

**NEXT
DEADLINE:**
**Nov. 19 for Nov.
30
print date**

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

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

**SPECIAL
PULL-OUT:**
**New Hampshire
Ave.
Development
Pages 7-10**

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NOVEMBER 2007

Popular Market Celebrates 25 Years

By VIRGINIA MYERS

There were only six farmers selling produce in a run-down neighborhood when the Takoma Park Farmer's Market first opened. It was 1983, and Laurel Avenue was set for revitalization – but the street lights and benches were barely in, and one vendor remembers sweeping up hypodermic needles before he could set out his market stand. Customers trickled in, and it was a good day for the growers if they made enough to cover the gas it took to drive the truck in from the farm.

But the vendors were patient, and they saw potential. Takoma Park had all the right components, remembers Chip Planck, who first proposed the market to the City Council. "It was an urban area, it had lots of people nearby, it was filling up with families," says Planck, who with his wife Susan Planck runs Wheatland Vegetable Farms in Virginia. Soon, the market also had "an enthusiastic sponsor" – he'd convinced the City Council to sanction the market. For the next 15 years, it ran through city government, with support from staff, until it became an independent non-profit in 1997. Four of the original vendors still come every Sunday: Wheatland Vegetable Farms, Potomac Vegetable Farms, Roland's Farm and Twin Springs Fruit Farm.

This pioneering market – one of the first in the Washington metropolitan area, and a leader in the producer-only movement -- is a vibrant part of what defines the City. With 22 vendors and an enthusiastic clientele, it offers everything from free-range eggs to organic herbs, fig trees, flowers, fruit, vegetables, baked goods, grass fed and organic meats, cheeses – and more. For four hours every Sunday, it takes up both sides of Laurel Avenue and its clientele spill out across the church lawn and into local shops.

More important than volume is character. "It's fun to sell to



Susan Planck, of Wheatland Vegetable Farms, is one of the founding vendors of the Takoma Park Farmer's Market, started in 1982 and still going strong.

PHOTO: JOHN HYDE

FARMERS MARKET continues on page 15

Elections for City Council Tues., Nov. 6

Be sure to see our elections coverage on pages 6 and 11 (pull the page out for a full spread of info). We have input and photos from each of the city council and mayoral candidates – even those running unopposed. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. More details about how to make your voice heard in this city election inside.



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Officials Join Takoma Park Community in Challenging Takoma Station Plan

By SHERYL GROSS-GLASER

County, state, and federal officials have joined Takoma, D.C. and Maryland community members and the city council in raising serious questions about the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) plan to sell Takoma Metro Station land, including the green space, to developer EYA to build at least 85 townhouses, with mostly two-car garages, plus a wholesale reconfiguration of pedestrian, handicapped, and vehicle access to the site.

Leaders have responded to a grass-roots effort by DC-MD Neighbors for Takoma Transit (<http://dc-mdneighborsfortakomatransit.org/>) that has resulted in hundreds of postcards and a significant number of lengthy e-mail messages sent to political leaders and WMATA protesting the proposed development. As public opinion continues to roll in, the WMATA board has delayed its vote on the matter until November 8.

Congressman Chris Van Hollen calls the project "significantly flawed" in a letter to WMATA. Van Hollen says the design is not transit oriented, pointing out that it degrades the current configuration where bus and private vehicle traffic are separated, increases the distance disabled users must traverse to reach the station elevator, and does not leave sufficient space for future bus needs. He urges WMATA "to reject the plans for development at the Takoma Metro station as currently outlined."

County Executive Ike Leggett asks that WMATA postpone the deal. "I strongly believe that it would be a mistake to proceed with a design that we know will result in significant and unnecessary pedestrian

and vehicular hazards."

County Councilmember Marc Elrich questions whether WMATA is placing real estate development ahead of the needs of the commuting public. "Transit access to the station is not being improved. Pedestrian and auto access will actually be worse, not better, than it is under the current design. The space allocated for bus bays, the essential connection of the larger population to the Metro system, will not allow adequate future growth." Councilmember Valerie Ervin also requests a postponement on the proposal. She is "not satisfied that the current EYA Project meets the needs of the community."

Despite the opposition, WMATA insists that the plan addresses transit, parking and development needs for the area, without entirely eliminating green space. For WMATA's detailed review of the issue, see http://www.wmata.com/about/community/Takoma_landing.cfm.

But even the Maryland District 20 delegation, representing Takoma Park and parts of Silver Spring, sees serious unanswered questions. Its letter to WMATA, signed by State Senator Jamie Raskin and delegates Heather Mizeur, Tom Hucker, and Sheila Hixson, asks why WMATA is selling 6.8 acres of prime real estate for only \$2.5 million and reminds WMATA that transit should be its top priority.

The Takoma Park City Council also opposes the current plan. Its resolutions regarding the property are available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro/index.html.

*Sheryl Gross-Glaser is a member of DC-MD
Neighbors for Takoma Transit.*

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

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

Wednesday, October 31 - emergency absentee balloting begins

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

Tuesday, November 6 - City Election, polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

Wednesday, November 7 - Special meeting of the City Council to receive the certification of election results, 7 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Wednesday, November 7 - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6:45 p.m., (CC Hydrangea Room)

Friday, November 9, 5 p.m. - deadline for contesting the results of the election and validity of absentee ballot voting

Monday, November 12 - City holiday (Veterans Day). City offices will be closed.

Tuesday, November 13, 4 p.m. - final campaign contribution report due to City Clerk

Tuesday, November 13 - (tentative) Regular meeting of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, November 13 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Tuesday, November 13 - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

Tuesday, November 13 - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, November 19 - City Council Inauguration Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, November 20 - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, November 22 - City holiday (Thanksgiving Day). City offices will be closed

Friday, November 23 - City holiday. City offices will be closed

Monday, November 26 - Regular meeting of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, November 27 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, November 27 - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, November 28 - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Thursday, November 29 - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea 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 Clerk at 301-891-7267, 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.

Regular Meeting - September 24

Resolution 2007-41 was adopted, strongly urging the WMATA Board to reject the recommendations of the WMATA public hearing staff report and to direct WMATA staff to determine the size and configuration of land at the Takoma Metro Station needed for current and future transit use.

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-45 was adopted, authorizing the purchase of a replacement boiler for the old section of the Community Center.

Ordinance 2007-46 was accepted at first reading, awarding a contract for fabrication and installation of interior building signage.

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-47 was adopted, awarding a contract for fabrication and installation of gateway and identification signs (NAY: Seamens).

Resolution 2007-42 was adopted, authorizing submission of the Community Legacy Program application.

Resolution 2007-43 was adopted, supporting Neighborhood Business Works Program financing for Bikram Yoga, LLC (7324 Carroll Avenue).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-43 was adopted, providing for the 2007 Nominating Caucus and City Election.

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-42 was adopted, as amended, adjusting the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers (effective for the Council to be sworn in on November 19, 2007).

Special Session - October 1

Resolution 2007-44 was adopted, recognizing Dave Lorentz for cultural contributions to the City.

Resolution 2007-45 was adopted, supporting civil marriage legislation in Maryland.

Ordinance 2007-46 was adopted at second reading, awarding a contract for fabrication and installation of interior building signage.

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-48 was adopted, awarding a contract for replacement of the boiler in the old section of the Community Center and repealing the previous award (Ordinance 2007-45).

*Only negative votes and abstentions 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**

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SERVE ON THE POLICE PENSION PLAN COMMITTEE

The City is seeking a Takoma Park resident to serve as a member of the Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee. Applicants should have experience or education related to investments and/or pension administration.

**The committee meets quarterly,
8:30 - 10 a.m. in the
Community Center.**

*To apply or request additional
information, contact the City Clerk
at 301-891-7267 or
JessieC@takomagov.org.*

LEAF COLLECTION STARTS NOV. 5

Place loose leaves (not bagged) inside the curb; Public Works will collect continuously, Nov. 5-Dec. 21.

No assigned collection day unless you're on a state highway. See Oct. "Newsletter" or <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks/leaf-sche.html> for details.





Photo: Karen Hampton

Wearing Both Hats

Karen Hampton Plays Staff Here, Council There

By VIRGINIA MYERS

As City elections approach this month, Karen Hampton continues her work as Human Resources manager unaffected by Takoma Park politics. All the same, she is running a campaign of her own - for City Council of College Park.

Hampton has been on the College Park City Council for four years, and a community activist in that city for more than a decade. This year, she runs unopposed.

Although the two cities are different in many ways - College Park has a student population, no police department, a major highway slicing through it, and lots of commercial properties - it is Takoma Park that inspired Hampton to become an activist in her home town. "It all stems from the City of Takoma Park," she says, recalling her initial involvement in her community. "I saw how the residents here were very active and involved. It was genuine, they really wanted to know what was going on in their community." As a University of Maryland graduate student, Hampton wrote a paper about the role of advisory committees, and learned more about how she might get involved. Then she got herself appointed to the College Park Recreation Committee. It was the first of many such appointments.

After a narrowly unsuccessful bid for a council seat that became vacant mid-term, in 1997, Hampton continued her activism, serving on the Noise Board, co-chairing the Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee, and sitting on the Board of Housing and Hygiene (code enforcement) Committee. Then, in 2001, she ran against a long-time incumbent, and won.

Hampton credits Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter for encouraging her, and helping her through the initial years as a city legislator. It took Hampton a while to learn the alphabet soup of municipal politics - CDBG, COG, M-NCPPC, ADA. But she sat back and listened, the only female and the only minority on the Council, and learned.

"It was probably the end of the first year I learned how

to say, 'second,'" she remembers. "Since then I have participated in the Maryland Municipal League's Board as a member at large and district vice president. She was also part of the executive board of directors there, working closely with Porter, another member. She has been president of the Prince George's County Elected Municipal Women and president of the Prince George's County Municipal Association, where she coordinated the first joint meeting with the Montgomery County Municipal League. She's participated in Metropolitan Washington Council on Government committees with Takoma Park Councilmembers Terry Seamens and Bruce Williams, as well. She considers the Takoma Park mayor and council to be her "bosses" as manager of human resources, but colleagues when she moves in the realm of broader city government. "It is pretty cool to switch off hats," she says.

