Increasing Water Rates to Cover Pipe Repairs

City Council Concerned Over Costs, Management

By Virginia Myers

A proposed rate increase that would hike local water bills by 50 percent – an average of $300 annually – has City officials questioning the efficiency of a public utility and puzzling over how best to repair an aging water and sewer system, without threatening low- and middle-income family budgets.

Announced last month, the 9.5 percent basic rate increase and $20 monthly Infrastructure Renewal Fee proposed by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, which provides water and sewer services in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, is designed to pay for repairs to a disintegrating system plagued by water main breaks and other problems. WSSC's six commissioners (three from each county) are considering other proposals, after public comment indicated concern for low-income residents, and the fixed fee may shift to one based on property values. Whatever the decision on rate and fee hikes, the budget must be handed over by March 1 to Montgomery and Prince George's County Councils for their approval. Any increases would take effect in July.

If the Councils cannot agree on the budget – i.e. reach a stalemate – the budget goes into effect in July.

There is no disagreement over the state of the area's aging water and sewer system. According to the Washington Post, bursting WSSC pipes hit a record 2,129 breaks last year. Takoma Park has had more than its fair share: leaks and major breaks frequently dis-

WSNC RATE HIKES
continues on page 4

State Highway: Roundabout Feasible for Takoma Junction

By Virginia Myers

A recent study by the State Highway Administration confirms that a traffic roundabout could alleviate long waits and safety issues at Takoma Junction, the troublesome intersection of Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen, Grant, and Sycamore. City officials have requested that SHA set up community meetings to give residents an opportunity to comment and help decide whether such a plan should be pursued.

SHA's assessment, created by traffic engineers Kittelson & Associates, Inc., outlines current conditions at the intersection as "under capacity," but presents two options that would improve traffic flow. Option A would re-align Carroll Avenue to form the north leg of the Ethan Allen/Sycamore intersection, creating a roundabout with entries at Carroll (from the north and west), Sycamore and Ethan Allen. Option B would re-align Columbia Avenue so that it would form the southern entry to a roundabout that would also include Carroll Avenue (from the west and north) and Ethan Allen. Each of the options is pictured in SHA assessment, available through the City's web site at www.takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/docs/kamemo.pdf.

A mini-roundabout would carry "inherent safety advantages," according to the SHA report.

In either case, a mini-roundabout would carry "inherent safety advantages," according to the SHA report, including a low-speed environment, reduction of conflict points, and elimination of high severity crashes. Roundabouts are also perceived as pedestrian friendly, with short crossing distances. And, delays at the intersection would be reduced by 9 to 12 seconds, depending on the option and the time of day.
Monday, March 3 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Monday, March 3 - Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Rose Room)
Tuesday, March 4 - COLTA Hearing (Meadows v. Forstyhe/Forstyhe Group), 7 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Wednesday, March 5 - Health Services Impact Committee meeting, 6:45 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)
Wednesday, March 5 - Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Room TBA)
Thursday, March 6 - Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
Monday, March 10 - Public hearing (speed humps on Hammond and Merwood Avenues); City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 11 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)
Tuesday, March 11 - Committee on the Environment and Takoma Old Town Business Association joint meeting - Energy Star presentation for small business, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 11 - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
Wednesday, March 12 - Recreation Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
Thursday, March 13 - Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
Monday, March 17 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 18 - Safe Roadways Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
Tuesday, March 18 - Elections Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)
Tuesday, March 18 - COLTA Hearing (Mankewicz v. Ellman), 7 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 19 - Public Meeting on the Takoma Metro, 6 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Thursday, March 20 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Atrium Room)
Monday, March 24 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 25 - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)
Wednesday, March 26 - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)
Monday, March 31 - (tentative) City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

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

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org.

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City Council Action

For further information, or to receive a copy of the legislation, contact the City Clerk’s office, 301-891-7267 or e-mail clerk@takomagov.org.

Regular Meeting - January 14, 2008

Resolution 2008-2 was adopted, expressing condolences to the family and friends of the late Delegate Jane E. Lawton
Ordinance 2008-1 was accepted at first reading, authorizing FY08 Budget Amendment No. 2
Ordinance 2008-2 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing a contract for Phase Two of the Cleveland Avenue Project (stormwater infiltration and sidewalk repair)
Ordinance 2008-3 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing purchase of in-car video camera systems for the Police Department and repealing Ordinance 2007-56

Regular Meeting - January 28, 2008

Resolution 2008-3 was adopted, offering condolences to the friends and family of the late State Senator Gwendolyn T. Brit
Resolution 2008-4 was adopted, offering condolences to the friends and family of the late former Takoma Park City Administrator James Wilson
Resolution 2008-5 was adopted, commenting on the proposed WSSC rate increase and fee for infrastructure improvements
Ordinance 2008-4 was accepted at first reading, amending the Takoma Park Code to establish the Recreation Committee as a statutory committee
Resolution 2008-6 was adopted, authorizing the sale of City-owned property at 8425 Piney Branch Road (Abstain: Robinson)
Ordinance 2008-1 (as amended) was adopted at second reading by roll-call vote, authorizing FY08 Budget Amendment No. 2
Ordinance 2008-6 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for tree maintenance.
Resolution 2008-10 was adopted, appointing Mark Freedman to the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee
Ordinance 2008-7 was accepted at first reading, making technical amendments to Takoma Park Code, Chapter 9.04, Rights of Non-U.S. Citizens in Takoma Park

The Consent Agenda was adopted by roll-call vote, it consisted of:
- Ordinance 2008-5, awarding a contract to a management consultant for personnel classification study
- Resolution 2008-7, appointing Jillian Aldebron to the Board of Elections
- Resolution 2008-8, appointing Eric Weissman to the Safe Roadways Committee
- Resolution 2008-9, appointing Mark Freedman to the Ethics Commission.

