

City Offices Closed

August 15, 3:30 p.m.
Employee
Appreciation Day

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

Newsletter Deadline

Aug. 18 for Sept. Issue

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

August 2008

Pool Plans Move Forward Despite Uncertainty

By Rick Henry

While the lifeguards aren't ready to blow the whistle, recent developments concerning the Piney Branch Pool could mean that city residents will be dipping their toes in the water by the end of the year.

The pool, located inside Piney Branch Elementary School, has been out of use since the Silver Spring YMCA's five-year contract to manage the pool expired last summer.

However, several entities have allocated funding in their 2009 fiscal budgets for the repairs and operation of the pool. In all, more than \$300,000 - from a variety of sources - has been allocated.

The funding breakdown is as follows:

- \$206,750 from the Montgomery County Council to Adventist Community Services for operation of the facility;
- \$21,700 from the Montgomery County Council;
- \$50,000 from Montgomery County Public Schools; and
- \$50,000 from the City of Takoma Park (via the Maryland Program Open Space (POS)).

The last three contributions, totaling \$121,700, will be allocated to the Montgomery County Department of Recreation for repairs and maintenance.

The County Council approved its funding commitment as part of its overall fiscal year 2009 operating budget on May 22. The city of Takoma Park approved the revert-

ing of \$50,000 from an overall POS allocation of \$62,444 at the July 14 City Council meeting.

While funding has been secured for this year, there is no guarantee it will be allocated annually.

According to Suzanne Ludlow, deputy city manager for the City, the hope is that once the pool is fixed up and programs are in place, the county will continue to allocate funds in subsequent years.

Securing the funding has been a yeoman's collaborative effort spearheaded by, among others, Montgomery County Council members George Leventhal, Valerie Ervin and Marc Elrich, the city of Takoma Park's recreation committee, and the Piney Branch Elementary School PTA. However, there are still numerous questions to be answered and issues to be resolved.

Chief among those is whether Adventist Community Services (ACS) is willing to take on the responsibility of managing the facility. Since none of the entities involved in the project is equipped to take on the responsibility, officials reached out to ACS as a resource. The initial request was met with reservations by the ACS Board according to Ron Wylie, director of the Social Services organization.

"This is a very big operation and quite a different animal than what we usually do," Wylie said of managing and operating the pool. "We do education, debt relief and all sorts of other services, but we have never done anything like this and there is some concern about whether we should."

"However, I see this as being just as much of a community service project as food or clothing," he added. "This addresses a real



That icon of summer play, the hula hoop, gets a workout with Alex Tilton, shown here at the Recreation Department's new Sports Squirts Camp. Designed for 3 to 5-year-olds, it introduced children to a new sport or game every day. For more on Recreation Department programs, see pages 6 and 7.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

need for young people and lower-income people- the exact groups who we are trying to reach."

A series of conversations Wylie held with Board members and ACS Chairman Jere Stocks early in the week of July 20 seemed to allay some trepidation and Wylie is optimistic that ACS will accept the project. However, Stocks left on a two-week vacation on July 24 and no formal vote has been scheduled. Wylie stressed that he is actively talking and working with city, county and

POOL PLANS
continues on page 12

Temporary Day Laborer Center to Close

By Suzanne Ludlow
Deputy City Manager

The temporary day laborer center on Sligo Mill Road in Takoma Park will close on July 31, 2008. Open since 2001, the center has been funded by Takoma Park and Montgomery County and managed by CASA of Maryland while CASA and Prince George's County planned a new permanent center at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard, next to the Bank of America. The permanent center is expected to open later this year.

The City of Takoma Park determined that special facility costs needed to keep the temporary center open until the Prince George's County Center opens were not justified for the short period of time involved, especially given the low number of workers and contractors using the center at this time. Accord-

Until the new Prince George's County center is open, day laborers and persons interested in hiring day laborers are urged to go to the Silver Spring center at 734 University Boulevard East or the Wheaton center at 2729 University Boulevard West.

ing to CASA, about 50 workers gather at the site and about five or so get work each day. The City is informing the workers and contractors about the closing and urging them to use either the Silver Spring or Wheaton centers until the new Prince George's County

center opens.

In a meeting on July 22 with CASA of Maryland Executive Director Gustavo Torres and approximately ten day laborers, Mayor Bruce Williams answered the request to keep the temporary day laborer center open by stating that his preference is "to make sure that we work to have a smooth transition when the site closes." He emphasized that Takoma Park has been a strong supporter of day laborers for many years. The City Council faced similar objections at a public meeting July 28, but pushed ahead with the closing due to unexpected and increasing costs. The original City Council vote to close the center came in May, and CASA has been kept apprised of Council action. Lease termination notices to the property owner and trailer leasing company were sent May 28.

DAY LABOR
continues on page 12

INSIDE:

CITY GARDENS

..... page 3

ARTS NEWS

..... page 8

SUMMER READING

..... page 10

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

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY COUNCIL
AND COMMITTEE

CALENDAR*

The City Council will be on recess from July 31 - September 2.

Monday, August 4 - Ethics Commission meeting, 8 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, August 12 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Tuesday, August 12 - Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, August 21 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, August 26 - Arts and Humanities Commission Meeting,, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

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

MONDAY, September 1 - City offices closed for the Labor Day holiday

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.

There's also a weekly update available to anyone who pulls up the site, 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>.



Speak with
the Mayor

The mayor's office hours are suspended during the August Council recess. Office hours will resume in September.

City Council Action*

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

June 16 - Special Session

Resolution 2008-45A was adopted, authorizing submission of Maryland Municipal League Legislative Action Requests

Resolution 2008-46A was adopted, supporting a Class B Beer/Wine Liquor Alcohol Beverage License for Tijuana's Mexican Cafe

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-47, reappointing Julie Boddy, Linda Gunter, Jim Kuhn, Jay Levy and Robert Rini to the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee

Resolution 2008-48, appointing Rosa Sanchez to the Emergency Preparedness Committee

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-30, authorizing execution of a contract for mechanical engineering services for Municipal Building third floor air conditioning system evaluation and design

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-31, authorizing the purchase of replacement decorative street light poles and fixtures for Takoma Junction

June 30, 2008 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2008-49 was adopted, opposing the abusive factory farming practice of force feeding ducks and geese for foie gras

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-50, reappointing Joanne Hill, Kelly O'Brien and Robert Liebreich to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Resolution 2008-51

reappointing Jillian Aldebron and Jane E. Johnson to the Board of Elections

Resolution 2008-52

supporting Montgomery County Bill 23-08, Creating a Veterans Commission in Montgomery County

July 14, 2008 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2008-53 was adopted, ratifying a collective bargaining agreement with Local 400 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union

First Reading Ordinance 2008-32 was adopted, establishing the FY09 pay scale for police

Resolution 2008-54 was adopted, authorizing the FY09 Program Open Space allocation

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-55, supporting Maryland Main Street Improvement program financing for the Old Takoma Business Association

Resolution 2008-56, reappointing Sally Brucker, Lucinda Dugger and Charlie Pilzer to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Resolution 2008-57, reappointing Katherine Kelly and Sanjay Grover to the Safe Roadways Committee

Resolution 2008-58, appointing Keith Berner, Lynn Bradley, Jacqueline L. Davison, Anne R. Hollander, Susan A. Leitch, H. James O'Brien, David Paris, Praveen R. Pillai, Kathleen Quinn, Diane L. Robinson-Berkley, Eileen Sobock, Jarrett K. Smith, Pamela Sparr and Andrew Strongin to the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee

Volunteers Needed

TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

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

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

The City Council is in the process of revising some of its procedures related to Council appointed boards, commissions and committees.

