

# First Analysis Shows Crime Decrease in Takoma Park

By VIRGINIA D. MYERS,  
WITH KYLEEN LUY, TPPD CRIME ANALYST

**C** rime 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 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 also in arrests for thefts and robberies.

The substantial increase in drug arrests has prompted queries from residents wor-

ried that the City is concentrating on drug crime because the property of those arrested can be seized and kept by the police department -- leading some to call drug offenses a "profitable" crime for the department. Although numbers suggest a strong focus on policing drug offenders, Police Chief Ronald Ricucci insists that the department continues to place the highest priority on offenses such as robberies and burglaries. He adds that it is important to recognize that drug offenses are often linked to other crimes, so addressing the sale and distribution of drugs contributes to the overall reduction of crime and 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's streets.

Luy's report, which is available on line ([http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2008/crime\\_report\\_09-22-08.pdf](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2008/crime_report_09-22-08.pdf)), also examines crime beat by beat. Observers can see that, in "beat one," which includes the North Takoma, Old Town, Westmoreland Area Community Organization (WACO) 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 Cir-



## Walking the Walk for Health and Environment

Five hundred Piney Branch students walked to school with city, county and state officials and school personnel on Walk to School Day, October 8. With hand-made signs and banners, their demonstration was designed to showcase the many reasons they've chosen to walk, rather than ride, to class – improving their health, for example, and protecting the environment. Sixty safety patrols were on duty to help keep the walkers safe. Safe Kids Montgomery and Takoma Park Safe Routes to School sponsored the event, just one of many involving more than 30 schools in Montgomery County.

Photo by Sara Daines

rus, 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. Arrest statistics show suspects' place of residence by jurisdiction (62.5 percent lived outside the city), how many warrants were

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# EYA Makes Minor Changes to Metro Development

By SUZANNE LUDLOW  
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

**E** YA, the development company that hopes to build townhouses at the Takoma 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.

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AND COMMITTEE

CALENDAR\*

**Monday, November 3** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, November 10** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, November 11** - City offices closed for the Veterans Day Holiday

**Wednesday, November 12** - (tentative) Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Wednesday, November 12** - (tentative) Committee on the Environment meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

**Thursday, November 13** - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Room Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, November 17** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, November 18** - Safe Roadways Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, November 18** – WAH Land Use Committee, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, November 18** – Nuclear Free Committee, 7:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

**Thursday, November 20** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, November 24** - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, November 25** - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Wednesday, November 26** - Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)


**Thursday, November 27** - City offices closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

**Friday, November 28** - City offices closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

\*The City Council will be on recess from Nov. 25 - Jan. 5.

\*For the most up to date information, check [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (CC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org). The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267, at least 48 hours in advance, at the telephone number listed in the notice or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

Speak with the Mayor



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

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

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

City Council Action\*

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

September 15 - Special Session

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

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 photocopiers

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

Committee on the Environment (vacancies)

Emergency Preparedness Committee (one vacancy)

Ethics Commission (vacancies)

Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)

Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (vacancies)

Noise Control Board (vacancies)

Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)

Public Safety Citizens Advisory

Committee (vacancies)

Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)

Takoma Park Board of Elections (one vacancy)

Tree Commission (one vacancy)



# Local Homes Preserve Takoma Park History

By JOY JONES

The next time you are waxing poetic to your friends about how great it is living 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.



**Thomas-Siegler House and Garden**

Perhaps the best known of historic homes is the Thomas-Siegler house at the corner of Cedar Avenue and 201 Tulip Avenue. Built



Photos by Ross Chapple

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

in 1884 by Isaac and Amanda Thomas, the Thomas-Siegler house was the first house to be completed on the first street to be completed (Cedar) in Takoma Park. The Isaacs resided on the property until selling it to the Franklin Siegler family in 1919. The Sieglers lived on the Tulip Avenue side and rented rooms on the Cedar Street entrance to young professional women like nurses and teachers. The property is known for its spectacular gardens of white oak trees, magnolias and azaleas, not surprising since Siegler’s son Edward was a well-known entomologist with the Department of Agriculture for over half a century.

