

**NO  
NEWSLETTER  
IN JANUARY:**

Next deadline  
January 14 for  
February issue.

*Happy Holidays!*

# Takoma Park

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

## NEWSLETTER

**EMPLOYEE  
APPRECIATION  
DAY DEC. 12**

CITY OFFICES  
WILL BE CLOSED  
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

DECEMBER 2007

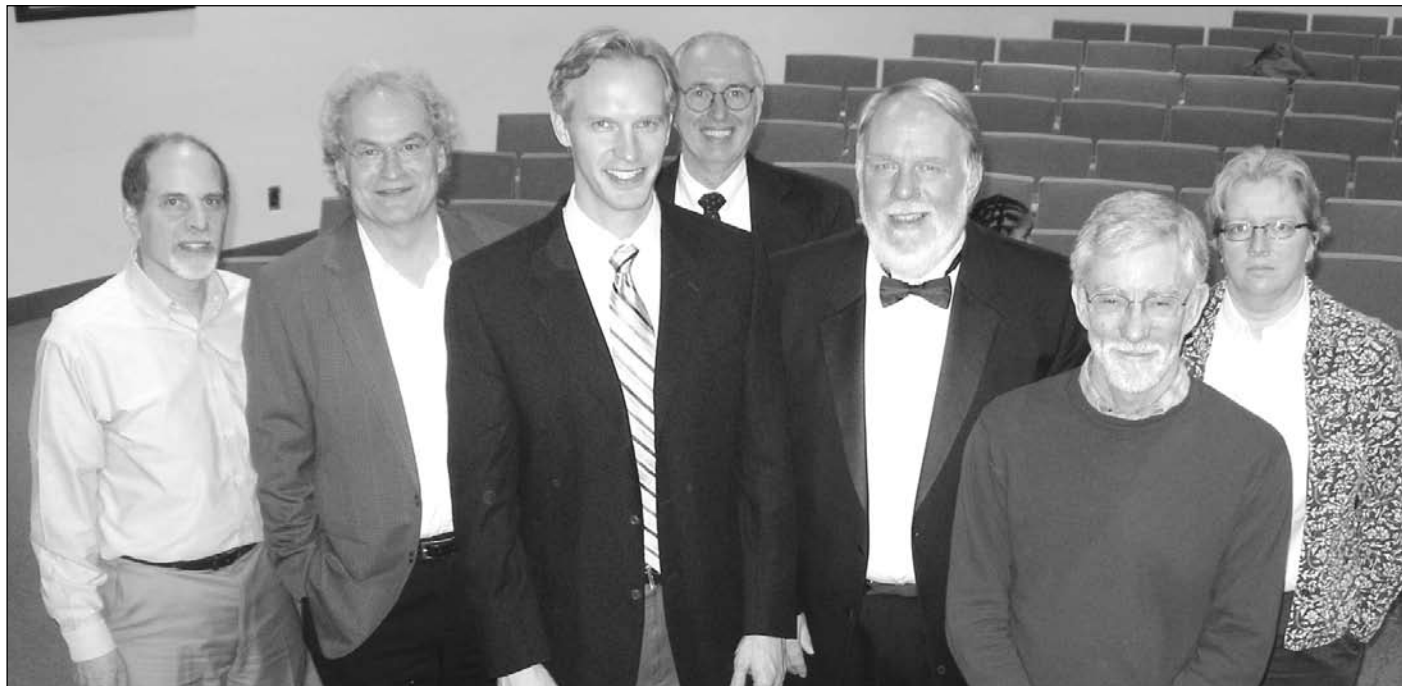


PHOTO: Clyde Lassell

## New Mayor and Council Begin Their Terms

The Takoma Park mayor and city council marked the changing of the guard — inaugurating two new members and a new mayor — with formality (the new mayor wore a tuxedo) and good will, lauding outgoing Mayor Kathy Porter and Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane for their dedication, and welcoming new Mayor Bruce Williams and Councilmembers Josh Wright and Dan Robinson November 19. Slips of paper were removed from name plates on the dais, and new councilmembers took their seats behind their respective names, then took the opportunity to express their hopes for the coming term of effective and rewarding work for the city. The new mayor adjourned the meeting early for a reception and celebration.

The change in personnel follows the Nov. 6 election. Although no incumbents were challenged for the six council seats, Ward 3 had a

contest to replace Williams, who moved into the mayoral position, and in Ward 1, where councilmember Joy Austin-Lane chose not to run again, the uncontested Josh Wright ran and won. Ward 3's seat went to Dan Robinson, who garnered 235 votes compared to his opponent Bridget Bowers' 112 votes.

Results for the election are as follows: Mayor, Bruce Williams, at 830 votes to 101 write-ins; Ward 1, Josh Wright, unopposed with 254 votes; Ward 2, Colleen Clay, unopposed with 137 votes; Ward 3, Dan Robinson, with 235 votes to opponent Bridget Bowers' 112; Ward 4, Terry Seamens, unopposed with 117 votes; Ward 5, Reuben Snipper, unopposed with 50 votes; and Ward 6, Doug Barry, unopposed with 45 votes. Complete results for the election can be found on page 15.

## Outgoing Mayor Reflects on City Activism

BY VIRGINIA MYERS

**K**athy Porter loves Takoma Park. After 10 years as mayor and another seven as City councilmember, she knows the City better than most people, but, she says, it never gets old. "The more you learn about Takoma Park, the better a place it seems to be," says Porter. "There are so many people who are so committed . . . they care a lot about what goes on." So at her last meeting as mayor, when she told the City Council, "It's been a privilege to serve with you all," she might just as well have been speaking to all the residents in town.

Reflecting earlier that day on her five terms as mayor, Porter refrained from self-congratulation, instead focusing on the vibrant activism that identifies Takoma Park, and noting that much of the progressive political action here comes not from the mayor and council but from the grass roots. From a recent resolution to impeach the president of the United States to the community association that met for weeks with developers planning townhomes for Old Town, Porter credits the people of Takoma Park for making this place what it is and has

**PORTER REFLECTS**  
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## Working at Education Don Bosco Cristo Rey Takes Innovative Approach

BY RICK HENRY

**A** typical school day for ninth-graders at Takoma Park's Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School is much the same as for students at other high schools around the D.C. metro area — classes in math, science, language arts, social studies and physical education.

However, those classes are only a small part of the Don Bosco student experience. Students' days are also filled with filing, answering phones and data entry, and not within the bricks and mortar of the school's location on Larch Avenue, but in corporate workplaces throughout the area.

Don Bosco is part of the Cristo Rey Network, an innovative consortium of schools modeled upon the Cristo Rey Jesuit School founded by Father John Foley in Chicago in 1996. Seeking to fund a college prep school for low-income students in Chicago's inner city, Foley and some of his cohorts developed a model whereby students would work in corporate jobs as part of their education, earning money to help pay tuition

and learning valuable job and life skills at the same time.

From that initial school, the Cristo Rey Network has now expanded to include 19 schools, including Don Bosco Cristo Rey, which opened its doors this past August in the site formerly occupied by Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School.

According to the Rev. Steve Shafran, president of the school, the work/study component fits in perfectly with the school's overarching curriculum theme.

"For these students, it's about self-discovery and finding out 'Who am I?'" Shafran says. "One of the things that has been discovered (through the network model) is the fabulous educational component when students interact with the business community. Our students go into the workplace, interact with the business community and gain skills. The experience also lifts their self-esteem and motivates them to do better in school."

Groups of four students are hired by local businesses as work teams, with each student working one full day a week and members

rotating on successive Mondays. Each student works five days a month.

"Every day a quarter of our school goes to work," Shafran says, stressing that the school arranges transportation and handles all of the logistics. "In addition to running a school, we are running a temp agency," he says.

Participating corporations pay a \$30,000 fee for a work team, which is paid to the school and used to fund tuition. The subtotal covers about 60-70 percent of the students' tuition. Scholarships also help cover tuition costs. No parent pays more than \$2500 in tuition.

In order to attend DBCR, students must qualify as low-income (less than \$30,000 per year for a family of four.) Members of this year's inaugural ninth-grade class of 127 hail from Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the District of Columbia. No preference is given to any of the three areas. The school also works to insure gender and ethnic balance in its student body.

**DON BOSCO CRISTO REY**  
continues on page 3

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Mayor & Council  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAKOMA PARK, MD  
PERMIT NO. 4422

CITY COUNCIL  
AND COMMITTEE

CALENDAR\*

**Monday, December 3** - Reception for Former Mayor Kathy Porter, 6:45 p.m. - 7:25 p.m., Community Center, Third Floor Atrium Lobby

**Monday, December 3** - Presentation, Special Session and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Wednesday, December 5** - Meeting of the Health Services Impact Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

**Thursday, December 6** - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6:45 p.m., Community Center Hydrangea Room.

**Thursday, December 6** - Meeting of the Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, December 10** - City Council retreat

**Tuesday, December 11** - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, December 11** - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Rose Room)

**Monday, December 17** - City Council Administrative Function Session (ethics training, lobbying training), 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, December 18** - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, December 24** - City offices close at 12:30 p.m. for the Christmas Eve holiday

**Tuesday, December 25** - City offices closed for the Christmas holiday

**Tuesday, January 1, 2008** - City offices closed for the New Year holiday

**Monday, January 7** - Presentation, Special Session and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Tuesday, January 8** - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center room TBA)

**Tuesday, January 8** - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center room TBA)

**Wednesday, January 9** - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6:45 p.m., Community Center, room TBA.

**Monday, January 14** - Presentation, regular meeting and worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Monday, January 21** - Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. City offices will be closed.

