be awfully self-aware for his age, that's a small quibble about a mystery that both boys and girls will enjoy. (Ages 12 up).



Friends Book Group Reads Heinlein

Come join the Friends of the Takoma Park Md. Library Book Group as they discuss "Stranger in a Strange Land" by Robert Heinlein on Wednesday, July 18, from 7:30-9 p.m. The discussion will take place in the Atrium Room on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Published in 1961, "Stranger in a Strange Land" is a science fiction classic. In the novel, Heinlein tells the story of a human baby who is raised by Martians and then returns to Earth to found his own church. The book is provocative; as "Library Journal" notes: "Heinlein has been rightly criticized for presenting as facts his opinions, which state that organized religion is a sham, authority is generally stupid, young women are all the same, and the common individual is alternately an independent, Ayn Randian-producing genius and the dull-witted part of an ignorant and will-less mob. Yet the book is hard to put down; in its early pages it is a truly masterful story."

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

JULY 2007

Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday
10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.
At the Library

Friends of the Library Reading Group

Wednesday, July 18
7:30-9 p.m. in the Atrium Room
Community Center, 3rd floor
Discussion of "Stranger in a Strange Land" by Robert A. Heinlein
All are welcome

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" Read-a-thon

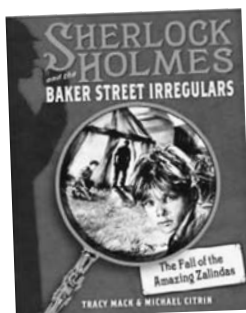
Saturday, July 21 at the Library
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Come listen to the audio version of the newest - and last - "Harry Potter" book.
Bring your pillows and blankets.
Sign up if you want to have pizza and soda at lunchtime.
Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

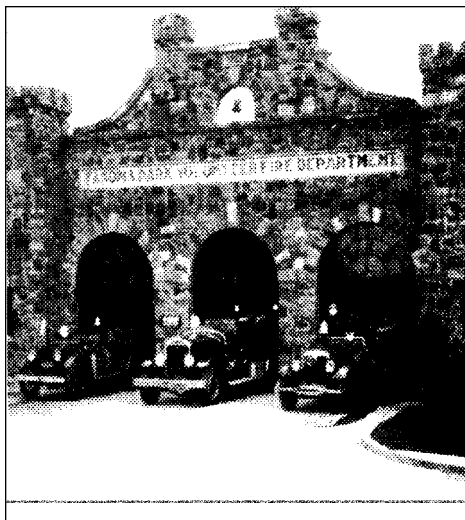
Bedtime Story Time

Monday, July 23
7 p.m. at the Library
Bring your teddy bears (or other stuffed favorites)
Pajamas, pillows and blankets are welcome
Please call 301-891-7259 to sign up

"Harry Potter" Party

Monday, July 30
7-9 p.m.
Come celebrate the end of the series. Costumes welcome!
Prizes, snacks, games
Please call 301-891-7259 to register





Firehouse REPORT

As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station responded to 400 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,201 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,601 incidents this year. Totals for 2006 were 424 and 1,014 respectively, for a total of 1,438, representing an increase of 163 incidents.

Home Fire Prevention Checklist

- Is your stove top clean and free of clutter?
- Are your countertop appliances in good repair (cords, too)?
- If anyone smokes in your home, do you have large, deep, non-tip ash-trays?
- Are matches and lighters up high and away from children's sight and reach?
- Do you have adequate electrical circuits for heat-producing appliances

such as ranges, dryers, microwave ovens and electric space heaters?

- Are paints, gasoline and other flammable liquids stored outside away from the house?

Special note: It's that time of the year for storms, resulting in power outages.

We must be vigilant when using candles. Keep candles at least three feet away from anything that can burn and put them out when you leave the room or go to sleep. Never leave them unattended!

In the event of a fire... Get Out, Stay Out

What's the most important thing to know about fire? How to escape from one safely.

Make a plan. Make sure you have a fire escape plan that you practice at least twice a year. Can you identify two ways out of each room and your outside meeting place?

Sound the alarm. Make sure you have smoke alarms on every floor of your home and in or near sleeping areas, even the basement. Have an adult test them once a month

and change the batteries at least twice a year when you change your clocks.

Remember!

Feel the door. If you have to escape from a room, make sure you feel the door before you open it. If the door is hot, there's probably smoke and fire out there, and you'll have to use your second way out.

Crawl low. If you have to escape through smoke, get on your hands and knees and crawl with your head about knee high where the air is cooler and cleaner.

Close that door. Close the door behind you to keep the fire from spreading.

