**Local Preschool Makes Way for School Renovation**

By Joy Lawson Jones

Imagine a Takoma Park childcare center where for 29 years, each and every child who came in the door was loved. Where colorful classrooms fairly burst with excited children sharing, playing and learning, where all the teachers were credentialed, and where the tuition was so reasonable as to be almost unimaginable.

Now, imagine it gone.

On December 31, 2008, the preschool program at Morgan Day Care Center will close after nearly 30 years of nonprofit community service to Takoma Park families. MCPS’s planned renovations of Takoma Park Elementary School call for late winter demolition of 201 Philadelphia Avenue, where Morgan Day Care operates, and the Center has been unable to find another local site suitable for a preschool.

Suzanne Miller and Jeannette Morgan began the Center out of personal necessity—Miller was unable to find quality childcare for her own children. A former school teacher in the District with a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education, Miller first opened a family child care program in her home, and hired “the most wonderful person with children that I could find,” Jeannette Morgan. Almost immediately, they decided that a preschool center would better meet community needs, and formed Morgan Day Care Center.

Miller says that 29 years ago they were welcomed as a tenant by MCPS, especially since they used the Head Start model for early childhood education and espoused the philosophy that children learn by playing. During the years at Takoma Park Elementary School, the Center has prepared kindergartners who eventually matriculate to the school and move through the Montgomery County system prepared for learning.

So how is it that Morgan Day Care Center will also host CASA de Maryland’s “Crossing Borders Project,” a state-of-the-art vocational training lab operated in the basement of a commercial building on 3000 New Hampshire Avenue, where Sligo Creek Parkway meets New Hampshire Avenue, houses a state-of-the-art vocational training lab operated in partnership with Prince George’s Community College. It opened for business Dec. 8. The Center will also host CASA de Maryland’s “Crossing Borders Project,”

**Morgan Day Care Says “Bye-Bye” Local Preschool Makes Way for School Renovation**

**CASA Day Labor Center Opens in Langley Park**

By Bob Guldin

Just in time to help with the worst economic downturn in decades, CASA de Maryland and Prince George’s County—welcome support from other government agencies and private funders—opened a resource Nov. 19 for low-income day laborers in Langley Park.

The new service center, believed to be the largest of its kind in the United States, will not only help the workers who have congregated for years near the crossroads of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard—it will also help alleviate a difficult community controversy about how to accommodate workers’ needs while keeping the neighborhood attractive for business.

And for the City of Takoma Park, which has long carried a disproportionate burden in maintaining day laborers’ sites in Langley Park, the center will finally remove that responsibility and shift it to better-funded players like Prince George’s and Montgomery counties. As Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow says, “It takes Takoma Park out of the day laborer business.”

Over seven years, the City spent more than $290,000 on temporary day laborer facilities near Langley Park, while Montgomery County spent $205,000. With the new center, Prince George’s County for the first time is paying a major role is tackling the issue.

The new Worker and Training Center, in the basement of a commercial building on New Hampshire Avenue, houses a state-of-the-art vocational training lab operated in partnership with Prince George’s Community College. It opened for business Dec. 8. The Center will also host CASA de Maryland’s “Crossing Borders Project,”
**City Council Action***

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

**November 10, 2008 - Regular Meeting**

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-48 was adopted, authorizing FY09 Budget Amendment No. 2

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-52 was adopted, awarding a contract for HVAC improvements to the third floor of the Municipal Building

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- Single Reading Ordinance 2008-50, rescinding Ordinance 2008-42 and authorizing execution of a contract for services to develop a ten-year ADA compliance plan for sidewalks

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-51, rescinding Ordinance 2008-43 and authorizing execution of a contract for services to conduct a city-wide missing sidewalk study

**November 17, 2008 - Special Session**

Resolution 2008-87 was adopted, declaring November 24 as S.F. Gilbert Day

Resolution 2008-86 was adopted, recommending funding the Purple Line Medium Investment Light Rail Transit Alternative

First Reading Ordinance 2008-53 was accepted, authorizing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with Montgomery Housing Partnership for 7810 Maple Avenue

