Festivities Lend Local Flavor to the Holiday Season

By Virginia D. Myers, Editor

The economy may be gloomy, but Takoma Park merchants are warming up the season with their signature holiday charm and the idea that neighboring residents will shop locally to keep their favorite merchants thriving through winter. In honor of holiday sentiment, I am stepping outside the Newsletter's usual objective approach to pitch the concept of shopping locally, and share my own experience on home turf.

Pajamas, Art, and Window Dressing

I love it when the window dressers gussy up storefronts for the annual Roscoe Award for best windows, sponsored by the Old Town Business Association. The fun and funky competition runs from Thanksgiving through the first week of December; winners are announced at OTBA's annual party, December 9.

The decorations will be just in time for the Holiday Open House, the first weekend of December in Old Town. We'll all get to sip hot cider and take advantage of sales and lots of seasonal cheer, all along Carroll Avenue, down to the Metro and over to Takoma Junction.

Then Pajamarama Day, invites early-rising shoppers to wear their pj's to qualify for discounts, from 7 to 10 a.m. December 14. Wear jammies, slippers or a robe to enjoy sales as well as refreshments and music. Participating stores include American Craft, The Big Bad Wolf, The Covered Market, The Culture Shop, Fair Day's Play, Moonsshadow, Now & Then, S&A Beads, The Stillpoint Mind and Body Wellness Center, The Tranquil Soul, and Video America. Summer Delights will be serving breakfast.

I also look forward to a tour of local art studios December 13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (see notice, page 11). At Takoma-Langley Crossroads, a pedestrian safety event will draw folks in to see Santa, on December 3 from noon to 2 p.m. And don't forget the holiday goodies hidden in the shop centers there – clothing and accessories at El Alazan western shop, Bollywood films at Rhythm House, do-it-yourself supplies at Sarah's Fabrics, and unique gourmet gifts at India Emporium.

The Takoma Park Singers entertained shoppers during last year's holiday open house; this year, the Takoma Park Community Jazz Band Ensemble will perform for the event, which is the first weekend of December. For more on the Takoma Park Singers, see page 3.

The Takoma Park Singers

Published by the City of Takoma Park  www.takomaparkmd.gov

December 2008

Public Weighing In on Purple Line Options

By Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

The public has the opportunity to weigh in, through January 14, 2009, on route and transit vehicle options for the Purple Line, a transit way that is proposed to connect Bethesda, Silver Spring, Takoma/Langley, College Park and New Carrollton. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has been holding public hearings during November and welcomes comments by e-mail at purpleline@mtamaryland.com.

The Purple Line is designed to address the need for easier east-west travel across Montgomery and Prince George's Counties inside the Beltway. It will also connect both ends of the Metro Red Line, and the Green and Orange Lines; the MARC Brunswick, Camden and Penn Lines; Amtrak; and regional and inter-city bus lines. Residents along the Purple Line route would therefore have significantly improved access to public transit.

The Takoma Park City Council favors Light Rail Transit (LRT) for the proposed Purple Line, a transit line that would connect the city to Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton.

Teen Homicide Arrests Made

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Major Crimes Division – Homicide/Sex Section, arrested Takoma Park resident, and MS-13 gang affiliate, Hector Mauricio Hernandez, 20, of the 8600 block of Flower Avenue in Takoma Park for the shooting death of 14-year-old Tai Lam, of the 1000 block of Quebec Terrace in Silver Spring. Six days after the November 7 arrest, two additional suspects were arrested. Gilmar Leonardo Romero, age 20, of unknown address, and Mario Ernesto Milan Canales, 30, of unknown address, were arrested for first-degree murder, and accessory after the fact for first degree murder, respectively.

Through the course of the investigation, Hernandez was developed as a suspect and detectives obtained an arrest warrant for first degree murder. He was arrested and is being held without bond. Romero and Milan Canales had fled to Texas, according to Montgomery County police reports.

Teen Homicide
continues on page 9

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Published by the City of Takoma Park  www.takomaparkmd.gov

December 2008
City Marks Quarter Century As Nuclear Free

Takoma Park will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its Nuclear Free Zone ordinance on December 10, with a commemorative program at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. The program will include music, a film, refreshments and presentations by Linda Gunter, co-founder of Takoma Park-based Beyond Nuclear, and Tom Collina, executive director of 20-20 Vision. The City Council will be passing a resolution declaring the week of December 7, 2007 Nuclear Free Zone Week. The Takoma Park Nuclear Free Ordinance, passed on December 12, 1983, is the strongest Nuclear Free Zone law in the U.S. It prohibits the City from making purchases from any company making nuclear weapons, components or delivery systems and forbids the City from investing in such entities. As a result of the law, similar ordinances have been passed in cities around the country, with Arcata, California and Olympia, Washington modeling their laws on Takoma Park’s. Another outcome of the ordinance is that Takoma Park is known both nationally and internationally among those who follow nuclear banning issues. The chair of the committee since 1996, Jay Levy, has made presentations representing Takoma Park in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, Vancouver, Canada and at the United Nations.

To learn more about the City’s Nuclear Free status, attend the anniversary celebration; it is open to the public.

City Council Action*

**October 27 - Regular Meeting**

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- Resolution 2008-78, supporting the Montgomery County Housing Opportunity Commission purchase of 717 Sligo Creek Parkway
- Resolution 2008-79, supporting continued charitable giving by Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae

**November 3 - Special Session**

- Resolution 2008-80 was adopted, adopting the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Concept Plan
- Resolution 2008-81 was adopted, supporting passage of legislation that would prohibit future spying by the Maryland State Police without probable cause

**November 17 - Regular Meeting**

- Resolution 2008-82, approving the Board of Elections Bylaws
- Resolution 2008-83, approving Patricia Anne Murphy to the Ethics Commission
- Resolution 2008-84, approving John Peterson to the Noise Control Board
- Resolution 2008-85, reappointing David Borden and Frederick L. Schultz to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

**December 15 - Regular Meeting**

- Resolution 2008-86, authorizing the purchase of equipment for Volunteer Community Ambulance Service
- Resolution 2008-87, authorizing a $20,000 Community Development Block Grant

Proposed Administrative Regulation, Takoma Park Board of Elections Bylaws

An administrative regulation has been proposed to provide written bylaws for the Takoma Park Board of Elections (established by Ordinance 2006-36, adopted by the City Council on July 31, 2006).

