First Analysis Shows Crime Decrease in Takoma Park

By Virginia D. Myers, with Kyleen Luy, TPPD Crime Analyst

Crime is down in Takoma Park, according to the most comprehensive crime report the city has had since its police department was accredited in 1991. The report, initiated from a newly created position in the department, shows that overall, crime decreased by 2.8 percent during the first part of 2008 (January through August), when compared to the same time period in 2007.

In most categories, the number of criminal incidents fell. Aggravated assaults went down by 8.2 percent, from 64 to 96 cases. Robbery was up 11.1 percent, from 27 to 24 incidents; larceny decreased by 14.3 percent, from 279 to 239 incidents; auto theft is down by 8.2 percent, from 85 to 78 incidents; and the City went from three rapes in 2007 to two in 2008.

While that is good news, the city’s new crime analyst, Kyleen Luy, also reports some increases. Most notably, burglary went up 50 percent, from 64 to 96 cases. Robbery was up 11.4 percent, from 44 to 49 incidents. And although overall auto theft and theft from vehicles (which are included under larceny) decreased, residents experienced a peak last summer from a two-year low of four in June to a high of 13 in August. In August 2007, there were just seven auto thefts reported.

There was also an enormous increase in the number of drug arrests -- 112 in 2008, compared to 29 during the same period of 2007, a 286.2 percent jump. Police attribute the increase in arrests to the efforts of the department’s new Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU). The introduction of TEU has been a success not only in drug arrests, but in turn, an increased feeling of public safety. Additionally, he says, the department targets dealers, rather than users, and is taking great strides to remove sellers from Takoma Park streets.

Luy’s report, which is available online (http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/terrorism/9-22-08.pdf), also examines crime beat by beat. Observers can see that, in “beat one,” which includes the North Takoma, Old Town, Westmoreland Park, and Circle Woods neighborhoods, serious crime – that is, homicide (though there were no homicides in the city this year), rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft – increased by 32.5 percent, from 123 to 163 incidents. In contrast, beat two (Long Branch Sligo, Between the Creeks, Ritchie Citizen Association) experienced a crime drop of 5.8 percent, from 146 to 138 incidents. Crimes in beat three (New Hampshire Gardens, SOSCA, Hillwood Manor) decreased 13.5 percent from 200 to 173 this year.

Luy also teased out information from her statistics showing which types of automobiles are most frequently stolen: Dodge Caravan, Honda Accord, Acura Integra, Chrysler Cirrus, and Dodge Intrepid. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, thieves continue to target older vehicles and certain vehicle makes (i.e. Dodge, Honda, Chrysler) because they provide the best market for stolen vehicle parts. The types of vehicles being stolen remain consistent from year to year, though overall car theft in the United States declined almost nine percent in 2007.

Takoma Park statistics also show information about “nuisance crime,” which includes vandalism, drugs, disorderliness, driving under the influence, and trespassing. Such crimes increased by 35.1 percent this year.

Inside: Development Update...

Crime Decrease continues on page 9

EYA Makes Minor Changes to Metro Development

By Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

EYA, the development company that hopes to build townhouses at the Takoma Park Metro station, has modified its concept plan for the property. The new plan is very similar to its previously-submitted plan, but no longer requires private cars and transit buses to share a traffic circle, modifies the Kiss and Ride area, and widens some sidewalks. The number of homes proposed for the property was reduced from 86 to 82. At a Takoma Park City Council meeting on October 6, EYA representatives said modifications to the plans were done in response to the City’s concerns about their previous plan.

At the meeting, reaction to the plans was mostly negative, as residents took turns at the microphone to comment. Many questioned whether the project would benefit the community. They also felt the changes were insufficient to address concerns about constraining bus facilities at the same time that there is a growing need for mass transportation.

The changes to the concept plan were also submitted to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). WMATA had submitted an earlier EYA concept plan to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for approval. With the modifications, the FTA announced that it is suspending its review of the earlier plan.

The proposal must be approved by the District of Columbia government as well as the FTA. An application for approval as a Planned Unit Development in a D.C. historic district has not yet been submitted to the D.C. Office of Planning.

City staff are in the process of reviewing the new plan in detail, as well as working to learn about next steps in the development review and federal approval processes. Information will be posted to the City’s web site as it becomes available. Go to: http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro/index.html for more information.
City Council Action*

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

September 15 - Special Session

Resolution 2008-64 was adopted, declaring September 20-27 as “Sick of Signs” Week in Takoma Park (against: Seamans, Snipper, Wright)

Resolution 2008-65 was adopted, providing for participation in the Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail Program

First Reading Ordinance 2008-38 was adopted, amending the Takoma Park Code to revise the stormwater review fee and permit fee for institutional, industrial and commercial facilities

September 22 2008 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2008-66 was adopted, offering condolences to the friends and family of Dean Hoge

Resolution 2008-67 was adopted, opposing the expansion of slot machine gambling in the State of Maryland

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-68, supporting a proposed restaurant at 7003 Carroll Avenue

Resolution 2008-69, accepting the recommendations and conclusions in the June 2008 Report of the Recreation Committee

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-39, authorizing the purchase of replacement uniforms for the Police Department

Resolution 2008-70, authorizing execution of Memorandum of Agreement with the Takoma Foundation for the Community Center Mosaic Project

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-40, authorizing execution of a contract for a photo speed enforcement program

October 6, 2008 - Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2008-41 was adopted, authorizing FY09 Budget Amendment No. 1

Resolution 2008-71 was adopted, recognizing October 8, 2008 as “Walk to School Day”

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-72, supporting Montgomery Housing Partnership’s purchase of 7610 Maple Avenue

Resolution 2008-73, providing for reappointments to the Ethics Commission

Resolution 2008-74, providing for reappointments to the Tree Commission

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-42, authorizing a contract for services to develop a 10-year ADA compliance plan for City sidewalks

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-43, authorizing a contract for services to conduct a city-wide missing sidewalk study

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-44, authorizing contracts for tree removal and maintenance pruning

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-45, authorizing a contract for leasing of photo coopers

October 13, 2008 - Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-41 was adopted, authorizing FY09 Budget Amendment No. 1

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-47 was adopted, awarding a contract for intergovernmental representative/advocate to Ciekot and Elliott, LLC

