

## SUMMER READING

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# Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

## SUMMER CELEBRATION

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Published by the City of Takoma Park

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JULY 2008

# Small Changes Add Up for Takoma Park Public Space

By MELANIE ISIS

Last year, the Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) organized Master Plan workshops in six neighborhood commercial areas to educate neighborhoods on recommendations for these areas and to seek public suggestions for small scale improvements. Now the results of those workshops are coming to fruition.

The six neighborhood commercial areas targeted were: Erie/Flower; Flower/Piney Branch; Maple Avenue; Maryland Gateway; Old Takoma and Takoma Junction; and Sligo Creek Parkway/New Hampshire Avenue. Two remaining commercial areas, Ethan Allen Gateway and Takoma/Langley Crossroads, are covered under last summer's New Hampshire Avenue charrette and an ongoing Sector Plan study, respectively.

Master Plan workshop participants came up with many suggestions. Some, like public benches, were in scale with the program's modest budget; others, like façade improvements, could be included in future Council budgets or grant funding requests. The "small improvements" budget was \$65,000.

To determine how best to spend that money, the City held an Open House last March so interested residents could rank suggested improvements. In addition, the City website solicited input. Once priorities were identified, staff began implementation of as many priorities as possible.

Among them is new landscaping at the corners of Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road, a direct response to 2007 workshop



**Ruthie Logsdon, of Ruthie and the Wranglers, performs for one of the Function at the Junction outdoor concerts this summer. The free concerts, suggested by residents who attended workshops on how to make Takoma Park's commercial areas more attractive, were co-sponsored by the City of Takoma Park, the House of Musical Traditions, and the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op.**

Photo by Lonni Moffet

participants asking for "something nice at the corner instead of a big bush that collects trash." Four new trees were planted, along with low-maintenance groundcover at this northern Takoma Park gateway and key Long Branch commercial corner. A new lightpole will be installed in July and a handsome bench and matching trash and recycling cans

have been ordered for the bus stop. These small improvements will match Montgomery County's recent Long Branch investments and help to visually unify the four corners of Long Branch's "Flower Village."

Improvements to the iconic micro shop-

**PUBLIC SPACE**  
continues on page 12

## Parade, Fireworks Mark a Festive Fourth

On Friday July 4, Takoma Park will stand by tradition and crank up its 119th Independence Day celebration, one of the oldest such celebrations on the East Coast. The event will include a colorful two-hour parade at 10 a.m. headed by Mayor Bruce Williams and Grand Marshal Ray Messick, a dedicated member of the Takoma Park Lions Club for 56 years. The free evening program will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Takoma Park Middle School Lee Jordan Field, 7611 Piney Branch Road. Featured will be the Bele Bele Rhythm Collective and the Takoma Park Concert Band with soloists Alec Garrin and David Goette. The nationally known Zambelli fireworks will begin at dark.

This year's parade theme is "Unity and Diversity." Mayor Bruce Will-

**FIREWORKS** continues on page 7

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## Council Passes City Budget, With Reservations

City Council voted four to one, with one abstention and one absence, to pass a \$26.5 million budget June 9, but agreed that the process for budget review and approval needs to change. To that end, councilmembers will be reviewing how to build more time into their consideration of the City's expenditures and revenues each year.

Concerned about increases in property taxes, councilmembers decreased the tax rate by a half cent. Despite that decrease, the budget revenues increased by \$415,037, mostly due to transferring grant funds from FY08. Over the course of subtracting and adding various items to the general fund expenditure list, City Council wound up with a more than \$200,000 increase in general fund expenditures before it approved the final FYI '09 budget.

Councilmember Dan Robinson (Ward 3) voted against the tax increase (he had

proposed a two cent decrease in the rate); Councilmember Josh Wright (Ward 1) abstained because of an ethics committee concern (Wright's wife works with CASA of Maryland, which gets \$15,000 in county funds that are allocated through the city budget); and Councilmember Colleen Clay (Ward 2) was absent. City staff are working to address the ethics issue that prevented Wright from voting on the entire budget, when only a small piece would have been a conflict of interest.

### Taxes Continue to Rise

Even with a decrease in the property tax rate — set at 60.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value — property tax will still increase, as property values have risen since last year. So, for example, a home that went from \$400,000 in value to \$440,000 would incur a tax increase of \$242. At last year's 61-cent tax rate, that increase would have been \$244.

Both rates are higher than the constant yield tax rate of 54.9 cents, which would keep the actual tax paid from increasing, but since a large percentage of the city's budget comes from property tax, the rate was deemed necessary to maintain City services at the current level.

At least two council members wanted to decrease the tax rate further. Robinson voted "No" to the budget in favor of a two-cent decrease. Councilmember Terry Seamens (Ward 4) suggested a one-cent decrease, and though he voted in favor of the half cent decrease, indicated strong support for reorganizing the budget review process so that next round, he might have time to find places where expenditures might be reduced to accommodate a lower tax rate. "I've been disappointed with our discussions and our process," said Seamens. "I strongly, strongly

**BUDGET**  
continues on page 4

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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Mayor & Council  
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Takoma Park, MD 20912

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY COUNCIL  
AND COMMITTEE

CALENDAR\*

**Wednesday, July 2** - Health Services Impact Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Friday, July 4** - City Offices closed for the Independence Day Holiday

**Monday, July 7** - City Council administrative function session to meet with the City attorney to promote the sharing of information and the lawyer-client relationship, 6 p.m.

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

**Tuesday, July 8** - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, July 8** - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, July 8** - Committee on the Environment meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Forsythia Room)

**Monday, July 14** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, July 15** - Safe Roadways Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Thursday, July 17** - Noise Control Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

**Monday, July 21** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, July 22** - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, July 22** - Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)


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

The City Council will be on recess from **July 29 - September 2**.

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

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267, at least 48 hours in advance, at the telephone number listed in the notice or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

Speak with the Mayor



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](mailto:peggyew@takomagov.org).

City Council Action\*

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

May 27, 2008 - Regular Meeting

**Resolution 2008-45 was adopted**, commenting on the proposed Takoma Park Elementary School addition.

**Resolution 2008-46 was adopted**, requesting Montgomery County Ride On to consider changes for Bus Route 25

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

**Single Reading Ordinance 2008-22**, authorizing execution of a contract for construction of the Carroll Avenue Streetscape Improvements, Phase II

**Single Reading Ordinance 2008-23**, awarding a contract for installation of functional artwork on the Metropolitan Branch Trail

**Resolution 2008-43**, appointing Aaron M. Lavallee to the Ethics Commission

**Resolution 2008-44**, appointing Robert G. Wedemeier to the Emergency Preparedness Committee

June 2 - Special Session

**First Reading Ordinance 2008-24** was accepted, adopting the FY09 Tax Rate (AGAINST: Robinson)

**First Reading Ordinance 2008-25** was accepted, adopting the FY09 Stormwater Budget

First Reading Ordinance 2008-26

was accepted, adopting the FY09 Budget (including FY09-13 CIP Budget) (AGAINST: Robinson; ABSTAIN: Wright)

First Reading Ordinance 2008-27

was accepted, adopting the FY09 AFSCME Pay Plan

First Reading Ordinance 2008-28

was accepted, adopting the FY09 Management and Non-Union Pay Plan

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-29

was adopted, awarding a contract for recreation management software

June 9 - Regular Meeting

**Second Reading Ordinance 2008-24** was adopted by roll-call vote, adopting the FY09 Tax Rate (AGAINST: Robinson)

**Second Reading Ordinance 2008-25** was adopted by roll-call vote, adopting the FY09 Stormwater Budget

**Second Reading Ordinance 2008-26** was adopted by roll-call vote, adopting the FY09 Budget (including FY09-13 CIP Budget) (AGAINST: Robinson)

**Second Reading Ordinance 2008-27** was adopted by roll-call vote, adopting the FY09 AFSCME Pay Plan

**Second Reading Ordinance 2008-28** was adopted by roll-call vote, adopting the FY09 Management and Non-Union Pay Plan

UPDATES ON CITY NEWS AVAILABLE

Did you know you can stay on top of City news even as you wait for the next edition of the newsletter to arrive at your door? If you subscribe to the City news feed, every time the City web site is updated you'll get a notification by email.

**For more information, see [www.takomaparkmd.gov/rss.html](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/rss.html).**

There's also a weekly update available to anyone who pulls up the site, [takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Called the City Status and Information Report, it's right there on the home page (scroll toward the bottom) and it gives you the latest on everything from art shows to police patrols, book clubs to tax assessments, water fees, development projects, block parties and more.

**To catch up on weeks you've missed, see the archive at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/index.html>.**

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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org)).

