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Takoma Park

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

NEWSLETTER

**CDBG Grant
Applications
Due Aug. 20**

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Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

AUGUST 2007

Spring Park Renovation Draws in Wildlife

By VIRGINIA MYERS

"We're getting creatures," says Todd Bolton, one of few people delighted to see insects crawling near him. "We're getting creatures, which is what the objective is."

Bolton, Takoma Park's arborist, is standing in Spring Park, at the corner of Poplar and Elm Avenues, where he and the Department of Public Works have undertaken an ambitious renovation. Bolton, with City staff, is creating a bog designed to attract all sorts of "creatures" - among them the water beetles he is pointing out, skittering along the bottom of an algae-coated pond. There are also mud daubers (a kind of wasp) poking around the edge of the water, and an assortment of songbirds delighted to splash in a newly built stream. Bolton says he'll introduce salamanders, if they don't find their own way to the park, along with spring peeper frogs; he expects dragonflies, swallows and bats to move in as well.

The impetus behind the new nature park is not so much to create habitat as to solve a years-long water problem. The park, a combination playground and greenspace, has underground springs that have perpetually seeped up through the lawn and onto the sidewalk, making it mucky in warm weather and icy in cold. So, after consulting with neighbors, other Public Works staff and a design firm, Bolton "daylighted" the stream that flows from the springs - essentially unburying a stream of water and directing it down a newly built streambed across the park lawn.

There is also an area that could be called a giant mud puddle or a shallow pond, depending on your perspective - it will soon be planted with various native, water-loving



Amrit Brown enjoys playing in the cold water of the newly daylighted creek at Spring Park.

Photo: Virginia Myers

trees and shrubs chosen to thrive and attract more wildlife. A bridge will span the watery habitat, and separate two types of plant communities typical of wet spots: on the one hand, Maryland piedmont, and on the other, coastal plain. "If you're going to make it ornamental," says Bolton, "let's have it educational as well." Interpretive signage is another part of the plan, which should be completed some time this fall.

Already three bald cypress trees are growing, along with button bush and fresh-smelling sweet pepper bush. Other selections include Virginia magnolia, inkberry, winterberry and viburnum. The existing plantings near the original spring and Indian sculpture will remain, as will the sculpture of Chief Powhatan and the sitting area near the bricked-in pool.

Girding what promises to be an idyllic park are tons of riprap under the mud, leftover from an old water bottling plant, and an immovable, five-foot piece of concrete buried there like a dam. City crews worked around these obstacles, and also created other hidden elements: French drains of underground gravel that help move water along, for example, and a rubber sheet buried two feet deep to contain the water.

The result is already popular with local songbirds. Bolton interrupts his explanation of the new construction to point out a brilliant yellow goldfinch, and later the feather of a bluebird left behind at the water's edge. Later in the day, young children will dip their toes in the icy water, proving this is habitat will be appreciated by many.

Takoma Park Calls for Impeachment

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Impeachment has gone beyond buttons and yard signs in Takoma Park. Voting unanimously, the City Council passed a resolution July 23 to impeach President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. The City joins 80 other jurisdictions, including San Francisco and Detroit, in an official declaration calling for impeachment; it is the first in the Washington metropolitan area to do so.

The vote was preceded by comments from about 20 citizens who lined up at the Council Chamber microphone to express their support for the measure, and councilmembers made a point of praising residents for their courage and conviction in organizing the effort. A show of hands indicated that nearly everyone in the chamber, which was almost full, had come to ensure the resolution's passage. "This is 'we the people,'" said Councilmember Terry Seamens. "We are powerful to the extent that we represent the community," Mayor Kathy Porter agreed, commenting on the number of people willing to stand up and be counted on this measure. "This is the community that I'm so pleased to be a part of."

The resolution lists specific violations of constitutional and other law, accusing Bush and Cheney of "intentionally"

IMPEACHMENT
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Takoma Park Recreation Center Faces Evaluation

By VIRGINIA MYERS

How viable is the Takoma Park Recreation Center, set just north of Sligo Creek Park on New Hampshire Avenue? If you ask one of the kids who comes to the center for basketball, dance lessons or after-school fun, you'd hear it's an essential part of the community. If you ask a county planner, you might get a different story.

The building is one of several under scrutiny by Maryland National Capital Park and Planning officials who are reviewing the condition and usefulness of 31 small and medium-sized park and recreation buildings within Montgomery County. Each is being reviewed for condition, level of use and maintenance requirements; many, including the one on New Hampshire Avenue, are aging structures that may require major repair, renovation or even demolition and replacement.

Which outcome might be in store for the Takoma Park Recreation Center is not at all clear at this point, as officials are at the very beginning of their considerations. County

Planner Mark Wallis met with Takoma Park's governmental liaison, Suzanne Ludlow, and Recreation Department Director Debra Haiduven at the end of July (after press time) to begin the conversation. He plans to learn more about how the City uses the facility, in order to better assess whether to keep the status quo or advocate for major change.

The Recreation Center is already under City management, though it belongs to MNCPPC. The programs in the center would normally be overseen by the Montgomery County Recreation Department, but they have contracted the operations to the City of Takoma Park.

The arrangement has made county assessment impossible without City input. "We don't run it," explains Wallis. "We don't put any programs in it. . . I can't remember the last time somebody sat down with the City to talk about it." So the first step is to gather information on current use.

In large part, the center serves the population right outside its door, residents of the Hampshire Towers apartment complex. There are fitness classes, including a boxing work-

out, abs and stretch, and Tai Chi; a popular (though tiny) weight room that draws from outside the neighborhood; indoor soccer and drop-in basketball; and an after school program used by about 30 children and run by the City recreation department. Currently, a City-run summer camp keeps the building occupied. Parts of the building are also rent-

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

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

Tuesday, July 31 through Monday, September 3. The City Council is scheduled to be on its summer recess during this period. If August meetings are scheduled, they will be listed at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Tuesday, July 31 - Meeting of the Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (Community Center Azalea Room)

Wednesday, August 1 - Meeting of the Health Services Impact Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, August 14 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Tuesday, August 14 - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Forsythia Room)

Thursday, August 16 - Meeting of the Noise Control Board, 7 p.m. (Community Center Room TBA)

Monday, September 3 - City Holiday (Labor Day). City offices will be closed.

*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.

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the city's representative, Wayne Hobbs, at 301-891-7203, at least 48 hours in advance, at the telephone number listed in the notice or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

City Offices Closed

August 4, 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. for

Employee Appreciation Day

Mayor's Office Hours postponed during City Council recess, July 31-Sept. 3. Hours resume Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. For information or assistance, contact Peggy F. Washington, CPS, 301-891-7230 or peggyew@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.

June 18 - Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-29 was adopted by roll-call vote, to adopt the FY08 Tax Rate (ABSENT: Clay)

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-30 was adopted by roll-call vote, to adopt the FY08 Stormwater Budget (the Council acting as the Stormwater Board) (Absent: Clay).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-31 was adopted by roll-call vote, to adopt the FY08 Budget (including FY08-12 CIP Budget) (Absent: Clay).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-31 was adopted by roll-call vote, to adopt the FY08 AFSCME pay plan (Absent: Clay)

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-32 was adopted by roll-call vote, to adopt the FY08 management and non-union staff pay plan (Absent: Clay)

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-34 was adopted by roll-call vote, to adopt the FY08 police pay plan (Absent: Clay)

Resolution 2007-19, authorizing the City's 2008 legislative action requests (Absent: Clay)

Resolution 2007-20, authorizing the City's Program Open Space allocation (Absent: Clay)

First Reading Ordinance 2007-36

was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code Chapter 5.24, Board of Elections, to revise the minimum number of members for the Board (Absent: Clay)

Resolution 2007-21 was adopted, appointing Jane Johnson, Anne Sergeant, and Beelyn Washington to the Board of Elections (Absent: Clay)

July 2 - Special Session

Resolution 2007-22 was adopted, approving the appointment of Anne Becker as the Takoma Park Poet Laureate

Resolution 2007-23 was adopted, recognizing District 20 legislators

Resolution 2007-24 was adopted, recognizing the 10th anniversary of Takoma Park unification (July 1, 1997)

Resolution 2007-25 was adopted, commenting on the Gilbert and Wood redevelopment at Laurel and Eastern Avenues (John Urciolo) for planning board hearing

Resolution 2007-26 was adopted, consenting to purchase and operation of 7423, 7425 and 7427 Aspen Court by the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-36

was adopted by roll-call vote, as amended, amending Takoma Park Code Chapter 5.24 Board of Elections, to revise the minimum number of members for the board

The consent agenda was adopted:

A. Resolution 2007-27 appointing Joshua L. Wright to the Health Services Impact Committee

B. Resolution 2007-28 appointing F. Noreene Wells to the Montgomery County Cable Communications Advisory Committee

July 9 - Regular Meeting

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-37 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for construction inspection services

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-38 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for repairs to Mississippi Avenue - Comstock Branch Project

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-39 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the purchase of a replacement leaf vacuum

*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 | • Committee | • Noise Control Board |
| • Board of Elections | • Ethics Commission | • Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee |
| • Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs | • Facade Advisory Board | • Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee |
| • Committee on the Environment | • Health Services Impact Committee | • Safe Roadways Committee |
| • Emergency Preparedness | • Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee | • Tree Commission |

IMPEACHMENT

continued from page 1

misleading the public and Congress regarding the threat from Iraq, ordering electronic surveillance of civilians without warrants, condoning torture of prisoners and holding prisoners without charge, legal representation or an opportunity to defend themselves. Passing the measure, said resident Nancy Abbott, shows that "not every American goes along with the abuses of power and the support of torture and these horrendous things they're doing in the name of freedom

and democracy."

