

# Running in New Directions

*Recreation Department Regroups with New Hires, New Programs*

By VIRGINIA MYERS

**T**he Recreation Department is overflowing with new ideas.

For example: how about a Takoma Park Outing Club? Or an outdoor education leadership program? Consider enabling community service expeditions, with groups of kids out maintaining parks for credit. For seniors, who have been clamoring for field trips, a new bus will send them on their way to the local Farmer's Market next month, and future trips include movies, winter lights and fall foliage excursions, dinner theater in Baltimore and the Glenn Miller Orchestra in Dover Downs, Delaware. Meanwhile, the kids are touring the skateparks in November, getting ready for the opening of the City's own half-pipes and rails, anticipated for 2009 in the park behind Piney Branch Elementary School. For adults, a softball league recently got started, a popular drop-in basketball program at the Recreation Center may expand, and there's talk of an ultimate Frisbee program — pickup games, perhaps?

"We're starting fresh," says Jon McLaren, senior manager of facilities and programs and the newest hire at the department. "We are re-creating this whole department."

"Our new emphasis is amplified customer service and quality," says Recreation Director Debra Haidunen. "My vision is that people of all ages will look to the Rec Department as a viable alternative to other programs in the area, whether it be after school, summer camp, or yoga class. . . Our mission is to provide opportunity. It's convenient, it's affordable, it's quality."



## ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

New programs at the Recreation Department get kids involved in outdoor adventures, like this recent trip to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. These hikers got to walk across a river bridge from West Virginia to Maryland. Rec staffer Jon McLaren hopes to arrange similar outings for families in the future.

Photo by Jon McLaren

It's also a tall order for a small staff that is currently seven full time employees, 20 sometimes transient part-timers and about 30 contractors who do much of the teaching. To address that challenge, a recent remix of the staffing structure has consolidated part-time positions into full-time staff, and is expected to provide needed stability and consistency. A full-time front desk staffer is being hired; the senior coordinator position (also being

hired) has expanded to 30 hours a week, reflecting the growth in services for this population; and a full-time after school specialist will soon be in place. These full-timers will join three new directors: Gregory Clark, assistant recreation director, focuses on administrative organization; Jon McLaren, as senior manager

**REC DEPARTMENT**  
continues on page 7

# Street Fest Takes Over TP

**F**or the 26th year, the Takoma Park Street Festival will transform the City's thoroughways into a celebratory mix of music, art, politics, food and the kind of socializing - among neighbors as well as visitors - that makes the festival so popular. This year's event is Sunday October 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Entertainment includes all-day music from 18 bands, including popular acoustic roots-rock bands The Nighthawks, Tom Principato, Chopteeth, Robert Lighthouse, and Patty Reese. More than 150 craft artists, community groups and diverse foods will line the festival route along Carroll Avenue. For kids there will be moon bounces, jugglers, puppeteers, a climbing wall and more.

The Festival begins near the Sunday Farmers Market on Laurel and Eastern Avenues, extends toward the Metro in one direction and down Carroll Avenue toward the firehouse in the other.

Primarily organized by The Old Takoma Business Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the festival is a gathering of what OTBA vice president and music coordinator, David Eisner, calls "an independent, quirky, fun-loving bunch" of people who use the occasion to celebrate local arts, foods and culture.

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# Options Considered to Keep Piney Branch Pool

**A**fter a rousing City Council meeting Sept. 4 that included children wearing swim goggles and carrying "Save the Pool" signs, City Council passed a resolution urging Montgomery County to keep the pool open, and City and county staff have begun to compile options to support it.

The pool in question, at Piney Branch Elementary School, is a county facility but has been run by the Silver Spring YMCA for the last five years. The YMCA announced it would no longer operate the pool because of management difficulties with the county, and it was closed just after Labor Day.

Although the City has never been in charge of the pool, citing high maintenance costs as prohibitive, local pool advocates

## OPTIONS FOR PINEY BRANCH POOL INCLUDE:

- Keep the pool closed - shut it down and possibly replace it with something else
- Have the YMCA come back in to manage it
- Set up joint management with the county recreation department, the school system, and the ICB
- Have an outside, for-profit pool company run the pool
- Have the City operate and manage the pool, with financial support from other parties.

appealed to City Council as advocates. City Council's resolution points out the dearth of indoor pools in the down-county area, and cites the need for recreation facilities in the area. County Councilmembers George Lev-

enthal, Valerie Ervin and Marc Elrich, along with several City Councilmembers and the

**PINEY BRANCH POOL**  
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PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR\*

**Monday, October 1** - Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, October 2** - Nominating Caucus, 7:30 p.m., (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, October 8** - Regular meeting and work session of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, October 9** - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, October 9** - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

**Tuesday, October 9** - Meeting of the Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

**Tuesday, October 9** - Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs Hearing (Meadows V. Forsythe), 7 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Thursday, October 11** - Meeting of the Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, October 15** - Public hearing and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, October 22** - Regular meeting and work session of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, October 23** - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, October 23** - Meeting of the Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

**Wednesday, October 24** - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Thursday, October 25** - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, October 29** - (tentative) Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

\*For the most up to date information, check [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

## Regular Meeting September 10

**Emergency Resolution 2007-37 was adopted**, approving the City Manager's determination of an emergency procurement to effectuate repairs to the Maple Avenue Bridge sidewalk

**Resolution 2007-35 was adopted**, supporting continued Montgomery County operation of the pool at Piney Branch Elementary School

**Ordinance 2007-42 as amended was accepted** at first reading, adjust-

ing the salaries for the Mayor and Councilmembers (effective for the Council to be sworn in on November 19) (Abstain: Austin-Lane)

**Ordinance 2007-43 was accepted at first reading**, providing for the 2007 Nominating Caucus and City Election

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-44 was adopted**, authorizing the lease/purchase of police vehicles

**Resolution 2007-36 was adopted**, supporting the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange's Community Investment Tax Credit application

**The Consent Agenda was adopted.** It

consisted of:

**A. Resolution 2007-38**, appointing Arthur Wohl to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

**B. Resolution 2007-39**, appointing Neta Scarpari to the Health Services Impact Committee

**C. Resolution 2007-40**, appointing Enoch Bevel and Geneva Simmons to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

\*Only negative votes and abstentions are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto: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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto: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**

## Metro Development Decision Nears

After a public hearing on Takoma Metro Development at the Takoma Park City Council's September 24 meeting, many residents are interested in following up to make sure their voices were heard on this issue. Comments on the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority report, which recommends townhouse development in the green space at the Takoma Metro station, will be accepted until 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 5. WMATA's Planning, Development and Real Estate Committee will vote on the report Oct. 11. For more information, see the City's web page on the issue, <http://takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro/index.html>.

## PINEY BRANCH POOL

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mayor, met in early September to discuss possibilities in keeping the facility open.

That group has asked an interjurisdictional task force to flesh out five options, with pro's, con's, and costs, and present them to County Council. Those on the task force include at least one representative of the City, several from the Montgomery County Recreation Department, representatives of county councilmembers and someone from

the school district.

Available options will be shared with stakeholders and presented to the County Council.