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

Volunteers Needed
to serve on Council appointed boards, committees, and commissions

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

Arts and Humanities Commission
Board of Elections
Committee on the Environment
Emergency Preparedness Commission
Ethics Commission
Facade Advisory Board
Health Services Impact Committee
Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee
Noise Control Board
Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee
Personnel Appeal Board
Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee
Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee
Recreation Committee
Safe Roadways Committee

City of Takoma Park

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Takoma Park City Council will hold public hearings on Monday, March 10, 2008 to take comments on the following:

- Traffic Calming (Speed Hump) Request Merwood Drive
- Traffic Calming (Speed Hump) Request 7600 Block of Hammond Avenue

The public hearing will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue. Residents are urged to attend the meeting to express their views. Written comments addressed to City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, will also be made part of the record. For further information, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 (or e-mail JessieC@takomagov.org).
The Greening of New Hampshire Avenue

By Paul Grenier

At a public meeting last summer, an urban ecologist stated that an intelligently redesigned New Hampshire Avenue might well become an excellent habitat for birds, insects—even butterflies. “She must be kidding,” I thought to myself at the time. “Why would a butterfly come to such an uninviting place?” Come to think of it, why would a person want to come?

To make New Hampshire Avenue attractive for humans is to first make it attractive for our delicately-winged flying friends. In other words, make it an urban garden.

To that end, a growing group of urban ecologists, gardeners, and planners are busy broadening the perception of what constitutes an urban garden, and inviting the community to get involved—even get their hands dirty—planning and creating urban gardens.

Gardens: They’re not just rows of vegetables

Until quite recently, I thought that “community garden” referred to rows of carrots and lettuce crowded into small plots divided by skinny wooden slats, the whole thing surrounded by a makeshift fence.

I was wrong.

As I learned from Liz Falk, a permaculture gardener and one of the voluntary Energy Star Small Business Network’s portfolio manager and how houses of worship too. Please join us on March 11 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Community Center to learn how you can take advantage of this free help line. For more information, please call the Takoma Park Phone Bank at 530-2121.

Food Gardens

How practical is growing food near big urban streets?

Crop placement is critical. Any vegetables grown must not be subject to spray or runoff from the street, so both distance and elevation are important variables. A gently sloping hillside, for example, might be good for figs and blueberries even relatively close to a street.

Crop choice is equally important. It is known, for example, that leafy greens absorb airborne pollutants more readily than other crops. That is why, according to local community gardening expert Judy Tiger, you need to “locate edible plants a safe distance from the street buffered by trees and other taller plants.”

Given the high cost of fresh, healthy, local produce, it is obvious that gardening for one’s own consumption can make very good sense. And City planners even anticipate that seasonal crops of herbs, flowers and high-value greens, like cilantro or basil, could conceivably supply additional income to those interested in selling on a small scale.

Habitat Gardens

Even small urban spaces can create useful habitat when they are designed to provide food, shelter and water throughout the year. Pollinators such as bees and butterflies thrive on aromatic herbs, like coriander and mint, as well as a wide range of flowers—such as bachelor’s button, zinnias, and delphinium—that are also highly decorative. Structures can also be added as homes for certain types of bats—as well as for birds and bees. Native animals are often dependent on the native plants with which they co-evolved. Monarch butterflies, for example, are en-
Relief Available for Property Tax Increases

Homeowners and Renters’ Tax Credit Applications Due By September 1

You may be able to save on property tax with the Homew-ower and Renter Tax Credit. Applications for the credit are now available for the 2008 tax year. (The deadline for filing is September 1, 2008, however if you file before May 1, the credit may be applied directly to your tax bill.)

The tax credit programs are designed to help low income home owners and renters by limiting the amount that they must pay in property taxes. To receive the tax credit, an application and all supporting documentation must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation no later than September 1 of each year.

In 2006, the maximum property assessment eligible for credit was increased from $150,000 to $300,000. That means that even though your home may be assessed for any amount, it’s only the first $300,000 of its assessed value that will be counted for this credit.

To obtain an application for the home owners’ or rent-ers’ tax credit programs, you can call the State of Mary-

land at 800-944-7403, access it on their website, www.dat.state.md.us/datweb/taxcredits.html or call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Do You Know Your Rights as a Tenant?

On Tuesday, March 18, from 7 - 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 pol-icy having gone into effect 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 renewal, terminations, NASC agreement, and right to get it back at the end of your tenancy, entry requirements and your rights when your landlord asks you to leave. Anyone inter-
ested in learning more about organizing a tenant association is also invited to attend. To register, call 301-891-7222.

Frequent Updates on City News Available

Did you know you can stay on top of City news even as you wait for the next development, wedding, or road project to roll by at your door? The main page of the City website, at www.takomaparkmd. gov, is updated as often as several times a day, and at the minimum sev-eral times a week. To subscribe to the City news feed (RSS), every time the City web site is updated you’ll get electronic notification (see below). This main page is designed to provide “headline” news and govern-ment topics to allow visitors to keep up on Council activities and other news.

There’s also a weekly update avail-

able to all subscribers, called City Mailbox. You can subscribe to takomaparkmd.gov. Called the City Status and Information Report, it’s right there on the home page (scroll toward the bottom) and it gives you the latest on everything from art shows to police patrols, book clubs to tax increases, development projects, block parties and more. To catch up on weeks you’ve missed, see the archive at http://takomapark-

md.gov/news/index.html. The weekly Status and Information Report is sent out by email and posted to the website each Friday near the end of the day.

Additionally, Council followers may be interested in receiving a weekly email which includes the upcoming City Council meeting agenda. If so, send an email to clerk@takomagov. org and you will be added to the list. One week before the meeting, an agenda contains background ma-
terials, is also posted to the website each Friday before a meeting, at http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/ clerk/agenda.

WSSC RATE HIKES

continued from page 1

rupt traffic and water supply, most impressively during three incidents this winter. In December, a 65-year-old, 20-inch water pipe burst near the intersection of Sago Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue, shuttering down that major thoroughfare for weeks. A single-family house at 1003 Madison Ave holds in neighborhoods as far away as East West Highway. In January, a 16-inch water main burst near Piney Branch Road, closing that road and shutting down Takoma Park Middle School as well. And in February, a pipe at Elm Avenue and Highway 410/East West Highway burst, closing that street from about 7 a.m. until 10 or 11 that night.

“We’ve had three major breaks in the last three months, and it wasn’t a harsh winter,” says Public Works Director Daryl Brathwaite, noting that deep temperature fluctuations can create problems, but such fluctuations have been mostly ab-

sent this season. Nevertheless, with such a recently problem-

atic history, Brathwaite says, “there’s more of the same to be had.

The City is so concerned about the whopping rate increase and the system’s state of disrepair that the City Council passed an ordinance Jan. 28 calling for WSSC to “find ways to reduce the impact of any approved fees or rate increases on lower-income residents.” The resolution also requests that WSSC, “show that it has the capacity to manage a plan addressing the widespread deterioration of water infrastructure in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties.”

