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Sept. 16,
11:30-6:30
TP Middle School
www.tpff.org

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

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

**NOMINATE
 FOR CITY
 COUNCIL**
Oct. 2 See page 6

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Give Us An Earful

The City of Takoma Park wants to know what you think about our community and its future. In the next few weeks, questionnaires will be sent to a random sample of 3,000 residents, asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of City services. The results will be included in a final report that the City can use to improve its service delivery and to guide future budget decisions of the City Council. The report is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the City Council in early 2008.

National Research Center, Inc., an independent research firm, is conducting the survey. The questionnaire and survey procedure were designed based on the experience of hundreds of local governments, ranging in size from small to large. Scientific sampling and weighting of the responses ensure accurate and reliable results.

If you are one of the 3,000 residents who is asked to participate, please take the time to complete the survey. Answers to the survey questions will help City Councilmembers, the City Manager, and everyone at City Hall to more effectively serve you.

Community Action Grows on Maple Ave.

By Rick Henry

Every Wednesday night at the Takoma Park Community Center activism, ideas, camaraderie, international culture and banana cream pie (or something similarly delicious) make for an inspiring mix as the Takoma Park Community Action Group members come together to address the issues and challenges facing residents in their area.

That area — Maple Avenue between Sligo Creek Parkway and Philadelphia Avenue, Ritchie Avenue from Piney Branch to Maple, Oswego and Geneva Avenues and Lee Avenue between Maple and Carroll Avenues — is made up of some 2,000 residences, many of them high-density apartment complexes. It has also faced some prominent issues such as loitering and drug sales.

With that profile in mind a group of residents of the area, local community activists and Ward 4 City Council member Terry Seamens and his wife Joyce formed the Takoma Park Community Action Group in June 2006. The group's mission is "strengthening the Takoma Park community through identifying, meeting and matching the needs of its residents to resources that enable them to attain employment, obtain affordable housing, and improve work/life balance, thereby cultivating a self-sufficient and socially engaged community."

It is a belief in that mission that drives the members of the group to volunteer their time and energy said Tebabu Assefa, TPCAG's Communications Director.



Ethiopian dancers celebrate their culture in their new home at last year's Culture Fair, sponsored by the Community Action Group on Maple Avenue. This year's fair is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15.

Photo: Courtesy TPCAG

With that spirit and a \$1,000 grant from the Takoma Foundation behind it, the group set about fulfilling its mission. As a first step, members developed and administered a needs assessment survey to gather community input in nine categories of community life: family, health care, childcare, education, job training, transportation, housing, immigration and public safety.

The survey was included as part of a full-color magazine complete with articles, photographs and advertising. Despite the fact the group distributed the magazine to all of the residents in the neighborhood and placed receptacles for completed surveys in a variety of public places, they had to go door-to-door to ensure that residents completed the surveys. Ultimately 211 people (just more than 8 percent of the area residents) completed the survey.

"We put a lot of time into the survey because we felt it was an opportunity to forge

relationships," said Assefa.

Respondents identified loitering, drug sales and gangs as threats to safety in the neighborhood and expressed an interest in a more visible police presence and more consistent law enforcement.

Armed with the survey results, the group has undertaken several efforts to reach out to the area's young people- including working with Police Chief Ronald Ricucci to establish a Junior Police Academy. They are also planning to hold a Madden football tournament in September, an event they expect to generate a lot of participation and provide an opportunity to talk with many area youths.

"There are two main purposes for the

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Considering Sanctuary City Reviews Immigrant Protection Law

By Virginia Myers

How much of an immigrant sanctuary can Takoma Park be?

How much does it want to be?

And how does the City's protective legislation fit with federal policy and law enforcement?

These questions are under consideration as the City's sanctuary law is reviewed by City Council and staff this month. Originally designed to protect immigrants fleeing war-torn Central America, the sanctuary city law broadly prohibits City cooperation with federal immigration officials. The law also prohibits City employees

from inquiring or recording information about individuals' immigration status. The City's sanctuary law does not restrict police officers from arresting individuals who are suspected of criminal activity or who have an outstanding non-immigration related criminal warrant, even if the person is also identified as an immigration violator in the National Crime Information Center database (NCIC).

In December 2001, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement started entering criminal and civil deportation orders into the NCIC database, which is checked every time a police officer pulls someone over in

traffic. Whether the City had an obligation to enforce these orders prompted Chief of Police Ronald Ricucci to request a legal review of the sanctuary law. City attorneys advised that the sanctuary law is "a valid law that is not superceded by state or federal statute. . . There is no law requiring police officers in Maryland to make arrests pursuant to immigration warrants." Police department officers were advised of the continuing validity of the ruling.

The City Council will continue to discuss possible changes to the policy, however, as

SANCTUARY
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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

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

Tuesday, September 4 - Interviews, presentation and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Wednesday, September 5 - Meeting of the Health Services Impact Committee, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, September 5 - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6:45 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

Thursday, September 6 - Meeting of the Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, September 10 - Regular Meeting of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, September 11 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Tuesday, September 11 - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

Tuesday, September 11 - Meeting of the Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

Tuesday, September 11 - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

Monday, September 17 - Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, September 18 - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

Thursday, September 20 - Meeting of the Noise Control Board, 7:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

Monday, September 24 - Regular meeting and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, September 25 - Meeting of the Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Wednesday, September 26 - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

*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 (CC). 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 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.

July 23 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2007-29 was adopted, petitioning for the impeachment of President George W. Bush and Vice President Cheney (Absent: Austin-Lane, Clay)

First Reading Ordinance 2007-40 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization (Absent: Austin-Lane, Clay; Abstain: Williams)

The Consent Agenda was adopted (Absent: Austin-Lane, Clay). It consisted of:

A. Resolution 2007-30 reappointing John Borstel, Omar P.C. Dasent, Jose Dominguez, and Karen Leven-

back to the Arts and Humanities Commission

B. Resolution 2007-31 reappointing Joan Jose Canales, Peter Munger, and Steve Wasser to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

C. Resolution 2007-31 appointing Cheryl Gross-Glaser and reappointing Greg Castano and Robert Patten to the Safe Roadways Committee

July 30 - Special Session

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-40 was adopted by roll-call vote, as amended, amending Takoma Park

Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization (Absent: Austin-Lane; Nay: Clay, Williams)

Resolution 2007-33 was adopted, commenting on the Intercounty Connector (Absent: Austin-Lane)

Single Reading Ordinance was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the purchase of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for City facilities (Absent: Austin-Lane)

Resolution 2007-34 was adopted, setting forth the Council's summer recess (July 31 - September 4) (Absent: Austin-Lane)

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

Vacancies on Council-appointed Boards and Committees

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

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

TPCAG

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tournament," Seamens says. "The first is to give the young people in the area something fun to do; the second is to talk with them and ask them what their issues are.

"We have opinions about what might help or interest them — job training, computer training, recreation — but until we get them at the table and talk with them we don't know what they see as a solution."

So far, the reaction to the Madden tournament has been enthusiastic. The real test will of course come the day of the actual event (tentatively scheduled for September.)

The Madden event adds to an already impressive list of events the group has sponsored, including a Children First Day this past May and a Culture Fair in September 2006. It will host its second annual Culture Fair on Saturday, September 13. That upcoming fair was the dominant agenda topic at the group's meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 1.

Guided by Seamens, the group quickly and deliberately worked through an agenda and checklist of ideas and just as quickly and deliberately assigned members tasks and responsibilities. To an outsider, the scope of the project seemed daunting. To group members, it was typical.

"Everything we have put down to do, we have done," said Clemonce Duvall, vice

SECOND ANNUAL TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP CULTURE FAIR

7777 Maple Ave. (Essex House
Apartments parking lot)

Saturday, Sept. 15

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free

Fashion Show, featuring traditional cultural clothing; Traditional music; Children's Activities; Neighborhood yard sale; Food

chair. "It amazes me how everything falls into place."

For Duvall, who moved to 7620 Maple Avenue in December 2006, being a member of TPCAG has rekindled a spirit of activism and involvement she had lost. While living in Washington, D.C. she was active in her local Advisory Neighborhood Council. But after moving to another part of Maryland she stopped participating in the community.

"After I moved to Takoma, Joyce [Seamens] and another lady jumped me and asked me to get involved," she said. "Before I was a hermit and now I have to get a calendar to keep track of everything I'm doing with TPCAG."

Given the passion and enthusiasm the members of TPCAG have demonstrated so far, it's a calendar that is only likely to get more full.



