

# WSSC Construction Closes Sligo, Tangles Neighborhood Traffic

By VIRGINIA MYERS

**T**raffic in Takoma Park has been re-routed and backed up for weeks as the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) replaces aging water and sewer mains in several neighborhoods and along popular through-routes in the City. Some roads will clear this month; others will be under some form of construction or in-completion until August. The work is underway to address repeated breaks in the water and sewer system, which includes sections that are 65 years old. Last winter, three major breaks in Takoma Park shut off water and roads for days; bursting water pipes throughout the Washington metro area broke records in 2007, with 2,129 breaks reported.

Currently, WSSC is replacing .3 miles of water mains along Sligo Creek Parkway between Jackson and Heather, as well as two sewer mains. The contract is for 180 days, but WSSC has committed to only closing the parkway for 90 days. Randy Windsor, contract manager for WSSC, expects the project will be completed by February 2009.

For most of that time the parkway will be totally closed to through-traffic, though access for the residents and vehicles servicing the residents is available. Residents who live on Cherry, Colby, Aspen Avenue, Aspen Court and Hayward will have complete access to their homes, as will delivery vehicles and school buses.

Elsewhere in the city, similar work is underway:

On Elm Avenue from 410 to Pine, Columbia Avenue between Pine and Hickory and Pine Avenue, pipe work should be completed this month. Paving will take longer, but



Photos by Patrick Rittenhouse

**Sligo Creek Parkway will be closed to through traffic for 90 days, while WSSC repairs and replaces water and sewer lines.**

if weather cooperates contractors hope to complete it by December.

On Lincoln, Grant, Lee, and Sherman Avenues from Carroll to Maple, and Wildwood, Erie, and Westmoreland, work is proceeding behind schedule, but completion is expected in December.

Carroll Avenue and Chaney Drive will not be finished until August 2009. Work there is in two sections: between Flower and Central, and between Lincoln and Westmoreland.

Streets that have been completed but still

have some concrete restoration to be finished are Poplar Avenue from Elm to New Hampshire, Circle Avenue off Poplar, Grant Avenue from Maple to Carroll and Lincoln Avenue from Carroll to Jackson.

Regarding pavement, WSSC will install permanent patches once pipe work is finished. There are no plans to resurface the streets out of their normal cycle, with the

**SLIGO TRAFFIC**  
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## Crossroads Streetscape Nears Completion

By SUSAN HOLLIDAY

**A**s drivers inch through traffic snarls caused by roadway construction around New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard, many wonder what the crews are building and when the backups will end.

The end of the current Crossroads roadwork is nigh – mid-October, according to the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). The goal for the new streetscape: improved pedestrian safety in one of the deadliest areas for vehicle-pedestrian collisions in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Over the last 10 years, 29 pedestrians died on University Boulevard in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, states an April 2008 report from the Coalition for Smarter Growth. Make that at

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# Council Begins to Set Priorities for City

By VIRGINIA MYERS

**A**fter nine months of discussion and consideration, the City Council has outlined three priorities to guide City policy and operation – but the details remain unclear as members wrestle with how general concepts like sustainability and livability should be turned into action. Charged with creating the priorities in January, the Council in July narrowed its focus to three concepts: sustainability; livable community; and engaged, responsive and service-oriented organization. But agreeing on actionable items under each of these broad categories is more challenging.

Two drafts, one written by Councilmembers Colleen Clay (Ward 2), Reuben Snipper (Ward 5) and Terry Seamens (Ward 4) and distributed in July; the other written by

Councilmember Josh Wright (Ward 1) and distributed in September, are being used as a launching pad for further discussion at the October 13 City Council meeting. The Council will then create a document to present for staff input, and intends to have final priorities in place to guide the budget process in spring.

The priority project began just after the resident survey was analyzed, so that it could reflect resident input, says City Manager Barbara Matthews. Even in their preliminary form, she says, the priorities "do reflect a lot of the themes of the resident survey."

### Two drafts packed with possibilities

When Councilmembers Clay, Snipper and Seamens got together to put some ideas on paper, they came up with a matrix that

outlines each major concept – sustainability, livable community, and engaged, responsive and service-oriented organization – with corresponding priority tasks for each of 11 departments in the City. So, for example, under sustainability, the matrix suggests that the administrative department work to resolve the county rebate problem (which would address financial sustainability) and in a separate initiative that the recreation department institute a cost recovery program so that class and activity fees would cover operational costs. Under the service-oriented priority, the matrix lists an online payment system for the finance department to set up, and a new environmental projects coordinator for Public Works.

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PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR\*

**Monday, October 6** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, October 13** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, October 14** - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, October 14** - Committee on the Environment meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Foysythia Room)

**Tuesday, October 14** - Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee, 7:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

**Thursday, October 16** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, October 20** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, October 21** - Safe Roadways Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Wednesday, October 22** - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Monday, October 27** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, October 28** - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

\*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).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

#### TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

There are positions for Takoma Park residents 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)).

Committee on the Environment (vacancies)  
Emergency Preparedness Committee (one vacancy)  
Ethics Commission (vacancies)  
Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)  
Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (vacancies)  
Noise Control Board (vacancies)  
Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)  
Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (vacancies)  
Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)  
Tree Commission (one vacancy)

# 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).

### September 2 - Special Session

Resolution 2008-63 was adopted, approving the IMPACT Silver Spring "IMPACT in the Schools" Project

### September 8 - Regular Meeting

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-36 was adopted,

awarding a contract for the purchase of two replacement trucks for the Public Works Department

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-37 was adopted, authorizing the purchase of a large truck tire changer for the Public Works Department

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

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The document is full of ideas, from specific initiatives like creating three crime prevention youth programs that coordinate the efforts of the police and recreation departments, the library and a local non-profit; to more general directives such as "provide support and resources for the arts community with the intention of developing a self-supporting arts and cultural environment."

Josh Wright's draft is similarly rich with possibilities. He breaks each concept into assumptions, strategies, priority projects, and key indicators, which would measure progress. For example, under sustainability, assumptions that the City will continue to have a limited number of revenue sources and the economy will not have a speedy recovery, are followed by strategies such as increasing development with retail, commercial and denser residential projects, to improve the tax base; a corresponding priority project is development along New Hampshire Avenue. For environmental sustainability, Wright suggests encouraging development that meets green building standards as a "strategy," and planning for the City government to purchase 100 percent renewable energy by 2010 as a "priority project."

With so many suggestions on the table, some Councilmembers are quick to say they are anxious for staff input, to see which are feasible. "We may think that there are 20 priorities under sustainable community, and then when staff gets to them, it turns out that five can be done and 15 can't," says Dan Robinson. "I'm looking for staff feedback. We can't ask staff to do a whole lot of things unless staff feels they can do those things."

Balancing staff resources and expertise with ambitious council directives has been tricky. On the one hand, City staff is anxious for a set of guidelines; on the other, too much instruction from City Council can feel like micromanagement. Colleen Clay blames tension between council and staff for having delayed the priority-making process. "I would say there is a difference of opinion among the different entities – councilmembers, city manager, and staff — about exactly how [a city manager/council government] should function," she says.

Even bringing councilmembers together has been challenging, she adds. "There's seven councilmembers and they have differing opinions," she says,

## Sample Priority Proposals

The following appear on both working drafts. To see the drafts, go to [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) and click on the City Council page, September 15 meeting agenda.

- Resolve tax duplication issues with the county
- Reduce environmental footprint
- Cross-department youth crime prevention programs
- Increase commercial development
- Proactive code enforcement for major health and safety violations
- Maximize use of recreational facilities
- Maximize use of volunteers by City government
- Encourage interdepartmental cooperation and collaboration
- Online payment for City services and fees

adding that a old guard/new guard dynamic sometimes divides the group between those who are comfortable with programs as they are, with a few tweaks, and those who would like to re-examine their very existence without encountering what Clay calls a "sacred cow."

Councilmember Doug Barry (Ward 6) sees the council as the place ideas are generated, and the staff, which he feels manages the city "very well," as the place where the ideas are put into action. "We [councilmembers] do have a kind of unique perspective," he says. "We can point out ways to collaborate across functions, new programs to consider, different kind of emphases . . . That's really our role, not to get down and say is this belly dance program working the way it should, and why are you going on this field trip instead of another field trip. . . these things are counterproductive and our advice and guidance should not be at that level of detail. . . We provide the big picture and

the overall expectation and the manager and employees go out and execute it."