**Tuesday, January 22** - Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Tuesday, January 22**, Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center room TBA)

**Monday, January 28** - Regular meeting and work-session of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

\*For the most up to date information, check [www.takoma-parkmd.gov](http://www.takoma-parkmd.gov). Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (CC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the City 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](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

**Regular Meeting - October 8**

**Resolution 2007-47 was adopted**, recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the Takoma Langley CDA and Erwin Mack as Founder and Executive Director

**Resolution 2007-48 was adopted**, recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the Takoma Park Farmers Market

**First Reading Ordinance 2007-49 was accepted**, revising Takoma Park Code, Chapter 8.40, Commercial District Facade Regulations

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-50 was adopted**, authorizing execution of a contract for replacement of mechanics' toolboxes

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-51 was adopted**, awarding a contract for procurement of liquid chemical spreaders

**First Reading Ordinance 2007-52 was accepted**, appointing judges for the 2007 City Election

**First Reading Ordinance 2007-53 was accepted**, amending Ordinance 2007-43 to revise the time of the Council's meeting to receive the certification of election results

**First Reading Ordinance 2007-54 was accepted**, authorizing FY08 Budget Amendment No. 1

**The Consent Agenda was adopted.** It consisted of:

**A. Resolution 2007-49**, reappointing Emily Palus to the Arts and Humanities Commission

**B. Resolution 2007-50**, reappointing Emily Schabacker to the Ethics Commission

**C. Resolution 2007-51**, reappointing Aaron Houston and Charles Thomas to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

**Special Session - October 15**

**First Reading Ordinance 2007-55 was accepted**, amending the City Code to require the payment of a living wage by City contractors

**Resolution 2007-52 was adopted**, setting forth a policy regarding part-time staffing and contractual labor usage

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-56 was adopted**, authorizing purchase of in-car video cameras for the Police Department

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-57 was adopted**, authorizing additional research and analysis by Nelson\Nygaard related to the Takoma Metro project

**Regular Meeting - October 22**

**First Reading Ordinance 2007-58 was accepted**, reaffirming and strengthening the City's Sanctuary Law (Abstain: Clay)

**First Reading Ordinance 2007-59 was accepted**, amending the Urban Forest Chapter of the City Code to provide residents with notice of Tree Commission hearings regarding appeals of tree permit denials

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-60 was adopted**, authorizing the purchase of two trucks for Public Works

**Resolution 2007-53 was adopted**, approving Community Development Block Grant Projects (Abstain: Clay)

**Second Reading Ordinance 2007-49 was adopted**, revising Takoma Park Code, Chapter 8.40, Commercial District Facade Regulations

**Second Reading Ordinance 2007-55 was adopted**, amending the City Code to require the payment of a living wage by City contractors

**Second Reading Ordinance 2007-54 was adopted**, authorizing FY08 Budget Amendment No. 1

**Resolution 2007-54 was adopted**, amending the City Manager's contract

**Second Reading Ordinance 2007-53 was adopted**, amending Ordinance 2007-43 to revise the time of the Council's meeting to receive the certification of election results

**Second Reading Ordinance 2007-52 was adopted**, appointing judges for the 2007 City Election

**Special Session - October 29**

**Resolution 2007-55 was adopted**, establishing the wording for a Sam Abbott Commemorative Plaque to be placed in the lobby area

**Second Reading Ordinance 2007-58 was adopted**, reaffirming and strengthening the City's Sanctuary Law

**Second Reading Ordinance 2007-59 was adopted**, amending the Urban Forest Chapter of the City Code to provide residents with notice of Tree Commission hearings regarding appeals of tree permit denials

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-61 was adopted**, authorizing the purchase of voice recorder for the Police Communications Section

**Single Reading Ordinance 2007-62 was adopted**, authorizing the purchase of tasers for the Police Department

\*Only negative votes and abstentions are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org).

Vacancies on Council-appointed Boards and Committees

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

- Arts and Humanities Commission
- Board of Elections
- Committee on the Environment
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Ethics Commission
- Facade Advisory Board
- Health Services Impact Committee

- Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee
- Noise Control Board
- Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee
- Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee
- Safe Roadways Committee
- Tree Commission



# Construction On the Horizon

## Development Review Round-up

BY ILONA BLANCHARD

There are so many projects underway in Takoma Park, either under construction or on someone's radar screen, that it's hard to keep up. This occasional column from the Department of Housing and Community Development will be a start in helping readers track those projects under review by the City.

The best way to stay up to date, though, is to pay attention to your mail: If you or your neighborhood organization receive a letter in the mail from a developer or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)/Montgomery County Planning Board, or see a sign posted on a property, this is the only notification you may receive, as the City does not duplicate these services. It is your responsibility to call to find out what is being planned at that location. It is advisable that your neighborhood organization designate one or two members to track development and to keep the neighborhood abreast of plans.

Developers are interested in your input as a community member or neighborhood association; by calling the number on the letter you receive in the mail, appointing a member of your neighborhood association, attending meetings and providing input, you can ensure that your views, concerns, support and ideas are heard.

### TAKOMA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is developing a schematic design for an addition to the Takoma Elementary School on Holly Avenue. MCPS is in the process of meeting with the school, parents, teachers, residents and other community members as they work to add additional square footage to the existing building, to improve parking and to separate bus from parent drop off by adding access on Philadelphia Avenue. The classroom pods and the 1950s building on the site will be removed. The addition and site will be built to LEED green building standards. The existing 1970s building will not be modernized at this time except where touched by the new construction.

This project is in an early stage of design (i.e. schematic and not construction documents); design changes can be more easily considered and accommodated prior to the development of construction documents. A traffic analysis will be completed as part of this process.

Information on the project is to be presented to the Takoma Park City Council December 3. Montgomery County Public Schools will hold a community meeting December 11 at 7 p.m. at TPES to review the schematic design. For more information, please contact Ray Marhamati at 240-314-1010 or send an email to ray\_marhamati@mcpsmd.org.

### PURPLE LINE

The Maryland Department of Transportation is holding a series of open houses in December to review the alignment of the Purple Line — a bi-county transit way that will connect Bethesda with New Carrollton and possibly beyond. A minimum of two stops will serve Takoma Park — one near Flower Avenue and one at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. These meetings are designed to gather your input on preliminary station locations, track alignment, type of infrastructure (bus or rail, elevated or at grade) and some specific design elements. Ridership, travel time and cost information will be shared.

The community is encouraged to drop by one of the following information sessions to ask questions at any time between 5 and 8:30 p.m. One will be held Monday, December 3, at the East Silver Spring Elementary School, 631 Silver Spring Avenue; another is scheduled Monday, December 10, at the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive. For more information and open houses at other locations, see [www.purplelinemd.com](http://www.purplelinemd.com) or contact Michael Madden at 410-767-3694.

### TAKOMA/LANGLEY CROSSROADS

The Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan, a collaborative planning effort between the Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties' Planning Boards in association with the City of Takoma Park, will produce a vision for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads transit station area and will address pedestrian safety, community resources, housing, commercial/mixed use development and more. The project is set to officially begin when the planning boards formally approve the project's goals, purpose and outreach strategy following a public hearing January 16.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the goals and outreach plan for review, the document will be available on or around January 4; you are encouraged to present testimony at the public hearing. For more information see [www.mncppc.org/tlc](http://www.mncppc.org/tlc) or call 301-495-4565. An overview of the project will be presented to the Takoma Park City Council January 7, 2008.

### ORCHARD AVENUE

The developer of 6411 Orchard Avenue, a commercial office building on Orchard Avenue, is requesting an amendment to the site plan to replace a proposed wall with a fence, change the location of trees, add a sidewalk, reduce parking, change the bio-retention pond and install asphalt instead of permeable pavers in the parking area. The changes are under review by MNCPPC staff, who will present recommendations to the Planning Board for consideration at a public hearing, possibly in January 2008. For more information, contact Michelle Oaks at 301-495-4573.

*"By calling the number on the letter you receive in the mail, appointing a member of your neighborhood association, attending meetings and providing input, you can ensure that your views, concerns, support and ideas are heard."*

### DON BOSCO CRISTO REY

continued from page 1

Besides the income requirement, school officials consider several other factors in selecting students. Potential students must be recommended by a teacher and principal at their current school and must write an essay describing why they want to attend. Students and their families are also interviewed.

"We ask questions to gauge whether or not they really want to be here," Shafran said. "Our program is difficult and demanding, with high expectations. We want to make sure they have a desire to be a part of it."

Identifying students that possess the desire and getting them to commit to attending the school was a particularly daunting task for this inaugural school year, given that the school renovations weren't complete until August, a mere six days before classes began.

"There were no classrooms for them to see, no facility for them to visit," said Shafran about this year's class of students and parents. "We were just able to get them and their parents excited by sharing information and touting the success of the Cristo Rey Network."

And the success has been impressive. At the flagship school in Chicago, 99 percent of the class of 2006 was accepted to college. Network-wide, 96 percent of the graduating class enrolled in a two- or four-year college this year.

It is that kind of success that has lured teachers to the school.

Jenny Warren, who teaches social studies, was teaching in the D.C. Public Schools for Teach for America and decided to apply at DBCR after visiting Teach for America colleagues at the flagship school in Chicago.

Not only did Warren sign on, but she brought four students from the D.C. school with her.

Dan McCarthy, who teaches mathematics, left a career as an investment banker in New York to come teach at the school. A graduate of Georgetown University, McCarthy says he was drawn to the school's magnetic mission.

"If you are going to do something for people, it makes sense to do something educationally," he says. "Once I discovered what the Cristo Rey Network is all about I saw an opportunity to help people and do something good by teaching at the school."

Language arts teacher Nellie Jackson says she too came to DBCR to work with the students, students she describes as "possessing a relentless spirit of... 'I can do better than my situation.'"

It is that spirit, both in the faculty and staff and the student body, that Shafran plans to draw upon as the school expands. The plan is to add one additional class of ninth-graders each year so that when this year's class of freshmen hits its senior year the school will have a full enrollment of four classes and approximately 550 students. Accommodating that number of students means the school will have to upgrade and expand its existing facilities.

"This site is only adequate for first two years," Shafran says.

Future plans call for a library, upgraded science labs and an adequate gymnasium.



**Students at Don Bosco Cristo Rey incorporate work in their school routine.**

Photo: Don Bosco Cristo Rey



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, will be considered for publication. Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines

of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

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





## HOUSING Mailbox

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

*A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding the failure of her lease to address either how her security deposit will be handled by her landlord or her ability to terminate the lease should there be an involuntary change in her employment requiring her to locate to another state.*

In accordance with Section 6.16.060 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law both of omissions in a lease are prohibited.

Section 6.16.060.D. requires that city leases indicate that a tenant's security deposit will be deposited and returned in accordance with provisions of the City's law (Section 6.16.120) and of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as amended..

Section 6.16.060.G requires that a City lease must permit the termination by a tenant upon his/her providing the landlord with one month's written notice prior to the rent due date due to an involuntary change of employment requiring relocation

from the Washington, D.C., Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area(SMSA); death or involuntary unemployment of a major wage earner; or for any other reasonable cause beyond the tenant's control. In the event of a lease termination for reasonable cause beyond the tenant's control the lease may provide that the tenant will pay a reasonable termination fee not to exceed one month's rent or the actual monetary damage sustained by the landlord from the termination, whichever is the lesser amount, in addition to rent due and owing through the termination date and during the notice period.

*A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding when heat must be turned on by the landlord.*

There is no longer a fixed date when heat must be turned on by a landlord.

In accordance Chapter 26, Section 26-7 of the Montgomery County Code each owner of a dwelling unit where the heat is not under the tenant's control must maintain a temperature of at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit at a distance of three feet above the floor. Where the heat is under the tenant's control, the owner of the dwelling unit must provide heating equipment in working condition that maintains a temperature of the same — at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit at a distance of three feet above the floor.