Changes under consideration include:

A requirement for each committee to establish or amend its bylaws or rules of procedure to address election of officers to set term limits for officers, and to develop minimum meeting attendance requirements.

The appointment of Councilmembers to serve as liaisons to committees. The Council liaison would serve as a point of contact on the Council for committees and would be expected to be familiar with the committee's work. The liaison will not regularly attend meetings or participate in committee discussions.

A replacement process for the standard committee applicant interview at City Council meetings. The process may include a personal interview by the ward Councilmember or the Council liaison to the committee, with a subsequent recommendation to the full Council on the appointment. Appointments and reappointments will continue to be made by resolution of the City Council.

Establishment of an annual report and review of each committee. At the

annual report to the City Council, each committee will be asked to report on their activities in the past year and provide a work plan for the upcoming year for review and comment by the Council.

To review more information related to the Council review of committees, check the City web page at www.takomaparkmd.gov or contact the City Clerk. The proposed guidelines will be posted on the web and distributed to all current City committees for comment before any final action is taken by the Council.

How Does Your (City) Garden Grow?

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Takoma Park is known for its trees and parks – from the small planters in the commercial district to playgrounds, parks and elaborate residential gardens, the city capitalizes on green space. But it can be a challenge to maintain it all.

So residents have volunteered to help out.

At Takoma Junction, Susan Harris and Jeff Trunzo contributed plants from their own gardens to create a green area filled with shrubs and flowers, ornamental grasses and cedar. Harris, who is a gardening coach and columnist for the “Takoma Voice,” remembers filling buckets at her house on Woodland Avenue and hauling them to the site in her car – there is no water source there, and the new plants needed to be kept moist. Now a nearer neighbor loans her hose.

“I have a lot of pride in Takoma Park,” says Trunzo, explaining why he still comes up to weed and help maintain the garden he helped plant. “I felt like I wanted to contribute in some way to make it a better place to live.”

For Jim Wolf, who gardens at the patch of plantings on Darwin Street, the public garden is an extension of his own yard. “It’s just a part of my regular garden,” he says. The result of street engineering designed to make the area safer for school children walking home from the middle school up the street, this garden is a sort of extension of his yard, and includes sedum, coneflowers and day lilies he divided and planted there. The gardening, he says, is good exercise. “It beats going to the gym.”

These volunteers are a big help to City Gardener Mike Welsh, who has just one staff person (and occasional contractors) to maintain all City gardens. “It makes a big difference,” he says. “When somebody else is interested in what you do it makes the work sometimes go lighter, even though it’s sometimes more than you can juggle.”



City Gardener Mike Welsh, left, consults with volunteer gardener Jim Wolf over the public space near Darwin Street. Wolf treats it as an extension of his own yard.



Jennifer Shields digs in the garden in the traffic circle just outside her home at Lincoln and Elm Avenues. She is one of many resident volunteers who help maintain the City's green spaces.

Photos by Lonni Moffet

Welsh notes that although the city has no conventional community garden of vegetable plots, ornamental gardens seem to have taken their place, with neighbors meeting neighbors over trowels and mulch piles.

Takoma Park has at least 100 garden sites, says Welsh. About a dozen residents regularly volunteer, and a few times a year larger groups pitch in. The boy scouts, University of Maryland, and Columbia Union College are all regulars in the city gardens, and each has provided thousands of volunteers over the years.

Some enjoy the opportunity to garden a

new bit of space – Sally Tabor, for example, has a shady yard and can watch sunnier varieties come up in the traffic circle and “bump out” curb at the corners of Auburn and Elm, and Auburn and Lincoln in her neighborhood. Jennifer Shields, who lives right on the circle, is so grateful for the traffic calming effect of the device she was eager to help maintain it. She also plants and maintains a section that looks like an extension of her own yard, and has drawn her children into the garden. “My littlest girl [age 6] has her own strawberry patch,” she says. Other edibles include big fig trees. “When those come ripe, all of a sudden we have a lot of friends in the neighborhood,” she says. “It’s fun to be able to share them.”

Even with all these willing hands, garden maintenance is a never-ending chore, and Welsh is eager for more volunteers. “What better way to introduce children to gardening, but right at the park?” he says, pointing out that many families with young children spend hours right in the middle of city gardens. Visitors can pull a few weeds, or schedule a chunk of time to interact with their children over mulching and clearing. Welsh will provide mulch and can even drop off tools. “we would all benefit from it,” he says.

How Can You Help?

To help out in the City’s gardens, simply bring a trowel with you next time you stroll through the park, and pull a few weeds. Or, adopt a patch of park. You could team up with neighbors and adopt an entire playground’s worth of plantings. To find out how you can pitch in, contact Mike Welsh at 301-240-832-9854 or mikew@takomagov.org.



Volunteer Michele Morgan in Old Town

Please Post Your Property Address

You may not think having an easily visible address on your house is a big deal, but it is actually very important. Takoma Park code states that all buildings must have their correct mailing address plainly legible and visible from the street in front of the property. The

address must be in Arabic numerals or alphabet letters, and must contrast with the background. Numbers must be at least 4” high with a minimum stroke width of ½”. The reason for all this is so that in the event of an emergency, the responders (police or firefighters) can find your property without any trouble. So for safety, please ensure that your property address is easily visible and up to code.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Virginia Myers
Production: Electronic Ink
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.

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

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

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



Save on Property Tax:

Homeowners' and Renters' Credit Applications Due Sept. 1

Don't miss the September 1, 2008 deadline for submitting your applications for the Maryland Tax Credit Programs. These are designed to help low income home-owners and renters by limiting the amount that they must pay in property taxes. To receive the tax credit, an application and all supporting documentation must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation no later than September 1 of each year.

Legislation enacted in the Maryland Legislature in 2006 increased the maximum property assessment eligible for credit from \$150,000 to \$300,000 and also revised the net worth requirement to exclude IRAs and quali-

fied retirement saving plans. Even though your home may be assessed for any amount, it's only the first \$300,000 of its assessed value that will be counted for this credit. You must apply for this program every year, even though you may have received a tax credit last year, and the home for which you are applying must be your primary residence.