"What we're really doing here tonight is defending the Constitution," summed up Councilmember Doug Barry. "What could be more important than that?"

Resident Bob Guldin compared this possibility of impeachment to Nixon, who resigned on the eve of what was sure to be his impeachment; he was accused of crimes abroad and internal spying, much like Bush and Cheney, said Guldin. Guldin then quoted Yeats - "The best lack conviction. The worst are full of passionate intensity" -- and urged City Council to "stand up and be bold in this."

The vote to impeach was no surprise; participants in the meeting were preaching to the choir. But City Council took the resolution beyond city limits with two amendments introduced by Councilman Terry Seamans. The first urges the Montgomery County Council, Maryland state legislature and the Maryland governor to adopt similar measures; the second urges residents to write Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Senators Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin to pursue the impeachment process. At press time, the impeachment movement was three Congressional representatives short of what is required to proceed.

Charrette Focuses on New Hampshire Corridor

By Susan Holliday

City staffers are working hard to prepare for a charrette that the City's hosting this August 14- 21. But first, what is a charrette?

A charrette is

1. An ancient two-wheeled, horse-drawn Roman vehicle.
2. A cigar with square cut ends.
3. A collaborative process to create and support a feasible plan for community change.

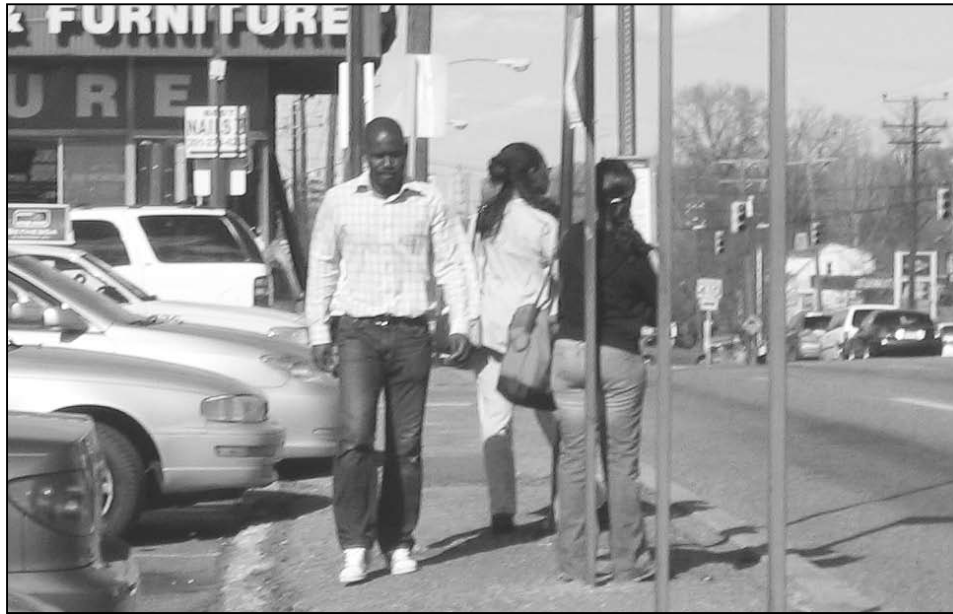
You guessed C, of course, a collaborative community change method. However, this community planning process is completely different from those experienced by most Takoma Parkers.

"Charrettes typically break all the rules," explains Stuart Sirota, a principal with TND Planning Group and the charrette facilitator on the team of professionals working on the City's coming charrette. This cooperative effort will focus on transforming the commercial areas along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor from Eastern Avenue to Sligo Creek Parkway, including the Ethan Allen Gateway and Maryland Gateway.

In customary community planning, officials present proposals to community members and seek their feedback. As a result, "often times people in the community feel on the outside looking in. They don't feel very engaged," says Sirota.

Charrettes connect people more meaningfully at the beginning of the planning process rather than the end. The professionals on the charrette team set up shop on site for a minimum of four days - for this Takoma Park charrette, the team will "live and work there for a full week," says Sirota, with the team's "studio" located in the Takoma Park Community Center.

"We begin with a blank slate," notes



Pedestrians balance on a narrow strip of sidewalk besides busy traffic along New Hampshire Avenue near East West Highway. The area is under study for improvements that would make walking in the neighborhood safer and more pleasant.

Photo: Susan Holliday

Sirota, and invite all stakeholders to share their ideas and hopes for changes along New Hampshire Avenue. Stakeholders include residents, business owners and their employees and patrons, commuters, government officials, civic organizations - anyone with an interest in the area. "All are welcome - all day every day - into the charrette studio," says Sirota. "One of us will be happy to talk with them and listen any time during the day." The charrette's team of 8 to 10 professionals includes an economic development specialist, a traffic engineer who specializes in walkable streets, urban designers and planners, an architect and an environmental specialist.

After getting initial input, the team invites stakeholders back during the week to see what they've come up with. Most evenings will be "pin-up" sessions open to the public, during which visitors can view the

most recent designs pinned to the walls. "We call this the feedback loop, to see if we're on target," says Sirota. "It's a very back and forth, iterative process, with hope that by the end of the week we have a consensus-based plan."

"It's rare that we have 100 percent agreement, but we get a plan that we've vetted through this transparent process," he adds.

The final result is a viable implementation strategy for creating the changes suggested by the stakeholders - a step-by-step plan for producing short-term, mid-term and long-term changes. For follow-up "we may recommend a stewardship group or task force, or it could be a public-private task force," says Sirota. Other communities, such as Towson, Md., recently have adopted such a public-private approach.

The city's Housing and Community Development Office is looking forward to a charrette outcome that "will give specific direction to improvements and development - to make big changes," says City Senior Planner Ilona Blanchard. A plan with community and governmental buy-in creates a more positive environment for developers to invest. They can follow the charrette's guidance with assurance that most of the community will welcome their planned development.

While the charrette planners will concentrate on the commercial areas, not residential, this major New Hampshire Avenue renewal will directly affect pedestrians in three of the six Takoma Park wards (Wards 2, 3, and 6). One of the City's major goals is "redesigning New Hampshire Avenue for pedestrians, to make crossing easier," says Blanchard.

The charrette team pursues the same pedestrian-friendly goal. Sirota says that all the professionals adhere to the philosophy

TAKOMA PARK CHARRETTE SCHEDULE

This schedule, times and locations may change. Please check website or call 301-891-7119 to check meeting times.

OPENING DAY:

Presentation and Workshop
When: 7 p.m., Tues., Aug. 14
Where: Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

WORKSHOP 2:

Pin-up and Review
When: 7 p.m., Wed., Aug. 15
Where: Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

WORKSHOP 3:

Pin-up and Review
When: 7 p.m., Fri., Aug. 17
Where: Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

OPTIONAL WORKSHOP

(if needed):
Pin-up and review
Sat., Aug. 18,
Check schedule

FINAL PRESENTATION

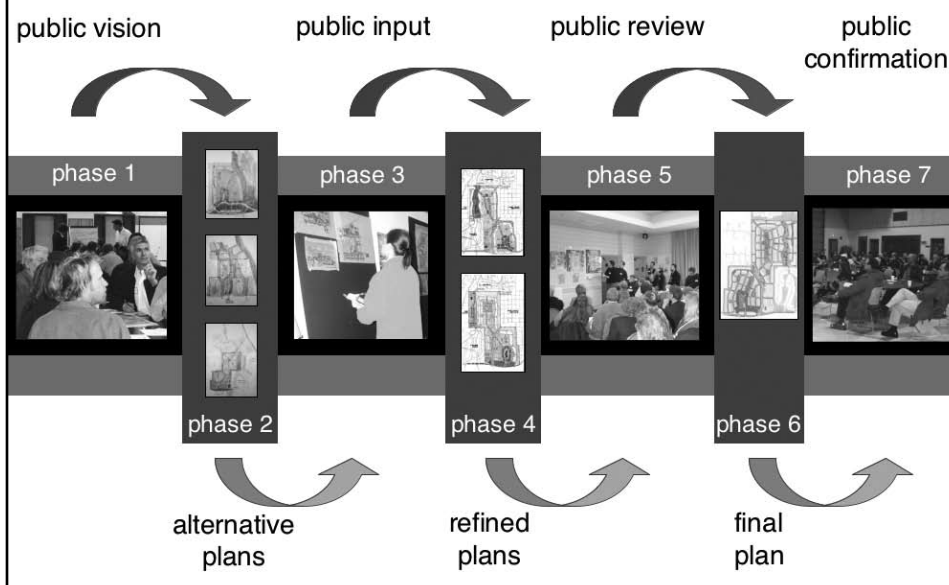
When: 7 p.m., Mon., Aug. 20
Where: Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

STUDIO LOCATION

The Studio will be located in the Azalea room of the Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue Takoma Park.