The discussion October 13 will likely include councilmembers' individual priorities, which range from moving the city back into a position of environmental leadership (Seamens) to fully staffing the code enforcement office (Barry) and a more equitable system for providing affordable housing (Clay). With all that's on the table, the discussion is expected to take significant time – Barry estimates another two months. But there's been a start.

"We've got a direction and ideology that everybody can buy into," says Clay. "The challenge is going to be . . . that the things that we pick [as priorities] work together for the city to come up with outcomes. Because if you go in seven different directions with your money, you're not going to have much of an impact."

Says Barry, "The devil is in the details."



### Speak Up!

Mayor Bruce Williams encourages residents to meet with him over their concerns regarding City business during regular office hours: Tuesdays, 2 -5 p.m., by appointment only, in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, and Tuesdays, 5 -7 p.m., for walk-ins.

Walk-ins are requested to check in at the reception desk on the main floor.

For appointments, contact Peggye Washington, 301-891-7230 or [peggyew@takomagov.org](mailto:peggyew@takomagov.org).

# Geocaching Comes to Takoma Park

By Rick Henry

**M**embers of the City Council are hoping that a recent resolution they passed turns out to be a “cache” cow – or maybe just a fun way to get to know the City of Takoma Park.

At the September 15 City Council meeting, members voted unanimously to enlist the city as a participant in the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Geocache Trail, a new initiative designed to build tourism and economic development in Maryland's cities and towns by taking advantage of a fast-growing recreational activity.

*“What’s really fun is you feel like you’re a treasure hunter.”*

— Dan Hutton

That activity, geocaching, has been classified as a kind of technological treasure hunt, whereby participants use hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to plot map coordinates and locate the treasure or “cache” that individuals and organizations have hidden. Each cache contains, at a minimum, a log book inside a sealed container. Once they locate the cache, the participants sign the logbook and then share information about their search on the internet.

However, caches may also contain trinkets, pamphlets or any information the cache maintainer chooses. The allure for a city or town such as Takoma Park is that the information placed in the cache may be historical or cultural (tidbits about the jurisdiction) or promotional (coupons to local businesses, etc...) Either way, the premise is that geocachers, who are always looking to explore new caches, will come for the cache, learn about the area and, hopefully, spend some time and money there.



Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse

**Soon geocaching enthusiasts like Takoma Park resident Aaron Kozloff will be able to pore over maps and use GPS devices to find hidden caches around the City.**

The cost for hosting a cache is less than \$30.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for cities and towns across the state,” says Linda Burrell, manager of member relations and education for the Maryland Municipal League. “There is such little cost for them to increase their visibility.”

Burrell said MML's Board of Directors was looking at ways to help its member entities increase their visibility and tourism and got in touch with the Maryland Geocaching Society, an organization that coordinates geocaching activities throughout the state. Using a model that had been implemented in Pennsylvania, the two groups initiated

the Maryland Municipal League Geo Trail. The trail consists of the 11 MML districts. Any number of municipalities may participate in each district, however, as one of the first two in the Montgomery County district to sign on to the resolution, Takoma Park will be provided with a special designated stamp, two cache boxes, two log books and assistance from members of the Geocaching Society in setting up the cache.

Once the cache is in place, expect people like Aaron Kozloff to come calling. Kozloff, 17, is a Takoma Park resident and student at Montgomery Blair High School who has geocached several times. He has located two caches in Silver Spring and one in Takoma Park.

“It’s cool because you can walk by a place 1,000 times and never know something [like a cache] is there,” he said. “They are in normal locations, but only certain people know about them. It really gives you a different perspective.”

Dan Hutton, 30, learned about geocaching at an outdoor education training for Montgomery County teachers (a Takoma Park resident, he teaches at Takoma Park Elementary School). Having tried it at the Smith Center, a camp where sixth graders

participate in several days of outdoor education activities each year, Hutton tried to find a couple of caches in Sligo Creek Park – with mixed results. But finding the cache is only part of the fun, he says. “What’s really fun is you feel like you’re a treasure hunter,” he says. “It’s kind of like fishing. The act of going out there and walking in the woods is really fun.”

Kozloff and Hutton have plenty of company, and not just in Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland or the United States. Geocaching is an international undertaking.

At the September 15 meeting, Council member Reuben Snipper (Ward 5) recounted how he was in Costa Rica earlier this year and met people who were geocaching.

He enthusiastically endorsed the resolution as did all of the other members as the resolution passed unanimously.

According to Burrell, the MML hopes to debut the trail by January 1, 2009.

Interested in Geocaching? Visit <http://www.geocaching.com> for all of the information you could ever need about geocaching. Visit <http://www.mdgps.org> for information on geocaching in Maryland.

## Deadline to register to vote in the November 4 general election

The registration deadline to vote in the November 4, 2008 general election is Tuesday, October 14. For more information, call 240-777-VOTE (8683) or visit the Montgomery County Board of Elections web page at [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org)

## Fecha y hora de cierre para registrarse para votar en la elección general es Martes, 14 de Octubre de 2008.

La fecha y hora de cierre para poder votar en la elección general el 4 de Noviembre de 2008 es el Martes, 14 de Octubre. Para más información llame al 240-777-VOTE (8683) o visite la página web de la Oficina de Elecciones del Condado de Montgomery al [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org).



**THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER**

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, will be considered for publication. Letters to the Editor and all other materials may be submitted to [tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org) or mailed to Takoma Park Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. 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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## Public Housing Waiting List Opens Sept. 29 to Senior and Disabled Persons

**T**he Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), Montgomery County's Housing Authority, will open the waiting list for public housing for seniors and disabled persons on Monday, September 29, 2008. The list will stay open until Friday, October 10, 2008. Applications will only be accepted from seniors, age 62 or older, and persons with disabilities, age 18 or older.

The public housing program is a federal program that provides decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income residents in Montgomery County. Family income limits are \$34,450 for one-person household, \$39,350 for a two-person household, \$44,300 for a three-person household and \$49,200 for a four-person household. HOC has 1,547 units including four apartment buildings. The four public housing apartment communities are:

**Arcola Towers** – 1135 University Blvd, Silver Spring

**Elizabeth House** - 1400 Fenwick Ave. Silver Spring

**Waverly House** - 4521 East West Highway, Bethesda

**Holly Hall Apartments** - 10110 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring

Applications will be available beginning Monday, September 29 at all Montgomery County Libraries, government centers and senior centers. The printed application can be mailed to HOC and must be postmarked between September 29 and October 10, 2008. Applications will not be available before September 29. Applications will be available on line at [www.hocmc.org](http://www.hocmc.org).

## First Time Home Buyer Class

**Saturday,  
October 4, 2008**

**8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at**

**Takoma Park Community  
Center**

**7500 Maple Avenue**

**The Importance of  
Pre-Purchase Counseling**

**Establishing and  
Maintaining Credit**

**Understanding the Credit  
Scoring System**

**How to Get a Mortgage**

**Pre-Registration Is  
Recommended - Class is Free**

**To register contact Linda  
Walker at 301-891-7222**

**Sponsored by the City of  
Takoma Park**

## Clase “Comprando una Casa por Primera Vez”

**Gratis y es en español el sábado,  
25 de Octubre del 2008**

**8:30am hasta 1:30pm**

**Centro Comunitario de Takoma  
Park 7500 Maple Avenue**

**La importancia de tener un  
consejo profesional antes de  
comprar una casa**

**Establecer y mantener su crédito**

**Entender el sistema de crédito**

**Cómo obtener un préstamo**

**Patrocinado por La Ciudad de  
Takoma Park y Latino  
Economic Development  
Corporation**

**Llame a Linda Walker al  
301-891-7222 para inscribirse Se  
servirá desayuno**



### HOUSING Mailbox

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

*A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding her rights because the landlord has sent all the tenants a two-month Notice to Vacate due to building renovations.*

Tenants faced with this situation should be aware that both city and county laws come into play. First, the city's Landlord-

Tenant Law at Section 6.16.070.E indicates that tenants do not become month-to-month tenants at the end of their one-year lease term. If the Landlord has not provided a written one-year lease renewal offer at least two months before the end of the lease term or has not issued a two-month notice to vacate, tenants are presumed to have another one-year lease. Tenants who have a one-year or longer lease term may not be given a two-month (no fault) notice to vacate in the middle of the one-year lease term. See Section 6.16.150A.2. of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law for information on notices to vacate.