Arts and Humanities Commission (four vacancies)	Ethics Commission (two vacancies)	Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee (two vacancies)
Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (one vacancy)	Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)	Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee (one vacancy)
Committee on the Environment (seven vacancies)	Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (vacancies)	Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (vacancies)
Emergency Preparedness Committee (one vacancy)	Noise Control Board (three vacancies)	Tree Commission (one vacancy)



# “Nestwatch” Brings Wild Birds Up Close

By MITCHELL TROPIN

Takoma Park residents have a rare opportunity to enjoy wildlife up close, while helping to conserve the town's bird population. Best of all, it does not require driving to the mountains, deep woods or a nature center. Smithsonian's Neighborhood Nestwatch program, created by Takoma Park resident Peter Marra of Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center, allows kids and adults to become biologists in their own backyards. This family-friendly program also is producing valuable information to help local ornithologists protect the city's bird population.

Nestwatch teaches residents to identify nests and gather information on bird activity in their yards and neighborhoods, which they then share with scientists from the Bird Center. Ornithologists visit the backyards and parks to capture birds for sampling and tagging. Their research includes, for example, extracting DNA from adults and nestlings to determine nesting genealogies; tracking traces of growth-inhibiting lead, an element left in soil and grass since before it was banned from gasoline, and monitoring the spread of West Nile virus, which has already resulted in high mortality in Takoma Park's crow and blue jay populations.

“Although Nestwatch has a lot of detailed scientific investigations going on, our bread and butter program of finding and monitoring nests and measuring the survival of color-banded adults birds is only possible because of the Nestwatch participants themselves,” says Marra. Nestwatch is equally committed to learning about birds as it is to teaching the public about science and the importance of maintaining a healthy environment, he adds.

The program has produced some unusual discoveries. Marra notes that one Nestwatch participant regularly observed a nest where three different catbird males attended to one female. Another Nestwatcher from the Annapolis area documented that her house wren female nested in her yard six years in a row.

A Nestwatch visit typically begins when a Smithsonian scientist shows up at your house in the wee hours of the morning. The scientist, along with the home owner (Nestwatch volunteer) sets up “mist nets” to catch the birds. The lightweight nets, made of dark nylon that is almost invisible to birds, are a close cousin to a spider web, and permit safe capture and release. Once a bird flies into the net, it is held in the net's pouch, and the Smithsonian scientists can carefully remove it. Then the scientists mark each bird with a unique combination of colored plastic leg bands for identification. Participants throughout the year identify “their” birds, thanks to the colored bracelets on their legs, and report their sightings, posting information on the program's web site. Participants often involve their children in what becomes a hands-on learning experience.

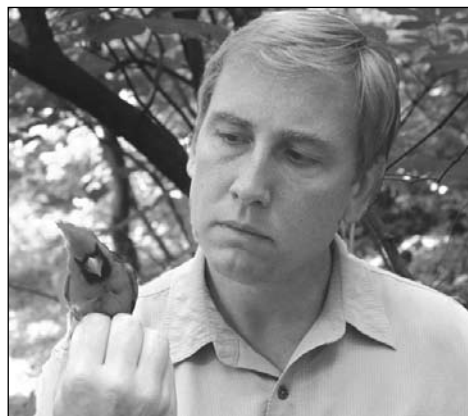
In addition to private back yards, two of the more popular places used by Nestwatch are Takoma Park's Spring Park near Poplar and Elm Avenues and Opal Daniels Park, located near Hancock and Sheridan Avenues.

The program has steadily grown from its initial 50 and currently boasts 275 members from as far north as the Pennsylvania



Smithsonian ornithologist Bob Reitsma works with Takoma Park families to help them identify birds in their own backyards, and track their behavior for scientific research.

Photo courtesy of Peter Marra



Takoma Park resident and ornithologist Peter Marra

border, into Virginia and east to the eastern shore of Maryland. However, a large proportion of Nestwatchers live in Takoma Park, which Marra attributes partially to the city residents' heightened interest in the environment. Takoma Park has at least seven ornithologists living here, including four staff members of the Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center.

Besides giving children the chance to see local wildlife, Nestwatch changes the perception of wildlife for adults and children, Marra adds. “Without exposure to nature, parents cannot expect their kids to appreciate the need to conserve and protect wildlife,” he says.

One of the program's first and most enthusiastic members is Takoma Park's Margaret Bowman, along with her husband, David Hunter. Bowman's family, including two school age children, Dana and Sandy, has watched the same birds return to their backyard year after year. “It gets kids excited about conserving wildlife,” says Bowman.

Marra was inspired to start the Nestwatch program by his own experience as a youth growing up in Connecticut. His home was

## IF YOU WANT TO HELP TAKOMA PARK'S BIRD AND WILDLIFE POPULATION, MARRA OFFERS THESE SUGGESTIONS AS PART OF HIS “BIRD-FRIENDLY YARD PROGRAM”:

- **Remove invasives and grow native plants and shrubs**, which for example, attract native insects that provide a food supply for local birds in the form of caterpillars and adults insects. Most insects are highly specialized and non-native greenery does not work as well, Marra said.
- **Purchase bird-friendly coffees.** Shade-grown coffee plantations play a key role in the conservation of migratory birds, while they are on their wintering homes in the tropics. The birds can find a sanctuary in the forest-like coffee plantations. The Migratory Bird Center developed the first 100 percent organic shade-grown coffee certification. Known as “bird-friendly coffee,” beans can be purchased from several local retailers, including the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op. Look for the bird-friendly label – Be certain-Buy Certified!
- **Set up squirrel-proof bird feeders** that offer suet, millet, and sunflowers. Put out less food in the summer, encouraging birds to find local food sources.
- **Keep cats indoors.** The biggest threat to the local bird population, according to Marra, are cats. Cats, both domestic and feral, are genetically disposed to killing smaller living things, and Marra urges people to keep their cats indoors. Cats have devastating impacts on native birds and small mammals and the cats themselves have shorter life spans outdoors. Letting them outside is not fair to the cats or to the wildlife.

walking distance from a nature center, where Marra spent countless hours learning about the local wildlife. Marra launched Nestwatch so others could share that same experience and learn to treat their own yard as their own National Park.

Thanks to an overwhelming response, Nestwatch is filled up for the 2008 season. But people can sign up on a waiting list to join in 2009. To find out more about Nestwatch, go to the program's web site at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/goto/Nestwatch>.



**THE TAKOMA PARK  
NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Virginia Myers  
Production: Electronic Ink  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
Vol. 47, No. 3

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://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 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.

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# Housing Fair Offers Practical Help for Homeowners and Renters

By BARBARA DE BOINVILLE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOUSING FAIR COMMITTEE

The Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and dozens of community partners will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Housing Fair and Financial Fitness Day on Saturday, September 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm, 506 S. Frederick Avenue, in Gaithersburg.

Certified housing counselors will advise homeowners who are behind in payments on adjustable rate mortgages or whose homes are already in foreclosure. Renters in danger of eviction because of the foreclosure crisis can get information about their rights. By working with credit counselors, participants also can obtain a free copy and analysis of their credit history.

Last year the Housing Fair attracted more than 20 sponsors and 90 exhibitors—banks, mortgage companies, realtors, state and local government agencies, businesses, community organizations and nonprofits. Participation this year is expected to be even greater. The County's Consumer Protection Agency thoroughly screens each exhibitor to make sure the organization or company follows ethical housing practices. At the exhibit booths, fairgoers

will find accurate and timely information about housing options, programs, and services available in Montgomery County. Everyone—from long-term residents to newcomers to the County—can get their questions answered concerning rental housing, home ownership and how to improve their credit. Information is available on managing money, preventing foreclosure, increasing earning power, home safety, utility assistance and energy saving. Translation services will be available for non-English speaking attendees.

Home prices are falling, making home ownership a more attainable dream for many. The Housing and Community Initiatives, Inc. (HCI) offers a three-hour workshop on home buying. Pre-registration is required. Those attending the class will receive a certificate of attendance that is required for all purchases of Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs) in the County. A certificate of attendance is also required for first-time homebuyers interested in obtaining a loan from the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County (HOC). To register for this workshop, call HCI at 301-590-2765.

A popular feature of the fair each year are the raffles, drawn hourly throughout the day. Ten fairgoers will win \$500 toward their rent or mortgage. Drinks and pizza are sold at an affordable price and the entertainment is free. Clowns and magicians will perform and children can

make crafts and build birdhouses under the supervision of Home Depot and other vendors.

Businesses, government agencies and community organizations interested in being an exhibitor or financial sponsor should contact Myriam Torrico at 240-777-3627 or email [myriam.torrico@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:myriam.torrico@montgomerycountymd.gov). For more information about the Housing Fair, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA).