For more information visit
www.takomaparkmd.gov/gateway

NCI Charrette Work Cycles



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements.

Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, will be considered for publication.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar. Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

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





Montgomery County Housing Fair & Financial Fitness Day

**Saturday, September 15, 2007
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

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

For more information
Call 240-777-3600

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

You will learn about:

- ② Buying, Renting & Keeping your First Home
- ② Managing your Money & Credit
- ② Increasing your Earning Power through Education
- ② Home Safety, Utility Assistance & Energy Saving

FREE CREDIT REPORTS!

Entertainment, food, prizes and activities for children!
(Ten drawings for a \$500 prize towards your rent or mortgage.)

~FREE ADMISSION~

This Fair is organized by the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs in partnership with the Housing Fair Planning Committee, whose members include: the Cities of Gaithersburg, Rockville and Takoma Park; Montgomery County Financial Literacy Coalition; the Dwelling Place; Housing & Community Initiatives, Inc.; the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; Department of Housing & Urban Development; the MidCounty, UpCounty and Eastern County Montgomery Regional Services Centers and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. If interested in participating in the Fair, or becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, please call 240-777-3602 or email Myriam.torrico@montgomerycountymd.gov



Feria de la Vivienda y Día de Aptitud Financiera

**Sábado, 15 de septiembre, 2007
10 a.m. a 3 p.m.**

Activity Center at Bohrer Park,
Summit Hall Farm (Al lado de Gaithersburg High School) llame al 240-777-3600
506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Para más información

Desde puntos
Norte y de la
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metro Shady
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#59

Aprenderá sobre cómo:

- ② Comprar y Alquilar & Proteger la Inversión de su Primera Casa
- ② Manejar su Dinero y su Crédito
- ② Aumentar sus Ganancias por medio de Estudios
- ② Obtener Asistencia para Seguridad en su Casa, Pago de Utilidades y Ahorro de Energía

¡REPORTES DE CRÉDITO GRATUITOS!

Entretenimiento, comida, premios y actividades para niños.
(Diez rifas de \$500 cada una, para el pago de su alquiler o hipoteca)

~ADMISIÓN GRATUITA~

La Feria es organizada por el Departamento de Vivienda y Asuntos Comunitarios del Condado de Montgomery en asociación con el Comité Planificador, cuyos miembros incluyen: las ciudades de Gaithersburg, Rockville y Takoma Park; la Coalición de Educación Financiera del Condado de Montgomery; The Dwelling Place; Housing & Community Initiatives, Inc.; la Comisión de Oportunidades de Vivienda del Condado de Montgomery; Housing and Urban Development; MidCounty, UpCounty & Eastern County Regional Services Centers y el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Montgomery. Si está interesado en participar, auspiciar, o exhibir el día de la Feria, por favor llame al 240-777-3602 o al 240-777-3600, o por email: myriam.torrico@montgomerycountymd.gov



HOUSING Mailbox

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

A tenant asks - What notice has to be provided by the landlord before entry into a rental unit, and is the notice requirement the same if the tenant has requested specific repairs?

In accordance with Section 6.16.140 A.1 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law, landlords must provide their tenants with at least 48 hours written notice of the landlord or the landlord agent's intent to enter the rental unit. The written notice must contain the date, approximate time frame and the purpose of the intended entry along with the telephone number of the landlord

or the landlord's managing agent. Tenants may not unreasonably withhold consent to enter.

Additionally, if upon entry the tenant is not present, an additional Report of Entry must be left in plain view, advising the tenant of the names of individuals who entered the unit, the date and time of entry and departure, the reason for the entry and the address and phone number of the landlord.

In accordance with Section 6.16.140 A.2. of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law if the tenant has requested repairs and if the repairs take place within two weeks of the tenant's request, the landlord may enter the rental unit without providing an advance written notice. Landlords and/or their agents in the case of an emergency have the right to enter a rental unit without giving prior written notice of intent to enter. Landlords are required to make a reasonable effort to contact the tenant regarding the emergency and the intent to enter the rental unit to address the emergency.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the City's Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.

Community Grant Proposals Due August 20

The City of Takoma Park is accepting proposals for the use of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG program provides Takoma Park with the funding necessary to develop viable neighborhoods and undertake city-wide projects which provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. Grants are

awarded for a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development and the provision of improved community facilities and services.

Applications are due Monday, August 20, 2007 and are available online. For more information, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7224 or by email at SaraD@takomagov.org.

What's That Noise?

Ordinance Keeps Decibels Down

By STEVE DAVIES

In case you thought that in Takoma Park, you are protected only from nuclear materials and clearcutting, think again: Your eardrums and quality of life also are safeguarded by the City's Noise Control Ordinance.

The ordinance sets noise limits at your property line of 65 dBA in the daytime (from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends and holidays). At night, the limit is 55 dBA (8 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays and 10 p.m. to 9 a.m. on weekends and holidays). There also are restrictions on the use of leaf blowers and power tools (no more than two hours total during a 24-hour period, for example). The use or sale of leafblowers that exceed 70 decibels of sound (dBA) at a distance of 50 feet is prohibited. (Links to more information are provided below.)

If you have a problem with a particular noise issue, you can contact Rudy Rice of the Takoma Park Police Department (RudyR@takomagov.org). Rudy is the designated Nuisance Control Officer for the city, and can address concerns before they become full-blown issues.

If a situation becomes untenable, citizens have the right to file a noise disturbance complaint. It must be submitted within ten

days of a specific incident, and signed by at least two city residents.

The ordinance defines "noise disturbance" as "any steady-state or impulsive noise occurring on either a continuous or intermittent basis that is 1) unpleasant, annoying, offensive, loud or obnoxious; 2) unusual for the time of day or location where it is produced or heard; or 3) detrimental to the health, comfort or safety of any individual or to the reasonable enjoyment of property or the lawful conduct of business because of the loudness, duration or character of the noise."

The Noise Control Board would then conduct a hearing and attempt to determine whether the ordinance was violated.

The five members of the Noise Control Board are Ellen Fabian (chair) (efabian@umd.edu), Kathy Berst (berstk@ncpssm.org), Steve Davies (steve@eswr.com), Allison Keefe (a-keefe@starpower.net) and Kathleen Quinn (K@orginations.com).

For more information on noise control in Takoma Park, visit the following links: www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees/noise/index.html (Noise Control Board) or www.takomaparkmd.gov/code/Takoma_Park_Municipal_Code/_DATA/TITLE14/Chapter_14_12_NOISE_CONTROL.html (noise control section of City Code)



Paul Richards shows how a tomahawk could be fashioned from stone he found in his yard.

Photos: Virginia Myers

Artifacts Surface After the Storm

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Imagine this: A young boy is digging in his back yard, digging to China, digging for buried treasure, digging to pass the time on a slow summer day. And he hits something black, and shiny. What could it be? A talisman to another world?

It can still happen, even when we think our days of discovery are over. In fact, it happened to Paul Richards, a long-time resident of Grant Avenue. His old cherry tree, snug up against the sidewalk, was washing out at the roots after a heavy rain, dirt running down the slope. Richards went out to take a look, and found the unexpected: 11 pieces of smooth, polished, deep-black rock — intriguing, possibly historical, archeological artifacts.

They haven't been verified by officials or otherwise examined in a scientific way — the closest Richards came to an authenticity test was to take the pieces down to local librarian Rebecca Brown at the Takoma Park Library. She is continuing to research the matter with area archeolo-

gists, and says the pieces might be as old as several hundred years. They're certainly enough to make you stop and wonder — what happened before Richards' home was built, before apartments and city hall and traffic just outside the door?

One of the rocks is shaped like an ax head. It might have been part of a tomahawk, says Richards, holding it up, showing where animal hide could wrap around and attach it to a handle. Other pieces fit neatly into the palm of your hand, as if worn from years of use. Brown thinks some of the pieces might have been used in a kitchen, so to speak — or, at any rate, for cooking. "The Indians loved to be where the water is," Richards points out, and he knows there was once a spring on the property next door, before an apartment building sprouted up. "It's like I can see the Indians out there in the wigwams," he says, gazing out the window of his home.

The window to the past can pop up anywhere. Even under your old cherry tree.