In accordance with the Montgomery County Tenant Displacement Law (Chapter 53A), owners of rental properties with four or more rental units who are vacating at least one-third of their tenants within a 12-month period to conduct building renovations must give their tenants a 120-day written Notice to Vacate. The 120-day written notice must be provided at least four months prior to the end of

the one year lease term. Tenants in good standing (those with no outstanding rental payment obligations) are also entitled to two months' rent as compensation for their relocation costs provided they vacate within 180 days after receipt of the landlord's notice to vacate. The landlord is obligated to pay the relocation assistance not more than ten days after he/she receives the tenant's one-month written notice of his/her intent to vacate the rental unit. Please note that the notice period for either a tenant or landlord's written notice begins on the next rent due date. It does not begin on the date the notice is sent and must be received by the landlord or tenant prior to the rent due date.

Tenants who have general landlord-tenant questions or receive a notice to vacate because of landlord renovations are encouraged to call the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Office (301-891-7215) or contact Mose Wilds at [MosesW@takoma.gov](mailto:MosesW@takoma.gov) and the Montgomery County Landlord-Tenant Office (240-777-3658)

for additional information on the county's Tenant Displacement Law.

*A tenant asks, "How often can a landlord increase the rent and how much can it be increased?"*

A landlord can only increase the rent once each year by no more than the Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time of the notice. The rent stabilization allowance for this year is 4.7 percent and is in effect from 7/1/08 - 6/30/09. For example, if the rent was increased on 9/1/07 to \$850, the next rent increase should not occur before 9/1/08, providing that the landlord gives a two-month written notice of the increase. The increased rent would be no higher than \$890.

For further information or if you would like to know if you are paying a legal rent, contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or at [JeanK@takomagov.org](mailto:JeanK@takomagov.org).

## Property Tax Credit Deadline extended to Oct. 31

The deadline for submitting an application for the Homeowner's Tax Credit Program has been extended to October 31, 2008. The program is designed to help low-moderate income home owners 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 each year. To obtain an application,

contact Linda Walker at 301- 891-7222 or by email at [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org). The application is also available online at [www.dat.state.md.us/](http://www.dat.state.md.us/).



### Takoma Park Folk Festival Brings Music to the City

Musicians gathered along with artists, dancers, activists, and folks just out for a good time at the 31st annual Takoma Park Folk Festival September 21.

Photo by Lonni Moffet

## City Plans on Greening the Pepco Plant

BY PAUL GRENIER

Mayor Bruce Williams called it “horrible—all you see is this mass of metal.”

City Councilmember Dan Robinson felt the same. “It’s awful. It’s a necessary thing—they bring us electricity. But it looks terrible.”

What were they talking about? The enormous Pepco substation on New Hampshire Avenue at Ray Road.

But now, thanks to a collaborative effort involving Pepco, the City of Takoma Park and Prince George’s County initiative called Gorgeous Prince George’s, the Pepco substation is about to get, well, kind of gorgeous.

The Prince George’s County program has donated some 15 American hollies, plus 250 daffodil bulbs, to a project initiated by the City to help screen the Pepco substation. Pepco itself is donating ten redbud trees.

The screening project, which was quite high on the list of recommendations of the recent New Hampshire Avenue Concept Plan, is not the sort of thing that happens easily.

“A lot of time it’s hard to get things done along the border [between the City and neighboring counties],” says Mayor Williams. “And we have a lot of border.”

Williams suggests posting a promi-

**Join Mayor Bruce Williams, Councilmember Dan Robinson and Housing and Community Development staff Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. to noon,** for this historic tree planting event. Place: New Hampshire Avenue, east side of street, between Ray Road and Sheridan Street (Parking available on Poplar Avenue and Ray Road). Volunteers needed! Please contact Paul-Harvey at 301-891-7220 or paulw@takomagov.org.

nent sign right at the site to advertise the budding inter-jurisdictional success story. “A lot of eyeballs going down New Hampshire Avenue are going to see this,” he says.

Success, however, isn’t guaranteed. Once the trees are planted, they have to survive to maturity. And even when mature, they won’t physically block the sub-station from view, as safety considerations prohibit the planting of tall trees high on the sloping hill along New Hampshire, where they would do the most good.

That’s why this particular mix of evergreens and flowering, berry-bearing trees and flowers was chosen. The aim is not just to screen, but also to draw the eye with a diversity of four-season color.

Nelly Moxley, a long-time resident of the neighborhood, enthusiastically welcomes the addition of the festive holly tree, an evergreen that sports red berries in the winter and distinctive

white flowers in the summer.

“Hollies are wonderful for bees,” she says. “The male holly trees carry the bees all summer. It’s almost magical watching them.”

Unfortunately, the planting of these trees won’t itself happen by magic.

In order to draw worker humans to the site this Saturday, the City is offering the nectar of coffee and pastries from Duncan Donuts. And Gorgeous Prince Georges is offering free t-shirts.

Volunteers who join this Saturday-morning effort will not only help transform the look of a blighted area and plant trees to fight global warming; they will also be building bridges between Takoma Park and Prince George’s County, overcoming a boundary to build community.

City Councilmember Dan Robinson (Ward 3) and Mayor Williams will both be on hand to help out with the digging.

### Street Fest enters 25th year

Takoma Park Street Festival will once again draw locals and visitors together, this time entering its 25th year of celebrating the rich creativity and diversity of Takoma Park. Scheduled for Sunday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the festival will include a full day of music from

18 musical groups playing on three stages arrayed along Carroll Avenue in Old Town Takoma. Among them are many local musicians, including The Nighthawks, Chopsteeth, Ruthie and the Wranglers, Billy Coulter, Junkyard Saints and more.

More than 150 artists, community groups and food stations will be set up for a wide variety of entertainment, education, and enjoyment, and there will be plenty of kids’ activities as well. Admission is free.

“As [is] typical of Takoma Park, we are an independent, quirky, fun-loving bunch celebrating local arts, foods and culture,” says OTBA’s vice president and music coordinator, David Eisner. “We look forward to welcoming all of the day’s participants, including community members and visitors, to Old Takoma for this fun-filled celebration.”

For more information visit [www.TakomaFestival.com](http://www.TakomaFestival.com).

### SLIGO TRAFFIC

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exception of Westmoreland and Wildwood Avenues, which were scheduled for resurfacing years ago and have been on hold waiting for the WSSC project

to be completed.

To pay for much of this construction, residents are paying higher water and sewer bills this year. WSSC rates increased by 8 percent in July, which the company estimates will add \$2.75 per month or \$11.25 per quarter to the average residential customer bill. The ad-

ditional funds, according to WSSC, will also cover increasing costs for power, chemicals and fuel in its \$913.7 million budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

For problems or questions related to WSSC construction, please contact the WSSC Communications Office at 301-206-8100.



### Calendar celebrates a year in Old Takoma

Main Street Takoma presents “A Year in Old Takoma,” an exhibit of photographs that celebrate the lifeblood of Old Takoma — the independent, locally owned business. The photos, by Takoma Park photographer Sam Kittner, illuminate the whimsical side of favorite local business owners and store managers — many as you have never seen them before. The exhibit is on the third floor of the Community Center in Gallery 3, through early October. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A calendar of these photographs will be for sale at the Takoma Park Street Festival on October 5 and in the shops featured in the photographs. Proceeds benefit Main Street Takoma.

### Creative Recycling

Sangetsu, meaning “mountain moon,” is a school of flower arranging inspired by visionary and master artist, Mokichi Okada, who promoted a spiritual approach to life through beauty. This unique exhibit, titled “Sangetsu” and on view in the Atrium Gallery, explores ways of giving new life to items that are no longer needed, bringing beauty and joy to the viewer by combining recycled and natural materials to create flower arrangements that express love and respect for nature.