All together now. Once you've made it outside safely, go immediately to your family's meeting place. You'll know where to go because it's in your escape plan.

Call for help. Once everyone has checked in at the meeting place, call the fire department. Make sure everyone in your family knows the number by heart.

Stay out. Most important of all: Never, ever go back in to a house or building that's on fire. After the fire, always wait for the fire department to say it's okay to go back in.

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 May 17 at 8:25 p.m. in the 900 block of East West Highway, an armed robbery was attempted. Three adult males were waiting at a bus stop when two subjects exited a red Cadillac, approached them and demanded their property. One subject pointed a knife at the victims. All the victims ran into a nearby store and the subjects fled in their vehicle. None of the victims was hurt.

On May 17 at 10 p.m. at the intersection of Kennebec and Maple Ave., an armed robbery occurred. An adult female was walking alone when two subjects exited a black SUV style vehicle, produced a gun, snatched the victim's purse away from her and searched her pockets for money.

Burglaries

Between May 18 at 5:30 p.m. and May 21 at 11:40 p.m. in the 700 block of Hudson Ave., a residential burglary was attempted. The door, lock and door frame of the apartment were damaged in the attempt.

Between May 24 at 4 p.m. and May 25 at 1 p.m. in the 7800 block of Kennewick Ave., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the apartment was gained. Property was taken.

On May 31, between 6 and 7 a.m. in the 7600 block of Flower Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. Two office doors were damaged. No property was taken.

Between June 4 at 7:30 p.m. and June 5 at 8 a.m. in the 7500 block of New Hampshire Ave., a commercial burglary was attempted. The door and

the door frame of the office were damaged in the attempt.

On June 8 at 10:44 p.m. in the 6500 block of New Hampshire Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. A store employee working in the back of the business heard a loud noise coming from another area and went to check. He saw a broken window and an unknown subject inside. When the employee yelled at the subject, he fled in a 1991 rust colored Toyota Camry with DC tags. Nothing was stolen.

Between June 12 at 11:30 p.m. and June 13 at 8:15 a.m. in the unit block of Pine Ave., a residential burglary occurred. The lock on the detached garage was cut off. No property was taken.

Auto and Related Theft

Between May 13 at 6:30 p.m. and May 14 at 6 a.m. in the 7700 block of Maple Ave., a 1996 Toyota Corolla was stolen by unknown means.

On May 14, between 6 a.m. and 7:50 p.m. in the 7300 block of Piney Branch Road, a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria was stolen by unknown means.

On May 17, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., a 2000 Toyota RAV4 was stolen by unknown means.

On May 22, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., a 1994 Honda Accord was stolen by unknown means.

Between May 20 at 8 p.m. and May 24 at 2:30 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., an auto theft was attempted. The door lock and ignition of the 2004 Jeep Wrangler were damaged.

Between May 24 at 8:30 p.m. and May 25 at 6:57 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., a 2006 Jeep Wrangler was stolen by unknown means.

Between May 27 at 6:10 p.m. and May 28 at 10:45 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an auto theft occurred. It is unknown how the 1998 Dodge Caravan was stolen.

Between June 13 at 9:00 p.m. and June 14 at 8:45 a.m. in the 7100 block of New Hampshire Ave., a 2000 Ford Excursion SUV was stolen by unknown means.

On June 14 at 3:54 p.m. in the 6400 block of 4th Ave., an auto theft was attempted. The owner of the 1998 Jeep Cherokee came home in another vehicle and saw two subjects tampering with the Jeep which was parked in the driveway. The victim did not stop, but circled the block and when she returned, the subjects were gone. The vehicle door lock was damaged.

Arrests

On May 27 at 9:10 p.m. in the 7400 block of Wildwood Drive, an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

On June 2 at 5:57 a.m. in the 7100 block of Carroll Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with theft under \$50.

On June 2 at 11:19 p.m. in the 6300 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with assault (on a Police Officer).

On June 4 at 6:31 a.m. at the intersection of Ethan Allen Ave. and New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and driving without a license.

On June 4 at 8 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for traffic related offenses.

On June 5 at 8:51 p.m. in the 7500

block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult female was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and several traffic related offenses.

On June 6 at 1:54 p.m. at the intersection of Ethan Allen Ave. and Jackson Ave., two adult males were arrested and charged with possession of CDS and a citation for a traffic related offense was issued to one of the males.

On June 8 at 3:50 p.m. in the unit block of Jefferson Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On June 13 at 3 p.m. in the 1000 block of University Blvd., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS with intent to distribute and possession of CDS.

On June 13 at 7 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 under the influence of alcohol.