According to Historic Takoma documents, in 1984, the Friends of the Thomas-Siegler Historic Property successfully organized community opposition to the proposed demolition of the property, and found new owners for the main house, which was divided into two separate living quarters. The original house continues to be occupied by private owners, and the City retains ownership of the rest of the property. Through an agreement with the City, Historic Takoma manages the City-owned portion of the property for public use. In 1995, Historic Takoma opened the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum on the site. Open Sundays from 1-4 p.m., May through September, the museum includes carriages from the early 1900s. The garden is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk.

Laura DiCurcio has lived in the house for more than 22 years, first as a renter and now as owner. As a former member of Historic Takoma, DiCurcio is proud to live in this historic pearl. “There is value in preserving these beautiful old homes, not as museum objects, but as real homes for real people,” says DiCurcio. “Preservation of Thomas-Siegler house and other historic homes helps inform and educate us. I believe the purpose of Gilbert’s original vision remains, and can be seen in the wide range of styles and architectural personalities in the historic district. Historic Takoma Park homes were built to be different, to accommodate diverse families of diverse incomes, from lawyers to clerks and government workers, and to signify a community with a strong affinity for healthful and conscientious living.”

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.

## Maris House 7100 Cedar Avenue

Enoch Maris was Mayor of Takoma Park from June 28, 1892 until May 15, 1894. His home at the corner of Cedar and Eastern Avenues was built in 1889. At that time, Maris had a real estate business in Takoma Park. In 1892 he was a member of the city council and was elected to fill out the balance of Gilbert’s term as mayor when Gilbert resigned. Maris was also the fourth postmaster in Takoma Park; he died in 1903. Today his elegant Victorian home is privately owned and is painted in striking deep jewel tones of amethyst and burgundy.

## Summy House 7001 Cedar Avenue

Ida Summy and her husband Orlando D. Summy purchased one of the first lots (the original address was 101 Cedar Avenue) from Benjamin Gilbert. She is said to have suggested the name “Tacoma” to Gilbert, over a game of cards. Meaning “high up near heaven” in a Northwest American Indian language, the appellation fit perfectly 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,

**LOCAL HOMES**  
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## 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 Pigman. 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

## Historic 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 Piggly 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 as 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 historical artifacts, establishing and maintaining historic structures and exhibits, and holding meetings and other events related to that mission, has been carried out over the years 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](http://www.historictakoma.org/archives/WebSite/index.htm)



**THE TAKOMA PARK  
NEWSLETTER**

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups, 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. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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

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## 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 tenants' rent by an amount commensurate with the utility costs for the rental unit's utility usage 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 \$1,602.30 from his rent the landlord must pay the tenant any remaining balance of that liability owed to the utility company (Washington Gas) within 14 days of it be-



## COLTA's CORNER

ing requested in writing by the tenant.

### COLTA Case # 07-67T, Somers v. Mendez

On September 24, 2008 the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a complaint alleging the existence of a defective tenancy and failure to return a portion of a security deposit. The commission ruled that the tenant's defective tenancy claims stemming from defects that existed from the commencement of her lease in July 2006 and which were discovered by the tenant in November 2006 were barred by the one-year statute of limitations because the complaint was not filed until December 2007. The tenant's additional defective tenancy allegations regarding improper furnace venting and frozen pipes were denied

## Rent Increase Petitions

BY JEAN KERR, 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 \$90.06 (6.81 percent). The landlord had filed objections to COLTA's preliminary administrative decision (PAD), claiming the rent increas-

es 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 net 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.

by the commission. Regarding the portion of the security deposit that had not been returned to the tenant the commission ruled that the landlord had not complied with Section 8-203(g) of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

when he failed to send to the last known address of the tenant within 45 days of the tenancy termination a written listing of damages claimed along with a statement of actual costs incurred. The tenant was awarded the amount of \$215.

