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 edges 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 periodically 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 un-burying a stream of water and directing it down a newly built streambed across the park.

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 trees and shrubs chosen to thrive and attract more wildlife. A bridge will span the wetland habitat, and separate two types of plant communities typical of wet spots: on one hand, Maryland piedmont, and on the other, coastal plain. "If you're going to make it ornamental," 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, left over from an old water bottling plant, and an immovable, five-foot piece of concrete buried there like a dam. City crews worked 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 habitat will be appreciated by many.

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

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 Seamans. "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 continues on page 2

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 Haidven 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 MCPCPC. 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 run 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 doors, residents of the Hampshire Towers apartment complex. There are fitness classes, including a boxing workout, 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-

REC CENTER continues on page 12
IMPEACHMENT
continued from page 1

misleading the public and Congress regarding the threat from Iraq, ordering electronic surveillance of civilians without warrants, pondoning torture of prisoners and holding prisoners without charge, legal representa- tion or an opportunity to defend themselves. Passing the measure, said resident Nancy Abbott, shows that “not every American supports 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 pos- sibility of impeachment to Nixon, who re- signed 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 vision. 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; par- ticipants in the meeting were preaching to the choir. But City Council took the reso- lution beyond city limits with two amend- ments introduced by Councilmember Terry Seamens. 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 HOLLIWAY

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 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 development 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 of “New Urbanism,” which places “walkability” as its number one tenet. He hopes that the charrette will turn the area into a “walkable place, different from the typical suburban sprawl.”

The City anticipates beginning the charrette with a kick-off meeting Tuesday, August 14 and having it run through Monday, August 20. Sirota expects charrette team members will be meeting in July with businesses and commercial property owners to gain preliminary commercial data, “sort of to prime the pump,” he says, before the charrette pros arrive for their week of intense work with City stakeholders.

To learn more about charrettes and the principles of New Urbanism, and the New Hampshire Avenue Charrette project, visit:
- www.takomaparkmd.gov/gateway
- The National Charrette Institute
- www.NewUrbanism.org

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

FINALE LPRESENTATION
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
A tenant asks - What noise 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’s 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 incident, and signed by at least 48 hours of the specific noise issue, you can contact Rudy Rice of the Takoma Park Police Department (RudyR@fb.com). Rudy is the designated Noise 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, or any intermittent 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@takomaparkmd.gov), Mary Lou Quinn (K@orginations.com). Additionally, if upon entry the tenant is not present, an additional Report of Entry incident, and signed by at least 48 hours of the specific noise issue, you can contact Rudy Rice of the Takoma Park Police Department (RudyR@fb.com). Rudy is the designated Noise Control Officer for the city, and can address concerns before they become full-blown issues.

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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. 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 easily and can stay in the environment for up to 500 years. Unfortunately, that also means so will our stuff.

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

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, archaeological 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 archaeologists. The exhibits 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 you 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.

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 creative spirit 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
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 her/his 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 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.

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’ initial campaign contribution reports due to City Clerk

Friday, October 26, 5 p.m. Candidates’ financial disclosure statements due to City Clerk

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

Wednesday, October 31 Emergency absentee ballotting 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

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 counted is 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

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.

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 vote 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.

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. Prepárese 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.

REGISTRA tu Voto para la Elección Municipal de 2007

Para votar en la elección el 6 de noviembre, es necesario que estés registrado como votante en la ciudad de Takoma Park. Los residentes registrados en Takoma Park que deseen ser pre-registrados como candidato, registrados como votante y que deseen ser el mayor votante, podrán quedarse con su nombre como candidato pre-registrado en la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal.

Nominaciones de candidatos para el puesto de Alcalde y Miembro del Consejo se hará con una moción hecho por cualquier votante capacitado en Takoma Park, y si la nominación es apoyado por un segundo votante capacitado en Takoma Park, la persona nombrada será considerada como candidato. Nominaciones de cada candidato para Membro del Consejo se hará con un moción por cualquier votante capacitado en el distrito de tal candidato, y si la nominación es apoyado por un segundo votante capacitado en Takoma Park, la persona nombrada será considerada como candidato. Cualquier candidato nombrado podrá rechazar una nominación durante la junta de nominaciones. Una persona podrá solicitar cualquier nominación de solamente un puesto. El nombre da cada persona nominada por el puesto de Alcalde y Membro de Consejo será confirmado en el boletín oficial a menos que esa persona entregue una carta por escrito rechazando la nominación a 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 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.

Elecciones Municipales

Fecha límite para registrar su nombre como candidato nominado en la Reunión Electoral: Martes, 2 de octubre, 7:30 p.m.

Fecha límite para celebrar la elección: Martes, 6 de noviembre de 2007.

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 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.

Elegir Alcalde y Miembros del Consejo

Fecha límite para registrar su nombre como candidato nominado en la Reunión Electoral: Martes, 2 de octubre, 7:30 p.m.