To drive the point home, City Council member Dan Rob-
inson presented City testimony at a WSSC public hearing Feb. 7, noting that while “massive work on water and sewer lines is required” in the Takoma Park community, financial impact and WSSC management are deep concerns. The testimony outlined specific issues with past management experiences, including scheduling frustrations – start dates of WSSC proj-

ects exceeding estimated start dates by as much as two years, and completion rates far lower than original estimates – as well as poor contractor performance. “Problems include lack of proper record keeping, signage, and re-measurements, driveways without notice to residents, damage to curbs and sidewalks from contractor equipment, leaving equipment at works sites for weeks without any activity taking place, and work sites left in an unsafe condition,” reads the testimony. Co-cy County, City-financed road repairs have also been undone by WSSC work digging up newly paved streets.

“One of the concerns I have heard is that there be capacity within WSSC to manage a wholesale replacement program of the magnitude that they’ve sketched out,” Deputy City Man-
ger Suzanne Ludlow told City Council. Later, Brathwaite put it more succinctly. “When they increase the number of contractors [for the system overhaul], how are they going to manage? They’re not managing it now.”

But the work, it seems, must be done. And it will cost. WSSC is requesting county approval of a $1.01 billion bud-

get that would include $8 million in increased rates for wages and salaries, and debt payment of 28 cents of every dollar paid by each WSSC customer.

Meanwhile, Brathwaite points out a distinct lack of water conservation language in any of WSSC’s improvement plan-

ning documents. “Nothing in what they have identified and designed for the future takes into account conservation,” she says. While it may not pay for the kind of major repair that is now overdue, conservation could add up. “If WSSC as an organization puts an emphasis on conservation, what can do that to their costs?”

Robinson agrees, and in City testimony requested that WSSC “put significant efforts into encouraging the reduction of water use in the region, for both commercial and resi-

dential reasons.”

The County Councils will consider the WSSC increases in this spring.

Tenants or landlords having questions about filing COLTA Complaints may call 301-891-7215 and contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.
The Taste of New Hampshire Avenue

By Ilona Blanchard

New Hampshire Avenue, where Takoma meets the world, is open for business. I know this, business owners know this, but people driving along the strip of commercial highway usually go so fast they miss what the Avenue has to offer. “Explore New Hampshire” is one way to get to know this area, and eat your way through the various culinary territories along Takoma Park’s eastern edge. The City-supported program involves discount, buy-one-entrée-get-one free postcards for four local restaurants, and encourages residents to use “Eat Takoma,” a booklet describing nearly a hundred restaurants, groceries, and carryouts within the City limits.

Using “Eat Takoma” as your guide, you can sample everything from pollo a la brasa – traditional Peruvian rotisserie chicken – with a side of deep fried yucca, pico de gallo, and your choice of sauces at Señor Chicken (don’t forget the dulce de leche cookie sandwich for dessert), to pan-fried fresh red snapper smothered with escabeche – a spicy vinegar sauce with onions and peppers – at Caribbean Sea Seafood Market and Restaurant. There are many hidden treasures to be found behind faded and broken signs, chipped paint, and front windows plastered with phone card ads.

Take Sadana International for example, also known as Takoma Park, Sadana’s is tucked behind a chain link fence, a dumpster, and a parking lot. Their approach is simple: for you and the community that it will assist neighborhood groups with the organization of these walking school buses. Their approach is simple: A group of families in a neighborhood agree the kids will walk to school together on a regular basis, between every day to once a week. Parent volunteers commit to rotating the responsibility of escorting the students to school. Students are either picked up along the way or at a designated meeting time and location.

The Walking School Bus Takes Off

By Lucy Neher

Remember the age-old story, “I had to walk five miles to school, in the cold, with no shoes . . .”? This classic ploy may still be used by parents urging their kids out the door and onto the sidewalk for their relatively short walk to school, but now there are even better arguments in favor of walking: the healthy benefits of exercise, saving energy and gas, avoiding (and decreasing) traffic, and spending time with family and friends walking instead of driving. Plus, there’s the walking school bus, a fun way to hang out with friends on the way to school.

Designed to get families out of their cars and walking, the walking school bus is simply a group of neighbor kids who walk to school together, with adults taking turns supervising the trip. Just one of the elements of the Safe Routes to School program, the walking school bus joins Walk to School Day, bicycle safety rodeos, and a safe routes mapping project, all City-supported efforts to save energy, decrease traffic, and encourage healthy exercise and family time in Takoma Park.

Takoma Safe Routes to School, a city program funded by a federal grant, is so committed to the idea of walking to school and the obvious benefits for you and the community that now there are even better arguments in favor of walking: the community will have an additional opportunity to review and comment on the proposals on-line at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Watch the City’s website for more information.

You Decide: Public Art Charrette

The public is invited to view the public art proposals received by the Arts and Humanities Commission in response to its call for public art. Each of the proposals will be presented by the individual artists and poets on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The community will have an additional opportunity to review and comment on the proposals on-line at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Watch the City’s website for more information.

Riders” include Garret and Larkin Kern, Gabel Cramer, Tess Caldwell, Lyla DiPaul, Margot Bloch, and Maaike and Amarin Laanstra-Corn. Remember the age-old story, “I had to walk five miles to school, in the cold, with no shoes . . .”? This classic ploy may still be used by parents urging their kids out the door and onto the sidewalk for their relatively short walk to school, but now there are even better arguments in favor of walking: the healthy benefits of exercise, saving energy and gas, avoiding (and decreasing) traffic, and spending time with family and friends walking instead of driving. Plus, there’s the walking school bus, a fun way to hang out with friends on the way to school.

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Call for Functional Art along the Trail

The Arts and Humanities Commission is 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, please contact David Sulis at 301-891-7219.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

March 13

The poetry of Teri Ellen Cross and Patricia Murphy will be featured at this month’s “third Thursday” poetry reading. The reading will be held on Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Poetry Workshops for High School Students

Anne Becker, Takoma Park poet laureate, will offer a series of free poetry workshops for high school students this month. 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. The workshops begin on March 18. To register, please call 301-891-7224.