Mayor Kathy Porter

Speak with the Mayor

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

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

*Walk-ins are welcome for
Wednesday office hours only.*

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



Lyme Disease: Coming Soon to a Backyard Near You

BY BOB GULDIN

It started off in early June like a mild flu - tired, achy feeling, loss of appetite. Then I notice an odd rash, right around my navel - that was a surprise. Over several days, the rash grew and darkened and was warm to the touch. My flu-like symptoms got worse, now including pain in my neck and abdomen, while I developed rashes on my chest, face and a leg.

After about a week, I went to see a good dermatologist. She soon invited her colleagues into the examining room and said, "Take a look: this is Lyme disease." I didn't mind being a teaching specimen for a minute, because the good doctor immediately started me on antibiotics that quickly improved my situation. She also sent me for blood tests and biopsied one of the lesions (ouch!). They came back positive for Lyme.

I'm one of the lucky ones. I was diagnosed quickly and correctly, and responded well to the antibiotic. Though I continued to be very tired for a couple of weeks, within five days my rashes were gone and within a month I was feeling good again.

Ninety percent of the people who get Lyme make a complete and quick recovery.

But lots of people aren't so lucky. For those who are not diagnosed and treated quickly, Lyme can become a serious long-term condition, including such symptoms as arthritis-type joint pain, chronic fatigue, mental impairment and confusion, palsy and depression.

Bottom line: If you become infected with Lyme, get it diagnosed and treated quickly.

Lyme disease is fairly common in Maryland (I almost certainly got my infection in or around Takoma Park). It's a bacterial infection transmitted by the deer tick, a tiny insect that also lives on mice. People often get bitten while walking in the woods or their yards, or working in their gardens.

How to avoid Lyme? When going in or near woods or tall grass,

wear long pants (tucked in) and long sleeves. Check for ticks after being outdoors, though this is hard - the little buggers are about the size of a poppy seed. But if you get them off, preferably with tweezers, within 24 hours, you won't get Lyme.

You can also wear insect repellents containing DEET. And you may want to get rid of woodpiles, which are good breeding areas for ticks.

None of these choices are pleasant, but ticks carrying Lyme are now found in most of the United States, including both coasts, so get used to it.



Locally, the problem seems to be getting worse. The Maryland State Center for Veterinary and Public Health reports that the number of confirmed cases of Lyme in Montgomery County has seen a major uptick. Until a few years ago, 40 to 70 cases a year was typical for the county. But in 2005, the state reported 216 cases and in 2006, 228 cases - though the big jump may well be the result of better diagnosis and reporting rather than a true increase.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the deer

population in Takoma Park is growing fast as well, which can't help. "Several people have seen a pair of six-point bucks that were not shy at all," says City Arborist Todd Bolton, adding that a few gardeners missed eating their beans "because the deer got them first."

A couple of things worth remembering about Lyme: It cannot be spread person to person. And going through it does not bring immunity; you can get it more than once. By the way, only around 40 percent of people with Lyme have a classic "bulls-eye" rash with a light center and a dark circle around it.

I was surprised to learn recently that President Bush had Lyme disease in 2006 and, like me, made a full recovery. For some reason, the White House had kept it secret until this August. But it made me feel much better, knowing that the leader of the Free World and I now have this experience in common.

NEWS Briefs

Husband and Wife Take Helm of Local Lions Club

Pat and Keith Van Ness became the first husband and wife in the 85-year history of the Lions of District 22-C to take the office of presidents of their respective Lions Clubs in the same year. The Lions of District 22-C serve Washington D.C., and Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties in Maryland. The joint installation took place on June 19, 2007 at the Professional and Community Education Center at Holy Cross Hospital.

Pat Van Ness became the president of the North Silver Spring Lions Club, which began as a "lioness," or all-women group before the international organization combined men and women. Her husband, Keith, is the president of the Takoma Park Lions Club. Both individuals will attain the title of "King Lion" for their clubs.

Keith joined the Takoma Park Lions in 1996, transferring from the larger Silver Spring Lions, a club he joined in 1973 and where he served as president. As a member of the Takoma Park Lions, which he favored because of its community spirit, he has served the club in many capacities, including as president and vice president. Pat is a charter member of the North Silver Spring Lions Club, a member since 1976. She has also served in several officer positions, including president, secretary and treasurer. The Van Ness's have been married 58 years, and have three children and six grandchildren.

Takoma Soccer Season Kicks In

Girls and boys from nursery school through high school can sign up now for the fall season of Takoma Soccer. Go to www.takomasoccer.org for the easy on-line system. Or come to walk-in registration on Labor Day weekend at the Takoma Park Community Center - Friday, 6-8 p.m. (Aug. 31), Saturday, 10 a.m.-Noon (Sept. 1) or Monday, 6-8 p.m. (Sept. 3).

All players will be in action the weekend of Sept. 15 and 16, and practices for first-graders and older will begin the previous week. The season ends in early November.

The fee is \$50, but there is scholarship assistance for children in the federal lunch program. For more information contact Howard Kohn at kohn@erols.com. If you miss the walk-in registration you can still sign up on-line until September 9. After that, contact Howard Kohn at kohn@erols.com.



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.

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Montgomery County Housing Fair & Financial Fitness Day

Over 70 Exhibits to Visit!

Learn How to Obtain, Read & Understand Your Credit Report!

Saturday, September 15, 2007

10 am to 3 pm

Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm (next to Gaithersburg High School)

506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland

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



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SunTrust Bank, Comcast, Radio America, El Tiempo Latino, Washington Hispanic,
Empire Financial, and Montgomery County Ride On.

For information, call 240-777-3602 or
visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca



HOUSING Mailbox

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

A tenant wants to know what actions may be taken against a landlord who fails to comply with a Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) Order.

Several sections of the Takoma Park Housing Law provide possible actions that may be taken against a landlord who fails to comply with a COLTA Order following expiration of the 30-day order appeal period:

1. Section 6.40.010.B.3 indicates that failure to obey an order of the Commission is considered a Class A Municipal Infraction Violation. Class A Municipal Infractions

incur a \$500 fine which in accordance with Section 6.40.010 D. is considered a daily fine and a separate violation each day the violation continues;

2. Section 6.20.030.D.6. indicates that a landlord who has failed to comply with a Commission Order is prohibited from increasing the rent through application of the annual rent stabilization allowance in any rental unit owned by the landlord until there is compliance with the COLTA Order;

3. Section 6.20.060.G. indicates that a landlord who has failed to comply with a COLTA Order will not have any rent increase petitions considered.

If a landlord fails to comply with a COLTA Order directing monetary payment to a tenant the tenant may seek his/her remedy by filing a legal action in the small claims section of the County District Court if the amount of the Commission's Order falls within the monetary limits of that court's jurisdiction.

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



range and kitchen pegboard.

702 Chaney Drive (2007-23L)

On July 20, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$2.39 to \$121.79 on seven units at the property. The improvements included replacing the garbage disposal, kitchen sinks and faucets, blinds, refrigerator, heaters, kitchen cabinets and floors, range hood, light fixtures, fan, tub liner, wood floors, window screens, bathroom shower, receptacles and switches and bedroom ceiling drywall.

7520 Maple Avenue (2007-29L)

On July 26, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$151.79 to \$200.44 on six units at the property. The improvements included replacing the balconies. Under the Rent Stabilization law, if a rent increase exceeds 15 percent, the increases will be phased in over a term of more than one year until the full increases have been taken (e.g. 15 percent the first year and 1.6 percent the second year).

650-652 Kennebec Avenue (2007-31L)

On August 1, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$6.44 on a unit at the property. The improvement included replacing the garbage disposal.

6434 & 6436 Kansas Lane (2007-32L)

On August 2, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$64.93 on a unit at the property. The improvement included replacing the heating system, new air conditioner and plumbing fixtures.

650-652 Kennebec Avenue (2007-33L)

On August 5, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$5.60 on a unit at the property. The

COLTA's CORNER

BY JEAN KERR, HOUSING SPECIALIST

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved several capital improvement petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park. Colta also decided on objections filed on an approved hardship rent increase petition. They appear in order of their petition numbers:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PETITIONS

115 Lee Avenue (2006-35L)

On July 31, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$11.60 to \$16.82 on all 36 units at the property. The improvements included replacing the counter tops, awning, paving, plumbing, and upgrading electricity. Some improvements were disallowed because they did not meet the six-month requirement for filing a petition and/or submission of inadequate documentation.