Bolstering the argument for the pool will be the petition presented earlier in the month, with 781 signatures, and a lot of enthusiasm from pool users. Among them are Piney Branch students, who used the pool during P.E.; swim teams, including the Montgomery Blair High School team, who used it for practice; and neighbors who used the pool to maintain fitness and health.

## Correction

In a feature about Joan Samworth, a Recreation Department art teacher, we mistakenly identified her affiliation as being with Seed charter school. Through the Corcoran ArtReach program, she directed the completion of five murals with students from various schools (not Seed); with students from the Fletcher Johnson Education Center, she completed a mosaic installed at Kenilworth Gardens. Additionally, the work Samworth did with New Orleans teens took place in 1995.

## Speak with the Mayor



**Mayor Kathy Porter**

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](mailto:peggyew@takomagov.org).



## NEWS Briefs

### Volunteers Needed to Mark Storm Drains

The Department of Public Works is continuing its program to remind residents that dumping in the local storm drains leads directly to pollution of the Chesapeake Bay and its local tributaries. Volunteers are needed to mark this printed message across the storm drains, reminding people to not dump pollutants and protect water quality.

Volunteers are provided with all the equipment they need for the project. Teams will be formed to work together, or you can come with your own group. To volunteer, call Public Works at 301-891-7633.



### Be Aware During Deer Season

As more and more deer begin to populate the parks and woods in and near Takoma Park, residents are seeing more of the animals on the road – and in traffic. Because deer are “rutting,” or mating, during the fall months, they tend to be more disoriented and thus more likely to be in the way of a moving vehicle. It is important for drivers to be especially careful during these months.

The Montgomery County Department of Parks schedules several controlled hunts to keep a lid on the deer population in its parks; since the hunting program's inception, vehicle-deer collisions have decreased. Several area parks are included in the program, though Sligo Creek is not. For more information, see [www.mc-mncppc.org/environment/deer/index.shtm](http://www.mc-mncppc.org/environment/deer/index.shtm).

### Join Walk to School Movement in Takoma Park

Takoma Park's Safe Routes to School Program has encouraged four area schools to join schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day Oct. 3.

More than 600 students from Piney Branch, Takoma Park, East Silver Spring and Rolling Terrace Elementary Schools will be walking to school that day with par-



### Volunteers Pitch In to Clean Up Takoma

Main Street Takoma is holding its Fall Clean Up Day Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon, urging volunteers to get Takoma Park's commercial areas ready for the winter months and the holiday season. Here, Scouts from Daisy Troop 2131 help clean up during the spring session – from left, Lucia Parish-Katz, Zelda Littlejohn, Evalyn Angelis, Sophie Maguire, Adelaide Harris, and Lily Kirsch. To participate this season, grab your garden tools and come to one of the gathering points: Laurel Avenue by the clock tower, Morrison Park at Takoma Junction, and Triangle Park, at 4th Street, NW, in the District of Columbia. Volunteers will be weeding and mulching in tree boxes and in public areas, picking up litter (Main Street is providing bags and gloves), sweeping gutters, removing graffiti, where needed, and generally cleaning and beautifying the downtown area. Participating middle and high school students can earn community service hours for their Montgomery County Public School graduation requirement. More information for sponsors, donors or volunteers is available through [designcommittee@MainStreetTakoma.org](mailto:designcommittee@MainStreetTakoma.org). Please be sure to check out [www.MainStreetTakoma.org](http://www.MainStreetTakoma.org) and [www.Takomaonline.com](http://www.Takomaonline.com) for news as it develops.

Photo by Michele Morgan

ents, teachers and community leaders, many carrying hand made posters publicizing the importance of making our communities safe for walkers. The Montgomery County and Takoma Park Police Departments have partnered with the schools to emphasize the safe routes message, and the City's mayor and councilmembers have been invited to attend the festivities at Piney Branch, including a short school assembly on pedestrian safety.

Though event start times and locations vary at each school, all activities will take place between 8 and 9:45 a.m.

In the U.S., International Walk to School Day is expected to include 5,000 schools from 50 states. Walkers from the U.S. will join schools in 40 countries around the world.

Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

For more information, contact Lucy Neher, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, City of Takoma Park at 301-891-7220 or [lucyn@takomagov.org](mailto:lucyn@takomagov.org) or visit [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org), [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org) or [www.iwalktoschool.org](http://www.iwalktoschool.org).

### “Eat Takoma” Lays Out Local Dining

Wondering where to grab lunch today? How about coffee? Got a hankering for Af-

rican food at dinner? The City guide, “Eat Takoma,” can lead you to answers for all questions about eating locally in Takoma Park.

From Indian grocery stores to Bolivian restaurants, “Eat Takoma 2007” lists pages of choices, with 105 entries in all. You can find farmer's markets, bakeries and ice cream stores as well as restaurants and groceries listed by nationality: Asian (Cambodian, Chinese, Indian, Korean, Pakistani and Vietnamese); Caribbean (Cuban, Dominican, Jamaican and Trinidadian and Tobagoan); Latin American (Bolivian, Guatemalan, El Salvadoran and Peruvian); and Middle Eastern. There are also categories for vegetarian and vegan-friendly, seafood and fast food.

Maps of four commercial areas – Takoma Langley Crossroads, New Hampshire Avenue, Long Branch and Old Takoma – help you find your way, and a pricing key tells you what to expect when the bill comes.

“Eat Takoma” was produced by the City's Housing and Community Development department. To get a copy, drop by the Community Center or call 301-891-7119.

### Garden Bulbs are Back

After a break of a couple of years, the Takoma Horticulture Club is reviving its only fundraiser by once again selling high-quality bulbs at the Takoma Park Street Festival. This long-standing club tradition is now back by popular demand. The event is on Sunday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Takoma Park in front of 7018 Carroll. (Rain or shine - there is a tent



over the booth.) These bulbs are specially selected unique varieties that will do well in your garden. The bulbs are pre-packed by the Holland growers in quantities of 4 to 10 bulbs per bag. Cash or check only, 10 percent discount at the booth for THC members. For more information, email to [Laserblast@aol.com](mailto:Laserblast@aol.com).

## SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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





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



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PETITIONS

### 115 Lee Avenue (2007-21L)

On August 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$28.47 to \$83.10 on three units at the property. The improvements included plastering and painting, concrete work, plumbing, flooring, appliances, locks and smoke alarms. Some improvements were disallowed because they did not meet the six months requirement for filing a petition and/or submission of inadequate documentation.

### 8320 Roanoke Avenue (2007-34L)

On August 21, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$28.16 on one unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the refrigerator and painting.

### 700 Chaney Drive (2007-35L)

On August 27, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$8.42 to \$56 on five units at the property. The improvements included electrical wiring, electrical fixtures, flooring, painting, plumbing fixtures and doors.

### 8402 Flower Avenue (2007-37L)

On September 2, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$9.63 on one unit at the property. The improvement included installing a new electric range.

All rent increases for capital improvements are in addition to the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken. 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. 20 percent approved increase would be divided as 15 percent the first year and 5 percent the second year).

