

CROSSROADS FARMER'S MARKET

Opens June 4,
3-7 p.m.
Holton Lane

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

JAZZ FEST

June 15,
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
New Location: Old
Town Takoma

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

JUNE 2008

New Energy Infuses Recreation Center

By VIRGINIA MYERS

There's a new energy at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. Long popular with area kids, who spend their afternoons there playing basketball or doing homework with City-run "Kidzcity," the Center has a new director who has re-arranged the space and begun to expand its programs.

Neal Ables started as a part-time staffer nearly a year ago, in July 2007, but went full time in April as the "recreation specialist" directing the facility. The nearly 40-year-old building is a challenge, an aging structure with a confusing lineage that includes ownership by Maryland National Capital Park and Planning, but management by Takoma Park. It's also been placed on a list of "obsolete" county buildings that are under consideration for tear-down, major renovation, or new use. Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow says its status could remain up in the air for years, and is further complicated by rebates due to the City for running a County facility.

Despite that, the Recreation Center remains a thriving, even growing center of activity for area residents. Ables, who was a school teacher for 12 years in D.C. and in Prince George's County before coming to work in Takoma Park, has re-arranged the space so that it is more appealing as people enter: the office, once tucked away at the back, is now up front, and the back area is now a secure closet for storing sports equipment. The new arrangement also al-



Neal Ables, far right, shoots hoops with some of the guys who show up on weekday afternoons at the gym in the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. As director of the Center Ables, 38, has implemented new programs and re-arranged the Rec Center space to make it more inviting. With him are, from left, Chris Bean and Carlton Marshall.

Photo by Clyde Lassell.

lows staff to see what's happening in the gym, and monitor activities more easily. "Now it's more inviting, you can see someone sitting at the front instead of sitting in the back," says Ables. Plus, he adds, "It keeps our things secure."

Ables hopes to remove kitchen cabinets and open that room up as well, rearranging space so it's less chopped up and more usable for meetings and classes. Equally important, he's hoping to paint the inte-

rior, and has been working with an anti-gang organization that would like to come in and donate its time with brushes and cans of paint.

In fact, Ables has lots of ideas to improve the facility. "I would love for the place to get painted," he begins. "I need some ping pong tables, and a t.v. for the kids . . . [and] ceiling tiles need to be replaced." He'd also

ABLES continues on page 11

Being Bold with Crossroads Improvement

By ILONA BLANCHARD
AND VIRGINIA MYERS

Sector plans, or master plan amendments, are opportunities to be bold about the future. So it's no surprise that, at a recent community meeting on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area sector plan, one Takoma Park resident felt comfortable suggesting a *zocalo* at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. "How do you spell that?" asked Melissa Williams, a planner for Montgomery County, as she wrote it down.

A *zocalo* is a Mexican public square or plaza, usually at the center of town. It can become a gathering place for a community, with a bandstand, or just a cluster of trees and benches for visiting.

In the Crossroads, where merchants and residents are preparing for the Purple Line, a rapid transit line running from Bethesda through Takoma-Langley and on to New Carrollton, by encouraging transit oriented development and creating a community commercial center. The Crossroads really could grow as a community gathering place. But what, exactly, would that look like or feel like? And will the area become reflective of Takoma Park as a place, or something entirely different? That's where the bold thinking begins.

Over the past month Montgomery Coun-

CROSSROADS continues on page 12

Foreclosures Impact Takoma Park

By LINDA WALKER
AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANAGER

There will be no easy fix for the high rate of foreclosures occurring nationwide, in Maryland and in Montgomery County. The statistics are mind boggling as the state reported 1,646 mortgage loan foreclosure events in Montgomery County alone during the first quarter of 2008. This is a 799 percent increase over last year's statistics and predictions are that this trend will continue through late 2009.

If you think that this wave of events has not impacted Takoma Park, you might want to think again. The Montgomery County Office of Consumer Affairs recently reported 25 "foreclosure events" in Takoma Park, which means that 25 families are now in danger or have already lost their homes. Will all these properties end up at public auctions? Possibly not, but the situation does not appear favorable for these families.

Although most of the Takoma Park properties in default or foreclosure are single

family homes, there are a number of rental properties, where tenants who diligently paid rents are now being asked to leave because the lenders want the units vacant. "The properties are easier to sell when vacant," we've been told, and lenders really do not want to be landlords during an often long and drawn out foreclosure process.

Vacant and deteriorating — that is what can happen to a property in foreclosure. The utilities have usually been turned off. There may be excessive damage caused by weather, the lack of utilities or simply the lack of maintenance that typically has occurred long before the property was in trouble. Even though Takoma Park is a desired location, the prices that many of the owners paid for their homes are much higher than the current value of the property. The loans, now in default, are for amounts that nobody would pay for that property today. They are "under water" or "upside down," as it is now called. Even though prices for properties in general have been decreasing, increased foreclosures and short sales, which result

in lower sale prices, tend to bring down the value of all properties in a neighborhood. So what is the State of Maryland and Montgomery County doing?

The State of Maryland legislators, the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation have been working to come up with remedies that will help

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ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, June 2 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, June 3 - COLTA hearing, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Wednesday, June 4 - Recreation Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, June 5 - Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, June 9 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, June 10 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Tuesday, June 10 - Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (CC Forsythia Room)

Thursday, June 12 - Health Services Impact Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, June 16 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, June 17 - COLTA Hearing, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Thursday, June 19 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Sunday, June 22 - Wednesday, June 25 - City Council attending the Maryland Municipal League Convention

Tuesday, June 24 - Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

Tuesday, June 24 - Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, June 25 - Recreation Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

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

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

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



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 Peggy Washington, 301-891-7230 or peggyew@takomagov.org.

City Council Action*

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

April 14, 2008 - Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-12 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the installation of speed humps on the 7600 block of Hammond Avenue

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-13 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the installation of speed humps on the 1100 block of Merwood Drive

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-14 was adopted by roll-call vote, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 16.04 - Stormwater Management, to require all commercial, industrial and institutional development activity to comply with the code and correct the omission of permit fees for multi-family, commercial, industrial and institutional development

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-15 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for Jackson Boyd playground renovation

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-16 was adopted by roll-call vote, awarding a contract for replacement of a broken storm drain line on Columbia Avenue

Resolution 2008-26 was adopted, authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Old Takoma Business Association

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-27, accepting the recommendations of the Arts and Humanities Commission for public art projects

Resolution 2008-28, authorizing execution of Cooperation Agreement with Montgomery County for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

Resolution 2008-29, authorizing an agreement with the Crossroads Farmers Market

Resolution 2008-30, appointing Barrie Hoffman, Anand Parikh and Derek Stanfill to the Board of Elections

Resolution 2008-31, reappointing Wolfgang Mergner to the Emergency Preparedness Committee

Resolution 2008-32, reappointing John Hume and H. James O'Brien to the Facade Advisory Board

Resolution 2008-33, reappointing Michael Mauer to the Personnel Appeal Board

Resolution 2008-34, appointing Roy Austin, Dallas Burtraw, Kay Daniels-Cohen, Tim Dowd, Cindy Dyballa, Jane Hurst, Sue Immerman, Jay Keller, Karen Mendez, Peter Munger, Ray Scannell, Alice Sims, Susan Wood and Ron Verdonk to the Recreation Committee

recreation Committee

Resolution 2008-35, reappointing Kathleen Berst to the Noise Control Board

April 21, 2008 - Special Session

Resolution 2008-36 was adopted, prohibiting the City from purchasing water in single-serve plastic disposable containers

Resolution 2008-37 was adopted, urging the Federal Transit Administration to not approve the sale of land at the Takoma Metro Station

April 28, 2008 - Regular Meeting

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-17 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing an upgrade to the Public Works phone system

First Reading Ordinance 2008-18 was accepted, authorizing FY08 Budget Amendment No. 3

Resolution 2008-38 was adopted, authorizing the submission of the 2008/2009 Safe Routes to School Program application

May 12, 2008 - Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-18 was adopted (as amended) by roll-call vote, authorizing FY08 Budget Amendment No. 3

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-20 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the purchase of replacement portable radios for the Police Department (voting against: Councilmembers Snipper and Wright)

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-21 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing a contract for a storm-water project at Buffalo and Albany Avenues

The consent agenda was adopted by roll-call vote. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-39, recognizing National Police Week (May 11-17, 2008)

Resolution 2008-40, recognizing National Public Works Week (May 18-24, 2008)

Resolution 2008-41, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Safe Takoma, Inc.

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-19, awarding a contract for purchase of a replacement skid steer loader

Resolution 2008-41, appointing John Urciolo to the Facade Advisory Board, and also appointing Sabrina Baron and Jim DiLuigi as member and alternate representatives of Historic Takoma, Inc. on the Facade Advisory Board

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 (four vacancies)
Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (one vacancy)
Committee on the Environment (seven vacancies)
Emergency Preparedness Committee (two vacancies)

Ethics Commission (three vacancies)
Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)
Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (vacancies)
Noise Control Board (three vacancies)

Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee (two vacancies)
Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee (one vacancy)
Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (vacancies)
Tree Commission (one vacancy)

Takoma Park Launches Summer of Public Art

By MITCHELL TROPIN

Takoma Park, a city that loves art and the eclectic, will have two special events to celebrate this summer: the unveiling of the Arts and Humanities Commission's first public arts projects. Both projects are in keeping with the city's special character—honoring nature and trees and Takoma Park heroes of the two- and four-legged nature.