Perhaps the closest link between her Takoma Park and College Park jobs is the opportunity to help people in those communities. As an HR manager, she takes care of employees — health insurance, family matters. As councilmember, she addresses everything from noisy neighbors to new development. "When a constituent calls and has a question or a concern, we can get that issue resolved," she says. "That makes me feel good." She also loves to visit the schools. "I really enjoy working with the kids," she says, sharing with them what it means to be a public servant, and sometimes judging science fairs. She initiated the Municipal Bowl, a game show-style competition among fifth graders featuring questions about their municipality.

With Council meetings Tuesday nights (sometimes until the wee hours of the morning), information packets to review over the weekend, and various county dinners and events to attend plus her full-time Takoma Park job, Hampton says, "I've dedicated all my time to local government." And she loves it. "I think if anybody has the opportunity they should really try to get involved in their community, too."

Crossing the Bridge: Maintaining City Infrastructure

By ALI KHALILIAN

It just so happens that the timing of the Comstock Branch Bank Stabilization (on Mississippi Avenue) and repairs to the pedestrian bridge at Maple Avenue coincided with a "Message from the President" in the August issue of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) newsletter.

The message, from ASCE President William F. Marcuson, cites the recent collapse of I35W Bridge in Minneapolis - a collapse that has once more brought into focus the state of the nation's infrastructure. Emphasizing the role of civil engineers and its vital importance to meet current and future challenges, he reminds us that "civil engineers are public servants" and they "must have the guts" to put public safety first.

While describing the complexities of the challenges at hand, Marcuson maintains that, "civil engineers cannot be yes people." Giving the status of the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of "D" and pointing out that \$1.6 trillion will be needed over the next five years to keep it safe, he reminds us that it is time to shift gears into "action mode" as opposed to "reaction" mode.

It is a relative relief to remember that Maryland is among very few states with a grade of "A-" for its infrastructure.

Here in the community, we collectively have made some strides in meeting infrastructure challenges. Environmentally, we have maintained our landscape relatively well. Our report card includes good marks for putting our stormwater management infrastructure on a digital map, an advancement that allows for better maintenance, problem identification and improvement in quality and quantity of stormwater discharged into Sligo Creek.

We are also positioned to strategically plan for stormwater infrastructure upkeep, and we can continue our attempts to incorporate sustainable, green solutions into stormwater management projects.

Recent works in that direction include completion of stream day lighting in Spring Park, with extensive hands-on contribution from City Arborist Todd Bolton. The employees of Public Works did this entire challenging project in-house. Yet to be done is hillside erosion protection in Spring Park, which should prevent sediment loading into our drain system.

Phase I of Cleveland Avenue, construction of a trench drain leading into a rain garden installed within private property, has been completed. This partnership has solved a long-standing stormwater problem in an environmentally sensitive and economically feasible manner. Cleveland Avenue Phase II will complete the neighborhood stormwater management The infiltration basin design is completed and implementation is planned for the current fiscal year.

During construction of the Grant Avenue sidewalk as a safe route to school project, Director of Public Works Daryl Braithwaite noted an opportunity to treat the water before it was sent down the drain. As a result, a new rain garden at the intersection of Grant, Holly and Darwin Avenues is now planned; it will beautify the neighborhood, improve a wide intersection, and clean runoff water.

Public awareness and participation are two vital components of Takoma Park's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, aimed at eliminating all pollutants from national water resources. Public Works invites you to contribute by installing anti-pollution messages on storm-drain inlets within your neighborhood. Call Public Works or visit the City's web site to learn more about how to help with storm-drain labeling.

Challenges ahead include utilizing the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) tools for our storm drain maintenance, and identifying areas where a shift toward low impact practices can be made. In the words of ASCE President, "by working together, we can make a difference. Please do your part."



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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.

Informed Tenants Know Rights and Responsibilities

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

Too often tenants view themselves as victims subject to mistreatment by their landlords with little or no recourse. In fact tenants have more rights than they realize and should understand they have a critical and important role in the tenant-landlord relationship. This relationship is based on a two-party contract whereby the landlord provides a safe and sanitary place to live and the tenant in return pays a monthly rent to occupy the landlord's property.

The relationship works best when landlords and tenants recognize each other's rights and their mutual responsibilities.

The Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law at Sections 6.16.040 and 6.16.050 respectively detail the obligations of tenants and landlords to ensure compliance. Other sections of the city law provide requirements for leases, fees, entry requirements, vacate notices, security deposits and other subjects. Every tenant should become familiar with the city's Landlord-Tenant Law and direct any questions to the Landlord-Tenant Affairs Office by calling 301-891-7215. Do not rely on hearsay, opinions of neighbors or friends or what you think is correct in attempting to answer a question about the city's law. Instead call the Landlord-Tenant office. Sometimes the answer you receive will not be what you may have anticipated but receiving the correct answer should outweigh any disappointment.

When an issue arises at your apartment requiring you to

contact your landlord for assistance, it is critical that you document when you made contact. If your initial contact is by phone, follow up your phone call with a letter in which the date and time of your call is referenced. To have confirmation that your landlord received the letter, send it both by certified and regular mail. This will provide you with documentation which is critical should you need to pursue the matter with the landlord-tenant office or others. Emergency situations in your apartment should be reported to the landlord and to the Montgomery County Code Enforcement Office (240-777-3785) and if necessary to the City Police Department if the landlord does not respond quickly. Utility outages or gas leaks should be immediately reported to the utility company.

In addition to becoming familiar with the city's Landlord-Tenant Law and contacting the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs if you have questions about the law and/or your tenant's rights, please consider the following advice:

- Comply with the terms of your lease and any additional rules for your apartment building which are applicable to you as well as your family members and visitors;
- Make certain that your rent payment is received on the rent due date indicated on your lease. Mail your payment for receipt by the landlord prior to the date that a late fee (5 percent of the rent) will be added on. Consider using certified mail to confirm when the landlord receives your payment. Maintain a written record and/or receipts of all rent payments;
- Do not unreasonably withhold consent to your land-

lord's written advance entry request. If you are not home when the entry is made by the landlord or his/her agent, you should also be provided with an entry report;

- Secure renter's insurance for your personal property since your landlord is not generally responsible for damage to or loss of your property unless you can prove negligence on the landlord's part. Retain receipts of your major personal property purchases;
- Consider the many benefits of establishing a tenant's association in your building including having the support of your fellow tenants in addressing building concerns and problems;
- Always appear in court if you have received a summons even if you have paid the rent. Failure to appear in court may result in a judgment being entered against you;
- Remember that calls to the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs are confidential and you may not be retaliated against by your landlord for calling this office.

Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a tenant will place you in a stronger position when addressing landlord-tenant concerns. Remember that you have the right and indeed the obligation to make sure you are getting what you have paid for and continue to pay for each month.

Tenants having questions about the city's Landlord-Tenant Law may call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.



Post-Purchase Home Ownership Foreclosure Prevention

How To Monitor Your Expenses or
Fees Maintaining your
New Home/Condo

Foreclosure Prevention Program

New Class!!!!

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

To Register, Call 301-891-7222 or
e-mail LindaW@takomagov.org

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

6434 & 6436 Kansas Lane (2007-5L)

On October 3, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$536 on one unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the air conditioner, disposal, refrigerator, dishwasher, stove, cabinet, ceiling, doors, electrical light fixtures, smoke detector, flooring, carpet, heating, door locks, plumbing pipes and fixtures, painting, walls and windows.

6833 Eastern Avenue (2007-38L)

On October 5, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$154.55 on one unit



COLTA's CORNER

By JEAN KERR,
HOUSING SPECIALIST

at the property. The improvements included replacing the dishwasher, stove, water heater, cabinets, carpentry, dumpster, linoleum, carpet, and painting.

125 Lee Avenue (2007-43L)

On October 4, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$26.78 on one unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the floor, cabinets, bathroom upgrade and painting.

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).

COLTA Hands Down Landlord-Tenant Rulings

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

Kaufman v. Silberman 07-39T

On October 11, 2007, COLTA issued a decision in a security deposit refund case. The Commission ruled that: (1) the landlord complied with Section 8-203(g) of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code by sending to the tenant's last known address within 45 days of the termination of the tenancy a written list of damages claimed together with a statement of the cost actually incurred; (2) the failure of the tenant to note that light bulbs were burned out when she moved in precluded her from raising that is-

sue when she vacated the rental unit and allowed the landlord to deduct \$27 from her security deposit refund; (3) the tenant was correctly charged \$500 for water leak damage resulting from her adjusting a radiator valve without the landlord or a plumber being present because of her knowledge of a prior water leak that had resulted from such activity; (4) photographic evidence submitted by the tenant coupled with the landlord having written the repair receipt precluded the landlord from deducting \$125 for the repair of a ceiling chandelier; (5) the landlord's work on the rental unit's radiators on the day a leak occurred and his request for repair damages over a year after the incident occurred resulted in the landlord not being able to deduct \$1,375 from the tenant's security deposit refund; (6) the testimony of the tenant of an agreement to waive a portion of the rent along with the landlord's failure to sue for the underpaid rent at the time it occurred precluded him from deducting \$2,400 from the security deposit refund. The landlord was ordered by the Commission to refund the tenant the amount of \$2,346.75.

Coming Up With Fudge: The Story of Writer Judy Blume

By KAREN MACPHERSON

I recently interviewed children's author Judy Blume for the weekly children's book review column I write for Scripps Howard News Service. Here's the story that resulted:

When Judy Blume read a newspaper clipping about a toddler who had swallowed a tiny pet turtle, she figured she had a surefire idea for a great children's book.

It was the late 1960s, and Blume was the mother of two young children, as well as an aspiring writer desperate to get published. But Blume couldn't get a publisher interested in the picture book she wrote about the turtle-swallowing toddler, and so she put it aside. Over the next few years, Blume's career took off as she published novels like "The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo" and the ground-breaking teen novel "Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret."