Pursuant to the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12 “Administrative Regulations” of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City’s intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be published in the Takoma Park Newsletter and such notice must provide a minimum of 21 days for comment on the proposed regulation. An exact copy of the regulation is posted on the City’s web page: www.takomaparkmd.gov. To request a copy of the regulation, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267.

Please direct any comments or concerns to the City Clerk by close of business on January 5, 2009. Comments may be mailed to City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912, or sent by e-mail to JessieC@takomagov.org, or faxed to 301-270-8794.

Volunteers Needed

TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee on the Environment (vacancies)</th>
<th>Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (vacancies)</th>
<th>Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethics Commission (vacancies)</td>
<td>Takoma Park Board of Elections (one vacancy)</td>
<td>Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speak with the Mayor

Holiday Schedule

Mayor Bruce Williams will meet with residents by appointment only during December.

For appointments, contact Peggye Washington, 301-891-7230 or peggyew@takomagov.org.
In Tune with Our Town: The Takoma Park Singers

By Joy Lawson Jones

What strikes you most about the Takoma Park Singers is that they are The Takoma Park Singers.

Joining together purely for the joy of singing and the gratification of their audiences, the Takoma Park Singers is open to all adult singers who want to work at singing a variety of musical forms and styles. That’s it. No auditions. No grandstanding. No drama. Just a whole lot of commitment and fun.

Takoma Park Singers incorporated as Takoma Park Community Singers in 1968, and has continuously operated since 1976 ("Community" was later dropped from the name). In its early years under Director Grace Cangialosi, the group had a close relationship with the City of Takoma Park, and was supported with rehearsal and performance space through the Department of Parks and Recreation. According to Carole Whittem, who has directed Takoma Park Singers since 1981, what holds the group together is "a love of music and the rapport and connections that build between the singers. We strive for excellence in performing both accessible and challenging pieces, but what is really important is that we enjoy the music and the singing."

That enjoyment is evident in the program planned for this year’s Holiday Concert on December 12 at 7:30 p.m. From pop tunes like Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow to spirituals like Go Tell It On The Mountain to Christian sacred music (O Magnum Mysterium) and Hebrew chants and Hanukkah songs (Al Shlosha D’varim, Hanerot Halalu), Takoma Park Singers prides itself on performing a mix of new pieces and old sacred and secular favorites. Some pieces will be performed a cappella, while others will have accompaniment. The Holiday Concert is always free, and will be performed at Marvin Memorial United Methodist Church in Silver Spring. The Singers will also present it on stage at the fountain plaza in Downtown Silver Spring, and at local retirement homes (including Victory Towers, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.), churches, and community events throughout the area.

Rehearsals, held on Wednesday nights at Piney Branch Elementary School, perfectly showcase both the camaraderie in the group and the joy in bringing and getting pleasure through music. While the size of Takoma Park Singers varies between 15 and 30 members (one singer has been with the group since it started in 1976, people tend to come and go over the years), singers come from a variety of musical and professional backgrounds. Some are experienced singers, active in church choirs or other choral groups. Some are first-timers who’ve never sung in a group before. Almost all of them live in Takoma Park. The age range is between 30 and 70 years, and although there are no professional musicians in the group at this time, there are lawyers, teachers, social activists, journalists and other professionals who simply love to sing. As member Suzanne Parrish has expressed it in "The Story of the Takoma Park Singers," an informational booklet, "Singing is the meeting ground."

Singers in the group are quick to praise Carole Whittem for her direction. "It’s a pleasure to sing under Carole’s direction," says David Frye, a tenor with the group for three years. Other group members cite Whittem’s excellent musicianship and her "firm yet gentle" style, and say they especially appreciate her participatory leadership, a major factor in keeping the group together in the 27 years that she has directed Takoma Park Singers. Whittem herself first joined the group as a singer in 1978 when she was a schoolteacher and accompanist for her school’s chorus and musical productions. Her musical passion and dedication, coupled with an interest in conducting, led her to take over as director.

In addition to the 2008 Holiday Concert, Takoma Park Singers will perform a spring 2009 concert. That program will be a mix of sacred, pop, folk and Broadway pieces, in the group’s tradition of performing accessible and enjoyable music at community-based venues.

If you’d like to raise your own voice in song, Takoma Park-style, or for more information about the Holiday Concert and other performances, contact the Takoma Park Singers and Director Carole Whittem at 301-681-9498. They’d love to have you.
Funded by commission of the City of Takoma Park

December 2008
Takoma Park Newsletter

Holiday Art Sale and Open Studio Tour
Join us for the annual Holiday Art Sale and Open Studio Tour on Saturday, December 13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Begin at the Takoma Park Community Center where you can purchase the works of local artists and then take advantage of the opportunity to tour area art studios. Tour map and listing of participating artists and crafts people is available at the Takoma Park Community Center and can be viewed online at www.takomaparkmd.gov

“third thursday” Poetry Reading Series
The “third thursday” poetry reading series continues this month with its popular open poetry reading. If you would like to share your original work with others, please join us at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11. The reading 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 poetry writing workshops on the third Monday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center. The workshops are free but registration is required. This month’s workshop is scheduled for Monday, December 15.

Cranial Vault: Artifacts and Impressions
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 tour, part surgery to a survivor’s new normal. Part curiosity tour, part operation, medical images, policy makers, counter-culturists and non-conformists — along with its poets and artists — can be counted on to show enthusiasm for cooperative efforts and I figured that a collaborative project of poets and artists might go over well.

After the 2004 Community Center renovation created such an inviting space for exhibits, talks, and happenings, the Arts and Humanities Commission, together with The Office of Community Development, launched The Atrium Gallery and the Richard R. Dempsey Memorial Gallery, with an Inaugural Invitation Exhibit. One hundred Takoma Park artists took part.