610-612 Kennebec Avenue (2007-22L)

On July 26, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$2.29 to \$72.14 on three units at the property. The improvements included replacing the bathroom faucets, refrigerator, kitchen cabinets, kitchen sink, duct hood,

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Sábado, 15 de Septiembre, 2007

10 am to 3 pm

Centro de Actividades de Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm (al lado de Gaithersburg High School)

506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland

Ride On Bus #55 or #59 de puntos norte y de Shady Grove Metro, Línea Roja



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SunTrust Bank, Comcast, Radio America, El Tiempo Latino, Washington Hispanic,
Empire Financial, and Montgomery County Ride On.

Para más información, llame al 240-777-3602 o
visite www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca

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Growing the New Hampshire Corridor, One Small Business at a Time

By Susan Holliday

Two guys walk into Tony's Villa, a small Takoma Park carryout restaurant, and introduce themselves to the proprietor with the equivalent of "We're from the government and we're here to help."

Can you blame the owner for looking skeptical?

Yet by the time the guys head out 20 minutes later - leaving behind a packet of economic development information and their business cards - the restaurant owner offers smiles and handshakes.

The two visitors are men on a mission: to open the eyes of Takoma Park's small business owners on New Hampshire Avenue to the prospects of business development. City of Takoma Park Planner David Suls and Montgomery County Business Development Specialist Alvaro DeMoya are starting with the restaurants and, with success, hope to expand their assistance to other New Hampshire Avenue businesses. They come armed with information about tax incentives, financing, legal referrals and more.

"We basically act as brokers for these other programs," says Suls. Federal, state and county resources and incentives for small businesses abound, but the small business owners have little time to research them. Many work in their shops and restaurants 12 hours a day. Who has time to chase down the details of government development incentives?

DeMoya and Suls understand this small-business-owner reality. They also know that when an area is poised for a growth spurt - as the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor may experience with the coming transit center and Purple Line at University Boulevard - small businesses are the first ones displaced by gentrification. The job for DeMoya and Suls now is to expand the small businesses' market share and strengthen their growth and roots so they are less likely to be washed away by a gold rush.

Montgomery County's experience with the Silver Spring redevelopment shows the pitfalls for small businesses. As new buildings rose and chain stores and restaurants came into downtown Silver Spring, the county thought the privately owned businesses in place

would benefit from economic spill-over. Instead, many of them suffered. So the county played catch-up and allotted funds for assisting the Silver Spring businesses. The county Department of Economic Development assigned DeMoya as one of several staff to offer small businesses one-on-one development counseling. After that,

know about permits, licenses, leases and tax credits."

A good example is Mogotillo Restaurant, a Salvadoran-Mexican restaurant that Suls and DeMoya are visiting one June afternoon. Owner Walter Villatoro opened his Crossroads restaurant last year after signing a lease that didn't allow for beer and wine service. The



Liliam Berrios cooks up some seafood at Carl's Crab Cab'n, one of the New Hampshire Avenue restaurants working with the City of Takoma Park.

Photo: Susan Holliday

the small business efforts expanded to areas such as Wheaton and Takoma Park.

In the six or so years that he's been working with small business owners "the number of businesses run by new Americans and women has grown exponentially all over the county," says DeMoya. "They have the spirit, zest and the instinct - they don't always

property owner later verbally agreed to amend the lease after six months, but within that window the property was sold. Communicating with the new landlord, a large corporation, has proven difficult for Villatoro.

DeMoya points out that Villatoro

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COLTA'S CORNER

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improvement included repairing the kitchen ceiling.

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

7600 Maple Avenue (2006-54H)

On August 13, 2007, an Opinion and Order was issued affirming the Preliminary Administrative Decision

(PAD) previously granted by COLTA for rent increases ranging from \$64.33 to \$118.26 (10.2 percent) on objections filed by the landlord on a hardship petition. The landlord petitioned for a rent increase of 38.2 percent and COLTA authorized a 10.2 percent increase based upon the decrease in adjusted net operating income for the property during the calendar year 2005 (Petition Year), as compared to the net operating income for the calendar year 1990 (Base Year). On a hardship petition, a landlord must show that the petition year net operating income is lower than

the adjusted base year net operating income in order to be granted rent increases above the Rent Stabilization Allowance. COLTA also ordered that the landlord issue a notice with the amount of back rent accrued, if any, to the tenants, since the effective date of the rent increases awarded pursuant to the PAD. COLTA further ordered that within 30 days after receiving the notice, each tenant make monthly payments of at least \$50 towards the back rent accrued on his or her apartment during his or her tenancy until the accrued back rent is paid in full.

Tenant Selection 101

MOSES A. WILDS, JR., LANDLORD
TENANT COORDINATOR

Careful consideration should guide you when deciding to become a landlord. Selecting the right tenant is one of the most important tasks a landlord has, particularly since the person or persons you choose will be occupying your rental property for at least a year and possibly longer. Careful screening of applicants cannot be over emphasized and may help in avoiding time-consuming and expensive future problems.

Rental Application

A rental application is more than just a means of gathering information on paper. It provides information from which a landlord can make a determination about a rental applicant, based on past and current information about the person or persons seeking to become tenant(s). It is therefore imperative that you ask the right questions to help build an accurate profile of the applicant(s).

In addition to the basics — name, address, social security number — other information including income, bank account(s) and length of time employed should be gathered. Income and length of employment may, for instance, provide a sense of the applicant's financial stability. Asking for the applicant's current and former landlord information will allow you to talk with persons who can tell you about the applicant's record of paying rent on time, how they took care of their apartment and their relationships with other tenants.

All applicants must be considered equally and the application should be designed to secure the following recommended information from each applicant:

- Rental History: current and prior landlord contact information, length of occupancy
- Employment History: employer name, address, phone number, dates employed
- Credit History: social security number, credit references (two)
- Source(s) of Income: job/other
- Bank name, account and phone number
- Drivers license number
- Model, year and vehicle license number
- Names and phone numbers of two non-family personal references

The application should also advise applicants of the following information:

- The maximum number of occupants allowed for a particular size apartment
- Minimum income requirements
- Utility responsibility
- Pet Policies
- Application Fee Policy

Credit Check

A landlord should always conduct a general credit check of each rental applicant. Although an imperfect credit history may not make an applicant a poor candidate, knowing this allows the landlord to better scrutinize each candidate. The City of Takoma Park in conjunction with Montgomery County offers a credit check program to landlords owning licensed rental property with less than 40 rental units. A credit check costs \$11 per applicant with a usual 24-hour turn-around time. City landlords using the program for the first time may have the first credit check fee waived. For further information and to obtain an application please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

Deposits and Application Fees

Takoma Park landlords, in accordance with the city's code, may charge a Leasing Fee that does not exceed \$35. Leasing fees include an application fee, key fee, document preparation fee and credit check fee.

Tenant applications should be clear regarding what the fees represent, and what will happen with the application fee and deposit if the applicant is not selected or if the applicant changes his/her mind after submitting the fee and deposit. Whether a deposit to hold an apartment is refundable and under what circumstances and time frame it would be returned should be explained on the application and discussed with the applicant before any such payments are made.

Take the time to carefully select your tenant. It is time well spent.



City of Takoma Park, Maryland Notice of 2007 Nominating Caucus

The 2007 Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 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.

At the Caucus, nominations of candidates for Mayor can be made on motion of any voter of the City, and if such nomination is seconded, the person nominated will be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for Councilmember can

be made on motion of any voter of her/his ward, and if such nomination is seconded, the person so nominated will be considered a candidate. A nominated candidate may decline a nomination during the Nominating Caucus. A person may only accept a nomination for one City office. The name of each person nominated for the office of Mayor and Councilmember will be placed upon the official ballot for the November 6 City Election unless the person files a declination with the City Clerk by 5 p.m. within three days after his/her nomination.

Important Dates for the 2007 Election

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

Monday, October 8 - Voter registration deadline. Takoma Park residency must be met by Sunday, October 7, in order to vote in the election.

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

Wednesday, October 31 - Emergency absentee balloting begins

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.)

Monday, November 19, 7:30 p.m. - Inauguration - Mayor and Councilmembers take office

New for the 2007: City-Wide Election - Instant Runoff Voting

The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 to adopt an instant runoff voting system for Takoma Park elections. In contested races, voters will have the opportunity to rank candidates by order of choice (1, 2, 3, and so on). The candidate receiving a majority of votes in each race shall be declared elected. The new system was first used to elect a new Ward 5 Councilmember in the January 2007 special election.

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

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.

Election Judges Needed

The Takoma Park Board of Elections is seeking election judges to serve for the November 6 City 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 Ta-

koma 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 21.



CIUDAD DE TAKOMA PARK ANUNCIO DE REUNIÓN ELECTORAL DEL 2007

La Reunión Electoral se convocará el martes, 2 de octubre del 2007 a las 7:30 p.m., para aceptar nominaciones de candidatos para el cargo 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.