Additional information on these and other upcoming events can be found on the City’s website at www.takomaparkmd.gov or by contacting the Arts and Humanities Commission at 301-891-7224 or by email at ahc@ takomagov.org
**Creative Writing for Teens**  
Ages 13 - 18  
From college entrance essays to blogs, writing is a daily part of the academic and personal lives of young adults. Part communication and part self-expression, writing is an important skill to master and here students have a chance to develop writing skills without the pressure of a graded environment. Through reading and writing exercises students will be introduced to different types of writing and practice their own style. This class reminds students that writing can be fun and a way to recognize their own potential. Eight weeks.

When: Tuesdays, March 4 - April 29  
No class Tuesday, March 25  
Time: 4:30 - 6 p.m.  
Location: Rose Room, Takoma Park Community Center  
Fee: T.P. City Residents $100  
Non-Residents $110

**Introduction to Creative Writing**  
Adult  
If you have always written, but never shared it with anyone because you aren’t really a writer — this is the class for you. This class will introduce the basic genres of contemporary writing: fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction. Using short readings, we will identify the elements of each genre and how to incorporate them in our own work. There will be time to do exercises that focus on putting an idea into words on a page

When: Tuesdays, March 4 - April 29  
No class Tuesday, March 25  
Time: 6 - 8:30 p.m.  
Location: Rose Room, Takoma Park Community Center  
Fee: T.P. City Residents $150  
Non-Residents $170  
College Student $100  
Seniors Rate $50

**Family Rock Climbing at Carderock National Recreation Area**  
Ages 8 and up  
Bring the family for this awesome day on the rocks.

When: Sunday, April 6, 2008  
Time: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Instructor: Jon McLaren  
Location: Meet at T.P. Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Fee: T.P. City Residents $40  
Non-Residents $45  
up to 4 people/family; 
$15 each additional family member  
$20 each additional family member

**Rock Climbing at Great Falls National Park**  
Ages 13 - 18  
Climbing the walls trying to find something cool to do? Join the Recreation Department for an awesome day on the rocks. Great Falls offers some of the best climbing around, not to mention amazing views from above the Potomac River. Never been climbing? No problem. This trip is designed for beginners and pros alike. All equipment, guides, and transportation is included. Instructor: Jon McLaren.

When: Sunday, April 13, 2008  
Time: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Instructor: Jon McLaren  
Location: Meet at T.P. Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Fee: T.P. City Residents $25  
Non-Residents $30

**Personal Training**  
Ages 16 and older  
One on one personal training is available. Maximum of five per session.

When: Thursdays, ongoing  
Time: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave  
Fee: T.P. City Residents $10 per session  
Non-Residents $15 per session

**Kindermusik Dew Drops**  
Newborn to 17 months (with adult)  
Play and move together to songs about flowers such as “Jasmine Flower,” “How Does Your Garden Grow?” and “White Coral Bells.” Hear traditional Irish music: dance a jig, move to the “Irish Trot” and exercise to “Did You Ever See a Lassie.” Home materials include a CD of beautifully arranged songs from class, a board book of flowers, and an instrument for music-making at home. There is a $35 materials fee due to the instructor the first day of class, Maximum of 10, minimum of five. Eight weeks. Register online for Becky Linafelt’s class at www.kmwithbecky.kindermusik.net.

When: Wednesdays, March 12 - May 7  
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Thursdays, March 13 - May 8  
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
Location: Heffner Community Center  
42 Oswego Avenue  
Fee: T.P. City Residents $105/session  
Non-Residents $115/session

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**Silver Foxes**

**Understanding the Maze of Medicare**, is the subject of a lecture presented by Leta S. Banks, MBA, Program Director, Senior Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland on March 13. The free lecture is 11 a.m. - Noon in the Senior Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park.

**Silver Foxes Senior Club Trip to Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, Maryland:** Seniors will enjoy a performance by Tappers with Attitude, a unique and multicultural group of young dancers performing new works by emerging choreographers, as well as nationally known artists. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2 - 5:30 p.m. Free bus transportation provided. Tickets are $9 per person, limited seats available. To reserve your space, please call 301-891-7280.

**Senior Arts Open House at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, MD**  
Seniors can participate in a variety of free sample classes, artist talks, and performances. The open house is 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4. Bring a bag lunch. Free bus transportation provided. To reserve your space, please call 301-891-7280.
**RECREATION**

**Community Service Learning Spring Break**
Ages 13 - 18
Learn about local agencies in need of volunteers, and hear a motivational message on the importance of community outreach. Each day (Monday through Thursday), a service project is arranged for students who wish to volunteer in the community. Volunteers will complete five hours of service each day. Students need to bring a lunch each day. After lunch, supervised youth will be transported to a local agency for an afternoon of community service. All transportation for volunteers to and from service sites is provided.
A special trip is planned for the last day which is covered in the fee. Space is limited, register early.

**When:** Monday - Thursday, March 24 - 27
**Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
**Location:** T Zone - T.P. Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
**Fee:** T.P. City Residents $25
Non - Residents $30

**Spring Break Camp — Back to Nature**
Grades K - 6
The sky is the limit when it comes to exploring animals and the in which environment they live. Learn how an animal camouflages itself to protect it from danger. Go on a nature scavenger hunt finding nature’s little secrets. Find out what you can do to protect Sligo Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. Don’t forget to pack your bathing suits for a trip to the pool. Arts and crafts, sports and games, and outside time round out the camp experience.

**When:** Monday - Friday, March 24 - 28
**Time:** Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
Camp Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
**Location:** T.P. Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
**Fee:** T.P. City Residents $105
Non-Residents $115
**Before Care:** T.P. City Residents $30
Non-Residents $35

**Intramural Sports Clinics**

**Flag Football**
When: Tuesdays March 11 - April 15
Where: Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary)
Who: Grades 4 - 6
Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Come out and learn how to throw like Brett Favre, run like Walter Payton and catch like Jerry Rice.

**Soccer**
When: Wednesdays, March 12 - April 15
Where: Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary)
Who: Grades 1 - 3
Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Corner kicks, throw-ins, penalty kicks, offense, defense, goalkeeping; Come learn all the skills at the Takoma Park Youth Soccer Clinic, held on Wednesdays behind Piney Branch Elementary.

**Ultimate Frisbee**
When: Thursdays, March 13 - April 16
Where: Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary)
Who: Grades 3 - 6

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Paula Lisowski, coordinator for senior programs, shows off the student projects from the holiday wreath making class in the senior room of the community center.