For the Commission, the unveiling reflects a major milestone for the five-year-old agency, which believes the projects will “add fun and enhance the quality of life in the community,” according to Sara Anne Daines, director of Housing and Community Development and staff liaison to the Commission. Funding for the projects comes from last year's city budget (FY '08).

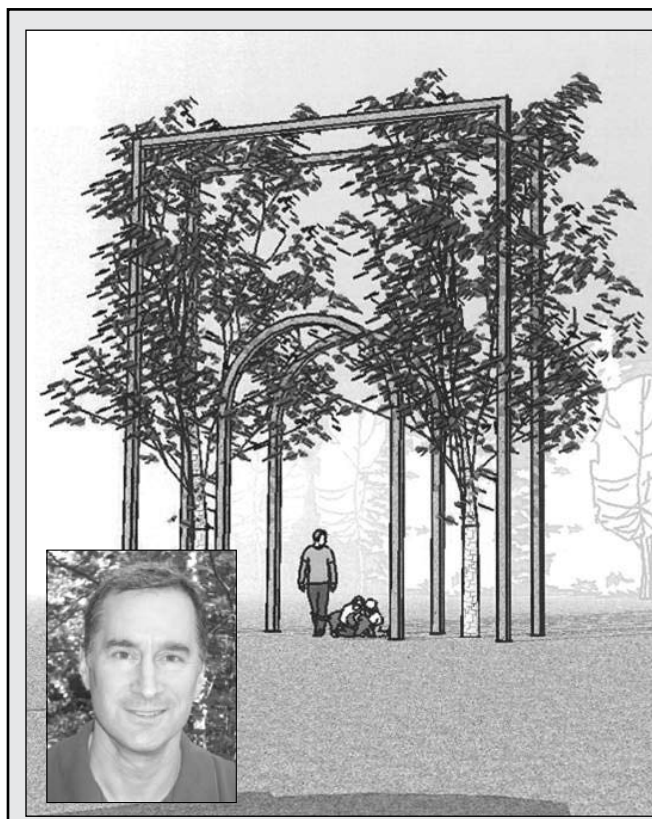
By this summer, the city hopes to unveil the first, “Triumphal Tree Arch,” which combines trees and weathering steel. The Arch will be located near the intersection of Sligo Creek Parkway and Maple Avenue, not far from Washington Adventist Hospital. The project was selected by the Commission from more than 15 entries.

The Arch will consist of a minimal frame that resembles the arch in Greenwich Village's Washington Square. The frame will consist of rectangular structural steel tubes, standing 30 feet high, 23 feet wide, with a 10 foot wide path through the arch. Surrounding the arch frame will be Eastern Redbud understory trees growing in the centers of the two column areas.

Takoma Park's arch will differ strongly from other triumphal arches, explains its creator, Richard Brink of Ellicott City. While the great arches in Europe glorified war and the military, Brink says the weathering steel frame “depicts the decay and impermanence of the works of human builders: the trees growing in the center of the two columns demonstrates the primacy of nature, while the close surrounding of the trees by the strong frame plays on the ongoing tension between humans and the natural world.” Brink's project will cost at \$9,750.

The second project, “Tales of Mystery and Imagination,” will be constructed at Takoma Junction's B.Y. Morrison Park at Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenue. The project will add some unique art to the park, which already features John Colwell's mural, “Guardians of the Neighborhood.”

The second project was somewhat of a lucky break. The columns at the park have been in serious need of repair for more than two years. The northwest column, facing Carroll Avenue, had water infiltration problems, which caused tiles to fall off. The City's Public Works Department put aside money for repairs. However, the arts commission saw an opportunity, deciding to use the need for repairs to add a project involving unique



Public art is on its way in Takoma Park: Left, Richard Brink and his Triumphal Tree Arch, to be installed at Sligo Creek Parkway and Maple Avenue; and above, John Hume at B.Y. Morrison Park, where tiles like this one (inset), part of his “Tales of Mystery and Imagination,” will repair and beautify the columns.

Photos of John Hume and the tile by Virginia Myers; illustration and Richard Brink photo courtesy of Richard Brink

hand-made tiles. The cost of the art — which will, in effect, repair the columns — comes to \$9,917.

The tile project is the creation of John Hume, a city resident and president of Sligo Creek Tile Company, which does business less than 500 yards from Takoma Junction.

The tile project also will be completed this summer. The columns will feature relief carved tiles honoring Root Boy Slim, aka Foster MacKenzie, a Takoma Park resident who performed with his Sex Change Band, playing quirky and experimental songs, such as “Boogie ‘til You Puke,” “You Broke My Mood Ring,” and “The Shah is Gone.”

Other columns will honor Motorcat, who used to ride on a motorcycle through Takoma Park, wearing her own little helmet. Tiles on another column will honor Roscoe the Rooster, who roamed the streets of Takoma Park, stopping traffic, waking the neighbors and flaunting animal control laws.

The project also will honor a lesser known aspect of Takoma Park's history. The open space next to what is now the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op was the site where circuses and carnivals would set up in the spring and summer. “One of the most popular attractions was the elephants that would appear at Takoma Junction,” Hume notes. To honor those past years, one column will feature a head-on view of a baby elephant. A fifth will honor the now-gone Dinky Line Trolley, which ran from Carroll Avenue to Sligo Creek.

Hume, who lives in Takoma Park with his wife, adds, “We love living in Takoma Park, and little jewels like Takoma Junction and

Morrison Park are part of what makes this place so special.” Hume adds the project will “remember some wonderful personalities who are intimately connected with that particular location, and with the two highways that come together at the Junction.”

AHC Chairman Jose Dominguez expressed his pleasure over the projects. “This is something we have been working on for some time and it is great to see it come to fruition during my tenure as chair.” Adding that “Takoma Park is such a rich community in terms of culture, lifestyles, beliefs,” Dominguez says the projects add “quite appropriately to that richness.”

Noting the competitive nature of the process, he says, “We feel that the two projects chosen represent our goals for this first ef-

fort into the world of public art in Takoma Park.”

A third project, the Bathroom Poetry Project, was also funded at \$1,520 by last year's budget (see box, this page). Though it is a more literary endeavor, and more transient (the poetry, posted in public places, will change from time to time), it, too, underscores the creative expression that helps define Takoma Park.

“The projects selected speak to the beauty, diversity and originality that one can only find in Takoma Park,” says Dominguez.

The Commission, a committee of 13 residents and non-resident volunteers, plans to publish another call for public projects in the Fall with a particular emphasis on mosaic work.

Poetry in Non-Traditional Spaces.....

Please submit your poetry to:

The BATHROOM POETRY PROJECT



We are looking for poems that are short enough to be read in a single ‘visit’ to the toilet, and will install your poem in a public bathroom in TAKOMA PARK.

We want poems that vibrate, have color and sound, and will speak to the reader.

All languages, all topics and a genuine voice are all that's needed.

**Please submit your poem to:
bathroompoet@hotmail.com**

Deadline for submissions is June 7, 2008.

**Poems selected for the project will be included on the project website
<http://bathroompoet.net>**



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

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

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

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



Capital Improvement/Hardship Petitions

8402 Flower Avenue (2007-64L)

On April 29, 2008, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$104.69 on one unit at the property. The improvements included painting, new ceiling fans, kitchen floor, locks and electrical circuits.



**COLTA's
CORNER**

BY JEAN KERR,
HOUSING SPECIALIST AND
MOSES A. WILDS, JR.,
LANDLORD-TENANT CASES

7667 Maple Avenue (2007-66H)

On May 14, 2008, a hardship rent increase petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$16.13 to \$32.81 on all 125 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).

Landlord Tenant Cases

Mankiewicz v. Ellman/Ellman Properties

On April 22, 2008 the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant's complaint alleging that her landlord had wrongfully failed to return her entire security deposit plus applicable interest. Based on the tenant's testimony at the hearing COLTA ruled that the landlord had properly withheld a portion of the tenant's security deposit refund in the amount of \$84.50 and improperly withheld a portion of the tenant's security deposit refund in the amount in the amount of \$483.75. The total amount awarded to the tenant was \$1,031.80.

Meadows v. Elizabeth Forsythe/Forsythe Group

On April 23, 2008 the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant's complaint, as amended, alleging that his landlord caused a defective tenancy and committed several lease violations. The commission dismissed the case because of the tenant's failure to appear at the hearing noting that (1) the tenant as the party filing the complaint has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence and (2) the tenant had been mailed the notice of the hearing in a timely manner indicating the date and location of the hearing.

three memorandums of understanding with the state to provide additional funding to two non-profit organizations, the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Home Free USA, to provide counseling services to homeowners in the county.

