

**PRIMARY  
ELECTIONS  
FEB. 12**

See  
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md.us for more  
information.

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

# Takoma Park

## NEWSLETTER

**IN THE SWIM**

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Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

FEBRUARY 2008

## Old Takoma Considers New Restaurants

It's a common enough comment among residents of Takoma Park – many would love to see a white-tablecloth restaurant in town, a place a notch fancier than Mark's Kitchen and Middle Eastern Market, Savory and Everyday Gourmet. Now that desire has been quantified in a resident-produced survey called the Takoma Restaurant Pledge.

"If the community can attract a restaurant \*like\* Colorado Kitchen, Pizzeria Paradiso, or Franklin's to Old Takoma, will you commit to eating lunch or dinner there six times in the restaurant's first year? What about 12 times? Or 24 times?"

Thus read the survey, put together by Old Town Residents' Association President Seth Grimes and Takoma, D.C. resident Sharon Villines. Distributed informally on neighborhood listservs, it generated at least 310 responses in which people pledged to eat 12,096 meals in a new restaurant during its first year of business in Takoma Park.

The idea behind the survey is to provide resident input as Takoma Park considers the possibility of a new restaurant in Old Town. John Urciolo, who owns buildings in the cen-

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## Survey Shows Satisfied Residents with Ideas for Improvement

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Looking good, Takoma Park.

A recent survey of city residents shows most are pleased with quality of life and city services in Takoma Park.

Of those surveyed, 86 percent rated quality of life excellent or good; 79 percent consider Takoma Park an excellent or good place to raise children; and 83 percent feel the community is open and accepts people of diverse backgrounds. In general, those surveyed were satisfied City services, including trash and recycling collection, library, parks, arts, recreation and police.

Of course there is room for improvement – some categories had more "good" ratings than "excellent," and other categories, like the availability of affordable housing (59 percent rated this at fair or poor) and shopping opportunities (59 percent said fair or poor), rated low. There were also suggestions that police presence be increased, and concerns about safety after dark. But among 41 categories surveyed, Takoma Park rated above the national norm in 25 categories, similar to the norm in nine, and below the norm in seven. Among the highest ranking items: sense of community, with Takoma Park coming in ahead of 94 percent of other cities that rated this category.

"On the whole, we are very pleased with the results of this first resident survey,"



A recent survey indicates that most Takoma Park residents rate the City as a good place to raise a family. Here, kids take off during the Easter egg hunt, held every spring.

Photo: Debra Haiduven

said City Manager Barbara Matthews. "It affirms our sense that residents enjoy living in Takoma Park and it helps us identify some of the future challenges for City staff and the Council."

The data was based on surveys mailed to 3,000 randomly selected households. Of those 3,000, 2,835 were eligible (others were returned because of housing vacancies and incorrect addresses) and 1,057 were returned (though not every question on every survey was answered). That brings the response rate to 37 percent, higher than the national average, at

30 percent. Nineteen of the surveys were returned in Spanish; French and Amharic translation was also available.

One of the benefits of this kind of survey is that it allows the City to hear many different voices. Tom Miller, president of the National Research Center hired to conduct the survey for the City, noted that the project reached residents who do not typically step up to the microphone at City Council meetings.

This spoke directly to the purpose of the

**SURVEY** continues on page 8

## Deputy City Manager Retires; Long-time Staffer Steps In

Wayne Hobbs, Takoma Park's recently retired deputy city manager, worked under four different mayors and four city managers — "and none of them fired me," he jokes.

Indeed, the proclamation issued by City Council last month honoring Hobbs lauds him for "exceptional" work and credits him for establishing the City's human resources office, increasing employee training, and serving as the chair of the police retirement plan committee, co-chair of emergency preparedness, and as the city's lead representative in union contract negotiations, among other duties.

"I really enjoyed the 17 plus years that I was with the City," says Hobbs, 67. "I think I helped contribute. I certainly gained and grew while I was there." Hobbs is looking forward to spending time with his five daughters and ten grandchildren who live in the area, and recently was seen at a swim meet for one of



Wayne Hobbs, left, retired in December; Suzanne Ludlow, right, is the new deputy city manager.

Photo by Lonni Moffet

the girls. And, freed of his Monday night City Council meetings, he's been watching a little more Monday night football.

Taking Hobbs' place is Suzanne Ludlow, familiar to many residents for her long-time commitment to Takoma Park. Ludlow has been on City staff for 14 years, first as the assistant director of housing and community development; then in various planning

and management positions, and for the last six years as community and government liaison. With a degree from Oberlin in urban studies and a master's in urban affairs/economic development from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, she is in her element as a City manager, and says she is looking forward to learning more about budget and union negotiations. She is also now responsible for City communications (including this newsletter and cable services), and will complete projects she

had underway as community and government liaison. That position will not be filled, but its responsibilities will be distributed among other City staff, she said.

Ludlow is a local resident as well as a City staff member — she lives in the Long Branch neighborhood of Silver Spring with her husband and her son, who attends Takoma Park Middle School.

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## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR\*

**Monday, January 28** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Thursday, January 31** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Thursday, January 31** - City Council work session on Council priorities, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, February 4** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

**Wednesday, February 6** - meeting of the Health Services Impact Committee, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Wednesday, February 6** - meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

**Monday, February 11** - Public Hearing on the Piney Branch Pool, 6:45 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, February 11** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, February 12** - meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (CC Forsythia Room)

**Tuesday, February 12** - meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Monday, February 18** - Presidents' Day holiday. City offices will be closed.

**Tuesday, February 19** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Thursday, February 21** - Meeting of the Noise Control Board, 7:30 p.m. (CC Forsythia Room)

**Monday, February 25** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, February 26** - meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Wednesday, February 27** - meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Thursday, February 28** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Atrium Room)

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

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

## Speak with the Mayor

### SPEAK UP!

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. (by appointment only) and 5-7 p.m. (for walk-ins), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center.



Walk-ins are requested to check in at the reception desk on the main floor. For appointments, contact Peggye Washington, 301-891-7230 or [peggyew@takomagov.org](mailto:peggyew@takomagov.org).

# 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 - November 26, 2007

**Resolution 2007-56 was adopted**, recognizing Joy Austin Lane for service to the City

**Resolution 2007-57 was adopted**, declaring December 1 - 9, 2007 as Think Takoma – Shop Local week

**Resolution 2007-58 was adopted**, supporting Victory Tower Senior Association grant application

**Resolution 2007-59 was adopted**, appointing Esther Herman and Gregory Blackley to the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee

**Single reading Ordinance 2007-63 was adopted** by roll-call vote, authorizing roof replacement

**Resolution 2007-61 was adopted**, providing for the City Council holiday recess

## Special Session - January 7, 2008

**Resolution 2008-1 was adopted**, recognizing retired Deputy City Manager T. Wayne Hobbs for service to the City

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

## Special Session - December 3, 2007

**Resolution 2007-60 was adopted**, recognizing Kathy Porter for service to the City

## From Emergencies to Ethics – Consider Becoming a Committee Volunteer

*Takoma Park supports government by the people, for the people – and counts on residents to join committees, commissions, and boards to help guide City policy. To give you a better idea about how these committees work, and what sorts of issues they address, we've outlined the Emergency Preparedness Committee as an example. Consider joining your neighbors to help advise City Council – committees are widely varied, and allow you to help determine local action on a myriad of issues (see list, below).*

### Be Prepared on Emergency Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) was established to provide community input in the City of Takoma Park's planning and preparation for emergency operations. Currently co-chaired by resident Wolfgang Mergner and Police Chief Ron Ricucci (who is appointed by the City Manager), membership of the EPC includes seven residents appointed by the City Council, as well as representatives of Montgomery County's Emergency Preparedness Office, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, the Takoma Park Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, and Washington Adventist Hospital. The committee generally meets the last Thursday of each month, at 8:30 a.m.

You may have seen this committee's members pitching preparedness at events like the Folk Festival and the Street Festival. The EPC's responsibilities include reviewing City emergency operations plans and recommending changes to the Council and City Manager, assisting the City in coordinating with Montgomery County and other agencies to educate residents on their individual responsibilities for preparing for emergencies, providing information on what residents can expect from the City and County during an emergency, promoting CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training, and advising the City on strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of City preparedness activities. The committee is currently exploring options for the City to effectively warn residents and communicate instructions during emergencies.

There are currently two vacancies on the EPC. If you would like to consider applying to serve, or if you would just like more information, contact the City Clerk, Jessie Carpenter, at 301-891-7267 or [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org).

### Police Pensions Call for Resident Expert

There is also a vacancy for a Takoma Park resident on the Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee. Applicants should have experience or education related to investments and/or pension administration. The committee meets quarterly, 8:30 - 10 a.m. in the Community Center. To apply or request additional information, contact the City

Clerk at 301-891-7267 or [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org). Application deadline: February 15.