Still, Blume didn't give up on the idea of her picture book. Eventually, she agreed to follow the suggestion of a children's book editor, who suggested that Blume use that text as just one chapter of a children's novel focused on fourth grader Peter Hatcher and his mischievous baby brother Fudge.

"I loved the idea — I had never thought of it," Blume said. "I went right home and started to write. It's the only book that I've ever done that was published the way it was written.... I'm usually not a first-draft writer at all."

The book, titled "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing," was published in 1972 to good reviews. Now celebrating its 35th anniversary, the book has become one of the most popular of Blume's many books, as young readers revel in her unerring ability to articulate just what it feels like to be a kid.

In the book, Blume tells the story of Peter Hatcher, who lives in a Manhattan apartment with his parents and two-year-old brother Fudge, who is a magnet for trouble. Each of the book's chapters details yet another wild thing that Fudge does - from refusing food unless he can eat from a bowl under the table like a dog to scribbling on Pe-



Children's Author Judy Blume and her newest title, *Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One*.

ter's school project to eating Dribble, Peter's turtle.

As Peter succinctly states in the book's first chapter: "My biggest problem is my brother."

"People always ask me how I came up with Fudge," Blume said. "I wish I could explain it. I know that Fudge has certain characteristics that come from my son Larry.... Larry liked to eat under the table and he called himself 'Frisky the Cat.' He's now 44 years old, he doesn't eat his supper under the table, and he's a good cook."

"But Fudge is not Larry. Fudge is some magical thing that came out of my imagination somewhere."

Blume, 69, immediately began working on a companion book, "Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great," in which she focused on Sheila Tubman, the "cootie queen" who lives in the same building as Peter and is in the same grade. In that book, Blume details how Sheila has to face two of her greatest fears - dogs and water - when her family spends the summer in a suburb.

After the publication of "Sheila," Blume mostly focused on writing novels for teens, including "Deenie," "Blubber" and "Forever." These novels, with their frank discussion of things like sexual feelings, bullying and overbearing parents, were embraced by

young readers. But the books also attracted censors, whose attempts to have the books banned continue. As a result, Blume has become a leading figure in the national fight against censorship.

Meanwhile, younger readers continually clamored for a Peter and Fudge sequel. Blume eventually obliged in 1980 when she published "Superfudge," in which the Hatcher family welcomes a new baby girl named Tootsie. Ten years later, Blume continued the Hatcher family saga in "Fudge-a-Mania." In 2002, Blume published a fourth - and she says final - book about Peter and Fudge, "Double Fudge," as a gift to her grandson.

These days, Blume is focused on a new series for younger readers. She's just published "Soupy Saturdays With the Pain & the Great One" (Delacorte, \$12.99), the first of four humorous chapter books dealing with the rivalry between a girl and her younger brother. Those books, she says, will "satisfy any need I have in writing another book about Fudge and Peter."

"Besides, Fudge is in now in the first grade and Peter is in the 7th - I don't want them to get any older.... I think I've done what I mean to do, and said what I wanted to say," Blume said.



LIBRARY Briefs

Friends Book Sale Returns

Just in time for your early holiday shopping - the Friends of the Library gala used book sale will be held on Saturday, November 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Community Center.

As in the past, we have been saving the best of our donations for this fall sale. We will offer a range of adult fiction and non-fiction, and many "like new" children's books.

This is your opportunity to find great books at bargain prices and to support your Library as well. All proceeds from the Friends' book sales go the Friends and benefit the Library in the form of gifts. Recently, The Friends have funded an expanded Spanish Circle time, the College Bound speakers' series, additional bookshelves for the children's room, special storytelling programs and materials for craft programs.

We always need volunteer help at the book sales. Community service hours for students are available, and we particularly need people who can pack and carry heavy cartons of books. Volunteers have an opportunity to have an early look at our book sale bargains. If you are interested in helping out, contact Ellen Robbins at the Library 301-891-7259 or 7258.

Friends Reading Group to discuss "Remembering Babylon"

The Friends of the Library Reading Group will discuss "Remembering Babylon" by David Malouf on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Forsythia Room of the Takoma Park Community Center.

"Short-listed for the Booker Prize, 'Remembering Babylon' (1994) is a quietly masterful tale from Australia's colonial past, depicting the savage and painful nuances of racism evoked when a white youth raised by aborigines returns to his own people...When Gemmy Fairley encounters the children of Jock McIvor as they play on the fringe of their mid-19th-century settlement in the Outback, a chain of events is set in motion that changes all their lives. Gemmy, cast ashore as a child after a brutal life in the streets of London and at sea, joined the natives who found him, spending 16 years with them before seeking out other whites to find answers to questions about his origin still tormenting him." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Mr. Malouf has written a wonderfully wise and moving novel that turns the history and mythic past of Australia into a dazzling fable of human hope and imperfection." (The "New York Times")

Copies of "Remembering Babylon" are available at the Takoma Park Library. This discussion series is supported by the Friends of the Library. All are invited. For further information, call 301-891-7259.

Library Employment Opportunity

The Takoma Park Maryland Library is accepting applications for a part-time Library Assistant-Substitute to replace regular staff at the Library's circulation desk and in the Computer Center on an occasional as-needed basis.

This position requires a book-oriented individual with a high school diploma and minimum two years of college or two years applicable work experience, preferably in a Library setting. Applicants should be very familiar with public libraries, enjoy working with the public, have strong communication skills, be able to acquire some knowledge of basic reference tools and perform detailed work without close supervision. The

LIBRARY BRIEFS continues on page 12

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

Eaglebear and Friends

Monday, Nov. 5
7 p.m. at the Library
Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2007

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, Nov. 10, 10-3
City Council Chambers.

Caldecott Celebration

Tuesday, Nov. 13
7 p.m. at the Library
Come hear some of the best children's books, then do a craft.
Please call 301-891-7259 to register

Friends of the Library Reading Group Discussion

"Remembering Babylon" by David Malouf
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Forsythia Room, Community Center
All are welcome to attend.

Bedtime Story Time

Monday, Nov. 19
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 register.

★ Takoma Park 2007 Election • Takoma Park Elección del 2007 ★

GENERAL ELECTION REGULATIONS

Takoma Park's Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2007. All voting will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Paper ballots will be used in the 2007 City Election. Ballots for each ward will contain the name of the candidate for Mayor and the name of Council candidates for that ward. A space will be provided for write-in votes. City elections are nonpartisan and no party labels will be displayed. Ballots are printed in English and Spanish.

Instant Runoff Voting Ballot Format

This election will be the first city-wide implementation of the new Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) system, which allows voters to rank candidates by order of choice. Although most races are uncontested in 2007, voters in all wards will receive ballots that provide the opportunity to rank candidates. The instructions on the ballot will say: "Vote for candidates by indicating your first-choice candidate, your second-choice candidate, and so on. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name in the space provided and indicate your ranking of the write-in candidate. You may rank only one candidate, but ranking additional candidates cannot help defeat your first choice."

We are using this format to keep the instructions the same on ballots for all six wards, and to help voters get accustomed to the new system. Remember that voters are free to rank only one candidate.

More information on IRV can be found on the City's website (www.takomaparkmd.gov)

Absentee Ballots

Takoma Park residents who are registered to vote may vote by absentee ballot under the following circumstances:

Regular Absentee Ballot - Voters who will be unavoidably absent from the City for any reason on Election Day, or because of physical disability are unable to come to the polls in person, may request an application

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION continues on page 11

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND CITY ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Vote for candidates by indicating your first-choice candidate, your second-choice candidate, and so on. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name in the space provided and indicate your ranking of the write-in candidate.

You may rank only one candidate, but ranking additional candidates cannot help defeat your first choice.

*Despite the number of uncontested races, ballots have been prepared using a ranked choice format for instant runoff voting. This format is used to keep the instructions the same on ballots for all six wards, and to help voters become accustomed to the new system. Remember that voters are free to rank only one candidate.

Vota por candidatos indicando su orden de preferencia (primero, segundo, tercero, y así sucesivamente). Para votar por un candidato de quien nombre no este impreso en la boleta, escribe el nombre en el espacio dado indicando el numero de preferencia de el candidato autonominado.

Votantes son libres de votar por solo un candidato si no desee elegir en orden de preferencia. Si elige candidatos adicionales en orden de preferencia, esto no ayudará derrotar su candidato de primera preferencia.

*Aunque la mayoría de las carreras no son competitivas, las boletas han sido preparadas usando un sistema donde el votante elige candidatos en orden de preferencia para segunda vuelta de elecciones instantáneas. Se usará este formato para

mantener las mismas instrucciones en las boletas de cada uno de los seis distritos y para ayudar a los votantes acostumbrarse al nuevo sistema. Acuérdase que los votantes son libres de poder elegir solo un candidato.

FOR ALL WARDS / PARA TODAS LAS AREAS

MAYOR/ALCAIDE

- ☐ Bruce R. Williams
☐ Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 1/ DISTRITO 1 COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

- ☐ Josh Wright
☐ Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 2 / DISTRITO 2 COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

- ☐ Colleen Clay
☐ Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 3 / DISTRITO 3 COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

- ☐ Bridget Bowers
☐ Dan Robinson
☐ Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 4 / DISTRITO 4 COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

- ☐ Terry Seamans
☐ Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 5 / DISTRITO 5 COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

- ☐ Reuben Snipper
☐ Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 6 / DISTRITO 6 COUNCIL MEMBER MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

- ☐ Doug Barry
☐ Write-in / Candidato autonominado

To see an exact copy of the ballot in the ranked choice format, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Para ver un copia exacta de la boleta electoral, visite la pagina web www.takomaparkmd.gov.

SPECIMEN BALLOT*/BALOTA DE EJEMPLO*

★ WARD ONE ★



JOSH WRIGHT

To preserve the good that we have and to further improve our community, I believe we need to focus on:

Crime-Free, Safe Neighborhoods - reducing crime and improving roadway safety;

Fair Taxation - resolving the unfair tax duplication issues with the county, enabling us to ensure affordable taxation for all while improving services;

Community-Driven Development - encouraging development that preserves the small-town nature and history of Takoma Park and benefits the community, not just the developers;

Effective and Efficient City Government - conducting a department-by-department review to gain efficiencies, improve responsiveness and streamline service;

Progressive Ideas that Work - continuing to create progressive policies that set an example for other communities to follow in areas such as the environment, affordable housing, transportation, and immigration.