First Reading Ordinance 2008-54 was accepted, making technical amendments to Takoma Park Code, Ch. 4.24, Police Employees' Retirement Plan

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-38 was rejected unanimously. The ordinance would have amended the Takoma Park Code to revise the stormwater review fee and permit fee for institutional, industrial and commercial facilities

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- Single Reading Ordinance 2008-55, awarding a contract for tree planting

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-56, awarding a contract for waterproofing of the Community Center concrete deck

**November 24, 2008 - Regular Meeting**

Resolution 2008-88, recognizing the 25th anniversary of adoption of the Takoma Park Nuclear-Free Zone Act and declaring December 7-13, 2008 as Nuclear-Free Zone Week

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-53 was adopted, authorizing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with Montgomery Housing Partnership for 7810 Maple Avenue

Second Reading Ordinance 2008-54 was adopted, making technical amendments to Takoma Park Code, Ch. 4.24, Police Employees' Retirement Plan

First Reading Ordinance 2008-57 was accepted, amending Chapter 16.04 of the Takoma Park Code to revise stormwater permit fees for multi-family, commercial, industrial and institutional developments

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-60 was adopted, awarding a contract for architectural services for renovation of the Auditorium

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- Resolution 2008-89, requesting the Maryland General Assembly and State Board of Elections to purchase voting equipment that would accommodate instant runoff voting

Resolution 2008-90, noting the City's intention to purchase a recycling truck through the Pennsylvania Capital City Automotive and Equipment Contract

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-58, authorizing the purchase of a replacement recycling truck

Resolution 2008-91, authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region for the Silver Spring/Takoma Park Community Indicators Project

Resolution 2008-92, providing for the City Council’s holiday recess (Tuesday, November 25, 2008 - Monday, January 5, 2009)

Resolution 2008-93, appointing Milford Sprecher to the Committee on the Environment

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-59, authorizing the purchase of software modules and database conversion

---

**Administrative Regulation Regarding Registration of Tenant Associations is Proposed**

An administrative regulation has been proposed to provide a formal process for registering a tenant association in the City of Takoma Park. The regulation supplements Section 6.16.030 of the Takoma Park Code.

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 26, 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.
Food Finds Spice Up Local Eateries in Takoma Park

By Virginia Myers

Takoma Park is on the verge of welcoming four new restaurants – Avenue Oven, Roscoe’s, an as-yet-un-disclosed restaurant on theucciolo property in Old Town, and Amado Tees-Mex Grill and Rotorerie at Takoma-Langley Crossroads. While many residents are looking forward to some solid, sit-down eateries to add to the existing mix of local eat-out options, some of us continue to savor what we already have. Following are a few culinary gems from the treasure trove of good eats in Takoma Park.

If you have a “food find” to share, please email Dropdown or send it to Takoma Park Newsletter, 7400 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, and we’ll consider your idea for a future issue of the Newsletter. Bon Appetit!

Turkish Coffee
Middle Eastern Cuisine and Market
7000 Carroll Avenue

When the afternoon slump hits, there are a number of places in Takoma Park for a caffeinated kick start. The standards are familiar and good: Savory, Everyday Gourmet and Mark’s Kitchen, and now Summer Delights. But the best find is the Turkish coffee at Middle Eastern Cuisine and Market, on Carroll Avenue in Old Town.

Turkish coffee is a thick, powerful brew that’s boiled until foam forms, then poured into a demitasse; if it’s sweetened, the sugar is boiled along with the coffee and thoroughly incorporated into the cup. The whole thing is reminiscent of espresso, but more intense. At Middle Eastern Market (a full service restaurant) you can pair it with a cup of Joe. For an afternoon slump, there are a number of “take-home” coffee options.

Sugar Cane Juice
Caribbean Market
7505 New Hampshire Avenue

The only other place I’ve had sugar cane juice was in a mountains of Venezuela, where a family squeezed liquid from the cane with a hand-operated press in their yard. The yard is open to the public. This treat – light and refreshing, the essence of sweetness – is just as pure and delicious at Caribbean Market, tucked into the lower level of a shopping strip on New Hampshire Avenue.