### Re-established Recreation Committee Needs Volunteers

In February, the City Council is expected to adopt a final ordinance re-establishing the Recreation Committee. Council hopes to appoint additional resident volunteers who would broaden geographic representation on the committee. The group will be expected to advise Council about use of recreation facilities and how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents. If you think you may be interested in applying to serve on the committee, contact the City Clerk for more information: [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7267.

### Other Opportunities Abound

*Choose from this long list of active committees, if you're looking for a place to contribute time and talent in Takoma Park. Again, contact the City Clerk for more information about each.*

- **Arts and Humanities Commission**
- **Board of Elections**
- **Committee on the Environment**
- **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**
- **Personnel Appeal Board**

For more information on any of these, go to [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or contact the City Clerk (301-891-7267 or [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org)).

# Charity Golf Organizers Honored for Library Contribution

**S**tan Barouh, one of the originators of the annual Mike Morrissey Mulligan Madness Golf Tourney, accepted an official proclamation of appreciation on behalf of tournament organizers at the January 7 City Council Meeting. Barouh was a close friend of the late Morrissey, an avid reader and library supporter whose memory is honored by the charity tournament, an event that raises thousands of dollars for the library each year.

The proclamation, read into the public record by Mayor Bruce Williams, recognized the group for their generous contributions to the Friends of the Library. Over the past six years they have raised more than \$27,000 through the tournaments and silent auctions following the event. Participants include Mike's friends throughout the metro area, relatives from as far away as Texas, and Library staff.

Past contributions have been used to support the Library's Summer Quest reading program for children, Spanish story time for pre-schoolers, Spanish and bilingual books for children, materials to assist with reading readiness programs for babies and parents, a new large-capacity book return, and support for computers in the Computer Learning Center.

Donations of \$6,500 from the 2007 tournament have already been used for additional shelving in the children's room, and will help to update and expand English as a second language materials, purchase Summer Quest t-shirts, and provide increased services and materials for teens.

In accepting the Mayoral Proclamation, Barouh urged everyone to join the golfers at next year's tournament. The



**Stan Barouh, left, accepts an award from Mayor Bruce Williams for the work of fundraisers involved in the Morrissey Golf Tourney.**

Photo by Lonni Moffet

tournaments are usually held in Rockville in early fall, followed by an after party and auction at Rumors Restaurant in Dupont Circle.

## ART Events

### Try Your Hand at Public Art

The Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking proposals for public art projects from artists (of all disciplines and mediums), community members and neighborhood associations. The Commission encourages applicants to think of the city as a blank canvas and decide what public art projects would best embody the creative spirit and rich history of our community. The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 22. Details can be found at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

### Call for Functional Art Along the Metropolitan Branch Trail

The Arts and Humanities Commission is also seeking proposals for the fabrication and installation of original artwork — preferably functional artwork such as benches, tables and bike racks — along the Metropolitan Branch Trail. Proposals are due Tuesday, March 13. For more information, contact David Suls at 301-891-7219.

### Ongoing Art Exhibits

"Brainwave Entrainment," an exhibition of paintings by George Pierson, is on display in the third floor gallery.

"The Classroom and Beyond," an exhibit featuring the work of the students of Takoma Park art teacher Joan Samworth, is on display in the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries.

### Third Thursday Poetry Reading February 21

The floor is open for this month's Third Thursday Poetry Reading. Poets of all ages and experience are encouraged to read their work on Thursday, February 21 at 7 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Exact location will be available at the information desk on the second floor on the evening of the event.

### Poetry Workshops for Kids

Anne Becker, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, will offer a series of free poetry workshops for beginners and experienced writers alike from ages 8 to 18. The goal is to push ahead into new territory, to find, refine and amplify our voices. Various elements of poetry will be introduced in discussion and in reading model poems. Participants will write their own poems, read them to the group and receive feedback to deepen and enlarge their own understanding of what they have written. The poems generated by the workshop will be gathered into an anthology and published by the Arts and Humanities Commission. To register for one of the workshops, please call 301-891-7223.

*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, 301-891-7224 or [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org).*



## City of Takoma Park

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

## Health Needs Assessment Proposal

The Health Services Impact Committee of the City of Takoma Park is requesting proposals for a qualified firm to conduct a health needs assessment by using focus groups that represent the diversity of this community. The competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted on the City's website [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) on Wednesday, January 23.

Questions about this RFP may be submitted by e-mail no later than Friday, February 8, 2008 at 1 p.m. EST to [VenitaG@takomagov.org](mailto:VenitaG@takomagov.org). Responses to the questions will be posted on the City's website by close of business Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

Bid proposals in response to this RFP are due no later than Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 3 p.m. EST to Venita-Enola George, Management Assistant, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Electronic versions of the bid proposals will be accepted, but must be submitted no later than Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 3 p.m. EST to [VenitaG@takomagov.org](mailto:VenitaG@takomagov.org).



## City of Takoma Park

### PUBLIC HEARING

## Piney Branch Pool: Remain Open or Convert to Gym?

**Takoma Park City Council Chambers  
Monday, February 11 at 6:45 p.m.**

Since 1971, Montgomery County has operated a public indoor swimming pool in Piney Branch Elementary School. The pool closed in September, 2007. Funds to repair and operate the pool are not in the County's budget. Options being discussed include reopening the pool or converting the space into a gymnasium. Background information is on the City's website at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). The Takoma Park City Council wants to know what you think. For more information, contact Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager, at [SuzanneL@takomagov.org](mailto:SuzanneL@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7229.



### 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

### When A Landlord Fails to Repair Property

**A tenant contacted the Mailbox and wants to know what happens when a landlord fails to do repairs in an apartment after the tenant has reported the needed work to the maintenance staff.**

If the needed repairs have not been documented in writing to the maintenance staff and the owner, that would be the first step. Make sure your letter is dated. The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs requires that landlords have one week to respond to a written notice of non-emergency repairs. If there is no response or the work is incomplete after waiting one week, a tenant may contact the Montgomery County Housing Code Enforcement Section at 240-777-3785 to report the violations and schedule an inspection with a housing inspector. After verifying the violations, an inspector will give the landlord an abatement order with a deadline. If the repairs are not completed by the deadline stated in the order, the inspector will then issue the landlord a municipal infraction citation (fine) and will follow up on the violation in court.

If a violation is such that it impairs the livability of the rental unit, a tenant may also file a complaint with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA), alleging a defective tenancy. The complaint may include a request for a rent reduction for the period of time that the violation has existed and has been documented. Many COLTA complaints are settled. However, if a complaint is not resolved, a hearing before a panel of three COLTA Commissioners will be scheduled. A COLTA complaint form may be obtained by calling 301-891-7215 or e-mailing MosesW@takoma.gov.org.

### Do You Know Your Rights as a Tenant?

**On Tuesday, March 18, from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., the staff of the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs will present a free class on "Your Rights as a Tenant."**

With a new rent stabilization law in effect as of December 1, 2007, this is a great opportunity to brush up on all the laws affecting housing and tenant rights. Additional topics to be discussed include lease and entry requirements, your security deposit and how to get it back at the end of your tenancy, and the ins and outs of landlord and tenant notices to vacate. Anyone interested in learning more about organizing a tenant association is also invited to attend. To register, call 301-891-7222.

## Rent Stabilization Regulations Proposed

The following regulations are being proposed to provide written guidance for the administration of the requirements of *Takoma Park Code Chapter 6.020 Rent Stabilization*:

"Annual Rent Stabilization Rent Increases" (*Chapters 6.20.060 and 6.20.070*);

"Annual Rent Stabilization Reporting Requirements" (*Chapter 6.20.080*);

"Fair Return Rent Increases" (*Chapter 6.20.090*); and

"Applications for Exemptions from Rent Stabilization" (*Chapters 6.020.030 and 6.20.040*)

Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative

Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12 "Administration Regulations" of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City's intention to adopt an Administrative Regulation must first be published in the *Takoma Park Newsletter* to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Exact copies of the proposed regulations are posted on the bulletin board outside the auditorium and are available for inspection during regular office hours in the administration office in the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. The regulation may also be accessed online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

Please direct any comments or concerns to the City Clerk in writing by mail to the above address, by e-mail to [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org) or by voice message at 301-891-7267 before the close of business on Monday, February 25, 2008.

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

#### Capital Improvement/Hardship Petitions

##### 6624 Poplar Avenue (2007-41L)

On December 31, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$177.37 on one unit at the property. The improvements included plastering and painting, new air conditioner, garbage disposal, refrigerator, windows, cabinets, carpet, locks, hardwood and vinyl flooring, electrical, and plumbing.