To obtain an application for either tax credit program, you can call the State of Maryland at 1 800-944-7403, access it on their website, www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/sdatforms.html and scroll to the bottom of the page, or call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Landlord-Tenant Cases

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

Bure v. Ferroe/Scarborough & Maryland Realty Management

On July 8 the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding the tenants' allegation that the landlords and their agent were responsible for a defective tenancy that included a broken refrigerator, broken window panes, window frames that would remain open, insufficient air conditioning and the inability to use a bedroom and the basement as sleeping quarters. The tenants requested a rent rebate of \$300 per month from the date their lease commenced which was to continue until the date they vacated and requested the early termination of their lease. The commission ruled that: (1) the tenants' defective tenancy claims regarding the broken refrigerator/broken window panes were time-barred in accordance with Section 6.24.060.C of the City's Landlord-Tenant Law (complaints must be filed within one year of the occurrence giving rise to the complaint); (2) the landlords breached the implied covenant of quiet enjoyment by holding out the house as having three bedrooms thereby causing a defective tenancy and the county code enforcement office prohibiting the use of the room for sleeping significantly reduced the value of the tenancy. The commission found that the tenants' loss of the third bedroom reduced the value of the tenancy by at least 16 percent resulting in the tenants being awarded a rent rebate of \$1,935.38; (3) the



COLTA's CORNER

landlords' responsibility to maintain the air conditioning system and their failure to do so resulted in the commission finding that the lack of sufficient air conditioning reduced the value of the tenancy \$150 (8 percent of the monthly rent) per month for the period August 16, 2007 through September 30, 2007 for a total of \$223; (4) the defective windows were held to have reduced the value of the tenants tenancy by \$10 per month for the period July 14, 2007 through February 28, 2008 for a total of \$75; (5) the tenants were not entitled to terminate their tenancy on February 28, 2008 as the landlord's breach of their obligations did not constitute a constructive eviction; (6) the landlords failed to mitigate their damages after the tenant vacated by failing to maintain the property and seeking a rent amount from rental applicants that did not reflect the property's age, size, location and condition. Accordingly the tenants were determined not to be responsible for paying rent after February 2008 and the landlords were ordered to refund rent and late fees paid by the tenants in March 2008 in the amount of \$1,942.50. The total amount the commission ordered the landlords and their agent to pay the tenants is \$3,893.69.

Community Funding Available

The City of Takoma Park is accepting proposals for the use of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG program provides Takoma Park with the funding necessary to develop viable neighborhoods and undertake city-wide projects which provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. Grants are awarded to organization and community groups for a wide range of activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development and the provision of improved community facilities and services.

Applications are due Monday, August 25, 2008 and are available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

takomaparkmd.gov.

For more information, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301.891.7224 or by email at SaraD@takomagov.org.

To assist in reviewing and evaluating CDBG applications, the Housing and Community Development Department is seeking volunteers. The time commitment is minimal depending upon the number of applications received. Approximately two meetings would be held in September with much of the discussion being held via e-mail. The recommendations of the committee would be presented to the City Council in early October. To learn more about the committee, or to volunteer, contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224 or sarad@takomagov.org.

Worried About Foreclosure?

Finding it Hard to Pay Your Mortgage?

Get the information you need to make a good and sound decision about your housing and financial future.



Come Learn What You Can Do!
Join Us on Saturday, August 23, 2008
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Ave, Takoma Park

(Counselors available to answer your questions).

Bilingual Services Available

To reserve your seat, contact

Linda Walker 301-891-7222 or

LindaW@takomagov.org



Spanish translation on the reverse side
Version en Español al reverso



HOUSING Mailbox

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

A landlord asks if he can still file a capital improvement rent increase petition if he has done improvements to his rental facility.

A landlord can no longer file a capital improvement or hardship petition. Instead he/she now can file a Fair Return Petition which combines the former concepts of the capital improvement and hardship petitions. Fair return means the maintenance

of a landlord's base year net operating income, adjusted for inflation to the current year. When filing a Fair Return Petition, a landlord can include the amortized costs for capital improvements done at the rental facility.

To get a fair return rent increase, the landlord must show the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) that the net operating income for the rental facility has not been maintained due to escalating operating expenses. It is required that the landlord submit income and expense information for two years prior to the current year and must have owned the rental facility for the entire current year.

Once approved by COLTA, the rent increases are determined as a percentage of the current year rents and are equally divided among all the units at the rental facility. For further information or to request a Fair Return Petition packet, contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or at JeanK@takomagov.org.

City Recognized for Excellence in Finance Reporting

The City of Takoma Park has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The City's CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the government's financial story and motivate interested parties to read the CAFR.

"This award is directly attributable to the efforts of Director of Finance Yovonda Brooks and her staff in preparing the CAFR," said City Manager Barb Matthews, "and is a reflection of the excellent work they do throughout the year."

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 16,000 government finance professionals. The Certificate Program was established in 1945 and is designed to encourage and recognize excellence in financial reporting by state and local governments.

The City's CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007 can be viewed on the City's website, www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Half Price Parking for Hybrids

If you drive a hybrid, the Takoma Park Police Department wants to give you a break. People applying for a City of Takoma Park parking permit get a 50 percent discount if the car they are parking is a hybrid or all-electric vehicle. Annual parking permits normally cost \$12.50, or \$20 for two years.

Applicants for the hybrid parking discount will be required to have the alternatively fueled vehicle available for inspection by the Police Department, at the time the application is made for the permit. The Police Department will be responsible for determining whether a vehicle meets the hybrid or all-electric requirement. Applicants applying for a permit must also show proof of residency, a driver's license, and a current registration for the vehicle.

For more information about parking permits, see <http://takomaparkmd.gov/police>.



Plastic Recycling Opportunities Expand

Montgomery County recently announced a significant increase in the types of plastics accepted for recycling. The County's recycling processing facility began accepting many more plastics beyond narrow necked bottles as of July 1. Takoma Park will also accept these plastics effective immediately.

The list of additional recyclable plastic items is listed below. Please be sure to rinse all containers and place them in the yellow recycling container for collection on your recycling day. Recycling and trash should be placed at the curb the night before your scheduled collection day.

Additional Plastic Types Accepted:

- Plastic food-grade tubs and lids including: butter and margarine tubs, yogurt containers, cottage cheese and sour cream containers, and deli salad containers.
- Plastic squeeze bottles for mayonnaise and jelly
- Plastic jars including peanut butter and medicine containers
- Deli containers and trays (clear type not styrofoam)
- Plastic cups (clear and colored, not styrofoam)
- Buckets and tubs including: ice cream containers, kitty litter and detergent containers
- Paint buckets up to 5 gallons (latex only, all paint residue removed)
- Plastic flower pots, must be cleaned of dirt

These items still can not be accepted:

- Containers that held motor oil, antifreeze or pesticides
- Plastic bags
- Plastic wrap
- Styrofoam/polystyrene cups, trays and packaging
- Clamshell plastic containers marked #1 or #6
- Microwave trays
- Plastic toys
- Children's swimming pools
- Plastic flower trays marked #6
- Large plastic items

If you have any questions please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633.

City in Search of Champion Trees

When a neighbor knocked on her door to tell her she had a champion tree in her back yard, Brandy Price had no idea it was worthy of such renown. Now the tree, a northern red oak (182" circumference, 96" height, 100" crown) on Houston Avenue, is listed as a Montgomery County Champion, one of the largest trees in the county. (It is shown as the background to this article).

Now more residents in Takoma Park have the opportunity to honor their trees, or those of their neighbors, as the City establishes a Champion Tree contest for its own jurisdiction. The Takoma Park Tree Commission has announced a Champion Trees contest for Takoma Park.

A champion tree is a tree that is recognized for its height, the girth of its trunk and its canopy spread. There are international champions, national champions, state champions and county champions.

The City of Takoma Park is requesting residents' help in identifying City champions for three of its most prominent native species: white oaks, beeches and sycamores. If you know of a large tree in Takoma Park that you think has champion potential, nominate it! **Nominations are due by August 15.** The Tree Commission will confirm measurements of the three largest trees nominated for each species and announce the winners in September.

Official rules, nomination forms, a how-to guide for measuring trees and tips on identifying the trees can be found on the City of Takoma Park web site at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov>

Takoma Park Champion Trees Nomination Form

Tree species nominated _____

Height _____ Girth _____ Canopy Spread _____

Tree location (please provide address) _____

Is this tree on private property? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please have the owner of the property read and sign:

I acknowledge that a tree on my property has been nominated for Takoma Park Champion Tree status. Should my tree be declared a finalist, I give permission for a one-time visit from the Tree Commission on my property for the sole purpose of verifying the tree's measurements.