## CORRECTION NOTICE

### ANNUAL RENT STABILIZATION ALLOWANCE

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008  
2.5 percent

It has been brought to our attention that the 2007-2008 Annual Rent Stabilization Allowance published by the City of Takoma Park in April 2007 was incorrect. The Rent Stabilization Allowance is 2.5 percent - not 2.1 percent as originally announced - and should be used when calculating any rent increase between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

The corrected allowance should be used when recalculating any rent increase implemented on or after July 1, 2007. The resulting rent increase can be either applied to the maximum allowable rent and assessed when the unit turns over or retroactively assessed to the current tenant without the required 60-day notice. Written notice of the increase must be provided to the tenant. The difference between the corrected allowance and that originally published is approximately 40 cents per \$100 charged in rent.

For assistance in recalculating your rent using the corrected allowance, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

**A Tenant wants to know if her Landlord has the right to give her a two-month no-fault notice to vacate two months prior to the end of her lease term, if her initial one-year lease started on October 1, 2004.**

Yes, in accordance with Section 6.16.070.1. of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law a landlord is only prohibited from giving a tenant a two-month no-fault notice to vacate at the expiration of the *initial* one-year lease term.

Subsequent to the initial lease term and based on a 2003 change in the City's law however, tenants do not automatically become month-to-month tenants at the end of a lease term. In accordance with Section 6.16.090.E., if a landlord fails to either re-negotiate a renewal of a one-year lease or give a tenant a notice



## HOUSING Mailbox

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

301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at [MosesW@takomagov.org](mailto:MosesW@takomagov.org).

to vacate at least two months prior to the end of each lease term, then at the sole option of the tenant, he/she is presumed to have a one-year lease.

Since this tenant is beyond the initial lease time frame, a two-month notice to vacate can be given to the tenant two months prior to the end of her lease term. Since her initial lease was signed October 1 and assumed to end on September 30, the landlord would be required to provide her the Notice to Vacate no later than July 31.

Tenants or landlord having questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call

# Housing Department Offers Free Courses

*Don't delay.....*

*Registration is limited for the following classes offered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. If you are interested, please call Linda Walker at 301- 891-7222 or e-mail at [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org).*

## First Time Home Buyer Seminar (English)

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

**Where:** Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

## Seminario Para Quien Compra Casa Por Primera Vez (Español)

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

**Dónde:** Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

**Hora:** 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 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

**Where:** Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

**Time:** 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



# Anne Becker Appointed Takoma Park Poet Laureate

**T**akoma Park has a new poet laureate.

The City Council appointed Anne Becker to the position in July. She follows in the footsteps of Donald Berger, the city's first laureate, appointed two years ago.

Becker, a published poet, teacher and former producer of literary audio cassettes and radio programming, takes her poetry beyond the expected, often combining it with science. She has recently begun to work on a series of collaborations with musicians, visual artists and dancers as well.

"My poetry has brought me much happiness," said Ms. Becker following her appointment. "I welcome the opportunity to share my work and to encourage the community to explore the poet in each of them."

In her role as poet laureate, Becker will host a series of poetry workshops for adults, school aged children and

## ARTS In the News

teens, adults and children together, and for the residents of the Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. The results of these workshops will be compiled and published by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission as a community anthology.

"Ms. Becker is a deeply engaged and nurturing teacher of poetry to all ages; committed to providing community access to poetry," said John Borstel, a member of the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission that helped select Becker. "We are excited by her appointment and look forward to working with her."

The poet laureate program, established by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission in 2005, honors the achievements of a local poet and is designed to not only support and promote Takoma Park's poets but to stimulate interest in poetry and to encourage wider appreciation of poetry and literature.



Anne Becker

## Arts and Humanities Commission Celebrates Community's Creative Spirit

### GALLERY EXHIBIT Calligraphy by Dee Herman

Atrium Gallery, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

The exhibit, which includes Jewish wedding contracts and baby naming certificates, can be viewed throughout the month of October.

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES DAY Saturday, October 20

This one-day celebration is an opportunity to learn, discuss, explore and experience the arts and cultural offerings available in our community. Activities include pottery demonstrations, poetry labs, belly dancing and hip hop, films and music, literary discussions and story telling and much, much more. Participants include the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and the Washington Opera.

The event, held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for an hour or two, or spend the day with us as we celebrate the arts and humanities in Takoma Park.

Be sure to check the City's web site at [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) for more information.



## NATIONAL arts&humanities MONTH

### OPEN STUDIO TOUR AND HOLIDAY ART SALE Saturday, December 15

The Arts and Humanities Commission invites to you participate in the second annual Open Studio Tour and Holiday Art Sale. Hosted by the Commission, in partnership with A. Salon, Ltd. Studios, the event will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 15.

*If you are interested in participating in the art sale held at the Community Center or would like to open your studio for tours on the day of the event, please contact 301-891-7224 or by email, [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org).*



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK MARYLAND

### PUBLIC HEARING Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Tuesday, October 15, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium  
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD

The City of Takoma Park will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, October 15, 2007 to solicit community input regarding priority needs and proposed projects for its PY34 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. An additional opportunity for public comment has been scheduled for Monday, October 22, 2007 during the Council's regular session.

The CDBG program, initiated in 1974, is one of the oldest programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is designed to fund activities that primarily benefit low and moderate-income residents. CDBG grants are provided on an annual basis to communities such as Takoma Park to ensure decent affordable housing for all, provide services to the most vulnerable, create jobs, and expand business opportunities.

For more information on the CDBG program and the upcoming public hearing, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7224.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### Lyme Disease More Dangerous Than Depicted

To the Editor,

This letter is to correct a serious misstatement in Bob Guldin's otherwise very informative article on ticks and Lyme disease in the September Newsletter. Bob stated that if you are bitten by a tick but you remove it within 24 hours, you will not get Lyme disease. This is not true. Any time you are bitten by a tick that is infected with Lyme, you can also become infected. However, if you are bitten and you get the tick out and take an antibiotic, Doxycycline, within 24 hours, you can prevent Lyme disease.

I was bitten by a deer tick earlier this year, found it, and

called my doctor immediately. He prescribed two pills to be taken within 24 hours to prevent Lyme. The doctor's office and the pharmacy were both very vigilant to ensure that I got the drug quickly. The result: no bull's eye rash, no Lyme.

Lyme is a very serious disease. I have seen families' lives consumed by the illness and the treatments it requires. We can't eliminate ticks, but you can act quickly to prevent Lyme disease if you or someone you know happens to be bitten by a tick.

Catherine Tunis  
Takoma Park resident



RECREATION

OCT

ACTIVITIES

FONDAYS

Looking for something fun to do on school holidays?  
Check out the following trips coming up.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19**  
BAPA's Imagination Stage 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
Reston Zoo and Udvar-HazyAerospace Museum.

*Pre-registration is required.*  
Meet at the Takoma Park Community Center 7500  
Maple Ave.  
\$20 for residents and \$25 for non residents.

**FAMILY DAY TRIP**  
Trip is geared towards children 6 years and older. One  
family member must be 18 years or older. Meet in the  
parking lot in back of the Community Center. Advance  
registration is required and a minimum enrollment of  
13 must be met by RSVP date, October 19.