##### 66 Walnut Avenue (2007-58L)

On December 8, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a



## COLTA's CORNER

By JEAN KERR,  
HOUSING SPECIALIST

rent increase of \$78.20 on one unit at the property. The improvement included painting the entire apartment.

##### 706 Kennebec Avenue (2007-63H)

On December 31, 2007, a hardship rent increase petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$81.72 to \$108.11 on all three units at the property.

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

## Take Advantage of Tax Credit Programs

### Homestead Tax Credit Program

The Homestead Tax Credit is a state law which mandates that all taxable assessment increases for properties that are owner occupied cannot increase by more than 10 percent per year. Although counties have different caps on this increase, Montgomery County's cap is also 10 percent. The Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation reports that over the past three years, property values have increased statewide by an average of 33.2 percent in reassessed areas. This equates to an annual average of approximately 11.1 percent for each of the next three years. In previous years, this difference in the percentages (your credit), was automatically applied to your tax bill, however starting this year, you will have to apply for the program.

You receive a tax assessment every three years, so approximately one third of Maryland residents have already received their assessments. Included in your assessment notice is a Homestead Tax Credit Application. Do not ignore this application if you want the Homestead Tax Credit to apply to your property! Send the application by mail to the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation or complete the application on-line by going to [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us). Homeowners not reassessed until 2009 or 2010 can wait until then to submit a Homestead Tax Credit application. For further information about the Homestead Tax Credit application, call toll free 1-866-650-8783.

### Homeowners and Renter's Tax Credit Program

In addition to the Homestead Tax Credit Program, homeowners and renters who have fixed or limited incomes may qualify for the Homeowners or Renter's Tax Credit Programs. The programs are administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. However applications will not be available until March 2008 for the 2008 tax year. Further information about this program will appear in the March Newsletter, once the guidelines have been published. For general questions about the tax credit programs, please call 301-891-7222.

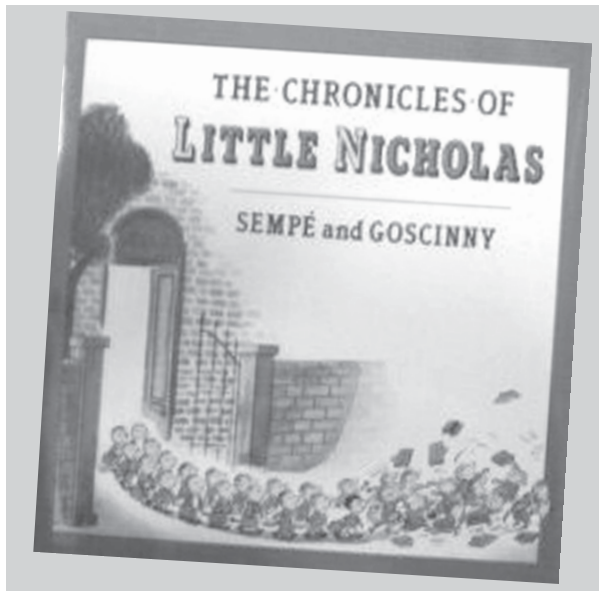
# Making Mischief with Nicholas

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

In France, he's called "le petit Nicolas" – "little Nicholas" – a mischievous schoolboy whose escapades drive his parents and teachers to distraction and his readers to tears of laughter.

Created by author Rene Goscinny (author of the "Asterix" books) and illustrator Jean-Jacques Sempe nearly 50 years ago, Nicholas is a cult figure in France, beloved by adults and children alike for his exuberance, curiosity, and innate ability to both delight and annoy his parents and teachers. The "Nicholas" books have been translated into several other languages, but never into English until two years ago when Phaidon Press began publishing English translations of the Nicholas books. Four volumes are available so far, with several more to come.

But the covers of the books are a bit disappointing because they feature only a small illustration and give no real hint of the hilarity found within. Kids at the library initially were reluctant to check out the books – kids, like grown-ups, do judge a book by its cover! The books sat on the shelf. Af-



ter I read aloud stories from the books during a program for Piney Branch Elementary School fourth grade classes during December, however, "Nicholas" achieved sudden star status. Kids really enjoyed listening to the stories while eyeing a larger-than-life cardboard "Nicholas," which is on loan from the publisher. Now, all of the library's 11 copies of the four "Nicholas" books are currently checked out.

The books are particularly great for reluctant readers because they are laugh-out loud funny and have numerous illustrations, yet they still offer a substantial amount of reading material.

We decided that it might be fun to share "Nicholas" with other readers, and so we will hold a "Nicholas At Night" event on Monday, Feb. 4, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. We'll introduce young readers to Nicholas and his gang of friends and then read some of the funniest "Nicholas" stories. We may even do a "Reader's Theater" produc-

tion of a story if participants are willing. We'll also have "Nicholas" pins, stickers and coloring pages to give out to

**MAKING MISCHIEF** continues on page 6

## Caldecott/Newbery Awards Unusual Selections

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Two unusual books – one pushing the boundaries of literary form, the other offering a way to play with history -- have won the most prestigious awards in children's literature.

"The Invention of Hugo Cabret," written and illustrated by Brian Selznick, won the 2008 Caldecott Medal as the best-illustrated children's book, while "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!," written by Laura Amy Schlitz and illustrated by Robert Byrd, won the Newbery Medal as best-written children's book.

"Hugo Cabret" was a particularly bold choice by the Caldecott selection committee, which consists of librarians and other children's literature experts. Most other Caldecott Medal winners have been 32-page picture books, while Selznick's book is more than 530 pages long. It is the first novel to win the Caldecott Medal. While the book is long,

it doesn't take a long time to read, making "Hugo Cabret" a great book for reluctant readers as well as those who love to read.

But more than half of "Hugo Cabret" consists of full-page illustrations, a fact that made it eligible for the Caldecott Medal. While many previous Caldecott Medal winners are meant for preschoolers, the selection of "Hugo Cabret" – aimed at readers ages 7 and up – highlights the fact that the Caldecott Medal can be awarded to any book for readers through age 14.

In the book, Selznick blends art and words in a unique way to tell the story of a Parisian orphan named Hugo Cabret who is desperate to complete the work that his father began on a mechanical man. Hugo believes the mechanical man may have a message from his father and so he labors on it whenever he has a spare moment from his work to

**CALDECOTT** continues on page 6

### Neighborhood Circle Time

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

### "Lapsit" program for babies up through 12 months and their grown-ups

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. at the Library.  
Space is limited, so you must register. Call 301-891-7259 or email library-programs@spambob.net. (Please put "Lapsit" in the subject line).

### Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday  
10 a.m. at the Library

### "Nicholas" at Night

Monday, Feb. 4

## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2008

7:30 p.m. at the Library  
Come hear some hilarious stories of the boy who's called the French "Dennis the Menace."

Note: This program is most suitable for elementary age children, grades K through 5.

### T(w)een Book Club

Friday, Feb. 8  
4:40-5:30 p.m., Rose Room at the Community Center  
Come eat pizza and discuss "Sixth Grade Secrets" by Louis Sachar  
Note: This program is for middle-schoolers only. You must regis-

ter, and you must read the book before the program. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the front desk.

### Valentine Making

Monday, Feb. 11  
7-8:30 p.m.  
At the Library

### Bedtime Story Time

Monday, Feb. 25  
7 p.m. at the Library  
Bring your teddy bears (or other stuffed favorites).  
Pajamas, pillows and blankets are welcome.  
Note: This program is aimed at babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their grown-ups.



## LIBRARY Briefs

### Friends Reading Group to Meet in March

Join us on Wednesday, March 19 in the Takoma Park Community Center for a discussion of "So Long, See You Tomorrow," by William Maxwell.

Set in Illinois in the period between the two world wars, this lyrical and carefully constructed novel explores how we understand the past and what we owe to those we have known.

Author Michael Ondaatje writes, "This is one of the great books of our age. It is the subtlest of miniatures that contains our deepest sorrows and truths and love — all caught in a clear, simple style in perfect brushstrokes."

And "The Washington Post" called it "a small perfect novel."

The Friends of the Library Reading Group discussion will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Copies of the book will be available at the Library's circulation desk for checkout. The discussions are supported by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library and are open to all. For more information, call the Library 301-891-7259.

### Don't Buy Valentines

Come and make your own valentines at the Library on Feb. 11! Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, we'll have plenty of supplies for young participants to create lots of valentines. We'll also offer ideas, but you are free to use your own creativity as well. To ensure that we have enough supplies for everyone, please register by calling 301-891-7259 or emailing children's librarian Karen MacPherson at library-programs@spambob.net. Please put "Valentines" in the subject line. This program is appropriate for all ages, with parent help for the littlest ones.