## TAKOMA HOMES

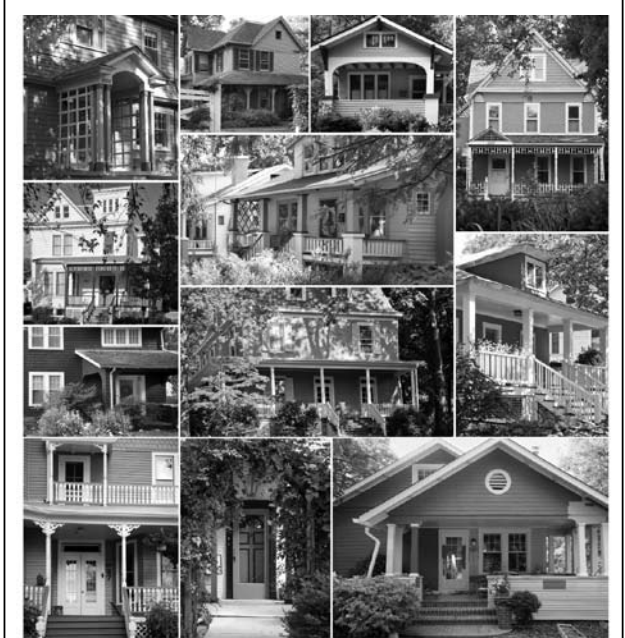
continued from page 3

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. 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 Eastern Avenue and Piney 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 turreted 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. Today the Cady-Lee is home to the Forum for Youth Investment, and serves as a resource for other nonprofits needing meeting and retreat facilities.



## Colors of Takoma

A portion of the proceeds benefits Historic Takoma, Inc. [www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org)  
"Preserving the Heritage of Takoma Park, Maryland and DC"

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 peek 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](http://www.historictakoma.org).

## Ben Cardin Cuts Ribbon at Local Apartments

By MAUREEN SWEENEY SMITH, MHP

For the past few years, residents of three apartment buildings in Takoma Park have undergone some stressful living conditions. In 2005, their owner 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 infestation and dozens of code violations. Now, they were faced with finding a new place to live with affordable rents.

Fortunately, a group of determined residents banded together and with the help of businesses and organizations, including Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP), they were able to keep their apartments. MHP pooled \$15 million in private and public funds, allowing all the units to be completely rehabilitated with new bathrooms and kitchens. Green features such as energy star appliances and rain barrels make these 76 apartments more efficient, saving residents money.

On October 17, residents of Merrimac Gardens, Sligo View and The Crossroads at Flower celebrated at a ribbon cutting with Senator Benjamin L. Cardin.

"Preserving affordable housing is a core necessity during our current economic crisis," said Cardin. He noted that this project was a major step towards preserving affordable housing and reducing energy consumption. Nearly 17 percent of a low-income family's earnings are consumed by energy costs.

Other local leaders at the ribbon cutting included State Senator Jamie Raskin, Delegate Tom Hucker, Delegate Heather Mizeur, and Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams. Councilmember Valerie Ervin also attended and, touched by the ceremony, said, "For me, my heart is swelling with pride today that we in government are able to partner with people who actually live and work and dream big dreams."

Montgomery Housing Partnership is a community-based, nonprofit organization that works to preserve and expand affordable housing in Montgomery County, Maryland and to strengthen neighborhoods through housing and community revitalization activities. MHP has over 1,000 units of affordable housing throughout Montgomery County.



# Purple Line, Old Town Restaurant Site Among Development Updates

BY ILONA BLANCHARD  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

*This column provides occasional updates on projects in the City. If you or your neighborhood organization receive a letter in the mail from a developer or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)/Montgomery County Montgomery County Planning Board, or see a sign posted on a property, this is the only notification you may receive, as the City does not duplicate these services. It is your responsibility to call to find out what is being planned at that location. It is advisable that your neighborhood organization designate one or two members to track development and to keep the neighborhood abreast of plans.*

Developers are interested in your input as a community member or neighborhood association; by calling the number on the letter you receive in the mail, appointing a member of your neighborhood association to serve as the primary contact with the developer, attending meetings and providing input, you can ensure that your views, concerns, support and ideas are heard.