Main Street Takoma Says Stash Trash

By JOHN SALMEN

Summer is upon us, and that means we'll all be spending more time out of doors in the coming months. Unfortunately, that also means so will our stuff — our soda cans, newspapers, and food wrappers.

Litter is a plague, making our sidewalks, streets, yards, businesses and homes look shabby and neglected. On the other hand, a clean neighborhood deters crime.

We all can make a difference. Together we can prevent litter, promote waste reduction and recycling, and help beautify our community and encourage its improvement. This year, the City of Takoma Park will support the Main Street Takoma Anti Litter effort by purchasing new trash cans for the Takoma Junction area that match those in Old Town. Now it's easier than ever to stash your trash in a waste container rather than tossing it on the ground.

Main Street Takoma is a community-based initiative of the Old Takoma Business Association. For more information, please visit www.MainStreetTakoma.org.

Did you know that:

Cigarette Filters

Cigarette filters are made of plastic and not biodegradable. Their litter lingers in our environment for up to 25 years and can easily move through our storm drains into our waterways and water supplies. Water leaches the toxins from cigarette litter, making it deadly to most aquatic life. In fact, the toxins released from one cigarette butt left in a gallon of water for one day will kill about 80 percent of aquatic life added to that water.

Last year at Main Street Takoma's Spring Clean Up Day, one highly motivated volunteer counted (and picked up) the cigarette butts for one block, on one side of the street. Total: 452.

Plastic Foam

Plastic foam from items like cups does not break down naturally, but can stay in the environment for up to 500 years.

Paper

Forty percent of all waste is paper. For every ton of paper that is recycled, 17 trees are saved.

ARTS In the News

Celebrating the Creative Spirit of Our Community

GALLERY EXHIBIT

"The Car"

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

Artists Reception - Friday, July 27 from 7- 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The exhibit can be viewed throughout the month of August.

FALL POETRY READING SERIES CALL FOR POETRY

The Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting poets for its 2007-08 poetry series. The series will resume this fall and will feature some of the finest poets in the City and surrounding area.

If you are interested in being considered for a spot in the series, please send three to five poems to the Arts and Humanities Commission at ahc@takomagov.org or by mail to 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912.

The submission deadline is Tuesday, September 4, 2007.

EXHIBITIONS DIRECTOR CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting applications for an experienced individual to coordinate exhibition activities at the Community Center. Responsibilities include the solicitation and review of exhibit proposals, assisting exhibitors in logistical activities; and curating one show of curatorial and community interest. Applicants should have experience working on exhibition projects and coordinating with volunteers. The selected applicant would serve one year. The Directorship is not a paid position, though an honorarium of \$2,000 will be awarded.

To apply, please send a one-page cover letter, including your vision for the Takoma Park Community Center Exhibitions Program and resume to the Arts and Humanities Commission at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org For more information, please call 301-891-7224. Deadline for submission is Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES DAY - OCTOBER 20, 2007

Are you interested in sharing your interests and talents with your community? Consider becoming involved in the first annual Arts and Humanities Day on Saturday, October 20, 2007. Lead a discussion on your favorite author! Share your fancy footwork or a wonderful voice with your neighbors! Breakdown the radical philosophies of Karl Marx and his brother, Groucho! Get in touch and be part of the celebration!

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



City Elections Approach

It's an election year in Takoma Park. To get ready to vote in the November 6 election for Mayor and all six Councilmembers, take a look at the following information regarding nominations, voting rules and registration deadlines.



Voter Registration for Takoma Park residents - U.S. citizens and non-citizens

To vote in the November 6 election, the voter must be a qualified voter of the City and must have resided within the corporate limits of the City of Takoma Park for 30 days immediately preceding the election. The voter registration cut-off date is October 8. Changes of address must also be filed by this date. Voter registration or change of address forms are available in the Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center and in the City Library.

Nominating Caucus

The Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 to accept nominations of candidates for Mayor and Councilmember. The Nominating Caucus will be held in the Council Chamber/Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center-Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. To participate in the caucus, your registration or change of address form must be in the hands of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or for non-U.S. Citizens, voter registration applications must be received by the City Clerk, by the close of day (5 p.m.) on Monday, October 1.

Nominations of candidates for Mayor shall be made on motion by any qualified voter of the City, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the City, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for Councilmember shall be made on motion of any qualified voter of her/his ward, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of his/her ward, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Any nominated candidate may decline a nomination during the nomination meeting. A person may only accept a nomination of one City office. The name of each person nominated for the office of Mayor and Councilmember shall be placed upon the official ballot unless he/she shall file a declination with the City Clerk within three days after his/her nomination.

Any person nominated as a candidate must meet the qualifications of the office for which she/he is nominated.

A sample ballot and information about candidates for office will be published in the November issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter.

Candidates for Office

Candidates for the office of Mayor must



2007 ELECTION CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.
Nominating Caucus

Friday, October 5, 5 p.m.
Deadline for candidates nominated at Caucus to withdraw. Declination must be filed in writing with the City Clerk's office.

Monday, October 8
Voter registration cut-off date

Friday, October 12, 5 p.m.
Candidates' financial disclosure statements due to City Clerk

Friday, October 26, 5 p.m.
Candidates' initial campaign contribution reports due to City

Tuesday, October 30, 4 p.m.
Last day to make application for regular absentee ballot

Wednesday, October 31
Emergency absentee balloting begins

Friday, November 2, 5 p.m.
Any write-in candidate for Mayor or Councilmember who wishes to be pre-registered as a write-in candidate and to have his/her name posted in the voting booth for the purpose of identifying him/her as a candidate for office, must file his/her name with the City Clerk by this deadline

Tuesday, November 6, 2007
ELECTION DAY, Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk prior to the official closing of the polls on election day or postmarked before November 6.)

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

have resided in the City for at least six months immediately preceding his/her election, and must be a qualified voter of the City.

Candidates for the office of Councilmember shall have resided in the City (and ward from which they are elected) for at least six months immediately preceding their election and shall be qualified voters of the City. Individuals who are interested in placing their name in nomination for candidacy at the Nominating Caucus may contact the City Clerk to obtain additional information for candidates.

Election Day

Tuesday, November 6, 2007 is Election Day. The election will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

City elections are nonpartisan, and no party labels will be displayed on the ballot. Write-in votes are permitted in City elections. A voter may write-in the name of any [candidate] person for the office of Mayor or Councilmember in the method provided by the City Clerk on election day.

Instant Runoff Voting in City Elections

The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 to adopt an instant runoff voting system for elections. Voters will have the opportunity to rank candidates by order of choice. The candidate receiving a majority of votes for Mayor shall be declared elected. The candidate for Council receiving a majority of votes in each ward shall be declared elected.

The first choice marked on each ballot shall be counted initially as one vote. If any candidate receives a majority of the first choices, that candidate shall be declared elected.

If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, the judges of election shall conduct an instant runoff consisting of additional rounds of ballot counting. In every round of counting, each ballot is counted as one vote for that ballot's highest ranked advancing candidate. "Advancing candidate" means a candidate for that office who has not been eliminated. A candidate receiving a majority of valid votes in a round shall be declared elected.

More information on instant runoff voting is available on the City of Takoma Park website: www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Election Judges Needed

The Takoma Park Board of Elections is seeking election judges to serve during the election. Expect long hours and hard work that will prove to be both rewarding and exciting!

Persons who have experience as judges or have bilingual abilities are urged to apply. Registered voters of Takoma Park who are not citizens of the United States are also encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to Takoma Park residents.

City election judges must be registered Montgomery County voters or non-U.S. citizen voters registered with the City of Takoma Park. A Takoma Park election judge may not be a candidate for elective office, nor serve as a campaign manager or treasurer, nor take any other part in a campaign for a candidate or ballot initiative.

Election judges serve during the entire election and must attend one scheduled training prior to the election. Election judges are paid \$135 for their service. A chief judge receives \$175. For further information or to request an application, contact the City Clerk's Office by phone at 301-891-7214 or 301-891-7267 or e-mail Clerk@takomagov.org. Application deadline: September 14.

For additional information about any facet of the election, contact the City Clerk's Office at Clerk@takomagov.org or by calling 301-891-7267 or 301-891-7214



El Método de las Elecciones Municipales

Es el año de elecciones en Takoma Park. Preparese para votar en la elección el 6 de noviembre para elegir un Alcalde y seis Miembros del Consejo, leyendo la siguiente información sobre nominaciones, las reglas de votación y la fecha límite para registrarse como votante.



Registración de Votantes para Residentes de Takoma Park - Ciudadanos Americanos y No Ciudadano Americano

Para votar en la elección el 6 de noviembre, el votante tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en la ciudad de Takoma Park y tendrá que haber residido en la ciudad por 30 días inmediatamente antes del día de la elección. La fecha límite para registrarse para votar es el 8 de octubre. Aviso de cambio de domicilio también tendrá que ser sometido para esta fecha. Se puede obtener aplicaciones de registración de votante o cambio de domicilio en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center y en la Librería de Takoma Park.