Exhibitors will demonstrate sangetsu, on Saturday, September 27 from 1 to 2 p.m., and on Sunday, September 28 from 2 to 3 p.m. The Atrium Gallery is on the main floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, and open from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

### Shoes and Running in Art

The Girls Gotta Run Foundation (GGRF) and the Women’s Caucus for Art of Greater Washington, DC (WCA/DC) will present the exhibit, A Moving Commentary: Exploring Shoes, Running, and Motion, in the Atrium Gallery during the month of October. The exhibit explores art related to shoes, running, and motion through varying art media. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, October 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. The Atrium gallery is on the main floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, and is open 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

### “third thursday” Calls for Poetry

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting poets for its 2008-2009 “third Thursday” poetry series. The series, which begins this fall, will feature some of the finest poets in the city and surrounding area. To be considered for a spot in the series, please send three to five poems to the Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org).

### Holiday Art Sale Set for Dec. 13

The popular Arts and Humanities Commission 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 Commission at 301-891-7224 or [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org). Additional registration information is available on-line. Deadline for registration is November 10.

### New Singers

The Takoma Park Singers, an amateur, community chorus of mixed voices, is looking for new members to sing in several concerts a year. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening from 7:45 to 9:15. No formal auditions are required. For further information, call 301-681-9498.

For more information on these and other activities sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224 or [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or check online at [www.takomapark-md.org](http://www.takomapark-md.org)

# RECREATION

## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

### Drumming

#### Ages 8 and older

Learn hand drumming techniques, Afro-Cuban and other styles from Takoma Park Drum Collective instructor Darhyl Lyons. Four weeks. A drum will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Maximum 20, minimum six. No class on Oct. 17.

**When:** Fri., Oct. 24 – Nov. 14

**Time:** 4 – 6 p.m.

**Location:** Auditorium – T.P. Com. Ctr.,  
7500 Maple Avenue

**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$40  
Non-Res. \$45

### Fun Day Program

#### Grades K - 5

This will keep the kids busy on the days off from school. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Bring a lunch! Trips and activities are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

**When:** Thurs., Oct. 9

**Trip:** Pump It Up, indoor inflatable playground

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$25  
Non-Res. \$30

**When:** Fri. Oct. 17

**Trip:** North Run Farm, pumpkin patch and hay ride

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$25  
Non-Res. \$30

### 2008 Extended Care Options

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular program hours.

**Time:** 5 - 6:30 p.m.

**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$10  
Non-Res. \$15

### TGIF

#### Ages 11 - 17

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:** Oct. 3

**Activity:** Movie Marathon

**Date:** Oct. 31

**Activity:** Halloween Night Special

**Time:** 6 - 9 p.m.

**Location:** T Zone - T.P. Community Center,  
7500 Maple Avenue

**Fee:** Free



Photo by Gregory Clark

Nina Jefferies tries her hand at lacrosse in the Fall Clinic run by the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

### 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.

**Location:** Meet at the T Zone -  
T.P. Community Center,  
7500 Maple Avenue

**Fee:** Varies by trip

**Date:** Oct. 10

**Activity:** Laser Tag

**Date:** Oct. 24

**Activity:** Bowling

**Time:** 6 - 9 p.m.

### Beginning Dog Training: Level 1

Ages 16 and older

(Unless permission from instructor)

Use clicker method to train your dog or puppy to be a polite companion or start toward obedience competition. Your dog will learn fun manners such as dog greeting behavior, walking on a loose lead, and leaving food and other things alone. A rabies certificate must be presented prior to the first class. Minimum six. Six weeks. Instructor Ann Riley.

**When:** Wednesdays, Oct. 29 – Dec. 3

**Time:** 7 – 8 p.m.

**Location:** Heffner Com. Ctr.,  
42 Oswego Avenue

**Fee:** T.P. City Res. \$85  
Non-Res. \$95

### Kung Fu

#### Ages 5 - 15

Master Robert G. Thompson, Sifu has brought the tranquil art of Kung Fu to Takoma Park. Learn the ancient form of self defense and the beauty of inner peace. Strengthen your hand and eye coordination. There is a one-time (non-refundable) fee paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform. Children \$50. Ten weeks.

**When:** Sat., Oct. 4 – Dec. 13

**Time:** 10 a.m. - noon

**Location:** Dance Room - T. P. Community  
Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

**Fee:** T.P. City Res. \$150  
Non-Res. \$170

### Belly Dance

#### Ages 14 and older

Beginning dance will introduce technique, postures and dance steps, incorporate abdominal strength and improve overall flexibility. The intermediate class will expand the repertoire of steps into a focus on group cohesion and improvisation. Bring a scarf with fringe to tie on your hips. Maximum of 15, minimum of six. Six weeks.

**When:** Mon., Oct. 27 - Dec. 1

**Location:** Dance Studio -  
T. P. Community Center,  
7500 Maple Avenue

**Time:** Beginner 8:15 - 9 p.m.

Intermediate 9:05 - 9:50 p.m.

**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$65  
Non-Res. \$75

### Family Day Trips

Want to plan a family outing but don't have the time? Let us do the work for you! One family member must be 18 years or older. We will meet in the parking lot of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Advance registration is required. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing a lunch and a snack is recommended.

**When:** Sat., Oct. 18

**Trip:** Pumpkin Patch, Corn Maze

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$10  
Non-Res. \$15

Need to register by Oct. 10.



Photo by Debra Haiduven

Takoma Park Community Band entertains moviegoers as they wait for darkness to see the first movie under the stars held at Ed Wilhelm Field.

RECREATION continues on page 7

# Local Senior Lives It Up in Takoma Park

**W**hen we called Susan Leitch, she was busy making a pumpkin pie in her home at the Franklin Apartments on Maple Avenue, getting ready for the monthly potluck dinner the residents there share. It's just one of the many activities that keep Leitch, who turns 69 this month, busy in her retirement. We were lucky to catch her at home – often, she's out participating in one of the many Takoma Park Recreation Department programs she enjoys, or she's meeting with the neighborhood Community Action Group; recently she joined Impact Silver Spring as well.

Leitch was introduced to the Community Center by Councilmember Terry Seamens and his wife Joyce Seamens, who met her at the CAG meetings. She joined the Rec Department's weekly walking group, then took up a yoga class and the Bone Builders exercise sessions. "It is very inspiring," she says. "Last week when I left that bone builders exercise, I was just feeling on top of the world."

Leitch also participates in computer class and games day at the Community Center, conveniently located across the street from her home, and travels with the Silver Foxes Senior Club to monthly day trips.

"I just enjoy every moment in Takoma Park," she says.

A native of Guyana, Leitch moved to the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at assisted living facilities, she lives alone. And she is determined to stay positive, despite the ailments, like arthritis, that come with aging.



Photo by Debra Haiduvén

**Local senior Susan Leitch keeps a positive attitude by staying active in several recreation department programs.**

"You just go forward with a positive attitude," she says. "I may be aching but honey, I'm going to take two pain tablets and keep going." Now she is trying to involve her neighbors in the activities that bring her so much satisfaction, urging them to come along when she crosses the street to the Community Center for games day, or when she takes the bus to the Crossroads Farmers Market on Wednesdays.

The Recreation Department strives for exactly this kind of involvement, says Paula Lisowski, coordinator of programs for seniors. "I want to provide recreation op-

portunities that foster a healthful, upbeat, and satisfying lifestyle," she says. Most are low- or no-cost, she adds. "Susan Leitch is a shining example of someone who . . . actively and enthusiastically participates in the program."

Leitch's enthusiasm is contagious. "I try to keep a happy attitude," she says. "Life is for living."

To find out more about programs for seniors, call Paula Lisowski, 301-891-7280, see <http://tprecreation.org> or visit the Community Center, where you can pick up an activity guide.

## RECREATION

continued from page 6

### Co-Ed Winter Basketball League Grades K – 8

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.

Partnership with the Recreation Committee and Long Branch Athletic Association.