The Montgomery County Planning Board approved, with conditions, the **Takoma Park Elementary School addition (TPES)** site plan during its mandatory referral review hearing in September. The conditional approval includes

the nine conditions set forth in the Council's May 27 resolution and a tenth, added by the Board, which requires the school to further investigate the feasibility of relocating an established magnolia tree which would be impacted by the project. Landscape and grading construction plans can be viewed online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

The TPES design team made several modifications to the site plan, including the addition of a stair from the City parking lot to the school near Philadelphia Avenue, repairing the path from Grant Avenue to the playground, adding many shade trees along sidewalks and parking areas, and a sidewalk along the easternmost driveway on Holly Avenue.

The owner of **6500 New Hampshire Avenue** (the vacant lot across from Orchard Avenue on Sligo Mill Road) has initiated work on a traffic study that would be needed to issue a request for a special exception. A car wash is a special exception use in the Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone (CROZ). The CROZ is a zone unique to Takoma Park and East Silver Spring commercial properties adopted to encourage walkability and protect neighborhood character. The Board of Appeals, with City and neighborhood input, will need to determine whether or not this special exception use should be permitted prior to the Planning Board accepting

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Photos by Sara Daines

## 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.



# 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. Among participating charities are Freeminds Book Club (supporting juveniles in D.C. jails), SPCA, Friends of Sligo Creek, Bikes for the World (for self-reliant poor in developing nations), Afghan Relief Fund (orphaned school children and widows) and APOPO (training of rats to sniff out mines in former war zones). Each group is represented by its own staff and volunteers eager to share their stories at the fair.

A Kids Hour program from noon to 1 p.m. will include cookie decorating throughout the afternoon. The event also

features a bake sale, live music by local performers, and raffle prizes.

Organizers point out that the recent downturn in the economy has raised holiday stress, especially in shopping centers. And, according to Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington ([www.aggw.org](http://www.aggw.org)), a recent poll shows 84 percent of Americans would prefer a less materialistic holiday.

AGGW grew from a project of the Center for a New American Dream, and takes after similar programs pioneered by Alternative Gifts International. The first fair, in 1999, was sponsored by the Center; in 2004, it evolved into an incorporated, nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors. Today, AGGW sponsors the Takoma Park Fair and others in the Washington area, including one in Hyattsville on December 13.

This year's fair is co-sponsored by Friends of Sligo Creek ([www.fosc.org](http://www.fosc.org)) and the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (<http://takomaparkpc.org/>). Participants should be prepared to pay by cash or check only – credit cards are not accepted so that 100 percent of gifts go to the organizations. All gifts are tax-deductible. For more information or to Volunteer, contact Gina Duffin, fair director, at [aggw\\_inc@yahoo.com](mailto:aggw_inc@yahoo.com).



## 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.

## Functional 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 evincing 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

**ARTS NEWS** continues on page 11



# R E C R E A T I O N

## NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

### 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 performers are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

**When:** Mon., Nov. 3  
**Trip:** Carrie Murray 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.

**Time:** 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



Photo by Debra Haiduven

**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.**

other styles from Takoma Park Drum Collective instructor, Darhyl 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.  
**Location:** Teen Lounge - T.P. Com. Ctr.,  
**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.

# 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 \$50 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 [tpreccreation.org/Reg-for-Basketball.pdf](http://tpreccreation.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.



Photo by Debra Haiduven

**These boys played hoops last summer as part of the YES basketball league. Now the Recreation Department offers winter play, with a new Winter Basketball League. Opening Day is November 22. Register at the Community Center.**

## RECREATION

continued from page 6

**When:** Mon. and Wed., Nov. 3 – Dec. 17  
**Time:** 7 - 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Dance Studio, T.P. Com. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$65  
Non-Res. \$70

**Ceramic Art**  
Ages 18 and older  
Learn skills such as hand building or throwing on the potter’s wheel. ***Space is limited for the potter’s wheels so sign up quickly.*** All students will learn about wedging, correct use of tools, and glazing. Students who elect to learn on the wheel will learn to work on their throwing and trimming skills. The hand-building group will learn about techniques such as pinching, coil building and slab building. Tools will be provided for each student. Supplies fee of \$25 paid directly to the instructor the first day. Instructor John Baker. Seven weeks.