Reunión Electoral

La Reunión Electoral empezará a las 7:30 p.m. el martes, 2 de octubre del 2007 para aceptar nominaciones de candidatos para el puesto de Alcalde y Miembros del Consejo. La Reunión Electoral se llevará a cabo en el Auditorio del Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park - Sam Abbot Citizen's Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Para participar en la Reunión Electoral, su aplicación de registración para votar y cambio de domicilio tendrá que haber sido recibido por la Oficina de Elecciones del Condado de Montgomery, o para los que no son ciudadanos Americanos, aplicación de registración para votar tendrá que haber sido recibido por la Secretaría Municipal, con fecha límite de lunes, 1 de octubre antes de las 5 p.m.

Nominaciones de candidatos para el puesto de Alcalde se hará con una moción hecha por cualquier votante capacitado en Takoma Park, y si la nominación es apoyado por un segundo votante capacitado en Takoma Park, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. Nominaciones de cada candidato para Miembro del Consejo se hará con una moción por cualquier votante capacitado en el distrito de tal candidato, y si el nominación es apoyado por un segundo votante capacitado en Takoma Park, la persona nominada será considerado como candidato. Cualquier candidato nominado podrá rechazar una nominación durante la junta de nominaciones. Una persona podrá solamente aceptar una nominación de solamente un puesto. El nombre de cada persona nominada por el puesto de Alcalde y Miembro de Consejo será nombrado en el boleto oficial a menos que esa persona entregue una carta por escrito rechazando la nominación a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal entre los 3 días después de su nominación.

Cualquier persona nominado como candidato para el puesto de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo tendrá que satisfacer los requisitos de tal puesto.

Una boleta de muestra e información sobre los candidatos será publicada en el periodico de Takoma Park del mes de noviembre.



EL CALENDARIO DE LA ELECCIÓN MUNICIPAL DEL 2007

Martes, 2 de octubre, 7:30 p.m.

Reunión Electoral

Viernes, 5 de octubre, 5:00 p.m.

Fecha límite para retirarse como candidato nominado en la reunión electoral. Para negar la nominación, un carta por escrito se le entregará a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal.

Lunes, 8 de octubre

Fecha límite para registrarse para votar.

Viernes, 12 de octubre, 5 p.m.

Fecha límite para entregar la declaración financiera a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal.

Viernes, 26 de octubre, 5 p.m.

Fecha límite para entregar el reporte de contribuciones iniciales para su campaña a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal.

Martes, 30 de octubre, 4 p.m.

Fecha límite para solicitar por Voto en Ausencia Regular.

Miercoles, 31 de octubre

Comienza la votación de emergencia por boleta en ausencia.

Viernes, 2 de noviembre, 5 p.m.

Fecha límite para cualquier candidato autonominado para el puesto de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo que desee ser pre-registrado como candidato autonominado y para tener su nombre colocado en la cabina electoral para identificarlo/la como candidato, tendrá que someter su nombre a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal.

Martes, 6 de noviembre

DIA DE LA ELECCIÓN MUNICIPAL, el lugar de votación estará habierta de 7:00 a.m. a 8:00 p.m. (ésta es la fecha y hora límite para someter boletas en ausencia a la Secretaría Municipal. Boletas en ausencia sometidas por correo y con estampilla postal con fecha antes del 6 de noviembre serán aceptadas.)

Miercoles, 7 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m.

Junta especial del Consejo de la ciudad para recibir certificación de los resultados de la elección. certification of the election results.

Candidatos Nominados

Candidatos para el cargo de Alcalde tendrán que haber residido en la ciudad por lo menos seis meses inmediatamente antes de su elección y tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en Takoma Park.

Candidatos del Consejo tendrán que haber residido en la ciudad (y el distrito de donde eran elegidos) por lo menos seis meses inmediatamente antes de su elección y tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en Takoma Park.

Individuos que están interesados en colo-

car su nombre como candidato nominado en la Reunión Electoral podrán contactar a la Secretaría Municipal para obtener información adicional para candidatos.

Día de la Elección

Martes, 6 de noviembre del 2007 es el día de la elección. La elección tomará a cabo en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. El lugar de votación estará habierta de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. Las elecciones de la ciudad no son

partidistas, y no habrá rótulos de partidos en las boletas. Voto por candidato no oficial escritos en la boleta se permite en las elecciones de la ciudad. El votante podrá escribir el nombre de cualquier candidato persona par el cargo de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo siguiendo el metodo dado por la Secretaria Municipal en el día de la elección.

Segunda Vuelta de Elecciones Inmediata

El Consejo de la Ciudad amendio la Carta Municipal en el 2006 aceptando un sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato para las elecciones de la ciudad. Se le permitirá a los votantes clasificar a los candidatos según su orden de preferencia. A través del sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato los votantes clasifican a los candidatos (1, 2, 3 y así sucesivamente). Si ninguno de los candidatos es elegido por la mayoría como primera opción, el candidato que tenga la menor cantidad de votos para ocupar la primera opción se elimina y los votos para la segunda opción se redistribuirán entre otros candidatos. Este proceso continúa hasta que uno de los candidatos reciba la mayoría de votos y sea elegido.

Más infomación sobre el sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato se puede obtener en la pagina web: www.takomapark-md.gov

Se Necesita Jueces para la Elección

El Grupo de Elecciones de Takoma Park buscan jueces electorales para servir durante la elección. Cuenta con horas largas y trabajo duro que resultará provechoso y emocionante!

Se le incita a personas que tengan experiencia como juez o que sean biligues que apliquen. Votantes registrados en Takoma Park que no son ciudadanos Americanos también se les pide que apliquen. Se le dará preferencia a los residentes de Takoma Park.

Jueces que participen en las elecciones municipales tendrán que ser registrado en el Condado de Montgomery como votante o registrado como votante no ciudadano Americano en Takoma Park. Jueces de la elección de Takoma Park no podrá ser un candidato para el cargo de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo, ni servir como director de campaña o tesorero o participar en una campaña de un candidato o iniciativa de boleta.

Jueces de la elección servirán durante toda la elección y tendrá que asistir una charla programada antes de la elección. Jueces de la elección recibirán un pago de \$135. El juez principal recibirá \$175. Para más información o para pedir una aplicación, pongase en contacto con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al 301-891-7214 o 301-891-7267 o por correo electronico Clerk@takomagov.org. Fecha limite : 14 de septiembre.

Para más infomación sobre la elección, pongase en contacto con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal: Clerk@takomagov.org o llame al 301-891 7267 o 301-891-7214.

RECREATION

AUGUST
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., August 6 - 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

EXTENDED CARE OPTIONS

Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: Creative Adventures, Extreme Horizons, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/Soft ball 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

ABRAKADOODLE ART CAMPS

Anime

Ages 8 - 12

Learn step by step the Japanese art of anime. There is a \$58 material fee due the first day of camp. The mate-



WELCOME OUR NEWEST
STAFF MEMBER

Jon McLaren, the newest member of the Recreation Department team, comes to Takoma Park with years of experience at the University of Maryland's campus recreation services. The new senior manager for facilities and programs is an avid rockclimber, hiker and skateboarder and plans to share his interests with the community.

rial 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., 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

Learn about Solberg, Matisse, Picasso, Morisseau, Steinlen, Audubon. Try collage, line art and 3-D. 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., Aug. 13 - 17
Time: 12:15 - 3:30 p.m.



Extreme Horizons campers have been busy with everything from horseback riding to yo-yo tricks. Here, they get ready for their next adventure.

Photo: Debra Haiduven

Location: Heffner Comm. Ctr., 42 Oswego Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$100/session
Non-Res. \$110/session

Y.E.S. BASKETBALL PROGRAM PLAYOFFS

Come see Takoma Park's finest during the playoffs August 6-16 at the Piney Branch Elementary School.

Y.E.S. League Playoff & All-Star Schedule

Monday, 8/6
6 - 9:30 p.m. Middle School Quarterfinals
Tuesday, 8/7
6 - 9:30 p.m. Middle School Semifinals
Wednesday, 8/8
7 - 9:30 p.m. Middle School Championship
Thursday, 8/9
6:30 - 9:30 p.m. JV Semifinals
Friday, 8/10
6 - 9:30 p.m. Varsity All-Star Game & Legends vs. Staff
Monday, 8/13
6 - 9:30 p.m. Middle School & JV All-Star Games
Wednesday, 8/15
6 - 9:30 p.m. Varsity Semifinals
Thursday, 8/16
6 - 9:30 p.m. JV & Varsity Championship Games



Carole Ank, coordinator for senior programs, is flanked by friends bidding her farewell at her June retirement party. Ank has been a familiar face at the Recreation Department since July 2003.

Photo: Debra Haiduven

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. - Noon
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 (wheelchairs 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)

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER • SUMMER HOURS

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

LOOK FOR OUR FALL PROGRAM GUIDE IN THE NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER



Ahoy!