After that auspicious start, Alise Sims, a member of the Arts and Humanities Commission, and Sara Daines, the City’s Housing and Community Development Director, saw to it that the gallery walls were filled with art, a new exhibit appearing each month. In 2006, serving as the first Exhibits Coordinator, I booked artists and helped them with the nuts and bolts of exhibiting. In addition, I was allotted a month to curate an exhibit of my own devising. I asked my artist friends and acquaintances if they had any interest in a poet/artist collaborative project, and I asked at Community Center poetry readings.

The result is a wide-ranging collection of functional vessels inspired by Asian aesthetics and forms into her own work. 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.

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 evoking soft shapes and subtle hues, others commanding attention with their bold textures and of-the-earth qualities. Spalding’s work is on display in the Atrium Gallery of the Tacoma Park Community Center.

Joan Samworth and Her Students
Joan Samworth will be showcasing the work of her students - many of whom will be opening up their studios during the annual open studio tour - throughout the month of December in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the Community Center.

For more information on these and other activities sponsored by the Tacoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.org.

Inspired Results from Takoma Park Poets, Artists

Inspired Results, Poets and Artists of Takoma Park began with a space on a calendar that I needed to fill. As coordinator for the Takoma Park Community Center’s galleries I was always looking for new exhibit ideas that would pull people in. Takoma Park’sof activists, advocates, idealists, visionaries, policy makers, counter-culturists and non-conformists — along with its poets and artists — can be counted on to show enthusiasm for cooperative efforts and I figured that a collaborative project of poets and artists might go over well.

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The response was enthusiastic and the length of my list kept growing until the numbers soon challenged the capacity of even the spacious Atrium Gallery. I held a series of full get-togethers where people crowd ed in, showed art, read poems and brainstormed. The big turn out, high energy and positive vibe convinced me that this was an exhibit that had to happen. I signed on 18 poets and 18 artists who agreed to deliver two works each by early spring. “Inspired Results” became official.

My plan was to give the participants a chance to both inspire and to be inspired. Partners were randomly assigned to a survivor from a hat. The paired poet and artist then exchanged work. Next, they had many weeks to live with and study the given painting or poem as a means of generation for a new work. It was, I realized later, an audaciously demanding directive: create on schedule, deliver on time.

As the opening date came closer, I checked people’s progress and heard about some emergencies, illnesses, and, in one joyful case, a birth. But all 72 pieces arrived according to plan. As poet after poet and artist after artist carried in a finished work, I could see “Inspired Results” would be an intriguing and original exhibit.

During the opening reception, on the night of June 1, the Atrium Gallery and the Richard R. Dempsey Gallery were packed with laughter, music, singing, poetry and art. “Where will the project go from here?” someone asked. “A book?” The “book committee” met for more than a year to guarantee that this book would come to be. Inspired Results, the Poets & Artists of Takoma Park will be available starting December 7, online at lulu.com.

A landlord contacted the Mailbox regarding the interest rate to be applied to a tenant’s security deposit. The lease agreement was executed prior to October 1, 2004 and contained a 4 percent annual simple interest rate. The tenant lease has not been amended since it was signed, nor has the landlord provided any written notice of a change in the security deposit interest rate. The tenant has indicated in writing that she will be vacating November 30, 2008.

In October 2004, the Maryland Legislature changed the allowed security deposit annual simple interest rate from 4 percent to 3 percent. However, in accordance with state law and reconfirmed in a July 2004, Maryland Attorney General’s Office opinion, leases signed prior to October 1, 2004 that contain an interest rate of 4 percent, continue to apply that rate until changed in accordance with state law and a July 2004 opinion, leases signed prior to October 1, 2004 indicate that all leases that became effective after October 1, 2004 indicate that the applicable interest rate for a security deposit is 3 percent simple interest annually. Leases having a 4 percent interest rate should be amended, changing it to 3 percent from the current date, forward.

Has Weather Canceled City Programs?

For General Info: 301-891-7100
For Recreation Programs: 301-891-7101 ext. 5605
For Library and Computer Learning: 301-891-7250

City of Takoma Park government offices follow the federal government regarding liberal leave and closure due to inclement weather. Potential visitors to City buildings are advised to call 301-891-7100 before departing. The status of City Recreation Department activities will be reported on the cancellation line, 301-891-7101 ext. 5605. Recreation follows Montgomery County Public Schools for program cancellations. Information regarding activities at the Takoma Park Maryland Library and Computer Learning Center may be obtained by calling 301-891-7259. You can also check the City Notice Board http://www.bulletinboards.com/v2.cfm?comcode=takoma for cancellation notices.

The Police Department is open at all times.
Takoma Park Newsletter December 2008

December Activities

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. TGIF is scheduled for the first and third Friday of each month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Dodgeball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Welcome the New Year Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>Kickball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Date: Dec. 5
Activity: Dodgeball
Date: Jan. 2
Activity: Welcome the New Year Party
Date: Dec. 19
Activity: Kickball
Date: Jan. 16
Activity: Ice Skating

Location: T Zone - T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Free

Girls are Talkin’
Females Ages 13 - 17
An open forum for teen girls to discuss issues affecting them. Topics focus on promoting positive self image, health and wellness, school, jobs and peer pressure. After each meeting food is served.

When: First and Third Wed.
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.
Fee: Free

Holla at Me
Males Ages 13 - 17
An open forum for male teenagers to discuss relevant issues that affect them. Real life issues such as school, job skills, gangs, peer pressure, dating and more will be discussed. After each meeting food will be served.

When: First and Third Wed.
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.
Location: T-Zone - T.P. Com. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Free

RoadTripz
Ages 11 - 18
“Roadtripz” takes teens on adult-supervised trips to local destinations. Trips are scheduled for the second and fourth Friday of each month and selected non-school days.