301-312-2717

JoshLWright@gmail.com
www.electjoshwright.org

★ WARD TWO ★



COLLEEN CLAY

During my first two years as your representative, the city has sponsored successful new forums on affordable housing, economic development, and environmentally friendly development. The police department is fully staffed, and the community center open and operational. I would like the city to continue the good work that has been started revitalizing our commercial districts, and continue to improve our city financial management to insure fiscal soundness. We continue to face challenges with neighborhood quality of life, traffic, crime and road conditions. In this next term, I will work with city staff to support youth and family program development that will fully utilize our new community center and provide opportunity for all our youth. I will also support the police department to continue to improve our community oriented policing, and build on the many successes achieved by our police department under our new police chief. Thank you for your support.

301-270-6888

ColleenC@takomagov.org

★ WARD THREE ★



BRIDGET BOWERS

A good race deserves a strong contender. I'm throwing my hat in the ring.

I work at an area university where, each day, I more meaningfully engage more community members than the day before. I build bridges. I advocate. I create relationships. I foster connections. I support a shared mission.

I was raised in Silver Spring and am a product of area schools as well as Lehigh University and UPenn. Life has brought me back to the DC area and as such I chose to live in Takoma Park due to its artistic flare.

I am new to the political scene in Takoma Park, offering fresh perspectives free from political mire. I am committed to lower taxes, safer streets, sustainable affordable housing, preservation of green space, and term limits for city officials. I am committed to building bridges together. I am committed to a better community. Email me at bridget.bowers@gmail.com.

301-233-9775

bridget.bowers@gmail.com
bridgetbowers.com



DAN ROBINSON

I'll bring common sense leadership and local experience to the council. I want to address crime, safety, traffic, development, energy use and our city budget, keeping you involved and informed.

I've raised my family in Takoma Park, and my priorities have been shaped by close work with many fine people. I've helped build several long-standing local businesses and organizations like the Takoma Voice, the Takoma Foundation and Sligo Computer Services, and have chaired or co-chaired committees on strategic planning, taxation and services, and city manager selection.

The city government needs to closely review its own service and program mix to find the most effective use of our taxes. It's time for the mayor and council to reach out to other Maryland cities, to Montgomery County and to the state of Maryland to make sense of an antiquated tax and service structure. I hope you'll trust me to pursue these challenges.

301-908-3504

dan.robinson@homeintakoma.com
<http://DanRobinsonForCouncil.org>

NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

POST CHARRETTE REPORT

A Concept Plan for the New Hampshire Corridor

BY ILONA BLANCHARD, AICP

SENIOR PLANNER

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ever wonder why places like Silver Spring and Bethesda can languish for years with used auto parts and dollar stores and falling apart buildings and then suddenly become the hot spot where you wait an hour on Friday night to eat dinner? The truth is, these marginal places do not change suddenly.

Usually neighbors have complained to council members for years and years about steep rents for minimal services, crumbling sidewalks, high crime, and increasingly unattractive new development.

Citizens work with government, businesses, and non-profits to bring new investment to transform areas into places people want to be, look forward to working in, and are happy to stroll with friends in wheelchairs or walkers.

People see the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor as one of these places, only now is the before period with higher crime, pedestrian fatalities, high rents for substandard buildings and services, and the appearance (once leaving the District) of a highway. What the Avenue does have is great groceries and restaurants, committed neighborhoods and a diverse entrepreneurial business community.

For many years, residents complained and encouraged, and government has listened. In 1998 and 1999 the Master Plan community committees asked for revitalization of the area, with new pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use buildings businesses that serve the neighborhood.

Planning for the Future

The Master Plan was adopted in December 2000 by Montgomery County and recommends a concept plan be created for the revitalization and redevelopment of commercial properties from Eastern Avenue to University Boulevard. Simultaneously, a Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone (the CROZ) was adopted to encourage pedestrian-oriented development and residential development above commercial, and to reduce excess parking requirements.

In 2001, the City of Takoma Park, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County together studied the area's economic development and social needs, resulting in both sides of the Avenue's commercial areas being designated "Enterprise Zones" — land where redevelopment and job and business growth are promoted through tax incentives.

Few businesses or property owners, however, took advantage of this incentive and in 2005, the City's Housing and Community Development Department began marketing the program to area property owners and businesses.

The CROZ was also tested in 2005 when a developer proposed to build a self-storage facility on a prominent site on the Avenue. While the master plan recommendations discouraged the property owner, it became clear that with the continued lack of interest in area improvements that a concept plan was essential to coordinate public and private investment in the area.

The City Council of Takoma Park designated New Hampshire Avenue development as a priority in June 2005, and began to lobby Maryland National Capital Park and Planning (MNCPPC) to provide a concept plan. Due to limited resources and internal priorities at the time, MNCPPC agreed to initiate work on a Sector Plan and rezoning for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads in preparation for the Purple Line, but did not designate any resources for a concept plan for the rest of the corridor.

As several key properties — read eyesores — south of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads were on the market, and many development proposals were auto- and not pedestrian-oriented, the City Council felt that a clear development



A focused series of workshops were held in August to move from the Master Plan Vision to the Concept Plan for New Hampshire Avenue.

Photo: TND Planning Group



New Hampshire Avenue at Ethan Allen as currently built out (left) and an illustration of a future New Hampshire Avenue concept.

Drawing: John Neynahan



framework was needed. In 2006, funding was designated for the City to lead a concept plan development process in collaboration with the community, businesses, property owners and state and local agencies.

In the meantime, staff worked on identifying and contacting property owners, businesses, and prospective developers, building relationships with Prince George's County and Montgomery County agencies, and finding resources for the area, such as outreach programs for small businesses, grants, and revitalization opportunities.

This year a design charrette was held so that community members, county officials, businesses, property owners, and prospective developers and agencies that work with roadways, planning, and emergency response could express their views, concerns and ideas to a team that in-

cluded urban design, architecture, economic development, environmental planning, transportation engineering, and landscaping.

After four community-wide meetings, seven days of open studio, and multiple stakeholder meetings, this concept plan was developed to flesh out the vision of the Master Plan. Some of the team members used the months leading up to the design charrette to interview small business owners — important stakeholders that are less likely to go to meetings. The multiple meetings allowed the designers to present alternatives, listen to the community and change the plan, with a final concept presented at the end of the week. A final report containing all recommendations to achieve the concept plan will be presented to the City Council this winter.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES TO GUIDE INVESTMENT

Public Realm

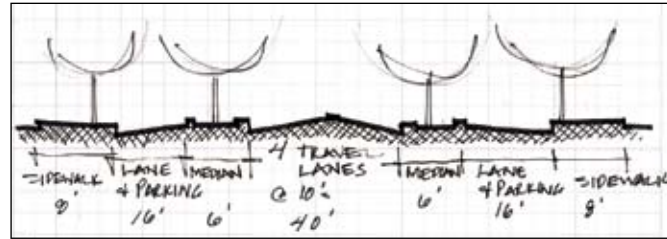
The main public areas in this plan are the Avenue, adjoining streets, small civic spaces, and natural areas. This concept hinges on New Hampshire Avenue becoming a place where people are comfortable walking.

RELIEVE CONGESTION

Add a **MINI-GRID** of roadways to commercial properties at key intersections so that traffic has more options and does not cut through neighborhoods.

MULTI-WAY BOULEVARD

Transform New Hampshire Avenue into a **MULTI-WAY BOULEVARD** with four through lanes and a turning lane in the center, add two to separate thru-traffic from parking and service lanes next to a retail fronted, treed sidewalk.



In this version of a multi-way boulevard the center of **the avenue would move fast**, while the side lanes would be slow.

FOCAL STREETS

Create **FOCAL STREETS** at Sheridan and the entrance to Shoppers Food Warehouse and the All Star Bedding property—these streets cross the Avenue at right angles and are easier for pedestrians to navigate than crossings at Ethan Allen/East-West Highway and Eastern Avenue.



Encourage people to **walk** to Shoppers Food Warehouse and other businesses.

Greening of the Corridor

Use street trees, rain gardens, natural area and habitat management, shrubs, landscaping, and stream daylighting to beautify the Avenue, make the area comfortable to walk in and improve environmental quality of air and our watershed.

NATURAL AREAS



Provide **visual access** into natural areas near Sligo Creek and Sligo Mills with lookouts.

GATEWAYS



Create a **roundabout or sculpture intersection roadway feature** at the entrance to Maryland, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and the District of Columbia at Eastern Avenue. Also create a gateway to Sligo Creek Park trail system and use buildings to brand each commercial area.

TRANSIT

Make **BUS STOPS** attractive and comfortable, keep buses in the faster center lanes, and ensure that transit connects directly to metro services.