Pirate Books A-Plenty Explore the Real Thing

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Their very names inspire fear and fascination: Captain Kidd, Black Bart, Blackbeard.

Hundreds of years after the most flamboyant pirates met their deaths, the interest in these seafaring robbers continues unabated. Recently, movies like "Hook" and "The Pirates of the Caribbean" have further increased the popularity of pirates.

Taking advantage of this interest, publishers have recently released a crop of children's books focused on pirates. Here's a look at some of the new pirate books we have at the library:

In "**Pirates: With Jake Rattlebones**," author Philip Steele presents numerous facts and figures about pirates via a narrator/pirate named Jake Rattlebones. Pictured as a cartoon character on each of the two-page spreads in the book, Jake gives readers a broad and generally light-hearted look at what pirates did, how they lived and who they were. The book's layout, with lots of photographs mixed with illustrations and pull-out features - plus its large type and spare text - will spark the interest of even reluctant readers. That said, this book is sometimes a bit too simple and some things aren't very well-explained. Overall, however, it's a good introduction to pirates for younger readers. (Ages 6-8).

Author John Matthews offers a gallery of colorful and blood-thirsty rogues in "**Pirates Most Wanted**." In this book, which features a skull with one glittering green gem eye on the cover, readers get an in-depth look at 13 of the best-known - and most violent - pirates ever to sail the seas. Using a scrapbook-like presentation that blends illustrations with short bursts of text, Matthews details the lives of such pirates as Captain Kidd, whose body was coated in tar and hung in an iron frame as a grim reminder of the pirate's fate. Matthews also writes about notorious female pirates like Charlotte de Berry, a strikingly beautiful young woman who became a pirate leader after she cut off the

head of a captain of an enemy ship. This book isn't for the faint of heart as Matthews highlights the vicious, violent natures of these pirates. Still, there's no doubt it's fascinating stuff. (Ages 9-12).

"**Piratepedia**" lives up to its name, as authors Alisha Niehaus and Alan Hecker offer readers a veritable encyclopedia of pirate lore. But this is no boring recitation of facts; instead, Niehaus and Hecker have created a time-travel journal filled with interesting details about everything from what pirates ate to how they were punished. Of course, there also is plenty of focus on the most famous maritime outlaws like Black Bart and Blackbeard. Niehaus and Hecker even bring their book up to the current day, writing about how pirates still ply the seas in places like Indonesia and how technology is helping to defeat these "modern marauders." The book ends with a look at pirates in movies and literature, including excerpts from "Treasure Island" and "The Pirates of Penzance." (Ages 8-12).

We also have an updated version of "**Pirate**," one of the books in the popular "Eyewitness" series. Written by Richard Platt, "Pirate" presents a plethora of information in short text sidebars interspersed with a multitude of photographs and other illustrations. (Ages 8-12).

Pirates also make a prominent appearance in a new children's novel, "**Larklight**." Here, author Philip Reeve writes of the adventures of two young Victorians, Art Mumby and his sister Myrtle, whose lives are saved by a notorious space pirate named Jack Havock. Reeve does a marvelous job melding science fiction with humor and a bit of romance in this page-turner. (Ages 10-14).

And for the youngest readers, don't forget the hilariously titled "**Pirates Don't Change Diapers**." Author Melinda Long and illustrator David Shannon reprise the characters from their book, "How I Became a Pirate," in this silly romp filled with pirate talk. Aargh! The kids will love it. (Ages 4-8).



LIBRARY Briefs

Summer Quest Sets a Record

The Library's Summer reading program has set a record, with more than 175 kids signed up by mid-July. There's been lots of extra excitement about Summer Quest this year because both Piney Branch and Takoma Park Elementary Schools have made it their summer reading program.

Our library is the only library in the state that designs its own summer reading program. Each year, Library Assistant Dave Burbank takes a particular theme - this year it's the rainforest - and develops a game that kids play by completing 10 reading challenges. To play, kids first come into the library, choose and color a character from the many different ones available, and give the character back to us. We then move the character along the big game board in the Children's Room each time they complete one of the reading challenges.

Challenges this year include reading a book about water, a mystery, an adventure story, and a book that helps you learn to do something.

Several young readers already have completed their Summer Quest. Others are well on their way. We'll celebrate everyone's efforts with a party, scheduled for Monday, Sept. 17, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. This event and the entire Summer Quest program is funded by Friends of the Takoma Park, Md. Library.

"Lapsit" Program Returns

Our first-ever "Lapsit" program for babies was so successful in June that we're going to do it again.

The half-hour program is designed for babies under 12 months and their parents or caregivers. We'll do finger-plays, sing nursery rhymes and read some very simple books. All of this is designed to enhance early literacy skills for babies, but the main object is just to

The Voice(s) of Harry Potter Speak(s)

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

You may not know his name, but to many "Harry Potter" fans, Jim Dale is the voice of the audio versions of the books by J.K. Rowling.

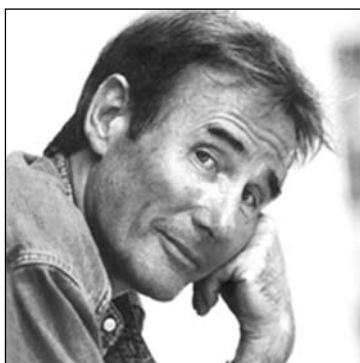
Recently, I had the chance to talk to Dale, in my capacity as the children's book reviewer for Scripps Howard News Service. Here's the article that resulted:

When Jim Dale, an award-winning Broadway actor, was asked eight years ago to narrate the audio version of the first "Harry Potter" book, he wasn't sure he could do it.

"The first book ("Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone") had 30 to 40 different [characters'] voices in it. It was off the wall! I thought to myself, 'Who the hell can do that?'" Dale said in a recent telephone interview.

It turns out that Dale, 71, can do it. Those 30-40 voices were just a fraction of the voices

he has now created for the "Harry Potter" series by author J.K. Rowling. In fact, Dale holds a Guinness World Record for having created 134 different character voices for one book - "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the fifth book in the series.



Jim Dale

Once Dale finished recording the final book, he set in motion a production frenzy designed to ensure that the audio book is ready for release the same day as the print version. This is the same highly unusual process (most audio books come out weeks or months after the regular version is published) used for most of the previous books in the series.

Overall, Dale has created more than 200 voices for the audio versions of all seven "Harry Potter" books. More than 5 million copies of the audio books have been sold since the first one was released in 1999, making them the best-selling audio books of all time.

Here are a few more astounding figures:

- The total length of the audio versions, including Book 7, is 117 hours and four minutes. It would take five days to listen straight through the entire series, according to officials of Listening Library, the Random House division that publishes the audio books.

- If you listened to the whole series straight through in your car, driving at 60 miles per hour, it would take you a loop around the United States - from New York City to Seattle to Los Angeles to Dallas to Atlanta and back to the Big Apple, the Listening Library folks said.

- Book 7, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," is 21 hours, 38 minutes long, and consists of 17 CDs or 12 cassettes. Listening Library has ordered a first printing of 635,000 copies for Book 7 - 565,000 CDs; 70,000 cassettes - the same it ordered for the previous book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

"Jim Dale's recordings are worth listening to, even if you have read the books a few

DALE SPEAKS continues on page 12

LIBRARY BRIEFS
continues on page 11

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

AUGUST 2007

Neighborhood Circle Time

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

Summer Quest "Campfire"

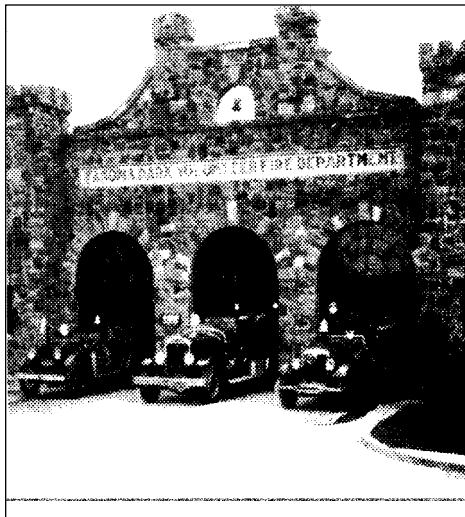
Monday, Aug. 6 at the Library
7-8:30 p.m.

We'll make a craft, then gather for songs and stories. Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

Bedtime Story Time

Monday, Aug. 27
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.



Firehouse REPORT

BY JIM JARBOE

As of June 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 475 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,467 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,942 incidents this year. Totals for 2006 were 522 and 1,247 respectively, for a total of 1,769, representing an increase of 173 incidents.

Baby Sitters Safety Training

The next class will start in September, contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7289 if interested. Ages 11-13. Sessions include the following topics - fire safety, infant and child care, CPR, first aid and personal safety.

Volunteers Are Needed!

The Takoma Park VFD is looking for vol-

unteers to be fire fighters or EMS providers. Training and uniforms are provided free of charge, the only cost to you is your time and commitment. If interested, please contact Membership Chair Mike Livingston at the fire station, 301-270-8209.