Date: Dec. 12
Activity: Dave and Busters
Date: Jan. 9
Activity: Ice Skating

Location: T Zone - T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Varies by trip

Co-Ed Winter Basketball League
Grades K - 8
The Takoma Park Recreation Department and Recreation Committee, in conjunction with the Long Branch Athletic Association, is hosting a new winter basketball league for grades K-8. The new league, which will get underway on December 8, is a community-based, convenient alternative to the County run program. Games will be held on Saturdays in Takoma Park gyms. Times vary depending upon age group.

Teams will be formed by grade as follows:
Kindergarten - Coed League
1 - 2 - Coed League
3 - 4 - Boys League
3 - 4 - Girls League
5 - 6 - Boys League
5 - 6 - Girls League
7 - 8 - Coed League

The registration fee for the new winter basketball league is $50. A special $15 rate is available to Takoma Park residents who can provide proof of enrollment in the free or reduced meals or similar financial assistance program. You can download a registration form from the website tprecreation.org and send it in the mail.

Please contact the Recreation Department 301-891-7290 if interested!

Family Day Trips
Want to plan a family outing but don’t have the time? Let us do the work for you! Trips are geared for families with children 6 years and older. One family member must be 18 years or older. We will meet in the parking lot of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Advance registration is required. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing a snack is recommended.

When: Sat., Dec. 13
Trip: Holiday Light Tour
Bring your hats, gloves and a warm jacket as we visit the Festival of Lights and Mormon Temple. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Time: 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Res. $5/person
Non-Res. $10/person

Need to register by Dec. 5.

Teen Exchange members from Liz Lerman Dance Exchange help participants make masks during Family Night at the Takoma Park Middle School. This program was co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Recreation Department and TPMS staff.

Kids try out a new way to play soccer – on scooters – during Family Night at Takoma Park Middle School. The event was a joint effort of the Recreation Department and middle school staff.

This Halloween scarecrow lit up the senior room at the community center for the Silver Foxes Halloween Party.
employment and services across the Washington, D.C. re-
gion.

MTA has been studying options for east-west transit and
improved transit connectivity for 20 years; the gen-
eral route for the Purple Line was recommended by the
MTA in 2002. Since that time, detailed evaluations of
routes, the type of vehicle to be used, ridership projec-
tions and environmental studies have been undertaken.
The information is summarized in the Purple Line Alter-
natives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement
(AA/DEIS) that is the subject of the current public com-
ment period.

What Are the Options?

MTA evaluated eight options: a No Build option; a
Transportation Systems Management (TSM) option that
looks at optimizing existing transit services without con-
structing the Purple Line; three Bus Rapid Transit options
(Low, Medium and High Investment); and three Light Rail
Transit options (Low, Medium and High Investment). The
six build options have some differences as to routes and
environmental impacts, as well as significant cost differ-
ences.

What Does the City of Takoma Park Want?

The Takoma Park City Council has gone on record with
Resolution #2008-86, urging the State of Maryland to
proceed with the Medium Investment Light Rail Transit
alternative of the Purple Line. This option has a number
of benefits for the Takoma Park community and few dis-
advantages.

Since 2000, the Takoma Park City Council has encour-
gaged the State to consider an east-west light rail transit line
near Takoma Park. The economic benefits of having a rail
transit station adjacent to the Long Branch and Takoma/
Langley Crossroads areas of our community would be a
tremendous boost to Takoma Park's economic bene-
fts. In addition, a rail transit station adjacent to the Long
Branch would help minimize negative impacts on resi-
dents and trail users.

Don't There Some Controversy over the Purple
Line?

Concern has been expressed about having the Purple
Line run alongside the Capital Crescent Trail in the George-
town Branch right-of-way in Chevy Chase. However, the
right-of-way was purchased by Montgomery County when
the old rail line was abandoned for use as a transit way
and trail. Not using the right-of-way slows travel times to
Bethesda and has harmful effects on residents of alternate
routes. Concern has also been expressed by residents along
Thayer and Wayne Avenues in Silver Spring about the im-
pacts of the possible routes through East Silver Spring.

The Maryland Transit Administration has spent a
great deal of time meeting with the concerned residents
of Chevy Chase and East Silver Spring to evaluate ways to
mitigate the effects of the Purple Line.

What Do You Think?

The Maryland Transit Administration wants to know
what you think of the Purple Line and the various alterna-
tives they have studied. Montgomery County and Prince
George's County governments are also weighing in, as
is the City of Takoma Park. The Maryland General As-

What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

- Similar in appearance to a single rail car, but with tires
- Has a low floor with several doors for easy access
- Fare collection is done before boarding, like with Metro
- Can operate in exclusive transit lanes or mix with street traffic
- Has lower capital costs
- Has less capacity than multi-car trains
- Usually powered by hybrid electric motors or Compressed Natural Gas
- Can be noisier than light rail when operating

What is Light Rail Transit (LRT)?

- Can be a single car vehicle or higher capacity train
- Has a low floor with several doors for easy access
- Fare collection is done before boarding, like with Metro
- Can operate in exclusive transit lanes or mix with street traffic
- When operating in exclusive lanes, rails can be surrounded by grass
- Powered by electricity, usually via overhead wires
- When vehicles are “skirted,” almost no noise when operating

The proposed Purple Line route would con-
nect Bethesda, Silver Spring, Takoma/
Langley, College Park and New Carrollton.

The Purple Line}

continued from page 1

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Takoma Park Newsletter

December 2008
**PURPLE LINE**

continued from page 6

Assembly will be involved in the Purple Line funding decision, so the State Senators and Delegates are also interested in hearing from you. Please share your thoughts with MTA, by January 14, 2009, at purpleline@mtamaryland.com or by mail to Diane Ratcliff, Director, Office of Planning, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 St. Paul Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

What are the Next Steps?

In February or March, 2009, the Maryland Secretary of Transportation will make his announcement as to which, if any, Purple Line alternative will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for consideration for federal funding. If the decision is to proceed with the submission, the proposal will be submitted in the spring of 2009. If the Federal Transit Administration approves funding for the project, design work will continue and construction will begin in 2012. Construction will take between three to five years.