**HOUSING Mailbox**

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

*A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding whether her lease could include provisions that require her to pay more than the 5 percent late rent payment charge and if the landlord can require her to be responsible for making all necessary repairs in the rental unit.*

In accordance with Section 6.16.090 of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law, a landlord may have a provision in the lease that provides for a late rental payment fee, but that it shall not exceed 5 percent of the amount due for the rental period. A late rent payment fee may not be charged, if this provision is not in the lease and/or if the rent is received within ten days of the rent due date. It should be noted that if contesting the imposition of a late rent payment fee, the tenant must have documentation regarding when the rent payment was submitted to the landlord.

Section 6.16.050.G. of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law indicates that the landlord is the party responsible for the payment of all repairs and maintenance of the rental unit. The landlord may not transfer this responsibility to the tenant.

Landlords and tenants should note that Section 6.16.020 of the city's law indicates that a lease which conflicts with the city law shall be unenforceable.

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@takoma.gov](mailto:MosesW@takoma.gov).

## Landlord Tenant Cases

### Lynott v. 8312 Flower Avenue Apartments, LLC

On May 21, the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant's combined complaints that her landlord caused a defective tenancy and breached her lease by failing to pay the electrical bill for her apartment. The commission ruled that the landlord caused a defective tenancy by renting the apartment to the tenant while the apartment was infested with roaches and failed to make timely, good faith efforts to eradicate the infestation. An additional defective tenancy was determined to have resulted from the landlord's renting the apartment with a hole in the wall which exposed electrical wiring and failing to repair the hole in a timely manner. The tenant was awarded a \$375 rent rebate for the reduction in value of her tenancy that resulted from the roach infestation and the landlord's failure to repair the hole exposing the electrical wiring in a timely manner. The tenant was also awarded \$100 for the loss of food and rugs due to the roach infestation. The commission also ruled that the landlord had breached the tenant's lease by improperly transferring responsibility for paying the electricity to the tenant. The landlord was ordered



**COLTA's  
CORNER**

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

to reimburse the tenant \$204.68 for the electric utility bill she had paid. The total amount that the landlord was ordered to pay the tenant was \$679.68.

### Negassa v. Lee Avenue Apts., LLC

On June 5, the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant's complaint alleging that his landlord had failed to return his security deposit plus applicable interest. The commission ruled that the landlord did not comply with section 8-203(g) of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland by failing to send to the last known address of the tenant, within 45 days after the tenancy ended, a written list of damages claimed along with a statement of actual costs incurred or return the security de-

posit together with interest, to the tenant. The landlord was determined to have forfeited his right to withhold any portion of the tenant's security deposit and was ordered to pay the tenant the amount of \$1,049.75 of which \$950 was the original deposit and \$99.75 in interest. The decision also provided that the 3 percent annual interest rate continues to accrue until the landlord complies with the commission's order.

## BUDGET continued from page 1

encourage this council to hold . . . discussions as soon as we adopt this budget, about how do we want to create next year's budget and . . . how do we want to provide the guidance that each department needs so that they are in the best position to be able to fulfill the desires of the community." Confessing that he was "really struggling" with his vote, Seamens promised, "Next year I'm going to vote against the budget itself if we don't review the budget process."

### Additional Changes Increase Revenue, Spending

The FY09 budget was finalized with \$415,037 more in revenue than the city manager's proposed budget, mostly the result not of increased revenue, per se, but transfer of unused funds from last year's budget to this year's. Among the most significant of those transferred funds, which also reflect money moving from the general fund to the special revenue fund, were \$272,795 carried over from FY08 to pay for Carroll Avenue streetscaping (\$220,230 of it from grant revenue, and the rest from transferring from the general to

the special revenue fund), and \$94,561 for Jackson Boyd park rebuilding. There was also \$70,000 in CDBG funds (community development block grant) from FY08 for Holton Lane streetscape improvements. Much of the revenue increase relates to corresponding expenditure adjustments.

Holdovers were also relevant on the expenditure side. Among carryover items from FY08 expenditures are \$95,000 for decorative lights at Takoma Junction, \$46,450 for commercial center improvements, and a number of items, like public art, signage, and park repair, for beautification. Some expenditures were eliminated in the approved budget, including \$100,000 for a Washington Adventist Hospital design charette, \$30,000 for employee recognition awards, and \$25,000 for a community-wide strategic plan.

City Council voted to adjust the City manager's proposed budget on several items as a direct response to community member requests. Among those items: a reduction of \$25,000 for the strategic plan initiative; addition of a \$25,000 grant for a community indicators project; \$30,000 for Historic Takoma building upgrades; and \$20,000 for a Takoma Foundation-supported mosaic project.

After a page-long list of subtractions and additions to budget expenditures is considered, the final budget for the general fund, which covers general City operating expenses,

increased by \$202,862 from the city manager's proposed budget; the expenditures for all budget funds, including stormwater management and special revenue, increased by \$882,302 and revenue increases for all funds total \$415,037.

### Many Items Remain Unchanged

Even with the various changes to the final budget, significant features of the budget as proposed by city manager Barbara Matthews remain in place. Among them are the \$2 million renovation of the 1959 Public Works facility; the renovation would increase in size to accommodate a growing equipment fleet, improve stormwater management and could incorporate green building practices.

Also still in place is the \$1.2 million renovation of the City Council chambers in the Community Center. The renovation would make the space more usable for performing arts.

Budget documents are available for viewing online at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2008/060908-234.pdf>

To hear the City Council debate the budget, go to the June 9 meeting on the City Council portion of the City's web site, <http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/index.html>.





Apprentice artists (from left) Cristina Salvador, Carlos Aguilar and Fatima Castillo pose in front of their work, "Turning Point," a mural installed on June 17 at the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. The project, directed by artist Carien Quiroga of Arts on the Block, involved local out-of-school youth, who worked in collaboration with the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE, Arts on the Block, Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers, the Montgomery and Prince Georges's County Police Departments, the Prince George's Arts Council and the Northwest Park/Oakview Weed and Seed Program. More than 100 people from Northwest Park Apartments Community were on hand at the unveiling, which was attended by both county executives, Jack Johnson from Prince George's County and Ike Legget from Montgomery County, as well as Senators Jamie Raskin and David Harrington.

## New Hampshire Avenue Gardening Grants Awarded

BY ILONA BLANCHARD

Are traffic and blight on New Hampshire Avenue getting you down? Two groups are working to change the Avenue's image – Zion Lutheran Church and Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Association – and both have received a grant from the City to add some color and life to the area.

Zion Lutheran already has a large green lawn, but it has no landscaping – just an expanse of green. "We are all here together with hands to make it beautiful, men and women," Pastor Coker told attendees at a city meeting last spring. "And the youth, don't forget the youth," chimed in a woman from the next row.

The church, on New Hampshire Avenue, has a large property that stretches halfway down the block from Kingwood Avenue at the northern end of the gateway. It is one of several churches on the Avenue; churches are the main institutions that line New Hampshire, with the exception of the City's recreation center, which is already well landscaped.

Once the Church develops a plan and signs a five-year contract for maintenance, the membership will receive funding to plant perennials, shrubs and trees on the property facing the Avenue. One of the conditions of the award will be a one-year anniversary ceremony in the new garden and presentation of a certificate for the garden. "Celebrations are very important for community gardens," advises Judy Tiger, a local community organizing consultant that has been volunteering her services for this project. "Even if you just plant and care for a tree, have parties for the tree, celebrate the tree."

The Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Association Gardening Committee also will receive funding and support for beautification efforts between the entrance to the neighborhood at Erskine and New Hampshire Avenue and the lawn on New Hampshire Avenue south of Sligo Creek. The Gardening Committee worked very hard to get support and come up with a community-driven plan, showing movies on community gardening, working with children on visualizing changes, and cataloging deficiencies to community enjoyment of the area. The gardening team includes not just gardeners of all ages but draws on the breadth of the neighborhood by including multi-media artists. The City has offered to assist with a small gateway garden, investigating provision of water at the site, and funding for trees.

For more information on this program, please call 301-891-7119 and ask for Paul or Ilona or e-mail [pgrenier@takomagov.org](mailto:pgrenier@takomagov.org). A second round of funding is available to support capital investment in new gardening projects along New Hampshire Avenue. The City is also seeking residents interested in organizing a traditional community garden with individual plots at various locations on the corridor – to date there has been substantial demand, but no organizer.

### Biking Signage to Direct Cyclists

Each year, the Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee looks for ways to make the City safer and more inviting for pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit users. This summer's project, a series of signs for cyclists, will be on the streets within weeks.