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-75, endorsing PY35 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-46, awarding a contract for purchase and installation of a modular office in the police evidence bay

Resolution 2008-76, providing for appointments to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Resolution 2008-77, providing for an appointment to the Police Employees’ Retirement Plan Committee

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)

Takoma Park Board of Elections (one vacancy)

Tree Commission (one vacancy)

Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)

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Noise Control Board (vacancies)

Takoma Park Board of Elections (one vacancy)

Tree Commission (one vacancy)

Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)

Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. (by appointment only) and 5 - 7 p.m. (for walk-ins), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Walk-ins are requested to check in at the reception desk on the main floor. For appointments, contact Peggie Washington, 301-891-7230 or peggiew@takomagov.org.
Local Homes Preserve Takoma Park History

By Joy Jones

The next time you are waxing poetic to your friends about how great it is to work and live in Takoma Park, consider that all the fine old homes in our city have a lot to do with your bragging rights. Sabrina Baron, President of Historic Takoma, Inc. believes strongly that “these historic buildings and dwellings tell us who we were and who we are. Takoma Park was and remains an intentional community, and the rich variety of housing styles has a lot to do with Takoma Park’s current identity.” According to Baron, Takoma Park’s current reputation for healthier living, respect for nature and slightly left-of-center politics is a direct offshoot of these early, now historic homes.

Temperance activist and Takoma Park developer Benjamin F. Gilbert marketed the Takoma Park suburban community as “No malaria. No mosquitoes. Pure air. Delightful shade. A most abundant supply of pure water. A good investment for homes or profit.” Gilbert envisioned a residential resort close to transportation (the B&O Railroad) that combined the advantages of country living with easy commuting for businessmen, government workers, and other professionals. These amenities had previously been available only to the wealthy who were able to afford both town and country residences. Gilbert recruited builders to live in the community and erect houses. Several houses were under construction in 1884. Most of these early houses were large-frame stick, shingle, and Queen Anne-style residences with wrap-around porches, open galleries, towers, complex rooflines, and much fine gingerbread and shingle detail. These homes were soon followed by more modest arts and crafts, bungalow, and then classical and colonial revival style residences.

Today, 75 of these original homes still exist in Takoma Park, most but not all of them in the historic district bounded by Eastern Avenue, New York Avenue/Montgomery College, Jefferson Avenue/Sligo Creek Parkway and Elm and Sycamore Avenues. The Takoma Park Historic District is the largest single historic district in Montgomery County.

The distinctly Victorian Cadie-Lee Mansion on Eastern Avenue, built in 1887, has 22 rooms and 50 windows.

The “Boat House” 7209 Cedar Avenue

It may or may not look like a boat, but the nautical association is legitimate. This Victorian-shingle style home at 7209 Cedar Avenue was designed by Washington, D.C. native architect Harvey Page and built in 1890 for retired Navy Admiral Pigmam. Known for its recently restored wide arches and front turret, the Boat House is one of Takoma Park’s most outstanding historic resources. Although it was divided into five apartments in the early 1900s, had lost many of its interior design features, and even fell victim to a major fire during its life, current artists and owners Alison Baker and Jim Colwell have taken on an attentive restoration in the past several years. The interior retains gorgeous original woodwork and stained glass windows, and the shingling and front turret make the exterior especially noteworthy.

Sunny House 7001 Cedar Avenue

Ida Sunny and husband Orlando D. Sunny purchased one of the first lots (the original address was 101 Cedar Avenue) from Benjamin Gilbert. She is said to have suggested the name “Takoma” to Gilbert, over a game of cards. Meaning “high up near heaven” in a Northwest American Indian language, the appellation perfectly fits with the city’s 350-foot elevation above the District and Gilbert’s intention to make his new community a respite from crowded, marshy, stressful Washington. D.C. Gilbert added “Park” to reflect an open, spacious landscape.

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Hastoric Takoma Moves History

Historic Takoma, Inc. is making history of its own. Since it incorporated in 1979, its files and files of historic documents, photographs, maps, brochures, scrapbooks and the like have been placed wherever there was room — often in a volunteer’s home. In September 2006, the organization bought its own permanent home, began restoration and, in mid to late 2009, Historic Takoma will move its entire operation to 7328 Carroll Avenue, in Takoma Junction. Historic Takoma’s new home has been a Piggy Wiggly, Alperstein’s Furniture, Barcelona Nuts, and Knee High to a Grasshopper (a children’s shop) in its lifetime.

Once it’s settled into its new digs, Historic Takoma will continue to be a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of the Takoma Park community of Maryland and Washington, D.C. Most familiar to the public is its house and garden tour, held every year on the first weekend of May.

Historic Takoma’s mission, to improve the community’s quality of life by educating the public about historic preservation, preserving the community’s architecture and physical environment, working to revitalize business areas, procuring and preserving community historic artifacts, establishing and maintaining historic structures and exhibits, and holding meetings and other events related to that mission, has been carried out by hundreds of dedicated local history enthusiasts. Their current project, to raise money for renovations to their new space, includes opportunities for residents to donate to the cause. For more information, visit www.historictakoma.org/archives/WebSite/index.htm

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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups, articles that may contain opinion, and letters to the editor will be considered for publication. Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 89-36 of June 6, 1992 that sets forth the ethical guidelines for city and elected officials, the right to edit all submitted copy for 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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Landlord-Tenant Cases

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

COLTA Case # 08-4T, Munoz v. Reden Management

On February 15, 2008 the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a complaint that the landlord improperly transferred the responsibility for payment of utility costs to the tenant without complying with the utility transfer provisions of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law. The commission ruled that the landlord had failed to comply with Section 6.16.130 (Utility Transfer) of the City’s law when he failed to provide the tenant with three months’ written notice and failed to reduce the tenant’s rent by an amount commensurate with the utility costs for the preceding 24 months. The tenant was awarded the right to deduct the documented amount he had paid to the utility company amounting to $1,602.30 from future months’ rent along with the right to deduct any future utility company charges from his monthly rent. The commission also ruled that if the tenant vacates his rental unit prior to withholding the security deposit, he would be granted rent increases above the Rent Stabilization Allowance. COLTA found the landlord had not complied with the utility transfer provisions of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law. The commission ruled that the landlord had failed to comply with Section 6.16.130 (Utility Transfer) of the City’s law when he failed to provide the tenant with three months’ written notice and failed to reduce the tenant’s rent by an amount commensurate with the utility costs for the preceding 24 months. The tenant was awarded the right to deduct the documented amount he had paid to the utility company amounting to $1,602.30 from future months’ rent along with the right to deduct any future utility company charges from his monthly rent. The commission also ruled that if the tenant vacates his rental unit prior to withholding the security deposit, he would be granted rent increases above the Rent Stabilization Allowance. COLTA found the landlord had not complied with the utility transfer provisions of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law.