On June 9 at 2 a.m. in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On June 11 at 1:45 a.m. in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult female was arrested and charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On June 11 at 4:26 p.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., an adult male was charged with trespassing.

On June 12 at 4:10 p.m. in the 1300 block of University Blvd., two adult males were charged with drinking alcohol in public.

On June 12 at 10:29 p.m. in the 1400 block of Holton Lane, an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court and charged with disturbing the peace.

Are You Ready?

A Guide to Emergency Preparedness

As residents keep an eye on the weather channel and prepare for hurricanes and summer storms, FEMA has come up with a free, comprehensive guide that consolidates facts and tips on disaster survival techniques and preparation. "Are You Ready? A Guide To Citizen Preparedness" doles out advice for natural and man-made disasters, and provides a step-by-step outline on how to prepare a disaster supply kit, emergency planning for people with disabilities, how to locate and evacuate to a shelter, and how to create a contingency plan for family pets. Man-made threats from hazardous materials and terrorism are also treated in detail, and opportunities for citizens to become involved in community protection through FEMA's Citizen Corps initiative and Community Emergency Response Team training program is also provided.

Copies of "Are You Ready" are available, free, through FEMA Publications warehouse, 1-800-480-2520, FEMA publication H-34.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST FOR TAKOMA PARK RESIDENTS

Whether it's the threat of extended power outage, terrorist act or a severe storm, residents are encouraged to prepare for potential emergencies. Preparation should include sufficient materials for at least the first 72 hours of such an emergency since outside help may not be available during this period.

Preparing an Emergency Supplies Kit

Assemble the supplies you might need for the first three days if confined at home or if you need to evacuate due to an emergency. Items you will need in an evacuation should be stored in easy-to-use and carry, preferably water-resistant containers such as backpacks or duffel bags.

Your Kit Should Include

- A supply of water (keep at least a three-day supply for each person - one gallon per person per day is recommended). Change the water frequently.
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and non-electric can opener. The canned food should not need water added to eat.
- Blankets or sleeping bags for each family member.

- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- A first aid kit, extra medications and the list of family physicians with telephone numbers.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries sufficient for three days.
- Credit cards, cash (ATMs may not be working) and an extra set of car keys.
- A list of important family information and documents such as wills, insurance policies, immunization records, bank account numbers and telephone numbers; include the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers. Keep these records in a water-proof container.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses and supplies.
- Don't forget books and games for entertainment.
- And do not forget pet supplies.

Create a Family Disaster Plan

Plan how your family will stay in contact if separated by a disaster; pick two meeting places: 1) a location a safe distance from your

home in case of fire; and 2) a location outside your neighborhood in case an evacuation prevents you from returning home. Choose an out-of-state friend as a check-in contact for everyone to call. Try to keep cell phone use to a minimum to avoid overwhelming the system.

Meet Your Neighbors

Get to know your neighbors and your Neighborhood Safety Contact and determine how you can work together during and after a disaster. Consider how you can reach out and help those neighbors who have special needs, such as the frail elderly or people with disabilities. Make plans for mutual childcare in case parents can't get home.

Useful Contacts

- In the event of an emergency, turn on your radio and listen for information from the Emergency Broadcast System at WTOP (FM103.5) or WMAL (AM-630).
- For 24-hour taped information about terrorism and emergency preparedness, call 240-777-4000.
- For telephone counseling regarding fears and concerns, contact 240-777-2600.

LISTA DE COMPROBACIÓN DEL ESTADO DE PREPARACIÓN PARA LOS RESIDENTES DE TAKOMA PARK

Ante la amenaza de un ataque bioterrorismo o de una tormenta severa del invierno, se recomienda a los ciudadanos que se preparen siempre para las emergencias. Usando la siguiente lista, pueden tomar medidas ahora y estar listo para hacer frente a situaciones de emergencia.

Preparar un Equipo de Materiales en Caso de una Emergencia

Reuna los víveres que usted pueda necesitar por una duración de tres días por se queda atrapado en casa o necesita evacuar debido a una emergencia. Los artículos que necesitaras en una evacuación se deben almacenar en un envase facil de utilizar, preferable que sea uno con resistencia al agua, tales como talegas o bolsas para cargar en la espalda (mochilas).

Su Equipo de Materiales Debe Incluir:

- Una fuente de agua (Guardar por lo menos una fuente de agua para tres días, un galon por persona para cada día es recomendado).
- Una fuente de alimento empaquetado o enlatado y abrelatas manual. La comida enlatada no debe requerir agua.
- Mantas o bolsos para dormir para cada miembro de la familia.