BOULEVARD TREES/STORMWATER



Add **trees** to public plazas, sidewalks and side streets, and to a stormwater retention greenway running along the through lanes on New Hampshire Avenue,

PEPCO FACILITY

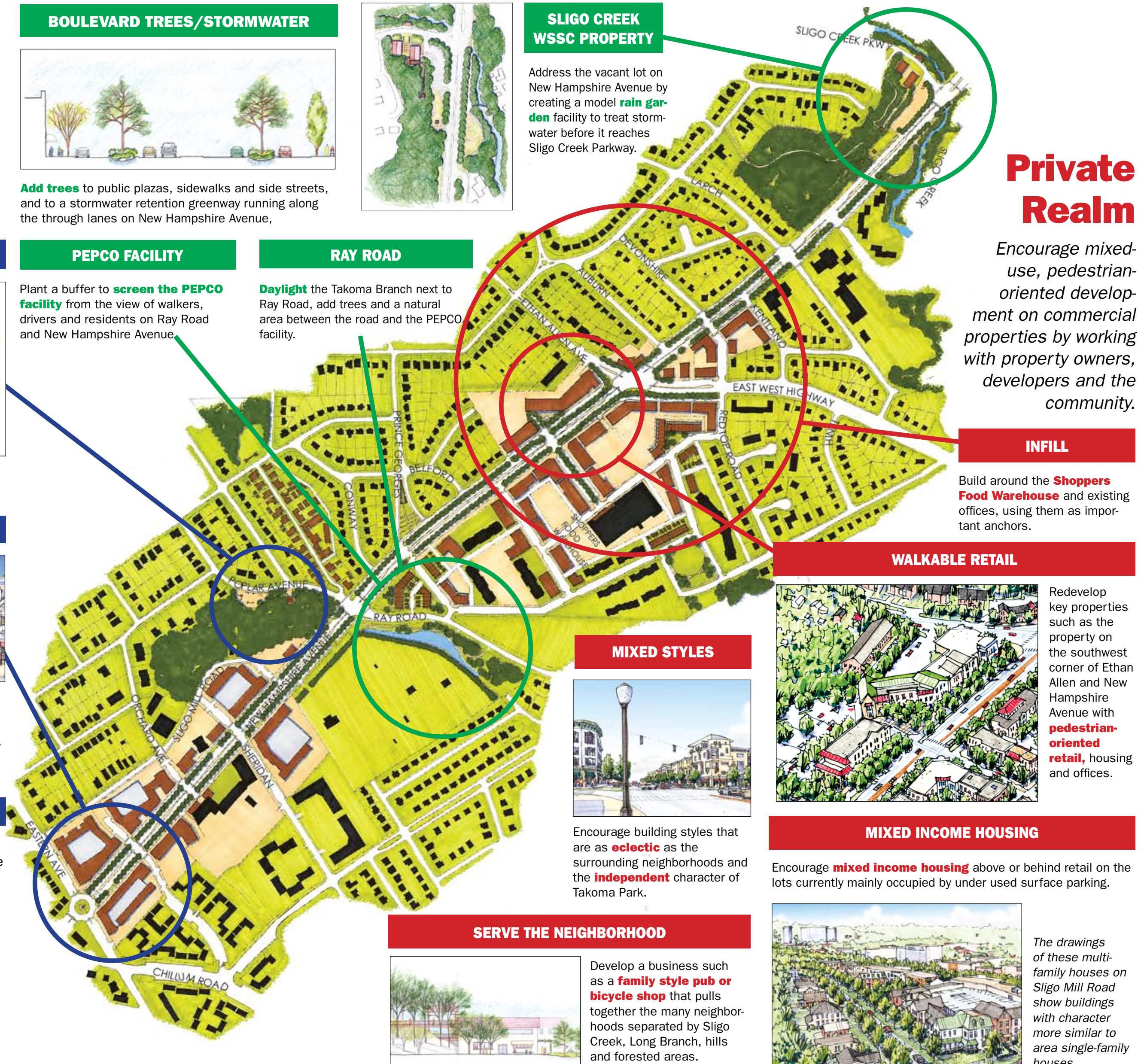
Plant a buffer to **screen the PEPCO facility** from the view of walkers, drivers and residents on Ray Road and New Hampshire Avenue.

RAY ROAD

Daylight the Takoma Branch next to Ray Road, add trees and a natural area between the road and the PEPCO facility.

SLIGO CREEK WSSC PROPERTY

Address the vacant lot on New Hampshire Avenue by creating a model **rain garden** facility to treat stormwater before it reaches Sligo Creek Parkway.



Private Realm

Encourage mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented development on commercial properties by working with property owners, developers and the community.

INFILL

Build around the **Shoppers Food Warehouse** and existing offices, using them as important anchors.

WALKABLE RETAIL



Redevelop key properties such as the property on the southwest corner of Ethan Allen and New Hampshire Avenue with **pedestrian-oriented retail**, housing and offices.

MIXED STYLES



Encourage building styles that are as **eclectic** as the surrounding neighborhoods and the **independent** character of Takoma Park.

SERVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Develop a business such as a **family style pub or bicycle shop** that pulls together the many neighborhoods separated by Sligo Creek, Long Branch, hills and forested areas.

MIXED INCOME HOUSING

Encourage **mixed income housing** above or behind retail on the lots currently mainly occupied by under used surface parking.



The drawings of these multi-family houses on Sligo Mill Road show buildings with character more similar to area single-family houses.

NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

POST CHARRETTE REPORT

A Framework Not a Blueprint

The City of Takoma Park does not own the commercial or institutional land adjacent to New Hampshire Avenue. It does not own public resources along the Corridor, like Sligo Creek Parkway. It does not own even the public space of New Hampshire Avenue.

The City can, however, act on behalf of the public. The City can persuade, partner and advocate for change and resources to meet the broad goals of the concept plan: a very walkable, pedestrian- and transit-friendly and safe New Hampshire Avenue, green and accessible public space, a healthy mix of attractive and thriving retail and businesses that people

walk and drive to, increased housing opportunities for a mix of incomes, and an area that everyone wants to visit with their children or friends that is unique and not generic like Silver Spring or Bethesda.

Concept plan begins the work; it is not an end product

It is a good time to have a plan — New Hampshire Avenue is centrally located between growing job markets in Montgomery County, the District of Columbia and Prince George's County. BRAC and the decentralization of federal offices puts more pressure on limited housing, retail and service sectors,

creating an opportunity for reinvestment in New Hampshire Avenue. State Highway now has 12 years of humanizing highways — making them places where people want to be in addition to moving vehicles. Other corridors in the District, Prince George's County, Fairfax, Arlington and Virginia are looking at similar projects. There seems to be unlimited demand for safe, walkable neighborhoods as most new housing in our region is in former farm fields and forests further and further away from jobs, services and grocery stores.

While the timing is good, the popularity of this type of revitalization means that it is essential that the City, community, agencies,

property owners and businesses work together. There are finite supplies of funds for highway projects, development, business improvement and beautification. The concept plan can focus the various stakeholders to ensure that big and small government, businesses and residents invest in the area over the sustained period needed to make New Hampshire Avenue a place that unites communities instead of dividing them.

This report explains the concept plan in broad brush strokes; how the plan is implemented — and what New Hampshire will look like — will be up to you, your neighbors, and every stakeholder along the Avenue.

BEFORE



New Hampshire Avenue at Eastern Avenue (left) and a conceptual illustration of the same intersection with traffic calming and landscaping

AFTER



BEFORE



New Hampshire Avenue at Sheridan facing north today and an illustration of a future New Hampshire Avenue as a multi-way boulevard

AFTER



FAQs

WHY NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE?

The commercial areas along New Hampshire Avenue represent the largest areas of underutilized land in the City. Much of the area is taken up by parking lots, many of which are rarely used and attract dumping and other illegal activity. Many of the commercial properties are poorly maintained and are frequently cited for code violations. Commercial tenants often pay high rents, but the buildings still have leaking roofs, poorly lit public areas, and are unattractive to most potential customers that drive through the area.

The sidewalks are inadequate, missing, not accessible for people in wheelchairs, and crossings are unsafe and uncomfortable, yet many pedestrians are forced to use them on a daily basis to access transit, retail and visit friends and family. In addition, the high speeds along the corridor have contributed to many deaths, both motorist and pedestrian. Finally, New Hampshire Avenue is a great opportunity to provide retail that residents can walk to and develop additional housing to meet housing needs, all of which are easily connected to public transportation.

WILL THIS CONCEPT, IF REALIZED, MAKE THE CITY MONEY?

This plan will diversify the tax base, making the local economy healthier. The replacement of excess parking with ad-

ditional business increases tax revenue. Condominiums and apartments provide more taxes per square foot of land than single-family housing. A goal of the Council is to reduce the property tax rate — one way to do this is to increase the developed square footage and value of commercial properties. More commercial property will diversify the City's revenue stream and reduce dependency on taxing single-family properties. The largest numbers of commercial properties in the City are along New Hampshire Avenue. Over the long term, revitalization that improves the value and stability of these commercial areas with physical improvements will return the public investment not only for adjacent residents, but for the City, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the State of Maryland. A strong and stable tax base allows government to invest more in social or other non-revenue generating public needs.

WILL THIS PLAN MAKE THE CITY LOSE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SMALL BUSINESSES?

Currently, these commercial properties provide no affordable housing, but do provide Class-C space for small businesses. Some of the properties are too small to be feasible for redevelopment and will continue to provide small, less desirable spaces. Some of the properties are large enough that larger tenants can offset and subsidize riskier entrepreneurial business spaces. The City will look for opportunities to encourage developments that retain and provide opportunities for smaller, independently owned tenants.

Within the City, legislation currently keeps all existing apartment rents well below market rate. New rental housing will be developed according to rent stabilization regulations and Montgomery County's workforce housing ordinance. This means that all housing will either be rent stabilized, provide ownership opportunities or provide housing for a mix of incomes. Diversification of the housing stock will be better overall for Takoma Park: a mix of new housing styles draws a mix of household types, such as singles moving out of their parent's house, seniors moving into more easily cared for living quarters, and young families starting out.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE BUILDINGS SHOWN IN THE PLAN WILL BE BUILT?

The concept plan provides only an illustration that can be shown to developers and the Montgomery County Planning Board when a property goes through the review process, to State Highway to request funding, or politicians to request funding to improve parkland. It helps to show everyone how new housing would work with retail, how safer, greener streets work with transit, how the stormwater treatment in the boulevards relates to the many streams and natural areas. Every building, sidewalk, roadway, parks improvement, and transit change will still need to go through extensive reviews at the funding, design, engineering, and implementation level. Many of these will require a public review process — this is where your interest and input will be most valuable. The plan shows how everything fits together, but does not show definitively what everything will be.

Want to know more?

Are you interested in learning more, or working on developing the concept into a reality? **You are invited to host a project open house in your building lobby, your living room, on your front porch or at your business for yourself and your neighbors.** Please call (301) 891-7205 for more information on hosting a New Hampshire Avenue Open House.

The City's website has information on the concept plan at www.takomaparkmd.gov/gateway.