*Tenants or landlords 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.*

## COLTA Denies Defective Tenancy Complaint

MOSES A. WILDS, JR.  
LANDLORD-TENANT COORDINATOR

### Bradford v. Parkes

On October 15, 2007 COLTA issued a decision in a case in which the tenants had alleged a defective tenancy due to having code violations in their apartment and a breach of their privacy rights. The tenants requested a rent rebate and sought to void their lease agreement. The commission ruled that (1) a defective tenancy did not exist because the landlord made timely and good faith efforts to correct any problems once she was made

aware of them; (2) violations listed by the county housing inspector were minor and did not constitute serious health, sanitary or safety issues and were responded to promptly by the landlord once she became aware of them; and (3) the landlord's providing a key to a neighbor to unlock the door for an electrician who was responding to the tenant's request for repairs in accordance with Section 6.16.140.A.2. of the city law was not a violation of the tenants' privacy. The tenants' requests for a rent rebate and voiding of their lease were also denied.

## Golden Roscoe Makes City Sidewalks Shine

It's that time of year again: Old Takoma retailers are loading up on glitter and dusting off the glue gun in hopes of garnering Main Street Takoma's coveted Golden Roscoe Award. The holiday window display competition caps a year's worth of downtown revitalization efforts. During Main Street Takoma's annual spring and fall clean ups, volunteers planted some 700 flowers in the tree boxes and planters that line Carroll and Laurel avenues, as well as in Morrison Park at Takoma Junction and Triangle Park at 4th Street, NW, in the District. Also, as part of the organization's Adopt A Tree program, volunteers regularly watered 22 of the city's new street trees—a real boon,

given this past summer's drought. And the biggest number of all: nearly \$75,000 worth of building improvements have been made to Old Takoma businesses this year through Main Street Takoma's Facade Improvement Program. All told, 2007 will be remembered for all the right kinds of gains any civic organization can hope for (lots of flowers, healthy trees, presentable buildings, community input) as well as the best kind of losses (graffiti, litter, weeds, broken windows).

Main Street Takoma is a community-based initiative of the Old Takoma Business Association. For more information on how you can be involved, please visit [www.MainStreetTakoma.org](http://www.MainStreetTakoma.org).



## COLTA's CORNER

By JEAN KERR,  
HOUSING SPECIALIST

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

6901 Westmoreland Avenue (2007-46L)

On October 30, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$516.78 on one unit at the property. The improvements included renovations of the bedroom and bathroom.

8310 Roanoke Avenue (2007-49L)

On October 15, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$10.05 on one unit at the property. The improvements included painting.

8203 Houston Court (2007-50L)

On October 17, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$16.44 on one unit at the property. The improvements included replacing the kitchen floor 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).



## NEW RENT STABILIZATION LAW EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1



On July 23, 2007, the City Council adopted changes to the City's Rent Stabilization law which go into effect on December 1, 2007. The following outlines the major components of the new law.

### Units Subject to Rent Stabilization

All rental facilities (including condominium units) except the following:

- Approved Accessory Apartments
- Single Family Houses
- Owner-occupied Group Homes

### The following properties may be exempt from rent stabilization pending approval by the city:

- Two-unit rental facilities where the owner occupies one of the dwelling units
- Rental units leased to tenants assisted under federal tenant-based assistance programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Rental facilities subject to a regulatory agreement which controls rent levels and requires occupancy by low- and moderate-income tenants.
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years

### Annual Rent Stabilization Allowance

100 percent of Consumer Price Index (Wash./Baltimore) published in March of each year.

### Rent Increase Petition Process

Additional rent increases may be approved, upon application, in situations where the net operating income has not been maintained due to escalating operating expenses. Capital improvement rent increases are no longer allowed.

For more information on changes in the rent stabilization law and how they may effect you, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7216.



# Thanks to Book Sale Volunteers

By MERRILL LEFFLER

The biannual sale of books by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is one means of raising money - this November more than \$1,600 - to support diverse programs at our city library. And it doesn't just happen!

While the doors open at 10, by 8 a.m. volunteers are already moving scores and scores of heavy boxes from storage in the library to the library grounds or indoors - this fall we were in the City Council chambers. The invisible work - which actually begins months earlier with City librarians Dave Burbank and Janet Jendrzeczyk putting in countless hours sorting book contributions - involves setting up tables, taking cash, restocking tables, then at the end of day packing up unsold books, returning them to storage for dis-

tribution to other organizations, and restoring the grounds or, this year, the chambers.

All of this takes help, and this month many pitched in early and throughout the day - the Friends are much appreciative and want to publicly thank all of them: Bob and Mary Ann Annis, Maurice Belanger, Karen Boyer, Sara Criscitelli, Karen Fishman, Clair Garman, Pat Hanrahan, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Michele Morgan, Suzanne Morgan, Walter Mulbry and daughters, Dee and Mel Raff, Ellen Robbins, Rebekah Zanditon, and students Gemma D'Eustachio, Darius Lyons, Sam McCollin, and Sterling Parris.

To learn more about the City library's wide ranging programs, check out [www.cityoftakomapark.org/library](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/library). While you're at it, visit [www.ftpl.org](http://www.ftpl.org) as well and consider becoming a Friend.

## Library Spotlights Your Favorites

This year, as the library celebrated Children's Book Week from Nov. 12-19, we asked patrons — young and old — to tell us their favorite children's books and why. Some people cited specific titles, like "If I Ran the Zoo," while others chose a whole genre, like non-fiction. Some of the favorites, like "Goodnight Moon," are for the youngest readers; others, like "Cupcake" by Rachel Cohn, are aimed at young adults. Most of the books can be found in our library. A few favorites aren't yet in our library, but they're now on order!

### Here's the list of favorites, plus the reasons why people like them so much:

■ "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams. "It shows the beauty of 'well-loved' rather than shiny and new. My husband and I had a friend read the passage about how toys become real at our wedding!"

■ "The Kidnapped King," one of the "A-Z Mystery" series books by Ron Roy "because I like mysteries and I think that this book has a good mystery."

■ "Zerelda's Ogre" by Tomi Ungerer. "One of my favorites as a child, this is the sort of dark fairy tale (the ogre eats children) that thrills young children, lightened by a strong and talented girl heroine who saves the day, sly humor, and lively illustrations."

■ "My Side of the Mountain" by

Jean Craighead George. "Another of my childhood favorites, this book was a huge hit with my son when we read it out loud to him at about age seven. And then he read it to himself again at age nine."

■ "Foxtrot" comic books by Bill Amend "because they are funny."

■ "Harold and the Purple Crayon" by Crockett Johnson. "I think it is an incredibly empowering book."

■ "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein because "it was sweet and sad and the illustrations were great."

■ "Cupcake" by Rachel Cohn and "Revenge of the Wannabees" by Lisle Harrison (two young adult books) because "they are interesting and they make me want to read them again and again."

■ "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White "because I love Charlotte so much."

■ "Peanuts" comics because "Charlie Brown is so funny."

■ "Clementine" by Sara Pennypacker because "it is funny."

■ "Pearls Before Swine" comic books by Stephan Pastis "because it has animals that you wouldn't regularly see in a comic strip. Also, it has really funny jokes."

■ "12 Again" by Sue Corbett because "it's funny in some parts and is very interesting."

■ "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Bill Martin Jr. because it has "colorful illustrations, reinforces the ABCs and has great rhyming words."

■ "Lost and Found," one of the books in the young adult "Bluford" series by Anne Schraff, because "it is cool!"

■ The Simpsons comic books by Matt Groening "because they are funny and I watch the episodes on TV."

■ "Andy and the Lion" by James Daugherty because "it's a great story. But it's an old book and it's not in the library." (Note: this book is on order).

■ The "Captain Underpants" series by Dav Pilkey because "it's really fun. Even though I normally read bigger books, I always go back and read 'Captain Underpants.'"

■ Non-fiction books "because you can trust the book and it won't lie about anything."

■ "All About Sharks" by Jim Arnosky "because there's a lot of sharks in it."

■ "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown because "it's the perfect bedtime story."

■ Long books "because you get to know the book."

■ "David Goes to School" by David Shannon because "it is funny."

**LIBRARY FAVORITES**  
continues on page 11

### Neighborhood Circle Time

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

### Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday  
10 a.m. at the Library

### Bedtime Story Time

Monday, Dec. 3  
and Monday, Jan. 7  
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.

### Holiday Gift-Making

Monday, Dec. 17 Kids, come make gifts for family and friends! Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2007

### T(w)een Book Club

Thursday, Dec. 20  
5-6 p.m. Rose Room, Community Center. Our book is "The Agony of Alice" by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. You MUST register to attend, as space is limited. Call 301-891-7259 to sign up.

### Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 20  
7:15 p.m.  
Celebrate the change of seasons with Bill Jenkins, drummer/ethnomusicologist, and The Foggy Bottom Morris Men. No need to register, just come.

### Shadow Puppets: Aesop's Fables

Monday, Jan. 14  
7-8:30 p.m.

Come learn how to make shadow puppets, and then put on a show! For kids ages 5 up, although all ages are welcome at 8:15 for the show. Space is limited to 20 participants. Call 301-891-7259 to register.

### Friends of the Library Reading Group

Tuesday, Jan. 15  
7:30 p.m., Takoma Park Community Center. Our book is "The Diaries Of Jane Somers" by Doris Lessing. Call 301-891-7259 for more information.



## LIBRARY Briefs

### Reading Group Discusses Doris Lessing

The Friends of the Library Reading Group will next meet on Tuesday, January 15 to discuss "The Diaries of Jane Somers" by this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Doris Lessing.

"The novel presents two fictional diaries narrated by Jane (Janna) Somers which take on the foibles of modern life and grating relationships. The impeccably turned out editor of a trendy London magazine, Janna has a horror of commitment and unpleasant scenes. Her smooth carapace is cracked by Maudie Fowler, a fierce, angry old woman who lives a dirty, tumbled down life but knows "how things ought to be." Through that steadily enlarging crack wriggle several other needy souls. In book two, Janna's exasperated benedictions fall on her sad-sack semi punk niece Kate, who slumps around her aunt's apartment in sluggish counterpoint to a frenzied, impossible love affair Janna embarks upon."

Copies of the book are available at the Takoma Park Library, with the support of the Friends of the Library. All are invited to join the book discussion at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center. Call Ellen Robbins at the Library for additional information.



**Nobel Prize-winning author, Doris Lessing**

### Aesop's Puppets Come to Life

Combine Aesop's fables with the ancient art of shadow puppetry and you have the ingredients for an extra special library event on Monday, Jan. 14, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Daniel Barash of the Shadow Puppet Workshop in Silver Spring will open the program by putting on a short demonstration of shadow puppetry, an art form in which shadows are cast on a lit screen to tell a story. Then he'll work with kids ages 5 and older to help them make their own shadow puppets. Once the puppets have been created, the kids will use them to put on a show focused on some of Aesop's fables.