### Bedtime Stories Aboard

If you've got a baby, toddler or preschooler, you're invited to our monthly "Bedtime Stories" program on Monday, Feb. 25, from 7-7:30 p.m. We'll read a few books, do some rhymes and songs, and generally try to have a low-key but fun time together. No need to register – just come, and feel free to wear your p.j.s and slippers and bring your favorite blanket or stuffed animal.

### Time for Twosies

Sign-up begins on Feb. 1 for our popular "Twosies" program for children aged two and their grown-ups which begins on March 5 from 10 - 10:30 a.m. In this program, we sing songs, do some rhymes and finger-plays, and read a few books. Each week is devoted to a different theme, and we end by doing a simple craft. Space is limited to 15 two-year-olds and their grown-ups, however, so you must register by calling 301-891-7259 or emailing library-programs@spambob.net. Please put "Twosies" in the subject line.

### Changes in the Children's Room

Visitors to the Children's Room lately may have noticed some major changes. First, we have three new bookcases to house our growing collection of graphic

**LIBRARY BRIEFS** continues on page 6



## CAREER WORKSHOPS AT COMMUNITY CENTER

MontgomeryWorks and the Takoma Park Maryland Library, with the support of the Takoma Park Recreation Department, present the following free workshops:

### SUCCESSFUL JOB SEARCH AND CAREER PLANNING

January 17, February 21, March 13 (choose one)  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn proven job search techniques and use this information to begin career planning. Set goals, identify, organize and communicate your interests, values and skills to find your best fit occupation. Discuss the reality of, "it's who you know" and learn how to network your way to the next job.

### HOW TO WRITE THE RESUME THAT GETS THE INTERVIEW

January 31, February 28, March 27 (choose one)  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn the process and components required to write a polished resume along with the key ingredients to a well-written cover letter that will compel the reader to consider your resume. Find out what will make your resume stand out.

All workshops are held in the Takoma Park Community Center Hydrangea Room. Call the Library at 301-891-7259 for information and to pre-register. Registration is limited.

## MAKING MISCHIEF

continued from page 5

participants.

One important note: although the "Nicholas" stories are wonderfully illustrated by "New Yorker" illustrator Sempe, the books aren't picture books. They are chapter books, which require some concentration, and so

this program is most suitable for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. We encourage participants to bring pillows and blankets, if they want, so they are comfortable while listening to the stories.

Please sign up by calling 301-891-7259 or by emailing children's librarian Karen MacPherson at library-programs@spambob.net. Please put "Nicholas" in the subject line. Hope to see you there!

## CALDECOTT

continued from page 5

keep the many clocks running on time in a train station.

But Hugo also has to solve a mystery. Reluctantly joining forces with a girl whose grandfather runs a toy store at the train station, Hugo helps put together some pieces that end up changing many lives – including his – for the better.

In "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies," Schlitz gives readers a highly entertaining look at the Middle Ages. Schlitz, a librarian at a private Baltimore school, wrote the book as a way to allow all of her students to perform

in a play. To that end, she created 22 different monologues, which is why her book is subtitled "Voices from a Medieval Village."

In other hands, this could be boring stuff. But Schlitz, who acknowledges that she also once thought history was dull, brings readers on a highly-entertaining tour of life on a medieval manor featuring a cast of characters ranging in age from 10 to 15. In this book, Schlitz gives readers a potent mixture of tragedy and joy, and teaches them a lot of history in the bargain.

Overall, Schlitz' short, engrossing character sketches and her ability to bring history alive make "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!" a book that may appeal to a range of readers, not just history buffs. (Ages 10-14).

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

continued from page 5

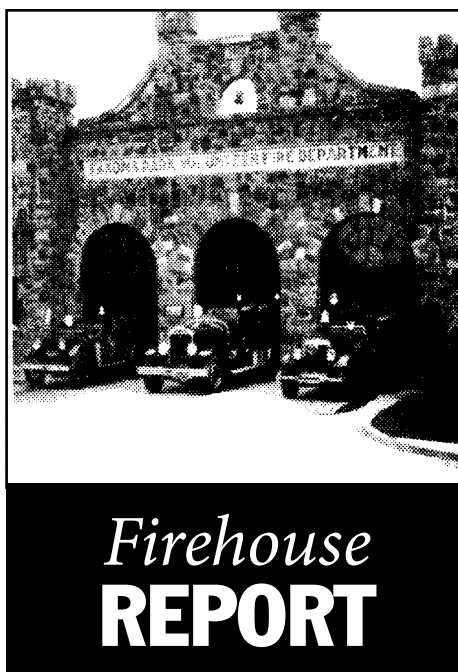
novels. We offer great thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Md. Library for funding these beautiful, mobile bookcases. Each bookcase is designated for a different type of book. First, just inside the Children's Room door, we have a "manga" bookcase. Manga is the Japanese word for 'comics' (literally: "whimsical pictures"). Books on the Manga shelf are Asian comics translated into English. Kids love the artistic style and subject matter; they deal with a wide variety of topics. Cultural differences being occasionally jarring, we classify these in the Young Adult collection.

Further inside the Children's Room, flanking our catalog computer, are the two other new bookcases. One of them, to the left of the computerized catalog, features Manga and graphic novels suitable for all ages, as well as some "literary" graphic novels, such as "The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde." The

other bookcase, to the right of the computer, houses graphic novels that have been classified as part of the Young Adult collection. Still, it is always up to parents to decide what their children read.

### Not Your Father's Comic Books

We are thrilled to have space to expand our graphic novel collection. Graphic novels are steadily growing in popularity, and the range of graphic novels – which now include non-fiction and even classics done in graphic style – is expanding. In fact, this year's Caldecott Medal winner, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" – is a type of graphic novel. Graphic novels can offer a good alternative for parents who want to get their children to read more and watch a screen less. To help parents learn more about graphic novels, we're planning a program this spring featuring Dave Burbank, the library's own graphic novel expert.



The 2007 total for fire-related incidents was 886 and the total for ambulance-related incidents was 3,065, for a grand total 3,951. The totals for 2006 were 979 and 2,717, for a grand total of 3,696. That is an increase of 255 incidents.

### Serious Fire Hits Takoma Park

On January 4 at 2:50 a.m., a fire caused \$275,000 worth of damages to an apartment building in the 8300 block of Flower Avenue. No injuries were reported. The Fire Marshal's Office determined the cause as "combustibles too close to a space heater." Remember, when it comes to fire safety, we must be prepared! That means, have working smoke alarms on all levels of the home. Test them monthly, and have a family escape plan.

### Dinners Provided for Needy Families

A total of 27 families received dinners for Thanksgiving Day from the fire department and other service organizations. A special thanks to the following for donating funds to purchase dinners: Takoma Park VFD and Auxiliary, Takoma Park Lions Club and Takoma Park VFW Post 350. Also to Brian Geraci, Bob and Jim Jarboe for delivering the dinners.

### Toy Drive Brings Joy to Local Children

Over 75 children, representing 26 families received toys during our 2007 Toy Drive. This marked the 27th year for the annual

distribution of toys in our community. A special thanks to the following for their financial support and the donation of toys: Takoma Park VFD and Auxiliary, Takoma Park Lions Club, North Silver Spring Lions Club, Long and Foster of Takoma Park, and the Auxiliary of the American Legion Cissel Saxon Post 41 and to all the citizens that dropped off toys at the fire station. On December 23, the following got together to sort and bag the toys - Mike Hall, Jorge Alfaro, Jerry Sanford, Bob Jarboe and Jim Jarboe. As always, thanks to Pam Taylor, for her administrative support.

### Takoma Park VFD Officers 2008

#### Board of Directors

President Elmer Hamm  
Vice President Richard Willey  
Financial Secretary Stephen Novik  
Treasurer Bruce Allen  
Fire Chief James Jarboe  
Director Michael DeVore  
Director Sherry Novik  
Director John Parsly  
Chaplain David Hooker  
Office Services Coordinator Pam Taylor  
Recording Secretary Leslie DeLeon

#### Auxiliary

President Edna Fiske  
Vice President Betty Fickes  
Secretary Pam Taylor  
Treasurer Marion Brown  
Point System Coordinator Autumn Rose  
Sergeant-at-Arms Andrew Willey  
Chaplain Hilda Baker

### Dad and Daughter Team Still Active

Not only are they the first father and daughter to be on the Takoma Park VFD, they are also the first to serve on the Board of Directors together. Steve Novik has been an active member since 1976 and his daughter Sherry has been aboard since 2006.

### From the Lions Den

At the December 18 membership meeting, President Keith Van Ness presented John Sullivan, Jorge Alfaro and Mike Hall with their Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. It is one of the Lions Clubs International highest awards. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done.



The Takoma Park Lions Club recognized several of its members for outstanding service. From left to right, President Keith Van Ness, John Sullivan, Jorge Alfaro, and Mike Hall.