Owner name _____

Signature _____ date _____

Nominator's name and address _____

Mail completed forms (or scan and e-mail) to
City of Takoma Park Champion Trees, c/o city Arborist
31 Oswego Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20912
ToddB@takomagov.org

RECREATION

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

CAMP TAKOMA

Grade 1 - 5 (as of September 2008)

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.

When: Mon. – Fri., Aug. 4 - 8
Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: T.P. Community Center,
 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$110
 Non-Res. \$125

EXTENDED CARE

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., Aug. 4 - 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

TAKOMA PARK BASKETBALL CAMP

Ages 6 - 12

Individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of the 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. 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: Aug. 11 - 15
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Sports Squirts learned everything from lacrosse and soccer to hula hooping and basketball during the week-long summer camp for children ages 3 to 5. Leading the fun were Recreation Department staffers Melanie Tepsick, Matt Poorman and teen volunteer Naishla Wise.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Location: T. P. Rec. Ctr.,
 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Res. \$110
 Non-Res. \$125

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Ages 11 -17

A day to just relax and participate in wacky activities. Meet in the T Zone.

Date: Aug. 27
Activity: Super Bingo and snacks
Time: 2 - 6 p.m.

NEW WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Grades K – 6

The Takoma Park Basketball League offers quality instructional clinics, practice time and games. It's a community-based, convenient alternative to a county-run program. Modified rules and lowered baskets will be used for the younger age groups. Teams will

be formed after the second workout. Contact Matt Poorman for more information, 301-891-7282. In partnership with the Takoma Park Recreation Committee.

Workout Dates: Saturdays,
 November 22, December 6

Practices Begin: December 13

Games Begin: January 10

Age Divisions: Pee Wee League – Grade K
 Jr. League – Grades 1-2
 Intermediate League – Grades 3-4
 Upper League – Grades 5-6
 Senior League - Grades 7-8
Location: Takoma Park Elementary School /
 Piney Branch Elementary School
When: Saturdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Residents \$50
 Non-Residents \$60

VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED!

Please contact Matt Poorman (301-891-7282, or MattP@takomagov.org) if you are interested!

SILVER FOXES

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair - Senior Day

There is something special about a good old fashioned county fair. Enjoy animals and agricultural exhibits, crafts shows, commercial vendor booths, food and entertainment. There will be complimentary coffee, donuts and entertainment. Leave from the T.P. Community Center. Registration required.

When: Tues., Aug. 12
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds
Fee: Free
RSVP: 08/05/08

Grandparent, grandchild field trip

Come join us for an exciting adventure to the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport in Virginia. See the Enola Gay, gaze up at a space shuttle that actually went to space. Be sure to bring lunch money for Red Robin restaurant. Leave from the T.P. Community Center. For more information please call Paula Lisowski 301-891-7280. Registration required.

When: Tues., Aug. 19, 2008
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum
Fee: Free, but bring money for lunch
RSVP: 08/08/08

MORNING ADDITION

Grades K-6

This before school program is designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff will be available to provide informal recreation activities and will escort the children to T.P. Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or prepare for their day at school. For more information please call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.

When: Monday - Friday,
 August 25, 2008 - June 14, 2009
Time: 7 - 9 a.m.

RECREATION

continued from page 6

Location: T.P. Community Center,
7500 Maple Avenue

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$850
Non-Resident \$1,000

THE AFTERNOON ADDITION

Grades K - 5

Same name, different program. This revamped and energizing program will put greater emphasis on leisure and recreation programs utilizing our new facilities to include but not be limited to the computer learning center, dance studio, art room, game room, athletic fields, library and more. We have some exciting activities planned this year including: drama, music, art, special guests, sports, field trips, study time and playtime that will enlighten, empower and enrich minds and imaginations. For more information

please call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233. Enrollment begins August 4, space is limited.

When: Monday - Friday,
August 25, 2008 - June 14, 2009

Time: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. on full days
1 - 6:30 p.m. on early release days

Location: T.P. Community Center,
7500 Maple Avenue

Fee: T.P. City Resident \$1,500
Non-resident \$1,750

Morning and Afternoon Addition together are discounted at \$2,100 for both (for residents) and \$2,300 (non-residents).



Collier Hill tests out his lacrosse stick during Sports Squirts camp this summer.

Photos by Debra Haiduven

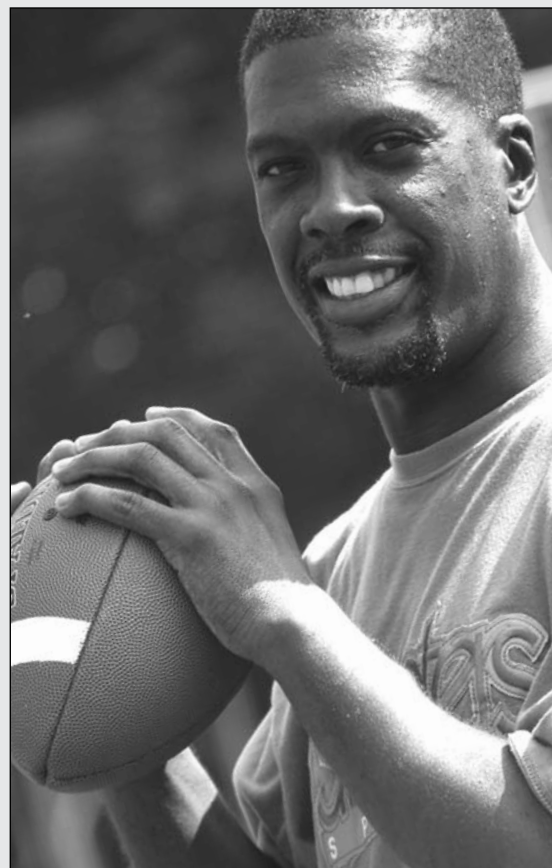
Football Fame in Takoma Park

When Takoma Park Flag Football starts up in the fall, the quarterback directing the play will be a hero. Gregory Clark, Takoma Park's assistant recreation director who initiated the flag football program here, belongs to the United States Flag and Touch Football League Hall of Fame.

Now in an administrative position, Clark may not be on Takoma Park fields with the young flag footballers, but he will be helping run the department sponsoring the games and will supplement his long work days with practices in the local adult league. Currently a quarterback for D.C.'s top-level Brothers AC (Athletic Club), Clark, 37, has won four national championship titles, made the All-American Team five years, was named the National MVP three years, and won the league championships ten times. No wonder he was named to the USFTL Hall of Fame in 2006.

Clark began playing football in his D.C. neighborhood before he joined the #6 Boys and Girls Club in Petworth at age 6. Always a quarterback, he played tackle football at Virginia State University and when he finished the season and was eligible, picked up flag football during his senior year. He almost became a professional football player, attended camps for Chicago and New Orleans and had an offer from Ottawa to play in the Canadian League. Instead he got a job as a park ranger with Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Prince George's County. He came to Takoma Park in 2007.

Clark likes being a leader who makes sure everyone does his job and works as a team – a skill he brings to management responsibilities at the Recreation Department. But the sheer joy of the game is what keeps him coming back: the camaraderie, life-long friendships, and, he says “of course, the competition.”



Gregory Clark, assistant recreation director for the City of Takoma Park, is also a member of the national Flag and Touch Football League Hall of Fame.