Because the kids will be working with scissors and doing some complicated cutting, we ask that all participants in this part of the program be ages 5 and up. But we will welcome people of all ages to come for the final performance, which will take place around 8:15, once the kids have finished creating their puppets and then had a chance to practice with them.

We have space for 20 young participants to make their own shadow puppets, so please call 301-891-7259 or stop by the library's main desk to register. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Md. Library for sponsoring this program!

### T(w)een Book Club

If you're a middle schooler who likes to read and who likes to eat, then you'll love our T(w)een Book Club. We meet each month in a Community Center room to discuss a book and then have an extravagant snack. Sometimes it's ice cream sundaes, sometimes it's cupcakes to decorate with candy and frosting. Our next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 20 from 5-6 p.m. in the Rose Room. We'll be discussing "The Agony of Alice" by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor and then decorating cupcakes with holiday candy. We have space for 12 middle-school-age (grades 6, 7 and 8) participants. Call 301-891-7259 to register. You MUST sign up to participate; you also MUST read the

**LIBRARY BRIEFS** continues on page 11



# Creating Art With the People

By JOY LAWSON JONES

**A**lice Sims is not fooling around. "Art is freedom. Art is balance. Art is... connection!" When you meet Alice Sims, you understand why she's become synonymous with visual art in Takoma Park.

Sims is president of Art For The People, a Takoma Park nonprofit she started to provide art experiences and instruction to people who don't have regular access to art activities, especially those with low income. Art For The People works with teens at risk, seniors, children and homeless people, and brings art into schools, subsidized housing, senior centers, shelters and public and community spaces.

An artist herself, and a long-time advocate for accessible art, Sims has strong views and ideas about the value of art and its place in our everyday lives.

"The 'doing' of art and the experimentation that happens during the creative process is energizing in and of itself," says Sims. "Art helps people with their struggles and with their isolation. It helps people connect, and helps give people another perspective on their own lives and the lives of others."

Sims says she started Art For The People for just these reasons, to help people who perhaps don't get a lot of chances to express themselves, who don't see a lot of choice available to them, who often get told what they can't do, and who aren't often gifted with acceptance and success in their daily lives.

When she works with at-risk kids, Sims says, she is often dismayed at how so many equate being smart and being successful with having money. These are usually kids

## ARTS In the News



Alice Sims

Photo: Joy Jones

who don't have a lot of money and who don't get a lot of respect. However, when the same kids get involved in art projects and begin to express themselves through the creative process, Sims says a critical attitudinal shift occurs. The act of creating and working on an art project, she says, moves kids from "I can't..." to "I'll try..."

"When you are creating, the process takes you to a different place, a deeper, more comfortable place... it's almost meditative," says Sims. "Being involved in art allows the kids and we work with to come out of themselves and to be giving to others. They get to share their creativity and their dreams without judgments about what's right or wrong or what's good or bad. There are no mistakes when you are creating art. Everyone can be successful."

Sims says the same transformation happens whether she and her teachers are working with kids, older people, people with disabilities or people without fixed addresses. Sims has observed that people who are homeless are often especially drawn to themes in nature, and easily recognize that art is all around them. When participating in art projects they finally get to share what they have to offer to the world, and to feel that what they do offer is valued.

Instructors hired by Art For The People are artists themselves and often teach at local institutions like Montgomery College. In addition to working with local talent, Sims has partnered Art For The People with many groups in Takoma Park and in Metro D.C.,

like the Franklin Apartments Senior Housing in Takoma Park, and the Takoma Park Recreation Department's Senior program. Art For The People has also been active with Art Enables, a D.C. group working with developmentally disabled adults and Community Vision Day Shelter for the Homeless in Silver Spring. Art For The People also designed the beautiful tile backsplash in the art room of the new Takoma Park Community Center, and Sims is currently working on an exhibit that will feature art from the growing Ethiopian community in our area.

Sims says bridging cultures and making connections are essential to her philosophy of how art can be used to solve community problems and get people working on areas of commonality rather than concentrating on differences. Sims strongly believes that art helps bring about balance and can actually prevent world dissonance by focusing on harmony.

A former President of the Takoma Artists Guild and a member of the Takoma Foundation's Advisory Board and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, Sims's own work is right out in the open. Her sculptures of a kangaroo with a human child in its pouch, a rhinoceros, a moose with a woman's hands for antlers and other wild and domestic things enliven not only her front yard but others along Carroll Avenue. But Sims has been so busy with Art For The People, that these days she has little time for creating her own art, something she acutely misses. Sims says her future plans include finding a way to balance her own creative projects with her leadership of Art For The People.

With all her accomplishments and work with community projects, Alice Sims never loses touch with her deep reverence for the artistic process. After all, says Sims, "The greatest thing we create is ourselves. Every day is a little sketch of who we are and who we are becoming."

For more information about Art For The People, visit [www.artforthepeople.org](http://www.artforthepeople.org), or contact Alice Sims, 301-891-3616.

# Takoma Park

## Second Annual Open Studio

### Tour & Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, December 15th, 2007

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Artists work at local studios, Community Center, A.Salon

Sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission

In partnership with ASalon, a Takoma DC arts cooperative

Over 60 Artists.

#### Event Locations:

**Takoma Park Community Center**  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Takoma Park, Maryland

**A. Salon, Ltd.**  
6925 Willow Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
202.882.0740

For more information: [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or [www.asalondc.org](http://www.asalondc.org)

## Arts and Humanities Events in December

*Celebrating the Creative Spirit of our Community*

The following events are brought to you by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission in partnership with the community.

#### Art Exhibit and Opening Reception - December 7

"Brainwave Entrainment: How Colors, Shapes and Sounds Can Stimulate Your Creativity" is an exhibition of paintings with brainwave creativity seminars offered by George Pierson. Opening reception will be held on Friday, December 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Using some of his recent paintings as examples, George Pierson will demonstrate how specific brainwaves patterns can be entrained to stimulate creative thinking with exposure to art and music and guided meditations.

#### Third Thursday Poetry Readings

The work of local poets Laura Brown and Miles David Moore will be featured on Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. On January 17,

you can hear poets Melissa Tuckey and Joe Hall.

#### Holiday Art Sale and Studio Tour - December 15

The second annual Holiday Art Sale and Studio Tour will be held on Saturday, December 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event, sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Commission in partnership with ASalon, features the work of local artists and crafters with many local artists opening up their studios to the public. Tour maps and information on participating artists can be obtained at the Community Center and will be posted on the City's website at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

Additional information on these and other upcoming events can be found on the City's website at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or by contacting the Arts and Humanities Commission at 301-891-7224 or by email at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org).





# Think Global, Shop Takoma

## CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGES LOCAL SHOPPING

The City Council has passed a resolution recognizing the importance of shopping locally and urging people to buy from and do business with local firms. Council members also individually declared their intention to buy from and do business with local Takoma Park firms whenever possible.

At this time of year, it's worth stressing that Takoma Park's stores are particularly attractive to those looking for a non-generic gift. The City's Old Takoma stores specialize in off-the-beaten-track merchandise, as well as organics, fair-trade and eco-friendly products, while New Hampshire Avenue offers a lot of everything from everywhere in the world.

When it comes to gifts for children, former City Council member Joy Austin-Lane finds Takoma Park stores far more attractive than the big chains. "I have found our stores have the best gifts for kids, from Now and Then and Magic Carpet to Fair Day's Play and House of Musical Traditions. You can't beat the selection and price."

Dan Robinson, Councilmember from Ward 3, knows from personal experience that you can always find something unique in Old Takoma. "The year I bought fake mustaches [from Now and Then] for my son-in-law and his brother," he says, "was fantastic."

From New  
Hampshire  
Avenue to Old  
Takoma, do your  
shopping while  
maintaining your  
sanity this  
holiday season.

Takoma Park's Rhythm House, on University Boulevard, which sells Indian and Pakistani music and DVDs, is about as far from a chain store environment as it gets. If you visit without consulting your Indian friends on what Bollywood movies or dance music not to miss, the friendly staff is not at all stiff about popping open boxes and giving them a whirl on the screen or stereo.

And let's not forget about those gifts you can't trust others to get for you.

At El Alazan Western Wear, if none of the dizzying variety of high-quality western boots suit, the owner will be happy to order you a pair of custom-made dancing boots of your very own. Rather than stocking up on the basics like tights at department stores, the locally-owned Gussini's on New Hampshire Avenue near Ethan Allen Avenue provides a local (and affordable) option.

Doug Barry, the Ward 6 Councilmember, frequents the Southeast Asian grocery stores in his Takoma/Langley Crossroads neighborhood to find gifts for foodies: "Where else can you find nine different types of lentils? Or the spices that make them taste great?"

From New Hampshire Avenue to Old Takoma, you can do your shopping while maintaining your sanity this holiday season, and for that matter, the rest of the year. Bump into old friends, meet new ones, enjoy a cup of hot spiced cider in Old Takoma or a multi-course feast in the Crossroads, and support our community by enjoying yourself!

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTS LOCAL MERCHANTS

Excerpts from the Resolution passed by the City Council November 26:

**WHEREAS ...** [O]ne of Takoma Park's most important, but under-utilized virtues, is its unique array of locally owned and operated, independent businesses; and

**WHEREAS ...** [S]upporting locally owned and operated, independent businesses is in the best interest of Takoma Park area residents and the community, because those businesses are part of the traditions and heritage of Takoma Park and are critical to maintaining a socially, environmentally and financially sustainable local economy for its citizens; and

**WHEREAS ...** [L]ocally owned and operated, independent businesses help to sustain a vibrant, compact walkable city center that is essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, and air and water pollution; and

[O]ur business owners and operators are committed to Takoma Park, contribute to the local economy, offer quality jobs for our citizens, engage in civic concerns and are essential to our success as a community.

**BE IT ... RESOLVED** that the City Council hereby declare its unconditional support for the "Think Takoma - Buy Local" campaign and encourages all local residents and business people to buy from and deal with businesses in Takoma Park and Takoma, D.C. whenever possible;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council hereby declares December 1 through December 8, 2007, as "Think Takoma - Buy Local Week."