The county will also use \$2.5 million from their Housing Initiative Fund (HIF), matching the state's contribution to develop a credit enhancement program. The program will encourage local banks to refinance loans for those individuals subject to foreclosure who might require special underwriting criteria.

Hope for the Future

So what is being done to assure that home buyers do not become victims in the future? A number of bills have recently been passed by the Maryland legislature that will help. Effective April 4, 2008:

The Mortgage Fraud Protection Act (SB217/HB360) has penalties that include fines, imprisonment, restitution, and allows for private right of action.

The Foreclosure Process Reform Law requires a lender to wait 90 days from a homeowner's default before filing in court. A Notice of Intent has to be sent by certified and first class mail to the owner, 45 days before the filing (SB270/HB365).

SB270/HB363, effective June 1, 2008, is a credit regulation that applies to mortgage lending; Pre-payment penalties are banned for all mortgage loans; the lender must examine the borrower's ability to repay a loan at the fully indexed rate (after an adjustable rate mortgage resets); the lender must include in the calculation, the borrower's total housing cost including taxes and insurance, whether escrowed or not; the lender must consider the borrower's debt to income, including existing debt and other obligations; the lender must verify the borrower's gross monthly income and assets.

Unfortunately new laws probably can not help those experiencing foreclosure right now, but new legislation will hopefully provide assurances that this catastrophe does not happen again.

How to be a Smart Buyer

Being a smart buyer is the only way to avoid being a victim when buying a home. First Time Home Buyer classes, offered by the City of Takoma Park, Montgomery County and the Housing Counseling Services (HCS), Inc., 2410 17th St. NW, Washington, D.C., provide prospective purchasers with the knowledge they need to be smart buyers. After all, buying a home is probably the most expensive purchase you will make in your life time. Be prepared and be savvy. For further information on First Time Home Buyer and Foreclosure Prevention classes, contact Linda Walker at lindaw@takomagov.org or 301-891-7222.

HOUSING Mailbox

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

A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding the interest of several building residents in forming a tenants association at their 12-unit building. She wants to know if there is a minimum number of tenants who must participate, whether the building owner's approval is necessary and what if any city resources are available to assist the formation and activities of the tenants association.

The Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law at Section 6.16.130. notes the right of tenants to form tenant organizations, to meet and confer, through representatives of their own choosing and to engage in activities for the purpose of mutual aid and protection.

City law requires that a minimum of one third of the total number of tenants in a rental facility be members for a tenant association to become registered with the Department of Housing and Community Development by providing the Department with the names, addresses and phone numbers of association officers and members. Pending regulations will require registered city tenant associations to update their membership roster every three years with the Department.

Landlord approval of the formation and/or the subsequent activities of a tenant association is not necessary. The landlord as a matter of courtesy should be informed of the association's existence and its interest in working with the landlord to maintain a viable rental facility.

Under its capacity-building contract the City's Department of Housing has secured the services of two experienced community organizers who help tenants organize their associations, elect association officers and help the association plan and implement activities designed to promote the organization's growth and development. The bilingual community organizers have successfully worked with tenant groups who have achieved their goals of improving rental facility services, maintaining productive dialogue between tenants and building management and assisting tenants interested in becoming homeowners.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me at MosesW@takomagov.org.

RENT STABILIZATION ALLOWANCE (Annual Rent Increase) 4.7 percent Effective July 1, through June 30, 2009

Takoma Park law (City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization) maintains the affordability of rental units in the community by limiting the number and amount of rent increases that may be charged for a specific rental unit. Generally the rent may be increased only once in a given 12-month period and rent increases are limited to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index. The rent stabilization allowance is calculated on an annual basis and applies to all licensed multi-family rental facilities and to all licensed condominium units.

The 2008-2009 Rent Stabilization Allowance is 4.7 percent and will be in effect beginning July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Landlords required to comply with Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization laws cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Multi-family rental properties and individually-owned condominium rental units are normally subject to Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization laws, however the following units may be exempt from many of the requirements of rent stabilization. The exemption is not automatic and is subject to the approval of the City.

- Accessory Apartments certified by Montgomery County
- Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Any rental facility that is subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of one or more rental units so that they are available only to low and moderate income tenants
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years after construction
- All rental units in a building with two dwelling units where the owner occupies one or more of the units as his/her principal residence.

If you have any questions about the rent on your unit or Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

FORECLOSURES

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families in need, and they have passed legislation that officials hope will stop this catastrophe from happening again.

Help for Owners in Financial Trouble

There are some options for homeowners in distress. The most important thing is not to wait. Over 50 percent of owners in default do nothing and that is tragic. You need to do something now, if you are already in default or are anticipating trouble in the future. Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development has developed three new programs that can help. For all these new programs listed below, the property must be the owner's primary residence

The Lifeline Refinance Mortgage Program - This is a refinance program which helps consumers who are not yet in trouble, but know that they will be, possibly when an adjustable rate mortgage resets. This program will replace a high-cost loan with an affordable one. All closing costs, including pre-payment penalties, may be rolled into the principal amount. It is administrated by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's CDA (Community Development Administration) program. However these loans are only processed through an approved lender. Log on to www.mdhope.org or call the HOPE hotline 877-462-7555 for a list of approved Lifeline lenders.

Bridge to Hope Loan Program - This program, which received \$200,000 from the state and the county, is for people who are already behind in their mortgage payments, but not in foreclosure. It gives short-term relief until the owner can refinance out of a high-cost mortgage or one that is preparing to reset to a level that can not be afforded. It offers a zero percent deferred gap loan of up to \$15,000 that an owner can repay when the house is sold, transferred or refinanced. The \$15,000 loan can be used to pay delinquent mortgage payments, property taxes and other unpaid bills related to your property, excluding attorney fees. For information, call the HOPE hotline at 877-462-7555. You must be referred to this program by a HOPE housing counseling agency.

Homesaver Refinance Program - This program is for people who are in default on their loan, have a low credit score and have a monthly payment that is too high. The program helps an owner with impaired credit to refinance a loan through the Maryland CDA program. Homesaver loans are only processed through a lender that is approved by the Maryland Housing Fund. To obtain the names of approved lenders, log on to www.mdhope.org or call the HOPE hotline at 877-462-7555.

Additionally Montgomery County officials recently signed

DEVELOPMENT *Roundup*

Takoma Park Schools, Transit, Restaurant Move Forward

By: ILONA BLANCHARD

mtamaryland.com, or 410-767-3694.

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

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

Takoma Elementary Public School

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is moving forward with an addition to the Takoma Elementary Public School on Holly Avenue. The Montgomery County Planning Board will review the project through the mandatory referral process and will forward its recommendations to MCPS in June, July or September. The public is invited to submit comments on the project to the Montgomery County Planning Board. In addition to the planned expansion of the building, a number of site alterations have been proposed which include the creation of an improved parking area, the separation of bus from parent drop off lanes, and the removal of the classroom pods and the 1950s building which fronts on Philadelphia Avenue. The new addition and planned site improvements will incorporate some "green building" elements. The existing school building will not be modernized at this time except where impacted by the new addition.

A traffic analysis was completed as part of this process. Improvements to intersections to increase vehicular traffic flow were not recommended based on Planning Board standards. Montgomery County Planning Board staff has asked MCPS to revise its study to more fully evaluate pedestrian access, given the high percentage of children who walk to this and other area schools.

The City recommended MCPS improve sidewalks and walking connections, increase tree coverage and shade, improve landscaping to obscure the view of the large retaining wall that will support the bus driveway and employee parking, and provide "green" building and site improvements.

For more information on the design, contact Ray Marhamati at 240-314-1010 or send an email to ray_marhamati@mcpsmd.org. For more information regarding the City's review of this project, contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205. Comments may be made to the Planning Board via Planning Board, M-NCPPC, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, MCP-chairman@mncppc-mc.org, or 301-495-4605.

Montgomery College

Montgomery College is updating the College's Facilities Master Plan. This Master Plan is updated every five years, and recommends new buildings and renovations based on enrollment projections. The recommendations included in the Master Plan for the Takoma Park Silver Spring campus will be presented for public comment in after June 16. For more information on this process please contact David Capp at david.capp@montgomerycollege.edu or call 240-567-7356.

The Purple Line

The Maryland Department of Transportation is developing an Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Purple Line – the bi-county transit way that will connect the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Long Branch neighborhoods with Silver Spring, College Park, Bethesda, New Carrollton and possibly beyond. While the open houses have been concluded, comments on the Purple Line are encouraged. The information presented at the meetings may be reviewed online at www.purpleline.com. Comments should be sent, e-mailed or called in to Michael Madden, Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, MMadden@

Transit Center

The Maryland Department of Transportation is also working towards the development of a new bus transit center at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. The City is recommending improvements to the bus station structure, including better pedestrian circulation, public art and more human scale design that frames the street and adds detail at eye level. This is the first development in the Crossroads area in many years. The information presented at recent meetings may be reviewed online at www.purpleline.com (click on the menu to the left). Your comments are encouraged, and should be sent, e-mailed or called in to Michael Madden, Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, MMadden@mtamaryland.com, or 410-767-3694.

