WSSC Construction Closes Sligo, Tangles Neighborhood Traffic

By Virginia Myers

Traffic in Takoma Park has been rerouted 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 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 to 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 serving 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 to Pine and Hickory and Pine Avenue, pipe work should be completed this month. Paving will take longer, but 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.
- Sligo Creek Parkway will be closed to traffic for 90 days, while WSSC repairs and replaces water and sewer lines.

Council Begins to Set Priorities for City

By Virginia Myers

After 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 concepts: sustainability; livable community; and policy and operation – but the details remain more challenging.

Two drafts, one written by Councilmembers Colleen Clay (Ward 2), Reuben Snipper (Ward 5) and Terry Seamans (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 a year ago, when the city 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

Crossroads Streetscape Nears Completion

By Susan Holliday

As 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 roadway work 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.

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INSIDE:

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Sweep the Creek

Back to School Books

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Takoma Park Newsletter

October 2008

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Takoma Park Street Festival

October 5 Old Town

www.takomafestival.com

September 2008

Mayor & Council

Takoma Park, MD 20912

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**City Council Action**

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

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**COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

continued from page 1

The document is full of ideas, from specific individual 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 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 environment/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, 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 this is 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 (Seamans) to fully staffing the code enforcement office (Barry) and a more equitable system for providing affordable housing (Clay). With all that 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.”

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**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 or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or 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)

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**Sample Priority Proposals**

The following appear on both working drafts. To see the drafts, go to 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

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**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.
Geocaching Comes to Takoma Park

By Rick Henry

Members 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 boost tourism and economic development in Maryland's cities and towns by taking advantage of a fast-growing recreational activity.

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 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.

"What's really fun is you feel like you're a treasure hunter." - Dan Hutton

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 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 Sigo 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 (Warf) 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

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

Public Housing Waiting List Opens Sept. 29 to Senior and Disabled Persons

The 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 - 1010 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.

First Time Home Buyer Class

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

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 LindalW@takomagov.org. The application is also available online at www.dat.state.md.us/.
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 for the new Hampshire Avenue Concept Plan, is not the sort of thing that happens easily.

“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,” said Williams.

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 Mosley, 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 what they do.”

Unfortunately, the planting of these trees won’t itself happen by magic. In order to draw water 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.

As [is] typical of Takoma Park, we are an independent, quirky, fun-loving bunch celebrating local arts, foods and culture,” says OTBAs vice president and music coordinator, David Eissner. “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.

SLIGO TRAFFIC
continued from page 1

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 additional funds, according to WSSC, will also cover increasing costs for power, chemicals and fuel in its $931.7 million budget for Fiscal Year 2009. For problems or questions related to WSSC construction, please contact the WSSC Communications Office at 301-206-8100.

SLIGO TRAFFIC
continued from page 1

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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

Begining Dog Training: Level 1
Ages 16 and older
Six weeks. Instructor Ann Riley.
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: Hefner Com. Ctr., 42 Osweго Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Res. $85
Non-Res. $95

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
Activity: Laser Tag
Date: Oct. 24
Activity: Bowling
Time: 6 - 9 p.m.

Kung Fu
Ages 5 - 1 5
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.
When: Mon., Oct. 27 - Dec. 1
Time: 9:05 - 9:50 p.m.
Location: T. P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: $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.
When: Mon., Oct. 27 - Dec. 1
Time: 9:05 - 9:50 p.m.
Location: T. P. Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: $170

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.

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

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

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Photo by Gregory Clark

Photo by Debra Haiduven
Local Senior Lives It Up in Takoma Park

When we called Susan Leitch, she was busy making a pumpkin pie in her home 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 the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S. 14 years ago and has lived on Maple Avenue about a year. Retired from work at the U.S.

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 achy but honest, 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 Weddays.

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

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

Day Campers work on a watercolor project

Volunteer Coaches Needed! Please contact Greg Clark (301-891-7227, or 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.

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, scarriest, 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

Takoma Park Newsletter October 2008 Page 7
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 Art 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, or check the new website at www.takomamosaic.org.

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 or check online at www.takomaparkmd.gov

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 Nurseries, 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. Osweego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 by close of business October 17. Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Gum (2&quot;)</td>
<td>$275 x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Gum (1.5&quot;)</td>
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<td>Willow Oak (2&quot;)</td>
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<td>Red Maple (2&quot;)</td>
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<td>White Oak (2&quot;)</td>
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<td>Sycamore or London Plane (2&quot;)</td>
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<td>Tax 6%</td>
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</table>

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

Total enclosed $
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.