You might think a cup of what amounts to the purest sugar would be syrupy. Not so. Cane juice is intense with flavor, but pours like water. A large cup goes a long way, but you might want to make room and pair this treat with other Caribbean specialties, like black cake, a dense fruit and spice cake unlike any holiday fruit cake you’ve encountered. The market offers a full take-away menu behind the deli-like case, and the groceries in the rest of the place allow shoppers to recreate authentic West Indian dishes at home – they even have sugar cane.

Indian Sweets
Udupi Palace
1329 University Boulevard East

Rainbow colors draw the eye to a case full of exotic sweets at Udupi Palace, one of three popular Indian restaurants at Takoma-Langley Crossroads. These treats are like sweet little chunks of home for families whose comfort food runs toward curries and pulao. For those whose favorites are more likely to be macaroni and cheese or meatloaf, they are a little taste adventure. The most recognizable selection is the tiny baklava roll; many of the others start off with a sweet paste molded into balls, sometimes rolled in coconut or crushed pistachios or almonds. There are a few that fold in the warm taste of cardamom, perfect with hot tea. Udupi Palace also offers a lunch buffet, as do Tiffin’s, its sister restaurant a few doors down on University Boulevard, and Woodlands, just over the Takoma Park line on the other side of University. These treats give diners the opportunity to try a dozen or so dishes, including favorite curries, Indian breads, dahls and dosas.

Soul Food
Mid Atlantic Seafood
6500 New Hampshire Avenue

Got a craving for fried chicken and collard greens? Join the fans of Mid Atlantic Seafood – formerly Pops and Sons – for a generous helping of soul food. You can peer through the glass at a steam table full of fried chicken, barbeque chicken, barbeque beef, fried fish, baked fish, kale, collard greens, corn, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes – the list goes on. Corn bread or rolls accompany each plate and there’s a case full of desserts as well. Eat in with the regulars, at an informal, fast-food like arrangement of tables and benches, or carry out. The “seafood” part refers to the fresh fish available in sandwiches, as part of a dinner, or for sale to take home and cook yourself.

Roti
Caribbean Palace
7600 New Hampshire Avenue

The place doesn’t look like much out front, but whatever is going on in the kitchen must be magical. Caribbean Palace, just down the row from Starbucks’s and Chevy Chase Bank at Takoma-Langley Crossroads, serves up a roti that strikes the perfect balance of light and sturdy, substantial Jamaican fare. In other hands, a sort of bready tortilla-like wrapper, can be so flaky it falls apart, or so sturdy it becomes gummy and dense. Not so at Caribbean Palace, where the tasty bread encases any one of a dozen fillings – boneless chicken, beef, goat, chicken, fish, shrimp, or salt fish, channa (chick peas), potato, spinach, a combination of the vegetables, or “bust-up shut,” a variation where the roti literally the flat bread is “busted up.” Bust-up shut, a derivative of “busted up shirt,” because the dough resembles a ripped shirt, must be ordered a day ahead.

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov. The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinions, or letters to the editor will be considered for publication if sent to the newsletter@takomaparkmd.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Published in 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.

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.

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance. The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.
The system incorporates Smart Sponge® (which can filter 448 gallons per hour) and will target the removal of debris designed to treat about one cubic foot per second of runoff entering a tributary to Sligo Creek.

The stormwater treatment system that was installed is designed to treat about one cubic foot per second of flow (448 gallons per hour) and will target the removal of debris, sediment and hydrocarbons (from oil, gas, diesel and grease). The system incorporates Smart Sponge® (www.smartsponge.com), a proprietary filter media that selectively absorbs hydrocarbons and repels water. This Sponge has been installed in more than 13,000 locations throughout the United States. The Sponge is installed in a vault connected to the main stormwater drain in the facility.

Workers install a system that will help filter run-off during storms, and eliminate water pollution leaving the site and entering a tributary to Sligo Creek.

To get a fair return rent increase, the landlord must show that the net operating income for the rental facility has not been maintained due to escalating operating expenses. All rent increases for a fair return is in addition to the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken. If a rent increase exceeds 13 percent, the increases will be phased in over a term of more than one year until the full increases have been taken (e.g. 35 percent rent increase awarded, the rent increase would be divided as first year – 15 percent; second year – 15 percent; and third year – 5 percent).