Gilberts Addition, Old Town

Gilberts Addition, the development at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Laurel Avenue, is in the final stages of approval from Montgomery – National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The developer, John Urciolo, has begun to submit construction documents for permits from the County in order to begin construction this summer. Upon completion, the building will house a new restaurant space and additional storefronts on Laurel Avenue.

Carroll Avenue Streetscape

The second phase of the Carroll Avenue Streetscape — a pedestrian safety and landscaping project — is slated to begin later this summer. The project, which extends from Eastern Avenue to Columbia Avenue, will allow for the completion of a number of improvements to selected areas in Old Town. Expect to see construction crews removing dead and dying trees, excavating asphalt to make room for sidewalk extensions to give walkers shorter distances to cross Carroll Avenue, and improving sidewalk and handicapped ramps at Westmoreland Avenue. Changes include widening sidewalks at pinch points, and the planting of new trees and other landscaping material. For more information, contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org.

Maryland Gateway on New Hampshire Avenue

In the Maryland Gateway (commercial area on New Hampshire Avenue between Poplar and Eastern Avenues), two commercial projects have been submitted for stormwater concept plan approval — a carwash and a flexible office space. One commercial project is also going before Montgomery County Planning Board for site plan amendment.

A developer proposing a carwash on the property between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Mill Road at Orchard Avenue has not submitted for Site Plan but has held two community meetings on site. The Master Plan recommends this site for a connection between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Mill Road, and it is a proposed roadway in the New Hampshire Avenue Concept Plan.

Another property owner is planning to build flexible office space on Sligo Mill Road. The building would back onto the alley off of Orchard Avenue. A representative met with the community several years ago, but would need to meet with the community again prior to submitting for Site Plan review.

Site plan and subdivision review are extensive review processes during which the City works with other agencies and the community to ensure the Montgomery County Planning Board's review includes the Takoma Park perspective. Mandatory referral is a similar process; however the Montgomery County Planning Board decisions are non-binding and only advisory in nature.

For more information on City review of projects during the site plan, subdivision, or mandatory review process, please contact Ilona Blanchard at ilonab@takomagov.org or (301) 891-7205.



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

IWMOARGDE Fuses Poetry and Art

Words and images merge at the new exhibit, "IWMOARGDE: Fusion of Poetry and Art," opening June 13 at the Takoma Park Community Center's Atrium Gallery. The show, which runs through August 14, builds upon the foundation of last year's successful "Inspired Results" exhibit, which paired poets and visual artists. In that show, poets and artists were paired by the luck of the draw. Within each pair, the poet was asked to create a new poem based on a work by the artist, and the artist, a new piece inspired by their partner's poetry.

For this new exhibit, co-curators David Fogel and Anne Becker invited seven poet and artist pairs to participate. Each pair was challenged to collaborate on a single work around the theme "Creation." The results liberate the poets' words to leap the bounds of the white page, so that color, line, texture and form gain speech. Some are three dimensional—incorporating fabric, and 2,000 plastic eggs—others include an audio component.

Artist/poet pairs at the current show include: Sally Brucker and Ann Slayton; Bonnie Lee Holland and Anne Becker; James Landry and Greta Ehrig; Margot Neuhaus and Anne Dykers; Stephanie Ney and Carol Beane; Howard Spector and Merrill Leffler; and Eric Wolinsky and Sydney March.

Today, many aspects of life isolate and force us deeper into our particular professional niches or personal spaces, and consequently remove us from people and things outside our knowledge sphere. Yet, so much of life's value is discovered through new experiences, crossing boundaries. One of the intentions of this exhibit and project is to address and refute that trend by bringing together artists of different media and worlds and asking them to explore a theme that is the core and foundation of the artistic experience.

MP3 players will be available to exhibit attendees to allow them to hear the poetry that was created as a part of each piece. The exhibit will also feature corresponding events including talks on creativity and the creative process; a poetry reading; and a night of collaboration between poets and musicians.

Opening for the exhibit is at 7 p.m. on June 13.

Poetry Workshop Designed for Adults

Anne Becker, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, will offer a series of free poetry workshops for adults. The first workshop, designed for Spanish speaking adults, will be held on Tuesday, May 27 and continuing on June 3 and June 10 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The second workshop, also held on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m., begins on June 17, continuing on June 24 and July 1. The workshops will be held in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center. 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, please call 301-891-7224.

"Third Thursday" Brings Open Poetry Reading

The floor is open at this month's "third Thursday" poetry reading. Come share your work with your neighbors, your family, your friends. The reading will be held on Thursday, June 19 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Additional information on these and other upcoming events can be found online at www.takomaparkmd.gov or by contacting the Arts and Humanities Commission at 301-891-7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org

RECREATION

JUNE
ACTIVITIES

Family Friday Fun

TP Community Center Auditorium

Child must be accompanied by someone 18 years or older.

Date: June 13
Movie: "High School Musical," rated PG
Time: 7 p.m.

Fun Day Program

Grades K - 5

The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings and activities and performances on scheduled half day closings. Bring a lunch! Trip is subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early. Meet in the auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Trip: Water Park - MLK Outdoor Pool
When: Thurs. June 12
Time: 1 - 6 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$10
Non-Res. \$15

Tremendous Trips

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '08)

Sign up for one trip or pre-register for them all and get a discount. All trips meet at the Takoma Park Community Center.

When: Monday - Friday, June 16 - June 20
(Pending the last day of school)
Schedule: **Mon., June 16,** National Aquarium
Tues., June 17, water park and mini golf, Gaithersburg, MD
Wed., June 18, Port Discovery
Thurs., June 19, Water Park
Fri., June 20, Roller skating and Wheaton Regional Park

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$20/trip
Non-Res. \$25/trip

Register for the whole week:

T.P. Res. \$90
Non-Res. \$115

Camp TAKOMA

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '08)

Plenty of opportunities to discover arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature activities, special events



Kids in the Recreation Department summer programs enjoy all sorts of fun, including trips to local waterparks and pools.

Photo by Debra Haidivuen

and trips to various fun locations. The fee includes all field trips, special events and a camp t-shirt. No camp July 4.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 23 - Aug. 8
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.,
7500 Maple Avenue

Fees weeks 1, 3-7:
T.P. Res. \$110/week
Non-Res. \$125/week
Fee week 2:
T.P. Res. \$95/week
Non-Res. \$110/week

Special offer!
Get week #2 FREE if enrolling for all 7 weeks.

2008 Extended Care Options

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. The following camps may enroll: Camp TAKOMA, Extreme Horizons, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball Camps, Basketball and Soccer camps.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 23 - Aug. 8

Fee per week for Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.

T.P. Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$40

Fee per week for After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.

T.P. Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$40

No Program on July 4.

Extreme Horizons

Grades 6 - 8 (as of September '08)

Try your hand at rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking and swimming. In addition, each week we will have a trip to a theme park. Fee includes a camp t-shirt, all field trips and special events. One day a week the camp will return at 9 p.m. No camp July 4.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 23 - August 8
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.,
7500 Maple Avenue

Fees/weeks 1, 3-7:
T.P. Res. \$180/week
Non-Res. \$200/week

Fee week 2:
T.P. Res. \$165/week
Non-Res. \$185/week

Continues on page 7

U.S. SPORTS INSTITUTE CAMPS

Sports Squirts Camp

Ages 3 - 5

A great way to introduce your child to the sports of soccer, basketball, softball, hockey and lacrosse. No previous experience is required in any of the sports to participate. All the sports promote hand-eye coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills.

When: July 14 - 18
Time: 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field,
7510 Maple Avenue
(behind Piney Branch Elementary)
Fee: T.P. Res. \$80
Non-Res. \$90

Multi Sports Camp

Half Day Camp - Ages 5 - 7

The Half Day Multi sports camp gives the younger participants the opportunity to experience over 12 sports in a week, such as: tennis, soccer, baseball, volleyball and ultimate frisbee. Campers will receive technical instruction in each sport and will then experience the sport in a realistic game situation.

When: July 14 - 18
Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field,
7510 Maple Avenue
(behind Piney Branch Elementary)
Fee: T.P. Res. \$140
Non-Res. \$150

Multi Sports Camp

Full Day Camp - Ages 7 - 14

This camp will feature instruction and games in 16 different sports from around the world, such as: soccer, bocce, volleyball, badminton, tennis, lacrosse, and handball. A World Cup and Olympics competition will be held at the end of the camp.

When: July 14 - 18
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Ed Wilhelm Field,
7510 Maple Avenue
(behind Piney Branch Elementary)
Fee: T.P. Res. \$160
Non-Res. \$180

REGISTER WITH RECREATION OFFICE

Trained for Fun

Rec Department Begins Counselor in Training Program

With so many teens swarming around the Community Center, the Recreation Department has come up with a new way to keep them occupied, learning, and having fun this summer. An extension of the City's summer camp, the new Counselor in Training Program is designed for ninth and tenth graders interested in building skills and knowledge as they help supervise and work with younger children (ages 5 - 12).