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), above, is one option being considered for the Purple Line. At right, a depiction of what a completed trail beside Light Rail Transit (LRT) would look like.

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### Where Would the Stations Be in Our Area?

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<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Station</th>
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<td>Wayne and Manchester</td>
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<td>Arliss and Piney Branch</td>
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<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>&quot;UM Campus Center&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Six Local Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Investment BRT</strong></td>
<td>Buses travel on Wayne Avenue, turn right on Flower Avenue, left on Arliss Street, left on Piney Branch Road, then right on University Boulevard to Campus Drive. All travel is via lanes shared with car traffic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Construction cost of full route: $386,390,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average daily ridership for full route: 40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for full route: 96 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Investment BRT</strong></td>
<td>There are two options from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Piney Branch Road. The first has a tunnel to Wayne Avenue at Cedar Street then proceeds on Wayne Avenue at grade in dedicated lanes, with a tunnel under Plymouth to Arliss Street. The second option is a tunnel that emerges on Thayer Avenue behind East Silver Spring Elementary School then continues across Dale Drive, and turns left onto Piney Branch. In this second option, there would be no Fenton Street, Dale Drive or Manchester stations; a station would be located on Thayer Avenue. Both options would proceed on Piney Branch in dedicated lanes and turn right onto University. The buses would stay in dedicated lanes and have bridges over New Hampshire Avenue and Riggs Road and an underpass at Adelphi Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Construction cost of full route: $1,206,150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average daily ridership for full route: 59,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for full route: 62 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 26 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medium Investment BRT</strong></td>
<td>Buses travel on Bonifant, Fenton and Wayne, turn right on Flower, left on Arliss, left on Piney Branch, right on University Boulevard to Campus Drive. The bus will be in &quot;dedicated lanes&quot; (shared with local buses) on Bonifant, Piney Branch and University Boulevard. Travel on Wayne is via lanes shared with car traffic, but with added left turn lanes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Construction cost of full route: $257,820,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average daily ridership for full route: 51,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for full route: 73 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Investment LRT</strong></td>
<td>The light rail vehicles travel on Bonifant, Fenton and Wayne, enter a tunnel after Manchester and emerge on Arliss Street, turn left on Piney Branch Road, then right on University Boulevard to Campus Drive. There is an underpass at Adelphi Road. Travel on Bonifant, Piney Branch and University is in dedicated lanes; travel on Wayne Avenue is via lanes shared with car traffic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Construction cost of full route: $1,634,840,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average daily ridership for full route: 68,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for full route: 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 21 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Investment LRT</strong></td>
<td>There are two options from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Pinhey Branch Road. The first has a tunnel to Wayne Avenue at Cedar Street then proceeds on Wayne Avenue at grade in dedicated lanes, with a tunnel under Plymouth to Arliss Street. The second option is a tunnel that emerges on Thayer Avenue behind East Silver Spring Elementary School then continues across Dale Drive, and turns left onto Piney Branch. An aerial structure would be needed on Piney Branch Road. In this second option, there would be no Fenton Street, Dale Drive or Manchester stations; a station would be located on Thayer Avenue. Both options would proceed on Piney Branch in dedicated lanes and turn right onto University. The light rail vehicles would stay in dedicated lanes and have bridges over New Hampshire Avenue and Riggs Road and an underpass at Adelphi Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Construction cost of full route: $1,220,150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Average daily ridership for full route: 62,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Where Would the Stations Be in Our Area?
As we approach the holiday season, we ask that our residents take a couple of safety precautions to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

1. When shopping, keep your purse attached to you or your shopping cart. Do not leave your purse unattended or unattended.

2. Keep your children in sight at all times. Don’t let them wander off.

3. Make sure all credit cards are returned to you when shopping.

4. If you take purchased items to your car and want to resume shopping, put those items in your trunk. Never leave packages in open view in an unattended car.

5. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.

6. During the holidays, don’t drink and drive - always have a designated driver.

7. During the holiday season, the police will be conducting sobriety checkpoints. Be aware. The holiday season is a time for family and fun. Don’t become a victim. Be safe, not sorry.

Happy Holidays from the Takoma Park Police Department!

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10 Ways to Be a Better Recycler

By Leandra Goedvolk

1. Rinse your recyclables!

   Though they still get recycled with a bit of residue on them, the dirty containers can attract pests.

2. Recycle *almost* all your plastic bottles!

   All small-mouth bottles with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 on the bottom can be recycled. If the bottle contained hazardous material, like motor oil or anti-freeze, save them up and drop them off at the Transfer Station or at a hazardous waste satellite location (call 240-777-6400 for schedule).

3. Toss in your tubs and their lids!

   Containers, tubs, lids, pails, and buckets that are number 2, 3, 4, and 5 are now accepted in your “containers” bin. These are things like yogurt containers, margarine tubs, tofu tubs, prescription bottles, detergent and kitty litter buckets, as well as containers from non-hazardous household cleaning products.

4. Don’t waste any mixed paper!

   Toilet paper rolls, labels on tin or steel cans, and telephone books all make great recycled paper material. Don’t forget your shredded paper – simply put it into a paper bag and set it on the curb for pickup.

5. Unscrew those tops!

   Taking tops and lids off of bottles and containers then putting them in the recycling bin separately makes them easier to crush in the compactor, so there’s more room in the truck – and fewer trips (using less gas) to the recycling center.

6. If you ate or drank it and it came in glass, put it in!

   All food and beverage bottles and jars belong in your “commingled” bin. Broken glass should never go in your recycle bin – wrap it in paper and put in the trash.

7. Add aluminum foil to the list!

   Aluminum products like foil wrap, pie plates, and cookie tins belong in your recycle bins.

8. Re-use wrapping paper!

   Better yet, use reusable decorative paper bags or magazine picture or comics for wrapping paper. Once it has been thoroughly used recycle it with your mixed paper.

9. Recycle your plastic flower pots!

   After some fall planting, check your nursery and flower pots. If they say number 2 or 5 on them, toss them in! Be sure to rinse these and remove all dirt first.