Landlord-Tenant Decisions

By Jean Kerr and Moses A. Wilds, Jr., Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

Flores v. Showummi (2008-17T)

On November 25, 2008, COLTA issued a decision on a tenant complaint that the landlord had increased the rent illegally, from $700 to $800. In its decision, COLTA found that the lawful rent for the apartment should be $717. The tenant is entitled to a refund $1,379 for rent overcharges for the period July 1, 2006 through November 30, 2008. COLTA ordered that the tenant is authorized to withhold $1,379 from the rent which calculates as $717 from December's rent and $662 from January's rent. The tenant will owe $55 for rent in January.

Mickey v. Ernst (2008-13T)

On November 19, the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant's complaint that her landlord was responsible for a defective tenancy that had resulted in damage to her personal property, for which she sought a rent rebate of $800 per month for the entire lease term. The commission ruled that the landlord was not responsible for a defective tenancy, since the water damage to the tenant's personal property did not result from the landlord's negligence. The commission ruled that the basement flood following a period of heavy rainfall, nor the bedroom ceiling leak constituted a defective tenancy since they did not result from the landlord's negligence, had not previously occurred and were remedied by the landlord in a timely manner. The commission in denying the tenant's request for a rent rebate ruled that there were no conditions in the rental facility that constituted a violation of the lease terms, the Landlord-Tenant Relations Law, or the Property Maintenance Code.

Housing Mailbox

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

A tenant contacted the mailbox and asked, “What are the requirements regarding heat in a rental facility? Also, is there a minimum temperature for hot water?”

In accordance with the Montgomery County Code (Chapter 26-Housing and Building Maintenance Standards), which has been adopted by the City of Takoma Park and made applicable to most rental facilities in Takoma Park, the temperature in each habitable room or bathroom must be maintained at a minimum of 68 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature should be measured at a distance of three feet above floor level and at least three feet from any exterior wall. There is no date cited in the code for heat to be turned on. If your apartment feels cold, buy a small thermometer and take temperature readings in a central location in your apartment in the mornings and evenings for a week. If you find that the temperatures are below 68 degrees, you should contact your landlord regarding the problem and then follow up with the code enforcement office (240-777-3785) if your landlord does not address the issue.

Section 26-7 (4) of the County Code indicates that hot water used at every kitchen sink, lavatory basin, bathtub or shower must be at a temperature of not less than 120 degrees or more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Tenants with questions regarding property maintenance code requirements should call 240-777-3785.
Meetings to Consider New Flood Protection Plan

As winter descends, the possibility of snow storms and electrical outages looms. But emergency planning and hazard mitigation is a year-round concern for City officials. This month, Public Works is focusing on flood control.

With a grant from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to develop a flood mitigation plan for the City, staff is working with a consultant team of Deepa Srinivasan from Vision Planning and Consultants and Dr. Michael Scott, from the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative and Salisbury University, to conduct the research and develop proposals for flood mitigation. Their intent is to map out areas vulnerable to flooding, develop strategies to protect property, public health and natural resources and improve resistance to floods.

A steering committee of City and County staff as well as local environmental groups will work with the consultants as they research past flood history, review federal and state records and run software programs designed to predict areas of flooding based on elevation. The consultants have prepared information for public review and comment related to the likely flood zones in the City and potential strategies to mitigate damage from flooding. The first of two public meetings have been scheduled for Thursday, January 22, at 7 p.m., in the Takoma Park Council Chambers at 7500 Maple Avenue, to discuss the draft plan. The maps below have been prepared to show the potential area of flooding in a 100-year storm event. The maps illustrate Maple Avenue and 4th Avenue. If you have any questions, please contact Ali Khalilian, City Engineer at 301-891-7620 or AliK@takomagov.org.

Energy Assistance Available

With the cost of electricity and gas having dramatically increased in the past few years, this is a reminder that the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) and the Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) are available to income-eligible renters and homeowners. Applications can be obtained at the Department of Health and Human Service Office located at 1301 Piccard Drive, 4th floor, Rockville, Maryland (240-777-4450). You can also call Takoma Park’s Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs at 301-891-7222 to obtain an application. To apply, you will need proof of residence, social security numbers, proof of your household’s total gross income and the name of your utility suppliers and account numbers.