Photo: Jim Jarboe





### Officers Focus on Robbery Suppression Detail

A recent upsurge in street robberies has prompted the initiation of a robbery suppression detail in Takoma Park. The Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU), which is leading the effort, is focusing its efforts on the Takoma Metro and feeder streets surrounding the station.

The unit has already arrested suspects believed to be involved in strong arm robbery, armed robbery, and possible other crimes. And, as a result of the plainclothes detail, the number of robberies in the area has decreased.

The robberies include one during which a sawed-off .22 cal. rifle was recovered from inside a stolen vehicle. The vehicle fled from officers and drove into Washington, D.C. where the suspects bailed out of the vehicle; one suspect was apprehended a short distance away.

As the investigation continued, another suspect was charged on a robbery warrant. These suspects were responsible for at least five robberies in Takoma Park.

Another strong arm robbery arrest involved a TEU Investigator who was patrolling the area and spotted two suspicious subjects walking near Montgomery College. Moments later a strong arm robbery was reported. The investigator canvassed the area and located three subjects matching the description of those involved in the robbery. Two of the three suspects were located and a search incidental to arrest revealed the victim's property in the suspect's pocket.

The TEU is credited with making 21 arrests, 22 state citations and 15 field interview reports. These charges were associated with theft over \$500, theft under \$500, auto theft, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, possession of stolen property, shoplifting, possession of controlled dangerous substance (CDS)/heroin, possession of CDS/PCP, possession of CDS/marijuana, possession with intent to distribute CDS/marijuana, possession of CDS paraphernalia and warrant service.

### Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Initiative

From about 10 p.m. on December 14 until about 3 a.m. December 15, the Takoma Park Police Department conducted a joint Enhanced Impaired Driver Task Force with Prince George's County and Montgomery County to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the road. In Takoma Park, police made 45 total traffic stops during that time, with 13 traffic tickets, 20 equipment repair orders (requiring drivers to fix broken headlights, taillights and the like) and one driving under the influence (DUI) arrest. The police department conducted the initiative during the holiday season to remind drivers that drinking and driving can be a lethal mix, and laws preventing drunk driving will continue to be enforced.

### Officers Promoted, Transferred

Effective January 20, 2008, Sgt. Richard Bowers has been promoted to lieutenant and will be the new commander of the Patrol Division. Lt. Richard Cipperly will be the new commander of the Criminal Investigations Division (CID). Sgt. Tyrone Collington will be the new patrol sergeant supervisor for Squad 1 of the patrol division. Pfc. Matthew Barber has been assigned to the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU). Chief Ricucci wishes everyone good luck in their new positions. A promotional ceremony will be announced in the near future for Lieutenant Bowers.



Santa joined police officers and pedestrians during the holiday season to emphasize pedestrian safety in the Crossroads area.

Photos: Gretchen Hilburger

## Pedestrian Safety Initiative a Success

By MARY KENDALL  
(CSAFE)

The annual holiday pedestrian safety initiative, coordinated by the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Team, was a success again this year. With over six media outlets present, four of which were from the Hispanic media, the initiative received more attention than ever before. Both Univision and Telemundo featured the event and crosswalk safety as their major stories on their news broadcasts. With Santa Claus himself demonstrating how to properly use a crosswalk, the message was made clear that the place to cross the street safely is in between those white painted lines.

There was great participation from Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Takoma Park Police Departments. A total of 22 officers participated in the initiative. One of the Special Assignment Teams (SAT) Units and the Community Response Team (CRT) participated from the Prince George's County Police Department, District 1. The newly formed Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) from the Takoma Park Police Department participated, along with three officers from the patrol division. The Montgomery County Police Department dedicated eight officers from their Silver Spring Traffic Enforcement Unit to the initiative. Collectively, officers issued:



- Seventy warnings to both pedestrians and vehicles for jaywalking or failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk;
- Five citations to vehicles that failed to yield to a pedestrian; and
- Eleven citations for speeding.

Due to the cold weather, the activity only lasted for an hour and a half; however, that did not hinder the officers or community volunteers from working hard. Community volunteers and officers distributed thousands of candy canes, educational brochures and reflective wear for zippers and shoelaces. Multilingual volunteers played an important role in breaking down language barriers by translating for non-English speaking pedestrians. The volunteers assisted the officers with conveying an important safety message: "Use the crosswalk."

### CSAFE thanks the following organizations for their continued support of the program and its activities:

- Action Langley Park
- City of Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development
- City of Takoma Park Police
- Impact Silver Spring
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Heath Promoters Program
- Montgomery County Highway Safety Office
- Montgomery County Police
- Prince George's County Health
- Department, Langley Park Youth and Family Services
- Prince Georges's County Highway Safety Office
- Prince George's County Police
- Santa Claus
- Sligo Seventh Day Adventist Church
- State Highway Administration
- Stein and Sperling Law Associates
- Takoma Academy
- Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority

# Brill!

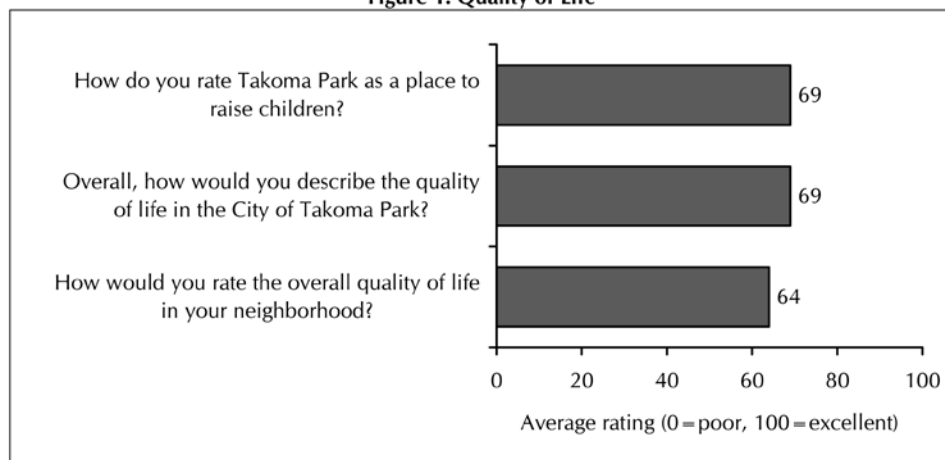
## Are You Prepared For Weather Chills?

With weather turning wintry and snow threatening, many residents like to be prepared for the worst: prolonged power outage. This list of suggested emergency supplies will help you organize so that you can weather the storm.

- Water: three-day supply per person
- Food: three-day supply and a can opener
- Blankets or sleeping bags for each family member
- A change of clothing, rain gear, sturdy shoes
- First aid kit, including extra medications and doctors' phone numbers
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Credit cards, cash, and extra car keys
- A list of family documents (wills, insurance, immunization records)
- Items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses and supplies
- Books and games for entertainment
- Pet supplies

Stay up to date through WTOP (FM 103.5) and WMAL (AM-630)

Figure 1: Quality of Life



## SURVEY

continued from page 1

survey: "The survey . . . permits residents to provide feedback to government on what is working well and what is not, and to communicate their priorities for community planning and resource allocation," reads its introduction. It was designed to help City Council, staff and the public set priorities and improve on weaknesses within City services.

So, what did residents have to say about their hometown?

Plenty.

Besides the general statistics cited above, they rated neighborhood problems. Crime came in first, with 62 percent of those who answered this question calling it a moderate, major or extreme problem. Speeding traffic came in second, at 47 percent, and traffic in general was not far behind, at 41 percent. Chalk up another 41 percent who felt cut-through traffic is a problem.

Feeling safe was another telling category. Most feel safe during the day, though some places feel safer than others — 94 percent felt very or somewhat safe in Old Town or at the Junction during the day, while just 69 percent reported the same for the Crossroads area. At night, it's a different story: 58 percent feel safe in Old Town or the Junction after dark, and just 19 percent would feel safe at the Crossroads, at night. In between is the Metro station, where 33 percent feel safe after dark.

In general, crime prevention was rated as very effective by 19 percent of the respondents, and somewhat effective by 61 percent. Many people — 44 percent — suggested increased police presence; others suggested more foot patrol, community-oriented policing and bike and mounted police.

The survey also addressed the specific issue of the gymnasium long under consideration for the community center. Do people really want one? Well, yes. Eighty three per-

cent support the idea, though that support drops to 69 percent when respondents were asked whether they'd be willing to pay an extra \$50 a year to make it happen.