The young counselors are supervised as they get first hand experience working in the Recreation Department's various recreational camps. CITs also go through CPR and First Aid certification, and they participate in other enrichment activities such as etiquette training, interviewing skills and building their own games toolbox. Counselors can earn community service learning hours (required by the county school system) through camp participation. And, of course, they will have fun, chaperoning camp trips like the ones to water parks and mini-golf.

"The goal of our CIT program is to develop relationships with young people in our community and provide training opportunities for them so they will have marketable skills," says Karla Kelley, recreation manager for teen programs. "Our desire would be that when they reach employable age they'd be trained to work with us here at the Takoma Park Recreation Department or be a valuable and capable employee with a similar agency."

For more information about how to participate in the program, contact Karla Kelley, 301-891-7283, or Carey Antoszewski, 301-891-7233. Deadline for applications is June 6; mandatory pre-training is June 16 - 20.

RECREATION

Continued from page 6

TGIF

Ages 11 - 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. All events are from 6-9 p.m. in the T Zone, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Free.

- June 6

June 20

July 4

July 18
- Movie Marathon

Scavenger Hunt

No Activity- Holiday

Pizza Party

RoadTripz

Ages 11 - 18

"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. All events are held from 6-9 p.m., with transportation provided from the T Zone, T.P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, and from the T.P. Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. Fees vary by trip.

- June 13

June 27

July 11

July 25
- Atlas Theatre, "Step Africka"

Nationals Baseball Game

Miniature Golf

Dave and Busters

Thunderbolts Baseball Camps Planned

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts baseball camps kick off again this summer, utilizing the local wooden bat collegiate league to teach baseball to boys and girls ages 8 to 15. Instruction is from John Duffy, Thunderbolts head coach. He will be assisted by Thunderbolts players and coaches.

Emphasis is on fundamentals, baseball values and discipline, conditioning and healthy lifestyle choices. After camp in the evenings, campers can attend Thunderbolts games where they can cheer on their coaches. We provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch. Each camper gets a Junior Thunder-

bolts T-Shirt.

Camps are June 30-July 3; July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, and July 28-August 1, from 9 am to 3 pm each day. There will also be one-day specialty camps on July 1 and July 2 from 9 am to 3 pm. The location is Nolte Local Park, 200 Denver Ave., Silver Spring. The cost is \$155 for the first week (four days), \$195 for all other weeks (five days), and \$100 a day for the specialty camps.

Check out the Thunderbolts website at www.tbolts.org for sibling and multi-year discount information and application forms or call 301-270-0598.

THUNDERBOLTS 2008 SEASON HOME SCHEDULE - JUNE 2008

Home games are at Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium, 51 East University Boulevard, Silver Spring, Maryland in the Four Corners Area

Admission Prices: Adults - \$5; Children under 18 - \$2. Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 get in FREE

Mon.-Sat. games start at 7 p.m.; Sunday games start at 6 p.m. June 8 doubleheader starts at 5 p.m.

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play in the Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League, a wooden bat league composed of eight teams in the D.C. area. Top college players are recruited to play for the team. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. If you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-270-0598. The team also runs summer baseball camps in June and July. Information is available on the team website, www.tbolts.org.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT
Wednesday	6/4	Pre-Season Game
Thursday	6/5	Fun Day
Friday	6/6	Rockville Express
Sunday	6/8	College Park Bombers/DH
Thursday	6/12	Maryland Redbirds
Saturday	6/14	Alexandria Aces
Sunday	6/15	College Park Bombers
Wednesday	6/18	Herndon Braves
Friday	6/20	Alexandria Aces
Monday	6/23	Bethesda Big Train
Thursday	6/26	Youse's Orioles
Saturday	6/28	Youse's Orioles

This is not a Takoma Park Recreation Department Program.
Please call 301-270-0598 for more information.

Volunteer to clean up the Maryland Gateway - one of our New Hampshire Avenue communities!

- What:

When:

Where:

Meet at:
- A neighborhood clean-up hosted by the City of Takoma Park, Pinecrest and Circle Woods.

June 28, 2008 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Along the sidewalk and commercial areas along New Hampshire Avenue between Eastern and Poplar Avenues (including the Poplar Avenue bus stop)

New Hampshire Avenue and Sheridan Street.

Together we can beautify our community!

Kids, come help out and meet the Litter Critter!

All volunteers will receive a T-shirt, gloves, and a trash bag upon check-in. The Dunkin' Donuts will provide free iced tea, coffee and treats for all volunteers!

Interested in volunteering? Please sign up with Catherine Rassman at:
CatherineR@takomagov.org or 301-891-7119

This clean up day is an initiative of the Neighborhood Commercial Area Improvement project.

Police DARE Students to Stay Away from "Pharming Parties"

Teens are no longer raiding their parents' liquor cabinets; they are now raiding the medicine cabinets for anything from Ritalin, Oxycontin, Valium, to their own prescribed medications – and then throwing "pharming parties." There they trade prescribed medications with each other to get high, sometimes mixing their pills with alcohol.

Kids typically arrive at the party with their contributions in tow, emptying their pockets, backpacks and purses, and putting all the pills in one basket. They might trade up: for instance, one Oxycontin pill might be worth up to two Valium. Mix it all up, and "get what you get" – then hope for the best high.

What these kids don't know is that mixing these medications can have a fatal effect.



BY CATHERINE PLEVY

Students at the Washington-McLaughlin Christian School in Takoma Park learned about these parties and more at a recent Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) session led by Takoma Park Police Sgt. Tina Smith. The decades-old DARE program has been updated to address the challenges faced by today's young people; in this case 19 Washington-McLaughlin fifth graders who graduated May 22 after ten weeks in the DARE program. The students were also taught the harmful effects of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco products.

DARE uses videos to help tell the stories of destructive drug experimentation and addiction. In some, children tell true stories of parties like the one mentioned above, where they or their friend(s) either became very ill or died from taking pill(s) "out of a



DARE graduates at the Christian-McLaughlin School learned about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco during a 10-week educational program presented by the Takoma Park Police.

Photo: Cathy Plevy

basket."

To underscore the DARE lessons they had learned, students created team and individual posters with anti-drug messages. These reminders, now hanging in school hallways, serve as hand-made warning signals, a reminder of the dangers of drug and

alcohol use.

The Takoma Park Police hold DARE programs in two schools each year, Washington-McLaughlin and John Nevins Andrews, targeting children ranging in ages 10 to 11. For more information, see dareamerica.com.

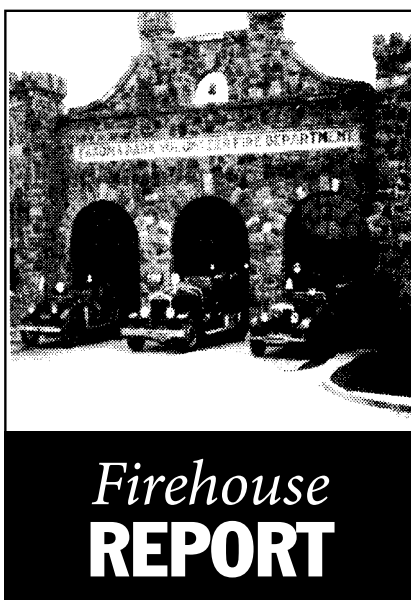
Secure Your Home During Vacation

There are several things you can do to minimize the risk of having your home burglarized while you are on vacation.

1. Put your mail on hold or have someone pick it up for you daily.
2. Put your newspaper on hold or have someone pick it up for you daily. Newspapers accumulating in your driveway or on your porch indicate your absence.
3. Put your lights on a timer. Timers come in a wide variety from a programmable, computerized house-wide system to a simple plug for a single lamp. Have two or three rooms equipped so the lights go on and off at various times. Also leave the light over the stove on all the time, as the kitchen is one room that tends to have lights on the most.
4. Don't leave a message on your answering machine that you are away.
5. Let a neighbor know where you are going and leave a contact number. If you feel comfortable, leave a key with that neighbor.

In addition, if you are planning on a vacation, and nobody will be staying at your house, you are eligible to request a vacant house check on your home. In this program, a Takoma Park Police officer will visit your home once a day during your absence and inspect the premises for any signs of suspicious activity. Only single-family dwellings, duplexes and town homes will be checked. Occupants must be absent for at least four or more days with a maximum of 30 days. No vacant houses without furniture or other property will be checked. No rental houses occupied by other renters will be checked.

You can pick up a copy of the Vacant House Check Form from the police department, or find it on our web site at www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/propertyprotection.html. The form can be faxed to the dispatch office at 301-891-3284 or you may call in your request at 301-270-1100.



BY JIM JARBOE

As of Apr. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 209 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 941 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,150 this year. Totals for 2007 were 323 and 923, respectively, for a total of 1,246, representing a decrease of 96 incidents.

Fire Deaths Reported for 2007

Maryland State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard announced 93 Marylanders died in 66 fatal fires during 2007. Those fire deaths represent a dramatic 55 percent jump from the 60 fire deaths that resulted from 56 fatal fires in 2006, and a significant 27 percent rise over the 73 deaths in 64 fires reported in 2005.