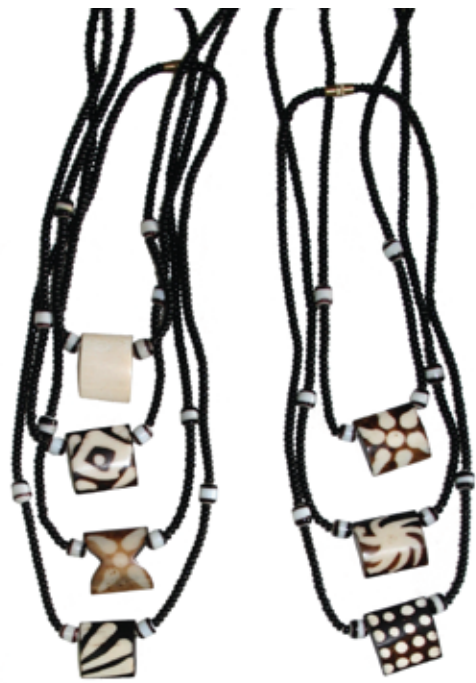


### MAKE YOUR OWN

Making your own presents this year? Sarah's Fabrics stocks thousands of unique patterns in cotton, linen, silk, and taffeta, to name a few, and is one of many fabric stores in the Tacoma/Langley Crossroads.

Shown here: Putti heavyweight linen - \$8.99

**SARAH'S FABRICS**  
1173 University Blvd



### A TOUCH OF AFRICA

Arada, in addition to a wide selection of Ethiopian music has unique horn necklaces, shown here, for approximately \$25.

**ARADA**  
6844 New Hampshire Avenue



### TRY EATING STRING

For the adventurous gourmet in your life try a string hopper pasta maker from Sri Lanka - comes with four different noodle sizes, available from \$10 to \$13.

**INDIA EMPORIUM**  
6848 New Hampshire Avenue



### GO WILD

Take some time out to catch up with friends - organize a mehndi evening this holiday season. Find your wild side with temporary tattoos, make up your own or use a stencil \$5, henna from \$2 (ready-to-use cone applicator) to \$5 (powdered).

**JASMINE BAZAAR**  
1335 University Boulevard East



### BE A GUITAR HERO

House of Musical Traditions always offers gorgeous gifts for the musician - professional or amateur — shown here a handmade in the USA solid wood guitar from Tacoma Guitar. Not ready to invest in a guitar for your four year old? The K Shop has a wooden, child-sized one made outside the USA for under \$15.

**HOUSE OF MUSICAL TRADITIONS**  
7040 Carroll Avenue  
**THE K SHOP**  
7653 New Hampshire Avenue

# Home for the holidays

Shopping in Old Town has become a holiday tradition, with the Holiday Open House kicking off the season, followed by PajamaRama and an Open Studio tour. Put the following events on your calendar so you can mix it up with neighbors, support your local merchants, and get the shopping done early!

**ALL DECEMBER, STORES OPEN UNTIL  
8 OR 9 P.M. THURSDAY EVENINGS**

## DEC 1 AND 2

### Holiday Open House, all businesses

Old Town stores throw open their doors to welcome the season with hot cider, cookies, sales and outdoor music. Musicians at the clock tower and the gazebo.

## SUNDAY, DEC 9

### PajamaRama - 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Get a 20 percent discount on most items when you shop in your pajamas at the following participating merchants:

Now and Then, 6927 Laurel Ave

Amano, 7034 Carroll Ave

Fair Day's Play, 7050 Carroll Ave

The Big Bad Woof, 117 Carroll Ave

S & A Beads, 6929 Laurel Ave

The Covered Market, 7000 Carroll Ave

Rerun, 7001 Carroll

The Still Point, 7009 Carroll

American Craft, 7042 Carroll

## SATURDAY, DEC 15

### Open Studio Tour and Holiday Art Sale

A festive day to showcase area talents -- in local stores, galleries, and studios throughout the City, (see page 6) including:

Kittner Design and Sam Kittner,

7056 Carroll Ave., 2nd floor

American Craft, 7042 Carroll Ave.

A. Salon Gallery,

6925 Willow St. NW

Community Center,

1500 Maple Avenue

# Small to large, sparkly to special.

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON THERE ARE ENDLESS WAYS YOU CAN BUY LOCAL — FROM GETTING READY FOR FESTIVE EVENTS ALL THE WAY TO GIVING GIFTS!**



### DRESS FOR THE SEASON

Lots of places to go but not enough dresses? Hanna's Consignment Shop is one of many local sources for slightly used party clothes for men and women. Shown here, the chocolate suede City Jones New York jacket (\$25.50) and a Bloomingdale dress with white pointsetta buttons (\$12.50) are well worth the hunt!

**HANNA'S CONSIGNMENT SHOP**  
6836 New Hampshire Avenue



### TAKE A WILD RIDE

Oh honey, you didn't! For me? I can't believe it. Or perhaps just a dead faint. Shown here a super sporty Daelim scooter - all about aerodynamics - from the Redline Motorsports, a one stop shop with a wide variety onsite and the ability to order whatever you want. \$1,700 to \$2,500 - and yes, a scooter uses less gas than a car.

**REDLINE MOTORSPOTS**  
6600 New Hampshire Avenue



### DECORATE THE HOUSE

Park Florist has much to add a holiday touch to your house or business - from ornaments to flowers.

**PARK FLORIST**  
6921 Laurel Avenue



### TEA ME

Ethiopia is the origin of some of the best coffee in the world. An Ethiopian coffee service has small delicate cups and a big sugar bowl.

**SHEGER MARKET**  
912 E-W Highway



### HEAD WEST

Miles of boots line the shelves at El Alazan in supple leathers and a rainbow of colors. Hats, shirts, jeans, and belt buckles to round up your cowboy or cowgirl.

**EL ALAZAN**  
1337 Holton Lane



### FORGET HOLLYWOOD, GO BOLLYWOOD!

For the film buff, University Boulevard stores feature a stunning variety of Bollywood films. There, in addition to music and dance videos, you can pick up the critically acclaimed "Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna" ("Never Say Good Bye"), directed by Karan Johar.

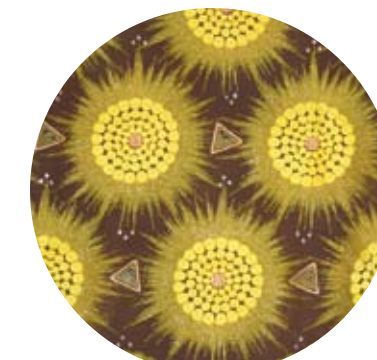
**RHYTHM HOUSE SALES AND RENTAL**  
1339 University Boulevard



### BOWL 'EM OVER

Handmade pedestal small serving bowl from Ethiopia

**SHEGER MARKET**  
912 EW Highway



### WRAP IT UP

For five yards of high African style, look to Van's Jewelry and Laces. From beautifully embroidered fashion statements to more subtle everyday wraps in a variety of materials and colors, these are sure to please.

**VAN'S JEWELRY AND LACES**  
7635 New Hampshire Avenue



### SCENTS OF THE SEASON

Do you need to bring outside smells into your house this season? Now and Then carries many products to scent the air, including this organic, sustainably harvested juniper sachet — produced by a company that gives 10 percent of all sales to projects defending the western wilderness.

**NOW AND THEN**  
6927 Laurel Avenue

**While this page focuses on goods, Takoma Park also has event planners, caterers, builders, lawyers and many other services to offer this season and throughout the year.**



# TOP 10 REASONS TO BUY LOCALLY

BY ILONA BLANCHARD

First, I want to share with you why this 'buy local' thing means so much to me, and is much more than just 'political correctness.'

My mother grew up in a working class family that was barely scraping by. She grew up believing that people who had a lot of money must have done something bad. Later, after she had worked as a social worker for some time, she told me she'd changed her mind. - She now saw money as just another form of energy, and sometimes it seemed that the more you give out the more you have.

Ann Richards, the former governor of Texas, used to tell women that money is power—that you cannot be self reliant without it. Be that as it may, it is undoubtedly true that as individuals we exercise as much, or even more control over our daily environment by our spending choices as we do by voting for this or that politician.

Our local Takoma Park politicians agree with that view. At the end of November, the City of Takoma Park Council passed a resolution to encourage local spending, because it does make a difference and it does shape our neighborhoods' futures. The following are just a few of the reasons to shop local:

## THE BIG MULTIPLIER

Every dollar spent in Takoma Park will circulate at least once, and then up to seven times locally as it is re-spent by the shop owner on wages, products and the services the shop uses. And when those wage-earners and service business owners spend money, it sets into motion a second and third circulation (and then over and over again).

## KEEP TAKOMA PARK UNIQUE

Supporting local shops means that they are able to stay in business and compete with shops that have larger advertising budgets but less diversity. Small entrepreneurial businesses distinguish Takoma Park from the more mainstream suburban community served only by chain stores and restaurants.

## MORE PRODUCTS

Independent proprietors take more risks with unusual products to serve local tastes - Summer Delights, for example, can offer Monkey Brains ice cream to local kids who think this is the coolest name ever.

## A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Local businesses contribute to events, sponsor community fundraisers, permit posters and flyers that help people find apartments, music shows, Spanish classes, and become politically active. Local owners take time to know their customers and care about their well-being.

## BIG DECISIONS ARE MADE BY PEOPLE WHO CARE

Local businesses that expand and grow are more willing than absentee landlords to make the big redevelopment decisions that most benefit our business districts (as compared to those headquartered in California or New Jersey, for example).

## RECYCLE MONEY

Local store owners - especially those that live in Takoma Park - tend to shop locally themselves for food, clothing, household items and gifts.

## SUPPORT SOCIAL MOBILITY

Locally owned stores can move whole families into the middle class, families who then send kids to college and support the elderly.

## LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Local businesses hire people in the neighborhood, who spend money in the neighborhood. Local businesses use local accountants, lawyers, printers, graphic designers, and advertise in local newspapers that also hire more local people.

## SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Local businesses are nearby - their workers drive less and even walk, bike, or take a short bus ride to get to work. Keeping stores nearby means that future generations will not need to drive to super centers for all their needs.

## DIVERSITY MEANS MORE COMPETITION

Are you so sure that Target is cheaper than Takoma Park's local stores? More stores with more options mean lower prices. And for many people that really is the bottom line.

# Are You A Closet Hedonist?

L O C A L I S M   A S   E N L I G H T E N E D   H E D O N I S M

## BY PAUL GRENIER

Remember Eliza Doolittle's father in *My Fair Lady*? That n'er-do-well without morals ("can't afford 'em") who boozes and dances and has a grand old time? All his carefree fun comes to an abrupt end when he gets saddled with great wealth. Henceforth, he is obliged to live up to the expectations of "middle class morality." And his life becomes boring.

In just the same way, it is the strain of living up to middle-class expectations that takes the fun out of holiday shopping. It's not just the worries about money and budgets. It's the generic, noisy tedium of a Circuit City; the robot-

like, rules-enforced smiles of national chain-store clerks; the unbelievably high prices at Banana Republic.