By Maureen Sweeney Smith, MHP

Ben Cardin Cuts Ribbon at Local Apartments

For the past few years, residents of three apartment buildings in Takoma Park have undergone some stressful living conditions. In 2005, their own sent eviction letters to many of the residents advising them that their apartments would be converted to condos. They had already endured years of substandard living with broken elevators, rodent infestations, and dozens of code violations. Now, these residents are able to partner with people who dream of affordable rents. Cardin is a community-based, nonprofit that has been active in the District of Columbia since 1980, serving as a resource for other nonprofits needing meeting and retreat facilities.

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Rent Increase Petitions

By Jean Kehr, Housing Specialist

On August 26, 2008, the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) heard an objection to a preliminary administrative decision (PAD) that had been rendered on a landlord’s Hardship Rent Increase Petition.

7667 Maple Avenue (2007-66H)

On October 8, 2008, an Opinion and Order was issued, granting rent increases on all units (125) at the property ranging from $44.28 to $950.06 (6.81 percent). The landlord had filed objections to COLTA’s preliminary administrative decision (PAD), claiming the rent increases granted in the PAD of May 14, 2008, were insufficient due to COLTA’s failure to annualize the petition year’s vacancy loss for the property. The landlord had originally petitioned for an 8.20 percent rent increase and instead had received a 2.48 percent rent increase in the PAD. On August 26, 2008, a hearing was held. In a hardship petition, a landlord must show that the petition year operating income is lower than the adjusted base year net operating income in order to be granted rent increases above the Rent Stabilization Allowance. COLTA found in part for the landlord and awarded the landlord a 6.81 percent rent increase for all rental units at the property.

Takoma Homes

continued from page 3

sylvan, relaxing quality, and later the postal service changed the “c” to a “k” to distinguish it from Tacoma, Washington. Ida Summy was the first secretary of the Ladies’ Aid Society of the Union Chapel of Takoma Park, the first place of worship in the City. In 1895 the first meeting of the Takoma (Masonic) Lodge No. 29, F. & A. M. was held in the Summy house. By 1901 O. D. Summy was the fire chief of Takoma Park.

The Cady-Lee Mansion

7064 Eastern Avenue, NW, Washington DC

The Cady-Lee Mansion at 7064 Eastern Avenue and Pine Branch Road was built in 1887 for Washington realtor Henry Cady and designed by architect Leon Dessez. Located in the District of Columbia, the Cady-Lee is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in both Washington, D.C. and Maryland. The mansion is a Queen Anne Victorian with 22 rooms, at least 50 windows, seven gables and a turfed sleeping porch. The interiors are remarkable for their elaborately carved oak moldings, original fireplaces and mantels, portraits of the Cady children, and a magnificent stained glass window on the oak staircase landing. The Cady-Lee has had only four owners in its 121-year history, remaining with the Cady-Lee family until 1975. In 2000, the mansion was sold to Takoma Park resident and restoration specialist Frances Phipps, who completed a massive restoration of the architecturally significant, saving residents money.

Colors of Takoma

A poster of some of Takoma Park’s colorful homes, photographed by Ross Chapple, is available at select locations in Old Town. Sales benefit Historic Takoma.

Once a year, usually in early to mid May, many of these historic homes and others are open to the public during Historic Takoma Inc’s House and Garden Tour. The tour is a formal opportunity to take a peak at the purposeful planning and development of our City’s early homes, and to see how much of Takoma Park’s present community identity stems from those early years.

Many thanks to the current owners of the historic homes featured in this article and to Historic Takoma, Inc. for much of the descriptive information. Visit Historic Takoma at www.historictakoma.org.
Gift Fair Presents Alternative Holidays

For people hoping to celebrate the holidays with a little less emphasis on commercial endeavor, the 10th Annual Alternative Gift Fair, December 6 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (310 Tulip Avenue) provides an opportunity to choose meaningful gifts that are easy on the planet and generous to those in need, as well as those on the gift list.

Participants at the fair make contributions to their choice of 16 local, national and international charities, in the name of those to whom they are giving gifts. In past years, these gifts of charity have included money that would pay for training in solar panel building in rural Africa, art supplies for locals with mental illness, food for stranded pets and English as a second language (ESL) materials for D.C.-area immigrants.

Features with the gift fair:
- Bake sale with live music by local performers
- Live music by local performers
- Art supplies for local artists
- Bikes for the World (for self-reliant poor in developing nations), Afghan Relief Fund (orphans for boys and widows) and APOPO (training of rats to sniff out mines)
- Art supplies for local artists
- Caring in Solar Panel Building in Rural Africa
- Art supplies for local artists
- Food for stranded pets and English as a second language (ESL) materials for D.C.-area immigrants

All gifts are tax-deductible. For more information or to Volunteer, contact Gina Duffin, fair director, at aggw_inc@yahoo.com.

Celebrating the Arts

The second annual Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Day, October 18, included even the youngest artists and dancers, who got to experiment with painting, collage, dance, costumes and more.

UPDATES continues on page 8

Cranial Vault: Artifacts and Impressions

“The cranial vault is the space in the skull within the neurocranium. The brain is found in the cranial vault, and brain size may be affected by the size of the vault as shown in craniometry, but studies relating it to intelligence have been ambivalent.” —Wikipedia

Using commissioned artwork, medical images, found sound, and collectibles, “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.

The exhibit runs from November 3 through December and can be viewed in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Community Center.

The opening reception of Cranial Vault will be held in Gallery 3 on Friday, November 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Functions Pottery

Long a collector and student of Japanese ceramics, Jane Spalding began three years ago to incorporate Asian aesthetics and forms into her own work. The result is a wide-ranging collection of functional vessels -- some evoking soft shapes and subtle hues, others commanding attention with their bold textures and of-the-earth qualities.