The majority (59) of these fire deaths occurred during the first half of 2007, with 23 persons dying in just six fires. Once again, smoking related fires resulted in more fire deaths than any

other cause, accounting for 37 percent of the deaths where the cause of the fire was determined. Over 90 percent of all fatal fires in Maryland in 2007 occurred in residential structures.

Marylanders are most likely to die from fire in the place they hope to feel most safe - their homes. Last year, steps were taken to reduce the number of fire fatalities when Governor Martin O'Malley signed House Bill 785, "Cigarette Fire Safety Performance Standard and Firefighter Protection Act" into law on May 17, 2007. This law, which goes into effect July 1, 2008, mandates that all cigarettes sold in Maryland meet specific fire safety reduced ignition standards.

A review of fire death data indicates that our citizens must become more personally involved in fire safety. Far too many times, fire investigators find that smoke alarms are either not present or did not operate. "Every Marylander should exercise personal responsibility for themselves and their families and ensure that they have smoke alarms in their home and that they are working," according to the State Fire Marshal. If you are building a new home, consider installing residential fire sprinklers. When used in combination, fire sprinkler systems, working smoke alarms and home fire escape plans, citizens are better able to protect themselves from the perils of uncontrolled fire. Even the best equipped, trained and staffed fire department is no substitute for this life-saving combination of safe practices."

Reprinted from The Maryland Fire Dispatched, April 2008

Takoma Park VFD Members Are Honored

At the Takoma Park VFD's Annual Awards Banquet, held on April 26, the department recognized several members for outstanding service during 2007.

Response Awards

Stephen J. LaScola Top Responder Award

- 1st Place James Mullen
- 2nd Place Mike Livingston
- 3rd Place Deanna Stewart
- 4th Place Steve Novik
- 5th Place Sherry Novik

Standby Duty Awards

- 1st Place Elmer Hamm
- 2nd Place James Mullen
- 3rd Place Deanna Stewart
- 4th Place Mike Livingston
- 5th Place Steve Novik

President's Award

Pam Taylor

Tip of the Helmet Community Service Recognition Award

Jorge Alfaro, Leslie deLeon, Mike DeVore, Dave Hooker, Bob Jarboe, Mike Livingston, Sherry Novik, Steve Novik, John Parsly, Deanna Stewart, Pam Taylor, Andrew Willey and Ashlee Willey.

From the Takoma Park Lions Club - Brian Geraci, Mike Hall, Ray Messick, Keith Van Ness and Gloria Minton. And from the North Silver Spring Lions Club - Doris Messick and Pat Van Ness.

Service Years Recognition

- 50 Years - Robert Jarboe
- 50 Years - John Parsly
- 40 Years - Bruce Allen
- 25 Years - Thomas Horne

Service Years Recognition (Auxiliary)

- 35 Years - Pam Taylor
- 30 Years - Tina Willey
- 25 Years - Patti Butler
- 25 Years - Betty Fickes

Congratulations! For your outstanding and dedicated service to the fire department and community.

Traffic Deaths Down in Takoma-Langley

After years of discouraging statistics on pedestrian fatalities in the Takoma-Langley area, some good news was reported last month: according to Capt. Hector Velez of the Prince George's Hyattsville District Police, there were zero pedestrian fatalities in the year 2007. Velez credits the many education campaigns organized by activists like Erwin Mack, Mary Kendall and Gretchen Hilburger through C-SAFE, a cross-jurisdictional program aimed to improve pedestrian safety.

"[The decline in pedestrian fatalities] is without a doubt [due to] the work that Erwin Mack and the Takoma-Langley Crossroads pedestrian safety committee have been doing in collaboration with CSAFE," said Velez. "I wish I could say it's a result of our efforts alone, but it isn't. We have an issue with crime, obviously, and that's our major focus. What Erwin brings to the table is, 'Hey, let's not forget about this issue.' It's a very important issue. He certainly deserves the credit."

Unfortunately, 2008 has already recorded one pedestrian fatality. Education efforts continue in the area and Velez hopes to prevent further accidents.

Function at the Junction!

(On the side of the TPSS Co-op)
Concert Series
6-8 pm (except where noted)
FREE

5/30 Pan Masters Steel Orchestra



Best Steel Band
in the DC area

6/6 LEA with her All-Star Band



Soulful, Sassy, Urban
Contemporary Folk
...New CD!

6/14, 4-9 p.m. Battle of the Bands
Showdown for area high school bands

6/20 Drummer's Circle
Come drum with your neighbors

6/27 Zachoor Band
Green the World

6/29, 4-6 p.m. Chopteeth
During Co-op Membership Appreciation Day

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park,
The TP-SS Co-op
and the House of Musical Traditions



Parking Permits by Mail Offered

Parking permits for designated permit-parking areas throughout the city expire on June 30. To ease the process and to encourage early registration, the Police Department will offer permits by mail, as well as in-person purchasing. New parking permits will be distributed beginning Monday, June 2.

Residents need only to complete the attached form and return it, with payment, to the Police Department. Photocopies of the current vehicle registration card for each vehicle and a driver's license for at least one owner must be submitted with this form. These attachments must show a current Takoma Park address in the requested permit area.

A decal and year sticker for each registered vehicle will be mailed back within three business days of receipt. Two visitor parking permits will be included for each address. An additional \$1 will be charged for permits sent by mail.

Citizens in several neighborhoods throughout the city requested that street parking be limited to residents, to ease a problem of commuter parking on residential streets.

The Permit-by-Mail program is available only to residential addresses. Be sure to include day and evening phone numbers in case any questions arise in processing.

Those operating a business in the permit areas should submit the names of employees on a company letterhead with their request. Not more than three employee permits are allowed. A home-based business must show evidence of a currently-operated business, which is current on payment of personal property taxes.

A limited number of Area B permits (one year only) are available to residents who live farther than .75 miles from the Takoma Metro station. Nine Area B permits are available only through in-person application at the Police Administration window, on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning Friday, June 27, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The space for Area B parking was decreased two years ago due to Metropolitan Trail construction. At the time, nine permits had been distributed and the Council agreed to continue offering this number in the future. Applicants will need to show all normal identification and vehicle registration.

Questions regarding permit parking can be answered at 301-891-7102 during regular business hours. This form below may also be accessed on-line at www.takomaparkmd.gov/police.

Permit-Area Parking

(please print legibly)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: Takoma Park State: MD Zip Code: _____ - _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

- ☐ A photocopy of the current registration card for each vehicle is attached.
☐ A photocopy of the current Driver's License for at least one resident is attached.

Vehicle #1 _____ (license plate #) ☐ One-year permit (\$12.50) ☐ Two-year permit (\$20)

Vehicle #2 _____ (license plate #) ☐ One-year permit (\$12.50) ☐ Two-year permit (\$20)

Vehicle #3 _____ (license plate #) ☐ One-year permit (\$12.50) ☐ Two-year permit (\$20)

Postage and handling for Permits by Mail, add \$1.00.

List additional vehicles on a separate sheet. Current registration showing the address in the permit parking area must be attached for each.

Two Visitor Permits will be included per household that purchases a permit.

Return this form to TPPD, Permit Parking, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Permits will be mailed within three business days of receipt.

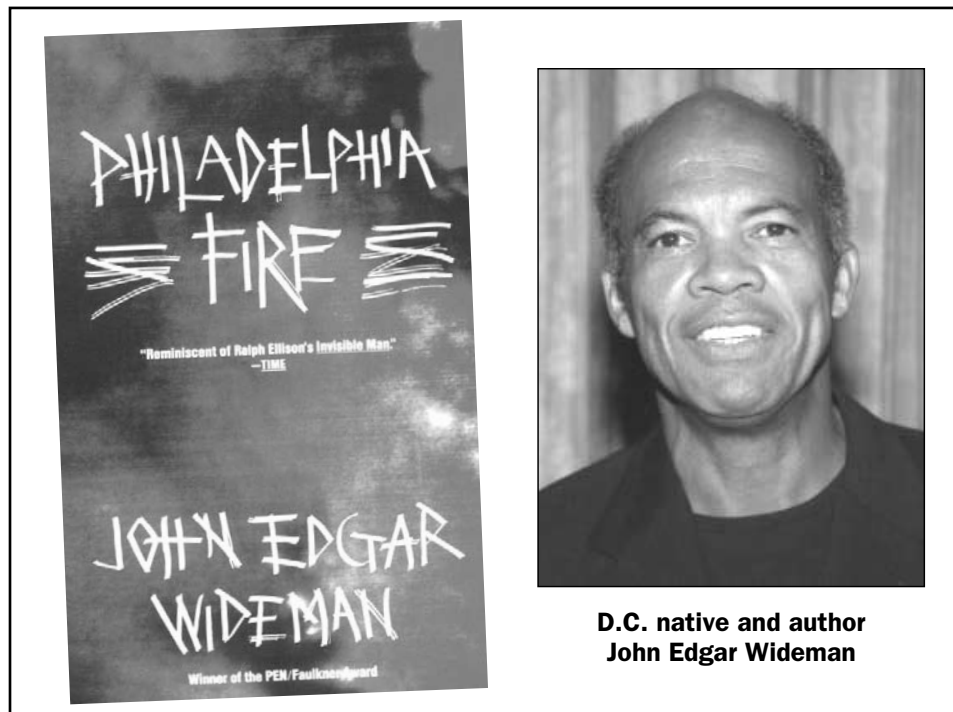
TPPD USE ONLY: ☐ Area 1 ☐ Area 1A ☐ Area 2 ☐ Area 2A ☐ Area 3 ☐ Area 4

Friends to discuss “Philadelphia Fire”

The Friends Reading Group will next meet on Wednesday, July 30, at the Takoma Park Community Center to discuss 1991 Pen-Faulkner Award winner “Philadelphia Fire” by widely acclaimed author John Edgar Wideman.