The area shown here, around Fourth Street in the Pine Crest neighborhood, is vulnerable to flooding in a 100-year storm event.
Beginning Chess
Ages 7 - 12
Learn basic rules, concepts and beginner strategies in order to learn to play a full game against opponents of any age. Class lessons will include teacher demonstrations, mini-games, puzzles, history and tournaments. This is a great way to show students that chess is a mesmerizing, fun way to use our minds and imaginations. Ten weeks. Max. 16, min. six. Instructor Charles Edelman.
When: Tues., Jan. 20 - March 24
Time: 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Location: Lilac Room, T.P. Com. Ctr.
7500 Maple Ave.
Fee: T.P. Res. $45
Non-Res. $50

Karate/Self Defense
Ages 14 and older
Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). You do not need any previous martial arts experience to participate. Advanced and beginner students are welcome. The only requirement is a willingness to learn. For students interested in competition, there will be opportunities to participate in karate tournaments. Please wear comfortable exercise clothing to work out. This program is a partnership between the Takoma Park Recreation Dept. and the Penn State University Karate Club.
When: Mon. and Wed. (ongoing)
Time: 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: T. P. Rec. Ctr., 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Fee: Free

Fun Day Program
Grades K - 5
The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Bring a lunch! Trip is subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.
When: Mon. Jan. 26
Location: Capital Club House, Waldorf, MD
Ice Skating, Rock Climbing and Sports
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $25
Non-Res. $30

Old School Games
Ages 18 and older
Sick of the same old workout routine? Well it is time to get "old school." Get out your running shoes and a bottle of water and be ready to burn those holiday calories while playing old school favorites "duck, duck, goose," kickball, crab soccer, ultimate Frisbee, floor hockey and many more. Have fun while you work out. Modeled after the Old School P.E. Program seen on CNN from New Hampshire. Please be sure to bring a bottle of water, hand towel and wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Max. 30, min. 10. Eight weeks. Instructor: Recreation Staff.
When: Thurs., Jan. 22 - March 21
Time: 7 - 9 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Elementary Gym, 7510 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. Res. $55
Non-Res. $65

Family Fun Day
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 snack or lunch is recommended.
When: Saturday, Jan. 24
Trip: Snow Tubing, Liberty Mountain
Prepare yourself for two hours of tubing at Boulder Ridge. Snow Tubing is such a blast for all members of the family - and best of all, no experience is necessary! Bring a lunch or money for the snack bar.
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fee: T.P. Res. $25
Non-Res. $30
Need to register by Jan. 16.

activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 | 301.891.7290
MORGAN DAY CARE
continued from page 1

ter must close? It is simply making way for renovations to
TPEs that will replace temporary trailer classrooms with
brick and mortar facilities, expand the school’s capacity
to accommodate a larger population of elementary-age
children, separate bus and car traffic with a one-way bus
loop accessed from Philadelphia Avenue, and add parking
so that teachers and parents will no longer have to park
in the neighborhood. Plans also include space for daycare,
though this will be provided by another County agency.

Miller says that while she attended planning meetings
about the renovations and knew about the impending de-
molition of the existing building, early plans implied there
would be room for her preschool, so she did not actively
seek new quarters. Now the County school system has of-
fered Morgan Day Care alternative space in Rockville
or Wheaton, and City officials have advised her to seek out
commercial space. Miller does not expect these options to
pan out, and anticipates closing the center December 31.
The after-school care program, conducted at Piney Branch
Elementary School, will continue. (This is separate from
the Recreation Department-run after school program at
the Community Center, and the one run by the YMCA at
Takoma Park Elementary School).

The reaction of families has been predictable—“What
are we going to do?” Families at Morgan pay sliding-scale
tuition between $500 and $800 a month. The average
cost of daycare in the Takoma Park zip code, according to
Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Refer-
ral Center, is about $684 a month. The low rent at TPEs,
Working Parent Assistance voucher programs, and low-
cost food service has helped keep Morgan tuition afford-
able for these families, who will have to find similar day-
care alternatives. Miller is also concerned for her staff. It
will not be easy to find jobs in the current economy.