En la Reunión Electoral, las nominaciones de candidatos para la Alcaldía pueden realizarse a moción de cualquier votante de la ciudad, y si esa misma nominación es secundada, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. La nominación de cada candidato para Miembro del

Consejo puede realizarse a moción de cualquier votante de su distrito, y si la misma es secundada, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. Cualquier candidato nominado puede declinar su nominación durante la Reunión Electoral. Solamente se puede aceptar la nominación para una sola oficina municipal. El nombre de cada persona nominada para la Alcaldía y el Consejo será colocado en la boleta oficial para la elección municipal el 6 de noviembre a menos que él/ella se presente ante el Secretario Municipal para declinar su candidatura hasta las 5:00 p.m. dentro de los 3 días de su nominación.

Fechas Importantes para la Elección del 2007

Martes, 2 de octubre 7:30 p.m. - Reunión Electoral

Lunes, 8 de octubre - Fecha límite para registrarse para votar. Fecha límite para confirmar residencia en la Ciudad de Takoma Park es el 7 de octubre, para poder votar en la elección.

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.

Martes, 6 de noviembre, Día de la Elección Municipal, las cabinas electorales estarán habiertas 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.)

Lunes, 19 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m. - Inauguración - Alcalde y Miembros de Consejo tomarán puesto.

Se Necesita Juezes para la Elección

El Grupo de Elecciones de Takoma Park buscan juezes 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.

Juezes 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. El juez 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.

Juezes de la elección servirán durante toda la elección y tendrá que asistir una charla programada antes de la elección. Juezes 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 Secretaria Municipal al 301-891-7214 o 301-891-7267 o por correo electronico Clerk@takomagov.org. Fecha limite : 21 de septiembre.

Nuevo Sistema para la Elección Municipal - Segunda Vuelta de Elecciones Instantáneas

El Consejo de la Ciudad enmendio la Carta de la Ciudad en el 2006 para adoptar el sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones instantáneas para las elecciones de Takoma Park. En una carrera competitivo, los votantes tendrán la oportunidad de elegir candidatos en orden de preferencia (1, 2, 3, y así sucesivamente). El candidato que recibe la mayoría de votos en cada carrera será declarado el candidato elegido. El nuevo sistema se uso por primera vez en la elección especial del distrito 5 en enero del 2007.

Se puede obtener más información sobre el sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones instantáneas en la pagina web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park: www.takomaparkmd.gov

Para más información sobre la elección, llame a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al 301-891-7267 o 301-891-7214 o por correo electrónico Clerk@takomagov.org

Katie Dell Kaufman

is a 20-year teaching veteran of drawing, design, painting and other art classes at the Corcoran. She now concentrates on collage, which is what she teaches in Takoma Park. Her own work combines all sorts of material, from fabric, paper and pencils to shoes, barbed wire and chalkboard erasers.

Kaufman's formal training includes a degree in sculpture from Bard College and an MA from University of Maryland, but she began learning as a child. She took private lessons and attended the art magnet at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School; her grandfather, the art editor for "The Masses" in the 1910s and '20s, would recite poetry in response to her painting.

At one time, Kaufman ran a gallery in New York City, but the competitive nature of the art world there was unappealing. "The idealism of education versus the cutthroat art scene in New York City made me realize I wanted to focus on the incredible potential that art offers you," she says. She has been exhibiting since 1992, and is represented by the Fraser Gallery (in both Bethesda and Georgetown). You can see her work closer to home in the wood sculpture, created with students and PTA members, hanging near the pool entrance to Piney Branch Elementary School.

So is Kaufman a teacher or an artist? Both. "They feed each other," says Kaufman. "I start coming up dry as a teacher if I don't make art." It is the process that excites her most: "the art work is a way of feeling really, really alive and in the present moment. . . for me, it's the experience of making it that is most important."

(See page 23 in Guide)



Local Artists Share Talent Through Recreation Department

Joan Samworth first experimented with art when her three children went off to kindergarten, some 30 years ago. She learned pastels in her Chevy Chase neighbor's basement, volunteered in a children's after-school art program, and later enrolled in 10 years' worth of courses – two or three at a time – at Montgomery College, from drawing to color, art history, and design.

Eventually, Samworth moved her easel out of the basement to a studio in the District. She's taught post-Katrina inner city teens in New Orleans, helped D.C. public school students create a mural featuring the Anacostia River, and worked with SEED charter school on a mosaic at Kenilworth Gardens.

Now Samworth focuses on teaching adults and expanding her own work. Her Takoma Park house is filled with her landscapes and still lifes, and in her garage-turned-studio she experiments painting summer vegetables, among other things. She teaches painting and drawing for Takoma Park as well as Friendship Heights and at Strathmore. "The process is what I love," she says. "It's really fun for me to see adults take this on; it's very intimidating for an adult to try something new. I had such encouraging teachers, and I want to pass this on."

(See page 22 in Guide)



RECREATION

SEPT

ACTIVITIES

TOUCH A TRUCK

For all those who love trucks, this Takoma Park Recreation Department and Public Works event features a bobcat, street sweeper, dump truck, trash truck and many others. Step inside each monster truck and dig it! This program is geared towards children ages 1-6.

When: Sat., Sept. 29
(rain date Sept. 30)
Location: Public Works Garage Area,
Oswego Avenue
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Fee: Free!

Park at Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue or on Ritchie Avenue Near the Public Works Gate.

BEGINNING SCULPTURE

Ages 16 and older

Join artist Manuel Cruz for an introduction to clay sculpture, where you will explore three-dimensional forms. Clay is not provided, you may purchase clay from a local art store. Each class is a stand-alone class. There are six sessions available. Multiple sessions are encouraged. Maximum of 20, minimum of five.

When: Mon., Sept. 24,
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Community Center,
7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$45/class
Non-Res. \$50/class

ROCK CLIMBING AT GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK

Ages 12 and older

No experience is necessary; this trip is designed for beginners. All equipment, transportation and guides are included. Wear comfy clothes and bring a bag lunch. Please contact Jon McLaren at 301-891-7225 or jonm@takomagov.org for more information. Instructor Jon McLaren.

When: Sun., Sept. 30
Time: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Location: Meet at T.P. Community Center,
7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$25
Non-Res. \$30

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY

Those new to dance and experienced dancers are invited to join Takoma Park's own world-renowned contemporary dance company in creating a unique event for Arts and Humanities Day at the Community Center, October 20. Building on its long experience creating site-specific dance events, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange will enliven unexpected spaces in and around the Center and seeks individuals and groups as performers and co-choreographers. For information contact company member Cassie Meador at meadorc@danceexchange.org.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATION COURSE

Ages 14 and older

Calling all Scouts, camp counselors, adventurers, and outdoor enthusiasts! Wilderness First Aid is a vital skill set for anyone traveling out for a day, or week, of camping, hiking, canoeing, or biking. This eight session course will cover emergency preparedness, shock, soft tissue injuries, improvised splints, and environmental emergencies. Students who successfully complete the course earn a two-year certification with SOLO School of Wilderness Medicine. Contact Jon McLaren at 301-891-7225 or jonm@takomagov.org for more information. SOLO certified instructor, Jon McLaren.

When: Mon., Sept. 17 - Nov. 5
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.
Location: Azalea Room,
T.P. Community Center,
7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. \$60
Non-Res. \$65

The Takoma Park Recreation Department is seeking CDL drivers to operate City's 22-passenger bus.

Please call Jon McLaren at 301-891-7225.

For complete Fall program listings, see our Recreation Guide, inserted in this issue.

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER • FALL HOURS

Game Room
Monday - Thursday
10 a.m. - noon Ages 55 and up
2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Ages 7 - 12
6 - 9 p.m. Ages 13 - 19
Fridays until 9:30 p.m.
Saturdays Ages 7 - 19
1 - 5:30 p.m.
Sundays Ages 7 - 19
2 - 5:30 p.m.

Teen Lounge - Ages 13 - 19
Mon. - Thurs. 2:30 - 9 p.m.
Fridays until 9:30 p.m.
Saturdays 1 - 5:30 p.m.
Sundays 2 - 5:30 p.m.

Building Hours:
Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, 2 - 6 p.m.

Hours subject to change.
Membership is required.
*Game Room and Teen Lounge will be closed on 9/3
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290
tprecreation.org

Housing Department Offers Free Courses

Are you thinking about buying a house or condo? Or maybe you've already purchased one and are finding that escalating costs are creating financial difficulties. Here are a few courses that will help you through some major decision-making periods. Our First Time Home Buying classes have been so successful that we've added two new courses, Landlord-Tenant Relations and Post Purchase Home Ownership. Registration is limited, so call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222 or e-mail at LindaW@takomgov.org if you want to sign up.