#### Workout Dates:

Saturdays  
Nov. 22,  
Dec. 6

**Practice Date:** Dec. 13

**Games Begin:** Jan. 10

#### Age Groups:

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/  
Piney Branch  
Elementary Schools

**When:** Saturdays

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Fee:** T.P. City Residents \$50  
Non-Residents \$60



Photo by Carey Antoszewski

**Day Campers work on a watercolor project**

### VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED!

Please contact Greg Clark  
(301-891-7227, or [gregoryc@takomagov.org](mailto:gregoryc@takomagov.org)) if you are interested!

### Flag Football Clinic Grades 2-4

Come out and learn to run, catch and throw like a pro. The clinic will run for four weeks and will be taught by qualified recreation staff

members. This program will be held behind Piney Branch Elementary School at Ed Wilhelm Field. Maximum 20, minimum six. Four weeks.

**When:** Wed., Oct. 1 – 29  
**Where:** Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary)  
**Time:** 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.  
**Fee:** T.P. City Residents \$10  
Non-Residents \$15  
No class on Oct. 15.

## HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

### Annual Halloween Events Canine Costume Contest

Halloween is going to the dogs. Dress your dog up for this event. Categories include cutest, scariest, funniest and most original; within two divisions puppies and adult dogs. Dogs must be leashed and under control by handler. Co-sponsored by the Big Bad Woof, doggie cake and refreshments will be served. Gifts for the winners will also be provided by sponsor.

**When:** Sat., Oct. 25  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Location:** Bank of America  
Parking Lot

### Annual Costume Contest For all spooky ghost and goblins

The FREAKS come out in the afternoon. Get all decked out and strut your stuff. Categories include most original, funniest, and scariest. Ages 2 and under; 3 - 4; 5 - 7; 8 - 10; 11 - 12; teen and adult. Join in the fun!

**When:** Sat., Oct. 25  
**Time:** 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Intersection of  
Carroll and Laurel  
Avenues, Old Town  
Takoma Park

### Halloween Parade

#### All ages

All are welcome to participate in this walking parade. Follow the Takoma Park Fire Department Fire Truck as it escorts you down the parade route. Beginning at Carroll and Laurel Avenues, following Carroll Avenue to firehouse, left onto Philadelphia Avenue and ending at Piney Branch Elementary School.

**When:** Sat., Oct. 25  
**Time:** Approximately 5:45 p.m.  
(Immediately following the Costume Contest)

### Halloween Bash

#### All Ages

Join us for refreshments, sponsored by the Takoma Park Lions Club, at Piney Branch Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, following the Halloween Parade. A musical performance by local Takoma Park band "The RTT," sponsored by the Recreation Department, is suitable for all ages. We'd like to thank the Takoma Park Lions Club, which has graciously served the Takoma Park community for several decades with its kindness and support.

**When:** Sat., Oct. 25  
**Time:** Approximately 6:15 p.m.  
Immediately following the parade  
**Location:** Piney Branch  
Elementary School  
7510 Maple Avenue

**PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:**

Contradiction Dance  
The Washington Opera  
Guitarist Patrick Smith  
Liz Lerman Dance Exchange  
Poet and actress Ellen Cole and author Judy Nehr  
Triple Goddess Tribal Belly Dance Troupe  
Inspired Results  
Takoma Mosaic Project  
The Ocean Quartet  
Image Words  
Historic Takoma, Inc.  
And many more!

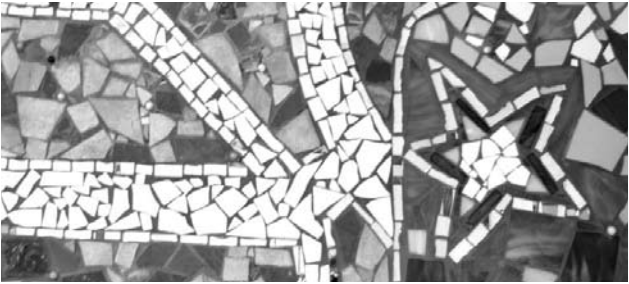
Join us as we “celebrate the creative spirit of our community” at the second annual

# Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Day

Saturday, October 18 • 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

The event is free and open to the public.  
To learn more about the day’s activities, contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or check online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)



## Mosaic Planned for Community Center

Have you ever wanted to learn the art and craft of mosaic? Would you like to work with other Takoma Park residents to make our Community Center sparkle? The City of Takoma Park and The Takoma Foundation are supporting the creation of exterior mosaics for the Community Center at Maple Avenue and 410 (East-West Highway). The project is being led by the local non-profit organization Art For The People, and Takoma mosaic artist Arturo Ho.

Many people in the community are familiar with the student-made mosaics at Takoma Park Middle School, and Ho will bring the same cooperative and creative spirit to this project. Alice Sims, head of Art for the People, a group that works with area seniors, children, and homeless, will be arranging workshops for Takoma residents with an interest in mosaic making, covering materials and methods for exterior mosaic. All ages are welcome, and an artistic background is not necessary to participate in this project. Artists who worked on the impressive outdoor mosaic mural at the American Visionary Art Museum at Baltimore’s harbor are advisors on the project, and will be on hand to share expertise with interested Takoma Park residents.

On Tuesday, November 6 at 7:30, the project’s first public meeting will facilitate brainstorming for the best use of mosaic on the Community Center building. The meeting, in the auditorium of the Community Center, will include a brief overview of mosaic history and of the work at the American Visionary Arts Museum.

The remainder of 2008 will be used to design the overall concept and choose a theme. Workshops will begin over the winter and continue through spring, when the completed mosaic panels will be installed. The Community Center has many potential surfaces for the placement of mosaics and anyone with an interest in the design phase of this project is urged to attend.

For more information, join the email list by writing to [info@takomamosaic.org](mailto:info@takomamosaic.org), or check the new website as the project develops, [www.takomamosaic.org](http://www.takomamosaic.org).

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## PLANT A TREE

**Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Save the Canopy**

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means you could be saving the aging tree canopy in the City. If you’re interested in replacing old growth in your yard, or adding to greenery outside your door, you can save through the City’s bulk buy tree sale.

Acting as a purchasing agent with Stadler Nursery, the City is making a number of species available at wholesale prices. Residents can purchase black gum, sweet gum, willow oak, red maple, white oak or sycamore — all native shade trees that usually retail for about \$400 – for \$240 to \$295, installed. Sale dates run through October 17, with installation toward the end of the month.

**ORDER FORM**

Please include check written to City of Takoma Park and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation. Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 by close of business October 17. Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Include map of property with tree locations on separate piece of paper.**

Species	Price	Quantity	Total
Sweet Gum (2")	\$275 x _____	=	_____
Black Gum (1.5")	\$250 x _____	=	_____
Willow Oak (2")	\$295 x _____	=	_____
Red Maple (2")	\$240 x _____	=	_____
White Oak (2")	\$295 x _____	=	_____
Sycamore or London Plane (2")	\$270 x _____	=	_____
Tax 6%			_____
<b>Total enclosed</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

## Takoma Park

## KEEPING IT SAFE

Community Forum on  
Underage Drinking for Parents and Youth

**Takoma Park Middle School**  
**7611 Piney Branch Rd.,**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20910**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2008**  
**6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

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

Discussions will include:

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

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

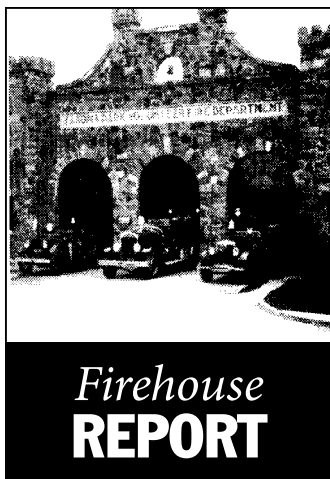
For more information please call:  
 Maryland International Corridor  
 CSAFE at 301-439-0972, or email  
 GretchenH@takomagov.org  
 Reservations appreciated  
 but not required.  
 If Montgomery County Public  
 Schools are closed due to  
 inclement weather conditions, this  
 event will be cancelled.

Jointly Supported by:

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

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

As of Aug. 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 484 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,925 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,409 this year. Totals for 2007 were 651 and 2,024, respectively, for a total of 2,675, representing a decrease of 266 incidents.