Time Magazine called this novel “reminiscent of Ralph Ellison’s ‘Invisible Man.’” One of the most ambitious and highly praised of Wideman’s works, it is based on the 1985 bombing by police of a West Philadelphia row house owned by the Afrocentric cult Move. It tells the story of Cudjoe, a writer who returns to his old neighborhood after a decade of self-imposed exile, obsessed with finding the lone boy who was seen running from the flames.

The New York Times Book Review called it “a passionate, angry and formally fascinating novel of urban disintegration,” and the Los Angeles Times Book Review praised it as “a blaze of rage...Wideman’s genius for impassioned imagery triumphs and ‘Philadelphia Fire’ delivers its message with a careening momentum and astonishing precision...Wideman [is] our most powerful and accomplished artist of the urban black



D.C. native and author
John Edgar Wideman

world.”

Copies of “Philadelphia Fire” are donated by the Friends of the Takoma Park Mary-

land Library, and are available at the Library desk for checkout. The Friends Reading Group discussions are open to all.

Friends' Book Sale a Success, Raises \$2,000

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library semi-annual used book sale raised more than \$2,000 on Saturday, May 17. Blessed by a cloudless sky and mild temperatures, volunteers chatted with avid book buyers, passers-by, children and dogs as they perused tables and cartons filled with children's and young adult books, fiction and non-fiction, and music CDs. Books are mostly donated throughout the

year, and pre-sorted by Library staff. The best are reserved for the Friends book sales. All proceeds benefit the Library in the form of gifts.

This spring's sale was made possible though the tireless efforts of the following volunteers (in no special order): Bob and Mary Ann Annis, Frank Gallant, Walter and Rachel Mulbry, Patty Mallin, Dee and Mel Raff, Judy Trieble, Dan and Nancy Kunkel,

Santos Guevara, Sara Criscitelli, Rebekah Zanditon, Pat Hanrahan, Tina Hudak, Karen Boyer, Kay Daniels Cohen, Louise Jung, Ann Slayton, Lensa Tesgera, Edlawit Gebre, Clair Garman, Michele Morgan, Sam McCollin, Chang Sak, Darius Lyons, Library staffers Dave Burbank and Janet Jendrzeyzyk – who sorted through endless cartons of books throughout the year, and the sale's coordinator, Merrill Leffler.



LIBRARY Briefs

“Onesies” Is Launched

Now that the babies in our first year of “Lapsit” programs are turning one, we’ve decided to launch a new endeavor — “Onesies.” Designed for babies/toddlers ages 12 months to 24 months, this new program will be chock-full of songs, rhymes, dance and, of course, some (very short!) books. Our “Onesies” program will take place each Wednesday morning in July from 10-10:30 a.m. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this new program. We have space for 15 one-year-olds and their grown-ups, and registration is required. Please register by going to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html by calling 301-891-7259.

Online Registration Is Here

It's official: you can now register online for all library programs. It's also easy — just go to www.takomapark.info/library/

[registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html). Find the program that you want to register for, and then fill in the required info. Once you register, you'll receive an email confirming your registration, and you can even ask to have an email reminder sent to you a day or two before the program. Many thanks to librarian Rebecca Brown, who worked hours to reconfigure a new software program called Engaged Patrons (created by a public librarian in Minnesota) so that it worked for our library.

Make a Gift for Dad and/or Your Teacher

Come on Monday, June 9, from 7-8:30 p.m. and make a simple gift for your teacher, or for Dad on Father's Day. We'll provide the supplies, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Participants can make a couple of different crafts, and even toddlers are welcome, with a parent helper. To make sure we have enough supplies, please register by going to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or by calling 301-891-7259.

“Summer Quest” Returns

Our popular “Summer Quest” program returns in mid-June. Created each year by library assistant and artist extraordinaire Dave Burbank, the “Summer Quest” program is sponsored by the Friends of the

Takoma Park Maryland Library. This year, students at three area schools — Takoma Park Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary and East Silver Spring Elementary — are being encouraged to join our “Summer Quest” program, which is the most unique public library summer reading program in the state. For more information, call Karen MacPherson, children's/teen librarian, at 301-891-7259.

MontgomeryWorks Returns to Teach Job Skills

Montgomery Works and the Takoma Park Library will sponsor free workshops on “Successful Interviewing” Thursdays, June 5, July 3 and August 7 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The workshops will include tips on what to wear, how to research your market value and how to negotiate an offer. The presenter will discuss different interview settings and how best to respond to the types of questions most often asked in actual interview situations. Participants will also receive advice on how to follow up on interviews and compose thank you letters.

These workshops will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room. Call the Library for information

LIBRARY BRIEFS
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TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

JUNE 2008

Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday

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

Lapsit program for babies 12 months and under and their grown-ups

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. at the Library. Space is limited, so you must register. Register at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Successful Interviewing

Thursday, June 5

1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Montgomery Works and the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Register at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Make a Gift for Dad and/or Your Teacher

Monday, June 9

7-8:30 p.m.

Register at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Summer Quest Kick-Off

Monday, June 16 7:30 p.m.

Register at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, June 23 - 7 p.m.

Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups. No need to register — just come!

Photo Art Quest

Monday June 30 – Friday July 3

9 a.m. – Noon

Register at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html



LIBRARY Briefs

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and to pre-register, 301-891-7259. Registration is limited. You can also register online by going to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html.

Free Digital Art Workshops for Kids

Children ages 9 to 13 will have the opportunity to enroll in Photo Art Quest, held from June 30 to July 3. Students will take digital photographs and turn them into art, share them with online friends, make avatars and decorate their tees or tank shirts. At another session, Comic Art Quest, from August 4-8, students will produce their own online stories. Each morning session will last three hours, from 9 a.m. until noon. We will provide lunch and most supplies. Each quest is limited to nine registered participants. For information, and to sign up online, please go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Library Welcomes New Staffer

Our newest library staff member, CMA Medeiros, works with our public computer users in the evenings, and will be designing and leading our summer digital art quests. She has degrees in art history, cultural administration and digital media, and has administered both knowledge transfer

and neighborhood culture projects. Most recently she led and designed the Family e-Learning Project for the Sheffield City Council.

Born in Québec, Medeiros subsequently lived in Mexico and Argentina as well as England. She speaks both Spanish and French, and now lives in Takoma Park.

Internet Users Can Tap into City TV

In Takoma Park, more residents are plugged in to their computers than to cable television. According to a recent survey of City residents, more than 80 percent of have internet access at home, most with "broadband" – either DSL or cable high-speed internet. But only 60 percent of City residents subscribe to cable TV.

Internet users can have the best of both worlds when it comes to television coverage of city events – many City TV programs are available on demand over the web. All City Council meetings are streamed on a live "web-cast" in real time in addition to being broadcast on City TV. They're also available for on-demand viewing on the City website, conveniently indexed to allow viewers to just view the portion of the meeting in which they have interest.

Takoma Snapshots, City TV's monthly magazine show, is also available for on-line viewing. This program features many City events and activities – recent editions include The Power of (Crime) Analysis, Arbor Day in Takoma Park, Old Town Takoma Spring Clean-Up, and Art in the Community Center. You can also view special events like the Azalea Awards and the Saving Energy at Home presentation on line through the archives.

To watch City TV live, or view available archives, visit: http://takomapark.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

To see topics covered by current and previous Snapshots episodes, please visit: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/snapshots08.html>.

ABLES

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like new dumbbells for the weight room. The vision is definitely in place, and Ables is working with the City – along with MNCP-PC – to make it come true.

"Neal's doing a great job," says Recreation Department Director Debra Haiduven. "He's brought new enthusiasm and professionalism to the building." As a result, she says, the City is getting more response to programs there. "We've been working hard to get [the building] up to speed. We consider it a valuable resource, particularly for that neighborhood."

Two new programs – a ladies boot camp fitness class, and a Russian martial arts class – are now underway, both offered on Tuesdays. The center is already busy with Jazzercise classes four days a week, a teen

day every Friday with open gym for teens, an adult basketball league on Sundays, pick-up ball for adults on Wednesdays, AAU basketball practices, a popular weight and exercise equipment room, Suto dance school classes, and rentals for baby showers and kids' birthday parties. A summer camp keeps school-age kids occupied.