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**ANNUAL EGG HUNT**

**Ages 2 and under, 3 - 4, 5 - 6, 7 - 8**
Get your baskets ready and join Takoma Park Recreation for an “egg”citing time. There are four age categories and the hunt begins at 11 a.m. SHARP.

**Ed Wilhelm Field, 7510 Maple Avenue**
(Behind Piney Branch Elementary)

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**COMMUNITY CENTER SPRING HOURS**

Game Room
Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Senior citizens only
2:30-5:30 p.m. Ages 7-12
7:30-9:30 p.m. Ages 13-19
Saturday 1-5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2-5:30 p.m.

T Zone (Teen Lounge)
Monday through Friday 2:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday 1-5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2-5:30 p.m.

Hours subject to change
Membership is required

7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290
tprecreation.org
Surveillance Camera Leads to Arrest

Remember the phrase “Smile, you’re on a candid camera”? With the assistance of business owners installing surveillance cameras, we are now able to ask the criminals to do the same thing.

Imagine this scenario: It is 8 in the morning, broad daylight, in a busy intersection during rush hour traffic. You are a young woman standing in front of a restaurant waiting for a ride. A delivery truck pulls up alongside of you to make a delivery. All of a sudden, you are attacked with a baseball bat, beaten in the head, then picked up and forced into the back of the delivery truck never to be seen again.

This actually happened and the entire incident was caught on surveillance tape. Fortunately, the young woman fought off her attacker and escaped, but not without injuries.

On January 29, Richard Manning Miller was captured on a surveillance camera, assaulting a young woman and attempting to abduct her. The use of that surveillance video, from a camera maintained by the Pollo Campero restaurant on University Boulevard, made it possible to release images to the media, and by extension the public at large, which led to his arrest.

The use of that video surveillance technology is no longer just a tool to monitor traffic, automated teller machines (ATMs) or banks; when crime occurs, police departments are looking to their local businesses and gas stations for assistance.

Police are hopeful that this publicly known partnership between the businesses and police departments will aid in deterring criminal activity. If not, criminals may as well leave their calling card at the scene because more than likely, they have already been identified.

Criminals Trading in on Stolen Copper

Not long ago kids collected soda bottles to return at the convenience store, for a nickel a piece! Typically, the nickels would go toward a pile of candy to share with friends. Now people are collecting copper – but these are adults, not kids, who are collecting, and they’re not actually “collecting,” they’re stealing.

A rash of copper thefts has Takoma Park Police on the alert for adults stealing copper downsputs from gutters, as well as lawn ornaments and copper cable wiring.

In September 2007, a theft occurred involving copper tubing and brass fittings valued at $15,000 from a pipeline company. At the time, the business was working at a complex on Maple Avenue. In January 2008, there were two thefts of copper from downsputs from residences on Anne Street and Philadelphia Avenue.

The theft of copper, particularly downsputs, increased during the spring of 2007. Chevy Chase and areas of Howard County experienced several incidents. Copper cable wire is another “hot” item, which is often found at cell phone towers. This type of copper has also been stolen throughout the area.

As of June 2007, an estimated value of copper at legitimate recycling centers was $3.35 per pound. There are several recycling centers in the area, including Potomac Metal, Inc. in Sterling, Virginia and Maryland Recycle Co., Inc. with centers in Glen Burnie, Rosedale, Elkridge and Owings Mills. Most scrap yards will take copper as well.

It is unclear what the copper is worth on the black market, but the value of copper is expected to increase, which means that the theft of copper will continue to rise – and Takoma Park Police will continue to be vigilant to prevent this crime in the City.

Sign-up NOW for TPSS Baseball and Softball Spring 2008 Season

NOW is the time to sign up girls and boys, ages 6-18, to play neighborhood baseball and softball in the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Baseball and Softball Leagues. Registration deadlines will be here before you know it:

- **April 1** for Teen Co-ed Softball, Girls Softball and all Baseball divisions except Majors 70
- **March 15** for Baseball’s Majors 70 division

**REGISTER NOW:**
- **online** at [www.takomabaseball.org](http://www.takomabaseball.org)
- **by mail** (forms on website)
- **walk-in:**
  - Takoma Park Community Center
    - Mar. 8 – 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
  - Long Branch Community Center
    - 8700 Piney Branch Rd
    - Mar. 29 - 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

We coordinate schedules with Takoma Park soccer so kids can play both sports. Scholarships are available for kids in free and reduced school meals program. We also make accommodations for kids with unpolished skills or disabilities.

For more info: visit [www.tpsbsbaseball.org](http://www.tpsbsbaseball.org) ; call 301-270-0100; or e-mail: info@takomabaseball.org.

Teen Coed Softball Begins Eighth Year

The Teen Coed softball division is open to all 13 to 18 year olds and there are no restrictions on where you live or how much experience you have. The division focuses on low-key, fun-filled practices and games, starting in April and running through mid-June. Games are Sunday evenings (6 p.m.), followed by pizza and beverages. Practices with pickup games are on Friday evenings (also 6 p.m.).

The teams use Lee Jordan and Ed Wilhelm fields in Takoma Park.

“We’ve had players who’ve never seen a softball before – foreign exchange students from Egypt, Finland, Turkey, and France—as well as players rushing from a Takoma Fire game,” says Teen Coed division president Fred Pinkney. “Everyone seems to enjoy the comradeship and pizza.”

The organized teen coed division seems to be unique to Takoma Park-Silver Spring. “It’s really quite simple,” says league founder Gary Weinstein (Coach G). “It’s no-pressure, all fun. Besides, this is one sport they’ll be playing in college and as adults. Why not start as teens?”

Players can sign up to play as individuals, with a few friends, or as a whole team. Like any nurturing parent, Pinkney says, “Why wait to the last minute? Sign up now and spread the word.”

Information and registration materials (deadline—April 1) for the Teen Coed Division of the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Youth Baseball and Softball League can be found at [www.takomabaseball.org](http://www.takomabaseball.org). The fee ($95) includes pizza and drinks and can be waived for students in the scholarship program. Gloves are also available for those who need them. Walk-in registration will be held at Takoma Park Community Center on March 8 from 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.; Long Branch Community Center on March 29 from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. For questions or to volunteer as a coach or media wiz-ard (to spread the word on Teen Coed), contact Fred Pinkney at pa.somers@verizon.net.