By contrast, the beauty of locally-owned shops, even if (actually, sometimes especially if) they are not so upscale, is that here we finally come into contact with real people working in places that have real character. Where the owners know what they have on their shelves because they chose it themselves. Where the clerks have the time and the freedom to chat with you, and can help you figure out what you are looking for, and who thereby make the process of finding a gift as fun as the process of giving it.

# Still Can't Decide?

## GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC FROM TAKOMA PARK

### TAKOMA PARK HAS A WEALTH OF MUSIC - MUCH OF IT PRODUCED LOCALLY.

We asked around for the top four picks at some of our local sources and this is what they recommended:

## HOUSE OF MUSICAL TRADITIONS

7040 Carroll Avenue

([www.hmtrad.com](http://www.hmtrad.com))

A great source for music lovers and musicians, HMT has a wide, wide selection. They recommended some of their locally produced favorites:

**Pan Masters Steel Orchestra, "On De Road"**

**Lisa Moscatiello and Fred Lieder, "What Happens After Love"**

**Tinsmith, "An American Wake"**

**Lea, "Great Big World"**



## AZEALEA CITY RECORDINGS

([www.azaleacityrecordings.com](http://www.azaleacityrecordings.com))

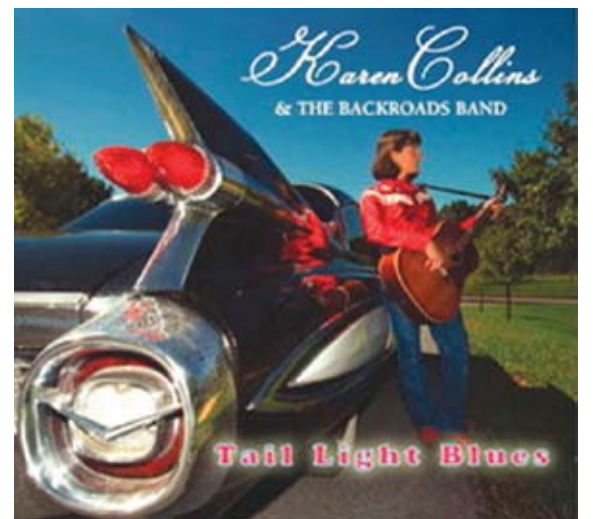
This local musician cooperative is a great way to keep money in the community by supporting artists, not record executives. Their music is available at House of Musical Traditions and other local stores:

**Karen Collins, "Tailight Blues"**

**Azalea Sampler 2 (a great buy - 20 tracks for five bucks)**

**Carey Creeds, "Peace of Wild Things"**

**Joe Uehlein and the U-Liners, "The U-Liners"**



## SIMBA INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

1333 Holton Lane

Simba specializes in African and Caribbean music. Manager Victor Kibunja has four favorites this year:

**Koffi Olomidé, "Danger de Mort" (Congolese)**

**Fally Ipupa, "Live in Olympia" with the hit "I believe you" (Congolese)**

**Felix Wazekwa, "Mosapi Liboso" (Congolese)**

**Emerson, "2 Fut Arata" (Sierra Leone)**





## Special Events Dominate City TV

City TV will be replaying many favorite musical performances from the Takoma Park Folk, Street and Jazz Festivals, in addition to showcasing new video from this fall's events. The City Council will be in recess from December 4 until January 6, which means many extra hours of special events.

The December edition of Takoma Snapshots is now running on City TV and is available for on-line viewing. This edition includes: Community Oriented Policing; On the Beat with Chief Ronald Ricucci; New CASA Multi-Cultural Center in Langley Park; International Walk To School Day; Get Out! Do Something! Columbia Union College Service Day; Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Day; 26th Annual Takoma Street Festival Highlights and Halloween Parade 2007. In January, segments will include: Community Oriented Policing; 24/7! Police Communications Office; Meet the New Mayor and Councilmembers, and First Thursday Poetry Series.

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



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.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable](http://www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable) for specific program information.

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

## PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 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	Special Local Events Dec. 10- Jan. 4	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) Special Local Events Dec. 10- Jan. 4		Takoma Park Folk Festival
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 (LIVE) Special Local Events Dec. 10- Jan. 4		City Council Meeting (Replay) Special Local Events Dec. 10- Jan. 4	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse			Takoma Park Folk Festival		
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Haiti a Suivre		Haiti a Suivre	Coffeehouse
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming	Takoma Park Snapshots		Haiti a Suivre		
1:00 AM	Road to Recovery		Community Bulletin Board				

## Bike Rodeos Promote Safety

BY LUCY NEHER  
TAKOMA PARK SAFE ROUTES  
TO SCHOOL COORDINATOR

In 1968, my brother walked me to the top a hill with my bike. After helping me onto the bike, he lined me up and let me go. It was sink or swim, crash or ride.

Times have changed! Takoma Park parents and educators are so concerned about pedestrian and bicycle safety that they helped develop the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) in seven area schools (Takoma Park Elementary; Takoma Park Middle; Piney Branch, Rolling Terrace, East Silver Spring and Sligo Elementary Schools and John Nevins Andrews School). A national program designed to encourage families to choose walking or riding bikes to school over driving a car, SRTS also promotes policy to make biking and walking safer. The benefits are obvious: reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, increase physical activity, and promote family time.

"Safety first," that's what Takoma Park parents and educators said when asked to par-

ticipate in the process to request funding for a local Safe Routes to School program. After workshops, discussions and voting they narrowed many ideas down to a handful. One idea brought back memories of their youth: the bike rodeo at school.

There are no wild bulls or lassos in this rodeo. Instead, SRTS, working with WABA, the Washington Area Bicycling Association, offers free activities at each of the seven participating schools, including a bicycle safety workshop and a tricky riding course that kids love to tackle.

"While these kids are very smart and aware, no one can assume that they know all the skills required to get around safely on a bike or on foot," says Dorcas Adkins, WABA Director of Education. "The Bike Rodeo is fun, engaging and packed full of information. The kids enjoy it so much they don't realize how much they are really learning."

WABA trainers adjust each rodeo to its host school: at middle school, for example, they tailor lessons to the many students whose bikes crowd the bike rack each day, and they've expanded the sessions to include



Ready for fun, kids participate in an old-fashioned bike rodeo sponsored by Safe Routes to Schools.

Photo: Dorcas Adkins

bicycle mechanics. At schools with very young populations, students learn bike safety along with pedestrian safety skills.

But the best part at each school comes at the starting line. At a recent rodeo at Rolling Terrace Elementary School, eight bikes line up, ready to roll. A course has been laid out

with tape, cones, flags and even a miniature stop sign and "car." Riders endure the all-important helmet fitting, then mount the bikes — and they're off! They complete the course using all the right signals, stopping, starting, and weaving through the cones. There is no downhill. It is all up hill from here.

## LIBRARY FAVORITES

continued from page 5

■ The "Junie B. Jones" series by Barbara Park because "it's so real."

■ The "Dolphin Diaries" series by Ben Baglio "because my favorite animal is dolphins!"

■ "If I Ran the Zoo" by Dr. Seuss "because it talks about many animals"

■ "Zen Shorts" by Jon Muth because "it has many different lessons."

■ The "Berenstain Bears" books by Jan and Stan Berenstain because "it teaches me about family."

■ The "Harry Potter" books by J.K. Rowling because "they've got magic and different words you don't know and because they last a long time."

■ "Maniac Magee" by Jerry Spinelli "because it has wild adventures in it."

■ The "Babar" books by Jean de Brunhoff because it features "far-off lands and elephants dining in treehouses - cool."

■ The "Princess Diaries" series by Meg Cabot because "it is funny and crazy."

■ The "X-Men" books by Arthur Adams because of the "fighting and the good people."

■ "Thanksgiving At the Tappletons" by Eileen Spinelli because "it is funny and it shows a good lesson."

■ Any Judy Blume book because "they are funny and imaginative."

■ "The Man Who Walked Between the Towers" by Mordecai Gerstein because "it is cool and funny and weird."

## LIBRARY Briefs

continued from page 5

book! Copies of the book will be available at the front desk for check-out. We'll choose our January book at the December meeting.

### Holiday Gift-Making

Kids, come make gifts for the special people in your lives on Monday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. We'll begin by reading a holiday story or two, then start our crafts. We'll have the materials for four simple crafts that make great gifts for family members, friends and teachers. Please call 301-891-7259 to register so we can make sure we have enough materials for everyone. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park, MD Library for funding this event.

### Winter Solstice Celebration

Come light up the winter darkness at a Takoma Park tradition! On Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7:15, we'll host our annual Winter Solstice Celebration, featuring drummer and ethnomusicologist Bill Jenkins and the Foggy Bottom Morris Men. No need to register; just bring your high spirits and get ready to cast away the darkness! Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

### "Twosies"

Bring on the toddlers! It's time for another session of our popular "Twosies" program. Beginning at 10 a.m. on each of the five Wednesday mornings in January, we'll gather to sing songs, read stories and do a simple craft. We have space for 15 two-year-olds and their grown-ups. Please register by calling 301-891-7259.



# RECREATION

## DEC

## ACTIVITIES

### FUNDAYS

#### Grades K - 5

The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole-day school closings.

Participants will meet in the Auditorium at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Bring a lunch. Trips subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

**When:** Tues., Jan. 22  
**Location:** Maryland Science Center and IMAX  
**Time:** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$20  
 Non-Res. \$25

#### TAKOMA PARK BASKETBALL LEAGUE

##### Grades 5 - 6

The Takoma Park Basketball League offers quality instructional clinics, practice time and games. It's a community-based, convenient alternative to a county-run program. Intermediate ball, high school rules, full court, 5-on-5. Teams will be formed after the second clinic.

#### BOYS DIVISION (Nine weeks)

**When:** Sat., Dec. 8 - March 1  
**Time:** Noon - 1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary  
 7510 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$50  
 Non-Res. \$55

#### GIRLS DIVISION (Eight weeks)

**When:** Sun., Dec. 9 - Feb. 24  
**Time:** 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary  
 7510 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$40  
 Non-Res. \$45

*No program Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 20 and Feb. 17.*

#### YOUTH COMMUNITY BASKETBALL PROGRAM

##### Grades 3 - 4

Basic fundamentals will be taught, goals will be achieved in this nifty nine-week program. Junior ball, modified rules, 4-on-4, small court.

#### Boys

**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary  
 7510 Maple Avenue  
**When:** Sat., Dec. 8 - March 1  
**Time:** 9 - 10:15 a.m. grade 3  
 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. grade 4  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$40  
 Non-Res. \$45

#### Girls

**Location:** Piney Branch Elementary  
 7510 Maple Avenue  
**When:** Sun., Dec. 9 - March 2  
**Time:** 1 - 2:30 p.m.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$40  
 Non-Res. \$45

*No program Dec. 22, 23, 29, 30, Jan. 9, 20, and Feb. 16, 17.*



#### OUT AND ABOUT

The Rec Department is all about getting out and about this year, as these rock climbers can attest. Their trip to Great Falls in September was just one of the outdoor activities headed up by staffer Jon McLaren. Coming up: snow tubing, skiing and snowboarding – see below for details.