**When:** Sun., Nov. 9 – Dec. 21  
**Time:** 2 - 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Room - T. P. Com. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$135  
Non –Res.\$145

**Collage**  
Ages 18 and older  
Instruction will be given in using supports, priming and preparing surfaces and using water based adhesives to adhere various collage materials. This class is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be provided. A materials fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Max. 12, min.seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman. Six weeks.

**When:** Tues., Nov. 18 – Dec. 23  
**Time:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Studio- T. P. Com. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$205  
Non-Res. \$225

**Drawing and Watercolor**  
Ages 11- 14  
Learn to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape and floral studies. Focus of class appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials/model fee of \$25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Max. 12, min. seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman. Six weeks.

**When:** Tues., Nov. 18 – Dec. 23  
**Time:** 3 - 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Studio - T. P. Com. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$135  
Non-Res. \$145

**Advanced Drawing and Watercolor**  
Ages 12 – 14  
Students experienced with drawing and interested in putting together a portfolio for entry into the Montgomery County Arts Magnet, the Visual Arts Center at Albert Einstein High School, are invited to take this advanced class which will offer a longer time frame, a larger page format and the opportunity to develop more complex compositions. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Materials fee of \$30 must be paid to the instructor on the first day of class. Max. 12, min. seven. Seven weeks. Katie Dell Kaufman instructor.

**When:** Mon., Nov. 10 – Dec. 22.  
**Time:** 3 – 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Art Studio – T.P. Com. Ctr.  
**Fee:** T.P. Res. \$195  
Non-Res. \$205

## SILVER FOXES

**Art in the Park** in Hagerstown: Nestled in the beautiful surroundings of Lakeside Gardens stands the 1929 landmark building designed by Hyde and Shepard, now the home of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. Bring money for lunch at the Grille at Park Circle restaurant.

**When:** Tues., Nov. 18  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
**Fee:** Free  
**RSVP:** 11/12/08

**Flu Shots**  
Washington Adventist will be giving flu vaccine shots to individuals age 18 or older only. Flu shots should not be given to those who: have a fever or acute respiratory infection, have an allergy to eggs, are younger than 18 years of age, or have Guillian Barre syndrome. Pregnant women are required to have consent from their physician prior to receiving a flu shot.

**When:** Mon., Nov. 10  
**Time:** 7 - 10 a.m.  
**Location:** Azalea Room - T. P. Com. Ctr.  
**Fee:** \*\*First 200 shots free in partnership with WTOP. \$27 for shot after 200.



# 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 or countywide 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) TP (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: WTOP 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 alerting 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.

Awareness of 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 de el condado de la publicación para alertar a sus residentes.

Aquí están cuatro maneras que el público puede ser notificado, si 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 el público y darán instrucciones al público en cómo reaccionar a una emergencia. Para recibir el mensaje, los residentes tienen que tener una radio o una televisión que funcionan. En caso de apagón de la electricidad, tener una radio con baterías es esencial. Estas estaciones de radio señaladas EBS son: WTOP 103.9 FM, 103.5 FM, 820, WAMU 88.5 FM, WMAL 630. Se recomienda que la prueba del consumidor el sistema antes de la compra.

**Revés 911:** El revés 911 es una técnica innovadora para advertir a residentes en un área geográfica seleccionada y

definida de una comunidad. Cuando están activados, los residentes recibirán un mensaje telefónico. Para recibir el mensaje, los residentes tienen que tener un teléfono que funciona, y que en caso de apagón de electricidad, tener una línea de la casa y un teléfono conectado con alambre, no un teléfono sin cuerda.