Other questions on the survey show whether residents use various city services, such as the Community Center, the recreation program, the library, and the cable television station. Others rate a host of services, including art and cultural events, youth services, athletic fields and playgrounds, parking enforcement, the City's web site, street sweeping, tree maintenance, street lighting, street maintenance, code enforcement and more. And, there are ratings for the quality of City services — whether staff are courteous and responsive, for example.

In addition, by parsing out answers by ward, race, gender and age, and by length of time in the city and household income, council members and staff can digest the information in the survey and see whether certain segments of the population perceive city services and quality of life differently than others.

Perhaps the most engrossing reading in the survey is the section of written comments, including ideas about how to improve police service (a separate question) and the more general call for "other comments." Close to 400 people shared their opinions, which ranged from how questions on the survey should be worded to a need for trash cans on school grounds and the timing of traffic lights. Many comments were positive, though not all of them; the response shows how engaged Takoma Park residents tend to be. You can see the entire survey — including comments — at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/survey/survey.pdf>.

The survey, which was presented to the City Council January 14, is the first the City has undertaken. City Manager Matthews says the information in it will be helpful in guiding upcoming policy. Currently, City staff is preparing a report to the Council outlining suggestions based on the community's survey input.

Figure 2: Average Ratings of Quality of Community Characteristics

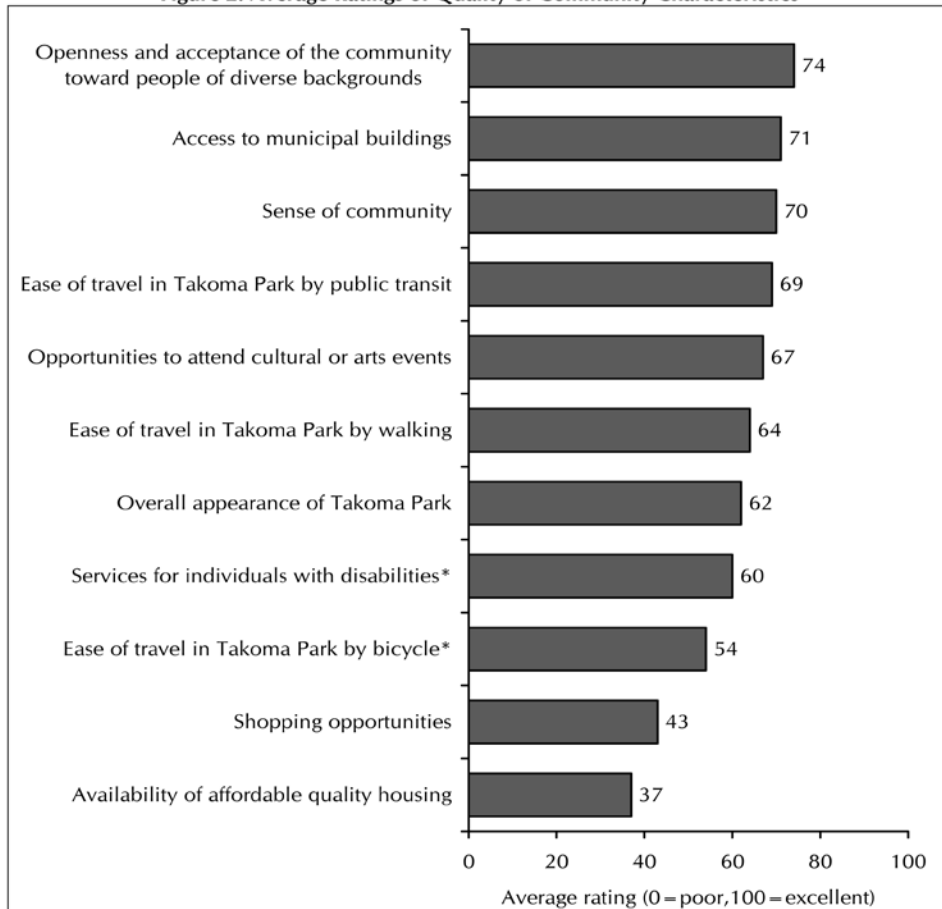


Figure 5: Overall Quality of City Services

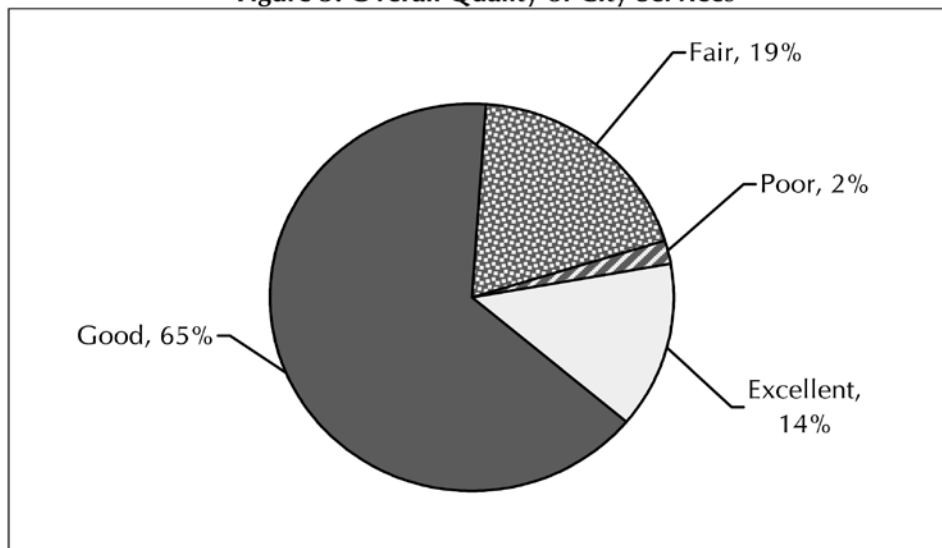
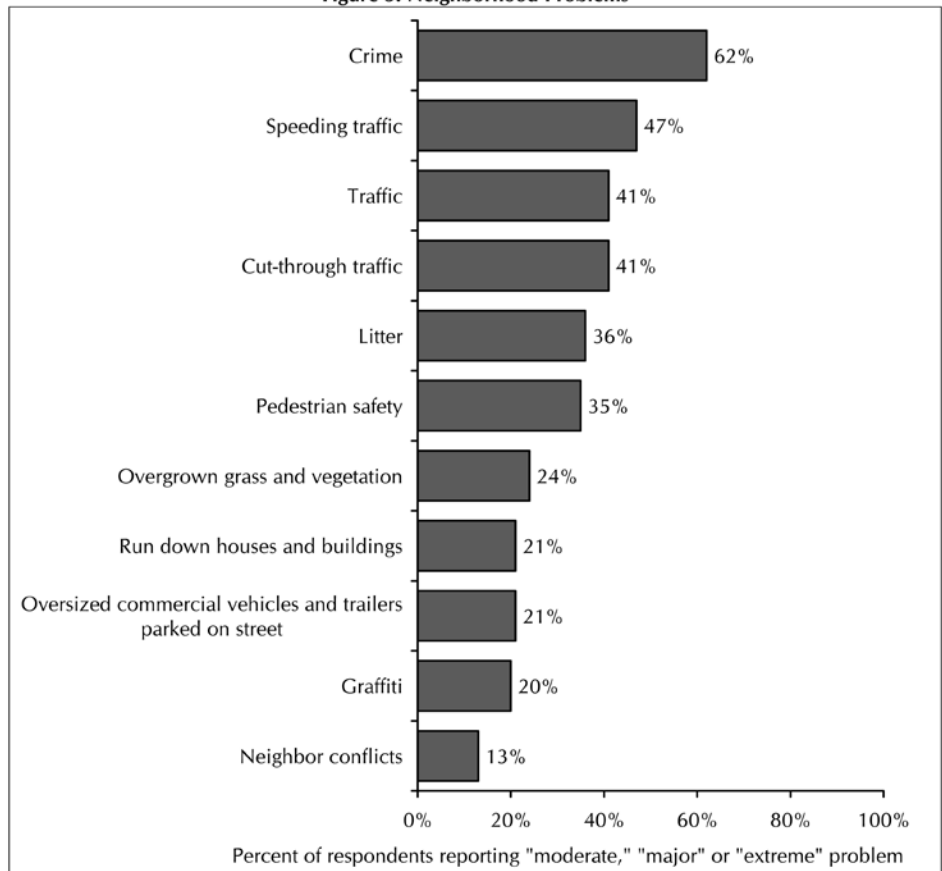


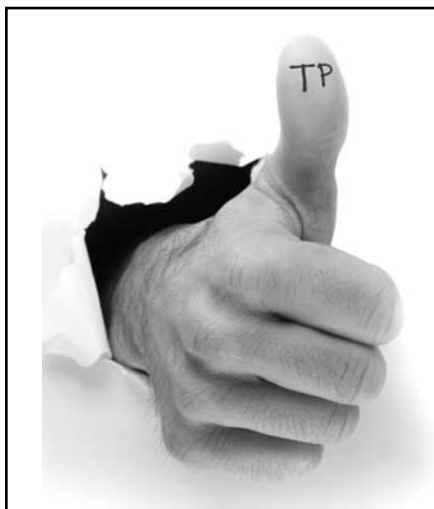
Figure 3: Neighborhood Problems



## Residents Favor Newsletter

We are happy to report that, according to the recently published Takoma Park, MD Resident Survey, city residents really do read the newsletter, and count on it as a reliable source of information: 87 percent of respondents reported that they use the newsletter to get information on city government activities.