**Trip:** Corn Maze  
**When:** Sun., Oct. 28  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Fee/person:** T.P. Res. \$15  
Non-Res. \$20

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**  
Play your favorite games or learn a new one. Chal-  
lenge yourself in the game room with our basketball  
and ping pong games.

**When:** Fri., Oct. 12  
**Location:** Forsythia Room, T.P. Comm. Ctr.  
**Time:** 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**  
Movie is free and will be shown in the auditorium of  
the Community Center. Light refreshments will be  
available. All children must be accompanied by an  
adult.

**Movie:** Bridge to Terabithia - PG  
**When:** Fri., Oct. 19  
**Time:** 7 p.m.

**SENIORS HITCH A RIDE  
TO THE FARMER'S MARKET**

The Recreation Department is transporting the  
seniors to the Farmer's Market on New Hampshire  
Avenue on Wednesday, October 3.

**Three pick up points:**

Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave at 3 p.m.  
Franklin Apartments, 7620 Maple Ave at 3:05 p.m.  
Victory Towers, Carroll Ave 3:15 p.m.  
No charge.

*For more information, please call the Recreation  
Department at 301-891-7290.*



TAKOMA PARK'S

# HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

**CANINE COSTUME CONTEST**  
Halloween is going to the dogs. Dress your dog up  
for this second annual event. Categories include  
cutest, scariest, funniest and most original, within  
two divisions for small and big dogs. Dogs must  
be leashed and under control by handler. Co-  
sponsored by the Big Bad Woof. Doggie cake and  
refreshments will be served. Gifts for the winners  
will also be provided by sponsor.

**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Location:** Parking lot behind of Bank of  
America on Carroll Avenue.

**ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST**  
For all costumed characters...get all decked out  
and strut your stuff. Categories include most  
original, funniest and scariest. Ages 2 and under;  
3 - 4; 5 - 7; 8 - 10; 11 - 12; teen and adult. Par-  
ents...don't worry about embarrassing your kids  
by dressing up since everyone is joining in the fun  
and getting into the spirit!

**Time:** 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Intersection of Carroll and Laurel  
Avenues, Old Town Takoma Park

**HALLOWEEN PARADE**  
All are welcome to follow the Takoma Park Fire  
Department fire truck as it escorts hundreds of  
people down the parade route. This is a big  
Takoma Park tradition beginning at Carroll and  
Laurel Avenues, following Carroll Avenue to Fire  
House, left onto Philadelphia Avenue and ending  
at Piney Branch Elementary School. Don't be late!

**Time:** Approx. 5:45 p.m. (Immediately  
following the Costume Contest)

**HALLOWEEN BASH**  
Join us for refreshments and musical entertain-  
ment immediately following the parade. Co-spon-  
sored by the Takoma Park Lions Club at the Piney  
Branch Elementary School Multipurpose Room,  
this event brings everyone together to celebrate  
the season and view the contest winners in the  
audience. Special gratitude goes to the Takoma  
Park Lions Club, which has graciously served the  
Takoma Park community for several decades with  
its kindness and support.

**Time:** Approx. 6:15 p.m. (Immediately  
following the parade)  
**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary School

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER • FALL HOURS

Game Room	TZone (Teen Lounge)	Hours subject to change <i>Membership is required</i>
Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior citizens only	Monday through Friday 4-9:30 p.m. Saturday 1-5:30 p.m. Sunday 2-5:30 p.m.	7500 Maple Avenue Takoma Park, MD 20912 301-891-7290 tprecreation.org
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.		





Inset from left, Beatriz Otero, President and CEO of Centro Nía, receives a Welcome Certificate from Mayor Kathy Porter and Councilmember Doug Barry. Centro Nía, shown above, is a 20-year old community-based non-profit organization that provides bilingual education, professional development and family support services to nearly 1,500 low-income children and families in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. They recently opened a new facility on University Boulevard in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads area.

Photos: Lonni Moffet

## Takoma Park Rents for Parties

Takoma Park is known for its many green spaces, and many of its residents take advantage of its outdoor areas and use them for celebrations. It's easy to book a city facility for whatever occasion comes around -- birthday parties, meetings, baby showers or family picnics.

Download a Facility Use Application at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation) and click on HQ/Com/TPRC, or pick one up at the Community Center. Simply complete the form and return it to the Recreation office with two checks: one \$50 deposit (if required) and one for the total rental amount.

Small meeting rooms in the Community Center make great places for committee meetings or neighborhood planning; cost is \$10/hour for residents, \$35 for non-residents and \$55/hour for commercial enterprises. Larger meeting spaces, popular for children's birthday parties, include the Auditorium, Azalea Room and Heffner Park Community Center: they rent for \$20/hr for residents, \$45/hour non-residents and \$65/hour for commercial users. Park pavilions and fields for larger, outdoor gatherings can be rented at Jeque, Spring and Forest Parks for \$75/day.

## RECREATION DEPT.

continued from page 1

of facilities and programs, brings a passion for outdoor adventure and leadership; and Karla Kelley focuses entirely on teen programs, which have expanded by leaps and bounds since the Community Center opened.

In fact, the Community Center is another character in the story of Rec Department improvements. Since it opened, the department has an art room that has allowed painting, drawing, pottery and collage to take off. The dance studio has drawn in belly dancers, yogis and martial arts experts. And most important, for the underserved teens, a game room and the T-Zone, a social gathering spot for kids ages 13 to 19, is often packed on weekday afternoons and weekends, as it offers such popular toys as X-Box, Dance Dance Revolution, a large screen t.v. and, not incidentally, the company of other teens. Some 60 or 70 teens are registered as members of T-Zone.

Not that the tried and true will disappear - the Y.E.S. basketball league, indoor soccer, and other popular programs remain active. "We want to keep things fresh and also provide consistency for the traditional, popular programs," says Haiduven.

Building on the teen program, Kelley has initiated TGIF, when teens take over the Piney Branch Elementary School gym to play capture the flag, dodge ball, kickball, basketball, or dabble with arts and crafts; and "Road Tripz" that take them to the Laurel roller skating rink, Dave and Buster's, the movies, and Six Flags amusement park. Kelley also hopes to develop a service learning club and leadership training. "We have to give teens opportunities to learn, to gain experiences to grow into adulthood making healthy choices, but more importantly to care about the community in which they live," says Kelley. Clark, who worked extensively with teens in Prince George's County before he joined Takoma Park's team, agrees. "We want to get teens involved," he says. "We want them to plan the programs. We want to empower them."

Administratively, the department is trying to arrange for on-line registration and credit card payment for classes. Clark is also hoping to develop partnerships with local businesses.

Part of the energy behind the transformation of the Rec Department comes from a team approach that allows staffers to share their passions. Haiduven points out that while McLaren, who built a skate ramp in his college dorm room and helped develop the outdoor leadership program at Uni-



Since the Community Center opened, the Rec Department has been able to offer art classes like this pottery session in the art room. Other new facilities like the game room and dance studio have been instrumental in expanding teen programming and movement classes like yoga and martial arts.