You may also call Housing and Community Development at 301-891-7205 or e-mail ilonab@takomagov.org for more information.

★ Takoma Park 2007 Election • Takoma Park Elección del 2007 ★

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION

continued from page 6

for a regular absentee ballot from the City Clerk. Completed applications must be filed with the Clerk not later than seven days prior to the election (4 p.m., October 30). Upon verification of a voter's eligibility, an absentee ballot will be issued—either by mail or in person. The completed ballot must be received by the Clerk prior to the closing of the polls at 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Emergency Absentee Ballot - Beginning October 31 and continuing through November 6, qualified voters who find they will be unable to vote in person for certain unavoidable reasons which occurred after October 31, may apply for an Emergency Absentee Ballot. If the applicant does not apply and vote in person, he or she may designate in the application a registered voter of the City to act as agent in picking up and delivering the ballot (candidates and their families may not act as agents). The application must be completed and filed with the Clerk prior to issuance of a ballot to the agent. As with regular absentee voting, a ballot cannot be issued until the voter's eligibility has been established, and the ballot must be returned to the City Clerk prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day.

If you are issued an absentee ballot of either type, you must vote by that method, even if your plans change and you find you can vote in person on Election Day.

City Election by Ward

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 into a different ward without notifying the Board of Elections (U.S. citizens) or the City Clerk's Office (non-U.S. citizens), he/she must vote in the ward in which he/she is registered. It will not be possible to

transfer from one ward to another on Election Day. All changes must have been made by October 8, the City's cut-off date for new registrations and for changes of address.

Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267
JessieC@takomagov.org

REGLAMENTACIONES PARA LA ELECCIÓN GENERAL

El martes 8 de noviembre de 2005, es el día de la Elección Municipal. El único lugar para votar (la Municipalidad) estará abierto de 7:00 a.m. a 8:00 p.m.

Para la elección municipal del 2005, se utilizarán boletas/papeletas electorales impresas. Cada uno de los seis distritos tendrá cabinas electorales separadas. Las boletas electorales tendrán los nombres de todos los candidatos para Alcalde, los nombres de los candidatos para el Consejo para un solo distrito y la pregunta sobre el referendo. Las elecciones municipales son elecciones no partidistas, por lo tanto no se verán rótulos partidarios. Las boletas electorales se entregarán en inglés y español.

Segunda Vuelta De Elecciones Instantáneas

Esta elección será la primera vez en que el sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones instantáneas se pondrá en práctica por toda la ciudad. El sistema permitirá los votantes elegir candidatos en orden de preferencia. Aunque este año la mayoría de las carreras no son competitivas, los votantes en cada distrito recibirá boletas dándoles la oportunidad de elegir candidatos en orden de preferencia. Las instrucciones dirán lo siguiente: "Vota por candidatos indicando su orden de preferencia (primero, segundo, tercero, y así sucesivamente). Para votar por un candidato de quien nombre no este impreso en la boleta, escribe el nombre en el espacio

dado indicando el número de preferencia de el candidato autonominado. Votantes son libres de votar por solo un candidato si no desee elegir en orden de preferencia. Si elige candidatos adicionales en orden de preferencia, esto no ayudará derrotar su candidato de primera preferencia."

Estamos usando este formato para mantener las mismas instrucciones en las boletas para cada uno de los seis distritos y para ayudar a los votantes acostumbrarse al nuevo sistema. Acuerdense que votantes son libres de poder elegir solo un candidato si así lo decidan.

Para más información sobre el sistema de segunda vuelta instantáneas por favor visite la página web de la ciudad (www.takomaparkmd.gov)

Normas Para El Voto En Ausencia.

Los residentes de Takoma Park que estén empadronados/registrados para la elección municipal del 8 de noviembre de 2005, podrán votar en ausencia en las circunstancias siguientes:

Voto En Ausencia Regular - Aquellos votantes que por cualquier motivo inevitable no puedan estar presentes el día de la elección, o que debido a una incapacidad física no les sea posible trasladarse hasta el sitio electoral, pueden pedir al Secretario Municipal una solicitud de Voto en Ausencia Regular. Las solicitudes completadas deben entregarse al Secretario Municipal a más tardar para el 1 de noviembre a las 4:00 p.m., 7 días antes de la elección. Una vez verificada la elegibilidad del votante, se entregará una boleta para voto en ausencia regular - por correo o en persona. El Secretario Municipal debe recibir la boleta electoral completada antes del cierre de los comicios a las 8:00 p.m. del día de la elección.

Voto En Ausencia De Emergencia - Durante el periodo del 1 al 8 de noviembre, los votantes calificados que por motivos inevitables, ocurridos después del 1 de noviembre no puedan votar en persona, pueden pedir

una solicitud para Voto en Ausencia de Emergencia. Si la persona no solicitó ni votó en persona, puede designar en la solicitud a un votante registrado de la ciudad para que actúe como su agente y recoja y entregue la boleta electoral (los candidatos y sus familiares no pueden actuar como agentes). La solicitud debe llenarse y presentarse al Secretario Municipal antes que se entregue la boleta electoral al agente. Tal como en el caso de Voto en Ausencia Regular, no se emitirá una boleta hasta que se haya comprobado la elegibilidad del votante y una vez emitida, el Secretario Municipal debe recibir la boleta electoral completada antes del cierre de los comicios del día de la elección.

Si le otorgan una boleta para voto en ausencia de cualquier tipo, debe votar usando ese método aun si sus planes cambian y usted puede presentarse a votar en persona el día de la elección.

Elecciones Municipales Por Distrito

Los miembros del Consejo son elegidos por los votantes de sus distritos respectivos. Lo que significa que sólo las personas registradas en una dirección de un distrito en particular, pueden votar por un miembro del Consejo que será el representante de dicho distrito. Si la persona está registrada en una dirección de un distrito y se mudó a otro sin haber notificado a la Junta Electoral (para ciudadanos estadounidenses) o a la Secretaría Municipal (para los que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses), dicha persona debe votar en el distrito en el que está registrado. No será posible hacer una transferencia de un distrito a otro el día de la elección. Todos los cambios deben haberse realizado para el 10 de octubre que es la fecha límite de la municipalidad para nuevos empadronamientos y cambios de domicilio.

Jessie Carpenter, Secretaria Municipal
301-891-7267, JessieC@takomagov.org

★ WARD FOUR ★



TERRY SEAMENS

As always, it's an honor for me to run for the city council. Joyce and I find meaning and fulfillment in service to others. I'll continue to work passionately with the community to improve our neighborhood and the city. I'm humbled and encouraged by the progress we've made bringing better management to our city government during past terms. I'm highly motivated to work with my council colleagues to build on the momentum of success we've established, so your government will serve you effectively.

Reelected, my priority will be fiscal responsibility. A new budget process and fair rebate system will produce more informed decisions and tax savings. I'll continue working with the Takoma Park Community Action Group to build a stronger and safer community. We cannot fail our youth by dismissing our need for a gymnasium, so I'll prioritize this need in our recreational planning. Serving the people is my value.

301-565-0190
TerryS@takomagov.org

★ WARD FIVE ★



REUBEN SNIPPER

I am a candidate for City Council because I want to work with you to protect and strengthen what makes our community special. Over the 20 years my family and I have lived in Ward 5, I have developed deep roots in our community. I have worked with many of you on local issues: walking paths for Sligo Creek, appropriate development at Takoma Metro, affordable housing, the Nuclear Free Zone, and the hospital expansion. Together, we've achieved some real results.

I know the big and small community issues from my own experience and from working and talking with you. You've told me to focus on concrete steps to make our neighborhood better, whether it's preserving the environment, getting a fair rebate from the county, supporting affordable housing, controlling traffic, improving bus service, ensuring safety, or supporting our youth. I have the neighborly know-how to do it and I will.

301-585-4103
rsnipper@email.com
<http://reubensnipper.org>

★ WARD SIX ★



DOUG BARRY

Takoma Park is a place with purpose. It practices progressive values, welcomes residents from all walks of life, and takes principled stands on the issues of the day. It's great to live in a place like this, and that's why I'm running again. Here are my priorities:

Revitalization of the New Hampshire Corridor. Attracting sensible development to the area will increase the city's tax base. It will enable residents to live with greater dignity, safety and harmony.

Stabilize city funding sources. Get a fair share of revenue from the county and state.

Improve quality of life. Make sure our police department remains fully staffed. Provide more recreation programs for children and adults. Work more closely and effectively with other government agencies to enhance our environment and coordinate development.

It's an ambitious list; but it's not pie (or pupusa) in the sky for Takoma Park. The place with a purpose.

301-439-2140
doug_barry@comcast.net

★ MAYOR ★



BRUCE WILLIAMS

I've been a Councilmember since 1993, and very active with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the Maryland Municipal League.

Appropriate Development: We need to establish what's in the best interest of our community and then find partners to help make it happen at all developments affecting the City including the hospital site, the New Hampshire Avenue corridor, and Old Town and the Junction..

Taxes: We all have to be able to afford to live here. City government has to be efficient and effective at providing services, and we have to get our fair share in rebates from Montgomery County.

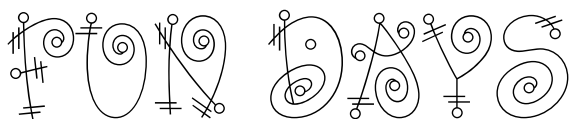
Crime: We have to feel safe in our neighborhoods, and work with our new chief to enhance partnerships between residents, businesses and our neighbors in adjacent jurisdictions.

Your Agenda: I plan to get out into every neighborhood to learn firsthand how to make your quality of life better.

301 891-0728
www.electbruce.com
brwilli@aol.com

R E C R E A T I O N

NOV ACTIVITIES



On whole days off of school meet in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center, please pack a lunch. On half days off of school students attending Takoma Park Elementary School will meet on the Tot Lot, Piney Branch Elementary School will meet in the hallway by the Gym by a Recreation Staff member, please bring a snack. Advance registration recommended as space is limited.