"It's a place you can get good exercise, feel comfortable about it and you won't hurt your pocket," says Ables, who works with a part-time staff of eight to run the Center. Weight room memberships are \$50 for six months and \$85 for the year; if you want to just use the gym, it's \$25 for the year.

For more information on the Recreation Center, which is located at 7315 New Hampshire Avenue, call 301-891-7289 or go to tpreccreation.org and click on HQ/Com Ctr/TPRC at the top of the page, then on TPRC, in the left column.



Neal Ables

Music Headlines on City TV

Join City TV crews on June 15 for the 2008 Jazz Fest, newly relocated to Old Town Takoma Park. This year's theme is "A Taste of New Orleans," and there will be two stages with music scheduled from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. City TV will be documenting both stages all day for your future viewing pleasure.

City TV is also covering the new Friday night music series, Function at the Junction. Co-sponsors City of Takoma Park and Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op have organized great music throughout May and June. Performers include Ruthie and the Wranglers, The Billy Coulter Band, PanMasters, Lea and Her Band, and Zacor Band-Green The World. The series will culminate on Sunday, June 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. with Takoma Park favorite Chopteeth.

Live programming in June will include a Keeping It Safe: A Community Forum on Under-age Drinking for Parents and Youth on June 4 at 7 p.m.

New shows this month include performances from the Street Festival including Melanie Mason and Robert Lighthouse. Also premiering this month is the Kids Showcase from the Folk Festival, and Taste of Takoma shows by Shapiro and the Billy Coulter Band.

Takoma Snapshots in June will include:

- Community Oriented Policing: Officer of the Year - D/PFC Thomas Black
- Community Center Art Exhibit: Reflected Glories
- Safe Kids Fair
- House and Garden Tour
- Soap Box Derby

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.

CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - JUNE 2008

	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)			Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (Replay)				
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Government Focus	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Coffeehouse
10:00 PM				Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse		
11:00 PM		CaribNation			Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revisited	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots	City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Snapshots				
1:00 AM	Road to Recovery		Community Bulletin Board			Déjà vu: Takoma Music Revisited	

Programming subject to change without notice. CITY TV is carried on Channel 13 on Comcast and RCN and channel 28 on Verizon.

TAKOMA Briefs

Farmers Market Offers Weekly Subscriptions

When the Crossroads Farmers Market opens its second season June 4, it will be at a new location – Holton Lane, across from the Post Office – with a new feature, the farmers market basket. In addition to conventional buying, patrons can now subscribe to a weekly bag of fresh, local fruit, vegetables and baked goods produced by Crossroads vendors. Subscriptions are \$300, the equivalent of \$15 a week every week between June 4 and October 15.

Subscriptions can be purchased at the market, every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m.; by mail (Crossroads Farmers Market, 1812 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20783); or at the Sunday Farmers Market in Old Town. Installation plans are available.

Residents may also contribute \$30 or more towards the purchase of a market basket for a resource-limited family in the Crossroads area.

The Crossroads and Takoma Park Farmers Markets are the first farmers markets in Maryland to accept Food Stamps. They also accept WIC and Seniors nutrition coupons up to \$10 towards the purchase of fruit and vegetables. A micro-loan program at the Crossroads encourages new, immigrant and minority growers to participate in direct marketing.

June Jazz Fest Moves to Old Town, Doubles in Size

The Takoma Park Jazz Fest is marking its 13th year with a relocation to Old Town – on Carroll Avenue between Willow Street and the Gazebo – and is expanding to include two

stages with 14 acts, plus a New Orleans-style parade replete with beads. The expansion makes the festival the largest free jazz fest in the state of Maryland, according to organizer Bruce Krohmer.

Scheduled for June 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the festival has been named “A Taste of New Orleans,” and will include second generation New Orleans jazzman Louis Ford as well as a local favorite, the Afro-funk big band Chop Teeth, and 14-year-old boogie woogie piano genius Matt Wigler. Besides the music, visitors will get to enjoy Cajun food and New Orleans art among the food and arts and crafts booths. A collection will also be underway to gather funds for Hurricane Katrina victims. For more information, see tpjazzfest.org or call 301-439-4902.

June 7 Yard Sale Benefits Fourth of July Parade, Fireworks

The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, Inc. is holding a yard sale Saturday, June 7 (rain date June 8) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Takoma Park Library grounds, 101 Philadelphia Ave. to help defray the expenses for the July 4 parade and fireworks.

Donations of quality items in good and clean condition for the yard sale are needed. Knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, furniture, collectibles, household items, bicycles, toys, appliances (only if they work, please), exercise equipment, office equipment, etc., are welcome. All donations (no clothes, please) should be brought to the Community Center back entrance, 7500 Maple Ave., Friday, June 6, between 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. If you need help with large items, or for further information, call 270-8121 or 270-6876.

CROSSROADS

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ty, Prince George's County and Takoma Park planners have been attending community meetings, holding events and talking to people about these questions, and about what they want to see happen at the Crossroads now and in the future. The idea is to work together so that a unified vision develops, and can then be manifested as the area is improved. Elements to be considered include pedestrian safety, community resources, housing and commercial/mixed use development. Several workshops are scheduled for this summer to obtain community input on various options (see box). At the first, participants will have an opportunity to look at design alternatives for the Crossroads area. At the second, a design concept will be presented.

There are many considerations to be taken into account as plans develop. For instance, will grocery stores always mean acres of asphalt parking lots? Is Takoma Park ready for Portland-style pencil towers? More difficult questions are coming up in June and July when meetings continue and designers present plan alternatives: How much higher-end development – with its associated fees and property taxes – will be needed to pay for affordable housing? How much will be needed to offset the low rents necessary to keep the small businesses where residents love to eat or shop? Where can soccer fields go? Who will pay for them?

Even without all these discussions and considerations underway, Takoma/Langley Crossroads is a neighborhood in transition. Housing and commercial stock is aging; some buildings are nearing the end of their life cycle. Many of the moderate- to low-income families who support the vibrant commercial areas live in Prince George's County, which currently has no affordable housing policy. They could easily be priced out of the area if development is not planned carefully. A medium capacity bus rapid transit system – or especially a higher-capacity, trendy light rail system – will

put development pressure on these communities by attracting people who might price lower-income families out of the neighborhood.

Other issues are brought to the planning process by laws and local convention. In Takoma Park, mixed-use buildings currently are limited to 50 feet in height, about four to five stories. That limits the number of commercial enterprises, like multi-story corporations, who might otherwise be interested in locating here. Commercial rents in Takoma/Langley are already two thirds the cost of rents in Silver Spring, so most property owners have waiting lists of new commercial tenants – and see no need to redevelop and improve in order to attract any more. Given the value of land, it's also unlikely affordable housing will increase – typically, such housing winds up on less valuable parcels as part of a very large project. If affordable housing were to be built, it would be because of redevelopment that would mandate it

Takoma Park

KEEPING IT SAFE

Community Forum on Underage Drinking
for Parents and Youth

7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
Takoma Park Community Center, Auditorium

Wednesday, June 4th, 2008

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Youth say that parents are the number one influence in their lives.

Discussions will include:

- Risks associated with underage drinking;
- How to protect your teen from underage drinking;
- Social host liability laws and house parties;
- Community resources and a question/answer session.

Empowering and educating adults and youth on the risks of underage drinking and social host responsibility!
Free food and door prize raffles!

For more information please call:
Maryland International Corridor CSAF at 301-439-0972,
or email GretchenH@takomagov.org
Reservations appreciated but not required.

Jointly Supported by:

Maryland International Corridor CSAF Initiative, Montgomery County Public Schools Safe and Drug Free Schools, Drawing the Line on Under 21 Alcohol Use (Coalition), Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, City of Takoma Park Police Department, Montgomery County Community Partnership, Montgomery County Board of Licensed Commissioners, Montgomery County Department of Police, Identity and the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center

Funded in part by the Federal Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD), the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Association

FYI

For more information on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads project, including maps, reports, timelines, and meeting locations and times, or to comment on the project visit www.mncppc.org/tlc or call 301-495-4565.

You are invited!

The following workshops will be used to develop a framework for new development in the area.

Alternative Design Concept Workshop

When: Thursday, June 12, 4 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Road, Langley Park

When: Saturday, June 14, 12 - 4 p.m.

Where: Outdoors on Holton Lane near the Post Office

Presentation of Preferred Design Concept

When: Thursday, July 16, 4 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Road, Langley Park

by law.

During the development of the nearby New Hampshire Avenue Concept Plan, which begins at Sligo Creek Parkway and runs south along New Hampshire to D.C., residents clearly supported walkable, well-designed redevelopment. It can be assumed that people at Takoma/Langley Crossroads would also favor walkability and good design. Plus, owners of the two biggest parcels at the Crossroads — one is owned by a regional shopping mall developer and the other by a national pharmacy — have experience in creating walkable places. But they are also realistic when it comes to the numbers. Their voices, too, will be part of the conversation, as planners, residents and merchants tackle the puzzle of how best to proceed.

Meetings on the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan will continue through July. For meeting dates, see box above.