Photo: Debra Haiduven

versity of Maryland, is big on extreme sports (there's a kayaking paddle in his office, along with photos of him hiking with his family), Carey Antoszewski, manager for school age programs, has a passion for art; staffer Betty Johnson tried out for the WNBA and plays a mean game of basketball; Clark is a flag football hall of famer; and Haiduven herself played college soccer. The day we interviewed Haiduven, she was getting ready to teach the afternoon soccer clinic. "Because this is a small department," she explains, "We fill in for each other and everybody does everything."

Some people have suggested the department tries to cover too much territory. Haiduven disagrees. She says she wants to create a thriving Community Center that serves the diverse interests of every niche in town. "We will try anything, as long as it's legal," she likes to say. "Some people have suggested we should do fewer things and do them really, really well. I think we should do more things, and do them very well."

With new staff and renewed energy, her optimistic outlook is more convincing every day.



# Riordan Books Snag Reluctant Readers

By Karen MacPherson

Looking for a book series to tempt a reluctant reader? Try the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series by Rick Riordan.

So far, there are three books in this series: "The Lightning Thief," "The Sea of Monsters" and "The Titan's Curse." The humor-filled books begin with a fascinating premise: a wise-cracking New York City boy named Percy Jackson learns that he is actually a "half-blood," the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, the Greek god of the seas.

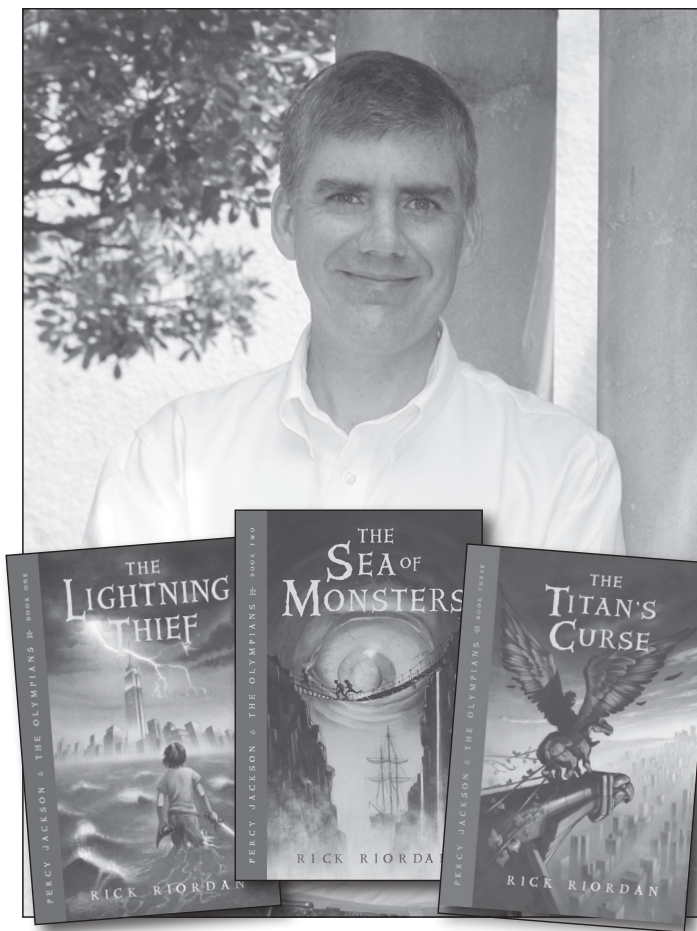
The teen-aged Percy, who has both dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), soon finds himself in the midst of a continuing battle between various Greek gods, who are still active in the modern world. And, when he arrives at Camp Half-Blood, Percy discovers that there are other "half-bloods" like him - kids who have one human parent and one parent who is a Greek god. But the persistent rivalries between the parental Greek gods spill over into the next generation and Percy often finds himself at odds with some of the other half-blood kids, even those he likes, such as Annabeth, daughter of Athena.

Meanwhile, there's always a job to be done - returning Zeus' stolen lightning bolt, retrieving the Golden Fleece, and countering the Oracle's prophecy of doom. Together with his best friend Grover, a satyr, Percy somehow manages to complete these tasks, showing that he's both intelligent and brave, despite the fact that he's been kicked out of six schools for misbehavior and poor grades.

In fact, Riordan, 43, deliberately created a hero who isn't perfect. Riordan's oldest son, 12-year-old Haley, has dyslexia, and many of Riordan's middle school students also struggled with learning problems. As a result, Riordan decided to write books in which the hero is imperfect, yet still manages to get the job done.

Riordan's goal is to attract kids who aren't necessarily readers, al-

**RIORDAN** continues on page 11



Author Rick Riordan and the covers of his Percy Jackson trilogy.



## LIBRARY Briefs

### Halloween Stories

Popular storyteller Candace Wolf returns on Monday, Oct. 29 with another round of spooky stories for Halloween. Each year, Wolf sends shivers down the spines of her listeners with her vividly-told stories of scary people and places. Please call 301-891-7259 to register for the program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Parents/guardians: please note that this program is best for ages eight and up, as little ones might be frightened.

### Win Prizes During Teen Read Week

Calling all middle school and high school students! To celebrate Teen Read Week - Oct. 14-20 - we're having a contest. It's easy to enter: just tell us what is your favorite young adult book and why. Entry forms are available at the Library's main desk. We'll draw winners' names from a hat on Friday, Oct. 19. Prizes include a Borders gift card and a box of 10 new young adult books. (Note: you don't have to be present at the Friday drawing to win.)

### T(w)een Book Club Comes with Ice Cream

We're having the first meeting of our book club for middle school students on Thursday, Oct. 18, from 5-6 p.m. Our book is "12 Again" by Sue Corbett, a comical tale about how a boy deals with the fact that his mother has inexplicably reverted to her 12-year-old self. Both boys and girls will enjoy this book, and copies of "12 Again" are available at the library's front desk for check-out. Our book discussion will include a special fun component - a make your own ice cream sundae party. Who says you can't have dessert before dinner?! There are only spaces for 10 people, so please sign up by calling 301-891-7259.

### Bedtime Stories

Come in your p.j.s and bring your blankies and stuffed animals to our next Bedtime Stories program, Monday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. We'll read stories and sing songs designed to help kids slide along into dreamland. This program is perfect for children ages 2-6, although younger and older children are welcome. Please sign up by calling 301-891-7259.

### Twosies

Our popular "Twosies" program will be offered on Wednesday mornings, from 10-10:30 a.m., throughout October. If you've got a two-year-old and are interested in participating, please call 301-89-17259. (For those with babies, our "Lapsit" program for babies under one year will return in November).

## Sessions Explore College Application Process

Join us at the Library on Thursday evenings in October, when nationally recognized experts offer guidance to students applying to college in a series of free programs. Call 301-270-7259 to pre-register. All programs are presented by the Takoma Park Maryland Library with the support of the Friends of the Library.

### Thursday October 11 at 7:30 p.m.:

Dr. Lori Potts Dupre will present an overview of the college selection process. What schools might provide the right fit - academically, financially and personally - for you? Topics include sorting out your personal criteria and goals and the admissions process.