This first phase of a wayfinding sign system will connect bicycle trails, local shopping areas, neighborhoods and community and recreation centers via safe bicycling and walking routes. This phase installs 24 signs covering routes north of Sligo Creek. Signage includes a bicycle icon, destination, and distance. At key turns along the safest route, a sign will guide bicyclists toward popular destinations.

Safe Roadways projects are funded by the City.

## You can make a difference



**Join your neighbors to review and have your say on the future design of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads!**

**When:** July 17, 2008  
4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Where:** Langley Park Community Center,  
1500 Merrimac Drive,  
Langley Park

**This urban design workshop will review the "preferred concept" developed with the community leaders in and around the crossroads area for the northern end of the New Hampshire Corridor.**

This concept builds on comments received at two workshops in June to look at design ideas. Three very distinct ideas were presented to increase walkability in the area: The first idea ran New Hampshire Avenue in a tunnel under University Boulevard; the second prohibited left turns at New Hampshire and University Boulevard and add "green links" with park-like boulevards (and parks in boulevards) connecting the meadows and stream valleys across single family neighborhoods and paved commercial areas; and the third big idea was to divide both New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard into two one way streets with only two lanes separated by a block of commercial buildings and a big park.

These concepts can be viewed and explored online in great detail at [www.mncppc.org/tlc](http://www.mncppc.org/tlc) under "Presentations."

"Es bonito!" and "That is so pretty! Where is it going to go? When is this going to be here?" were heard frequently at the workshops; however, many questions still need to be answered. Join the Montgomery County and Prince George's County planners to make sure that your views are heard.

**For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205.**

RECREATION

JULY  
ACTIVITIES

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

Please call 301-891-7290 for more information. No camp on July 4.

- Session 2: June 30 - July 3 No Camp July 4.
- Session 3: July 7 - 11
- Session 4: July 14 - 18
- Session 5: July 21 - 25
- Session 6: July 28 - Aug. 1
- Session 7: Aug. 4 - 8

Camp TAKOMA

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '08)  
Don't sit around all summer wishing you had something to do! Join us on a new adventure each week with 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
- Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Before and after care available (see below)
- Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.,  
7500 Maple Avenue
- Fees weeks 3-7:
  - T.P. City Res. \$110/week
  - Non-Res. \$125/week
- Fee week 2:
  - T.P. City Res. \$95/week
  - Non-Res. \$110/week

2008 Extended Care Options

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Activities include games, outdoor play, game room and sports. Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: TPRD Summer Camp, 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. City Res. \$30
  - Non-Res. \$40
- Fee per week for After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.
  - T.P. City 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 - Aug. 8
- Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Location: T.P. Comm. Ctr.,  
7500 Maple Avenue
- Fees/weeks 1, 3-7:
  - T.P. City Res. \$180/week
  - Non-Res. \$200/week



A few of the participants of the Recreation Department's "Holla at Me" receive recognition awards from Mr. C (Clayton White). The young men were honored for consistent participation and service to the group, which was an open forum for discussing relevant issues they face daily. The next session will begin in the fall.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

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

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.

- Date: July 11
- Activity: Miniature Golf
- Date: July 25
- Activity: Dave and Busters
- Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
- Transportation provided from:
  - T Zone - T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue
  - T.P. Rec. Ctr., 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
- Fee: Varies by trip

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.

- Date: July 18
- Activity: Pizza Party
- Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
- Location: T Zone - T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue

Wacky Wednesdays

Ages 11 -17  
A day to just relax and participate in wacky activities ranging from art, music and dance. A hodge podge of activities are planned. Drop in for the wackiness! The last Wednesday of each month. Meet in T Zone.

- Activity: Fashion Design
- Date: July 30
- Time: 2 - 6 p.m.
- Activity: Super Bingo and snacks
- Date: August 27
- Time: 2 - 6 p.m.
- Fees: Varies by activity

Takoma Park Basketball Camp

- Ages 6 - 12
- Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of the Takoma Park Recreation Department's Youth Basketball Camp. Campers will be provided with an elite level of coaching which allows each player to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. Emphasis is on the fun, while stressing that basketball is a game of fundamentals. Fundamentals are the key to success. We encourage any level of play including beginners to join. The level of instruction is geared to the individual needs of the student. It's never too early or late to learn!
- When: August 11 - 15
- Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center,  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
- Fee: T.P. City Residents \$110  
Non-Residents \$125

Movie Under the Stars

- Bring the family and some comfy blankets and enjoy a feature presentation with a PG rating on an impressive 21 foot screen provided by Fun Flicks. Popcorn will be served. For more information please call Carey Antoszewski 301-891-7233.
- When: Fri., Aug. 22
- Time: 7:45 p.m.
- Location: Ed Wilhelm Field, 7510 Maple Avenue (behind Piney Branch Elementary)
- Fee: FREE



U.S. SPORTS INSTITUTE CAMPS

Multi Sports Camp

Full Day Camp

Ages 7 - 14  
Full Day Sports Camp, hosted by the U.S. Sports Institute. 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. The Full Day Multi Sports camp offers campers the chance to experience a large variety of sports and daily sports challenges that are played all across the world.

**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. City Res. \$160  
Non-Res. \$180

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. After lunch, (typically 11:30a.m. – Noon), all campers will participate in the Olympic Games and World Cup competition.

**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. City Res. \$140  
Non-Res. \$150

Sports Squirts Camp

Ages 3 - 5  
A great way to introduce your child to the sports of soccer, basketball, softball, hockey and Lacrosse. Sessions take place in a safe structured environment and sports are played through a series of games and activities designed to ensure learning and most importantly fun. 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. City Res. \$80  
Non-Res. \$90



Opening day of T-ball season brought lots of newcomers to the field, where they learned the basics of this pre-baseball sport. The opening day clinic, run by parent volunteers with support from the Recreation Department, is designed to introduce kids to their coaches and teammates as they run through throwing and hitting drills.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Announcing a new Winter Basketball League for January-March 2009.

Sponsored by Takoma Park's Recreation Department and Recreation Committee. Grades K-8. Seeking coaches. Call Matt Poorman at 301-891-7282 for more information.

Hot Fun in the Summer Time

By CAREY ANTOSZEWSKI

Not sure what to do with the family this summer? Gas prices have you planning a summer vacation near your house? Well look no farther then in your backyard, there are a ton of things to do. Takoma Park Recreation Department has a top ten list ways to GET OUT AND PLAY to squash summer boredom.

- Set up a sprinkler and create a water obstacle course in your backyard.
- Rent a City of Takoma Park pavilion at one of our many parks ([www.tprecreation.org](http://www.tprecreation.org) or stop by the Recreation Office Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- Go on a nature walk. Check out Great Falls on the Maryland or Virginia side. The trails range from easy to moderate with awesome views of the falls. Bring plenty of water and good shoes. You could even pack a lunch and enjoy a picnic as well ([www.nps.gov/grfa](http://www.nps.gov/grfa))
- Ride the Metro to a Nationals Ball Game ([nationals.mlb.com](http://nationals.mlb.com)).
- Visit the Takoma Park Farmers Market, Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Laurel and Carroll Avenue), and the Crossroads Farmer's Market, Wednesdays 3-7 p.m. (Holton Lane at Takoma-Langley Crossroads)
- Get together with neighbors and create a Scavenger Hunt.
- Ride your bike down Sligo Creek, see how far you can go.
- Take a dip at Long Branch Pool (8700 Piney Branch Road, call 301-431-5700 for hours).
- Challenge your neighbors to a game of table tennis or pool in the Takoma Park Community Center's Game Room (Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.).
- Celebrate the end of summer with a movie on a 21 foot screen on August 22 @ 7:45 p.m. (Takoma Park Community Center, free).

FIREWORKS continued from page 1

liams and the Grand Marshal will lead off the parade, joined by Congressman Van Hollen, State Comptroller Peter Franchot, State's Attorney General Doug Gansler, State Senator Raskin, state delegates and county and municipal officials. Behind the community leaders will be floats, pre-schoolers, scouts, pathfinders, Caribbean and Bolivian dancers, marching units, schools including Piney Branch Elementary School, neighborhood, civic and veteran groups, horses, fire departments, new musical groups and many others. Of course, the usual fantastic musical groups, namely the MacMillan Pipe Bands, dc Motors, Mecca Temple #10 Drum and Bugle Corps, the Morning Few, D.C. Pan Jammers, Image Band, Trinidad and Tobago Steel Band, etc. will be back

again.  
The traditional July Fourth gala is planned, directed and primarily financed by the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, Inc., and supported by the mayor and council of Takoma Park and the departments of the municipal government. The July Fourth Committee sponsors special fund raisers, but must rely on local businesses, churches, civic and service organizations, schools and door-to-door collections to make this special event possible. Donations may be mailed to the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, 109 Sheridan Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or call 301-565-0190 for pick up. The Committee is also looking for new dedicated members and volunteers to help on the Fourth and to help with the door to door raffle ticket fund raiser. For further information visit our web site [www.TakomaPark4th.org](http://www.TakomaPark4th.org).