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 to celebrate his 60th year. Also I should mention that, President Edna Fiske Hooker and Steve Novik.

Collecting for MDA

As part of the Jerry Lewis Labor Day “Fill the Boot” fundraiser, members of the Takoma Park VFD were out 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.

Takoma Park Detective Initiates Stop to Crime Spree

In 2002, Anthony Quinter 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 bony 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-judicial 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 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 sexual 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 sexual 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 sexual 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 tag as well as the description of the suspect vehicle. 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 Avenue.

CRIME SPREE continues on page 12

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

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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 152 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 homemade 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 Must O’Toole, age 12, kept track of how many pages she read — a total of 3,342 pages in 23 books. Betsie Kille, 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. 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, Bersabe, Conner and Ahamadu, those kids who read 20 or more books were: Zabava Frank (32 books); C.J. and Jeremiah Erwin (22 books); Grace Chang (21 books); Joseph and Rachel Dey (20 books); and Chimney 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 landmarks 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.

Library Friends Sponsor Clusters, 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 program 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 CandaceWolf 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!**

**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. Ihsan 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.**

**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.**
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 introduction 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 Library. Please register.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

College Bound – Choosing the Right College

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Presenter: Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre
Please register.

WHAT'S CRACKING?
Poems of Autumn
Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Join us as we use movement, art and words to create poetry. 
Presenters: poets Rosanne Singer and Liz Rees.

Liberal 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 View 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.

Step one: 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.

Step three: 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@takomaparkm.gov.

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 TPSM

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 for more information.

Local Kids Walk to School, Step by Step

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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.takomafestival.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.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Library lawn

Library Calendar

continued from page 10

“In the Library

“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.

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 ages 5 and above).

No younger children, please.

Please register.

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Sat. Nov. 1, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Library lawn

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

Please register.

“Poems of Autumn” to be held in the Takoma Library lawn

A Journey Round My Skull by Frigyes Karinthy

October 2008

Takoma Park Newsletter

Page 11
CRIME SPREE
continued from page 9
five men. 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 dis-
regard for anyone or anything in his path.
Officers initiated a pursuit of Kelly, which
down Eastern Avenue. During the
pursuit, Kelly ran several red lights, collided
with a vehicle, went down Eastern Avenue.
Kelly was arrested after he stopped his
vehicle at the intersection of Laurel Avenue
and CR 36. Subsequent to his arrest, Kelly
put the vehicle in reverse. At this time
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 commer-
cial business that had been burglarized in New
Hampshire, 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, includ-
ing 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 mur-
der 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. Kel-
ly is scheduled to stand trial in the District
Court for the murder of Katie Lynn Hill.
Cipperly 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 vic-
tims [from suffering] the same fate.”
Cipperly, 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 per-
sion 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.”

CROSSROADS
continued from page 1
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 colli-
sions – particularly the deaths of two small
children walking with their mothers across
New Hampshire Avenue in December 2002 –
led to the 2003 creation of the Multijurisdic-
tional Pedestrian Safety Committee (MPSC).
Representatives from government, non-prof-
it 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,
had 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
away from the charm that 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
signalled 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 Piney Branch Road.
The proposed transit center would host 11
bus routes from three jurisdictions plus the
University of Maryland. It would be devel-
oped with an eye to accommodating an in-
terface with the Purple Line, intended to run
along University Boulevard.

TAKE CARE OF THE PLANET
Special Friends
continued from page 11
Park Community Center in November and December. Cranial Vault reflects one man’s
tour 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 illustra-
tion, 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 volun-
teers 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. Mem-
ers 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 commu-
nity-based initiative of the Old Takoma
Business Association. And don’t forget
- middle and high school students can earn
community service 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.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

Loose leaf collection will be provided by
the City from November 10 through Dec-
ember 31. Residents can rake leaves out and bag them for collection. Convenient
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 Av-
ue will have collection on Thursday, No-
ember 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. Vet-

eran’s Day will be celebrated on Tuesday,
November 11 and the Veteran’s Day will be
celebrated on Saturday, November X
and Thursday, December X.

The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves
only. Do Not include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seri-
ously damage equipment and delay
collection.

Do Not park your car in front of a
leaf pile and when raking please try
to avoid piling leaves where cars are
parked.

The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves
only. Do Not include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seri-
ously damage equipment and delay
collection.

Do Not park your car in front of a
leaf pile and when raking please try
to avoid piling leaves where cars are
parked.

Vacuum leaf collection will end De-
cember X, if weather has not delayed
collection.

Snow and freezing rain can signifi-
cantly delay collection.

Leaf Collection Hotline for reporting
piles, 301-891-7626.