What Miller is most sad about is that Takoma Park will
be losing a valuable community resource, she says. At full
enrollment, Morgan Day Care Center offered a safe, well
run, licensed, affordable nonprofit childcare option for up
to 40 Takoma Park families. The Morgan community was
always ethnically diverse and very much “Takoma Park”
in its advocacy for respect and acceptance of diversity.
Teachers at Morgan were community residents, like Mill-
er and Morgan, and professional development and teacher
credentialing were requirements.
Suzanne Miller wants Takoma Park to know that “Mor-
gan Day Care Center was, and is, good for Takoma Park.
Parents leave their children with us knowing they are both
nurtured and learning what they need to be happy and
successful in school. Our goal has always been to empow-
er children with love so that they can succeed out in the
world. In turn, we are grateful and say thank you to all the
families who entrusted their children to us over the years
and who allowed us the privilege of loving and educating
and empowering them to their best potential.”

Jeanette Morgan reads to some of her students at the Morgan Daycare Center, slated to close December 31.
The Center has served young Takoma Park residents and others from the area for the last 28 years. (Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse)

RECREATION
continued from page 6

VOlunteer Opportunities
Do you have an hour or two for Takoma Park Senior Citizens? We are looking for volunteer instructors in art, crafts, health and fitness, yoga, Tai Chi, history, science, bridge (card games), jewelry making, and computers. If you can volunteer, please call the Seniors Program Manager at 301-891-7280.

Looking for good people!
Part-time staff are needed for the Game Room, Teen Room, After School and Teen Programs. Call 301-
891-7290 or submit your resume and application to:
Takoma Park Recreation Department, 7500 Maple
Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Qualified instructors are needed to teach leisure
classes for all ages and activities. Currently look-
ing for people skilled in teaching art, dance, fitness
classes, specialty camps, photography, music or other specialty. Send resume and class proposal to:
Takoma Park Recreation Department, 7500 Maple
Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Sunday, May 3, 2009,
Sponsored by Takoma Park Safe Routes to School
Benefits the PTA at Rolling Terrace Elementary, Takoma Park Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary, East Silver Spring Elementary and Takoma Park Middle School.

Individuals and groups welcome!
Organize your neighbors, friends, garden club, book group, PTA parents and alums!

A Fun Run event will also be an option.
Start training now! Walking to school is the way to do it!
Contact Lucy Neher for information, lucyn@takomagov.org.

MLK Birthday Monday, Jan. 19
President’s Day Monday, Feb. 16
Memorial Day Monday, May 25
Independence Day Friday, July 3
Labor Day Monday, Sept. 7
Veteran’s Day Wednesday, Nov.11
Thanksgiving Thursday Nov 26
Christmas Friday, Dec. 25
New Year’s Day Friday, Jan. 1

2009 TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE
Listed at right are the observed holidays for
2009 and the impact on the trash and recycling
collection routes. Please keep this for easy
reference throughout the year. This schedule is
d also posted on the City’s website.

No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday
No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday
No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected Thursday
No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday
No yard waste collection
Wednesday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday
Wednesday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday

THIS IS A NEW SCHEDULE FOR THIS YEAR
Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday
Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday

MLK Birthday Monday, Jan. 19
President’s Day Monday, Feb. 16
Memorial Day Monday, May 25
Independence Day Friday, July 3
Labor Day Monday, Sept. 7
Veteran’s Day Wednesday, Nov.11
Thanksgiving Thursday Nov 26
Christmas Friday, Dec. 25
New Year’s Day Friday, Jan. 1

No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday
No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday
No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected Thursday
No yard waste collection
Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday
No yard waste collection
Wednesday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday
Wednesday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday

THIS IS A NEW SCHEDULE FOR THIS YEAR
Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday
Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday

The City imagination.