Potts-Dupre grew up in the Washington, D.C. area. She earned the B.S. and M.Ed. degrees at the University of California, Davis in Applied Behavioral Sciences, and her PhD in education at the University of Maryland, College Park. In 1994 she was appointed as Faculty Research Associate at the National Center for Postsecondary Governance and Finance, where she investigated governance issues in higher education. She also coordinated admissions for the Francis Scott Key and Banneker programs at College Park, and taught in the Honors program.

Potts-Dupre opened her college consulting practice in Takoma Park, Maryland in 1997. She has evaluated more than 350 cam-

pusers nationwide, and continues to visit and evaluate dozens of colleges every year. She attained the CEP (Certified Educational Planner) designation, the highest standard in the profession, in 1999. In the fall of 2003 she was appointed as a commissioner to the American Institute of Certified Education Planners.

### Thursday October 18 at 7 p.m.:

Dr. Ilhan Cagri will demystify the dreaded SATs. [note earlier time!] Cagri and a trained colleague will share their experiences and insights on both the verbal and math compo-

**COLLEGE PREP** continues on page 11

### Neighborhood Circle Time

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

### Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday  
10 a.m.  
At the Library

### College Bound - Dr. Lori Potts Dupre

Overview of the college selection process  
Thursday, Oct. 11  
7:30 p.m. at the Library  
Please register by calling  
301-891-7259

### T(w)een Book Club

Thursday, Oct. 18  
5-6 p.m.

## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2007

Rose Room, Community Center  
Please register by calling 301-891-7259

### College Bound - Dr. Ilhan Cagri

Demystifying the SATs  
Thursday, Oct. 18  
7 p.m. at the Library  
Please register by calling  
301-891-7259

### Bedtime Story Time

Monday, Oct. 22  
7 p.m. at the Library

Bring your teddy bears (or other stuffed favorites)

Pajamas, pillows and blankets are welcome. Please call  
301-891-7259 to sign up

### College Bound - Dr. Herm Davis

Figuring out the financial aid process  
Thursday, Oct. 25  
7:30 p.m. at the Library  
Please call 301-891-7259 to register

### Scary Stories for Halloween

Candace Wolf, storyteller  
Monday, Oct. 29  
7:30 p.m. at the Library  
Please call 301-891-7259 to register  
Best for ages 8 and up





## CANDIDATE'S FORUM for the City of Takoma Park Election of City Council and Mayor

Sunday, October 14  
7 to 9 p.m.  
Community Center Auditorium

Sponsored by the *Takoma Voice*. For more information, contact [eric@takoma.com](mailto:eric@takoma.com)



# Takoma Park 2007 Election • Takoma Park Elección del 2007

## 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

## 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 a.m. a 8 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.

votar sin haber registrado apropiadamente.

**No Ciudadano Americano** - Cualquier residente de Takoma Park que no es ciudadano Americano y que satisface los requisitos para poder registrarse como votante en cualquier elección según el Artículo I, Sección I, de la Constitución de Maryland, y Sección 3-102 del Artículo 33, como enmendado, o cualquier provisión equivalente del Código Anotado de Maryland, podrá registrarse en la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal, quien mantendrá una lista de votantes separada de la lista producida por el Condado de Montgomery, incluyendo los nombres de los que no son ciudadanos Americanos.

## Elecciones por distrito

Hay seis distritos y los Consejales son electos por los votantes en sus respectivos distritos.

Esto quiere decir que sólo aquellas personas registradas con una dirección en un distrito particular pueden votar por un Consejal quien representará a ese distrito.

Si una persona está inscrita con una dirección de un distrito y se ha mudado a otro sin dar aviso al Consejo Electoral del Condado Montgomery (ciudadanos de Estados Unidos), o a la Secretaría de la Municipalidad (personas que no son ciudadanas de Estados Unidos), según corresponda, tiene que votar en el distrito donde esté registrado. No será posible transferir su inscripción en un distrito a otro después de la fecha de cierre del día lunes, 8 de octubre. El día de las elecciones, usted tendrá que votar de acuerdo al domicilio que figure en el padrón de votantes certificados. Si tiene alguna otra pregunta sobre su inscripción, por favor comuníquese con la agencia de registro idónea.

## Voter Registration for Takoma Park residents - U.S. citizens and non-citizens October 8 Deadline!

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.

**U.S. Citizens:** Any resident of Takoma Park who is a United States citizen may register to vote at the Board of Elections Supervisors for Montgomery County any time these offices are open for business or by mail. Registration shall be permanent unless such registration shall be canceled as provided by state law. No person is entitled to vote unless properly registered.

**Non-U.S. Citizens:** Any resident of Takoma Park who is not a United States citizen, and who is otherwise qualified to be registered as a voter in any election pursuant to Article I, Section I of the Constitution of Maryland, and Section 3-102 of Article 33, as amended, or any equivalent provision(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, may register with the City Clerk, who shall maintain a separate voter roll from the existing voter roll generated by the Montgomery County Board of Elections, to include the names of those non-United States Citizens.

## Election by Wards

There are six wards and Councilmembers are elected by the voters of their respective wards.

This means that only those persons registered at an address in a particular ward may vote for a Councilmember

who is to represent that ward.

If a person is registered at an address in one ward and has moved to a different ward without notifying the Montgomery County Board of Elections (U.S. citizens) or the City Clerk (Non-U.S. Citizens, as applies, she/he must vote in the ward in which she/he is registered. It will not be possible to transfer your registration from one ward to another after the registration cut-off date on Monday, October 8. On election day, you will be required to vote according to the address which is reflected on the certified voter roll. If you have questions about your registration, please contact the appropriate registration authority.

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

### La fecha límite para registrarse para votar es el 8 de octubre

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

**Ciudadanos Americanos** - Cualquier residente de Takoma Park que sea ciudadano Americano puede registrarse para votar en la Oficina de Elecciones del Condado de Montgomery en persona o por correo. Su registración será permanente a menos que su registración sea cancelada por ley del estado. Ninguna persona tiene el derecho de

## Absentee Ballots

Voters who may be absent from the City on election day or cannot personally vote at the polls on election day because of illness or physical disability may apply to vote by absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30. Emergency absentee balloting begins October 31 for voters required to be absent on the day of election for any reason of which the person becomes aware after the time for applying for an absentee ballot.

Applications to vote by absentee ballot are available at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or by contacting the City Clerk at 301-891-7267.

## Voto en ausencia

Los votantes que no podrán estar presentes el día de la elección o que no puedan ir a votar en persona el día de la elección, debido a alguna enfermedad o incapacidad física pueden solicitar su votación a través de una boleta ausente. La Secretaría Municipal deberá recibir las solicitudes para las boletas ausentes antes del martes 30 de octubre, a las 4:00 p.m. La solicitud de las boletas ausentes de emergencia comenzarán el 31 de octubre para aquellos casos de votantes que tengan que estar ausentes el día de las elecciones por una razón de la cual no tuvieron conocimiento hasta después que finalizó el periodo habilitado para solicitar una boleta ausente.

Se puede obtener una aplicación para votar a través de boleta ausente en la pagina web [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) o se puede comunicar a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al 301-891-7214.