**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 o cómo usted recibe 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 contactar 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. Mientras que el alista de la Alarma del TP es gratuita, su portador puede o no puede cargarle un honorario a recibir mensajes de texto. La Alarma del TP se puede utilizar con la suscripción 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 una señal de radio y después dar una advertencia de la emergencia. Los hogares que tienen radios de NOAA recibirán mensajes de alerta de la emergencia general. Esto es un sistema confiable 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 el NOAA, den atención que la radio está equipada con la programa llamó "S.A.M.E" 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 maniobre 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 de la emergencia que hacen su trabajo. Las pequeñas acciones como alistar con La Alarma del TP o tener una radio con baterías, si estuvo utilizado solamente una vez, podría 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 associations to provide review materials and information regarding process once an application has been submitted.

**Gilberts Addition**, the development at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Laurel Avenue adjacent to the Pizza Movers building, is now fully into the site work in preparation for construction. Upon completion, the building will house a new restaurant and additional storefronts on Laurel Avenue.

The Maryland Department of Transportation is has completed the Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact 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 beginning 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 planning 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 proposed transit lines.

It is likely that the City Council will discuss and comment on the Purple Line at its first two meetings in November. 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 a 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's, community organizations' and individuals' testimony has been requested and will be gathered via public hearings, letters, and online. You may send your written comments to Diane Ratcliff, MTA Director of Planning, 6 St. Paul Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, by January 14 or to Mike Madden, project manager, online at [www.purplelinemd.com](http://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 Avenue, 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, "Village of Health and Well-being" for its current location between Carroll, Flower and Maple Avenues once the hospital relocates to the White Oak/Calverton 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. The new committee met for the first time in October. In accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, all meetings are open to the public.

The City Council also passed a resolution making recommendations 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 Iona Blanchard at [ilonab@takomagov.org](mailto:ilonab@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7205.



**CRIME DECLINES**  
continued from page 1

issued 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 hamper investigations.

Despite those challenges, Ricucci says many cases are closing “exceptionally,” which means a suspect is arrested

in another jurisdiction for a crime, but TPPD 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.”

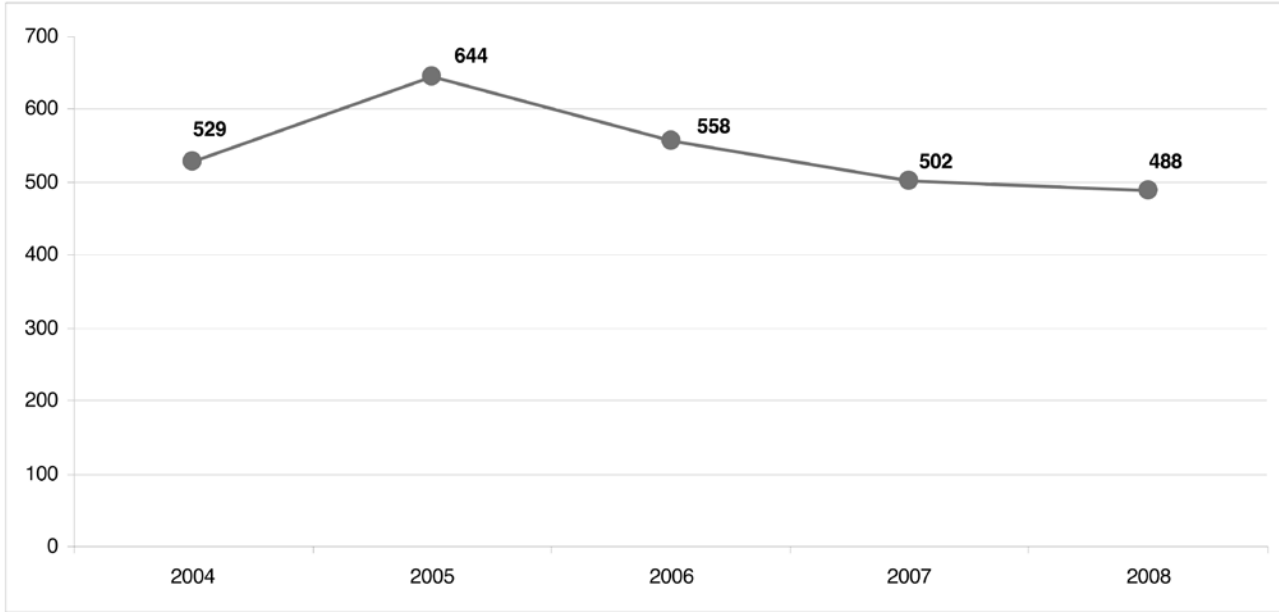
**Year-to-date Comparision of Crime Statistics**