Fecha límite para celebrar la elección: Martes, 6 de noviembre de 2007.

La elección se llevará a cabo en el auditorio del Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park - Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center, 7500 Maple Avenue.

Reunión Electoral

La Reunión Electoral comenzará 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 Abbott Citizens’ Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Para participar en la Reunión Electoral, su aplicación de registración para votar y cambio de domicilio tendrá que ser 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 harán con una moción hecho por cualquier votante capacitado en Takoma Park, y si la nominación es apoyado por un segundo votante capacitado en Takoma Park, la persona nombrada será considerada como candidato. Nominaciones de cada candidato para Membro del Consejo se hará con un moción por cualquier votante capacitado en el distrito de tal candidato, y si la nominación es apoyado por un segundo votante capacitado en Takoma Park, la persona nombrada será considerado como candidato. Candidatos del Consejo 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.

Fecha límite para registrarse como votante: Lunes, 8 de octubre.

Fecha límite para registrar su nombre como candidato nominado en la Reunión Electoral: Martes, 2 de octubre, 7:30 p.m.

Fecha límite para celebrar la elección: Martes, 6 de noviembre de 2007.

La elección se llevará a cabo en el auditorio del Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park - Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. El lugar de votación estará habilitado de 7 a.m. a 9 p.m. (hora de la ciudad). 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.

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

Sólo necesitas votar para la elección

El Grupo de Elecciones de Takoma Park busca que se voten en 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 bilíngues que apliquen. Votantes registrados en Takoma Park que no son ciudadanos Americanos también se les pide que apliquen. Se le da 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 podrán 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 tendrán que asistir a una charla programada antes de la elección. Jueces de la elección reciben 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 electrónico Clerk@takomagov.org. Fecha límite: 14 de septiembre.
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/Softball Camp, Basketball and Soccer Camps.

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

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

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

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 principles 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)

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

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.

Hours subject to change
Membership is required
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290
tprecration.org

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

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

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.

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
Ahoy!

Pirate Books A-Plenty Explore the Real Thing

By Karen MacPherson

There are a number of books available to help you explore the world of pirates. Here are a few that your kids will love.


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 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.

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 17 hours and four minutes. It would take five days to listen straight through the entire series, according to officials of Listening Library, the narrate music 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 times. He is such a talented narrator that even those who have read the books a few dozen times will find new ways to hear the story,” Dale said in a recent telephone interview.

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 a color and a character from the many different ones available, and give the character back to us. Then we 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 the 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
A
s of June 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the person
nel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma
Park station responded to 475 fire-related incidents. The department handled or as-
sisted with 1,467 rescue or ambulance-relat-
ed 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, represent-
ing 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, in-
fant and child care, CPR, first aid and per-
sonal 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 es-
cape 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!

Make 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 clock twice a year. If you live
in an apartment building, ask the man-
ger 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 fam-
ily together in one room with a window, and
have a phone handy to call the fire depart-
ment to let them know where you are.

Practice Your Plan.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a
year, or when important to move quickly,
but more important to do things right and to follow your escape plan.

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

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

The good news is that the
Takoma Park Police were also look-
ing 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 as-
sault 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 question-
ing, even though he was implicate.
Photos from the bank machine fol-
lowed, 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
taxes 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 Divi-
sion, Tactical Enforcement Unit and
the patrol officers who responded
on the initial call. Many hours of
hard work led to the arrest and clo-
sure of this case.
If You Make the Call, You Prevent the Crime

By Virginia Myers

S
omebody walks by my house. I know
most of my neighbors by sight, and
this is no one I recognize. My radar
gets involved in their own neighborhoods,” says Ricucci.

go 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.”

“We’re 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.

“Why didn’t you call?”

“I saw something suspicious that night.” Ricucci

repeatedly, and with everything from assault
too late, that someone recognized something as
suspicous but didn't call it in until after the

crime was committed. It’s happened in

old town shops and in the residential neigh-
borhoods 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, suspi-
cious people,” he says. “Don’t sit and pon-
der 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-emergen-

cy line, please be patient, adds Ricucci.

Member 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 al-
leviate 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 valu-
able in your car.” It’s a familiar litany but it

still goes unfollowed, with sometimes disas-

trous results.

“Bottom line is you can protect your-
self,” says Ricucci. “If you don’t give crimi-
nals opportunities, they’re not gonna take

tem. If I’m a bad guy, what am I gonna do,

when the Council meeting usually airs and

programming materials and reading incentives.

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 play-

ing, or in sponsoring Dave or Gene, contact

Ellen Robbins at the Library for more infor-

mation, 301-891-7259.

S

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 multijurisdictional 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.
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.

REC CENTER
continued from page 1

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 Haidven. "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. "We 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 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 money, 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
continued from page 9

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 premiers 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. to 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 our 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).