Soccer, the world’s biggest game, also is the biggest game in Takoma Park.

More than 2,400 boys and girls from nursery school to high school play in the Takoma Park Neighborhood Youth Soccer league (TPNYS).

Registering is simple.

Go to [www.takomasoccer.org](http://www.takomasoccer.org), fill in the form on-line and mail in your payment. The fee is $50, with financial assistance for families in the federal lunch program.

The season begins in mid-March and ends in mid-May. Nursery schoolers and kindergarteners play only on weekends. For first graders and older there is a week-day practice and a weekend game. TPNYS coordinates with the Takoma Park baseball and softball league to avoid scheduling conflicts.

This program is not associated with the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

For more information contact Howard Kohn at kohn@erols.com.
I t's been 12 years, but Takoma Park volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Steve Novik recalls the Amtrak-CSX train collision in Sil- ver Spring as his most dangerous and stressful call. A first-respond, he witnessed the desperation and panic and says he has never forgotten the emotional impact of transporting bodies from the scene.

On the other hand, both he and fellow EMT Sherry Novik have been on calls where there is no emergen- cy, but instead, a lonely elderly person needing some- one to talk to, and having no one else to call. Sherry says it's hard not to feel for those "regulars."

Steve Novik, 63 and daughter Sherry Novik, 37 are unique in the 114-year history of Takoma Park Vol- unteer Fire Department. The only concurrently serv- ing father and daughter Emergency Medical Techni- cians in the history of the department, both came to service after long periods of admiring the job from the sidelines.

As a kid, Steve used to visit his local firehouse on upper Georgia Avenue, and says he always thought being a firefighter was "pretty cool." But he didn't get serious until a customer of his auto supply busi- ness was fatally injured in a car accident. Impressed by the skill, caring and professionalism he saw in the responding personnel, and at the urging of good friends in the Department, Steve Novik became cer- tified as a volunteer firefighter and EMT in May, 1976 and has been with the Department ever since. Leav- ing firefighting to his colleagues these days Novik now con- centrates on the EMT side of the job.

For Sherry Novik, it was a matter of hero worship. The only girl in the family (she has two brothers), Sherry ad- mired her Dad ("He's my hero and role model!") and took en there were the only ve women altogether). Now there are only two active female volunteer firefighters/EMTs in the department, out of five women altogether). Then there were the firefighters and EMTs who saw her only as "Steve's daughter." Laugh- ing, Sherry says that wasn't such a bad thing, but she knew she had to become her own person on the team. She did that, she says, by simply being herself and developing and enhancing the same professionalism, skill and dedication she saw in her Dad.

Public servants who spend long hours together, go out to eat together, and even finish each other's sentences. Steve and Sherry are on the front lines of drama in Takoma Park — from the sublime to the sad and poignant. It might seem unusual, but Steve and Sherry like going on calls together, and so do whenever they can. Responding to scenes rang- ing from pedestrian accidents, stabbings, and shootings to carbon monoxide poisonings, father and daughter must be ready for anything. They both know of calls where fellow EMTs faced drawn guns upon arrival at a scene.

Then there are those calls where residents totally misunderstand why volunteer firefighters and EMTS do and misuse the Department’s resources. The No- viks want the public to know they are not a taxi ser- vice to and from hospital emergency rooms, and can recount too many calls where there was clearly no medical or emergency need except for basic transpor- tation.

“We are here to serve the public,” they both empha- size. “Our sole purpose is to help save lives and protect the community. We gladly respond to calls, but non-emergencies get in the way of helping someone who really needs critical, life-saving services.”

It’s important too, Sherry points out, that all resi- dents know that volunteer firefighters and EMTs are there to save lives; they are not an arm of law enforce- ment or immigration services. Both Noviks make the effort to understand and communicate essential phrases in Spanish in order to better serve the com- munity.

To do just that, the Noviks train monthly and are recertified as EMTs every three years. Their work can involve back-to-back shifts in addition to their regular jobs, something that both Noviks admit can be very hard on family life, especially when there are young children in the family.

In another departmental first, both Steve and Sher- ry serve on the TPVFD Board of Directors. This gives them the opportunity to see things on another level, and keeps them aware of the broad impact of their day-to-day EMT activities.

Both Noviks say they recommend volunteer firefighting and EMT service as one of the best ways to achieve a feeling of inner satisfaction when serving the public and being re- sponsive to human needs. They’ve both made deep friend- ships along the way, and say that even their already-close relationship has been enhanced by serving together.

“We enjoy working together and serving the public to- gether,” they agree. “It’s a great way for family members who share the same values and desire for public service to really make a difference in their community.”

As of January 31, the Takoma Park Vol- unteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Res- cue assigned to the Takoma Park station responded to 43 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 254 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 297 incidents this year. Totals for 2007 were 68 and 212 respectively, for a to- tal of 280, representing an increase of 17 incidents.

Free! Visual Smoke Alarm

If you know someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, please contact us for a free smoke alarm. The department will install them for you. Just give us a call at 301-270-8209. For residents of Takoma Park only.

Conduct a Home Fire Safety Check

Take time and check your home for po- tential fire hazards.

* Smokers: Never smoke in bed.

* Matches/lighters: Teach your children the dangers and then lock them up.

* Flammable liquids: Make sure they are out and away from the house in a metal container.

* Fireplace: Have it checked thoroughly by a reputable chimney service company if it has not been used within the last year. Make sure the chimney is clear.

* Kitchen stove/oven: Check after each use. Don’t let grease build up. Never leave cooking unattended.

* Emergency telephone number: Make sure everyone knows how to call the fire de- partment. Dial 911.

If you have any questions or you would like to have a fire safety check of your home, please contact the fire department, 301-270-4242.

Will You Be Ready in the Event of a Fire in your Home?

Two important questions: Do you have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home? Do you have a fire escape plan for your family? In the interest of your safety, the answer must be yes! If you need smoke alarms, please contact the fire department at 301-270-4242. Be Prepared! Fires can happen at any time.

Can we find you in an emergency?

Clearly posted house numbers can save precious time should an emergency occur. Can life-saving personnel find you? Your house number should be printed in num- bers that are NO LESS THAN FIVE INCH- ES TALL and in a contrasting color from your house color.

* Your house numbers should be visible from the street, from all angles.

* Be sure you house numbers can be seen at night.