Getting A Head Start... Fire Prevention Week 2007

This year, Fire Prevention Week will be October 7-13. The theme is "Practice Your Escape Plan."

It's not enough just to have a plan. To escape safely from a home fire you've got to make sure that everyone in the home has practiced it as well.

Here are a few things to remember! Have Smoke Alarms That Work.

Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and near or inside all sleeping areas. New construction requires smoke alarms in each bedroom. It is recommended that alarms be wired together so that if one

sounds, they all sound. Test them at least once a month. And replace batteries when you change the clocks twice a year. If you live in an apartment building, ask the manager to make sure the smoke alarms work.

Make an Escape Plan.

Draw a floor plan of your home, showing all doors and windows. Mark the best way out of each room. Mark a second way out (in case the first way is blocked by smoke or flames). Finally, mark a place outside the house where everyone can meet. A plan for an apartment or high-rise building may be different from a plan for a house. If there is no second way out, plan to gather the family together in one room with a window, and have a phone handy to call the fire department to let them know where you are.

Practice Your Plan.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. In a fire drill, it's important to move quickly, but more important to do things right and follow your escape plan.

A reminder...unattended cooking and smoking materials are still your top causes of home fires and fire deaths.

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 June 19 at 9:32 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., a strong armed robbery was attempted. Two subjects followed the victim, an adult male, into his apartment building elevator and exited with him on his floor. As the victim approached his apartment, one subject punched him in the back then both subjects began searching through the victim's pockets. The victim fought back, sustaining minor injuries before the subjects fled through the stairwell. No property was taken.

On June 21 at 11:15 p.m. in the unit block of Pine Ave., a strong armed robbery occurred. An adult male was walking alone when a subject ran up to him, striking him and knocking him to the ground. The subject struck the victim several more times before taking his wallet and a bag and was seen fleeing in a white sedan being driven by a second subject. The victim refused treatment for minor injuries.

On June 29 at 10:40 p.m. in the unit block of Walnut Ave., an armed robbery occurred. A male juvenile was walking alone when he was approached by a subject who pointed a gun at him and demanded his property. After the victim handed over all his belongings, the subject pushed him to the ground and fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

On July 8 at 11:16 p.m. in the 100 block of Grant Ave., an armed robbery occurred. An adult female was walking alone when she noticed a black SUV type vehicle parked ahead of her. The vehicle immediately drove up to her and a subject jumped out, displayed a handgun, took the victim's backpack and emptied it on the ground. After taking some of the victim's property, the subject fled in the vehicle. The victim was not injured.

BURGLARIES

Between June 28 at 2 p.m. and July 4 at 8 p.m. in the 6500 block of Westmoreland Ave., a residential burglary occurred. A ladder was used to climb into an unlocked second floor window. Property was taken.

On July 11, between 1 and 1:40 a.m. in the 7500 block of New Hampshire Ave., a commercial burglary occurred. A window

was broken. It is unknown if any property was taken.

AUTO AND RELATED THEFT

Between June 15 at 10:36 and June 16 at 8 a.m. in the 700 block of New Hampshire Ave., a 1999 Nissan Pathfinder was stolen. The owner left the keys inside the vehicle.

Between June 17 at 10 p.m. and June 18 at 9:15 a.m. in the 6800 Prince George's Ave., a 1996 Honda Accord was stolen by unknown means.

Between June 19 at 6 p.m. and June 20 at 9:30 p.m., a 2000 Lexus SE 300 was stolen by unknown means.

On June 24 at 4:25 a.m. in the 6400 block of 4th Ave., a 2004 Dodge Intrepid was stolen. A neighbor of the owner saw four subjects break into and drive off in the vehicle.

On June 27, between noon and 1:30 p.m. in the 7600 block of Flower Ave., a 1994 Honda Accord was stolen by unknown means.

On June 28, between 1:30 a.m. and 6:50 a.m. in the 8200 block of Roanoke Ave., a 2005 Pontiac Sunfire was stolen by unknown means.

Between June 27 at 8:30 p.m. and June 28 at 6:34 a.m. in the 400 block of Lincoln Ave., a 1996 Acura Integra was stolen by unknown means.

Between July 2 at 6:30 p.m. and July 3 at 5:46 a.m. in the 700 block of Hudson Ave., a 1999 Dodge Intrepid was stolen by unknown means.

Between July 1 at 9:30 p.m. and July 3 at 12:30 a.m. in the 700 block of Hudson Ave., a 1996 Dodge Stratus was stolen by unknown means.

ARRESTS

On June 15 at 1:27 p.m. in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

On June 16 at 7 p.m. in the 700 block of Hudson Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with second degree assault as a result of call for a domestic violence.

On June 18 at 4:55 p.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving without a license, failure to stop at the scene of

an accident and fleeing and eluding.

On June 23 at 10:19 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 while intoxicated and driving under the influence of alcohol.

On June 25 at 3:30 a.m. at the intersection of Kentland and Hopewell Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court for two charges of driving with a suspended license.

On June 25 at 11:55 a.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., a male juvenile was arrested and charged with trespassing.

On June 26 at 1:56 a.m. in the 800 block of Hayward Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for a violation of probation.

On June 29 at 11:16 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., a civil citation for open alcohol container in public was issued to an adult male.

On July 1 at 11:43 a.m. at the intersection of New Hampshire and Devonshire Ave., an adult male was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of theft.

On July 1 at 9:55 p.m. in the 6900 block of New Hampshire Ave., a male juvenile was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property.

On July 5 at 3:05 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for a theft over \$500 that occurred in the 600 block of Kennebec Ave. on April 24, 2007.

On July 6 at 12:46 a.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., a criminal citation for consuming alcohol in public was issued to an adult male.

On July 8 at 11:30 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., two adult males were arrested and charged with possession of CDS with intent to distribute and possession of CDS.

On July 9 at 10:22 p.m. in the 7200 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, resisting arrest, driving on a suspended license, reckless and negligent driving and several other traffic related offenses.

Suspect is Charged in Robbery and Assault

The photos circulating from the police department depict a young man taking money out of an ATM. The chilling element is that you know this is the same man who assaulted a 59-year-old woman in her Lincoln Avenue home just minutes before he was caught on camera using the PIN number and bank card he stole from her. And, you're looking at him.

The good news is that the Takoma Park Police were also looking at him, and arrested him with the help of these photos on July 17, three days after the robbery/assault. Quintin Tyrone Perry, Jr., 18, of Riverdale Park, was arrested for the home invasion robbery/sexual assault that occurred July 13.

The day after the incident, the Takoma Park police's new plainclothes unit was patrolling the area in which it had occurred and detained him as a suspicious person. He was released after photos and questioning, due to lack of probable cause. Photos from the bank machine followed, police obtained a warrant and arrested Perry. He was taken to the Montgomery County Detention Center, charged with first degree robbery, first degree burglary, first degree sex offense and various other theft and credit card theft offenses. He is being held without bond at the County Detention Center.

Chief Ricucci praised the work of the Criminal Investigations Division, Tactical Enforcement Unit and the patrol officers who responded on the initial call. Many hours of hard work led to the arrest and closure of this case.

If You Make the Call, You Prevent the Crime

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Somebody walks by my house. I know most of my neighbors by sight, and this is no one I recognize. My radar goes up, and the internal dialogue begins:

"He looks weird." "There's nothing wrong with walking by." "But why is he here?" "He's probably going to visit a friend." "He's probably going to steal my car. Did I lock it last night?" "He could be the landscaper from down the street." "He has no tools. He's examining the house as if he's trying to memorize the brick pattern on the wall."

What to do?

Call the police.

Always call the police

"If you see someone in your neighborhood who doesn't belong," says Police Chief Ronald Ricucci, don't hesitate to call the non-emergency number at the police department. "No call is too trivial," he says. Just last week, someone called in a suspicious person, and when police responded they found an intoxicated man walking behind a row of back yards. "We were able to get him out of the area," said Ricucci, "before he could do something stupid."

Other calls have come too late. "Recently there have been several circumstances in the City; after these incidents, we've had people call in that they saw something just before," says Ricucci. This has happened repeatedly, and with everything from assault to car theft. Often news of a crime comes through email networks or the crime blotter, prompting residents to call and say, "hey, I saw something suspicious that night." Ricucci's response: "Why didn't you call?"

Know your neighbors

Calling in suspicious behavior is one of the most effective ways to keep a community safe, says Ricucci, who urges all residents to keep an eye out for one another.

"The biggest problem is neighbors need to

get involved in their own neighborhoods," says Ricucci.

Get to know the folks who live on your block. Is it normal for someone to be out in that yard during the day? Does the person in that house typically have visitors? Who is on vacation? Who works at home? Call the police if someone who doesn't "belong" is lurking in your territory. Ricucci and other officers are often frustrated when they hear, too late, that someone recognized something as suspicious but didn't call it in until after the crime was committed. It's happened in old town shops and in the residential neighborhoods of every ward of the city.