10. Keep trash out!

    All things Styrofoam, #6 plastic, plastic bags and wrap, non-small-mouthed #1 plastic, and milk and juice cartons are not recyclable in Takoma Park’s program. Keep them out of your bin to avoid contamination!

For more information on what you can and cannot recycle, see takomaparkgov.org for the Trash and Recycling Manual.
Firehouse Counts a History of Firsts

Counting 80 plus years of service to the community, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department has a history of being first in the county on a number of accomplishments. Here is an account, plus a few other historical facts:

- The first meeting was held on February 27, 1928.
- 1934: First fire department in the county to use breathing apparatus.
- 1936: First fire department in the county to use fog nozzle in fire fighting.
- 1937: First fire department in the county to use 1½ inch hose in fire fighting.
- 1941: Hired first full time fireman.
- 1948: July 1, Melvin E. McBride was appointed City of Takoma Park first paid Fire Chief. The Takoma Park VFD transferred the department over to the City of Takoma Park. Starting salary $3,000; now it is close to $40,000.
- 1949: Firehouse gets a face lift to the front of the building. Renovation included a new front, wider bay doors, moving the present arches, floor reinforcement, installation of a wash rack and relocation of siren.
- 1949: Member Charles Howe, Jr. was appointed Montgomery County’s first Fire Marshal.
- 1959: At the adoption of the Central Alarm in Montgomery County, each fire department was re-numbered to the date of incorporation, i.e., Engine 16 to Engine 21 (Company 2). Note: In the beginning, Takoma Park VFD, as the first fire department in Montgomery County, had number one.

Firehouse 报告

By Jim Jarboe

Special note: In the history of the department, not one member has been severely injured or killed in the line of duty. In 1956, the members of the department responded to 994 calls for assistance. In 2007, they assisted with 3,951. And you would believe. When this newspaper opened in 1928 to the end of October 2008, the Takoma Park Fire Department, both volunteer and career, responded out of that building over 161,000 times to help the community and beyond. There is not enough room in this entire newspaper to write about the outstanding job of the men and women of the Takoma Park Fire Department. In closing, on behalf of the entire firemen, we want to thank all of you for your support over the years.

Safety Tips for a Safe Dinner

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while the food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- When young children are in the home, use the stove’s back burners whenever possible.
- Use only microwave-safe containers to heat food in the microwave.
- Open microwaved food slowly. Let it cool for a minute or more before eating it.
- Never use a wet oven mitt. A hot pan could turn that dampness into scalding steam.
- Keep pot holders, food packaging, cookbooks and other objects that can catch fire off the stove top.
- Wipe up spills and clean your oven. Built-up grease can catch fire.
- Keep curtains, dish towels and anything that burns away from the stove.
- Turn pot handles to the back so you can’t bump them.

Fighting Kitchen Fires...

- Grease fires: Always keep a pot holder, an oven mitt and a lid handy. If a pan of food catches fire, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Prevent flare-ups by leaving the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- Oven fires: Turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.
- Microwave fires: Keep the door closed and unplug the microwave if you can safely reach the plug. Have the oven serviced before you use it again.
- It’s a fact: Unattended cooking is the number one cause of home fires!

Takoma Park VFD’s Annual Christmas Toy Drive

This will mark the 28th year helping families with toys. Starting on December 1 and ending on December 2 we’ll be collecting new toys. You may drop off any new toys at our temporary station located between the Co-op parking lot and the old firehouse between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. If you know of any families needing help with toys for their families (ages 1 to 10 years old), please contact Pam Taylor at the fire station 301-270-8209.

Constitution Reached in Assault/Abduction Case

On January 30, 2008, Takoma Park Police arrested Richard Manning Miller of the 4200 block of 58th Avenue in Bladensburg, Maryland, for the assault and attempted abduction of a young woman on January 29 at the Pollo Campero restaurant on University Blvd. in Takoma Park, Maryland. Miller’s trial was held on November 3, 5 and 6 at the Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville, Maryland. On November 6, Miller was found guilty of attempted first degree sex offense, attempted kidnapping and first degree assault. Miller’s sentencing has been scheduled for December 17.

The maximum penalty for the attempted first degree sex offense is life; first degree assault is 25 years and attempted kidnapping is 30 years; for a total of life plus 55 years.

Chief Ricucci continues to be grateful to the media for their outstanding and continuing coverage of the surveillance video, as well as the public who called in many tips which led detectives to Miller’s vehicle and ultimately Miller. He continues to be thankful to Pollo Campero for the upkeep and maintenance of their surveillance videos that made it possible to garner the public’s assistance in locating Miller.

Chief Ricucci is also proud of his TEU and CID units, as well as patrol officers, for their outstanding follow through and determination to bring closure to this crime for this young victim. The entire investigation was a joint effort between the police department, the media and the public which resulted in a successful arrest, and conviction, to a horrendous crime.

TEEN HOMICIDE continued from page 1

were arrested by the U.S. Marshal’s Fugitive Task Force - Houston. It is believed both men are affiliated with the MS-13 gang, though that has not yet been confirmed.

The investigation began on Saturday, November 1 at approximately 11:08 p.m., when police officers were called to a bus stop on Piney Branch Road at Arliss Street for a shooting that had occurred. Upon arrival, detectives found three juvenile males on a Montgomery County Ride On bus suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. Tai Lam died of his wounds that night.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a group of 10 to 12 men, including those who were shot, got on the Ride On bus in downtown Silver Spring. There is no evidence that these individuals are affiliated with any gangs. Another group of four or five male subjects got on the same bus at two different locations. There was a verbal exchange between members of the two groups. What exactly was said and the manner in which it was said is still under investigation. It is believed that the two groups were only together on the bus for a short period of time.

For unknown reasons the four or five subjects got off the bus at the Piney Branch Road and Arliss Street stop. As one of those subjects was getting off, he turned and fired a handgun from the area of the rear door of the bus into the bus striking the three teens.