COMMUNITY CENTER SUMMER HOURS  
JUNE 16 - AUGUST 22

<b>Game Room</b> Monday through Friday 9-11 a.m. Summer Camp	Saturdays, ages 7 - 19 1-5 p.m. Sundays, ages 7 - 19 - 2-5 p.m.	<b>Hours subject to change</b> <i>Membership is required</i>
11 a.m. to noon Ages 55 & up Noon to 2 p.m. Drop-in 2-6 p.m. Summer Camp 6-7 p.m. Ages 7-12 7-9 p.m. Ages 13-19	<b>TZone (Teen Lounge)</b> Monday through Friday 4-9:30 p.m. Saturdays 1-5:30 p.m. Sundays 2-5:30 p.m.	7500 Maple Avenue Takoma Park, MD 20912 301-891-7290 <a href="http://tprecreation.org">tprecreation.org</a>

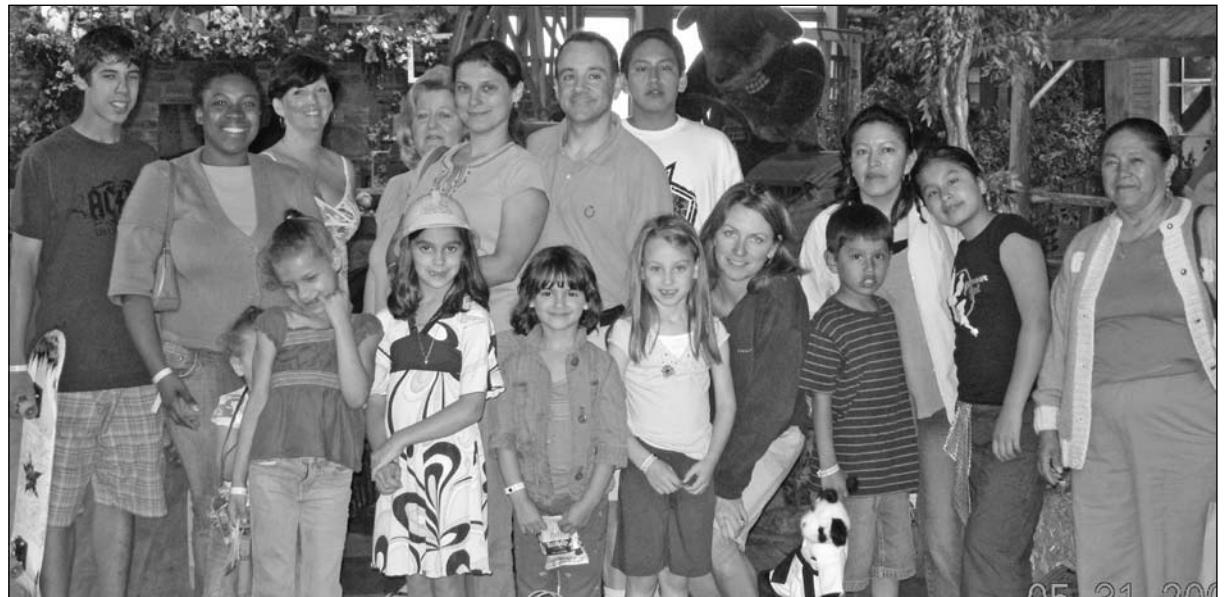


## Welcome to Takoma Park

Maybe you've seen the signs popping up all over the City. Maybe you just discovered where the line is between the District and Maryland. Maybe you've been exploring some of the stores listed on the new maps located in the Old Town, Takoma Junction and Takoma/Langley Crossroads business districts. Whatever it is, these signs are built to let you know you are here, and by knowing that you are here, suggest that maybe, just maybe, you have arrived.

The signs were designed several years ago by a resident committee and a Bethesda firm with roots in Takoma Park. The strong Craftsman theme in the sign frame evokes the local bungalow-style architecture throughout the City's neighborhoods, which are typical of a streetcar suburb. After being approved by the Historic Preservation Commission, there were several issues with State Highway regarding the design of the directional signage, which sidelined the project for several years. Last year, the project was freshly bid out for construction, and after coordination with many interested parties, installed.

The City will be initiating its second phase of gateway and kiosk signs throughout Takoma Park. Gateway signs may be placed at the borders of Takoma Park with Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the District of Columbia. Kiosk signs are located in the City's shopping areas and feature a map and directory of stores and a bulletin board to be used to promote the business area as a destination. The signage "family" also includes new signs for parks, interpretive signs, banners and historic district gateway signs.



## Boyd's Bear Country

On Saturday, May 31, the Takoma Park Recreation bus pulled out of the parking lot with 18 enthusiastic bear lovers for a Family Day Trip to Boyd's Bear Country in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The participants made a bear in the bear factory or "adopted" a stuffed animal from the doggy adoption center. This fun-filled day included a scrumptious lunch and a musical performance. Participants ranged in age from 4 to adult.

Photo by Carey Antoszewski

## FIREWORKS SAFETY

From The National Council on Fireworks Safety

**OBEY LOCAL LAWS. IF FIREWORKS ARE NOT LEGAL WHERE YOU LIVE, DO NOT USE THEM! ALL FIREWORKS, INCLUDING SPARKLERS, ARE ILLEGAL IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. IF YOU ARE IN A PLACE WHERE FIREWORKS ARE LEGAL, KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN MIND:**

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Always have water handy (a hose or buckets of water)
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.  
Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water)
- Use common sense when using fireworks. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter, and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Only persons over age 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type.
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives – they can kill you!
- Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community.

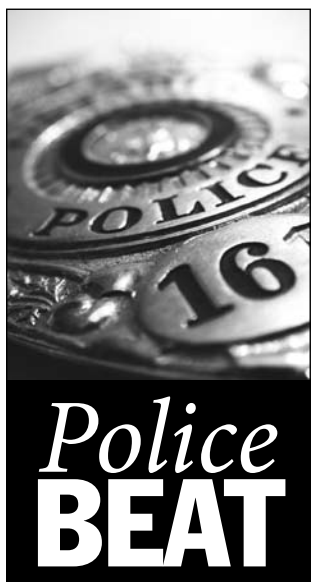
## FOURTH OF JULY ROAD CLOSURES AND DETOURS

*The following road closures and detours will be in effect during the Fourth of July parade, from 7 a.m. until noon.*

1. Carroll Avenue @ Lincoln Avenue to Carroll Street and Eastern Avenue.
2. 6900 Block of Laurel Avenue
3. Ethan Allen Avenue @ Jackson Avenue to Carroll Avenue
4. Maple Avenue @ Ritchie Avenue to Maple Avenue @ Carroll Street
5. Philadelphia Avenue @ Carroll Avenue to Philadelphia Avenue @ Piney Branch Road
6. Sherman Avenue @ Hancock Avenue to Sherman Avenue @ Carroll Avenue
7. Lee Avenue @ Hancock Avenue to Lee Avenue @ Carroll Avenue
8. Grant Avenue @ Hancock Avenue to Grant Avenue @ Carroll Avenue
9. Sherman Avenue @ Hancock Avenue to Sherman Avenue @ Maple Avenue (Blocked-local traffic only)
10. Lee Avenue @ Hancock Avenue to Lee Avenue @ Maple Avenue (Blocked-Local Traffic Only)
11. Boyd Avenue @ Carroll Avenue.
12. Lincoln Avenue @ Boyd Avenue

13. Manor Circle @ Carroll Avenue
14. Barricades will be placed at the sides streets along the parade route preventing traffic from entering the parade route. This would include Maple Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue, Carroll Avenue, Carroll Street and along Elm Avenue.
15. Elm Avenue will be open, but barricades will be placed at the side streets limiting traffic toward Carroll Avenue. The parade route and will be restricted for local residents only.
14. Tulip Avenue will be closed from Tulip Avenue @ Willow Avenue to Tulip Avenue @ Carroll Avenue. The detour should be the following: From New Hampshire Avenue- take Ethan Allen Avenue to Jackson Avenue, make a right onto Jackson Avenue, left onto Sligo Creek Parkway, left onto Maple Avenue, right onto Ritchie Avenue, left onto Piney Branch Road to go to route 410 or continue straight to the Metro Station. From 410 and Piney Branch Road- make left onto Piney Branch Road, right onto Ritchie Avenue, right onto Sligo Creek Parkway, right onto Jackson Avenue, and left onto Ethan Allen Avenue (410) to New Hampshire Avenue.