Photo: Jon McLaren

#### FAMILY DAY TRIPS

Trips are geared for families with children 6 years and older. One family member must be 18 years or older. We will meet in the parking lot of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, one half hour before the trip departs. Advanced registration is required. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing a snack or lunch is recommended.

**Trip:** Snow Tubing  
**When:** Jan. 26  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Fee/person:** T.P. Res. \$20/person  
 Non-Res. \$25/person

*Need to register by Jan. 18.*

#### FAMILY FRIDAY FUN

On the third Friday of each month join area families for a fun-filled evening of movies and popcorn. Movies are free and will be shown in the auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center. Refreshments available for a small fee. \*Please note movies are subject to change; in such event an age appropriate movie will be selected.

**Date:** Jan. 18  
**Movie:** Ratatouille - G  
**Time:** 7 p.m.

#### TEEN IDOL COMPETITION

##### Ages 13 - 18

Do you love to sing? Want to win some fabulous prizes? Sign up to audition for the Takoma Park Teen Idol. Family and friends are welcome to come and cheer.

**Auditions:** Thurs., Jan. 24  
 Fri., Jan. 25  
**Finals:** Sat., Jan. 26  
**Time:** 6 - 8 p.m.  
**Location:** T. P. Recreation Center  
 7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
**Fee:** FREE

#### SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

##### Ages 12 - 18

There's nothing quite like getting some fresh turns in with your friends. Join the newly-formed Takoma Park Ski and Snowboard Club for a whole heap of skiing and boarding adventures. Each trip will be chaperoned by a Recreation Department staff member and includes transportation to and from the ski hill. Trip price does not include lift ticket or rentals. Free snowboard lessons will be given each trip. Space is limited, so sign up for one or all of the trips. White Tail and Ski Liberty. Instructor, Jon McLaren.

**When:** Sun., Jan. 13, Sun., Jan. 20  
 and Sun., Feb. 17  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Meet at T.P. Community Center

#### Fee:

7500 Maple Avenue  
 T.P. Res. \$10/trip  
 Non-Res. \$15/trip

#### SILVER FOXES DAY TRIPS

All day trips require advance registration. Please come to the center and fill out a registration form and sign up by R.S.V.P. date. Limited space available. Registration required.

#### National Gallery of Art (West Building)

**When:** Thurs., Jan. 3  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Description:** Tour the exhibit of 145 paintings and watercolors by J.M. Turner (1775-1851), leading British artist of his era. (East Building: Edward Hopper exhibit of 48 oil paintings, 34 watercolors, and 12 prints)  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP:** 12/19/08

#### CARDIO FUSION MIX

##### Ages 16 and older

A complete workout for the entire body. Kick up your energy levels and decrease body fat through an infused mix of hi/lo cardiovascular conditioning and resistance training. Exercise modifications ensure effectiveness for any fitness level. Bring three- to eight-pound hand weights. Instructor Denise Pullet. Maximum 20, minimum eight. Eight weeks.

**When:** Mon. and Wed., Jan. 28 - March 24  
**Time:** 7 - 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Dance Studio, T.P. Community Center  
 7500 Maple Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$75  
 Non-Res. \$80

#### LADIES BOOT CAMP

##### Ages 16 and older

A total-body program that includes a circuit of drills ranging from jumping jacks and running, to push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour. Ten weeks. Instructor Betty Johnson.

**When:** Thurs., Jan. 17 - March 20  
**Time:** 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** T.P. Recreation Center  
 7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$30  
 Non-Res. \$35

**The new Winter 2008 Guide is inserted in this Newsletter.**

*To find out more about our programs just check it out!*



# Mama El'Tsah, Creating Community

**"If you can walk, you can dance."**

— African proverb

If proverbs speak truth, then Mama El'Tsah can surely dance! Petrena Broden, aka Mama El'Tsah (as she is so affectionately known) walked into the Takoma Park Recreation Department and started the Creative Expressions dance program for kids in October 2006. She and the kids have been walking, dancing and creating ever since at the Afternoon Addition in the Takoma Park Community Center.

Every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30, Mama El'Tsah works with two groups of 10 youth (ages 6-7 and 8-10), teaching them non-traditional dance. The classes are organic, beginning with each participant "checking in," describing to the others in the class how her day went, and what is on her mind. Then, using their bodies as their voices, the young participants tell how they are feeling, improvising their dance moves as they go.

"It's remarkable," says Mama El'Tsah, "how Creative Expressions affects the kids. The check-in time teaches how to listen and empathize with others, while the physical act of dancing teaches relaxation and brings out an innate sense of creativity that all the kids have."

A favorite class exercise is for Mama El'Tsah to make up a story, and then the kids will improvise their moves

and "dance out" the narrative. Sometimes the dancers themselves make up stories to portray, and according to Mama El'Tsah, have become quite inventive at creating moods, shapes and visual images with their bodies.

Mama El'Tsah says, "Creative Expressions has been a great way for the kids to open up to their own feelings and ideas. In the process, they've become more confident and willing to share their creative gifts with others. They've learned that in dance, as in other art forms, there are no mistakes."

The dance classes have gone well and were this year expanded to include art classes and summertime Creative Adventures activities at both Takoma Park Community Center and the Recreation Department's New Hampshire Avenue location.

Mama El'Tsah says teaching Creative Expressions is wonderful for her because she draws inspiration from her young students. For parents who want to nurture creativity in their children, Mama El'Tsah has the following advice:

"Just observe your child for his/her natural interests. Then have materials on hand, whether it's music to dance to or basic art supplies. Let your child perform and you be your child's audience—they will love that! And finally, always let them tell you about what they've done, and show your appreciation for their 'Creative Expressions.'"

— Joy Lawson Jones



Petrena Broden, aka Mama El'Tsah

## A HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

TAKOMA PARK STYLE



Locals let loose with creativity and have a little fun dressing up at the Halloween parade and costume contest organized each year by the Recreation Department.

Photos: Debra Haiduven





# Spike in Street Robbery Prompts Special Police Detail

By CATHY PLEVY

**R**ecently, the City of Takoma Park has experienced a spike in street robberies, occurring in the areas near and around Takoma Old Town, Takoma Metro Station and Takoma/Langley. Citizens are being accosted by suspects while walking to and from the Takoma Metro and in the Langley Park area.

Since August, there have been 24 armed, strong arm and attempted strong arm robberies in the City of Takoma Park. As a result of this spike in citizen robberies, the police department has initiated a plainclothes robbery detail, with the goal of locating, identifying, arresting and prosecuting subjects associated with the crimes.

The detail uses members of the newly formed Takoma Park Police Department Tactical Enforcement Unit, uniformed patrol officers and criminal investigators as well as members of the Washington Metro Transit Authority Police and the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, who are experiencing similar incidents.

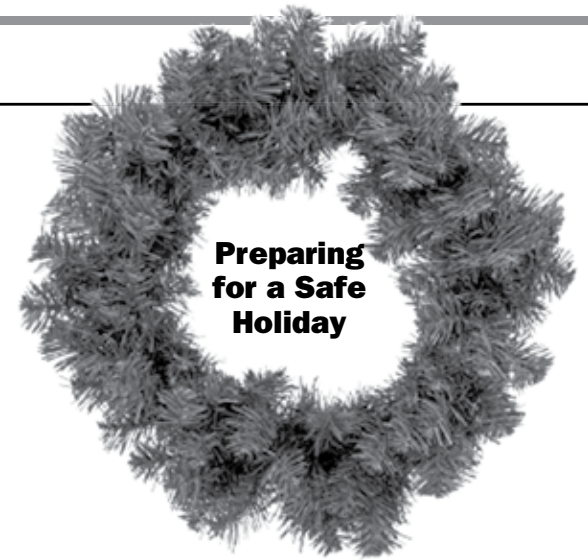
The Officers are conducting mobile and foot surveillance along the feeder streets to the Takoma Metro Station, Old Town Takoma Park and Montgomery College. Officers are also focusing on the areas along the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Corridor, utilizing high visibility, proactive patrols. As a result of the detail, individuals of interest have been identified and a vehicle used in at least one of the robberies has been recovered by the police. It will be examined forensically for any evidence that might identify persons involved in the robberies being committed in the area.

## Protect Yourself

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Most criminals look for convenient and what they perceive as "easy" prey. Here are some common sense precautions you can take to minimize the risk of being robbed:



- If you must walk alone at night, walk in highly visible, well lighted areas.
  - Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. As you walk, look around you. Scan the area.
  - Do not allow yourself to be distracted by using a cell phone or head phones.
  - Walk purposefully and look confident. Keep your head up.
  - If you see an individual, a group or a parked vehicle that looks suspicious or causes you concern, keep your distance. Take another route or ask for help.
  - Do not walk close to shrubbery, doorways or cars where someone can easily hide.
  - Hide your valuables. Don't flash jewelry or other expensive belongings. Keep any bag or purse close to your body, preferably in front.
  - Try to limit your use of ATM machines to daytime, avoiding those that are out of the way, and as always, be aware of your surroundings.
  - If you think you are being followed, quickly change directions and if possible go to a location where there are other people that can help you.
  - If an unknown vehicle approaches you, immediately change directions.
  - If you do find yourself being robbed, avoid being injured by giving the robber what they want.
  - Don't attempt to resist or attack the subject.
  - If possible, try to note details that will help in catching the suspect, such as race, hair, facial features, height, weight, build, clothing and vehicle and tag information.
- Call police immediately (301-270-1100 or 911) and stay in a safe place nearby until they arrive.

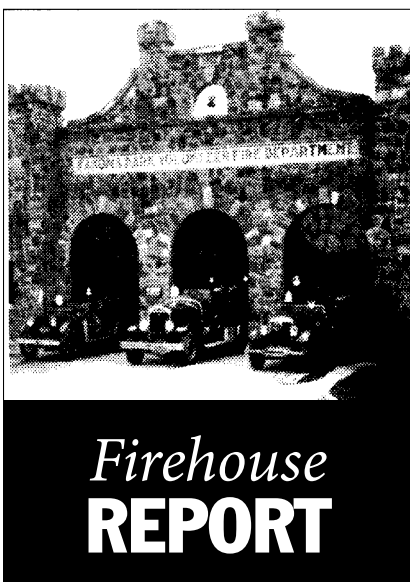


## Preparing for a Safe Holiday

As we approach the holiday season, we ask that our residents take a couple of safety precautions to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

1. Park in well-lighted spaces when at the shopping centers.
  2. When shopping, keep your purse attached to you or your shopping cart. Do not leave your purse unattached or unattended.
  3. Keep your children in sight at all times. Don't let them wander off.
  4. Make sure all credit cards are returned to you when shopping.
  5. If you take purchased items to your car and want to resume shopping, put those items in your trunk. Never leave packages in open view in an unattended car.
  6. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
  7. During the holidays, don't drink and drive - always have a designated driver.
  8. During the holiday season, the police will be conducting sobriety checkpoints. Be aware.
- The holiday season is a time for family and fun. Don't become a victim. Be safe, not sorry.