## Firehouse REPORT

By JIM JARBOE

the past and present volunteer and career personnel. Over 120 people showed up. It was a great time, getting together and sharing stories of the past. Among those who attended were some career fire fighters that have retired, when it was a City fire department. I have listed the year they started: Don Willey (1967), Brain Kane (1977), Bud Wallace (1968), Jim Jarboe (1959), Bernie Collins (1965), John Parsly (1960), Karl Kearns (1955) and Roland Schwartzbeck (1956).

Of all the old timers attending the Open House, member Robert "Bob" White, a volunteer, has the most years with the department. He joined the TPVFD on March 9, 1949. That means, he'll soon celebrate his 60th year. Also I should mention that, President Edna Fiske was there; she has over 60 years with the department's Auxiliary.

### Blood Drive

The Takoma Park VFD and Takoma Park Lions Club is sponsoring a Blood Drive to be held on Tuesday, October 28, at the City Community Center from 2 to 7 p.m. For more information, contact Pam Taylor or Jim Jarboe at the fire station, 301-270-8209.

### Fire Safety Tips

It's the same message, you must have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Also an escape plan for the entire family. Recently, after a woman died in a house fire, it was noted that the smoke alarm did not have a battery in it. I'm sure that if the smoke alarm had worked, the outcome would have been different. You must test your smoke alarms monthly and review your escape plan. Don't let a tragedy happen to your family!

### Open House

On Sunday, September 7, the Takoma Park VFD held an Open House, inviting all

# Takoma Park Detective Initiates Stop to Crime Spree

In 2002, Anthony Quintin Kelly went on a crime spree raping a grandmother on a Silver Spring sidewalk, pistol-whipping her, breaking her wrist and dislocating her shoulder. Kelly then raped again in June 2002, forcing a 20-year-old woman in Wheaton into a stolen vehicle at knifepoint and assaulting her. Then, in August 2002, he broke into George Gregory Russell's home in Silver Spring, Maryland, wearing a long fake beard and a bushy wig. According to trial testimony, Kelly pistol-whipped Russell's 9-year old daughter, Erika Smith, before shooting her and her father.

On September 5, 2002, after a multi-jurisdictional manhunt, Kelly was captured and arrested in College Park, Maryland. In September 2008, after six long years, Kelly finally went to trial. Showing more compassion for life than Kelly did for his victims, the family of Erika Smith and her father, George Gregory Russell, said that the life sentences for Kelly were just. They did not seek the death penalty. Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Durke G. Thompson ruled that Kelly's sentences would run back-to-back, adding another 100 years for five related counts of robbery, burglary and weapons violations. Among the many witnesses for the prosecution, Lt. Richard Cipperly, a



**Police  
BEAT**  
 BY CATHERINE PLEVY  
 AND DIANA DEA

detective with the Takoma Park Police Department, Criminal Investigations Division, played a large part in the capture of Kelly. In August 2002, while investigating an attempted sex assault and armed robbery, a stolen debit card of the victim was used at a nearby gas station to purchase gasoline. Investigators obtained a copy of the surveillance tape which captured a description of the suspect vehicle.

On August 20, 2002, investigators of the Takoma Park Police Department initiated an undercover surveillance detail due to numerous sex assaults and robberies that occurred within the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and

Takoma Park.

Within 20 minutes of the first day of the detail, Cipperly observed a vehicle traveling on Eastern Avenue in front of the Takoma Metro Station that matched the description of a vehicle involved in the attempted sex assault and armed robbery. When Cipperly was able to catch up to the vehicle, it was unoccupied in front of the Pizza Movers located in the 6900 block of Laurel Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. He requested a stolen check of the tag, which did come back as a stolen tag reported through Takoma Park. Shortly after, Cipperly saw Kelly enter the vehicle with a woman and child.

Cipperly requested additional units to set up a perimeter in an attempt to initiate a stop on the vehicle. Kelly proceeded to travel down Laurel Avenue to Carroll Av-

**CRIME SPREE**  
 continues on page 12

## Collecting for MDA

As part of the Jerry Lewis Labor Day "Fill the Boot" fundraiser, members of the Takoma Park VFD were out in front of the fire station on August 29 with

their boots, collecting donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In about three hours they collected \$885.



**Kneeling, from left, Deanna Stewart and Andrew Willey. Standing, left, Steve Novik, Jim Jarboe, Hilda Baker, Ashlee Willey, Tina Willey, Sherry Novik and Leslie DeLeon. Not pictured: Elmer Hamm and Bruce Allen.**

**These three Takoma Park VFD members have been answering phones for the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon Muscular Dystrophy Telethon from 25 to 35 years. And yes, they'll be back next year! From left, Jim Jarboe, Dave Hooker and Steve Novik.**



# SummerQuest Celebrates Winners

This year, the magic number for our SummerQuest program was 1,051. That's the total number of books read by participants in our summer reading program. That includes the 254 extra books read by participants who wanted to gain as many "experience points" as possible as they completed their SummerQuest journey.

Overall, 207 kids signed up for the program this year, and 132 of those kids read at least one book. A total of 53 kids made items for SummerQuest Challenge No. 7 – "read a book that shows you how to make or do something, then make or do it." Many kids brought their projects – ranging from home-made hard tack to blueberry pancakes to a family created from foil – into

the library to show staff. Kids also showed off their creations at our SummerQuest party on Sept. 8.

As always, there were as many ways to win at SummerQuest as there were participants. Camden Robert, age 7, read the most books – 59. Michelle McGhee, age 12, kept track of how many pages she read – a total of 3,342 pages in 23 books. Bersabeh Kifle, age 6, was the first to finish her SummerQuest reading journey, while Lily Montgomery, age 9, was second.

Meanwhile, Conner Catanese, age 12, did every SummerQuest challenge – both path A and path B. He also read extra "experience point" books, for a total of 26 books read. Ahamadu Gueye, age 9, also

did every SummerQuest challenge, for a total of 13 books.

At least 10 kids read a total of 20 or more books. In addition to Camden, Lily, Michelle, Bersabeh, Conner and Ahamadu, those kids who read 20 or more books were: Zahava Frank (32 books); C.J. and Jeremiah Erwin (22 books); Grace Chang (21 books); Joseph and Rachel Dey (20 books); and Chimey Sonam (20 books).

One more fun SummerQuest statistic: if you add up all the ages of the kids who signed up for our program, it totals 1,618.9 years!

## Friends Book Sale Returns

The Friends of the Library used book sale will be held on the Library lawn on **Saturday November 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** This is a rare opportunity to purchase used books in excellent condition at bargain prices.

The Friends book sales are held twice a year and are a major source of funds for this non-profit group. All proceeds are given back to the Library in the form of gifts. The Friends underwrite the Library's Summer Quest summer reading program, the College Bound Speakers Series and many other

special Library programs, purchase lanyards for children's library cards, crafts and refreshments for programs, and support four reading clubs – including an on-line book club!

Donations of books that are of general interest and in good condition must be boxed, and will be accepted through October 28. Anyone wishing to support the Library, and students wishing to earn community service by helping at the sale should contact Ellen Robbins at 301-891-7258.

## 'Serious Reader' T-Shirts on sale

Featuring original art by the Library's Dave Burbank, our 'Serious Reader' t-shirts are available in sizes for adults and children. They cost a mere \$5, and all proceeds go the Friends of the Library. Pick one up at the Library today!

## Library Friends Sponsor Clubs, Poetry, Crafts and More

At the Takoma Park Maryland Library, it's clear that we get more than a little help from our "Friends" – the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library – to offer patrons some great programs.

This month, for example, the Friends are sponsoring our College Bound series, the Banned Books Club, an autumn poetry event for kids, a craft-making program, and our annual Halloween Stories program.

Here's more information about these programs sponsored by the Friends:

The College Bound series, presented three Tuesdays in a row, is designed to help parents and high school juniors and seniors as they navigate the college application process. Each of our presenters is an expert and

well-known in their field.

For our Banned Books Club, geared for kids in grades six and up, the Friends help us purchase multiple copies of the book we're reading. This allows everyone interested in participating in the club to have easy access to our book selection, which changes monthly. In October, we'll be reading "1984" and "Animal Farm."