BY CATHERINE PLEVY

## CSI: Takoma Park Goes Live

CATHY PLEVY

It's not CSI Miami or CSI New York; it's CSI Takoma Park! The Takoma Park Police Department has launched its first sworn and civilian Crime Scene Unit made up of ten Crime Scene Technicians (CST's) – five civilian and five sworn current Takoma Park employees working in various other capacities, including officers, dispatchers and administrative personnel.

A CST assists in complex crime scene investigations, including but not limited to homicides, sexual assaults, armed robberies, home invasions, suspicious deaths and property crimes such as burglaries. The CST is expected to respond to calls for crime scene services as quickly as good judgment and safety allows. They may be requested at times to attend autopsies and assist

with the execution of search warrants.

CSTs process scenes of major crimes at any hour of the day or night, under any weather conditions. Once on the scene, they conduct a search for all objects and articles that may be evidence. The CST must also be proficient in "reading" and reconstructing the events as they happened just prior to, during and shortly following the commission of the crime in order to determine the sequence of events and to ascertain the type and location of evidence. Evidence identified must be collected and properly packaged. This function includes efficient lifting and preserving of various types of evidence. The CST must be aware of the types of packaging and packaging material as the improper selection of such material could render the evidence useless.

The CST establishes a permanent record

describing the crime scene by writing detailed reports, preparing accurate sketches, and diagrams and by applying professional photographic techniques. This requires not only the skill to write a detailed report but also the ability to observe minute details of the scene as they relate to the crime and their meaning in relation to the evidence. The CST assists criminal justice officials by providing reports, sketches, and photographs; and gives testimony in criminal court cases.

The new Crime Scene Technicians have received training on evidence collection. The Takoma Park Police Department will be providing continued on-the-job training by experienced investigators, as well as in-house training and outside training throughout the year in order to enhance their knowledge and expertise.

## Baby Sitter Graduates

The following girls completed the very popular training course conducted by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, under the leadership of Jim Jarboe, and assisted by Sandy Egan, Sgt. Tina Smith and Cpl. Creg Wolff, TPPD, and Jon McLaren, Rec Dept. The next class will be in September, if interested contact the Rec Department.



Front row, from left, Sophia Barbieri and Emma Rose Borzekowski. Middle row, from left, Jenna Kanner, Reva Resstack, Emily Middendorf, Tori Sowell and Leah Martin-Rosenthal. Back row, from left, Taryn Timko, Nora Howard, Dillon Sebastian, Isabel Hendrix-Jenkins, Amalia Perez, Delia Trimble, Natalie Lukehart, Emma Strongin, Gabriella Charlous and Danielle Jones.

As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 275 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,187 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,462 this year. Totals for 2007 were 278 and 1,201, respectively, for a total of 1,601, representing a decrease of 139 incidents.

### It's the Law ... All Fireworks are Illegal

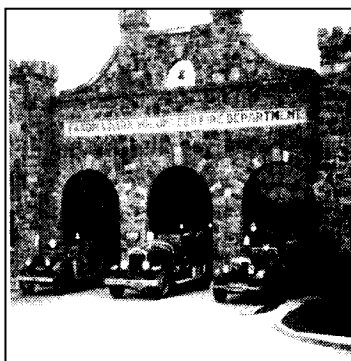
Every year thousands of Americans are treated in hospital emergency rooms throughout the country for injuries caused by fireworks. This holiday season, don't take the chance. Don't play with fireworks! Let the professionals handle them. This year, enjoy them with your family at the Middle School in the 7600 block of Piney Branch Road. They will start at sun down, around 9:30 p.m. A special note: Possession or use of any fireworks can result in a fine of \$1,000 and/or a sentence of six months in jail.

### Tips for Safe Grilling

One of the great pleasures of summer is eating and cooking outdoors with family and friends. The popularity of this activity is attested to by the great number of outdoor grills sold each year. Such grills can be fun to cook on and provide delicious food, but they can also be dangerous. None of them are foolproof, and all should be handled with care.

Four important tips:

1. Never leave foods cooking unattended.



## Firehouse REPORT

BY JIM JARBOE

2. Keep children away from all cooking equipment.
3. Soak the coals when you finish.
4. Cooking on apartment balconies is against the law.

### Takoma Park Lions Club Receives Five Star Award

At the 86th Multiple District 22 Convention, held in May, the Takoma Park Lions Club received the Five Star Award, plus the Special Recognition Award, for Publicity, Visitation, Club Bulletin, Blood Collection, Eyeglasses Collection, Service to Community and Service to Youth. Also during the Convention, Takoma Park Lions Club President Keith Van Ness presented the Club's Harry F. Wickline Award to the fol-

lowing Top 3 Clubs for "eyeglasses" collection for 2007:

- 1st Place the Randolph Lions Club, 8,050 pairs of eyeglasses.
- 2nd Place the Rockville Lions Club, 6,131 pairs of eyeglasses.
- 3rd Place the Leisure World Lions Club, 4,260 pairs of eyeglasses.

Congratulations to all three for an outstanding job.

### Used Eyeglasses Needed

You may drop eyeglasses and hearing aids to the following locations: Takoma Park Library and Takoma Park Fire Station. Some of the eyeglasses will be recycled and others will be sent to developing countries. They will make a difference! Anyone desiring to make a financial donation, may send it to the Takoma Park Lions Club, P.O. Box 11226, Takoma Park, MD 20913. Thank you.

## Police Officers Honored for their Service

The annual awards dinner for police officers and civilians who have performed admirable and exemplary service over the last year was held on Wednesday, June 25, and honored more than 30 of Takoma Park's law enforcement team. Congratulations to these important public servants.

**Officer of the Year:** D/Pfc. Thomas Black

**Civilian of the Year:** Ms. Diana Dean

**Unit Citation:** Firearms Instructional Team, Lt. Richard Bowers, Sgt. Dan Frishkorn, Cpl. Fred Roush, D/Cpl. Andrew John, Det. Rick Cannatella

**Honorable Service Medal:** Cpl. Michelle Holmes, Cpl. Bobby Rodriguez, D/Pfc. Matthew Barber, Cpl. Kristian Pedersen, Ms. Cathy Plevy

**Command Recognitions:** D/Pfc. Mary Jo Mitchell, Ms. Danyelle Gallop, Cpl. Nick Carter, Det. Rick Cannatella, Pfc. Keith Hubley, Cpl. Greg Wolff, Pvt. Samuel Villegas

**Letters of Recognition:** Mr. Jack Van Wagenen, Lt. Richard Bowers, Ms. Denise Pullet, SCD Angelina Cannatella, Mr. Leo Mangumm D/Pfc. Mary Jo Mitchell, D/Pfc. Thomas Black, Pfc. Eric Mueller, Cpt. Edward Coursey

**Education Awards:** Pvt. Carla Magnaye, Pvt. Samuel Villegas, Pvt. Charles Hoetzel, Pvt. Matthew Barber, Sgt. Kurt Gilbert, Pvt. Angela Donovan

**First Place Shooter Award:** Pfc. David Quante

**Retirement:** Sgt. Mark Hammond

**Special Appreciation:** Ms. Roslyn Thompkins

**Special Chief's Recognition:** Ms. Mary Kendall

**Promotions Effective June 8, 2008,** Pfc. Cynthia Conrad, Michelle Holmes and Kristian Pedersen have been promoted to Corporal. A promotional ceremony was held on June 17.

## Chief's Click it or Ticket Campaign a Success

The statewide 2008 Chiefs' Challenge - Click it or Ticket, which emphasizes safety restraint enforcement, began on May 1 and ended on June 3. Chief Ronald Ricucci would like to congratulate Cpl. Michelle Holmes, Pfc. Joseph Butler, Pvt. Angela Donovan, and Pvt. Samuel Villegas, of the Takoma Park Police Department, for issuing a total of 315 seatbelt violation tickets. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Click it or Ticket is the most successful seat belt enforcement campaign ever, helping create the highest national seat belt usage rate of 82 percent.