*Happy Holidays  
from the Takoma Park Police Department!*



**A**s of Oct. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 761 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,566 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,327 this year. Totals for 2006 were 847 and 2,229, respectively, for a total of 3,076, representing an increase of 251 incidents.

## Volunteers Are Needed at Takoma Park VFD

If you have the time and commitment to help your community, stop by the fire station and pick up an application, and

join the three recent new members to the department: Tammi West, Josh Raeben and Casey Roeder. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Livingston at the 301-270-8209. It's a fact... Volunteering as an EMT or Fire Fighter is an experience of a lifetime.

## Takoma Park VFD 27th Annual Toys for Needy Children

The Takoma Park VFD, in partnership with the Takoma Park Lions Club and Takoma Park VFD Auxiliary will again be collecting (new) toys for children throughout the community. From December 1 to December 22, if you have toys to donate, you can drop them off at the fire station between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Also, if you know of any families needing toys, please contact Pam Taylor or Jim Jarboe at the fire station, 301-270-8209. Special note: Our top priority is families in Takoma Park. Ages of children, 10 years and under only!

## Americans React Incorrectly to Fire

A nationwide survey conducted by the Society for Fire Protection Engineers reveals Americans' first reactions to fire could place them in greater danger. Only 28 percent of respondents answered that they would evacuate when asked, "If there were a fire in your building, what would be your first action?" This compared to the 39 percent of respondents who said they would call the fire department.

"At first glance (calling 911) seems like a sensible response," said Chris Jelenewicz, SFPE's engineering program manager. "However, people should first exit the building and then call the fire department once in a safe location." Other responses included notifying others (24 percent), fighting the fire (4 percent), searching for the source of fire (3 percent), and searching for more information (2 percent).

"The results of this survey are concerning," says Jelenewicz. "Delays before deciding to evacuate, time spent searching for the fire, gathering belongings and trying to fight the fire are behaviors that have been observed repeatedly in real fire situations." When comparing the results of this survey to research on how humans behave in fire, a study of 335 fire incidents that occurred in the United States found the top three first reactions were: notifying others (15 percent), fighting the fire (10 percent) and searching for the fire (10 percent). Exiting the building was not even among the top five things people do when they know there is a fire.

The survey also revealed that the elderly, who are statistically a high-risk group from fires, generally respond incorrectly. More than half of people 65 years old or older would first call the fire department, compared to 30 percent who would exit the building first.

The survey also shows that men are much more likely to try to fight the fire than women: 7 percent of men said that they would fight the fire, compared to less than 1 per-

cent of women. "There are significant differences in the way that men and women react to fire," said Jelenewicz. "Generally, men are more likely to try and fight a fire. On the other hand, women are more likely to alert others and evacuate the building." SEPE commissioned the survey in January and polled more than 1,000 American adults. The findings have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent. ("Operation Life Safety Newsletter" - Vol. 22, Nos. 11 and 12, November/December 2007.)

## Safety Tip for the Holidays

When retiring for the evening or leaving your home, never leave decoration lights on or candles burning. Special note: If you are looking for a nice gift for a friend, maybe a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm would be a good choice. On behalf of the entire fire department, we want to wish all of you a Happy and Safe New Year.

## A Takoma Park VFD reminder...No Christmas Tree Sales This Year!

As of this time, we are not sure when things will start happening regarding the new fire station. Over the past several months we have been told many different dates and times, which keep changing. Again, on behalf of the entire department, we want to thank all of you for your support over the years, as you've visited our tree lot. Hopefully, we'll be back in business next year selling trees.



PORTER

continued from page 1

been throughout her tenure.

Yet Porter has had influence beyond what citizens could expect from themselves. Serving as the face of Takoma Park, she made a point of networking with organizations like the Maryland Mayors Association (as president), the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, which honored her at its 50th anniversary gala last month for a “remarkable career in public service, including leadership of several COG committees on issues such as transportation programs for people with disabilities,” and the Maryland Municipal League, where she served on the board of directors and worked to create lasting alliances with local jurisdictions. Porter worked closely with state and national representatives as well. “I think it’s really important to have good working relationships with other levels of government,” she says. “You can’t just show up when you want something.”

Other noted accomplishments during Porter’s tenure include the renovation of the Municipal Building into the Community Center, a project rife with difficulty but, Porter says, successful in the end. One of the highlights of her term, in fact, was the grand opening of the center, which bore that stamp of local activism she values so much - the celebration was planned not by city staff but by a committee of residents, and the ceremonial ribbon-cutting was not restricted to government officials but was open to everyone.

Despite controversial cost overruns and delays, she feels the Center now is serving the community well. “I wanted to create



Citizen Porter

a place that the whole community could use, that would bring people from different neighborhoods,” she says. “I think it’s done that. I hope it continues to do that for the future.”

Porter is also proud of the diversity she and the Council have worked to maintain in Takoma Park. Concerned that housing prices could push lower-income families out, she worked hard to craft a streamlined rent stabilization policy that is “more fair to everybody concerned.”

The outgoing mayor had to work hard for the influence she was finally able to wield as she conducted council meetings and helped mold policy. The only woman on the council when she was elected in 1990, Porter remembers, “I had the distinct feel-

ing that I had to really push to make myself heard.” She became intimately familiar with the phenomenon so many woman leaders have experienced: She would offer an idea, be ignored, then watch as a male colleague presented the same idea to colleagues who suddenly recognized it as brilliant. At one meeting, Porter remembers being repeatedly cut off by an unnamed male colleague until she finally banged loudly on the aluminum table in order to be heard.

“I don’t think that’s going to be the case now,” she says. Indeed, at one recent point, Porter led a city full of female department heads, including the then-Chief of Police Cindy Creamer and Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite. The only male at that time was Wayne Hobbs, who remains deputy city manager.

But this point is really an aside - what Porter will miss most as she steps down from the dais is the frequent contact she had with residents of the City. As mayor, she says, “you get asked to a lot of things. You get invited to community potlucks . . . you just feel like a part of the community. I’ll miss all the contact with the people.”

Still, ten years as mayor is enough, as Porter believes that new blood is a healthy thing in City government. And she is pleased with her successor, Bruce Williams, with whom she has worked closely. “Bruce is a consensus builder,” she says. “He’s just very good with people. . . . He’s got the temperament and the experience to do a good job.”

Porter doesn’t expect to go far, anyway. Though she will return to full-time work, she plans to remain involved in the community. From the public side of the dais, she will become another of the activist residents of Takoma Park she has long admired.

Austin-Lane Honored as She Leaves Council

Joy Austin-Lane, who completed her third term on City Council last month recently was recognized by the Montgomery County Business and Professional Women (MCBPW) who named her one of nine 2007 Women of Achievement in the county.



Austin-Lane

At an event co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission for Women, Austin-Lane was recognized for her six years on City Council, working on such issues as Metro development, public safety and recreation, economic development, the environment and the arts. MCBPW also praised her 12 years as a volunteer fire fighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) and her work as a health policy researcher; Austin-Lane earned a doctorate in public health with a dissertation on state budgeting for tobacco control.

At her final City Council meeting as a Council member, Austin-Lane praised Takoma Park as a “wonderful place to grow and learn and contribute,” where people have “a driving energy” and passion. She leaves the Council because she now juggles a full-time job and two young children and “it just became impossible for me to steal time from enough places to really continue doing the work on the council that I felt that the residents of Ward 1 deserved.” Austin-Lane is succeeded by Josh Wright.

City of Takoma Park, Maryland Election of November 6, 2007 First Round*								
OFFICES AND CANDIDATES	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	WARD 5	WARD 6	TOTAL	ELECTED
MAYOR: Bruce R. Williams	225	130	265	101	38	45	830	Bruce R. Williams
MAYOR: Write-Ins	23	16	44	5	10	2	101	
WARD 1 COUNCIL MEMBER: Josh Wright	254						254	Josh Wright
WARD 1 COUNCIL MEMBER: Write-Ins	8						8	
WARD 2 COUNCIL MEMBER: Colleen Clay		137					137	Colleen Clay
WARD 2 COUNCIL MEMBER: Write-Ins		14					14	
WARD 3 COUNCIL MEMBER: Bridget Bowers			112				112	
WARD 3 COUNCIL MEMBER: Dan Robinson			235				235	Dan Robinson
WARD 3 COUNCIL MEMBER: Write-Ins			10				10	
WARD 4 COUNCIL MEMBER: Terry Seamens				117			117	Terry Seamens
WARD 4 COUNCIL MEMBER: Write-Ins				2			2	
WARD 5 COUNCIL MEMBER: Reuben Snipper					50		50	Reuben Snipper
WARD 5 COUNCIL MEMBER: Write-Ins					1		1	
WARD 6 COUNCIL MEMBER: Doug Barry						45	45	Doug Barry
WARD 6 COUNCIL MEMBER: Write-Ins						2	2	
ABSENTEE BALLOTS RECEIVED (INCLUDED IN THE VOTE COUNTS ABOVE)	5	3	16	6	1	0	31	
NUMBER OF NON-CITIZENS VOTING (INCLUDED IN THE VOTE COUNTS ABOVE)	1	3	2	3	0	1	10	

\*In each race, a candidate received a majority of valid votes in the first round of counting.

Voter turnout: U.S. Citizen Voters - 9.4%; Non-Citizen Voters - 2.2%



# Arts and Humanities Day

The City's first Arts and Humanities Day showcased a wide range of talent last month, from dance to painting, poetry to opera. All day the Community Center was filled with hands-on activities for residents to plumb their own creativity. And for those more inclined to watch, there were plenty of performances to inspire.

Among the activities were discussions about theater, Buddhism, peace and publishing for writers; a premier dance from Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and poetry readings with the City's poet laureates past and present; chalk drawing with artists from A Salon studios; workshops on melodrama and outsider art, and arias and ensembles from the Washington National Opera. Clockwise, from far left, would-be belly dancers; brassy jazz from Tacky Bones; Liz Lerman dancers of all abilities; families creating art together; Mexican dance with Maru Montero Dance Company. Background, chalk drawing requires concentration as well as creativity.

— Photos by Sara Daines.