Your Rights as a Tenant in Takoma Park (New Course)

Can a landlord charge me for repairs in my apartment? What can I do if the manager of my building enters my apartment without giving me notice? My landlord kept my entire security deposit when I vacated. He said I damaged the unit, but that damage was there before I moved in. My rent was increased by \$60 but I thought my apartment was under rent stabilization. These are just some of the issues that will be discussed during this workshop on your rights as a tenant. Learn more about city and county resources available to tenants and how you can form a tenant association to better deal with problems in your building. This course will be offered two times.
When: Thurs. Sept. 27 and Wed., Oct. 24
Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Post-Purchase Home Ownership (New Course)

Are the costs for owning and maintaining your new home, whether it be a condominium or a single family house, escalating? Here is how to get a handle on post-purchase sky rocketing costs. Learn how to budget, save for future expenses and avoid foreclosure.
When: Wednesday, November 7
Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

First Time Home Buyer Seminar

Buying a home is one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime. Here is an opportunity for you to do it right, with all of the knowledge of the process. Class limited to 20 people. A nonprofit affordable housing organization will conduct a First Time Home Buyer seminar that will include information on:

- The importance of pre-purchase counseling
- Establishing credit, maintaining good credit, facts about the credit scoring system
- How to obtain a mortgage loan — understanding the terms of the loan
- The role of the real estate agent
- Information on Montgomery County and Maryland home loan programs

When: Saturday, October 13
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Seminario Para Quien Compra Casa Por Primera Vez

El comprar una casa es una de las decisiones más importantes que tomará en su vida. Esta es una oportunidad para que usted lo haga correctamente con toda la información del proceso. La Corporación del Desarrollo Económico del Latino (LEDC), una organización a beneficio para quienes quieren comprar una casa por primera vez, dará un seminario el cual incluirá información como:

- La importancia de tener consejo profesional antes de comprar una casa.
- Establecer su crédito, mantener su crédito y sistema de mantener record de su crédito.
- Cómo obtener un préstamo y entender los términos del préstamo.
- El papel del agente de ventas
- Información acerca de los programas de préstamo en Maryland y el Condado de Montgomery

Fecha: Sábado, Octubre 27
Hora: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



Mayor Kathy Porter, left, presents a Welcome Certificate of Appreciation to Patricia Villatoro, co-owner of the new Mogotillo Restaurant at 7637 New Hampshire Avenue. Named for a city in El Salvador, Mogotillo, which opened last year, is one of the city's newest restaurants and features Salvadoran food. The Mayor is joined, to the left of Villatoro and from left, by Councilmember Doug Barry (Ward 6), Erwin Mack of the Crossroad Development Authority and Gretchen Hillburger of C-SAFE.

Photo by Lonni Moffet



MAKE A DIFFERENCE PLANT A TREE

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Save the Canopy

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means you could be helping to replace the aging tree canopy in the City. If you're interested in creating shade in your yard and maintaining the urban forest in Takoma Park, you can save through the City's bulk buy tree sale. Acting as a purchasing agent with Stadler Nursery, the City is making a number of species avail-

able at wholesale prices. Residents can purchase black gum, sweet gum, scarlet oak, red maple, white oak or sycamore — all native shade trees that usually retail for about \$400 — for \$240 to \$300, installed. Must receive order and payment by Sept. 28. Installation will begin in late October continuing through November.

ORDER FORM

Please include check written to City of Takoma Park and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation (on separate sheet of paper). Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 by September 28th. Tree planting will begin in late October and may continue through November. You will be contacted shortly before installation to ensure that the desired location is marked in your yard.

Name _____
Address _____
Daytime Phone _____

Include map of property with tree locations on separate piece of paper.

Species	Price	Quantity	Total
Sweet Gum (2")	\$275 x	_____	= _____
Black Gum (1.5")	\$250 x	_____	= _____
Scarlet Oak (2")	\$300 x	_____	= _____
Red Maple (2")	\$240 x	_____	= _____
White Oak (2")	\$295 x	_____	= _____
Sycamore or London Plane (2")	\$270 x	_____	= _____
Tax 5%			_____
Total enclosed			\$ _____

What's the Little White Ball For?

BY GENE MILLER

When my Takoma Park Library colleague Dave Burbank and I received the gracious invitation to help make up a foursome in this past year's Friends of Mike Morrissey Mulligan Madness Golf Tournament, which annual memorial tournament benefits the library, our first reaction was of course: "Well, we'd better get some books about golf out of the library first..." But no matter how much fun it might be to read John "Junior" Feinstein's *A Good Walk Spoiled*, we knew that, inevitably, we had to pick up a club and hit a ball.

Our prior experience: I had played a few rounds of golf in the name of quality time with my father-in-law, while Dave had never played any golf that didn't involve windmills and clowns' noses. So we repaired first to the Paint Branch driving range, then to the nine-hole course behind the driving range, and then, a few weeks later, to the Sligo Creek Golf Course for another nine holes. After those experiences, we were in some sympathy with President U.S. Grant, who reportedly said of golf: "It looks like good exercise. What's the little white ball for?"

Thus fortified, our October date with destiny arrived in the form of our 9 a.m. tournament tee time at the Redgate Municipal Golf Course near Rockville. We were pleased

and honored to join with more than 80 other golfers, all gathered to have a good time figuring out what that little white ball was for, while raising a little money for the Library in the name of the late Mike Morrissey. Dave and I were doubly honored by being invited to complete a four-some that included Mike Morrissey's brother Dan, who flies up from Houston, Texas, every year just to play in this benefit tournament.

When the golf balls flew for Dave and me that day, they flew like birds: variously high, low, fast, slow, straight, aimless, with some just fluttering up and then going to earth like a stricken quail. Dave did bail us out on one hole by rattling a 30-foot putt squarely into the cup and, in the end, our score put us somewhere in the middle of the pack. We didn't win, but we didn't embarrass ourselves or our four-some either, so for that we are thankful.

But not so much as we are thankful for the opportunity to have played with our partners, Jake Walsh and Dan Morrissey, as well as the opportunity to help celebrate Mike Morrissey's continuing gift to our Takoma Park Library. For information on this year's tournament, see Library Briefs.

When he is not golfing or working at the Library, Gene Miller writes for "Voice of the Hill", "Washingtonian Magazine" and has authored a history of the Hyattsville Mennonite Church.



LIBRARY Briefs

Don't Fix It!

Library patrons — please don't try to mend ripped, torn or otherwise battle-scarred library books! Library Assistant Dave Burbank has special tape and other tools to do book mending in a professional way. Please let us know if a book needs mending, but don't try to do it yourself. We often have to discard books that have been mended — with the best of intentions — by Library patrons. Thanks very much for your help with this.

Celebrate Summer Quest Party

Readers who participated in our Summer Quest adventure are invited to a party on Monday, Sept. 10, from 7-8:30 p.m. At the party, we'll talk about the books we most enjoyed and do some fun book-related activities. We'll also have prizes for everyone. Please register by calling 301-891-7259.

And, speaking of Summer Quest, our program — generously funded by the Friends of the Takoma Park Md. Library — had a record year. More than 200 young readers signed up for the program, reading hundreds of books as they completed each reading challenge.

"Ferdinand" event marks national reading activity

Please join us on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 7 - 8 p.m. as we participate in a nationwide "Read for the Record" event designed to spotlight the importance of early literacy skills for all children. We'll join hundreds of libraries, bookstores and schools around the country reading "The Story of Ferdinand," a classic story of a peaceable bull written by Munro Leaf. We'll also do crafts and other activities related to the book. Call 301-891-7259 to register so we can make sure to have enough craft materials.

Help for job seekers

The Takoma Park Community is working in partnership with MontgomeryWorks to offer services for prospective job seekers at the Library. Whether you are writing a resume, planning a new career, or using the Internet to search for a job or complete employment applications, we may be able to offer you courses or other kinds of assistance in the near future. But we need your help.

Pick up a short survey at the Library or the Computer Center. The questions are designed to find out which topics most interest you. Drop your completed survey off in the boxes provided.

Time is important. We need information about your interests as soon as possible. So don't delay!

Classic novel of Africa to be Discussed

Join the Friends of the Library Reading Group on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium room on the third floor of the Community Center for a discussion of Nigerian author Chinua Achebe's masterpiece, "Things Fall Apart."