* Keep your numbers clearly visible throughout the year.

* As a test, ask neighbors, friends, or ser- vice people who visit your home if they saw your house numbers easily.

* Encourage family, friends, and neigh- bors to post their house numbers, too!

Free Babysitter Class To Start

Learn proper and safe techniques in- volved in babysitting. All boys and girls (ages 11-13) interested in taking the class, please contact the Tako- ma Park Recreation Department to register. It will start on Monday, March 3, from 7-9 p.m. and will include six sessions covering fire safety, first aid, infant and child care, personal safety, CPR and examination. The class is sponsored by the Takoma Park Vol- unteer Fire Department.

Volunteers Needed

We want and need you to help us to continue providing fire/rescue services to the citizens of Takoma Park. Please con- tact Mike Livingston, Chairperson Mem- bership Committee at the fire station at 301-270-8209. Thank you.
Medal Winners are Popular Reads

**By Karen MacPherson**

If you're looking for a good book to read, chances are you'll find one on the lists of this year's children's book award winners.

The awards are given each January by the American Library Association. Our library already has most of these winners; the others are on order. So come on in and check out a winner!

Here's a closer look at some of these winners; we'll focus on the others in an upcoming newsletter:

**CALDECOTT:**

The Caldecott Medal is awarded each year to the best-illustrated book for children. This year's winner, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," written and illustrated by Brian Selznick, is the first novel ever to win the medal.

The Caldecott committee also chose four Honor books:

- "Henry's Freedom Box," written by Ellen Levine and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, is a true story of a slave who mailed himself to freedom. (Ages 8-12)
- "First the Egg," written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, an interactive look at how one thing becomes another. (Ages 2-6)
- "The Wall," written and illustrated by Peter Sis, who details his childhood behind the Iron Curtain. (Ages 8-12)
- "Knuffle Bunny Too," written and illustrated by Mo Willems, is a sequel to the wildly-popular "Knuffle Bunny.

**NEWBERY:**

The Newbery Medal is awarded each year to the best-written book for children. This year's winner is "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!," a collection of prose and poetry portraits of medieval characters, written by Laura Amy Schlitz and illustrated by Robert Byrd.

**Medal Winners are Popular Reads**

Three Newbery Honor books were chosen:

- "Eliah of Buxton," by Christopher Paul Curtis, which details the life of boy growing up in the Canadian community founded by former U.S. slaves. (Ages 8-12)
- "The Wednesday Wars," written by Gary Schmidt, which tells of the life-altering relationship between a boy and his teacher during the Vietnam War. (Ages 10-14)
- "Feathers," written by Jacqueline Woodson, which details a girl's efforts to figure out who she is during the 1960s. (Ages 9-12)

**Leprechauns, Gold and Rainbows**

Monday, March 17

Join us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with great stories featuring leprechauns, pots of gold and, of course, rainbows. We'll end with a simple craft.

Please register by calling 301-891-7259 or emailing library-programs@spambob.net (put leprechaun in the subject line, please).

**Friends of the Library Reading Group**

Wednesday, March 19

7:30 p.m., Takoma Park Community Center

For a full description of required education, experience, skills and abilities contact Rebecca Brown or Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Library during open hours 301-891-7259.

**Employment Opportunity**

The City of Takoma Park is seeking a 10 hr./ week Instructional Assistant to provide guidance and general supervision in two public computer rooms of the Community Center on weekday evenings under management of the Library.

The work schedule for this position is 6 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the beginning salary is $16.12/hr.

For a full description of required education, experience, skills and abilities contact Rebecca Brown or Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Library during open hours 301-891-7259.
Wireless Printing in Our Library

The Takoma Park Maryland Library has expanded its wireless services to include wireless printing. This printing service works well with Linux, Macintosh, and Windows laptops. The price for printing is 15 cents/page. You can print five pages at a time and pay for your printing at the reference desk. Complete instructions on how to do wireless printing can be found on information sheets in the library. While you cannot print web pages directly, there are some computer techniques you can use to get web information printed.

Community members have been using this service in the past two weeks and early feedback has been very encouraging. Please note that the wireless printing is black and white. Color printing is available from the wired public printers in the library and adjacent community center.

Our computer center has also set up two tables for wireless laptop users. These tables, with electrical outlets, may be used whenever the community center building is open. The community center building hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Favorite Poem Evening Returns

The Tenth Annual Favorite Poem Evening will be held on Thursday April 24 at 7:30 P.M. in the Library. This year's public celebration and reading of poems will be sponsored jointly by the Library and the Friends of the Library.

Environment and “Energy Star” Headline City TV

City TV offers live and replayed coverage of City Council meetings each week. Special live events this month include the Energy Star for Small Businesses presentation cosponsored by the Old Town Business Association and the Committee on the Environment. This event will be held on Tuesday, March 11 in the Council Chambers starting at 7 p.m. and will feature a discussion on energy saving strategies. City TV will also broadcast the Takoma Metro Community Priority Setting Workshop to be held on Wednesday, March 19 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Snapshots in March will include:

- Community Oriented Policing: CSAFE and Gang Prevention Activities
- Jazz Band Brawl highlights

Be sure to catch newly released performances which will air in March including Folk Festival performances from Alaxndria Kleztet, Klezcentricity, Head-Roc, iLYAIMY, Howard Parker and His Hot Take-out Band and Tinsmith. City TV will also start airing some performances from the Jazz Band Brawl which was held in February.

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. Many programs, including Council meetings and Snapshots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website as well. Be sure to visit City TV’s award-winning webpage at 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 for more information.

Library Briefs

If you are interested in participating in this year’s event, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet (rather than poems written by you or your friends). Poems written in languages other than English are welcome, if they are accompanied by an English translation. There are plenty of ideas for possible choices in the Library’s poetry collections.

Please send the name and author of the poem you have chosen and your own name and generic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, or by e-mail to ellen@takomagov.org. The deadline for submission is Friday April 18.

Originated by then-national poet laureate Robert Pinsky, the Favorite Poem Evening has been a lovely, warm and community-building event for the past 10 years. Please attend and bring your friends and neighbors! Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

Arianna Ross ‘Story Tapestries’ Featured at Friends Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Library will hold their annual meeting and board elections at a special event in the Library on Thursday March 27 at 7:30 P.M. as Arianna Ross returns to Takoma Park to share her lively and magical stories.