Movie Under the Stars

Bring the family and some comfy blankets and enjoy "Madagascar" - PG 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!

Parking available at the Takoma Park Community Center



Circus Week at Takoma Park's summer camp culminated in a performance that was all about fun.

COMMUNITY CENTER SUMMER HOURS JUNE 16 - AUGUST 22

Game Room

Monday through Friday
9-11 a.m. Summer Camp
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
Saturdays, ages 7 - 19 1-5 p.m.
Sundays, ages 7 - 19 - 2-5 p.m.

TZone (Teen Lounge)

Monday through Friday
4-9:30 p.m.
Saturdays 1-5:30 p.m.
Sundays 2-5:30 p.m.

Hours subject to change

Membership is required

7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290
tprecreation.org



The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission has a number of activities planned for this upcoming year. Here are a few of the ways you can get involved. Additional information on each of these opportunities is available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov

Poetry Reading Series

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting poets for the 2008-2009 "third Thursday" poetry series. The series will begin this winter and will feature some of the finest poets in the city and surrounding area. To be considered for a spot in the series, please send 3-5 poems to the Commission. Submission deadline is Tuesday, September 30.

Exhibitions at the Community Center

The Commission is soliciting proposals for exhibits at the Takoma Park Community Center. Exhibits may feature the work of a group of artists or craftsmen or the work of an individual. They may highlight the culture of a select ethnic group, the work of a poet or novelist, historical events and other arts and humanities related subjects. For more information on how you can showcase your work, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission.

Arts and Humanities Day

Would you like to share your interests and talents with the community? The Commission will be celebrating the "creative spirit of our community" on Saturday, October 18, when it hosts its second annual Arts and Humanities Day Celebration. Planned activities will include lectures, film screenings, hands on workshops, performances, readings, classes, an art exhibition and much more. If you are interested in becoming involved in organizing the event, wish to perform, or would like to host an activity, please contact the Commission.

Holiday Art Sale

The Commission's popular Holiday Art Sale – now in its third year – is scheduled for Saturday, December 13. If you would like to reserve a space at the Community Center for the sale of your work, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission. Additional registration information is available online. Deadline for registration is November 10.

Exhibitions Curator

The Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting applications for an experienced individual to coordinate exhibition activities at the Community Center. Responsibilities include the solicitation and review of exhibit proposals, assisting exhibitors in logistical activities and curating one show of curatorial and community interest. Applicants should have experience working on exhibition projects and coordinating with volunteers. The selected applicant would serve one year. The directorship is not a paid position, though an honorarium of \$2,000 will be awarded. Deadline for applications is Tuesday, September 30.

For more information on these and other activities please contact the Commission at

Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912
301-891-7224
AHC@takomagov.org
www.takomaparkmd.gov

"Celebrating the Creative Spirit of Our Community"

Jazz Fest Calls for Volunteers

The Takoma Park JazzFest just had its most successful show, this past June 15, adding a second stage and tripling average attendance. Festival organizers now need to find a few dedicated people to join their board or volunteer in some way to help Jazz Fest continue to grow and become even more of a community asset. If you love the arts, especially jazz, please consider joining the Jazz Fest by contacting Producer Bruce Krohmer at 301-838-8909 or jazzybruze@aol.com.

Free Rides to the Crossroads Farmers Market

The City, in partnership with the Crossroads Farmers Market, will begin offering free bus rides to and from the Crossroads Market this month. Rides will be available, free of charge, on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Planned stops include the Takoma Park Community Center, Victory Tower and, on Maple Avenue, the Park Ritchie and Franklin Apartment complexes. The service will begin Wednesday, August 6. For additional information on this new service please call 301-891-7100.

African Music Comes to Market



Cheick Hamala Diabate

A world master of West African and Malian music will perform August 6 at the Crossroads Farmers Market. Cheick Hamala Diabate and his ensemble will perform from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the market on Holton Lane, across from the Langley Park Post Office.

Cheick Hamala has an international performing career, using the ngoni, a Malian stringed lute and ancestor to the banjo. Hamala has performed at the

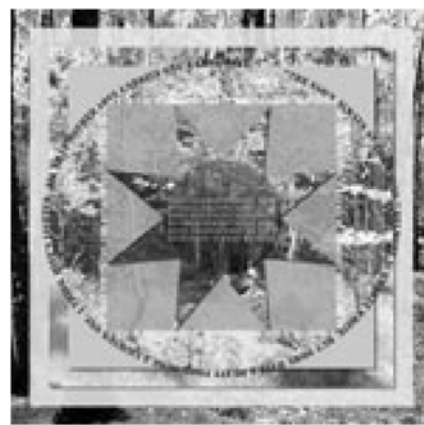
Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He is a West African historian in the Griot tradition, and shares the oral history, music and song of his culture in his performances. His recent album in collaboration with American banjo player Bob Carlin was nominated for a Grammy.

Hamala mastered the ngoni at an early age. His music reflects the history of an art form that dates to the formation of the Great Malian Empire.

The Crossroads Farmers Market is in its second year. It is located just south of University Avenue on Holton Lane, and open Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m., through October 29. Cheick Hamala's performance at the Crossroads is free and open to the public.

i W m O a R g D e Fusion of Poetry and Art

an exhibition of collaborations by seven visual art and poet pairs
curated by David Fogel and Anne Becker



— CLOSING RECEPTION —

Thursday, August 14, 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Dance, music and poetry by show participants and guest artists
Atrium Gallery, Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD

— EXHIBITION HOURS —

Monday through Friday 8:30 AM - 10 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM
Sunday 2 - 6 PM

MP3 players with readings by the featured poets available

www.takomaparkmd.gov

Man Arrested for Pedestrian Hit and Run

A woman who was out walking her dog lay unresponsive in the middle of New Hampshire Avenue, in the middle of the night on the Fourth of July, struck down by a driver who never looked back. The woman survived, with great bodily harm, and is still in the hospital with extensive injuries.

However, her dog, Kyra, a Dalmatian, was not so lucky. She died at the scene. The suspect did not stop to render aid or identify himself as is required by law; he just took off.

So did the Takoma Park Police Department, in a direction that led them directly to the hit and run driver. It was helpful that this driver also left behind the tag from his vehicle.

There are laws in every state that make it illegal to leave the scene of an accident when there are injuries to a person, property damage, as well as injury to a domestic

animal. However, drivers still try to flee for various reasons hoping to "get away" with it. Some of those reasons, according to law enforcement officials, are because the drivers (1) drive while impaired, (2) drive without a license, (3) drive a stolen vehicle, (4) panic and/or (5) fear going to prison. In this case, there was no getting away regardless of the reason.

Investigators from the Takoma Park Criminal Investigations Division received a tip from Prince George's County Police that the tag, belonging to a black Honda, had been towed back in June from the suspect's housing development in Langley Park. Detectives responded to that location and discovered that the driver of the vehicle did reside there. They located the suspect, Antonio Lopez-Lopez, 24, and arrested him accordingly. The vehicle was later located in Beltsville, Maryland, and impounded for a thorough pro-

cessing.

In many cases, it proves difficult to locate a driver of a hit and run incident, but in this case Takoma Park's persistence paid off. Lopez-Lopez was charged with (1) Failure to immediately return and remain at the scene of the accident involving bodily injury, (2) Failure of driver involved to render reasonable assistance to injured person, (3) Failure of vehicle driver in accident to report bodily injury to nearest police and (4) Driver failure to notify appropriate police after motor vehicle strikes and injures domestic animal.