Thank you, Takoma Park residents, for your vote of confidence! If you have ideas about how we might continue to serve you and improve our publication, contact us at [tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org).





RECREATION

FEBRUARY  
ACTIVITIES

Tap and Tutu  
Ages 4 - 9

New this season! Dance classes with local instructors from ALL 2 Dance. Students will experience fun, improved balance, coordination, and flexibility. Class is held in the dance studio of the T. P. Community Center. Five weeks. Fee, \$55 for Takoma Park residents, \$65 for non-residents.

Ages 4 - 6

**When:** Mon., Feb. 11 - March 10  
**Time:** 3 - 3:45 p.m.

Ages 7 - 9

**When:** Mon., Feb. 11 - March 10  
**Time:** 3:45 - 4:40 p.m.

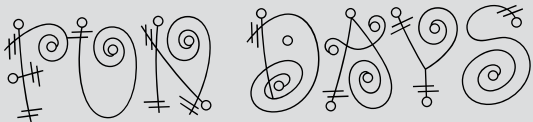
Family Friday Fun

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 an event an age appropriate movie will be selected.

**Date:** Feb. 15  
**Movie:** Spy Kids - PG  
**Time:** 7 p.m.

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 Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., 30 minutes before the trip departs. Advanced registration is required. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing a snack or lunch is recommended.



The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole-day school closings. Participants will meet in the auditorium in the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bring a lunch and a snack! Trips are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

**When:** Tues., Feb. 12  
**Trip:** Jeppers and Ice Skating  
**Time:** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$20  
Non-Res. \$25

**2008 Extended Care Options for Fun Day**  
Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular activity hours.

**Time:** 5 - 6:30 p.m.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$10  
Non-Res. \$15

New Sports Coordinator  
Joins Rec Department

Matt Poorman, 23, is an all-around sports fan, with four varsity sports to his name, plus AAU baseball and club soccer. As Takoma Park's new Sports Coordinator, he'll be sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with residents involved in programs like baseball and soccer, and looking into expanding to include golf, lacrosse, and field hockey.

Poorman grew up in Virginia Beach playing varsity baseball, soccer, golf and tennis in high school. He earned a degree in sports management at Old Dominion University, and worked with the parks and recreation department of Virginia Beach for a year before coming to Takoma Park last month. He's got several years of soccer and baseball coaching experience, and plans to continue to spend time out on the field with the kids. "I'm going to be getting out there as much as I can," says Poorman, who will be responsible for coordinating all the youth sports programs, scheduling facilities, and setting up programs. "I'm hoping to be involved in soccer and tennis to start."



Photo: Debra Haiduven

**Trip:** Rock Climbing  
**When:** Feb. 23  
**Time:** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Fee/person:** T.P. Res. \$15/person  
Non-Res. \$20/person  
Must register by Feb. 15.

TGIF

Ages 13 - 18

Takoma Park Recreation invites teens to participate in "TGIF," a series of safe, fun Friday night events for teens to socialize outside of school. TGIF is scheduled for the first and third Friday of each month.

**Date:** Feb. 1  
**Activity:** Madden Tournament

**Date:** Feb. 15  
**Activity:** Pizza Party

Roadtripz for teens

"Roadtripz" takes teens on adult-supervised trips to local destinations. Trips are scheduled for the second and fourth Friday of each month and selected non-school days.

**Date:** Feb. 8  
**Activity:** Ice Skating

**Date:** Feb. 22  
**Activity:** ESPN Zone

Teen Super Bowl XLII Party  
Ages 13 - 18

The Teen Super Bowl party offers football fans a chance to watch the biggest game of the year. Television fans get to view funny commercials, and food fans get to eat all day. Join us and let's score some touchdowns!

**When:** Sun., Feb. 3  
**Time:** 5 - 9 p.m.  
**Location:** T Zone - T.P. Comm. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$5  
Non-Res. \$8

Ski and Snowboard Club

Ages 12 - 18

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. See you on the slopes. White Tail and Ski Liberty. Instructor Jon McLaren.

**When:** Sun., Feb. 17  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Meet at T.P. Comm. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$10  
Non-Res. \$15

Painting for Adults  
Ages 18 and older

Instructor will provide still life set ups for inspiration. All elements of art are presented with special emphasis on value studies and color relationships. Weekly critiques are a valuable part of each session. Bring sketch book and pencil to first session along with desired medium. Instructor is Joan Samworth.

**When:** Fri., Feb. 29 - May 9  
**Time:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Room - T. P. Comm. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$325  
Non-Res. \$345  
No class on March 28.

Chair Caning Class

Ages 18 and older

This unique folk-art class will teach a variety of chair caning methods and techniques such as hand caning, pressed caning, flat reed, shaker tapes and wide binder cane. Bring your chair to the first class. A materials fee of \$20 is paid to instructor the first night of class. Seven weeks.

**When:** Tues., Feb. 5 - March 18  
**Time:** 7 - 9 p.m.  
**Location:** Azalea Room - T.P. Comm. Ctr.,  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$98  
Non-Res. \$108

Encaustic Collage

Ages 18 and older

Using bees wax as an adhesive allows for layering of papers and lightweight found material as a base for over painting with oil and encaustic paint. All materials will be provided for the \$35 materials fee. Katie Dell Kaufman, instructor.

**When:** Sat., Feb. 16 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sun., Feb. 17 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Room - T.P. Comm. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$210  
Non-Res. \$230



## New Local Restaurant Launched



Photo: Lonni Moffet



Photo: David Suls

Mayor Bruce Williams, right, presents a Certificate of Appreciation from the City to Mario Escobar, owner of the new Tijuana's Mexican Cafe at 949 University Blvd, at the corner of Carroll Avenue and University Boulevard. The restaurant, Escobar's third in the area (others are on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring, and in Rockville), opened last summer. He offers Guatemalan and Mexican food for lunch and dinner, and includes generous portions of such menu items as Guatemalan *carne guisada* (beef stew) and *revacado* (pork liver stew), grilled fish, enchiladas, burritos, fajitas and chimichangas. There are also *licuados*, fruit shakes, and the kids' menu makes it an easy place to bring the family.

## NEW RESTAURANTS

continued from page 1

ter of Old Town, has long been considering a restaurant for the space that is currently an outdoor deck, between the Post Office and Pizza Movers, and the space that was once Taliano's restaurant, on Carroll Avenue, has been vacant for months. "We need to identify restaurants that people would like to see here and get them excited," says Grimes. "That's what the restaurant pledge drive was all about: showing tangibly how much the community would like a new, nice place to eat, that we'd enthusiastically support a new restaurant." He adds that, with names and addresses, he'll hold people to their pledges to patronize any establishment that does come into town.

Colorado Kitchen and another unnamed party have indicated an interest in opening a location in Takoma Park, according to Bruce Levin, who owns the building that includes the old Taliano's restaurant. He has already successfully leased parts of the building to Tranquil Soul, an "eco-boutique," and Echo Park Contemporary Ballet, as well as to the nonprofit Project Re-direct, a social services agency that occupies office space.

The restaurant issue is sure to come up at the upcoming Focus on Old Takoma meeting, designed to gather more input from area residents. Scheduled for Feb. 13 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Victory Tower, the meeting will address city and business-community efforts to promote economic development in Old Takoma. Expected to be in attendance: Old Takoma property owners Bruce Levin and John Mangan, Mayor Bruce Williams and Roz Grigsby, executive director of the Old Takoma Business Association. John Urciolo has also been invited. The meeting is being co-sponsored by the Victory Tower Residents Association, the Westmoreland Area Community Organization (WACO), and the Old Town Residents' Association (OTRA).

For more information on the meeting, contact Seth Grimes, 301-270-0795 or grimes@altaplana.com.

## Don't Stay in the Dark Report Outages

Public Works often gets calls related to broken streetlights. To get faster service, you can report these outages yourself, on PEPCO's web site or by phone.

It takes just a couple of minutes to go to [www.PEPCO.com](http://www.PEPCO.com), click on "report streetlight outages," click on "PEPCO poles" and then enter the requested information in the prompt. You will need to have the address nearest the pole and the 10-digit pole number, which can be found on the pole about four feet up from the base.