Spalding’s work is on display in The Corridor (next to the Computer Learning Center) and can be viewed throughout the months of November and December.

Takoma Artists Guild’s Fall Show

The Takoma Artists Guild (TAG) will be showcasing the work of its members throughout the month of November in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the Community Center.

Plans Begin for Mosaic Project

The first public meeting for the Takoma Mosaic Project will be held Thursday, November 6, to begin planning community-created mosaic murals for the Takoma Park Community Center. Artists and non-artists are invited to explore themes and locations for a permanent public work that will represent the diverse community and its values. Lead artist, Arturo Ho, will give a brief overview of mosaic arts.

In a second meeting November 13, Joe Wall, technical director for the mosaic mural at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, will give an overview of the Baltimore project’s process, materials and methods, and information about the art and craft of mosaic.

The gatherings will begin a series of talks and workshops open to anyone interested in learning about mosaic; they will include a trip to Baltimore to see the AVAM mural.

Both meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Community Center. For more information or to sign up for an email newsletter, see http://www.takoma-mosaic.org.

“Third Thursday” Poetry Reading Series

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission’s popular “third Thursday” poetry reading series begins this month with the first reading scheduled for Thursday, November 13. The readings, which feature the work of local poets, begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Writing a Village: Adult Poetry Workshop

Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker is offering a series of community poetry workshops on the third Monday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center.
R E C R E A T I O N

NOVEMBER

A C T I V I T I E S

Alternative Games
Ages 11 and older
For D&D veterans: What if you were trapped in New York City when the zombie hordes took over the world? Or what if you were a gang of goblins playing poker on a bridge when those darned ‘adventurers’ came wandering by? Free-flowing, fast and furious, play a mix of different role-playing or tabletop strategy game systems, depending on players’ interests. Instructor Dave Burbank. Max. 12, min. five. Four weeks.

When: Sat., Nov. 1 - 22
Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Auditorium - T.P. Com. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. $45
Non-Res. $50

Fun Day Program
Grades K – 5
The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings and activities and performances on scheduled half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. On half days only, students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up in the cafeteria and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Bring lunch! Trips, activities and performances are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

When: Mon., Nov. 3
Trip: Carrie Marr Outdoor Nature Center and Maryland Zoo
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $25
Non-Res. $30

When: Tues., Nov. 4
Trip: Orioles Park Tour and Sports Legend Museum
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $25
Non-Res. $30

When: Tues., Nov. 11
Activity: **Books: The Magic is Real – see your favorite stories come to life
Time: 1 - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $15
Non-Res. $20

When: Wed., Nov. 12
Activity: **Nicolo Whimsey - watch and try your hand at some circus tricks
Time: 1 - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $15
Non-Res. $20

**For students registered in Afternoon Addition the Half Day programs are included in your registration fee. Full day Fun Days require separate registration and payment.

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

When: 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $10
Non-Res. $15

Takoma Park Drumming
Ages 8 and older
Learn hand drumming techniques, Afro-Cuban and other styles from Takoma Park Drum Collective instructor, Darryl Lyons. Four weeks. A drum will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Max. 20, min. six. No class on Nov. 28.

When: Fri. Nov. 21 – Dec. 19
Time: 4 – 6 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $40
Non-Res. $45

TGIF
Ages 11 – 17
Takoma Park Recreation invites teens to participate in “TGIF,” a series of safe, fun Friday night events for teens to socialize outside of school.

Date: Nov. 14
Activity: Madden Tournament - T Zone - T.P. Com. Ctr.
Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
Fee: Free

Poetry and Cupcakes
Ages 13 - 17
Join us in the auditorium of the T. P. Community Center, for spoken word, poetry and cupcakes. If you have something you have written or would like to recite your favorite poem or song, come and share your talent, express yourself.

When: Tues., Nov. 18
Location: Auditorium - T.P. Com. Ctr.
Time: 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Fee: Free

RoadTripz
Ages 11 – 18 “Roadtripz” takes teens on adult-supervised trips to local destinations.

Date: Nov. 7
Activity: Washington Wizards Game
Date: Nov. 21
Activity: Open Gym, Piney Branch Elementary

Faceoff Floor Hockey
Grades 1-3 and 4-6
Looking for a fun new sport to play during those cold winter months? Look no further than Takoma Park floor hockey. Participants will be taught the rules and skills of the game by qualified recreation staff, and then will be placed on teams for game play. Five weeks. Minimum 10.

When: Mon., Nov. 17 – Dec. 15
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School Gym
1-3 Graders: 4 – 5 p.m.
4-6 Graders: 5 – 6 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $25
Non-Res. $30

Cardio Fusion Mix
Ages 16 and older
A complete workout for the entire body. Kick up your energy levels and decrease body fat through an infused mix of hi/lo cardiovascular conditioning and resistance training. Bring 3lb to 8lb hand weights. Instructor Denise Pullet. Max. 20, min. eight. Seven weeks.

RECREATION continues on page 7

Photo by Debra Hradunek

Torrential rain did not discourage hundreds people from dressing up for the Recreation Department’s festive Halloween events, which were relocated to the Piney Branch Elementary School gym on October 25.
New Winter Basketball Backed by NBA, WNBA

The Takoma Park Recreation Department’s brand new Winter Basketball League will heat up the cold months for kids in kindergarten through grade eight this year. The ambitious program is a first for the city: the Rec Department secured partnerships with the Junior NBA and Junior WNBA, the resident Recreation Committee and the Long Branch Athletic Association. The committee has been instrumental in recruiting coaches and marketing; Long Branch will help the start-up league with a few teams from its established program; and the NBA and WNBA are providing marketing materials and possibly a visit from a professional player.

Organizers are comparing the new league to Takoma Park Neighborhood Youth Soccer and the Babe Ruth League, organizations that have included thousands of children and become recognizable to just about any family in the City. To extend basketball to as many children as possible, the City is reducing the $30 registration fee to just $15 for residents who can prove enrollment in the schools’ free or reduced meal program.

Assistant Recreation Department Director Gregory Clark envisions the league with 30 teams of 10 players, a huge contribution to community life. More players mean more teams, he reasons, and more teams mean more opportunities to play. “We want to make the league as big as we can to service the most residents – Montgomery County as well as Takoma Park residents,” says Clark. He adds that emphasis will be on learning the game.