"It is the most cold-blooded thing you have, a hit and run accident in the middle of the night, someone who would hit a human being and a dog and drive off leaving them there," said Chief Ronald Ricucci. To close such a case was especially meaningful.



BY CATHERINE PLEVY

Takoma-Langley Crime Initiative Launched

In response to requests from residents and business owners in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads area, Chief Ronald Ricucci established a new crime initiative last month from June 16 to 20, intensifying police service in the area in order to target criminal activity, suspicious persons and traffic violators of all kinds. The detail ran from 7 to 11 p.m. each night, and was designed to address "quality of life" issues, reduce crime and make the area safe for residents.

As a result of the initiative, the following enforcement actions were taken: three state citations, including two traffic tickets and one safety equipment repair order to

fix equipment on a vehicle; five field interview reports during which police questioned suspicious persons; eleven warnings for traffic violations; 20 incident reports including arrests and vehicle impounds; two adult in-view arrests for crimes that occurred in the officer's presence; three juvenile arrests for crimes committed by juveniles in the officer's presence; and five hours of foot patrol. All arrests involved controlled dangerous substance (CDS).

The Langley Park initiative will continue on unspecified dates and times, to continue to address quality of life concerns, reduce crime and make the area safe for residents and visitors.

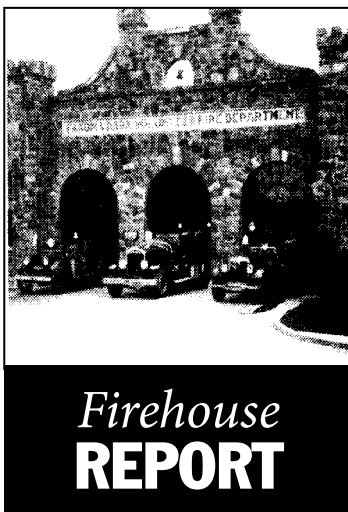
Child Safety Seat Law

Effective June 30, 2008 the state has mandated child safety seat use up until age eight. Every child under the age of eight must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat, unless the child is 4 feet 9 inches tall or taller, or weighs more than 65 pounds.

Every child from eight to 16 years of age who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.

A child safety seat includes infant seats, convertible seats, forward facing seats, booster seats or other Federally Approved Safety Device.

As of June 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 351 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,415 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,766 this year. Totals for 2007 were 475 and 1,467, respectively, for a total



BY JIM JARBOE

of 1,942, representing a decrease of 176 incidents.

Fire & Burn Prevention

Fifty-seven percent of fire and burn-related injuries occur in the home. You can protect your family:

* **Lower the water heater temperature** - Check the setting of your water heater and make sure it's set no higher than 120 degrees F.

* **Put working smoke alarms on every level** - Install smoke alarms on each level of your home - especially in or near sleeping areas. Test each smoke alarm every month by pushing the test button until you hear a loud noise. Replace smoke alarm batteries with new ones at least once each year.

* **Plan and practice a home fire drill** - Know how to escape a fire. Find two exits out of every room - the door and possibly a window. Choose an outside meeting place in front of the home. Practice your plan twice a year with all members of the family. Be prepared!

Maryland's Child Passenger Safety Law Has Changed (Effective June 30, 2008)

* Every child under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat, unless the child is 4 feet, 9 inches or taller, or weighs more than 65 pounds.

* Every child from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.

Protect your children as they ride! The back seat is the safest. Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat. Questions? Call Maryland Kids In Seats (KISS) at 1-800-370-SEAT or 410- 767-6016. Or visit them online at www.mdkiss.org

We Need Space!

Do you have an empty garage for use? With the new fire station coming, the Takoma Park VFD needs a place to store toys for their annual "Toys for Needy Children." This year will mark the 28th year in providing toys for children throughout the area. Hopefully, we can get a place by October 1. We currently have some boxes of toys in storage at the fire station that need to be moved out. Please contact Pam

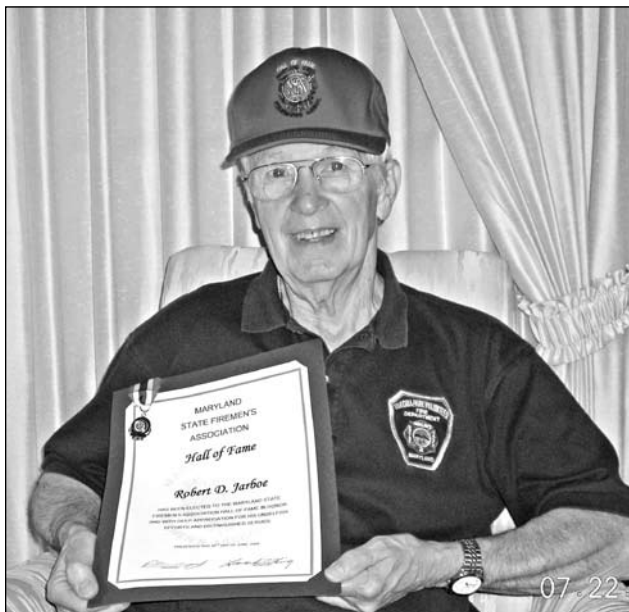
Taylor or Jim Jarboe at 301-270-8209. Thank you.

Babysitters Training

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a six-week class, starting on Monday, September 15 from 7 to 9 p.m., to be held at the City Community Center. The following topics will be covered: fire safety, infant and child care, first aid, CPR, personal safety and examination. Ages: 11 to 13 years old. If interested, contact the City Recreation Department to register. The class is free.

TPLC 2008-2009 Officers

On June 17, 2008 the Takoma Park Lions Club held its Installation Night to induct the incoming officers: Mike Bigler, president; Keith Van Ness, immediate past president; John Sullivan, first vice president; Jim Jarboe, second vice president; Paul McGarvey, third vice president; Sherman Cohen, secretary; Mike Hall, treasurer; John Mitton, Jr., lion tamer; Jorge Alfaro, tail twister; Ray Messick, membership chairman; Carlos Alfaro, director; and Brian Geraci, director.



TPVFD Life Member Robert Jarboe, with his certificate signifying his induction into the Maryland State Firemen's Association Hall of Fame.



Lion's Club President Mike Bigler receives the president's pin from Immediate Past President Keith Van Ness.

Listen to the Music

The Library has many new and exciting additions to its collection of music on CD. Check out these and many other selections during the summer:

Coldplay – **“Viva La Vida..or Death and All His Friends”** (Chris Martin’s popular band and their newest hit)

Al Green – **“Lay it Down”** with Anthony Hamilton (R& B from a master)

Joshua Bell – **“Voice of the Violin,”** featuring the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. (“All of the pieces collected...originated with the human voice in mind.” – Joshua Bell)

Amy Winehouse – **“Back to Black”** (Winner of five Grammy Awards)

“Once” – Music from the motion picture written by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova (includes the Oscar winner for Best Original Song “Falling Slowly”)

KD Lang – **“Watershed”** (Original compositions by a master composer and vocalist)

Portishead – **“Third”** (Long-awaited, challenging and riveting!)

Mavis Staples – **“We’ll Never Turn Back,”** (Along with co-composer Ry Cooder, she explores the legacy of the civil rights movement through the lens of her own experiences.)

Diana Krall – **“Live in Paris”** (An impeccable live recording capturing the passion and intimacy of this Grammy Award winner’s concert performances.)