The book, written in 1958, is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first African novels written in English to receive global acclaim. It tells the story of Okonkwo, a leader and local wrestling champion of the Igbo in Nigeria as change is brought to his life and the lives of his family by Europeans. One reviewer wrote, "Deceptively simple in its prose, 'Things Fall Apart' packs a powerful punch as Achebe holds up the ruin of one proud man to stand for

LIBRARY BRIEFS continues on page 12

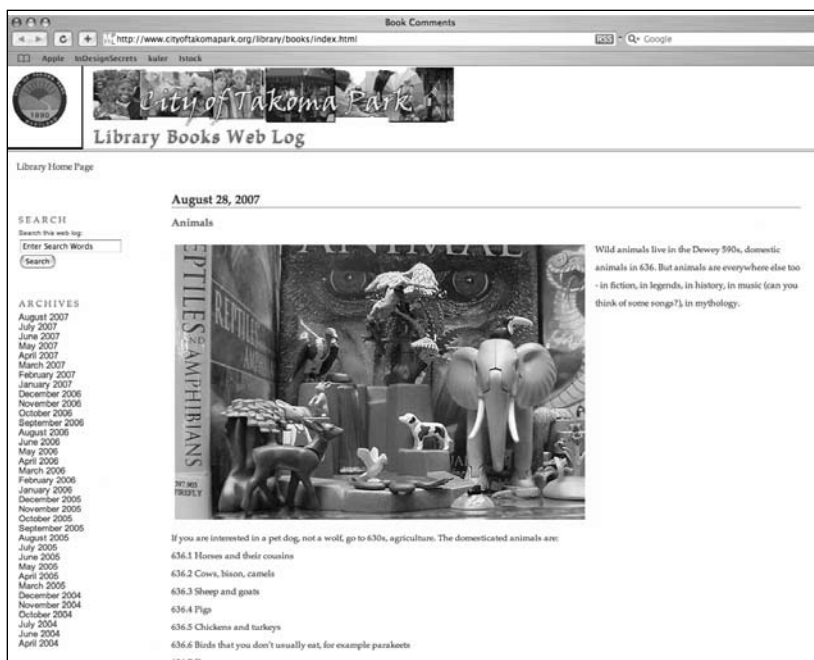
New Library Blog Reflects Eclectic Reads

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Are you looking for a good book to read? We've got a great list of choices — children's books, books for teens, and adult books — on our Library Books Blog.

To find the blog, just go to our website, <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/library/>, and click on "books" in the list of the Web Logs on the left-hand side of the page. The Books Blog, which is regularly updated, is maintained by Librarian Rebecca Brown, who has recently begun photographing Playmobil figures to illustrate blog entries on particular types of books.

Recently, Brown polled Library staffers on their favorite books, those worth re-reading. The resulting list, originally created for the Summer Quest program, is a marvelously eclectic mix of old and new. Among the children's books cited: "The Cricket in Times Square" by George Selden, "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss, the "Frog and Toad" books by Arnold Lobel, "The Phantom Tollbooth" by Norton Juster, and



"There's a Nightmare In My Closet" by Mercer Mayer.

Books for teens include a mix of adult and young adult books, including "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, books by Kurt Vonnegut such as "Cat's Cradle,"

"Burma Surgeon" by Gordon Stifter Seagrave, "Death Be Not Proud" by John Gunther, "Blood and Chocolate" by Annette Curtis Klauser, and "Jurassic Park" by Michael Crichton.

BLOG
continues on page 12

Neighborhood Circle Time

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

Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks

Every Thursday
Beginning Sept. 20
10 - 10:30 a.m.

End of Summer Quest Party

Monday, Sept. 10
7-8:30 p.m.
Prizes and some fun talk about books. Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2007

6th Annual Mike Morrissey Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, Sept. 17 - 9 a.m. start
Redgate Golf Course

Read for the Record

Thursday, Sept. 20
7 - 8 p.m. a.m.
Join us for a reading of
"The Story of Ferdinand," plus some

related activities. Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

Bedtime Story Time

Monday, Sept. 24
7 p.m. at the Library. Please call
301-891-7259 to sign up.

Friends Reading Group

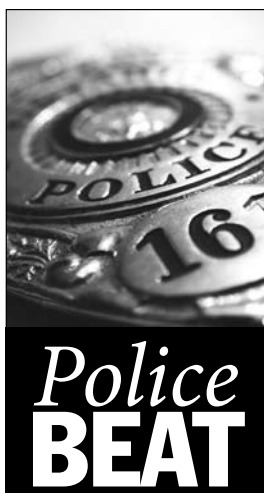
Tuesday, Sept. 25
Discussion of "Things Fall Apart"
by Chinua Achebe.
Community Center Atrium Room
7:30 p.m., All welcome

Crime Decreases for First Half of 2007

Crime is down in Takoma Park — at least for the first six months of the year. Chief Ronald Ricucci reports that overall crime in the City of Takoma Park has declined 9.15 percent, with significant decreases in robbery (-31 percent), burglary (-17.1 percent), larceny (-5 percent) and auto theft (-7 percent). Residential burglaries are down 23.9 percent from last year. Such a reduction in robberies is significant, says Ricucci: "People feeling safe in their homes is one of our top priorities."

While pleased with the results, Ricucci cautions residents of Takoma Park to remain committed to being security conscious and reporting all crimes and suspicious activity to the police. Ricucci attributes the decrease to the extensive effort put forth by the entire department on the robbery detail during the first three months of the year. Also, the establishment of the plainclothes unit has led to a covert presence on the streets. This unit has already successfully made many significant arrests for robberies and burglaries.

One of the most influential changes in the department has been the new partnership between the Uniform Patrol Division and the Criminal Investigations Division, which are both committed to being visible on patrol, while in vehicles, and while on foot in target areas of the community.



TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME COMPARISONS, 2006 AND 2007

The below listed statistics are from January 2006 through July 2006 and January 2007 through July 2007.

2006 CRIME	2006 TOTAL	2007 CRIME	2007 TOTAL	% CHANGE
Homicide	3	Homicide	0	-100
Rape	0	Rape	3	+300
Robbery	61	Robbery	42	-31
Assault*	18	Assault*	23	+28
Burglary	70	Burglary	58	-17.14
Larceny	258	Larceny	245	-5
Auto Theft	82	Auto Theft	76	-7

TOTALS **492** **447**
9.15 Overall Crime Decrease

* Only aggravated assaults are included in the totals.
Prepared By: A/Lt. Tyrone Collington
Monday, August 13, 2007

The chief expects the reinstituted bike patrol to also play a significant role reducing crime in the future.

The next six months will be a test in the City's renewed efforts to further reduce crime, says Ricucci, adding that residents and officers must remain vigilant. For more specific statistics on the dip in crime, see the chart above.

Takoma Park, Under Cover: Tactical Enforcement Unit Makes an Impact

By D/CPL. ANDREW JOHN

It's no secret that criminals typically change their pattern of activity to commit crimes so as to remain undetected. These changes often make it difficult for law enforcement to identify them.

To combat this problem, Chief Ronald Ricucci formed the Takoma Park Police Tactical Enforcement Unit (T.E.U.) in May 2007.

During the chief's initial 30 days in Takoma Park, at the beginning of 2007, he identified a need for a "plainclothes" street crimes unit to target quality of life crimes and address developing safety issues. A three-person team was selected to begin operating as the T.E.U. to address crimes such as commercial and citizen armed robberies, violent assaults and crimes against property. Due to the unit's success, the team may soon be expanding.

The team is supervised by Detective Corporal Andrew John, an 11-year veteran of the force. John previously served in the Vice, Narcotics and Intelligence Unit along with Cpl. Jerome Erwin. That Unit was disbanded in 1999 due to manpower shortages.

Detective John has extensive experience in this type of work and is a faculty member of an Undercover Narcotics Investigators School in Anville, Pennsylvania. He was joined by Detective Christopher Eckford

UNDER COVER continues on page 11



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATES SAFETY

On August 7, Takoma Park joined other cities across the nation in celebrating and promoting safety with a National Night Out event. This one was the first multi-jurisdictional effort at the Takoma Langley Crossroads, and involved Takoma Park, Montgomery County and Prince George's County police. At left, Prince George's County officer Lt. Bill Glynn, perched on his bike, chats with a local boy. Right, Takoma Park officers, from left Acting Lt. Tyrone Collington, Det. Corp. Andrew John and Det. PFC Thomas Black, survey the crowd as they enjoyed food, games and live music. A similar event took place at the "four sevens," 7777 Maple Avenue.