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., two local poets – Liz Rees and Rosanne Singer – will lead kids ages 5 and up in a special poetry workshop titled "What's Crackling? Poems of Autumn." They'll use words, art and movement to help kids create some wonderful seasonal poetry.

We're expanding our monthly craft pro-

gram to include kids in both elementary school and middle school. We'll gather on Friday, Oct. 24 from 4-5 p.m. in the Children's Room to make masks. All materials will be provided, courtesy of our Friends.

Popular local storyteller Candace Wolf will make her annual appearance at the library with a program titled "Good Old Halloween Storytelling." One important note: we are asking parents to refrain from bringing very young children; this is an event specifically geared to kids ages 5 and up. Please keep younger siblings at home so we can make this a spookily fun event for kids ages 5 and up!



### LIBRARY Briefs

Come to a special Circle Time on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. to highlight the importance of early literacy. Our library is among hundreds of libraries and schools nationwide that are participating in the third annual "Read for the Record" day. The event is sponsored by Jumpstart, a non-profit group that promotes the importance of early literacy. This year's book is "Corduroy" by Don Freeman. At our event, we'll be reading "Corduroy,"

along with doing other Circle Time songs, rhymes and fingerplays. Come join us – no registration required.

We'll be presenting our third monthly **Bilingual Circle Time** on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10:30-11 a.m. Library assistant Lucia Acin-Andion (a native of Spain) and children's librarian Karen MacPherson will team up to lead a program of songs, rhymes, fingerplays and stories in Spanish and English. This program is aimed at babies, toddlers and preschoolers. No registration required – just come and have fun!

Bears, butterflies and frogs – what do they have in common? Polar bears, Lange's metalmark butterflies and California red-legged frogs are all threatened or endangered species. Did you know that there are more than 1,300 threatened or endangered plants and animals in the United States?

How did it happen? Why does it matter? What can you do about it? To celebrate **National Wildlife Refuge Week**, come to the library on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m. to find out how our national wildlife refuges are working to protect and restore these endangered species. Our program will include games and hands-on activities for the whole family. Please register.

Some experts believe that children's play – the old-fashioned, unstructured kind of play – is vanishing as children get busier and busier with scheduled activities. Come to the library on Monday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. to watch a special PBS program, "Where Do the Children Play?," and then participate in a discussion on the issue. Please register. Note: this program is aimed at adults. Please keep the youngest children at home so we can focus on the program.

## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2008

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. You can register online by going to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or by calling 301-891-7259. Events take place in the Library unless otherwise noted.

### Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday  
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

### Wonderful Ones

A program for toddlers 12-24 months and their grown-ups. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Registration required.

### Read For the Record

Thursday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.  
Join us for a special Circle Time celebrating the importance of early literacy.

### Bilingual Circle Time

Saturday, Oct. 4, 10:30-11 a.m.  
Come sing songs, do rhymes and hear stories in Spanish and English.

### Bedtime Stories

Monday, Oct. 6, 7-7:30 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.

### College Bound – SAT Prep

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.  
Presenter: Dr. Ilhan Cagri  
Please register.

### Banned Books Club

For kids grades six and up. Monday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. Our books are "1984" and "Animal Farm" Copies are available at the Library desk. Space is limited; please register.

### College Bound – Focus on Financial Aid

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Presenter: Dr. Herm Davis  
Please register.

### Focus on Endangered Species

Saturday, Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m.  
National Wildlife Refuge experts will present a program on endangered species. Find out what's being done to protect these animals, and what you can do to help. There will be games and hands-on activities for the whole family. Please register.

**LIBRARY CALENDAR**  
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## Special Friends Book Discussion in Conjunction with Exhibit

On Thursday, November 13, the Friends of the Library Reading Group will discuss "A Journey Round My Skull" by Frigyes Karinthy.

Originally written in Hungarian in 1939, this book is an intimate first person account of this prolific author and journalist's experience of a brain tumor and subsequent surgery. "Karinthy's description of his descent into illness and his observations of his symptoms, thoughts and feelings, as well as of his friends' and doctors' varied responses to his predicament, are exact and engrossing and entirely free of self-pity."

Recently republished with an introduc-

tion by Oliver Sacks, it has been well-reviewed both here and abroad. The "New Statesman" called it "A triumph of writing, a very remarkable book." The "Los Angeles Times" praised it as "...a book of surpassing interest and power...Written with utmost clarity and candor, Karinthy's account is a compelling, unique achievement which needs no artifice, the patient's narrative holds the reader in a spell."

This book was selected to accompany the exhibit "CRANIAL VAULT: Artifacts and Impressions" to be held in the Takoma

**SPECIAL FRIENDS**  
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## LIBRARY CALENDAR

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### "Where Do the Children Play?"

Monday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

Come watch a thought-provoking PBS program on how kids' playtime is vanishing.

Then join us for a discussion about the issue.

(Note: this program is aimed at adults).

Please register.

### College Bound – Choosing the Right College

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Presenter: Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre

Please register.

### What's Crackling? Poems of Autumn

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

Come join us as we use movement,

art and words to create poetry.

Presenters: poets Rosanne Singer and

Liz Rees.

(Note: this program is best for children ages 5 and up).  
Please register.

### Crafty Kids

Friday, Oct. 24, 4-5 p.m.

A monthly program for kids who like to do crafts.

Materials provided.

### Good Old Halloween Storytelling

Monday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring acclaimed storyteller Candace Wolf.

Note: This program is for children age 5 and ABOVE.

No younger children, please.

Please register.

### Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

Sat. Nov. 1, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Library lawn

## Local Kids Walk to School, Step by Step

BY LUCY NEHER

There are so many reasons not to walk your child to school. You may have to get up earlier, or arrive at work a little later. Maybe you don't have the right shoes. While all of these are valid concerns (except maybe the shoes), there is no good excuse not to walk to school on Walk to School Day, Wednesday, October 8. You will find it is worth it to rise a little earlier when you get out and sniff the morning air! Take advantage of the extra time with your son or daughter walking hand in hand, catching up with neighbors along the way. It's a beautiful way to start the day. Read on to find out what it's all about!

International Walk to School Day is when walkers from 5,000 schools in 50 states will join schools in 40 countries around the world. Takoma Park is no exception. This year, students, parents and staff at Takoma Park, Piney Branch, Rolling Terrace and East Silver Spring Elementary Schools are walking. Takoma Safe Routes to School is very pleased to announce that the Safe Kids Coalition has chosen Piney Branch as the host school for Montgomery County. Many dignitaries have been invited to walk with the students. After the walk they will participate in a press conference and an all-school assembly.

Take the first step: Meet at the agreed upon location to travel to school with your neighbors and schoolmates. Since safety is always a prime concern, at most schools, the local police department escorts the walkers to school. Once at school, the students celebrate with healthy snacks and an assembly on pedestrian safety. All student walkers receive a special reward.

Step two: Build awareness. Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

Next step: Make walking to school a part of your routine. Walk to School Day is terrific fun, but it is only one day. Imagine feeling energized by a brisk walk to school everyday. Takoma Safe Routes to School can help! Walking clubs, walking school buses and incentive programs tied to fitness or instruction are a few ways to establish a routine that makes walking a priority.

For more information on how your school plans to celebrate Walk to School Day on October 8, contact Lucy Neher, Takoma Safe Routes Coordinator, lucyn@takomagov.org.

## See the Festivals on City TV

Be sure to join City TV crews at the annual Takoma Street Festival, to be held this year on October 5 in Old Town Takoma Park. Visit [www.takomasfestival.com](http://www.takomasfestival.com) for more information.

New programming: Jazzfest performances from Sherwood Blues Band, the Matt Wigler Trio, the Jazz Emperors and Natty Beaux. New performances from this year's Folk Festival should start airing soon.

City viewers will notice some program schedule changes this month as our equipment has been upgraded. Be sure to visit the web site for the most current information at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable).

### Takoma Snapshots in October will feature:

- Meet and Greet City Government: City Clerk's office
- Folk Festival Highlights
- Maryland's Farm to School Program Launched at TPMS



Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on

the bulletin board.