Offense	2007	2008	% Change
Homicide	0	0	N/A
Rape	3	2	-33.3
Robbery	44	49	11.4
Aggravated Assault	27	24	-11.1
Burglary	64	96	50.0
Larceny	279	239	-14.3
Auto Theft	85	78	-8.2
TOTAL	502	488	-2.8

**Year-to-date Comparision of Nusiance Crime Statistics**

Offense	2007	2008	% Change
Destruction/Vandalism	125	130	4.0
Disorderly Conduct	13	17	30.8
DUI	31	26	-16.1
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	29	112	286.2
Gambling Offenses	0	2	N/C
Liquor Law Violations	34	29	-14.7
Loitering	3	5	66.7
Trespassing	16	18	12.5
TOTAL	251	339	35.1

**Five Year Comparision of Crime Statistics**



**Preventing Crime Before it Starts**

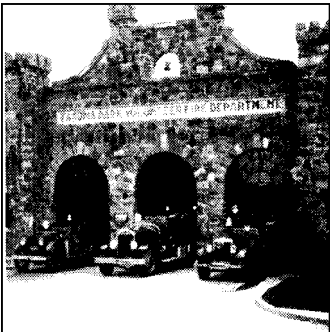
Thefts from vehicles and residential burglaries were two of the most common crimes in Takoma Park this year. In August, of the 17 thefts from vehicles, nine involved an unlocked vehicle. Luy stresses how important it is to avoid being a target:

- 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](http://www.mdautotheft.org).



*Firehouse*  
**REPORT**

By JIM JARBOE

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 Jonathon 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. Thank you.



# “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 game of 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 chapter is titled “Crossed Swords”). Several chapters end with a “Knucklehead” warning to readers against trying to replicate the stunts Scieszka and his brother pulled.

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 years. So one day she just told me to write down the stories I was always telling her about when I was a kid,” Scieszka said.

While “Knucklehead” is subtitled “Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka,” Scieszka insists that the book's

contents actually are factual.

“My older brother is a lawyer so I wanted to be careful,” he joked. “And I thought that [subtitle] might protect me from my mom, who claims that the cat puke story isn't true. But it is!”

Scieszka, 53, has been surprised by the fact that adults also are reading his book. “It seems that anybody who grew up in that generation can relate to the stories in the book,” he said. In fact, the first thing most people say is, “Oh, your poor mom,” 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 fiction.

Ever the showman, Scieszka revels in his

**KNUCKLEHEAD**  
continues on page 12

## 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.

The nearly 50 CD titles that we recently acquired this summer covered genres such as Latin jazz, bachatas, salsa and merengue from Latin America; soukous, dombolo and makossa from the Central African region; rumba, zoblazo, 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.

## “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 grand 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.



## LIBRARY Briefs

Please join us for our annual harvest celebration, led by Tomas Shash, also known as Eaglebear. Each year, Tomas and members of his family present songs, stories and dances of their Xicano and Apache cultures. This special event is great fun for

the entire family. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring Eaglebear's visit.

Kids ages kindergarten and up, you're invited to make a decoration for your family's Thanksgiving table on Friday, Nov. 21, from 4-5 p.m. in the Children's Room. All materials will be provided, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Our popular Spanish Circle Time, held every Thursday, has a new time – 11 a.m. -- and a new teacher, Senora Maria. What hasn't changed, however, is the fun that little ones and their grown-ups can have

together as they sing songs, recite rhymes and read stories in Spanish (with a little bit of English to smooth things along). Please come and join us on Thursdays – no registration necessary.