Photos: Gretchen A. Hilburger



Firehouse REPORT

As of July 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station responded to 577 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,757 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 2,334 incidents this year. Totals for 2006 were 610 and 1,523 respectively, for a total of 2,133, representing an increase of 201 incidents.

Serious Fires Hit Neighborhood

On Friday, August 17, 2007 at approximately 2 p.m., three houses were damaged by fire on Ritchie Avenue, Takoma Park. The fire started at 130 Ritchie Avenue and spread to two adjacent houses. The fire cause major damage to all three houses and families have been temporarily displaced. During the fire, six fire fighters received minor injuries.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office. Luckily, the occupants of the house

were unharmed due to being alerted by a dog barking and a child next door, who notified his parents. A similar fire in Burtonsville earlier this year unfortunately did not have the same results.

Within 48 hours of the Takoma Park fire, the fire department was in the area passing out fire safety hints to the residents, including information on installing and maintaining smoke alarms; planning and practicing escape; crawling low under smoke; and safety for smoking, cooking, candles and fire places, heaters, furnaces, matches, lighters and electricity. Putting such tips into practice may prevent the tragedy of a similar fire occurring in your home.

If you have any questions or you would like to have a free fire safety inspection of your home, please call our station at 301-270-4242. This number is not for emergencies. We are available to inspect your smoke alarms, visibility of your house address number, and more. A special note: We'll provide FREE smoke alarms if you do not have one in your home.

Takoma Park VFD Needs Volunteers

Have you ever thought of being a fire fighter or EMS provider? This could be an experience of a lifetime for you to serve your community by providing emergency fire and rescue service. Take a few minutes to stop by the station and talk to the volunteers about what it is like to be a volunteer member. For further information, please contact Mike Livingston at 301-270-8209.

Free Baby Sitting Class

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a baby sitting class for girls and boys, ages 11-13. The starting date is Monday, September 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. It will run for six weeks on Monday nights, and will be held at the City Community Center. It is designed to teach how to care for infants and children, basic safety measures, and how to handle emergencies. Topics include first aid, CPR, infant and child care, fire safety and personal safety. If interested, contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7289.

UNDER COVER

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in May 2007. Eckford's extensive experience includes service as a narcotics investigator with the Howard County Police Department and the Escambia County Sheriff's Department, Escambia County, Florida.

Detective Thomas Black also joined the unit in May. As the newest member of the unit, Black is quickly adapting to his role as a plainclothes officer.

Being a new unit, the team members are undergoing extensive training, working on logistical plans and other housekeeping needs to keep the unit running successfully.

The role of the T.E.U is not like the role of undercover cops you see in the movies or on television shows. T.E.U's job is tedious, time-consuming, dangerous and often involves a lot of paperwork. Not only do these detectives have to be on watch for criminals, they have to use caution so they are not mistaken for the same criminals they track. Detectives carry their police credentials with them at all times and, although there is no secret hand shake, these officers are trained to discreetly identify themselves as necessary. Ask any of these detectives and they can share with you many humorous stories of citizens calling the police to report a prowler or suspicious person, when in fact, it was a plainclothes officer. Most don't mind the mistake — it is, they say, an indication that they are doing their job well.

Since these detectives are always armed, a lot of planning, communication and attention to detail must be applied when working in or near neighboring jurisdictions so a tragedy does not occur. The units work closely with agencies in Montgomery and Prince George's County, the District of Columbia and various federal law enforcement agencies.

Plainclothes work in law enforcement is an art and a challenge. Uniformed police

officers must assimilate themselves into environments where they have to blend in like chameleons and watch for the signs of a crime about to occur.

Detective Eckford knows of this first hand. Recently, the Old Town area and feeder streets to the Takoma Metro Station had been experiencing a rash of citizen robberies. The T.E.U. took action. On a Friday night when the T.E.U was conducting a surveillance operation, two suspects attempted to rob a female victim walking in the area of Maple and Cedar Avenues. Detective Eckford was in the immediate area, heard the victim's screams and actively pursued the suspects. Detective Eckford apprehended the suspect, a juvenile from Prince George's County with an extensive history of armed robbery. Since his arrest, the robberies in these areas have ceased.

As stated before, this job has risks and hazards. During this arrest, Eckford sustained a laceration to his leg as a result of jumping fences and running through brush to catch the suspect. The injury required six stitches to close and heal. He was off work for two days but made a full recovery.

These sorts of incidents show that the T.E.U. has made an impact. Since its inception, the unit has made several other notable arrests, including: (1) a joint investigation with the Maryland State and Montgomery County Police, which resulted in the seizure of 57 pounds of marijuana and the arrest of a Baltimore resident, (2) identified and arrested the suspect of a July 2007 home invasion robbery, (3) identified and arrested a PCP dealer as the result of a plainclothes operation, and (4) multiple arrests for alcohol violations, felony/misdemeanor crimes and other quality of life crimes.

"The T.E.U has consistently demonstrated its effectiveness dealing with crime patterns that develop in Takoma Park," says Ricucci. "The goals I have set for the agency are beginning to be met by this unit. Their continued success will help to improve the safety of our citizens and improve the quality of life within Takoma Park."

Officer Calling Cards Assure Merchants

Chief Ronald Ricucci announced a new program today, where police officers will be leaving business cards with a message from the Chief at all businesses in the City of Takoma Park. The card lets you know your business was checked the prior night by a named officer and was safe and secure. It also reminds merchants to have an updated emergency notification list at the police station. Chief Ricucci states that this is a part of our community policing outreach efforts to partner with the business community. We want our business owners to know we are checking their businesses at night.

City TV Covers music, sports

Join City TV crews on September 16 to catch the music at the 30th Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival held at the Takoma Park Middle School on Piney Branch Road. We'll be pointing our cameras at most of the stages all day long so that you can enjoy music from the other six stages throughout the year.

The City Council will reconvene from recess on Tuesday September 4, so as always you can view meetings live on Monday nights, with replays available on Wednesday and Friday, and on-demand on the City website. Save the date for the Nominating Caucus on Tuesday October 2 at 7:30 p.m.; it will be aired live on City TV, replayed throughout the month and will also be available on line.

Newly released programming this month includes more performances from the Takoma JazzFest, the New Hampshire corridor charrette and the Independence Day Parade. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for specific program information.

Takoma Snapshots in September will include a feature on the Recreation Depart-



ment, YES League summer championship highlights, National Night Out and the unification celebration.

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@takoma.gov for more information.

Back to School: Back to Safety

By PFC. PAULA GASKIN

As school begins, here are some important tips to keep kids safe:

1. Always let your parents know where you are.
2. Always try to play or walk with friends.
3. Say NO if a stranger offers you gifts or asks you to help find something, like a lost dog.
4. If anyone, even someone you know, tries to do something that makes you feel "funny" or unsafe, say NO. And always tell someone you trust about it, like your parents or a teacher.
5. Never get into a car with a stranger or with someone you don't trust.
6. Never go anywhere with a stranger or with someone you don't trust.
7. Never believe a stranger until you have checked what he or she has said with someone you trust.
8. Never open the door to a stranger or to someone you don't trust when you are home alone.
9. Never give any information to a stranger over the Internet or telephone.

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER 2007

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

Programming subject to change without notice.

BLOG

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Suggested adult titles offer the same variety. They include: "Winterdance" by Gary Paulsen, "Dear Genius: The Letters of Ursula Nordstrom," edited by Leonard Marcus, the "Sherlock Holmes" stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, "Dead Souls" by Nikolai Gogol, "A Year in Provence" and "Toujours Provence" by Peter Mayle, the "Discworld" series by Terry Pratchett and "Green Dolphin Street"

by Elizabeth Goudge.

Check out the list for yourself. It's likely that you'll find at least one book — and maybe many more — that tickle your literary fancy.

While you're at it, take a look at some of the other entries in the Books Blog. Many of the most recent entries — Sports, Myths, Dinosaurs, Poetry — were created by Brown for various Summer Quest challenges. Each includes a list of book possibilities for a particular subject, as well as a fascinating look at how and why the books are given partic-

ular Dewey Decimal numbers. (If you think this isn't interesting, just check out one of these posts!).

The Books Blog is just one of several Library blogs, which also include a Children's Room Blog, regularly updated to include upcoming events; a Teen Books Buzz Blog, which will be updated soon to include book reviews written by teens for community service hours; and a News Blog.

It's all on our website. Just click on www.cityoftakomapark.org/library/ and check it out!