You can also report outages by phone at 877-737-2662 - this is an automated reporting line.

Thank you for helping to keep our streets brighter and safer at night!

# Recycle This



## A QUIZ ABOUT RECYCLING

- If my recycling bin overflows, can I put recyclables out in a bucket?
- Can I recycle my yogurt cups?
- Caps to water bottles – are they recyclable?
- Do I have to peel off the labels on metal cans?
- Is it okay to mix newsprint and mixed paper like letters and envelopes?
- How about cardboard milk and juice cartons? Recyclable?

**For answers, see page 12**

## Long Branch Tests Out Traffic Management

From mid-February through March the City will be setting up several different types of traffic control and calming measures to test their effectiveness in the Long Branch neighborhood. The area extends from Carroll Avenue to Sligo Creek Parkway, and from Flower Avenue to Garland Avenue.

Three different sets of traffic calming controls will be tested, and each will be installed for a two-week period. The residents in the area will be provided with survey forms to evaluate the effectiveness of each set. At the end of the testing period, City staff and residents will meet to determine which, if any measures the community would be interested in requesting for permanent installation.

Traffic control and calming measures will include traffic circles at Central and Garland and at Central and Davis, marking sections of Flower Avenue one way, and restricting entrance to the neighborhood from Flower Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway and from intersections along Carroll Avenue.

This process is an outcome of community meetings coordinated by the City's planning department, following a traffic engineering study commissioned by the City in 2007. More information is available online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) under the transportation portion of the community planning pages.



# Horticultural Club Donates Bulbs and Books

Six local organizations got a shot of spring in November and December, when the Takoma Horticultural Club donated \$1,400 worth of bulbs to beautify the community. The club also donated a dozen garden-related books to the Takoma Park Library.

Specially selected varieties of high-quality, spring-blooming bulbs imported from Holland went out to churches, parks and nonprofit organizations in the local Takoma Park community and beyond. Recipients included Sligo Creek Elementary School, Bancroft Elementary School, the City of Takoma Park Gardens, Fenton Gateway Park, 7th Street Gardens and St. Michael's Catholic Church.

"These bulbs will be a terrific addition to our school this spring --and for years to come," said Tori Hall, PTA Beautification Committee member at Sligo Creek Elementary School. She plans to plant them in the kindergarten courtyard and along the walkway between Sligo Creek Elementary and Silver Spring International Middle School, where they can be seen by all who arrive at school.

Books for the library were also most welcome, and included "Hortus Third: a Concise Dictionary of Plants Cultivated in the United States and Canada," "Taylor's Guide to Perennials," the Brooklyn Botanic Garden guides: "Easy Compost," "Ferns," "The Tree Care Primer," "The Potted Garden," "The Kitchen Garden," "Annuals for Every Garden," and "Intimate Gardens." Also included were Michael Dirr's "Hydrangeas for American Gardens" and "Viburnums: Flowering Shrubs for Every Season," and "Plant



Members of the Horticultural Club, with City staff, display books the club donated recently. From left, Tina Slater, Library Director Ellen Robbins, Wendy Bell, City Gardener Mike Welsh, and Kathy Jentz.

Photo: Kathy Jentz

Health Care for Woody Ornamentals: A Professional's Guide to Preventing and Managing Environmental Stresses and Pests." The new additions to the collection will be available in the Library after January 25.

The Takoma Park Horticultural Club publishes a monthly newsletter, maintains a web site, organizes biannual plant

exchanges, sponsors field trips, hosts public talks by local gardening experts, operates a listserve where members share gardening advice and much more. Its *Campaign to Beautify Takoma* donates bulbs and books annually. For more information about the club, see <http://www.takomahort.org/> or contact Carole Galati, [cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com).

## Brawling for a Jammie on City TV

Join City TV crews on February 10 as we record the Jazz Band Brawl at Takoma Station. This annual event is a competition between three bands, one of which will win the coveted "Jammie," earning headliner status at the Jazz Fest, scheduled for June 15.

### Takoma Snapshots in February will include:

- Community Oriented Policing: Who's That At My Door? Security for Senior Citizens
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration High-lights
- Recreation Department's Teen Idol Competition

Viewers may notice that the long-running Haiti a Suivre is no longer on City TV; after more than 18 years of producing this weekly hour-long feature on all things Haitian, producer Jean Claude Vivens has put the show on hiatus, and hopes to return to producing the show later this year. The schedule has been rearranged to accommodate a new series, "Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revisited." This series will feature performances from the late '90s and later from our archives of Takoma Jazz, Folk, and Stree Festivals. We hope you see some old favorites!

Be sure to catch newly released performances from the 2007 Takoma Park Folk Festival. New tapes include the Takoma Mandoleers; Bruce Hutton, Chris Romaine and Tina Chancey; Joe Glazer Memorial Session; Justin Trawick; Marimba Pequena Internacional; Ziva Spanish Dance Ensemble; Little Bit A Blues; Mike Monseur; Soul in Motion; and Pan Masters Steel Orchestra.

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.

## CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY 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	Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	PreSchool Power!		Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Folk Festival	
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Coffeehouse	NASA Programming		Takoma Park Snapshots
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (Replay)	Music da camera	Government Focus	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	CaribNation		Takoma Park Folk Festival	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Media Watch on Hunger
NOON		Community Bulletin Board			City Council Meeting (Replay)		
1:00 PM	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			Takoma Park Folk Festival
2:00 PM	Media Watch on Hunger		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming		Music da camera			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	PreSchool Power		Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revisited	
5:00 PM	Music da camera	Takoma Park Snapshots	Government Focus	Government Focus			
5:30 PM	Chinese News						
6:00 PM		Community Bulletin Board	Chinese News	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Snapshots	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)						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM					Takoma Park Folk Festival		
10:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Government Focus		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Coffeehouse
11:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse		Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots	City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Snapshots		Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revisited	Takoma Park Snapshots	
1:00 AM	Road to Recovery		Community Bulletin Board			Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revisited	



## Takoma Park Remembers Dr. King



The Takoma Park Middle School was full of inspiration on Friday, January 18 when the City of Takoma Park gathered more than 250 people to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. A full program of music, dance, storytelling and other presentations honored King's legacy and instilled a sense of commitment to social justice and equality in those who attended. Among the participants were storyteller Amen Bashira, left; and the Takoma Park Community Band, above. Not pictured were the Takoma Park Middle School step team, the Taratibu Youth Association dancers, and Liz Lerman Dance Exchange teens. There were plenty of families and young folks in the crowd as well. The program was organized by the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

Photos: Lonni Moffet

## 2008 TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Listed below are the observed holidays for the remainder of 2008. Changes to trash and recycling collection are noted. Please keep this so you will have easy reference throughout the year.

This schedule is also posted on the City's website.



### President's Day - Monday, Feb. 18

No yard waste collection  
Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday

### Memorial Day - Monday, May 26

No yard waste collection  
Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday

### Independence Day - Friday, July 4

Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday

### Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 1

No yard waste collection  
Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday

### Veteran's Day - Tuesday, Nov. 11

No yard waste collection  
Tuesday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Wednesday

### Thanksgiving - Thursday Nov 27

Thursday's routes will be collected on Wednesday.  
Friday's routes will be collected on Saturday.

### Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25

Thursday trash and recycling routes will be collected Friday

### New Year's Day - Thursday, Jan. 1

Thursday trash and recycling routes will be collected Friday

## Answers to Recycling Quiz

From page 10

- YES, if you are recycling so much that your bin overflows, put the extra in a bucket or other clean container and the collectors will pick it up.
- NO, you cannot recycle yogurt cups. Only plastic bottles with a narrow top, like drink bottles and cooking oil containers are recyclable in Takoma Park's program, so no plastic butter tubs, take-out containers, deli containers or microwave dishes either. Re-use these in your kitchen!
- NO, caps to water bottles are NOT recyclable. Neither are tops to other recyclable containers, like glass jars, peanut butter jars, etc.
- NO, you needn't peel off labels to recycle your metal cans. But do be sure to rinse it out to get rid of its original contents.
- NO, please keep your newspaper separated from your mixed paper. If the types of paper are kept separate, it maximizes the City's ability to earn money from their recycling. Sometimes the paper markets are flat and all types of papers are taken to the same processor (the County Materials Separation Facility in Gaithersburg). But other times paper markets are paying and the City can generate revenue by selling newspaper and mixed paper separately to private processors. Always place papers in a paper bag or tied in a bundle with string. Do not use plastic bags.
- NO. Any paper milk or juice carton has a waxy coating that makes it unrecyclable in our program. If a cardboard container has food residue on it, like pizza boxes, and bakery boxes smeared with butter spots, icing or cake, they are not recyclable, either.