Arianna Ross is a nationally known storyteller who has performed worldwide. She envisions the art of storytelling as a ‘Story Tapestry,’ which she creates from the threads of her experience as an ethnographer, storyteller, teaching artist, dancer, musician and photographer. In "Community Quilt: Stories of Adventure and Survival," which she brings to Takoma Park in this performance, she celebrates the diversity of our community, both past and present.

Arianna has performed at the National School of Drama Festival in Delhi, the International Storytelling Festival in Vancouver, the Washington Storyteller’s Theatre, a Vietnamese School for the Deaf in Qui Nhon, and a School for Alternative Learning in Cork, Ireland. She has been featured on National Public Radio and in Public Television as a professional storyteller.

Following the evening’s entertainment and refreshments, elections will be held for open positions on the Friends of the Library board, including president, vice president, secretary and one or more member-at-large positions. Members of the Friends whose dues are current are eligible to serve on the Board and vote in the election. New and renewed memberships will be accepted at the March 27 meeting.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends or in being a candidate for a position, contact nominating committee member Karen Fishman at 301-588-9691 or Ellen Robbins at the Library 301-891-7258. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the annual meeting.

This is a family program that can be enjoyed by young and old alike. All are invited to join us for this special evening of music, refreshments and an opportunity to meet new friends and greet old ones.

CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>The Road to Recovery</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited</td>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>PreSchool Power</td>
<td>National Gallery of Art</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Takoma Park Folk Festival</td>
<td>Takoma Park Natural Gallery of Art</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
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<td>Coffeehouse</td>
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<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Takoma Park Folk Festival</td>
<td>NASA Programming</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Media Watch on Hunger</td>
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<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>CarNation</td>
<td>City Council Meeting (Display)</td>
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<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
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<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>City Council Meeting (Regular)</td>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
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<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>National Gallery of Art</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>City Council Meeting (Regular)</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<td>11:00 PM</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 Midnight</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>City Council Meeting (Replay)</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited</td>
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<td>1:00 AM</td>
<td>Road to Recovery</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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Council Resolves to Keep the Pool
Pool to gym transformation rejected at public hearing

By Virginia Myers

P ool-lovers rallied again in City Council chambers last month, testifying that the pool in Piney Branch Elementary School should be kept open, and City Council responded with a second resolution that Montgomer y County fund the facility.

The public hearing Feb. 11 followed one last September, when school children in goggles and swim gear told Council members how important the pool has been in their school experience. This time around, children and adults gathered not only to demand access to keep the pool in the community, but to reject the notion of paying for a gymnasium, an option that surfaced after the first hearing.

“We are back tonight to make the more specific point that we would like to keep the Piney Branch pool open six months a year,” said Susan Marie O'Sullivan. “We are not asking to build a gym or completely renovate the pool. We are not against recreation programs. We are not against bettering the pool. We are against the destruction of the pool. We are against tearing out the pool.”

Council members how important the pool has been in their personal and city school experience. Regarding the possibility of putting a gym in place of the pool, testimony ran toward accusing the County of preventing easy access to the existing gymnasium in Piney Branch and other nearby school gyms at Takoma Park Middle and Elementary schools.

The two City Council resolutions have been passed on to the County Council for consideration. Among other things, they cite a 781-name resident petition submitted to keep the pool open, and note pool use by the Blair High School swim team, the Master’s swim team and area after school and summer camp programs. They also point out the limited space available for new recreation facilities in the down-county area, urging the County to preserve existing facilities like the Piney Branch pool.

Explore New Hampshire Avenue

Four local restaurants are participating in “Explore New Hampshire Avenue.” Cards will be distributed to Takoma Metro riders during the first week in March, and a limited number will be available in the Takoma Park Community Center.

Patrons who eat in participating restaurants Wednesday and Thursday evenings in March and show a postcard will receive their second entrée of lesser or equal value half price.

You may also preview many New Hampshire area restaurants by joining Megan Brette as she creates a safer, more appealing environment for pedestrians through the existing parking lot next to the co-op.

In contrast, the interior is clean, bright and well-organized by a knowledgeable, helpful owner and staff. Soft pink, lavender and blue lighting dress up cut outs of landmarks that blend into the dish’s traditional side of delicately mild cheese and fresh green chilies to be added to your injera (sourdough flatbread that serves as communal plate linen, fork, and sponge) plated with a selection of slow cooked meat and spiced legume entrees.

To sample some of Takoma’s treats, go ahead and “Explore New Hampshire Avenue” or the City’s eateries, please contact Housing and Community Development at 301-891-7119.

MEDAL WINNERS

continued from page 10

The Coretta Scott King committee also chose a book this year for the John Steptoe New Talent Award. The winner is “Brendan Buckley’s Universe and Everything In It,” written by Sundee T. Frazier, a memorable look at a multi-racial family. (Ages 8-12).

Last year, Safe Routes to Schools helped local school children participate in the International Walk to School event. Other programs include the walk- ing school bus, groups of students and parents who walk together to school.

TAKOMA JUNCTION

continued from page 1

Through the existing parking lot next to the co-op, the roundabout concept for Takoma Junction is not a brand new idea. It first surfaced five years ago, when resident volunteers toured the City with walkability expert Dan Burden. Burden, who came up with many suggestions to create a safer, more appealing environment for pedestrians in multiples areas of Takoma Park, proposed a roundabout at Takoma Junction, where traffic delays have long frustrated pedestrians and prompted them to cross without waiting for “walk” signals. (See www.takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/ development/documents/burden.pdf for his report)

The City Council passed a resolution supporting the idea, and requested the recently published study from SHA. In 2005, the State Highway Administration held walkability workshops that included a roundabout among its solutions for the busy intersection.

SHAs recent report recommends public involvement that would invite all stakeholders to weigh in as intersection improvements are considered further. Information about meetings for public comment will be published in the newsletter and on the City’s web site.

TASTE NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE.

continued from page 5

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WALKING

continued from page 5

The Takoma Safe Routes to School coordinator will be attending PTA meetings and sending questionnaires home with students to assess the level of interest in walking school buses at each school within the City.

If your neighborhood is interested in finding out more or you are already walking regularly and you would like help organize a group or find a group to walk with, email Lucy Neher, SRTS Coordinator, lucyn@takomagov.org.

TAKOMA JUNCTION

continued from page 1

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