SMALL BUSINESS

continued from page 5

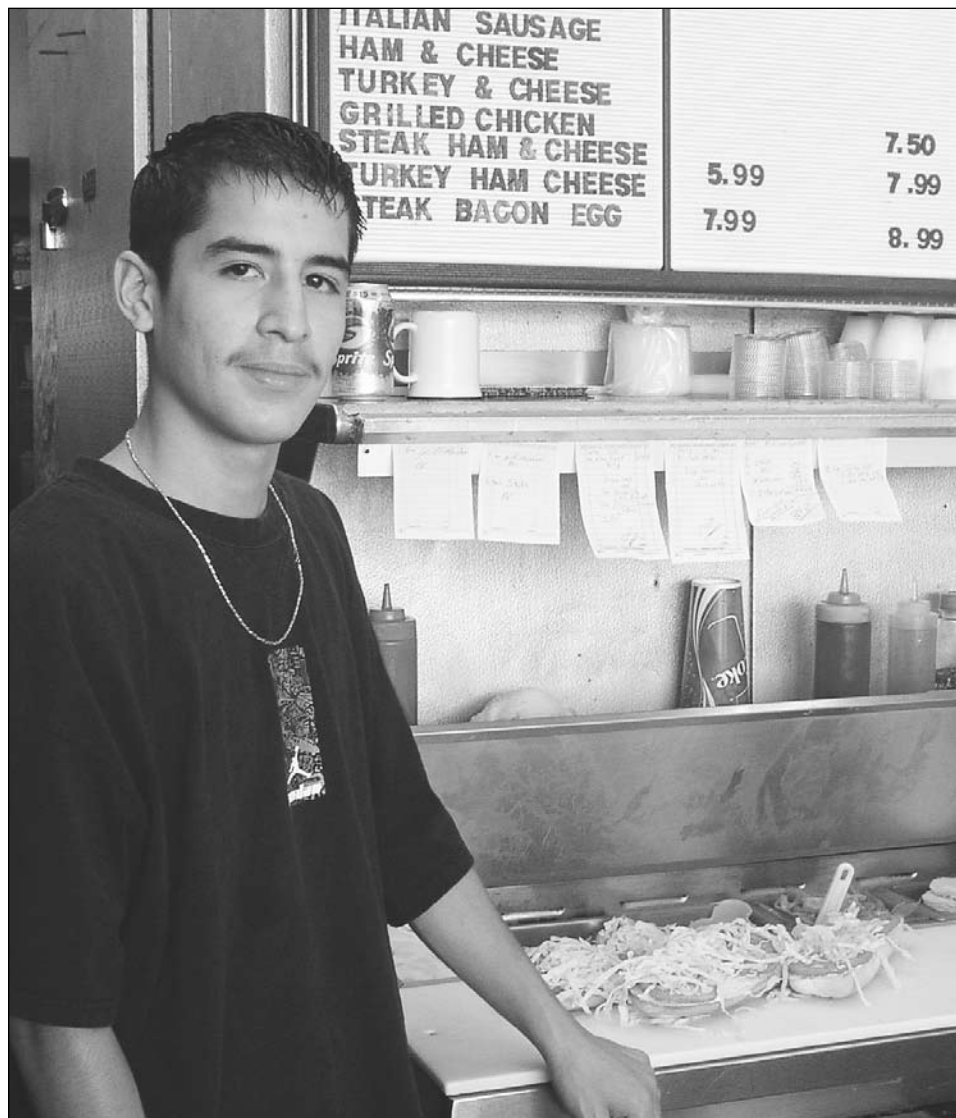
didn't realize the long-term business sense of having a sharp-eyed real estate attorney review the lease before signing. Now he and Suls offer him guidance — in Spanish and English — after the fact. Suls put together a meeting with the Montgomery Liquor Control Board with Villatoro to explore options. He researched several pro bono attorneys for Villatoro to consult and joined with DeMoya in counseling him on how to open discussions with the property owner.

DeMoya noted that sometimes it's only the lack of good communication between the landlords and business owners that causes problems. Property owners need "a spirit for all to succeed" when working with multicultural business owners, says DeMoya.

After leaving Mogotillo, the government guys head across New Hampshire Avenue to introduce themselves at Tony's Villa. The owner, Wilber Diaz, worked under the original owner for ten years before buying the business 20 years ago. (Tony's Villa became renowned for its cheesesteak sandwiches when it opened 55 years ago.)

Suls and DeMoya ask how business is going. When they hear only good news from Diaz, Suls tells him about the \$1,000 state income tax reduction to small businesses that hire a new full-time employee. Though Diaz has no complaints that need immediate assistance, he now has a number to call if something comes up.

Montgomery County can help small businesses secure services for design, marketing, financing, customer service — the county can even help them write their business plan. The City of Takoma Park has a small fund to assist businesses with façade improvements and signage. These efforts are part of the City's two-pronged approach to economic development on the New Hamp-



Wilber N. Diaz, son of the owner of Tony's Villa carry-out restaurant on New Hampshire Ave., with sandwiches and the shop's menu

Photo: Susan Holliday

shire Avenue corridor. In addition to their work with the small business owners, City staffers are working with developers — new property owners or existing ones — to fix up and modernize their land and buildings.

When landlords improve and maintain

their properties well, the businesses increase sales and tax revenues rise. "Working together, landlords and business owners create a synergy," says DeMoya, "and everyone benefits."

SANCTUARY

continued from page 1

Chief Ricucci plans to propose amendments this fall. Citing public safety concerns, he has requested reconsideration of the across-the-board prohibition on cooperation in the enforcement of immigration laws — which prohibits Takoma Park police officers from making any inquiries of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), even to determine the basis for a deportation order. "The inclusion of immigration warrants (both civil and criminal) in the National Crime Information Center database represents a major shift since the City's adoption of the sanctuary law," he says. "As currently worded, the law may have the unintended consequence of preventing the removal of convicted felony offenders which puts both

the community and our police officers in danger."

City Manager Barbara Matthews says the proposed amendment, which City staff is drafting with the City Attorney's office, would "preserve the major tenets of the law but would allow Takoma Park police officers to investigate the basis of any deportation order that they become aware of in the course of performing their duties and to arrest any person who has been convicted of a felony and listed as a deported felon on the National Crime Information Center Database." Other changes to the sanctuary law would strengthen non-discrimination policy, in light of changes in federal law.

"Like the City Council, I want all members of our community to feel comfortable interacting with the Takoma Park Police Department, whether reporting a crime or cooperating with police investigations," said Ricucci.

Immigrant advocates are watching the City's actions carefully, and have told local press that the preservation of the City's sanctuary status is of paramount importance to the community.

According to the 2000 census, 28.6 percent of Takoma Park's approximately 17,300 people were foreign-born at that time; 14.4 percent were Latino. More recent statistics for the Takoma Park planning area in 2005, from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, show 20.7 percent Latino population in an area that includes the City and some outlying areas. The City has registered 417 non-citizens to vote in City elections as of August 2007, though these people may be in this country legally and may be of another ethnicity. Statistics on the number of "illegal" immigrants are elusive, as people in the country illegally are reluctant to come forward for fear of deportation.

LIBRARY Briefs

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the destruction of an entire culture."

All are invited to join the Friends Reading Group discussions. Copies of the book are available at the Takoma Park Library. For additional information call 301-891-7259.

Sponsors and Golfers Needed

It's that time again — mark your calendars for Monday, September 17, the annual Mulligan Madness Charity Golf tournament in memory of Mike Morrissey. All proceeds will benefit the Takoma Park Library. The five prior tournaments have netted more than \$20,000 — enabling the Library to upgrade equipment, services and facilities. Through the Friends of the Library, the Morrissey Tournament and Charity Auction continues to be the Library's number one private contributor.

The tournament will be held at the Redgate Golf Course in Rockville, beginning at 9 a.m. It will be followed by a party and charity auction at Rumors Restaurant (19th And M) at 5 p.m. As in prior years, local distributors, restaurants and other businesses will be donating items to be auctioned, and all proceeds will benefit the Library.

So you don't play golf? You can sponsor one or more holes, or help to sponsor Gene Miller and Dave Burbank of the Library staff, who will once again be playing in the tournament (see Gene's story on last year's tournament, page 9). Registration and sponsorship forms are available at the Library. For more information call 301-891-7259.

New sounds at the Library

Spice up your late summer days with music from the Library! We have new CDs by Maroon 5, Red Hot Chili Peppers, John Mayer, Snow Patrol and Maryland's own Good Charlotte. Dance your nights away to the music of Mary J. Blige, Usher, Ludicris, Beyonce and Justin Timberlake.

We have new and favorite recordings by these and many other popular artists. Adults (18 and over) may borrow up to ten music CDs per visit with their Takoma Park Library card.



Maroon 5