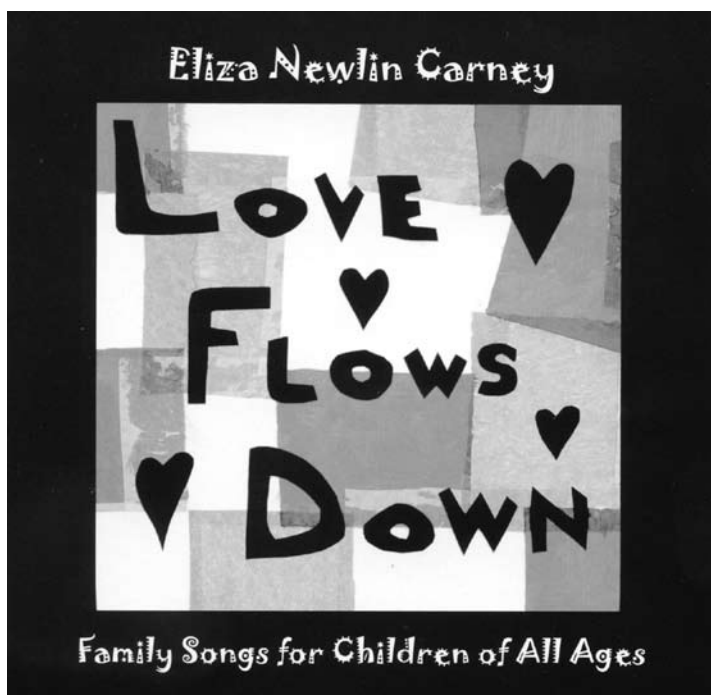
# Friends Sponsor Five Kids' Programs

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library are sponsoring a quintet of special children's and teen programs in July.

First, we're kicking off a new book club – the “**Banned Books Club**” – for pre-teens and teens. Alanna Natanson, a young library patron and rising seventh grader, came up with the idea, and the Friends are paying for multiple copies of the books so there are enough for all participants. Our first book will be “The Chocolate War” by Robert Cormier, a classic young adult book that explores the consequences of questioning authority. Karen MacPherson, the children's/teen librarian, will lead the discussion. Club membership is limited to kids grades six and up. Copies of the book are available at the main desk for check-out. To register, please go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call 301-891-7259.

Next, there's our annual Friends-sponsored **SummerQuest “Campfire,”** on Monday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m. At this fun program, participants will do a craft or two, sing songs and hear some stories as we sit around our “campfire.” Everyone leaves with a bag containing the ingredients for s'mores. The program is aimed at kids ages 5 and up. Please register by going to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html).

The Friends also are sponsoring some **fun computer workshops** for kids ages 9-13. Led by CMA Medeiros, our new computer



coach, the “Photo Quest” workshop will allow kids to turn digital photographs into art. They can then share them with online friends, make avatars or even decorate their T- or tank shirts. A second workshop, the “Comic Art Quest,” will allow kids to produce their own online stories. Sessions run from 9 a.m. – noon and take place in Room A in the Computer Center. Refreshments and most supplies are provided. The “Photo Quest” workshop will run Monday July 14 – Thursday July 17, while the “Comic Art Quest” workshop takes place August 4-8. Registration is limited to nine participants in each session. To register, please go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration).

html or call 301-891-7259.

On Saturday, July 19, the Friends are sponsoring a special **family song program** featuring local singer/songwriter Eliza Newlin Carney. The program, aimed at children ages infant through 8, will spotlight Carney's original songs from her CD titled “Love Flows Down.” Among the songs are “The Juggler,” “Mama, Can I Please Have an Elephant?” and “The Kazoo.” Come join us for this fun event sponsored by the Friends!

Finally, Daniel Barash makes a return visit to the library with his **Shadow Puppet Workshop**, courtesy of the Friends. Aimed at children ages 5 up, this program will allow participants to create shadow puppets and then put on their own shadow puppet show. Barash is an expert shadow puppeteer who does programs at schools and libraries all around the metro DC area. The program takes place Monday, July 28 at 7 p.m. Registration is limited to 20 participants; to register please go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call 301-891-7259.

One more shout-out to the Friends: thanks for sponsoring our SummerQuest reading program! We're the only library in Maryland that creates our own summer reading program and this year's program, written and illustrated as usual by library assistant Dave Burbank, is one of the best SummerQuest programs ever.



## LIBRARY Briefs

### Twosies Together

Our quarterly “Twosies” program returns to the Library in August. Each Wednesday in August, from 10-10:30, we'll sing songs, read some stories and do a simple craft. The program is limited to children aged two and their grown-ups, and space is limited. To register, please go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call 301-891-7259.

### Reading Group Discusses “Philadelphia Fire”

The Friends of the Library Reading Group will meet on Wednesday July 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center to discuss “Philadelphia Fire” by John Edgar Wideman. Winner of the 1991 Pen-Faulkner Award, Wideman's novel was inspired by the 1985 police bombing of a West Philadelphia row house owned by the Afrocentric cult Move. The San Francisco Chronicle called the book “an impassioned, brutally honest journey

through the despair and horror of life in urban America. ‘Philadelphia Fire’ isn't a book you read so much as one you breathe.” Copies of the book are available at the library's main desk, and all are welcome to join the discussion on July 30.

### Graphic Novels Decoded

Looking for more information about graphic novels? Come and pick up a copy of our booklist of graphic novels for kids and teens. The booklist was put together by Dave Burbank, library assistant and graphic novel expert, and Karen MacPherson, the children's/teen librarian. We've included books and websites about graphic novels, as well as a listing of some of the best and most popular graphic novels. Just ask at the library's main desk for a copy.

### New Audio Books Available for Kids and Adults

Just in time for summer vacation, we've got a new crop of audio books for kids, teens and adults. You don't have to be in a car to enjoy listening to these; just head for a sofa or chaise lounge and put in the CD.

Here's a list of some of the newest additions to our audio book collection:

#### KIDS:

“The Moffats” by Eleanor Estes  
“If A Tree Falls at Lunch Period” by Gen-

nifer Choldenko

“The Invention of Hugo Cabret” by Brian O. Selznick (this one includes a DVD)  
“Cheaper By the Dozen” by Frank Gilbreth Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey  
“Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry” by Mildred Taylor  
“Silverfin” by Charles Higson  
“The Goose Girl” by Shannon Hale  
“The Dark Is Rising” by Susan Cooper

#### TEENS:

“Alphabet of Dreams” by Susan Fletcher  
“The Adoration of Jenna Fox” by Mary Pearson  
“The Joys of Love” by Madeleine L'Engle

#### ADULTS:

“The Night Gardener” by George Pelecanos  
“The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao” by Junot Diaz  
“Then We Came to the End” by Joshua Ferris  
“I Am America (and So Can You!)” by Stephen Colbert  
“Can You Keep a Secret?” by Sophie Kinsella  
“The Appeal” by John Grisham  
“The Memory Keeper's Daughter” by Kim Edwards  
“The Third Secret” by Steve Berry  
“Unaccustomed Earth” by Jhumpa Lahiri

## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

JULY 2008

Please note, where registration is indicated, you must register online at [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html), or by calling 301-891-7259.

### Neighborhood Circle Time Every Tuesday

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

### Wonderful Ones!

A program for babies 12-24 months and their grown-ups Wednesdays, 10 a.m. at the Library.

Space is limited, so you must register.

### Successful Interviewing

Thursday, July 3  
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Learn everything there is to know about how to prepare for an interview in this program sponsored by Montgomery Works and the Takoma Park Maryland Library Please register.

### Banned Books Club

Monday, July 7  
7:30 p.m. Grade 6 and up.  
“The Chocolate War” by Robert Cormier.  
Please register.

### SummerQuest “Campfire”

Monday, July 14  
7:30 p.m. Ages 5 up.  
Crafts, songs and stories.  
Please register.

### Photo Art Quest

Monday, July 14 – Thursday, July 17

9 a.m. – Noon  
Digital photograph as art – see article, this page  
Please register.

### Family Songs with Eliza Newlin Carney

Saturday, July 19  
10:30 a.m.  
Local singer/songwriter sing-along.  
Please register.

### Bedtime Stories

Monday, July 21  
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, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups. No need to register – just come!

### Shadow Puppets

Monday, July 28  
7 p.m. Ages 5 up  
Come make a shadow puppet and put on a special show. Please register.

### Friends of the Library Reading Group

Wednesday, July 30  
7:30 p.m., Community Center  
“Philadelphia Fire” by John Edgar Wideman  
Copies of the book are available at the Library. All are welcome.



# "Babymouse" Author Shares Her Inspiration

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Graphic novels for kids are big these days, and one of the most popular series features a plucky heroine named Babymouse. Jennifer Holm, who with her brother Matthew Holm created the "Babymouse" books, recently spoke to the Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C. Here's the column I subsequently wrote on Holm for Scripps Howard News Service.

As the only girl in a household of boys, Jennifer Holm grew up learning how to spit, climb trees and play kickball.

Like her four brothers, Holm also read lots of comics, especially those starring superheroes like Superman and Batman. But she often wondered why there were no women superheroes except for Wonder Woman. "I just couldn't identify with her," Holm said. "It might have been her bustiere – or maybe it was the go-go boots."