Are you interested in tutoring children at the Library after school? We currently have only one main volunteer, Karen Petersen, and she has more students than she can handle. Tutors are mainly needed to help work with elementary school students learning to read, although we also could use math tutors. Community service hours are available for the tutoring work; you would earn one hour of community service for each hour of tutoring. Tutors

must be in high school (or older) and have maintained good grades. If you're interested, please contact Karen MacPherson, children's/teen librarian, at 301-891-7259.

Our Banned Books Club will discuss “The Outsiders” by S.E. Hinton on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. The club is open to kids who are grade 6 and up, and new members are welcome! Each month, we enjoy a lively discussion about books that are challenged by people for a variety of reasons. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the Library's main desk. Please register for the club meeting by going to [www.takomarpark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomarpark.info/library/registration.html) Or by calling 301-892-7259.

## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2008

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. You can register online by going to [www.takomarpark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomarpark.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, 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.

### 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.

**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 aides 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 service the club provides is eye care, i.e., eye examinations, eyeglasses, etc. Your kind donations will help us continue to help people in the city who need assistance. If you can make a financial donation, send it to the Takoma Park Lions Club, P.O. Box 11226, Takoma Park, MD 20913. We thank you.

## 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:

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

## 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 [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or check online at [www.takomaparkmd.org](http://www.takomaparkmd.org)*

## 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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/schedule). Another automated feature pulls 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](mailto: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.

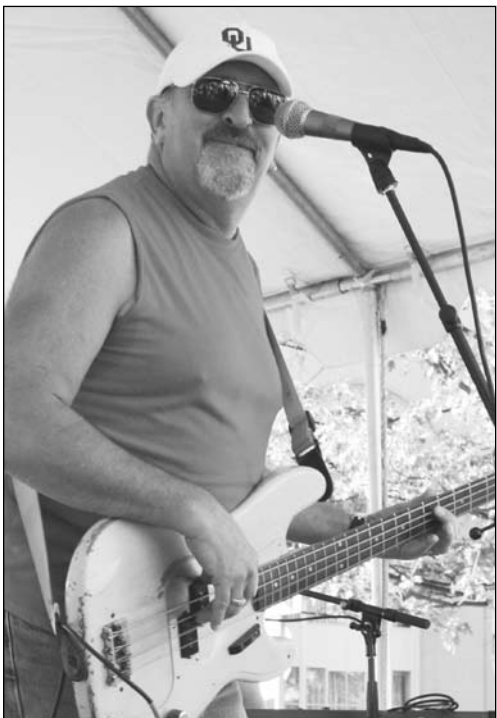
Many City TV programs, including Council meetings and Snapshots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website. Much of City TV programming is streaming live on the website as well. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at [www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable](http://www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable) for more information.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron 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](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

### CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - November 2008

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Folk Festival: Children's Stage		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Folk Festival	
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots		Coffeehouse			Takoma Park Snapshots
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival				Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
NOON					Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)		
1:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Media Watch on Hunger	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
2:00 PM							
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots						
4:00 PM	Preschool Power		Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Preschool Power	
5:00 PM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Community Bulletin Board	
6:00 PM		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Snapshots	
7:00 PM				Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Jazz Friday	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (LIVE)						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events					Coffeehouse
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM				Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots		Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited		
1:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	Takoma Park Folk Festival			Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	





## Street Fest Success

The Takoma Park Street Festival, October 5, featured all sorts of music, from the Nighthawks (bottom left) to Squeeze Bayou (right). Lots of locals, including Mayor Bruce Williams (bottom, left), mixed with visitors to enjoy a range of activities, including art and craft displays, juggling acts, food, community information booths, and dancing in the streets.

Photos by Lonni Moffet



## KNUCKLEHEADS

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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, "Space-headz" 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](http://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

continued from page 10

### 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.

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 **Thursday, 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. Veteran's Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 11 and the Thanksgiving holiday is November 27 and 28.

For the month of November, the crews will concentrate

on picking up large piles of leaves. During December, the crews will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves and clean the streets and right of ways.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. Please contact Public Works by phone: 301-891-7633. You can

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

also call the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 to notify us when your leaves have been raked out. We plan to collect reported piles from the hotline calls within a week of the call.

## Please follow these guidelines for vacuum leaf collection:

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