If calling seems like an imposition on the police, in case it's a false alarm, Ricucci would assure you that this is not the case. "Please call suspicious vehicles in, suspicious people," he says. "Don't sit and ponder it. Let us decide if it's a legitimate call — we're not gonna get mad at anybody" for calling unnecessarily.

And when you do call the non-emergency line, please be patient, adds Ricucci. Remember there may be just one person at the desk dispatching cars, answering phones and taking requests from officers. If there is an emergency underway, callers will be put on hold. Newly trained dispatchers will alleviate the work load and reduce wait time, but it's still a lot to juggle for a small staff.

Protect yourself

Ricucci also emphasizes other measures you can take to be safe. "Lock your doors. Lock your windows. Lock cars at night. Park your car in a lighted area. Lock your car when you're driving. Don't leave valuables in your car." It's a familiar litany but it still goes unfollowed, with sometimes disastrous results.

"The bottom line is you can protect yourself," says Ricucci. "If you don't give criminals opportunities, they're not gonna take 'em. If I'm a bad guy, what am I gonna do, break in or go to the house where the door's open?"

LIBRARY BRIEFS

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have fun in the library!

The program will be offered each of the four Wednesdays in September, beginning Sept. 5, from 10-10:30 a.m. We have spaces for just 15 babies and their grown-ups, so please sign up by calling 301-891-7259. This program is funded by the Friends of Takoma Park, Md. Library.

Library benefit in September

September 17 is the date scheduled for the next Mike Morrissey Mulligan Madness Golf Tournament.

It's not too early to practice your golf swing for this annual event, held in memory of Michael Morrissey, a former resident of Takoma

Park and a champion of books and libraries. For the past several years, the annual charity tournament, held at the Redgate Golf course in Rockville, has raised more than \$20,500 for the Takoma Park Library. Sponsored by friends and relatives of Morrissey, donations have been used to fund public Internet software, Spanish language programming for children and a variety of summer reading programs, library materials and reading incentives.

Last year, Library staffers Dave Burbank and Gene Miller played in the tournament under the sponsorship of several Takoma Park residents. If you are interested in playing, or in sponsoring Dave or Gene, contact Ellen Robbins at the Library for more information, 301-891-7259.

See Jazzfest, Parade

City TV crews will be catching the basketball action at the Y.E.S. League Summer Championship games on August 16, to be held at Piney Branch Elementary School. Come watch the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams play off, starting at 7 p.m.

Newly edited shows running this month include performances from the Takoma JazzFest including Mike Nicholas with the Ian Dylan Quartet, and Chris Ullman. The 2007 Independence Day Parade will also be showing this month.

While the City Council is on recess, starting the week of August 6, City TV will be playing some of your favorite musical performances from the Jazz Fest, Tastes of Takoma and Street Festival during the times when the Council meeting usually airs and replays. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for specific program information.

Takoma Snapshots through August features:

- 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.



Tuesday, August 7 • 6 to 9 p.m.

Takoma Langley Crossroads
(Behind the old Toys 'R Us, 8011 New Hampshire Ave.)
Games, raffles, music, ice cream
Educational activities about safety and crime
Takoma-Langley's first multi-jurisdictional Night Out!

7777 Maple Avenue
Positive Vibrations reggae band
Ice cream, popcorn, games for the kids
Hosted by the Maple and Lee apartment managers

National Night Out is designed to bring neighbors together and boost crime prevention through community building.

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - AUGUST 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 / Special Events after August 6	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 / Special Events after August 6		
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 / Special Events after August 6			Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting / Special Events after August 6				
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				

Takoma Park Celebrates a Distinctive Fourth of July



The streets turned festive on the fourth of July, as the annual parade wound its way through town. Here's a small sampling of the fun. To volunteer for next year's parade and fireworks, or to contribute, see www.takoma4th.org.

Clockwise from top right, young activists start early; the Washington Revels make merry; Officer of the Year Paula Gaskin greets Takoma Park; one of several floats to question authority; and Jeffrey Silverstone masquerading as Uncle Sam. For a list of award-winning entries, see www.takoma4th.org.



Photos: Lonni Moffet

REC CENTER

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ed out to Jazzercise instructors and the Suto Dance school, private schools, AAU basketball teams, church groups and for community meetings.

"The need for the facility — that, I think, is proven," says Doug Barry, the City councilmember who serves that area, Ward 6. "The numbers are good in terms of use of the facility and programs that are organized there." Last year, the center supported 140 memberships for regular users. Barry adds that it's an especially important activity center because it serves a local, low-income population that includes at-risk youth. "That facility has provided something positive for them to do."

"We're not abandoning the programs or the youth," says Recreation Department Director Debra Haidunen. "We serve a wide range of people in that facility, and we definitely see the need to keep those programs alive." Particularly important, she adds, is the "big and loyal following" of children in the after-school programs. "I think they really need the center and the relationships that they've formed with the staff there."

Still, the facility is "pretty shabby," says Barry. On a recent visit, there was insulation hanging from a ceiling tile, walls and floors looked worn and stained, and a mousetrap in the kitchen hinted at problems with unwanted vermin. "It's never going to be higher end, and it probably shouldn't be," says Barry, "but I think people who go there should expect a facility in good repair that is bright and clean and inviting."

Improving the facility will take some mon-

ey, and Ludlow anticipates it will be a long time before anyone commits to any major expense. "It's not going to happen real soon," she says. One possibility is a partnership with nearby residential property owners, or perhaps with a developer who plans to build or improve a nearby site. The county's relationship to the building may change, as it expands its own recreation programs, and they could perhaps provide improvements as well as programming.

Barry says there isn't much money in City coffers to improve the building at this point, but the money will have to come from somewhere. It is doubtful the building would be abandoned, though Ludlow thinks eventually it may be torn down and perhaps replaced. "It's just not that functional," she says. Rooms are small, users must walk through one to get to another, and there is no place for spectators in the gym.

Even so, the facility serves an important purpose; sending local residents to the Community Center on Maple Avenue, another suggestion that has come up, is challenging because of distance and the obstacle of New Hampshire Avenue traffic.

As talks begin over the Recreation Center, Ludlow feels confident some solution will surface. "It's hard for me to imagine that we would accept not serving [people], especially the younger people, in the [nearby apartment] building," she says. "What exactly those services are and who provides them is what everybody has to talk about."

She and others involved in the process expect to solicit input from the community as they move forward.

DALE SPEAKS

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times," said children's-book expert Anita Silvey. "He brilliantly distinguishes characters and brings out the excitement and pacing of the narrative."

Dale's success in bringing the "Harry Potter" books to audio life isn't surprising, given his successful and eclectic background. A native of England, Dale spent much of his childhood training for a career on the stage.

It paid off. At the age of 17, he became the youngest professional comedian in Great Britain. In the following years, Dale became a pop recording artist, hosted a BBC television show, worked as a disc jockey, joined the prestigious British National Theater (at the request of Sir Laurence Olivier) and then headed to Broadway, where he appeared in numerous shows.

Over the years, Dale has won an impressive number of awards and nominations: a 1966 Academy Award nomination for his lyrics to the song "Georgy Girl"; a 1980 Tony Award for "Barnum," plus five other Tony nominations; and a 2000 Grammy Award for "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," plus five other Grammy nominations.

In the next year, Dale plans to perform in a Broadway musical, "Busker Alley," narrate a television show that premieres on ABC this fall, "Pushing Daisies," and record several more books. Looking back over his unusual career, Dale reflected: "I like the idea of exploring every branch in the tree of show business."

Recording audio books is tricky, Dale said. He has gotten each of the last few "Harry Potter" books just two or three days before he must begin recording. Dale said he can read 18 to 20 pages an hour, from 9 a.m. -4 p.m., on a good day, but doesn't know where the story is going as he never has the chance to read the entire book before he starts. It usually takes him around 10 days to complete a recording.

Audio-book fans particularly treasure Dale's ability to give each "Harry Potter" character a distinctive voice. Dale said he keeps an ear out for voices he can use, noting that "Hagrid" is the voice of an uncle, "Professor McGonagall" is the voice of an aunt and "Dobby," a house elf, is the voice of a dwarf playing "Dopey" in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

"I first met him in a crowded elevator backstage at the theater," recalls Dale. "I heard a small voice behind me say, 'Excuse me, sir, you're wiping my nose with your bum!'"

Dale insists that he can't pick a favorite among the voices, although he said he particularly liked doing voices, such as "Professor Slughorn's," that allowed him to "play" with a wide vocal range.

Recording the last "Harry Potter" book was a bittersweet experience, Dale added. "At the same time, there are other books out there, and we're hoping — through my popularity — to encourage others to follow me and listen to other classic books."

Other audio books recorded by Dale include: "King Of Shadows" (we have it at the library) and "Around the World In 80 Days" (it's on order).