Trip: Reston Zoo and Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum
Date: Thurs., Nov. 1
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$20
 Non-Res. \$25

Activity: Mad Science
Date: Fri., Nov. 9
Time: 1 - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$10
 Non-Res. \$15

Activity: ImagiMIME, watch a performance and learn how to mime.
Date: Mon., Nov. 12
Time: 1 - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$10
 Non-Res. \$15

City Welcomes New Senior Rec Coordinator

Paula Lisowski has joined the Takoma Park Recreation Department as the Senior Recreation Coordinator. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Recreation and Leisure Services with a concentration in therapeutic recreation. Lisowski is a member of the Maryland Activity Coordinators Society, Inc. and the American Society on Aging.

Lisowski grew up and lived most of her life in Silver Spring, Maryland. Last year, she moved to Damascus, Maryland to join her sister in the care of their mother Eleanor, 93 years young. Lisowski loves flower arranging, antiques, collecting bears and dolls, and has recently joined a quilting group in her neighborhood to learn how to quilt.



Photo: Debra Haiduven

Skate Park Tour

Ages 12 and older

Visit parks in Olney, Greenbelt and Bowie, each with its own terrain including street obstacles and bowls. Please bring helmet, knee pads, bag lunch and water. Transportation and guide included. Waivers must be filled out prior to trip. Register by November 2. Space is limited.

When: Sun., Nov. 4
Time: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Location: Meet at T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$15
 Non-Res. \$20

Collage

Ages 18 and older

Learn about supports, priming and preparing surfaces using water based adhesives to make a truly unique piece of work. Some materials will be provided. A materials fee of \$30, paid directly to instructor due the first day of class. Six weeks. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

When: Tues., Nov. 13 - Dec. 18
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$200
 Non-Res. \$220

Drawing and Watercolor

Ages 11 - 14

Learn to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint, use pen and ink and explore mixed media. This class can help develop a portfolio for Visual Arts. A materials fee of \$25, paid directly to instructor due the first day of class. Six weeks. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

When: Tues., Nov. 13 - Dec. 18
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.
Location: Art Room, T.P. Comm. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$130
 Non-Res. \$140

Teen Programs Take Off

Takoma Park Recreation invites teens to participate in ongoing programs and activities. TGIF is a series of safe, fun Friday night events for teens to socialize outside of school. ROADtRIPz takes teens on adult-supervised trips to local destinations. Takoma Park Recreation Department's teen program offers a variety of programs, events and activities geared toward middle school and high school youth, 13 to 19 years old. For the month of November ROADtRIPz will be going out to dinner to Golden Corral on Nov. 9, and Movie Night Out on Nov. 23. For more information on Teen programs contact Karla Kelley, Recreation Manager, at 301 - 891 - 7283 or visit www.tprecreation.org for registration information.

LIBRARY Briefs

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successful candidate will also have strong computer skills and experience.

Some preference may be given to individuals who are available to work during the winter holiday season when the Library is open. However this is a permanent substitute position, and will be of most interest to those who are seeking on-going occasional work in the Library.

Interested individuals should submit a resume and a letter of interest to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Upcoming Events

The always popular "Eaglebear" - a.k.a. Tomas Shash - returns to the Library on Monday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. for his annual harvest-time visit. Joined by family and friends, Tomas puts on a program that includes dances, songs and stories from the Xicano and Apache cultures. All are welcome to attend this dynamic program. Call us at 301-891-7259 to let us know you are coming. Funding provided by the Friends of the

Takoma Park, Md. Library.

Come kick off Children's Book Week with a celebration of Caldecott Medal winners on Tuesday, Nov. 13. We'll be reading some of your favorites — "Officer Buckle and Gloria," "Joseph Had a Little Overcoat" and "Kitten's First Full Moon" — as well as some lesser-known Caldecott winners. Our program will begin at 7 p.m. and we'll conclude with a craft related to a Caldecott winner. Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

Do you have a favorite children's book? Come to the Library during Children's Book Week (Nov. 12-17) and fill out a brief form in which you can list the name of your favorite book and tell us why you love it so much. Adults as well as children are welcome to participate! We'll publish the results in the next newsletter.

Summer Quest a Big Success

The final numbers are in for our Summer Quest 2007 reading program. This summer, 193 kids signed up at the Library for our Summer Quest program. This is a big increase over previous years. One major reason for the increase was the decision by Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School to use our Summer Quest program as their summer read-

ing program. Altogether, our Summer Quest participants, who ranged from preschoolers through teens, read 974 books over the summer.

During our Summer Quest wrap-up party in September, we talked with participants about some of the best books they read over the summer. The list is heavy on fiction and includes "Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late" by Mo Willems, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" by Brian Selznick, "The Enchanted Castle" by E. Nesbit, "Swallows and Amazons" by Arthur Ransome, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by J.K. Rowling, "Pippi in the South Seas" by Astrid Lindgren, "Gathering Blue" by Lois Lowry, "Inkheart" by Cornelia Funke and "The Navigator" by Eoin McNamee. Other favorite books were non-fiction volumes focusing on everything from Africa to squirrels.

Participants also named some books they found boring, including a book of science experiments and "Watership Down" by Richard Adams. And kids also talked about books that helped "stretch" their knowledge; these included books about gardens and Chinese writing.

As our participants know, there are all kinds of ways to win our Summer Quest program. Some kids like to finish first; this year, sisters Adaugo and Jennifer Arinze were the

first to finish Summer Quest. Other kids like to read lots of books. Eleven-year-old Conner Catanese read the most books - 66. Eva Houston came in second, with 61 books, while brothers C.J. and Jeremiah Erwin (ages 5 and 3!) tied for third with 34 books (read by their mother, Library shelper Deborah Erwin).

At the wrap-up party, we also discussed possible themes for next year's Summer Quest. Because the Takoma Park, Md. Library is the only library in the state that creates its own summer reading program, we like to get input from participants on possible themes. This past summer, our theme was the rainforest. Some themes suggested for next year include mountains (specifically avalanches), a birthday party, "lost in the library," inside the human body, dinosaurs and pirates. Dave Burbank, Library assistant and creator of our Summer Quest program, promised to look seriously at all of these suggestions before making his final choice next spring.

One final note: the library gratefully acknowledges the funding provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park, Md. Library. Our Summer Quest program would not be possible without it! And many thanks to Megan Waters for totaling up this year's numbers for us.

A Week in the Life of the Community Center



After a year of being "open for business," the Takoma Park Community Center now hosts a broad array of activities for local residents, from belly dancing to pottery, fitness classes for seniors to music classes for tots, plus regular city council and committee meetings in the council chambers and smaller meeting rooms. Residents have rented out the Azalea Room for baby showers, but sometimes you'll see floor hockey underway in the same space. Similarly, the dance studio is used for line dancing as well as chair exercise for those less able to stand for long periods of time; and the art room runs the gamut from school-age art class to public art projects with seniors.

Here is a photographic sampling of activities that took place within one week last month: October 9 through October 15. Clockwise from above, Small meetings accommodate sessions like this one for the DC-MD Neighbors for Takoma Transit; the dance studio turns to fencing; Katie Dell Kaufman teaches painting; City Council draws a crowd; line dancing keeps folks moving; floor hockey takes over the Azalea Room; kids tackle homework after school; quilters practice their craft; chess keeps young minds sharp; and employees attend a Spanish class.



Photos: Recreation Department Staff



Barricade Ends Without Violence

By CATHY PLEVY
TAKOMA PARK POLICE INFORMATION OFFICER

It's an uncommon occurrence, but occasionally City Police encounter a barricade situation and must work to coax a suspect out of a delicate and dangerous situation. That's what happened October 7, when the Takoma Park Police Department responded to the 600 block of Houston Avenue for a domestic dispute at approximately 11:30 p.m. It was learned that the victim had fled from her apartment after her boyfriend had threatened her and became violent by discharging a weapon in their residence.

Takoma Park Police officers secured the perimeter and the apartment and attempted to talk the suspect out. This failed and the department requested the services of the Montgomery County Emergency Response Team (ERT), which includes S.W.A.T., Hostage Negotiators, Electronic Technical Support and their Command Bus. ERT responded and took charge of the situation. Takoma Park provided uniform support and City Police Chief Ronald Ricucci participated from the Command Bus, providing input and being a party to all decisions.

Negotiations went on for approximately two and half hours. The suspect, who was extremely intoxicated, began to barricade the front door. A decision was made to use explosives on the door, which resulted in a large hole in the door. The suspect still refused to come out. At that time, canisters of gas were thrown through the door. The suspect then surrendered without incident and was placed under arrest for reckless endangerment, discharging a firearm and possession of a firearm by a felon.

In the apartment, officers recovered a 9mm pistol and a sawed-off shotgun. The suspect is a convicted felon.

Ricucci credits the professionalism and teamwork of the Montgomery County and Takoma Park Police Departments in bringing this incident to a successful conclusion. One of the self-imposed goals he set upon becoming Chief was to improve the working relationships between the two departments. "This incident is another example of the on-going working relationship," he says. "Both departments working together can only benefit and make the community safer."

Burglar Detained by Neighbors

By CATHY PLEVY
TAKOMA PARK POLICE
INFORMATION OFFICER

After a frightening confrontation and intervention by neighbors as well as police, a burglary was thwarted and the incident ended in an arrest. Bartolon Lazaro-Perez, a/k/a Ruben Perez-Escobar, 36, of no fixed address, was arrested on October 5 for first degree burglary, in the 7400 block of Cedar Avenue.

At approximately 10 p.m., Takoma Park Police officers responded to the 7400 block of Cedar Avenue for reports of a burglary in progress. Upon arriving at the scene, the officer was flagged down by a neighbor who indicated that a suspicious person was inside his neighbor's house. Another neighbor exited his home and indicated, "[H]e's inside the house." Officers ran up to the house, and upon entering, observed a half-dressed Hispanic male in the living/dining room area of the house. A third neighbor was inside the house with the suspect. Lazaro-Perez was arrested and escorted from the

residence. Officers spoke with the victim who was frightened and upset, and said "[T]his man broke into my house."