League teams will be divided by grade (K coed, 1-2 coed, 3-4 boys and girls; 5-6 boys and girls and 7-8 coed). Grades 1-8 practice one night a week, and kindergarten meets Saturdays only. Opening day is November 22; games begin January 10. Registration forms are available at the Community Center or online at tprecreation.org/Reg-For-Basketball.pdf and can be sent to the Recreation Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Payment is by check or money order. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact Gregory Clark, 301-891-7227.
In An Emergency – How Do You Get the Word?

Both the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County will respond to a pending emergency situation by issuing citywide and regional warnings to alert residents. Here are four ways the public can be notified, if an emergency threatens the community:

(1) The Emergency Broadcasting System
(2) Reverse 911
(3) Takoma Park Alert
(4) The NOAA Weather Radio - All Hazard.

The Emergency Broadcasting System (EBS) will be activated over designated radio stations in emergency situations. These radio stations will alert the public with instructions on how to react to an emergency. In order to receive the message, residents have to have a working radio or television. In case of power failure, having a battery powered radio is essential. EBS designated radio stations are: WTOJ 103.9 FM, 103.5 FM, 820 AM, WAMU 88.5 FM, WMAL 630 AM. It is recommended that the consumer test battery operated radios to be sure they can access the listed stations clearly and easily.

Reverse 911 is an innovative technique to warn residents in a selected geographic area of a community. When activated, residents will receive a telephone message. In order to receive the message, the residents have to have a functioning telephone, which in case of power failure, has to be a landline and a wire connected telephone, not a cordless telephone.

The TP Alert system will warn Takoma Park residents of a pending emergency situation. When you sign up for TP Alert, you have several choices as to how you receive the alert: an e-mail account at work, at home, or other, over cell phone, over text pager, over Blackberry, and over wireless PDA. Takoma Park will use TP Alert to immediately contact residents during a major situation or emergency. TP Alert will deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on the devices you register. While signing up for TP Alert is free of charge, your wireless carrier may or may not charge you a fee to receive text messages.

Check your wireless service agreement to review your carrier’s pricing scheme. TP Alert can be accessed through subscription via the City of Takoma Park Website, free of charge.

The NOAA Weather Radio – All Hazard is a component of the nation’s emergency alert system. NOAA weather radios can be activated through a radio signal and then give an emergency warning. Households that have NOAA radios will receive general emergency warning messages. This is a reliable and effective system used in geographic regions of frequent weather-related emergencies, but the radios will alert to all emergencies. When buying NOAA alert radios, pay special attention that the radio is equipped with “Specific Area Message Encoding” called “SAME” that will cause the radio to respond only to the messages of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) that correspond to the geographic area.

No matter what is happening in Takoma Park or in the broader Montgomery County area can help you to skirt around emergency situations, keep you from being trapped in heavy traffic, and keep you and your family safe and secure. Most important, it can keep you out of the way of emergency personnel doing their job. Small actions like signing up for TP Alert or having a battery operated radio, if only used once, could pay big safety dividends.

¿En Una Emergencia - Cómo Usted Consigue la Palabra?

La ciudad de Takoma Park y el condado de Montgomery responderá a una situación de emergencia pendiente por advertencias a nivel de la ciudad y del condado de la publi-
curación para alertar a sus residentes. Aquí están cuatro maneras que el público puede ser noti-
ficado de una emergencia amenaza a la comunidad:

(1) el sistema de radiodifusión de la emergencia,
(2) revés 911,
(3) Alarma de Takoma Park, y
(4) la radio del tiempo de NOAA - Todo el Peligro.

El sistema de Radiodifusión de la Emergencia (EBS) será activado sobre estaciones de radio señaladas. Estas estaciones de radio alertarán al público y darán in-
strucciones al público en cómo reaccionar a una emer-
gencia. Para recibir el mensaje, los residentes tienen que tener una radio o una televisión que funcionan. En caso de apagón de electricidad, tener una línea de la casa y un teléfono conectado con alambre, no un teléfono móvil.

Alarma de la Ciudad de Takoma Park (TP): Este sistema advertirá a residentes de TP de una situación de emergencia pendiente. Cuando usted alista con la Alarma de TP, usted tiene varias opciones en cuanto a cómo usted recibirá la alarma. Una cuenta de correo electrónico en el trabajo, en la casa, o por teléfono celular, sobre paginador del texto, sobre Blackberry, y sobre PDA sin alambres. La Ciudad de Takoma Park utilizará Alarma del TP para con-
tactar inmediatamente a residentes durante una situación o una emergencia importante. Alarma del TP le entregará alarmas, notificaciones y actualizaciones importantes de la emergencia en los dispositivos que usted se coloca. Mien-
tras que el alista de la Alarma del TP es gratuito, su portador puede o no puede cargarse un honorario a recibir un mensaje de texto. La Alarma del TP se puede utilizar con la suscrip-
ción vía el web site del internet de Takoma Park.

La radio del pronóstico del tiempo, NOAA - Todo el Peligro es un componente del sistema de alerta de la emergencia de la nación que pueden ser activadas a través de un señal de radio y después dar una advertencia de la emergencia. Los hogares que tienen radios de NOAA reci-
birán mensajes de alerta de la emergencia general. Esto es un sistema bien conocido y eficaz usado en regiones geográficas que tienen emergencias relacionadas a el tiempo, pero las radios alertarán a todas las emergencias. Al comprar radios que alertan por NOAA, den atención que la radio está equi-
pada con la programa llamó “SAME” que hará la radio responder solamente a los mensajes del sistema de alerta de la emergencia (EAS) que corresponden al área geográfica.

El conocimiento de qué está sucediendo en Takoma o en el área más amplia del condado de Montgomery puede permitir que usted maneje alrededor de situaciones de emergencia, a mantenerle de ser atrapado en tráfico densa, y asegurar que su familia va estar sanos y seguros. El más importante, puede mantenerle apartado de los personales que están haciendo su trabajo. Mayores acciones como alistar con Alarma del TP o tener una radio con baterías, si esto es utilizado solamente una vez, podrían pagar dividendos grandes de la seguridad.

DEVELOPMENT
continued from page 5

any application for a car wash development site plan. The City planning staff will work with the neighborhood associa-
tions to provide review materials and information regarding process once an application has been submitted.