The entire investigation revealed that a group of 10 to 12 men, including those who were shot, got on the Ride On bus in downtown Silver Spring. There is no evidence that these individuals are affiliated with any gangs. Another group of four or five male subjects got on the same bus at two different locations. There was a verbal exchange between members of the two groups. What exactly was said and the manner in which it was said is still under investigation. It is believed that the two groups were only together on the bus for a short period of time.

For unknown reasons the four or five subjects got off the bus at the Piney Branch Road and Arliss Street stop. As one of those subjects was getting off, he turned and fired a handgun from the area of the rear door of the bus into the bus striking the three teens. That subject has been identified as Hernandez. All three victims were transported to area trauma centers. The two surviving victims, a 14-year-old male and a 15-year-old male, were released from the hospital and continue to recover from their injuries.

The local community, and especially students from Montgomery Blair High School, where Lam was a freshman, held vigils and memorials for the boy in Silver Spring. An area he frequented with his friends. The high school also made counselors available for students, many of whom knew Lam and were devastated by his death.

Montgomery County Police would like to thank all the members of the community who have called in and assisted in advancing this investigation.

This information was taken from a Montgomery County Media Services press release.

Baby Sitting Graduates

On October 27, the Takoma Park VFD completed another class in baby sitting training. In charge of the training coordinator Jim Jarboe, were Sandy Egan, Sgt. Tina Smith, TPPD and EMTs Mike Livingston and Deanna Stewart. TPVD. Sitting, left to right, Kiera Givens, Taimani Staley, Efe Adeiona, Azalea Coste. Standing, left to right, Amelia Bell, Erin Nolan, Clara Weisman, Ariana Robles, Kimberly Arteaga, Calley Mayer-Marks. Last three, left to right, Maggie McClain, Julian Smith-Jones, Claire Koenig.
Babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups are invited to our special Circle Times on Tuesday Dec. 2, when Daniel Barash will put on a shadow puppet show for our youngest library patrons. Daniel will do his magic twice – first at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Circle Time. No registration necessary. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this special event.

We’re offering two different holiday craft programs this season, with all the materials provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. First, on Friday, Dec. 19, from 4-5 p.m., school-aged kids are invited to come and make simple gifts for the special people in their lives. No registration necessary for this program. Then, on Monday, Dec. 22, from 6-8 p.m., families – including little ones – are invited to come and make holiday gifts. Registration required.

Kick off the new season with our annual Winter Solstice celebration on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Popular ethnomusicologist Bill Jenkins will open our program, and he’ll be followed by the Foggy Bottom Morris Men. No need to register – just come! Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this event.

Come enjoy a unique program based on this year’s Newbery Medal-winning book, “Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!” by Laura Amy Schlitz. On Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., local musician Wendy Lanxner and her flute and guitar students will perform the poems they wrote based on the book. The poems are the end result of a four-session workshop led by local poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer. This program is best for children ages 5 and up. Please register.

Sing some holiday songs with local musician Wendy Lanxner and her flute and guitar students on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. This is a fun event for the entire family – no registration required. Just bring your voice and good cheer!

Looking for the perfect holiday gift to give the children in your life? Try a book! Check our Children’s Room and Teen Buzz Book blogs for some ideas of great books for every age and interest, from infants through teens. Check it out by going to www.takomapark.info/library and then clicking on one of our blogs. Happy Holidays!
Book Sale a Rousing Success

T he weather cooperated, bringing sunny skies and mild temperatures to the Friends of the Library book sale on November 1. In five hours, the sale netted $2,200 for the Friends. All proceeds go back to the Library in the form of gift certificates. 

We wish to thank the following staff and volunteers whose efforts made the sale a success: Judy Trible, Bob and Mary Ann Annis, Michelle Morgan, Dee and Mel Raff, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Eric Hauser, Karen Garman, Alanna Natanson, Sam McCollin and his friend Carlos, Willie Hopkins, Dave Burbank, and Book Sale Coordinator Merrill Leffler. Rebeckah Zanditon and Walter Mulhy are helping to find homes for books left over from the sale.

Thanks also to the many book sale supporters in Takoma Park who donated wonderful books, bought books and visited with us and each other through the day – helping to make this a true community event.

Andrew Wilson, Pam Coffey, Pat Hannah, Maurice Belanger, Rebeckah Zanditon, Karen Boyer, Nadine Wettstein, Jane Williams, Grace, Douglas Grace, Clair Garman, Alanna Natanson, Sam McCollin and his friend Carlos, Willie Hopkins, Dave Burbank, and Book Sale Coordinator Merrill Leffler. Rebeckah Zanditon and Walter Mulhy are helping to find homes for books left over from the sale.

More Performances Air on City TV

The City Council will be in recess this month, so City TV will be adding more community events to the schedule. Visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/schedule for updated program information as our edit crews release more performances from the Folk Festival and Street Festival. 

Takoma Snapshots this month will feature:

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

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

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for 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 for more information.

CALENDAR

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“Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!”
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Dramatic readings by middle-school poets based on the Newbery Medal-winning book. Best for audiences ages 5 up. Please register.

Winter Solstice Celebration
Thursday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.
Join ethnomusicologist Bill Jenkins and Foggy Bottom Morris Men at this annual celebration.

MACALAY

continued from page 10

tried to figure out why. I didn’t want to burden an already-overburdened subject…. But I really believe that if you respond to a subject with a personal passion, that your book will distinguish itself from other books on the same subject.”

Because of working on the book, Macaulay now has much more respect for his body, noting that he now has “pictures in my head of what an area of the body might look like…. I’m able to connect what I am doing…. with the internal architecture and engineering that makes it possible.”

Putting the book together was an enormous project, Macaulay said. So it was particularly good timing when Macaulay was named a “genius” by the MacArthur Foundation in 2006. Chosen for their “exceptional creativity,” recipients are given $500,000 over five years.

“This book took at least two years longer than I expected, so this award could not have come at a better time,” Macaulay said.