Gigi – **“Gold and Wax”** (Featuring “Ethiopia’s gift to the world” Ejigayehu Shibawbaw.)

Robert Plant and Alison Krauss – **“Raising Sand”** (Called ‘one of the best albums of the year’ – MOJO)

Emmanuel Jal – **“Warchild”** (This native of Kenya draws upon his experiences as a child soldier, a

MUSIC

continues on page 11

LIBRARY Briefs



Reviews of Good New Summer Books for Kids

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Celebrate the joys of summer with children’s books. Come to the library and check out some of these new kids’ books, all with a summer theme:

“Spectacular” is the best description for “Wave,” the new picture book by author/artist Suzy Lee. Using a limited palette of black, white and blue, Lee vividly captures a young girl’s reactions as she plays in the waves at the beach. There are no words in this book, but Lee’s pictures speak volumes as they show the little girl exuberantly splashing in the waves, then bravely sticking out her tongue as a huge wave crests near her, and finally discovering the shells left on the beach as the wave ebbs away. All the while, her encounter with the waves is humorously mirrored by a flock of five playful gulls.

In depicting the young protagonist’s glee, Lee masterfully makes use of the picture book format, building up to a climax at which the waves take over a two-page spread. Overall, “Wave” is one of those memorable picture books that can easily sustain repeated readings. (Ages 3-7).

James and Eamon are spending a summer week together, eating and sleeping at Eamon’s grandparents’ house and going to a nearby nature camp during the day. The grandparents are excited about extending the boys’ camp experience with maps, facts and an offer to see a penguin exhibit at the local museum. The boys, however, are most

interested in having fun – playing video-games, eating mountains of banana waffles and roughhousing with each other.

In “A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever,” author/artist Marla Frazee comically spotlights the contrast between the kind of summer activities well-meaning adults plan for kids, and the kinds of things kids really want to do. Frazee’s illustrations further broaden the humor, and add emotional punch to the book’s final story twist. (Ages 4-7)

Carl – every family’s dream canine babysitter – is back in a new adventure, “Carl’s Summer Vacation,” written and illustrated by Alexandra Day. As Carl’s many fans know, he’s a Rottweiler who often is charged with guarding a toddler named Madeleine during her naptimes. When Madeleine’s parents aren’t looking, however, Carl and Madeleine sneak out to have the time of their lives. In this new book, dog and girl paddle and then overturn a canoe (Carl, of course, has first ensured that Madeleine wears her life jacket), frolic at a playground and then snitch some snacks from some unsuspecting picnickers. They head back just in time to pretend to be waking up from their afternoon siesta. As usual, Madeleine’s parents are clueless, wondering why Carl and their daughter are too tired to watch the fireworks display after such a long nap. Day’s story is pure fantasy, while her watercolor

REVIEWS

continues on page 11

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

AUGUST 2008

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. You can register online by going to 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.

Twosies –A program for toddlers ages 24-36 months and their grown-ups Wednesdays, 10 a.m. at the Library. Space is limited, so you must register.

Comic Art Quest

Monday August 4 – Friday August 8

9 a.m. – Noon

Learn how to produce your own online stories. Note: Program is full; waiting list only. Please register.

Banned Books Club

Monday, August 4

7:30 p.m. For kids grade 6 and up. Our book is “To Kill A Mockingbird” by Harper Lee. Please register.

Successful Interviewing

Thursday, August 7

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.

Bilingual Circle Time

Saturday, August 9, 10:30 a.m. Come sing some songs, do some fingerplays and hear a story or two. This program is perfect for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups. Please register.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, August 18

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!



LIBRARY Briefs

On Saturday, August 9 at 10:30 a.m., we’re offering the second in what we

hope will be a series of monthly Saturday morning programs for families. For this half-hour program, we’ll be presenting a bilingual Saturday Circle Time filled with songs, fingerplays, rhymes and a story or two. Come join children’s librarian Karen MacPherson and assisoyant Lucia Acin Andian for this fun program. To register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

The babies are back! Our “Lapsit” program resumes in the month of September,

and each Wednesday morning, from 10 a.m.-10:30 a.m., we’ll present a program of songs, rhymes and stories just right for little ones from infancy through 12 months. Space is limited, so registration is required. Registration begins August 1. To register, please go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

More than 200 kids have signed up for our 2008 SummerQuest reading program, making it the most popular Summer-Quest program we’ve ever offered. This

year, students from three local public schools – Takoma Park Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary and East Silver Spring Elementary – are officially participating. We’ve also got a number of private school students and homeschoolers who are taking part in this year’s reading adventure. Come into the Children’s Room and check out the “big board” with its multitude of characters – each representing a young reader. We’ll be hosting our annual “End of SummerQuest” party in early September – stayed tuned for more details.

Takoma Park Readies to Celebrate National Night Out



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

On August 15, Takoma Park will celebrate National Night Out at three locations, where neighbors, police and government officials will come into the streets to talk about safety and build community.

Takoma-Langley Crossroads

The Maryland International Corridor CSAFE, in collaboration with various organizations and agencies, will host National Out Night at Takoma-Langley Crossroads from 6 to 9 p.m., at 8011 New Hampshire Avenue (in the parking lot of the former Toys R Us building). Representatives from Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, Takoma Park, non-profits and local businesses will be on hand, and activities will include music, raffles, games, face painting, moon

bounce and other children’s activities. Free child identification services will be available. A candlelight vigil for crime victims will begin at 8:30. For information, call 301-439-0971 or 301-439-0972.

Essex House: 7777 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

While the City of Takoma Park Police will be participating in all events, they are the lead organizers and hosts for the National Night Out at Essex House, from 6 to 9 p.m. Activities will include food, music, games, face painting, moon bounce, fire department giveaways, children’s activities, officers on bikes and a K-9 demonstration, plus free child identification services. For information call 301-891-7142 or 240-338-2901.

Metro Station

SafeTakoma, Inc., a cross-jurisdictional, community-focused crime prevention initiative supported by the Takoma Park Police Department and the Metropolitan Police Department of D.C., will host National Night Out at the Takoma Metro Station from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Police from three jurisdictions will attend, providing commuters with safety information. Safe Takoma expects to pass out whistles as part of a pilot program for commuter safety. Also expected are food, ice cream and children’s activities. For more information contact rmiller@safetakoma.org.

MUSIC

continued from page 10

Christian and an aspiring song writer and musician in England)

Eric Clapton – **“The Complete Clapton”** (Songs from 1968 to 2006)

Herbie Hancock. **“River – the Joni Letters”** (The 2008 Grammy Album of the Year award winner)

Bon Iver – **“For Emma, Forever Ago”** (Off-beat alternative rock by this Wisconsin band received rave

reviews from the *New York Times*)

Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra – **“New Impossibilities”** (Captures the musical culmination of an extraordinary yearlong Silk Road Chicago celebration)

Toumani Diabate – **“The Mande Variations”** (The celebrated kora player from Mali, he here releases his long-awaited second solo album of original compositions)

REVIEWS

continued from page 10

illustrations are beautiful.