## PoliceBEAT

# Little Vampires Plagued this Year by Sunlight

BY CATHERINE PLEVY

It's that time of year again. Time for all the little witches, ghosts and goblins to go out in search of treats. Halloween is an exciting time for children of all ages, but we want to make sure they understand how to keep themselves safe, whether they are with their parents or out with friends.

Through 2006, Daylight Saving Time (DST) in the U.S. ended a few days before Halloween (October 31). The new federal law to extend DST to the first Sunday in November will provide trick-or-treaters more light and therefore more safety from traffic accidents. This added hour of light means a big holiday treat for the children and some peace of mind for parents.

### Still, though, it would be remiss not to issue some safety tips:

1. Make sure your child's costume is bright and reflective since it will become dark outside during the course of their trick or treating. If it's not, consider putting reflective tape or stripping on their costumes. Make sure their shoes fit well and their costumes are short enough that they don't find themselves tripping.
2. Put your child's name, address and phone number somewhere on them, especially for little ones, in case they get separated from you.
3. Review with your child "Stop-Drop-Roll" in case their costume does come in contact with fire.
4. By using a flashlight, they can see and be seen by others.
5. Stay in a group, walk slowly and communicate where you are going.
6. Only trick-or-treat in well known neighborhoods at homes that have a porch light on.
7. Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
8. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
9. Never cut across yards or use alleys.
10. Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
11. Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations.
12. Always walk. Never run across a street.
13. Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom).
14. Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway or alley.
15. Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will.
16. Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered.
17. No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home.
18. Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

### When trick-or-treating, remind your child(ren):



## False Alarms Will Now Cost Takoma Park Residents and Business Owners

BY RONALD RICUCCI  
CHIEF OF POLICE

False alarms will start costing the residents and business owners of the City of Takoma Park. Beginning January 1, 2008, no distinction will be made between the City of Takoma Park alarm users and any other alarm user in Montgomery County. The City of Takoma Park has adopted Chapter 3A, Alarms, of the Montgomery County Code.

On July 1, the Takoma Park Police Department began utilizing the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) 9-1-1 equipment, which means that they can now retrieve data on alarm calls for service within the incorporated City of Takoma Park.

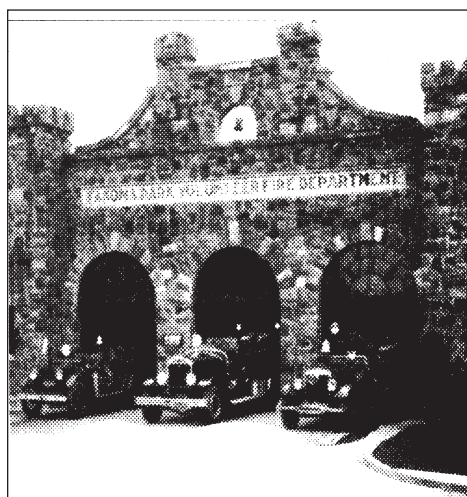
The MCPD False Alarm Reduction Section (FARS) will implement a phased approach to enforcing the alarm law in Takoma Park. The first step will be to register all Takoma Park alarm users. The FARS expects to have all existing City of Takoma Park alarm users registered by September 30. Starting October 1, all alarm companies must provide the alarm user a registration number for each of their City of Takoma Park alarm users. Between October 1 and December 31, the FARS will provide ongoing education to the City of Takoma Park alarm users about their responsibilities under the alarm law.

On January 1, 2008, full enforcement will begin with the imposition of false alarm response fees to alarm users with more than one false alarm in a calendar year, and with the issuance of civil citations to alarm companies that violate the provisions of Chapter 3A, Alarms, of the Montgomery County Code with respect to City of Takoma Park alarm users.

All users will register through their alarm companies for a \$30 fee, and then \$10 every two years thereafter.

### The penalties/fines for false alarms are as follows:

- First false alarm in the calendar year will be free.
- Second false alarm = \$25
- Third false alarm = \$50
- Fourth false alarm = \$75
- Fifth false alarm = \$100
- Sixth false alarm = \$125
- These fees will continue in increased increments of \$25 until the fifteenth false alarm, which will be a fine of \$1,000.



## Firehouse REPORT

As of Aug. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park sta-

tion have responded to 651 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,024 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 2,675 incidents this year. Totals for 2006 were 680 and 1,762, respectively, for a total of 2,442, representing an increase of 233 incidents.

### Fire Prevention Tips

A fire escape plan is something everyone needs, but no one ever wants to have to use. If there anything more important than a fire escape plan, it's a fire prevention plan. Keep the following in mind:

- Keep toddlers away from matches, lighters, flammable liquids and space heaters, and never leave young children unattended in the kitchen.
- Do not cook in loose clothing, especially clothing with loose sleeves that hang down. If a cooking fire starts, smother the flames with a lid. Never put water on grease fires.
- Do not use flammable liquids and aerosols (cleaners, nail polish removers, hairspray, etc.) near heat sources such as stoves and space heaters, or while smoking.

- Keep papers, clothes and curtains at least three feet away from space heaters.
  - Smoking is the leading cause of fatal home fires. Do not smoke while you are drowsy. Also, if you host a party and one or some of your guests smoke, make sure before you go to bed that no one has dropped a cigarette butt into any furniture, where it can smolder for hours and eventually ignite.
  - To avoid electrical fires, do not overload outlets, and routinely check electrical devices, especially older ones, for frayed or otherwise damaged cords.
  - If you have a wood-burning fireplace, have the chimney checked and cleaned yearly to prevent creosote buildup. Always put a screen in front of fireplaces to stop flying sparks.
  - Store flammable liquids in approved containers in a well ventilated place. They should be stored in an unattached shed or garage.
- JUST A REMINDER...Make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Test them monthly and change

the batteries twice a year when you change your clocks.

### NO CHRISTMAS TREE SALES!

Please be advised, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will not be selling Christmas trees this year. This is due to the "temporary fire station" to be constructed on the site where we previously sold our trees. The construction should start within the next couple months. We also surveyed the city to see if we could find another site to accommodate our needs. No luck! It's our understanding, it will take approximately 18 months to complete the construction of the new fire station. We're not sure about tree sales for 2008. On behalf of all the members of TPVFD, we want to thank all of you that have visited our lot over the years.

### Fill the Boot

The members of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank all of you who donated money to our Annual "Fill the Boot" to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



## "Fall Back" A Whole Week

BY CATHERINE PLEVY

**W**e already sprang forward and now it's time to fall back, but not by just an hour; a whole week. On November 4, all clocks should be set back one hour beginning at 2 a.m. Although in past years Daylight Saving Time (DST) has ended in October, new federal law dictates that DST will end one week later beginning this year to conserve energy. Please be aware that DST could affect your mobile devices (Blackberry), e-mail programs, Outlook calendar or Computer Operating System (Windows, Mac, etc.). Take extra time to make sure your appointments are syncing with the time change. In addition, many fire departments encourage people to change

the batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks.