Years later, Holm, working with her artist brother Matthew, created the female comic book character of her dreams – "Babymouse" – a mouse with a sassy attitude and a passion for pink. Just like many kids, Babymouse finds her daily life pretty drab, but she's got big dreams for herself, if only she could figure out a way to rid herself of that bully Felicia Furrypaws once and for all.

Using the graphic novel format, in which Babymouse's story is told in a series of comic book-style panels over 96 pages, the Holm siblings completed the first Babymouse book, "Babymouse: Queen of the World," in 2001. Jennifer Holm wrote the text, while Matthew Holm did the artwork.

But it took a couple of years to sell the book. Publishers, who today are desperate to break into the now-lucrative

graphic novel market for kids, weren't particularly interested in Babymouse, despite the fact that Jennifer Holm had won a Newbery Honor for her first children's novel, "Our Only May Amelia."

The Holms finally sold the manuscript to Random House in 2003, and the book was published in 2005 to critical acclaim. The books, aimed at readers 7-10, quickly became favorites with young readers, who loved the book's humor and graphic novel style.

Since then, the Holms have published seven other "Babymouse" books, and the series has become an anchor of the fast-growing market of graphic novels for younger readers. While the series, with its female star and palette of pink, black and white, appeals mostly to girls, boys also can enjoy the way Babymouse tackles head-on the challenges of life – both real and imagined – as well as the fact that her best friend is a boy.

"Boys tell us they like it too, in spite of all the pink," Jennifer Holm said. "And my brother has a 'Babymouse' t-shirt that says, 'It's not pink – it's the lightest shade of red.'"

Growing up first in Washington State and then Pennsylvania, Jennifer Holm always had a book in hand. As she writes on her website ([www.jenniferholm.com](http://www.jenniferholm.com)): "One of our neighbors said recently that his clearest memory of me as a child was watching me rake the lawn one-handed while I read a book with the other!"

After graduating from Dickinson College, Jennifer Holm headed to New York, where she became a broadcast producer of television commercials and music videos. Matthew Holm, who was the political cartoonist for the Penn State newspaper, joined her in New York, spending much of his time creating artwork to self-publish on the Internet. More

info about Matthew can be found on his website, [www.matthewholm.net](http://www.matthewholm.net).

While living in New York, Jennifer Holm one day had what she now calls a "Babymouse" day – a day when just about everything went wrong.

"The image of Babymouse came into my head and I drew her on a napkin with her hands on her hips..." Jennifer Holm said. She showed the drawing to Matthew, and the two began playing with the idea of creating a book featuring Babymouse.

"We worked on her over several years," Jennifer Holm said. "We wanted her to be someone what we can all identify with. She has bad whisker days, a best friend who is a boy, an annoying little brother, a mean girl she has to deal with at school, a locker that eats her homework and a P.E. teacher who wants to eat her."

While the Holm siblings continue to collaborate closely on the "Babymouse" books, they now do so from afar, as Jennifer now lives in Maryland and Matthew lives in Portland, Oregon. Thanks to computer and FedEx, the process is fairly seamless, and the two are beginning work on another graphic novel series together.

They also have done one non-Babymouse book together, a graphic-style novel called "Middle School is Worse Than Meatloaf," and both have other projects going. Jennifer Holm has written several "Boston Jane" historical novels for children, as well as the Newbery Honor-winning, "Penny From Heaven."

Currently, she's concentrating on raising her two children, ages four and one, and trying to write another novel.

"I'm on year three of this novel, and I just started re-writing it from scratch – again!" Jennifer Holm said.

## Independence Day and New Music on City TV

Start off your Independence Day holiday with City TV crews to watch the 111th Annual Takoma Park Independence Day Parade! Details of the parade and other Independence Day festivities are available at [www.takomapark4th.org](http://www.takomapark4th.org).

Newly released music programming this month includes performances from Tastes of Takoma from the Billy Coulter Band, Shapiro, Young Lions and the CUC acrobatic team, Acro-Airs. Street Festival performances now running include Melanie Mason and Robert Lighthouse. Other new programming in July will include some of the concerts from the Function in the Junction series held throughout May and June at the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op.

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

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are also available on DVD.

Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.



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

Programming subject to change without notice. CITY TV is carried on Channel 13 on Comcast and RCN and channel 28 on Verizon.  
 Takoma Park City TV  
 7500 Maple Avenue  
 Takoma Park, MD 20912  
 301-891-7118  
 Email: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org)  
 Web: [www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable)

### Watch City TV On Line

Live Feed, Archived City Council Meetings, Snapshots and More

<http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/index.html>



## Jazzfest '08



### JAZZ FEST BIG SUCCESS

Takoma Park got a whopping hot "Taste Of New Orleans" on June 15 when the Jazz Fest made its debut appearance in Old Town. Moved from Jequie Park, the new venue attracted larger crowds and had room to spread out to include two stages for a seven-hour fest of music, crafts, art, food and lots of fun for all. The afternoon parade was a highlight, and included a rickshaw as well as New Orleans-style marching jazz. Bands included Louis Ford, a second generation New Orleans Jazzman; Dixieland Direct; Blue Sky 5; Chopteeth AfroFunk Big Band; Matt Wigler, a 14 year-old piano genius; local favorite Squeeze Bayou; The Natty Beaux; Sherwood Blues Band; Little Falls Jazz Quartet and four more.

Photos by Lonni Moffet

## PUBLIC SPACE

continued from page 1

ping center at the corner of Erie and Flower Avenues began a few months ago when Ride-On added a bus stop to Erie and Flower Avenues, in front of the Pueblo Vieja Market.

Residents have been concerned that the area is run down, and doesn't create a safe place for their children to walk to the corner store. Larger concerns were raised regarding shop facades, signage and sidewalks, all of which will require more funding than is currently available. The budget did, however, cover new trash and recycling receptacles that match the new bench. In early June, Pueblo Vieja owner Han S. Jan installed a bench in front of the market, and the City planted three new trees along Erie Avenue to match those next to and in front of the building. New trash and recycling cans will arrive in July, along with flowering, perennial plants for the front of the market.

In the Old Town workshops, public comments focused on the Junction. Many participants requested live music, suggesting summer evening programs that would bring

residents to the area. So the City contracted with the House of Musical Traditions to organize a free concert series, "Function at the Junction," for four Friday evenings in the lot next to the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Coop. The two-hour concerts, co-sponsored by the Co-op and House of Musical Traditions, drew many residents to the Junction, some with picnic dinners. This investment resulted in additional concerts sponsored by the Co-op.

Also at the Junction, older concrete trash and recycling cans will be replaced by matching metal cans already in Old Town, and staff is working on approval to mount colorful banners that highlight Takoma Junction's vibrant business community.

The intersection of Sligo Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue is a gateway to the park; however, residents felt it was more of a divider between four neighborhoods. Giving the intersection a sense of place was a top priority, and a colorful planting of hardy native perennials was installed in June.

While trees have long been requested, if the street is reconfigured by future streetscape projects the trees would be removed before reaching full growth. Another suggestion

that was not feasible included adding a rain garden to a commercial private property. This may become a long term goal for the area.

Meanwhile, Sligo Creek gateway signs will be installed later this summer. The sign on the east side next to the trail will be double-sided to offer information to hiker-biker trail users, and will include a regional map with bicycle routes to College Park, Wheaton Regional Park, Capital Crescent Trail, Metropolitan Branch Trail, Metro stations, and the Takoma Park Community Center. Serendipitously, the County Ride-On Service initiated a project to rebuild bus stops and was able to move one identified by participants as dangerous to a safer location where users would no longer fear for their lives on rainy or icy days.

The City rolls out a new image for New Hampshire Avenue at the Maryland Gateway (New Hampshire Avenue between Eastern and Poplar Avenues) with colorful new trash cans. Recycling cans with labels in English, Spanish, French and Amharic, and new benches are coming soon for bus stops and prominent corners. A sign to highlight the Takoma Branch, a tributary to the Ana-

costia Watershed, will be installed at the corner of New Hampshire and Poplar Avenues to raise awareness of this natural resource. Badly needed parking will be created on Sligo Mill Road at Sheridan Street by removing "No Parking" signs, a response to businesses requesting that the City maximize parking.

The civic portion of Maple Avenue – lined by small shops, community-related buildings, and many apartment and condo residences – is getting new benches, where residents can visit with neighbors and take in the scenery. This 2007 workshop recommendation helps humanize the street and make it more comfortable for the many families with small children and senior citizens that walk. New trash and recycling cans are also on order and will be installed at bus stops.

For a small program, that's a lot of big changes. In addition, the time and comments that residents gave not only directly advised the City's investment in these projects but will continue to guide ongoing and future projects. Staff members in HCD are looking forward to a new year of funding and working with neighborhoods to increase pride in Takoma Park's small commercial areas.