Many City TV programs, including Council meetings and Snapshots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at [www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable](http://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](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

## CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - OCTOBER 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	

## WATCH CITY TV ON LINE

Live Feed,  
Archived City Council Meetings,  
Snapshots and More

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable)

## CRIME SPREE

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enue. Patrol officers from Takoma Park immediately blocked off Laurel Avenue at which time Kelly put the vehicle in reverse. Kelly drove in reverse for approximately 50 feet at a high rate of speed with a total disregard for anyone or anything in his path. Officers initiated a pursuit of Kelly, which went down Eastern Avenue. During the pursuit, Kelly ran several red lights, collided into another vehicle and then struck a telephone pole. Kelly bailed out of the vehicle and jumped over a six foot fence and fled, leaving behind his girlfriend and his young child. At this point, officers learned that the vehicle had been stolen from Howard County.

As a result of a search of the vehicle, numerous pieces of evidence were seized, which consisted of two handguns (one

which linked him to the murders). Both handguns were linked to a commercial burglary that had occurred in Kensington, Maryland, as well as a wig that matched fibers found at the crime scene and numerous other items of evidence linking Kelly to many other crimes, including the rape of the 20-year-old Wheaton woman, which was investigated by the Montgomery County Police. Also found in the vehicle was a Bible that would later be identified as belonging to victim, Erika Smith's, mother. A search of Kelly's home in the District of Columbia was executed by Takoma Park Police and the Metropolitan Police Department, which produced items of evidentiary value linking him to the murder of Katie Lynn Hill, a 36-year old Seattle tourist whose body was found two blocks from the Takoma Metro Station three days after the slayings of Smith and Russell. Kelly is scheduled to stand trial in the District

for the murder of Katie Lynn Hill.

Cippery is not short of words when it comes to this case. "I hate to think what more could have happened if I had not seen that vehicle that day." He further said, "I am happy to have been able to identify this person and assist with his prosecution. Putting Kelly away will definitely prevent other victims [from suffering] the same fate." Cippery, quiet for a moment, added, "Although the circumstances are incredibly sad, this was one of the most gratifying cases I have ever been involved in. Knowing this person was responsible for such an immense amount of tragedy and heinous crimes, and being in a position to be able to play such an essential part in getting him off the streets, is immeasurable." When asked how he felt in the courtroom with Kelly, who acted as his own attorney, Cippery stated "It was difficult to maintain a modicum of professionalism while being questioned by Kelly."

During his trial, Kelly maintained his innocence while representing himself; however, Judge Thompson indicated the "[P]roof in these cases has been overwhelming." Thompson called the forensic evidence in the killings of Smith and Russell, more extensive than any other case in his career. He further told Kelly that his actions have "wrecked and destroyed lives" and "this is the end of the road."

Cippery commends the outstanding working relationships and sharing of information between the jurisdictions that ultimately brought Kelly to justice. The Takoma Park Police Department is proud of Cippery and all of the Takoma Park Police officers, Montgomery County and the District of Columbia, and court officials involved in the capture, prosecution and conviction of Kelly. "The streets are definitely a little safer without Kelly," said Cippery.

## CROSSROADS

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least 30 pedestrian deaths: An elderly woman died on August 25, 2008, as the result of a hit-and-run while crossing University Boulevard in Langley Park.

Alarm over rising pedestrian-traffic collisions – particularly the deaths of two small children jaywalking with their mothers across New Hampshire Avenue in December 2002 – led to the 2003 creation of the Multijurisdictional Pedestrian Safety Committee (MPSC). Representatives from government, non-profit and civic organizations work together in this ad-hoc group to improve area pedestrian safety. The MPSC, sponsored by the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, has worked closely with SHA to secure the state funding for the present construction

and on the streetscape design.

If the area construction seems to have taken a long time, it actually has – it began in late 2006 – but it's going to be worth it, according to SHA. At an August MPSC meeting, SHA Transportation Engineer Jeff Folden outlined some of the Crossroads safety enhancements coming this month, including:

- Medians with decorative fencing to "channelize" pedestrians to marked and/or signalized crossings;
- New traffic lights throughout the area with visible and audible countdown signals, pedestrian push-button activation and longer crossing times for pedestrians;
- Double left-turn lanes from northbound New Hampshire Avenue onto westbound University Boulevard.

While SHA plans to pack up its orange barrels soon, the Maryland Transit Authority is progressing with its design of the Takoma-

Langley Park Transit Center, slated for the northeast corner of the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue intersection. The proposed transit center would host 11 bus routes from three jurisdictions plus the University of Maryland. It would be developed with an eye to accommodating an interface with the Purple Line, intended to run along University Boulevard.

The transit center was originally announced in summer 2005 and fast-tracked by the state and both neighboring counties to begin construction in late 2006, concurrently with the streetscape construction now ending. However, the transit center plans have been postponed indefinitely by the commercial property owner's unwillingness to sell the corner of the present shopping center site needed for the transit facility. Negotiations by the state to acquire the property continue.

## SPECIAL FRIENDS

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Park Community Center in November and December. Cranial Vault reflects one man's journey from a middle-of-the-night grand mal seizure through cancer treatment and brain surgery to a survivor's new normal. Part curiosity shop, part medical illustration, and part memoir, the exhibit serves as an experiential travelogue of a trip, nine years and continuing.

Copies of "Journey Round My Skull" are available at the Takoma Park Library, through the Friends of the Library. The Friends Reading Group discussions are held in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m., and are open to all.

## Fall Clean Up Day Scheduled

Main Street Takoma's annual Fall Clean-Up Day is on again this month and organizers are calling for volunteers to help make the city sparkle. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, and will include picking up litter, mulching tree boxes, and planting winter-hardy plants. Gathering points are at Laurel Avenue by the clock tower, Morris Park at Takoma Junction, and Triangle Park, at 4th Street NW in the District. Members of Main Street Takoma will be on hand at each location to provide gloves and bags for trash removal, and mulch and plantings for the gardening work. Those who want to help are encouraged to bring their own gardening gloves and tools. Main Street Takoma is a community-based initiative of the Old Takoma Business Association. And don't forget – middle and high school students can earn community service learning hours for their Montgomery County Public School graduation requirement. For more up-to-the-minute information about Clean Up Day, please visit [www.MainStreetTakoma.org](http://www.MainStreetTakoma.org).

## FALL LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

Loose leaf collection will be provided by the City from November 10 through December 31. Residents can rake leaves out to the curb at their convenience. Most City streets will not have an assigned collection day. However, every street in the City will receive at least two collections. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Leaf collection is dependent on the weather. Rain and freezing conditions can slow collection.

There are five streets that will have assigned and posted collection dates, due to the heavy traffic volume on these streets. Carroll Avenue - 7000 to 7800 block, Ethan Allen Avenue, and Flower Avenue - 7900 to 8600 block will have collection on Monday, November X and Thursday, December X. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Thursday, November X and Monday, December X. On these dates, only these streets will receive collection.

There are two holidays in November during which no collection will occur. Veteran's Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 11 and the Thanksgiving holiday is November 27 and 28.

For the month of November, the crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. During December, the crews will thoroughly collect all remaining loose

leaves and clean the streets and right of ways.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. Please contact Public Works by phone: 301-891-7633. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 to notify us when your leaves have been raked out. We plan to collect reported piles from the hotline calls within a week of the call.

### Please follow these guidelines for vacuum leaf collection:

1. Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. Do Not rake leaves into the street. Wet leaves can create traffic hazards.
2. Do Not park your car in front of a leaf pile and when raking please try to avoid piling leaves where cars are parked.
3. The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. Do Not include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.
4. Do Not pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.

The City also operates the weekly Monday collection for bagged grass, leaves,

branches and brush all year long. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than four feet long and less than three inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in a trash can. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled on weeks with a Monday holiday.

### LEAF COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Collection will occur continuously from November 11 to December 31.
- Residents can rake leaves at their convenience, there is no assigned collection day. (Except for the five state highways in the City which have assigned collection days)
- Residents should place leaves inside the curb, free of branches and debris.
- Vacuum leaf collection will end December X, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.
- Leaf Collection Hotline for reporting piles, 301-891-7626.