### When You're Born on the Edge

While twins born at 11:55 p.m. and 12:05 a.m. may have different birthdays, Daylight Saving Time can change birth order -- on paper, anyway. During the time change in the fall, one baby could be born at 1:55 a.m. and the sibling born ten minutes later, at 1:05 a.m. In the spring, there is a gap when no babies are born at all: from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. (written by David Prerau, based on his book, "Seize the Daylight: The Curious and Contentious Story of Daylight Saving Time").

## RIORDAN

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though his books also appeal to good readers. In addition, while readers don't have to know anything about Greek mythology to enjoy the books, those kids who do know something about the subject will find that an extra added attraction as they enjoy how Riordan manipulates and builds onto some of the classic tales.

"These books were kid-generated from the beginning," Riordan said in a recent telephone interview from his home in San Antonio. "It all began when I was telling stories to my son, Haley. He was studying Greek myths in the second grade and asked me to tell him some bedtime stories about the gods and heroes.

"I had taught Greek myths for many years at the middle school level and so I was happy to comply with his request.... It was really his idea that I should write it down.... Then I picked a few of my sixth, seventh and eighth graders to read the novel.... Fortunately, the kids liked it."

But "The Lightning Thief" wasn't the first book Riordan had published. His first book, "Big Red Tequila," was published in 1997, the start of an adult mystery series featuring a hard-boiled detective named Tres Navarre, who is a martial arts master with a PhD in medieval English literature. So far, Riordan has published eight Tres Navarre mysteries

and won several of the most coveted awards in the mystery field.

Recently, Riordan, who is married and has two sons, made the difficult decision to stop teaching so he can focus full-time on his writing. Because teaching is in his blood (Riordan's parents were both teachers), however, Riordan does lots of school visits, viewing it as a way to keep teaching without the extra challenge of managing a classroom.

"I feel that this way, I can do both - teaching and writing. Just writing the books is a form of teaching as well. It's not quite as personal. But, instead of teaching 30 students, I'm teaching hundreds of thousands," said Riordan.

Riordan has just finished the fourth book of Percy's adventures, which will be published next spring. And he plans a fifth and final book in the Percy Jackson series before trying something new for kids - perhaps a series based on Norse mythology.

"There are a lot of wonderful mythologies I'd like to explore," Riordan said. But Riordan also didn't close the door on any more stories from Camp Half-Blood. While Percy's story will be wrapped up in five books, "I'm not going to say that I'm never going back to Camp Half-Blood."

Come and check out the library's collection of Riordan's books. We've got all three Percy Jackson books in print, plus a CD version of "The Titan's Curse." And, for adults who enjoy a good mystery, try one of the three Tres Navarre books we've got on the shelves.

## COLLEGE PREP

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nents of the current SAT format, introduced in spring 2005.

Cagri received her PhD in Linguistics at the University of Maryland. As a Faculty Research Associate at the University of Maryland School of Languages, she is currently conducting a research project on second language acquisition. She has taught and designed SAT preparation classes for Montgomery County Public Schools, in private schools and as a private tutor. Parents and students have found her insights practical and helpful.

**Thursday October 25 at 7:30 p.m.**

Dr. Herm Davis will discuss college financ-

ing options, including the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work study, college savings plans, the FAFSA application and more.

One of the nation's foremost college aid authorities, Davis heads the National College Scholarship Foundation and directs College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. During his 35 years of working in the field of financial aid he has authored several financial aid publications including "College Financial Aid for Dummies." He has also developed a computer scholarship database, consulted for several scholarship foundations and for the Petersons' Financial publications. Dr. Davis has undergraduate degrees in business and education, a Masters Degree in guidance and counseling, and a PhD from George Washington University in Higher Education.

## Remember: We Recycle Light Bulbs

The compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) increasingly used to conserve energy contain mercury. They should not be thrown out with the trash. Instead, recycle the bulbs at Takoma Park's Public Works, 31 Oswego Avenue. Look for the drop-off box next to the front door, or visit during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Fall Events Crowd City TV

City TV crews will be busy covering many community events this fall. On October 2, the Nominating Caucus will be broadcast live from the Community Center to start off the 2007 Election Season. On Sunday, October 7, video crews will be covering the music on all three stages at the 26th Annual Takoma Street Festival.

On Sunday, October 14, please join the "Takoma Voice" for its Candidates Forum, featuring candidates for Mayor and City Council in the Community Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. On October 27, City TV crews will celebrate Halloween with the Recreation Department at the annual Costume Contest and Parade. Check out the Canine Costume Contest!

Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at [www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable](http://www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable) for specific program information. City TV is carried on Channel 13 on Comcast and RCN, and Channel 28 on the Verizon system.

### Takoma Snapshots in October will include

1. Community Oriented Policing: Ride-Along with Corporal Nick Carter



2. Family Day at the Crossroads Farmers Market
3. Folk Festival 30th Anniversary Highlights

Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are also available on DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

## PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - OCTOBER 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.  
CITY TV is carried on Channel 13 on Comcast and RCN and channel 28 on Verizon



# City Gears Up for Fall Leaf Collection

Loose leaf collection will be provided by the City from November 5 through December 21. Residents can rake leaves out to the curb at their convenience. Most City streets will not have an assigned collection day. However, every street in the City will receive at least two collections. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Leaf collection is dependent on the weather. Rain and freezing conditions can slow collection.

There are five streets that will have assigned and posted collection dates, due to the heavy traffic volume on these streets. Carroll Avenue - 7000 to 7800 block, Ethan Allen Avenue, and Flower Avenue - 7900 to 8600 block will have collection on Monday, November 19 and Thursday, December 13. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Thursday, November 15 and Monday, December 17. On these dates, only these streets will receive collection.

There are two holidays in November during which no collection will occur. Veteran's Day will be celebrated on Monday, November 12 and the Thanksgiving holiday is November 22 and 23.

For the month of November, the crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. During December, the crews will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves and clean the streets and rights of way.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. Please contact Public Works by phone: 301-891-7633. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 to notify us when your leaves have been raked out. We plan to

collect reported piles from the hotline calls within a week of the call.

The City also operates the weekly Monday collection for bagged grass, leaves, branches and brush all year long. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than four feet long and less than three inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in a trash can. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled on weeks with a Monday holiday.

## LEAF COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Collection will occur continuously from November 5 to December 21.
- Residents can rake leaves at their convenience, there is no assigned collection day (except for the five state highways in the City which have assigned collection days).
- Residents should place leaves inside the curb, free of branches and debris.
- Vacuum leaf collection will end December 21, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.
- Leaf Collection Hotline for reporting piles, 301-891-7626.



## PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES FOR VACUUM LEAF COLLECTION:

- Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. Do not rake leaves into the street. Wet leaves can create traffic hazards.
- Pile leaves away from cars. Do not park your car in front of a leaf pile and when raking please try to avoid piling leaves where cars are parked.
- The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. Do not include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.
- Do not pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.

## A FESTIVAL FOR TAKOMA PARK FOLK(S)



Last month's Takoma Park Folk Festival drew music lovers and politicians, dancers, artists and foodies to the Takoma Park Middle School for the annual celebration. Crowds enjoyed everything from hip hop to klezmer, ballet to square dancing. Check out City TV for film of the show.

Photo by Lanni Moffet