A quartet of new books depict the ups and downs of summer camp:

In “Froggy Goes to Camp,” author Jonathan London and illustrator Frank Remkiewicz tell what happens when the irrepressible Froggy heads off to Camp Run-A-Muck. Fans of Froggy’s previous adventures will love this new book, while those who haven’t yet met Froggy are in for a treat. (Ages 3-6)

Buster, the pup who learned to live with his family’s new cat in “Buster,” makes a triumphant return in “Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp.” Author/illustrator Denise Fleming uses her trademark pulp paper illustrations

to wonderful effect here, while her story – told in short bursts – gives readers a sense of summer camp fun and challenges. (Ages 4-7)

Amelia, the cartoon-drawing, journal-keeping heroine who stars in the popular series by Marissa Moss, gets an important lesson in friendship in “Amelia’s Itchy-Twitchy Lovey-Dovey Summer at Camp Mosquito.” (Note: “Amelia” fans also will enjoy her other new book, “Amelia’s Guide to Babysitting.” (Both ages 10-13).

Despite somewhat stereotyped characters and a predictable plot, teen readers still are likely to enjoy “Huge.” In this novel, Sasha Paley details what happens when two girls –one desperate to lose weight and the other wanting to snub her health nut parents by gaining weight – meet at Wellness Canyon camp. (Ages 12 up)

August Recess Means More Music

As the City Council will be in recess throughout August, look for more of your favorite music on City TV during live and replayed Council meeting times including Monday and Wednesday evenings as well as Friday morning and Tuesdays at midnight.

New programming released this month

will include Dixieland Direct, BlueSky5, Squeeze Bayou and Seth Kibel and the Bay Jazz Project. See also early summer concerts from the Function at the Junction series, including the Pan Masters Steel Orchestra, Billy Coulter Band and Lea and Her All-Star band.

CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - AUGUST 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	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	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			Takoma Park City TV Local Events)		
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	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
8:00 PM					Takoma Park Folk Festival		
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Government Focus		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Coffeehouse
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM		CaribNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse		Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	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 Web: www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable

Takoma Snapshots in August will feature:

- Chief Speaks Out: Crime Prevention
- Takoma Jazz Fest
- New Hampshire Avenue Mural Dedication Ceremony
- Police Department Awards Ceremony

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 FIOS 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 program descriptions, times and more information.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are also available on DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

A FABULOUS FOURTH!

Once again, Takoma Park showed off its special brand of Americana during the annual Independence Day Parade. Floats and marching groups showed a diverse mix of ethnic dancing and music, political causes and campaigns, and small town groups from preschools and scouts to belly dancers and baseball players. As usual the day wound up with fireworks at the Middle School. Photos by Lonni Moffet



POOL PLANS

continued from page 1

school officials, indicating his apparent willingness to take on the project.

If ACS becomes the administrator, it would decide on the programs that will be made available as well as fees and hours. If it does not become administrator, the project would stall while organizers search for another service provider.

The other main issue regarding the pool's opening is the uncertainty of just how much repair work is required and whether some of the repairs can be funded out of the POS allocation.

The most critical mechanisms to be examined are the boiler, which heats the water, and the Pool Paks, which also play a role in heating the pool, in addition to removing excess humidity out of the air in pool space to avoid mold and other problems.

According to Robin Riley, division chief of the Montgomery County Recreation Department, the Public Schools maintenance staff has indicated that the boiler will need to be replaced.

"It has been a year or so since the pool has been open, but when it was open they were having problems with the boiler," said Riley. "Temperatures would go up and down, so the feeling of the school maintenance staff was that it will need to be replaced."

As for the Pool Paks, Riley said they may be able to be repaired, although that would likely only offer a temporary solution.

"Just like with a car, you can repair parts for awhile, but eventually you need to replace them," she said.

Riley said that there is also a need to check the pumps, the chlorinators, the surge valves and all of the other equipment associated with the pool.

"Until we put water in the pool and start flipping switches, we won't know the extent of the problems," said Riley.

The issue of repairing vs. replacing key equipment is important because the money allocated through Program Open Space can only be used for capital improvements -- replacement -- and not for repairs.

Ludlow said that if the decision is made to repair rather than replace the boiler or Pool Paks, the city's contribution will have to come from other sources, as determined by the city council.

For all the uncertainty, the project is progressing rapidly. Riley said that Recreation Department employees are meeting with contractors interested in taking on the repair project. In addition, they are working with Piney Branch Elementary School officials to schedule a time to come in and assess the equipment and the overall condition of the pool.

Once the assessment is complete, Riley is optimistic that the pool can open sooner rather than later.

"When an outdoor pool closes for the winter, it usually takes about a month to get everything ready," she said. "Given that this pool has been closed about a year, I think we could turn it around [and have it ready] in about a month and a half [once all the equipment has been assessed]," she said.

Depending on ACS acceptance and timetable, that could mean that Takoma Park residents will be celebrating the holidays with a plunge -- or going back to the drawing board.

DAY LABOR CENTER

continued from page 1

Finding a Home

The temporary day laborer center was established as a result of a formal agreement signed in May 2001 to have day laborers not wait for contractors at the shopping center located at the southeastern corner of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. The agreement was signed by the City of Takoma Park, CASA of Maryland, the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (which is the business association in the area) and the shopping center owner.

The City of Takoma Park searched for an alternate site close to the New Hampshire Avenue/University Boulevard intersection for the day laborers, but could only find a site at 6530 New Hampshire Avenue, a mile and a half south of the more convenient gathering place. The City leased a parking lot, trailer and porta-johns, and paid CASA staff to manage the site. The temporary center never provided the more extensive services that CASA provides at its Silver Spring, Wheaton and Gaithersburg locations.

After the property at 6530 New Hampshire Avenue was sold in 2005, the City moved the trailer to the intersection of Sligo Mill Road and Sheridan Street, a less visible location, but again the only site available. Discussions had been in the works between CASA and

Prince George's County about establishing a permanent center in Prince George's County near the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard, but progress had been delayed. While awaiting the new site, the City continued to operate the temporary site, but the new location attracted even fewer workers and contractors.

Covering Costs

Montgomery County began contributing to the cost of running the center in FY 2004. Last year, Montgomery County began paying the City of Takoma Park the full \$70,000 cost of funding the center. City staff continue to be responsible for maintaining the facility and general oversight.

Finally, in February of 2008, plans for the new Prince George's County facility were underway and CASA informed Takoma Park and Montgomery County officials that the new center would be open by June 1, 2008. For that reason, neither Montgomery County nor Takoma Park budgeted funds for the temporary center for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2008.

However, there were delays to the new center's opening so, in April, an urgent request was made by CASA and the City of Takoma Park to Montgomery County to provide three additional months' worth of funding, to keep the temporary center open through September. Montgomery County agreed to the request.

At the same time, the trailer at the temporary location was being repeatedly vandalized by people breaking into it at night. City maintenance staff and police officers devoted a great deal of attention to the site, but damage to the trailer increased. It was clear that \$10,000 in additional funding would be needed to repair the trailer by the end of its leasing period and that funds would be needed to ensure a smooth transition for the workers and contractors when the temporary site closed. The Takoma Park City Council voted to allocate \$10,000 to help pay for the repair and transition activities.

Between the increased costs and the fact that no opening date is certain yet for the new Prince George's County facility at the New Hampshire Avenue/University Boulevard intersection, a determination was made by the City of Takoma Park that the temporary center would need to close as of July 31. This date allows for adequate notice of the center's closing to the business owner where the day laborers were allowed to wait, the trailer company, and other providers, and allows the City and County to keep expenses within the amount budgeted for the center for FY09.

In the over seven years of the operation of the temporary day laborer center, the City of Takoma Park has spent more than \$290,000, and Montgomery County has spent \$205,000, on the facility.