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 “Kidscity,” 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 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 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 allows 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 interior, 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 like to remove kitchen cabinets and replace ceiling tiles need to be replaced. "He’d also like to remove kitchen cabinets and replace ceiling tiles need to be replaced."

ABLES continues on page 11

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 their rent 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.

FORECLOSURES continues on page 4

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

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 zocolo 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 zocolo 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...
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 Verdorn to the Reconciliation 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 stormwater project at Buffalo and Albany Avenues
The consent agenda was adopted by roll-call vote. It consisted of:
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
Takoma Park Launches Summer of Public Art

By Mitchell Tropp

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 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 tubing, 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 demonstrate 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 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 Motorcyc, 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 Junctions."

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 effort 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

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov

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 opinions, will be considered for publication. Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material.

Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 98-06 of June 8, 1998 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 extend 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**

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<tr>
<td>8402 Flower Avenue (2007-61L)</td>
<td>On April 22, 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 mailed the notice of the hearing in a timely manner indicating the date and location of the hearing.</td>
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<td>7667 Maple Avenue (2007-66H)</td>
<td>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).</td>
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**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 are 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 condo-minum rental units are normally subject to Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization laws, but some of these 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.

- **Notice of Intent**
  - 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 in 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 required by law, but 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.
Takoma Park Schools, Transit, Restaurant Move Forward

BY: ILONA BLANCHARD

T his 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), Planning Board or see a sign posted on a property, this is the only notification you may receive, as the City does not facilitate these services. It is your responsibility to call to find out what is being planned at that location. It is advisable to ask your neighborhood organization to contact 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 and want you to know that you can call during normal business hours on the number written 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 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 supports 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@mcp.montgomery county.md.us. More information regarding the City’s review of this project, contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or iblanchard@takomagov.org.

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, Friendship Heights 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@mtamaryland.com, or 410-767-3694.

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 them 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 County National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). A developer, John L. Gilbert, 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 iblanchard@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 carousel and a flexible office space. One commercial project is also going before Montgomery County Planning Board for site plan amendment.

A developer proposing a carousel 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 of Orchard Avenue. A representative met with city officials 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.

IMMOARGDE Fuses Poetry and Art

Words and images merge at the new exhibit, “IMMOARGDE: Fuses Poetry and Art,” opening June 1 and on view at the Takoma Park Community Center’s Baum 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-curator 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, like three-dimensional work made of card, paper, 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 Ann Dykers; Stephanie Ney and Carol Beane; Howard Spector and Merrill Letterl; 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 this, to provide an environment for artists of different medium and work and ask 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 in a 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 achat@takomagov.org.
Fee: $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
Schedules: 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

Fee: T.P. Res. $20/trip
Non-Res. $25/trip

Camp TAKOMA

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September ’08)
Plenty of opportunities to discover arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature activities, special events 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

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 8 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

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

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

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

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 recreation- al 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 Antonowezki, 301-891-7233. Deadline for applications is June 6; mandatory pre-training is June 16 – 20.

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

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

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

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

Meet at: 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.

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

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.

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 Mitton. And from the North Silver Spring Lions Club - Doris Messick and Pat Van Ness.

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

Service Year 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.

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.

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.

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.

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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 captivating 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 world.”

Copies of “Philadelphia Fire” are donated by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland 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 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-ordered 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 Mulhry, Patty Mallin, Dee and Mel Raff, Judy Triebel, Dan and Nancy Kunkel, Santos Guevara, Sara Cristiellis, Rebekah Zanditon, Pat Hanrahan, Tina Hudak, Karen Boyer, Kay Daniels Cohen, Louise Jung, Ann Slayton, Lena Teszera, Edlauit Gebre, Clair Garman, Michele Morgan, Sam McCollin, Chang Sak, Darius Lyons, Library staffers Dave Burbank and Janet Jendrezycz – who sorted through endless cartons of books throughout the year, and the sale’s coordinator, Merrill Leffler.

“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.

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 to Teach Job Skills

Montgomery Works returns to sponsor free workshops on “Successful Interviewing” Thursdays, June 5, June 12 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.

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
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 design- ing 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 Fam- ily 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 "broad- band" – either DSL or cable high-speed in- ternet. 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 visitors 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 in- clude 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 ar- chives.

In 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 previ- ous Snapshots episodes, please visit: http:// www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/snap- shots08.html.

Music Headlines on City TV
Join City TV crews on June 15 for the 2008 Jazz Fest, newly relocated to Old Town Ta- koma 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, PanMarkers, Lea and Her Band, and Zazor 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 Takoma Park 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 on-demand viewing 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@takamagov.org for more information.

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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. Mason and Robert Lighthouse. Also premiering this month is the Kids Showcase from the Takoma Park Community Oriented Policing: Officer of the Year - D/PFC Thomas Black
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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 and vegetables. A micro-loan program at the Crossroads encourages new, immigrant and minority growers to participate in direct marketing.

June Yard Sale Doubles in Size

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

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 Chopteeth, 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 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 Market 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 continued from page 1

The Crossroads 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 and vegetables. A micro-loan program at the Crossroads encourages new, immigrant and minority growers to participate in direct marketing.

There are many considerations to be taken into account as plans develop. For instance, will grocery stores always prove in order to attract any more. Given the value of land, it’s also unlikely affordable housing will increase – typically, affordable housing will increase – typically, such housing winds up on less valuable parcels as part of a redevelopment project.

The Crossroads and Takoma Park Farm 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.

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CROSSROADS continued from page 1

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 is developed, and the plan 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 prove 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 redevelopment project.

The Crossroads and Takoma Park Farm 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 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 Market 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.

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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 would be because of redevelopment that would mandate it. If a very large project. If a very large project.

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