Now that he’s finally finished “The Way We Work,” Macaulay’s going to take a brief vacation with his wife and two young children. Then it’s on to new projects, which include a book about Earth’s systems and another book about how various machines have changed history.

“I’ve got plenty to keep me busy,” Macaulay said. “I’m just not capable of taking a big break.”

Third Annual Holiday & Art Sale Studio Tour

Saturday, December 13
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Takoma Park
Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park

Tour Local Art Studios

View the Work of More Than 75 Artists
Open Studio tour map and listing of artists and crafts people is available at the Takoma Park Community Center and can be found online at www.takomaparkmd.gov

Hosted by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission and A. Solon, Ltd. Studios
Takoma Parkers Embrace 2008 Election

In a Line of Firsts, She's First in Line to Vote

By Jon Lawson Jones

With tears in my eyes, I cast the very first vote this morning at Takoma Park Elementary School. It was a gift from God to be able to get up, get dressed, ignore the dogs and get to the polls by 5:30 a.m. I set up my stadium chair (thanks to all my teenage nieces who told it would come in handy one day) and claimed my spot directly in front of the double doors. For ten minutes I was alone, savoring the quiet, the fresh air and the importance of the day, the time, and the place.

My first experience was a 40-ish woman who was scheduled for surgery at 9 a.m. Her husband brought her a milk crate to sit on. We chatted about the chill, and agreed it didn’t matter. Then a young man came with his own chair but he didn’t get to sit much because he kept hopping up to help poll workers carry in tables. “What a gentleman.”

I gave everyone in line the thumbs up as I left. Someone took my picture twice! Someone else yelled “Congratulations!” Everyone wanted to know what time I got there. By this time my neighbors and fellow dog walkers were in the line that was now two blocks long. I offered my chair to two people on canes; they refused but finally a woman took it, promising to bring it by my home. In the spirit of the day, she agreed to offer the chair to another who might need it after she had cast her vote.

What a great morning. This 60-year-old African American woman has often been first (first-born, first Negro at her elementary school in Boston, first in the family to go to college, etc), but nothing has meant as much to me in my life as to be the first to cast my vote today.

Festivities continued from page 1

and Sheger Market, on New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway respectively.

Get It All, Get It Locally

Like many Takoma Parkers, I hop down to the video store regularly, frequent our restaurants, and buy gifts and cards in the shops. But in this precarious economy, I’d like to up the ante to ensure these shops, where merchants call me by name, will be around next year.

On a recent trip to the mall, I resisted some pretty cute winter hats in Target – even though they looked great on my teenager daughter – and I didn’t even enter the funky homewares store. We did buy some essentials: I thought I wouldn’t find in Takoma Park – oops! Now I realize I could have purchased socks and leggings right on Carroll Avenue.

As far as costs go, I explained it to my thrifty 15-year-old this way: we may pay a little more for a handmade hat in Old Town, but we won’t just be buying a hat. We’re buying a culture of community, we’re preserving the little strip of shops that we love so much, and in many cases we’re supporting the artists, musicians, fair-trade wages and lifestyles (like organic farming) we favor.

That’s a lot of value for just $15 or $20. You’ll find those hats, deliciously bright and textured, at several stores – including S&A Beads, Amano, and Tranquil Soul – and, at Now and Then you can choose between buying a pre-made hat and getting inspired to knit your own with the yarn and patterns available there. The window decorations at S&A Beads get fancy during the holidays for the annual Roscoe Award.

There are the one-of-a-kind shops. American Craft carries hand-made art and craft, much of it by local artists. The House of Musical Traditions, in its new location on Westmoreland Avenue, is a magnet for musicians looking for instruments, or for those who just want to incorporate a little music into their lives with a simple harmonica or penny whistle. Or you could consider music lessons – teachers at HMT offer everything from banjo to bass, didgeridoo to dulcimer, or more standard guitar and piano.

For more lessons, there are two new dance studios – Roda, for Latin flavor, and Contradiction Dance, for modern – plus the Dance Exchange. Roda and Dance Exchange offer gift certificates, as do Willow Street Yoga and Bikram Yoga. There are also gift certificates for a natural manicure, pedicure or facial at the Still Point, or for massage, acupuncture or other body therapies. Tired of shopping? Recharge at a local eatery – Market’s Kitchen, Savory, Everyday Gourmet or Middle Eastern Market, which now has a bar in the back. Or grab an ice cream or coffee at Summer Delights. Then head for Takoma Junction, where you’ll find food gifts, body care products and stocking stuffers at the Co-op, and the soon-to-be-open pizza restaurant, which makes dinner easy.

The Newsletter would like to thank our readers for sharing their impressions and experiences of the recent presidential election. If you have something to share with the Newsletter, please contact us at tpnewseditor@ta-komagov.org, or call the editor, Virginia Myers, at 301-920-0244.

Holiday Collection Schedule for December and January

There are several holidays in November and December that will affect trash and recycling collection.

Christmas, Thursday, December 25: Thursday routes will be collected on Friday, December 26.

New Year’s Day, Thursday, January 1: Thursday routes will be collected on Friday, January 2.

Martin Luther King’s Birthday, Monday, January 19: There will be no Monday yard waste collection. Monday recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 20.

By Judy Rosenthal

Hats off to this country for pulling off such a decisively important election and choosing Obama! The multitude of issues we got involved, learned about the issues and believed they could make a difference, along with all the new and first time voters, deserve our gratitude and praise, as do the Takoma Park Police.

Tuesday night, following the announcement that Obama had just surpassed the 270 electoral votes to become our next president, an exuberant crowd of neighbors on Elm Avenue, both teenagers and adults, emerged onto the street. Clanging pots and pans, drumming on trash cans, chanting O-BA-MA, and howling in delight, the celebration began. As we paraded up Elm, our crowd gathered force, attracting the attention of well wishers who flashed their porch lights, cheered and waved from open front doors and others who left their porches as they joined the celebration.

We marched down Poplar, up Columbia, across Carroll and down Tulip where a naked man leapt onto the street and streaked jubilantly into the crowd, and disappeared again. As we turned onto Ma-