Upon investigation it was determined that earlier in the evening, the victim heard noises outside of her house which sounded like two people talking in the rear of her home. She further said she heard someone tampering with her windows and doors. She became frightened and decided to go to her neighbor's house.

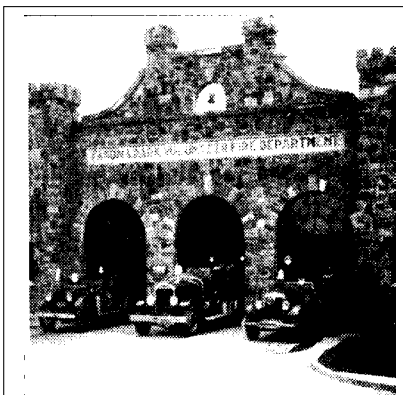
Takoma Park Police would encourage its citizens in situations like this one to immediately call the police.

After arriving at her neighbor's house, the victim's neighbors ran to her house in an attempt to check it out for her. One of the neighbors indicated that upon his first check, he did not notice anything amiss. However, upon further investigation, he heard a noise coming from the kitchen/porch area.



Upon opening the door to the porch, the neighbor noticed the suspect standing in the doorway. Lazaro-Perez attempted to leave, however, the neighbor distracted him until officers arrived. The home was inspected by officers who saw that glass window slats had been removed and/or damaged on the porch. The large porch window had been broken out of its frame and put aside.

While the police department acknowledges the bravery of the neighbors, and is thankful that this incident ended without violence, the department cautions residents against taking the law into their own hands. More often than not, weapons are used in the commission of a break-in, and this could have ended badly for someone. The department urges residents to call local police, or 911, in the event they suspect their homes are being broken into and/or burglarized.



Firehouse REPORT

As of September 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue assigned to the Takoma Park station responded to 710 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,296 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,006 incidents this year. Totals for 2006 were 754 and 2,001 respectively, for a total of 2,755, representing an increase of 251 incidents.

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is a time for fun, it is also a time to be extra careful. Halloween brings pumpkins, goblins, tricks and treats. This year, your family can have a fun and a safe Halloween by following these simple rules.

- Wear costumes made of flame-retardant material.
- Make sure that the costumes are short enough so youngsters do not trip on them.
- Masks should have BIG eye holes so you'll see better.
- Always take an adult with you when

you go trick-or-treating.

- Have an adult check all your treats before eating them.
- Use flashlights and glow sticks in your pumpkins instead of candles.
- Carry flashlights and glow sticks to light the way.
- Only go trick-or-treating at the homes of people you know.
- Walk only on well lighted streets and cross the street at crosswalks.
- Stay away from any flame such as fireplaces, stoves and open fires.

SO LET'S BOOOOOOOO CAREFUL OUT THERE!

A Fire Escape Plan is a Must for the Home

If a fire started in your house or apartment, would you know what to do? Here are a few things to remember!

- Have Smoke Alarms That Work. Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home, and near or inside all sleeping areas. New construction requires smoke alarms in each bedroom. It is recommended that alarms be wired together so that if one sounds, they all sound. Test them at least once a month. And replace batteries when you change your clocks twice a year. If you live in an apartment building, ask the manager to make sure the smoke alarms work.
- Make an Escape Plan. Draw a floor plan of your home, showing all doors and windows. Mark the best way out of each room, especially the bedrooms. Mark a second way out in case the first way is blocked by smoke or flames. Indicate locations of all smoke alarms. Finally, mark a place outside the house where everyone can meet. A plan for an apartment

or high rise building may be different from a plan for a house. If there is no second way out, plan to gather the family together in one room with a window, and have a phone handy to call the fire department to let them know where you are. NEVER use the elevators during a fire!

- Practice Your Plan. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. In a fire drill, it's important to move quickly, but more important to do things right and follow your escape plan. It's a must, once you are out of the building you must never go back in.

A reminder...

The Takoma Park VFD will not be selling Christmas Trees this year. It's the department's understanding that construction will start on the "temporary fire station" within the next couple months.

Takoma Park VFD Needs Volunteers!

To become a member, all you need is the time and commitment. If interested, please contact Membership Chairman Mike Livingston at the fire station 301-270-8209.

From The Lions Den

Used Eyeglasses Needed

Do you have any used glasses laying around? If so, the Takoma Park Lions Club collects them year round. Some will be recycled and others will be sent to developing countries. You may drop off used eyeglasses and hearing aids to either the Takoma Park Library or the Takoma Park Fire Station. To make a financial donation to assist families with eye exams or new glasses. Please send it to the Takoma Park Lions Club, P.O. Box 11226, Takoma Park, MD 20912.



Work for the City Employment Notices

Sanitation Driver

Drives a refuse packer truck and recycling vehicle in providing trash and recycling collection for the City; assists crew in collection of recyclables, and waste on assigned route; serves as lead worker. Hourly Range: \$15.21 - \$17.12 dependent on qualifications, plus excellent benefits. Requires HS/GED, six months experience and valid CDL Class B. Submit letter of interest and application to the Human Resources Department,

Maintenance Crew Leader

Oversees a crew of workers performing general street and park maintenance duties. Hourly Range: \$18.12 - \$20.39 dependent on qualifications, plus excellent benefits. Requires HS/GED, two to three years experience, and valid CDL Class B.

Motor Equipment Operator

Operates construction equipment including loader, skid steer, backhoe; operates street sweeper and tub grinder; finishes concrete curbs and sidewalks; performs other related duties. Hourly Range: \$16.12 - \$18.15, dependent on qualifications, plus excellent benefits. Requires HS/GED, three to six months experience and valid CDL Class B.

Submit letter of interest and application to the Human Resources Department, 7500 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, MD 20912 or fax to 301-270-8794.

Applications online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.
Equal opportunity employer.



Safe Routes to School

These kids were happy to walk to their school along Maple Avenue on International Walk to School Day, October 3. The event was designed to draw attention to the need for safe routes to school, and could help more people choose walking over driving in Takoma Park.

Photo: Martin Salmon

FARMERS’ MARKET

continued from page 1

people who are happy to be there,” says Planck. “Every week the crowd is peppered with people I’ve known forever. That’s really nice.” Customers of Hana Newcomb, of Potomac Vegetable Farms, remember when her babies slept under tables laden with produce for sale; now they remark on how her teenagers have grown. “People have died, people have gotten married from the market,” she says, citing at least two market romances that blossomed into weddings.

Customers in Takoma Park are so loyal, they sometimes pitch in to help. When Newcomb was swamped with sales one day, she simply shouted out to the crowd for someone to lend a hand – and they did. “Takoma Park is a much easier place to make that call,” she says. Several of the farmers hire town people on market day – it’s easier than taking a second truck to accommodate

extra farm folks to work the money box. And there’s clear community support for buying locally-grown produce for environmental and political reasons. Takoma Park remains committed to the producer-only ethic, accepting vendors only if their food comes from within 125 miles of the City. This way, the veggies and fruit are fresher, the energy and cost of trucking produce from distant locales is saved, and, says Planck, clients know they are safe from food scares like contaminated California spinach. But it’s not all about the food. In a town committed to nurturing community connections, the Takoma Park Farmer’s Market is part of a Sunday morning stroll, a way to get the kids out of the house, an opportunity to meet and greet. And while many things about the market have changed, this has remained the same: “There’s a lot of socializing on the median there, which speaks to the tightness of the neighborhood,” says Planck. “That was evident from the start.”



Columbia Union College Students Help Fight Erosion

About 20 students from Columbia Union College participated in their yearly service to the community last month by planting 50 coral berry shrubs along the Metro Branch bike trail, which runs from Montgomery College on Fenton Street and goes through Takoma toward Piney Branch. The students, who City Gardener Mike Welsh said were “terrific,” planted the drought-resistant, native shrubs on a slope adjacent to the Metro tracks in order to control erosion.

Photo: Patrick Rittenhouse

Wanted: Attic Clutter

Before you throw away all that clutter in your attic, consider donating your interesting two dimensional materials (papers and fabrics) to the adult collage class offered through the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Collage artists need materials such as wallpaper samples, aged papers (letters and book pages), old prints and engravings, text book pages, maps, graphs, postage stamps, old advertisements, tickets, calendar pages, hand written or machine printed music, calligraphy, typography, foreign language newspapers, old

photographs, fabrics, lace, burlap, anything with symbolic imagery, old alphabets, star charts, religious/spiritual texts, geometric shapes, diagrams for mechanical inventions, topographical maps, elemental symbols, chemical symbols, alchemical symbols, playing cards, tarot cards, papers with interesting textures and patterns, sonogram or mammogram images and x-ray film. We love neat stuff. Questions about donations should be directed to Katie Dell Kaufman at kdkaufman@pobox.com. The drop-off box is in front of the Recreation Department Office at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Watch Election Coverage, Takoma Park Style

Be sure to watch City TV for Election Coverage on November 6. Following the live announcement of results by the Chief Election Judge, the bulletin board will display the results, which will also be posted to the website.

City TV is carried on Channel 13 on Comcast and RCN, and Channel 28 on the Verizon system. Be sure to visit City TV’s award-winning webpage at www.Takoma-ParkMD.gov/cable for specific program information.



Takoma Snapshots in November will include:

- Arts and Humanities Day
- Safe Routes/International Walk to School Day
- Street Fest Showcase
- Halloween Parade and Festivities
- CASA de Maryland’s Multicultural Center

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

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

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - NOVEMBER 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			Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (Replay)			Takoma Park City TV Local Events	
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		
12:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming	Takoma Park Snapshots		Haiti a Suivre	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
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

Takoma Park's Streets Pulse with Music, Dance at October Festival

Once again, Takoma Park came out to play in the streets at the 26th Annual Takoma Park Street Festival, October 26. Carroll Avenue was lined with 150 art and crafts booths, political information tables, and food like funnel cakes, chicken satay and ice cream. The moon bounce and climbing wall drew the younger set and three stages offered a variety of music, including the ever-popular Nighthawks (bottom left) and their irresistibly danceable groove. With temperatures in the 80s, the festival turned into an October celebration of the last days of summer.