- Un cambio de ropa, ropa especial en caso de lluvia y zapatos fuertes.
- Un equipo de primeros auxilios y medicaciones prescritas y una lista con los nombres y numeros de teléfono del doctor de la familia.
- Un radio, una linterna a pilas y tener suficientes baterías para tres días.
- Tarjetas de Crédito y efectivo y una copia extra de la llave de su carro.
- Una lista de información y documentos importantes de la familia tales como polizas de seguro, expedientes de la inmunización, numeros de la cuenta bancaria, numeros de teléfonos importantes; incluir el estilo y el numero de serie de dispositivos médicos tales como marcapasos. Mantener estos expedientes en un envase impermeable.
- Artículos especiales para los niños, ancianos o lisiados de la familia.
- Lentes y fuentes adicionales de lentes de contacto.
- No olvidar libros y juegos para entretenerse.
- No olvidar suplementos para sus mascotas.

Crear un Plan en Caso de un Desastre

Planear como su familia permanecera en contacto si se separan en un desastre: escoger dos lugares de reunión: 1) una localización a

una distancia de seguridad de su hogar en caso de fuego; y 2) una localización fuera de su vecindad en caso de que una evacuación evite que vuelva a su hogar. Elegir un amigo que esté fuera del estado como un "punto de contacto con" para que cada miembro de su familia llame. Disminuir el uso del celular para evitar la congestión.

Conosca a sus Vecinos

Trate de conocer a sus vecinos y determine como pueden trabajar juntos despues de un desastre. Considerar como pueden ayudar al exterior especialmente a los que tengan necesidades especiales, tales como los ancianos o las personas incapacitadas. Hacer planes para el cuidado de los niños en caso de que los padres no puedan regresar a casa.

Contactos Utiles

- En caso de una emergencia, escucha su radio para obtener información del sistema de radiodifusión de emergencia en WTOP (FM 103.5) y WMAL (AM 630).
- Para información grabada acerca de terrorismo y como alistarse para una emergencia llamar al 240-777-4000.
- Para consejo por teléfono en referencia a sus temores y preocupaciones llamar al 240-777-2600.

Police Officers Honored for their Service

The annual awards dinner for police officers who have performed admirable and exemplary service over the last year will honor more than 30 of Takoma Park's law enforcement team, on June 28. Congratulations to these important public servants.

Officer of the Year 2006

Pfc Paula Gaskin

Supervisor of the Year 2006

A/Lt. Tyrone Collington

Civilian of the Year 2006

Lakya Coles

Unit Citation Criminal Investigations Division Education Awards

PFC Joseph Butler

PFC Cynthia Conrad

PFC Christopher Eckford

Honorable Service Medals

D/A/Sgt. Richard Poole

PFC Joseph Butler

Cpl. Jerome Erwin

PFC Eric Mueller

Command Recognitions

Cpl Jerome Erwin, D/PFC

Cynthia Conrad

D/Cpl. Rick Cannatella

Ms. Diana Dean

TAC. Danyelle Gallop

PFC. Eric Mueller

Sgt. Richard Bowers

Dsp. Dail Fuller

D/A/Sgt. Richard Poole

D/Cpl. Andrew John

Sgt. D. Frishkorn

A/Lt. Tyrone Collington

Cpl. Nicholas Carter

Sgt. Mark Hammond

Letters of Recognition

Lt. Richard Cipperly

Sgt. Richard Bowers

Cpl. Fred Roush

Dsp. Dail Fuller

Pvt. Matthew Barber

Sgt. Mark Hammond

Diana Dean

PFC. Christopher Eckford

Linda Rettberg

Dsp. Christopher Walker

Cpl. Andrew John

Cpl. Gregory Wolfe

Cpl. Roberto Rodriguez

PFC. Cynthia Conrad

FIREARMS AWARD

To be announced at the awards dinner

Takoma Park Lions Win Nine District Awards

At the Lions Multiple District Convention held in Dover, Delaware, the Takoma Park Lions Club won the following 2006-2007 awards: The Five Star, Publicity, Service to Youth, Service to Community, Club Bulletin, Blood Collection, Eye Glass Collection, Visitation and District Governor's Exceptional Award.

At the convention, Lion Keith Van Ness, incoming president of the Takoma Park Lions Club, presented the Harry Wickline Memorial Awards to the three Lions Clubs with the most eyeglasses collected this year. Harry Wickline, for whom the award is named, became a member of the Takoma Park Lions in 1957 and was a dedicated Lion until his death in 2001, just shy of his 97th

birthday. He had a deep compassion for the visually handicapped, served as president of the Lions Eye Bank and Research Foundation and was president of the Lions Pre-School for the Visually Handicapped. He was an early advocate for the Eye Mobile, which led to the Lions Mobile Health Unit.