Gilbert: Taking a development at the corner of East-
ern Avenue and Laurel Avenue adjacent to the Pizza Movers building, is now fully into the site work in preparation for construc-
tion. Upon completion, the building will house a new restaurant and additional storefronts on Laurel Avenue.

The Maryland Department of Transportation has com-
pleted the Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Im-
pact Statement for the Purple Line – the bi-county transit way that will connect the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Long Branch neighborhoods with Silver Spring, College Park, Bethesda, New Carrollton and possibly beyond. This is a document that is prepared by the State for all projects for which they are requesting federal funding. At the begin-
ing of 2009, the Secretary of Transportation for the State of Maryland will be deciding which of the alternatives the State will request funding for: high, medium or low investment for bus rapid transit or light rail. Each alternative is represented by a cost per predicted rider for development of the project. There are two other transit projects that are through the plan-
ning stages and ready for engineering funding. These include

The Corridor Cities Transitway in Montgomery County and the Red Line in Baltimore. The Secretary of Transportation will also have to decide if the state will request funding for some or all of the three projects listed above.

It is likely that the City Council will discuss and com-
ment on the Purple Line at its first two meetings in Novem-
ber. Staff recommendations will include that the State select the medium investment light rail alternative as it will have a dedicated lane. The bus rapid transit would share lane with local buses. Staff also recommends grass between the tracks along University Boulevard and that sufficient right-of-
way be obtained to provide sidewalks with trees and landscaping to promote walking to the new rail line.

The City council may, at a later date, consider two individual’s testimony has been requested and will be gathered via pub-
lic hearings, letters, and online. You may send your writ-
ten comments to Diane Ratcliff, MTA Director of Plan-
ing, 6 St. Paul Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, by January 14 or to Mike Maddin, project manager, online at www.purplelinemd.com.

On Saturday, November 22, 2008, there will be an Open House to gather public testimony at 12:30 p.m. and a Public Hearing from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus in Falcon Hall, 7600 Takoma A-
venue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Testimony gathered by the State will also be considered by the Montgomery County Council in their deliberations regarding the project.

The Carroll Avenue Streetscape Phase II project, which is

implementing pedestrian safety and ADA improvements to Carroll between Eastern Avenue and Columbia Avenue was largely completed prior to October. Landscaping and minor site work remains to be done.

The Washington Adventist Hospital made a presentation to the Community in September regarding its new plan, “Vil-
lage of Health and Well-being” for its current location be-
tween Carroll, Flower and Maple Avenues once the hospital relocated to the White Oak-Caletown area in 2013. The plan includes continued health and education services focusing on health training and wellness as well as a new fitness center with a gym and pool. The City Council has appointed an advisory committee that will look at future land use on the site. A new committee met for the first time in October. In accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, all meet-
ings are open to the public.

The City Council also passed a resolution making recom-
mendations regarding the Montgomery College Facilities Master Plan. The College is expected to present its Facilities Master Plan to the Planning Board and comments will likely be accepted at that time, however, no date has been set as of the printing of this newsletter.

For more information on City review of projects during the site plan, subdivision, or mandatory review process, please contact Ilona Blanchard at ilonab@takomagov.org or 301-891-7205.
CRIME DECLINES
continued from page 1

issuing and how many resulted in arrests, the number of cases assigned and closed, and the areas of the City that had the most calls for service.

The last section of the report addresses crime prevention. Luy reports that the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) has been an important tool to address auto thefts and thefts from vehicles. The unit works in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles, following leads to make arrests in high-priority crime areas like beat three, along New Hampshire Avenue. Ricucci keeps TEU “working all night in the areas where cars are being broken into,” he says. He and the rest of the department also routinely issue community advisories and emphasize safety tips at community meetings.

For those who feel the department is slow to solve such crimes, says Luy, the department’s Criminal Investigations Division explains that residents often overlook the difficulty in solving property crimes, such as residential burglaries, auto thefts, and thefts from vehicles. The lack of trace evidence, video surveillance, or witnesses often hampers investigations.

Despite those challenges, Ricucci says many cases are closing “exceptionally,” which means a suspect is arrested in another jurisdiction for a crime, but TPFD connects him or her to an open case in the City. The suspect is locked up and being charged outside the City, and the case is closed.

Echoing Ricucci’s frequent admonitions regarding resident crime prevention techniques, the new crime analysis report includes advice on how to protect against theft and burglary. Residents are urged to report ANY suspicious activity or crime. “We need the community to report crimes,” Ricucci told City Council. “Everybody’s crimes are important to us and the more crimes that are reported the better . . . we can do [our] job.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year-to-date Comparison of Crime Statistics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Offense</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
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<td>Rape</td>
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<td>Robbery</td>
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<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
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<td>Burglary</td>
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<td>Larceny</td>
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<td>Auto Theft</td>
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<th>Year-to-date Comparison of Nuisance Crime Statistics</th>
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<td><strong>Offense</strong></td>
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<td>Destruction/Vandalism</td>
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<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
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<td>DUI</td>
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<td>Drug/Narcotic Offenses</td>
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<td>Gambling Offenses</td>
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<td>Liquor Law Violations</td>
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<td>Loitering</td>
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<td>Trespassing</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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<th>Five Year Comparison of Crime Statistics</th>
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<td>2004</td>
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Preventing Crime Before it Starts

Thefts from vehicles and residential burglaries were two of the most common crimes in Takoma Park this year. In August, of the 17 thefts from vehicles, nine involved an unlocked vehicle. Luy stresses how important it is to avoid being a target:

- Always lock vehicles
- Remove anything of value from vehicles
- Make a report if a victim

To prevent residential burglaries:

- Lock all doors and windows when not home
- Avoid use of hide-away keys
- Prune shrubbery away from doors/windows and cut tree limbs that could be used to climb to an upper-level window.
- Most importantly, make a list of all valuables. An inventory of property assists both police and insurance companies in writing reports, but also helps police recover stolen property if you become a victim of crime.

To be sure a home is as safe as it can possibly be, Takoma Park police will conduct free residential security surveys. These home inspections, performed by police officers, help identify ways that residents can improve security at home, and officers can also review personal safety and security tips to decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim. The department also plans to participate in the state-wide Watch Your Car Program. Another free service, the program is available to owners of vehicles registered in the State of Maryland and aims to deter auto theft and apprehend auto thieves. It is coordinated by the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council. For more information, visit the MVTP website at www.mdautotheft.org.

As of Sep. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 537 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,160 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,697 this year. Totals for 2007 were 710 and 2,296, respectively, for a total of 3,006, representing a decrease of 309 incidents.

New Life Time Member

At the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department’s October 8 membership meeting, member Deanna Stewart was bestowed Life Time Member status. She is the 41st member to be added to the current TPVFD Life Time Membership Rolls. Stewart has been an active riding member for the past 15 years. Congratulations to her!

Welcome new TPVFD members

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department recently voted into membership two new members - Tom Musgrove and Jonathan Beyer. Congratulations to both. The department is always looking for new members. All we need from you is your time and commitment. If you are interested, please contact Membership Chairperson, Mike Livingston at the fire station 301-270-8209.

Blood Drive Reminder

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Takoma Park Lions Club is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Tuesday, October 28 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Taylor or Jim Jarboe at the fire station 301-270-8209.
**“Knucklehead” Shows Jon Scieszka Still Makes Reading Fun**

BY KAREN MCPHERSON

Earlier this year, author Jon Scieszka was named the first National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, a post created by the Library of Congress to raise awareness of the importance of children’s books.

More recently, Scieszka published a new book, an autobiography titled “Knucklehead.” (The Library has three copies of the book available for check out.) Last month, I had a telephone interview with Scieszka in my role as the children’s book columnist for Scripps Howard News Service, and here is the story that resulted:

Jon Scieszka is a master at making reading fun for kids, as he proves once again in his latest book, “Knucklehead.” In 38 short, photo-filled chapters, Scieszka vividly details what it was like to grow up with five brothers (he was the second oldest) who were always getting into some sort of trouble.

There was the time Scieszka and his older brother Jim charged friends 10 cents each to watch their baby brother chew (and spit out) cigarette butts. Another time, Jon and Jim tied a plastic dry cleaning bag into knots and then set it on fire, causing the bag to drip melted plastic – the perfect “bombs” for their army men in the war – until a cloud of black smoke began to gather under the ceiling of the basement where they were playing.

Other chapters involve adventures with cat vomit, dog poop and crossing “streams” when urinating with your brothers (that about when I was a kid),” Scieszka said.

Meanwhile, the book’s cover is designed to look like a comic book and features an illustration showing Scieszka in an army tank amid a sea of explosions while military aircraft overhead drop bombs. Even the book’s index makes fun reading: under “F” readers will find this selection: “Fart. We do not say that. See gas, pass.”

Clearly, “Knuckleheads,” aimed at readers ages 8-12, isn’t a book for the faint-hearted. But it is the perfect book for boys, reluctant readers and any young reader looking for a fast-paced, thoroughly entertaining autobiography.

In a recent telephone interview, Scieszka said he hopes kids have as much fun reading “Knucklehead” as he did writing it.

“I owed my editor a book for years and so one day she just told me to write down the stories I was always telling her,” Scieszka added. Yet Scieszka’s mother, a registered nurse, is an inveterate joke teller who remained unfazed by her active brood.

Scieszka’s father, meanwhile, was an elementary school principal; he was the one who first came up with “knucklehead,” asking one day as he discovered that his toast tasted like a melted green plastic army man, “What knucklehead put an army man in the toaster?”

The publication of “Knuckleheads” is perfect timing for Scieszka, who was named earlier this year as the first National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. In his two-year tenure, Scieszka is focusing on ways to persuade adults – and kids – that there’s more to reading than just classic storybooks.

Ever the showman, Scieszka revels in his stunts Scieszka and his brother pulled.

The newly 50 CD titles that we recently acquired this summer covered genres such as Latin jazz, bachatas, salseras and merengue from Latin America; soukous, dombolo and makossa from the Central African region; rumba, zoulou, highlife and Afrobeat from West Africa and some selections from the Ethiopiques music series from East Africa.

The new CDs are on display on the exhibit shelves adjacent to the metal CD cabinet in the Library. Please stop by and sample the collection. Also stop at the Reference Desk with suggestions for new additions and how we can improve the collection.

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**International Dance Music Collection Expands**

By Nic Fontem

Technical Services Coordinator

Since the Library first found a niche for international music CDs, each year we have continued to enhance the collection with new popular dance music. We have expanded the collection to include new artists from various countries and regions covering different dance and music genres. The need has in large measure been in response to our culturally diverse patrons’ requests. Many patrons tell us that they find our selections unique, refreshing and enjoyable. Some have suggested titles which we have, when possible, been able to purchase.

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**Knucklehead continues on page 12**

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**“Journey” Explores Brain From Inside Out**

Published in 1939 and re-released in paperback, “Journey Round My Skull” explores the experience of a man who suffered a gran mal seizure, went through cancer treatment and brain surgery, and is settling into the “new normal.” The Friends of the Library book group is reading the book for its meeting, Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center, in conjunction with the art exhibit, “Cranial Vault,” in Gallery Three on the third floor of the Center. The New York Times calls the book “...not only an extraordinary piece of medical testimony, but a powerful work of literature—one that dances brilliantly on the edge of extinction.”

A special preview of the gallery exhibit will precede the book meeting, at 7 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Library. All are invited to the event. For information call 301-891-7259.

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**CALENDAR**

November 2008

**Takoma Park Library**

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

**Neighborhood Circle Time**

Every Tuesday

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

**Spanish Circle Time**

Every Thursday, 11:11-30 a.m.

Come sing songs, do rhymes and hear stories in Spanish and English in this program led by Senora Maria.

**Twosies**

A program for toddlers 24-36 months and their grown-ups. Wednesdays in November, 10 a.m.

**Registration required.**

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**

Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

On the Library Lawn.

**Eaglebear and Friends**

Monday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.

Songs, dances and stories from the Xicano and Apache cultures. Please register.

**Bedtime Stories**

Monday, Nov. 10, 7-7:30 p.m.

Come in p.j.s. or bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

**Friends Reading Group**

Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Community Center.

Our book is “Journey Round My Skull” by Frigyes KarINTHy. All welcome; copies of the book available at the Library.