This year 49,272 pairs of eyeglasses were collected by the clubs in District 22-C. Many of these eyeglasses can be reconditioned and distributed to adults and children in developing countries, thus bringing them the gift of greatly improved vision. First place award went to the Waldorf, Md Lions Club (5,031 pairs). Second place award went to the Rockville Lions Club, and the third place went to the Randolph Lions Club.

Celebrating the Creative Spirit of Our Community

The City of Takoma Park and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission are proud to present the following events

Takoma Park Poetry Series

Open Reading - featuring any who'd like to read their poetry
Thursday, July 19 at 7 p.m.

Gallery Exhibit

"The Car"

Photography by Rob Rudick and Linocuts by Norman Strike celebrating the automobile.

July 1 - July 30

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



All Things Considered for Metro Development

County Executive Ike Leggett, left, and Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter were part of a May 23 walk-through of the Takoma Park Metro Station property, where developer EYA has proposed a new townhouse development. The tour, championed by Takoma Park Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane, was attended by a long list of Montgomery County and other officials, including County Councilmembers Valerie Ervin and Marc Elrich, State Senator Jamie Raskin, and State Delegates Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur.

Takoma Park officials and many others are concerned that the development proposal would make existing facilities difficult to use. Under an unusual contract between EYA and the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority, WMATA would be financially responsible for moving the bus and parking facilities to accommodate the townhouses. City staff have determined that the cost of such a move would likely be greater than any revenue WMATA would earn selling the property to EYA for development. Detailed information on the plans and impacts is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro.

Takoma Park City TV Events in July 2007



City TV will celebrate July 4 by covering the 118th Annual Independence Day Parade!

Be sure to catch replays of last year's parade on City TV to get in the spirit.

As July 2007 marks the 10th Anniversary of the unification of Takoma Park into Montgomery County, we'll be airing the documentary "One City, One County: The Unification of Takoma Park," produced by Capitol Television and Takoma Park Television.

Be sure to catch newly released musical performances, including Sweet Thunder Trio plus Minor Thoughts Quintet from the 2007 Jazz Band Brawl; Perry Conticchio Quartet, The Young Lions, Shapiro and the

AcroAirs from Tastes of Takoma.

Check in on 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: On The Beat, Roundtable on Intra-departmental Collaboration
- Watch Out: Identity Theft
- Inspired Results: The Exhibit
- Crossroads Farmer's Market Grand Opening
- Silver Spring-Takoma Park Thunderbolts

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 - JULY 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.

BUDGET

continued from page 1

programming, is retiring this month; Recreation Director Debra Haiduven expects to hire a new coordinator, along with several other positions that came up during the budget process, by fall.

Another proposal from Council that was

not accepted in this year's budget was an audit of the evidence gathering and processing unit at the Police Department. Alerted by residents to a serious backlog of unprocessed, seized property, Councilmember Terry Seamens requested the audit, which would have cost \$35,000. Police Chief Ronald Ricucci reported that he is already investigating evidence procedures, and Council agreed to hold off on an official

audit until the department has had an opportunity to clean things up on their own. Ricucci is in the midst of hiring a clerk who would oversee the evidence unit; he expects to have someone on board by July.

The new budget also included a number of carryover items from FY07 - funds not yet spent that will fall into FY08. Some of the higher-priced items include \$74,620 for the Safe Takoma Initiative, \$77,000 for

a design charrette for the Ethan Allen Gateway design, a \$60,000 boiler replacement, and \$40,000 for gateway signage. There are also funds for an archive project with Historic Takoma, a solar roof project for the Community Center, public works facility security measures, streetlight installation, defibrillators for City buildings, police communications equipment and modifications to the police evidence facility.

JAZZFEST RETURNS TO TAKOMA PARK



Rockin' in the 'Park

Once again, the Takoma Park Jazz Festival drew music-lovers to Jequie Park for cool sounds, a bit of art, and some good eats. Clockwise from top left, the NAME THIS BAND Band, with NAME NAME on guitar and NAME NAME on bass; Baakari Wilder, teacher/dancer with Tappers With Attitude; Darryl Perry cooking up Smoky D's BBQ; jazz-flavored art on display and for sale; and Dave Lorentz, outgoing long time producer of the Jazz Festival, having his last hurrah.

Photos by Lonni Moffet; bottom left photo by Patrick Rittenhouse.