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**CALENDAR**

continues on page 12
Lions Club Collects Glasses, Hearing Aids

The Takoma Park Lions Club has been around close to 80 years and is one of the oldest of these regional service clubs. One of the club’s projects is collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids in an annual drive. Some of the eyeglasses will be recycled and others will be sent to developing counties. You may drop them off at the Takoma Park Library or the Takoma Park fire station. Another very important project of the club is collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids in an annual drive. Some of the eyeglasses and hearing aids will be recycled, and others will be sent to developing counties. You may drop them off at the Takoma Park Library or the Takoma Park fire station.

Help Support Emergency Assistance Fund

The need is so great

However, Takoma Park residents are making the difference! Through the generosity of many, a record number of donations are being received for the City’s Emergency Assistance Fund. Created by the City Council in 2001, the fund helps residents who are experiencing a crisis such as a health issue, a pending eviction or a notice of a utility cut-off, often due to loss of employment or financial circumstances beyond their control.

Donations are tax-deductible and are sent by the City to the Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Inc. to administer and distribute these funds. This past year, 24 families received financial support, which helped pay for prescriptions, rent and utility costs. The need, however, is even greater this year.

Now, you can help as well, by sending whatever you can afford to donate. Please use the form provided below to mail in your contribution. A letter acknowledging your donation will be sent to you. We thank you for supporting this program and the service that it provides to the community.

Please detach and send to City of Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund, Finance Office, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, 20912. For questions, call 301-891-7222.

I wish to donate $________ to the Emergency Assistance Fund. Check should be made payable to “City of Takoma Park”

Name and Address of Contributor:

You will receive a letter acknowledging your donation within 30 days of receipt.

City TV Improves Quality, Selection

Over the last month, City TV has installed and implemented a new automated playback server, replacing video tape decks which were close to several decades old. The effect of this upgrade is multifaceted. Viewers should notice an improvement in picture quality as, for the most part, programming will originate in a digital format and stay that way.

Viewers will also experience more variety and fewer reruns within each day or week. Programming within each 24 hour period is no longer limited by six tape decks. We have increased the hours of City TV original programming, including community festivals and special events. You can also look for festivals from the past decade, representing some of the best local musicians around.

City TV will continue to play Council meetings, Snapshots and Coffeehouse in the same time slots as before, with much local music throughout the day and night. We are in the process of evaluating outside programming and will slowly add additional programming, some of which we were unable to accommodate previously. You will also notice distinct improvements to the Community Bulletin Board. Among new software enhancements is the automatic generation of a daily schedule for the Bulletin Board and for the website, which means the program schedule information is as current as possible, with no extra labor. You can check out the schedule at www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/schedule. Another promised feature is the RSS feed from the City website and shows web headlines on the bulletin board.

Your feedback is welcome – send an email to cabletv@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7118 to let us know what you think of our new look.

City TV crews have been very busy this fall covering the many events in and around Takoma Park. New programs released include performances from the recent Folk Festival and Street Festival.

Takoma Snapshots in November will feature:

- New Series: “What’s In It For Me?”
- Offices and Services in Takoma Park’s Community Center; ‘The City Clerk’s Office’
- S.O.S.: Sick of Signs
- Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week: The Jane E. Lawton Farm-to-School Program
- A Moving Commentary: Exploring Shoes, Running and Motion
- 31st Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival Highlights

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. Much of City TV programming is streaming live on the website as well. Be sure to visit City TV’s award-winning webpage at www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable for more information.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patrons to check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Dubs of Takoma Park City TV events may be purchased on VHS or DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

City TV Programming Schedule - November 2008

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>Community Bulletin Board</td>
<td>PreSchool Power</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>PreSchool Power</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>PreSchool Power</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Takoma Park Folk Festival</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Remote)</td>
<td>Takoma Park City TV Local Events</td>
<td>Takoma Park Snapshots</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Coffeehouse</td>
<td>Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Remote)</td>
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ARTS NEWS

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Center. The workshops are free but registration is required. This month’s workshop is scheduled for Monday, November 17.

Holiday Art Sale and Open Studio Tour Registration

The Commission’s Holiday Art Sale and Open Studio Tour – 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 or to include your studio in the tour listing, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission. The deadline for registration is November 10.

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 by email at abs@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.org

City Clerk’s Office

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ambassador’s role. He’s got a special “ambassador’s” sash, but jokes that he’d like to have a medal to pin on his suit and maybe even a special helicopter to ferry him to appearances. He even laughingly contends that he has “diplomatic immunity” and hopes someday to have his face on the Cheerios box (Cheerios is sponsoring the ambassadorship). Scieszka, who published his first children’s book, “The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!” in 1989, believes more kids would read if they could read books that appeal to them, including graphic novels, non-fiction and comics. He also promotes the value of on-line reading, and his newest project, “Spaceheads” will be a multimedia project that will allow kids to help create the story via reading blogs and other online tools as they read the printed books.

Scieszka, whose books include the Caldecott Honor-winning “Stinky Cheese Man,” also continues to sponsor the “Guys Read” website (www.guysread.com), which he created several years ago to promote reading to boys.

In fact, “Knuckleheads” is a perfect example of the kind of book that demonstrates to both boys and girls that reading is fun, not drudgery. “The book encapsulates my idea that we should relax a little bit, and let kids have a good time reading,” Scieszka said.

Library calendar

First of four workshops for middle school students based on the Newbery Medal-winning book. Registration required; participants must be able to attend all four workshops.

Crafty Kids

Friday, Nov. 21, 4-5 p.m.
Come make table decorations for Thanksgiving.
Materials provided.
For kids ages 5 and up.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
At the Library.

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 24 and Thursday, December 18. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Monday, November 20 and Monday, December 22. On these dates, only these streets will receive collection.

There are two holidays in November during which no collection will occur. Veterans 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.

Leaf Collection Highlights

- Collection will occur continuously from November 10 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 31, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.

Library Calendar
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Bilingual Circle Time
Saturday, Nov. 15, 10:30-11 a.m.
Come join us for rhymes, songs and stories in Spanish and English.

Banned Books Club
For kids grades 6 and up.
Monday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is “The Outsiders” by S.E. Hinton.
Copies are available at the Library desk.
All welcome; please register.

“Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!”
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

Please follow these guidelines for vacuum leaf collection:

- Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. Do Not rake leaves into the street. Wet leaves can create traffic hazards.
- 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 seriously damage equipment and delay collection.
- 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 sti-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.