What Miller is most sad about is that Takoma Park will
be losing a valuable community resource, she says. At full
enrollment, Morgan Day Care Center offered a safe, well
run, licensed, affordable nonprofit childcare option for up
to 40 Takoma Park families. The Morgan community was
always ethnically diverse and very much “Takoma Park”
in its advocacy for respect and acceptance of diversity.
Teachers at Morgan were community residents, like Mill-
er and Morgan, and professional development and teacher
credentialing were requirements.
Suzanne Miller wants Takoma Park to know that “Mor-
gan Day Care Center was, and is, good for Takoma Park.
Parents leave their children with us knowing they are both
nurtured and learning what they need to be happy and
successful in school. Our goal has always been to empow-
er children with love so that they can succeed out in the
world. In turn, we are grateful and say thank you to all the
families who entrusted their children to us over the years
and who allowed us the privilege of loving and educating
and empowering them to their best potential.”
Pedestrian Realm

The "Pedestrian Realm" is designed so that pedestrians and bicycles have priority. Cars are allowed in some areas, but they have to move slowly. There are five design conditions:

1) Uninterrupted median strip. K street’s "sleeves," in downtown Washington D.C., allow cars to zip between through lanes and access lanes. This speeds up traffic in both lanes, and contributes to K Street’s less successful pedestrian realm as pedestrians do not claim the access lane.

2) A strong line of densely planted trees along the medians that continues all the way to the intersection. Closely spaced trees all the way to the intersection cause cars to move more cautiously, humanize the street, and create a grand avenue feel.

3) Locate places or items on the median that draw people on foot — such as transit stops, parking and kiosks — to that people cross from the sidewalk.

4) Narrow the entrance to the access lane so that vehicles slow down to enter.

5) Distinguish side access from through-ways with a change of level or paving.

The result of well-designed access lanes is slower traffic. People feel comfortable crossing access lanes to reach the side medians, and the pedestrian realm becomes 45 to 50 percent of the boulevard. Contrast this with the current New Hampshire Avenue, where the pedestrian realm (two six-foot-wide sidewalks) is only 14 percent of the Avenue.

Vehicle Lane Widths

Lane widths are recommended at a national level to prevent side-walk accidents. The recommended lane width for streets with a 40 mph-and-under speed limit in the United States is 12 feet. This is twice the width of the average family car. Older areas, especially urban areas such as the City of Philadelphia, can have very narrow lanes with as little as eight feet in width, only two feet wider than the average family car, and the maximum allowed width of a commercial vehicle on public highways without a special permit.

Studies have shown that narrower lane widths cause drivers to proceed with more caution, while wider lanes can induce speeding due to the wide lane’s sense of comfort and safety. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials sets these standards, however they also provide individual engineers with discretion for making exceptions on a case by case basis.

As the speed limit on New Hampshire Avenue is 35 miles per hour, and most drivers are exceeding that speed limit, narrowing lanes to ten feet in width is a primary design solution to reduce speeding. Lower speeds will also increase capacity as vehicles moving at lower speeds may drive closer together.

In the concept plan, the engineer on the project recommended a “safety strip.” This is an at-grade median with a distinct paving pattern, which may even be slightly raised, but still drivable. While it is clearly not a lane, it creates a safety area that vehicles can drive onto should they be “extra-wide,” to facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles, and to locate turning lanes at intersections.

In the access lanes, eight-foot-wide parking lanes and nine-foot-wide driving lanes for a combined 17-foot access lane are recommended to accommodate parked cars, and allow a bicycle to squeeze through if someone is waiting for a parking spot. Narrow lane widths in the access lane have the added benefit that cars are slow and infrequent enough that bicycles own the lane.

Intersection Design

Make it complicated! Multi-way boulevards actually have more possible “conflict points.” Conflict points are where the paths cars follow can intersect during an accident. In the U.S., engineers work hard to remove all conflict points so that cars zip through intersections with ease and use little caution.

You may ask, if there are more conflict points, does that mean that multi-way boulevards are less safe? Allen Jacobs, Elizabeth Macdonald, and Yordan Rolfe have been studying these boulevards for many years. Contrary to many engineers’ beliefs, more conflict points in multi-way boulevards do not make these streets less safe. Accidents occur at approximately the same rate as on streets designed with conventional intersections and are not less safe then conventional streets. What they do have is significantly higher numbers of pedestrians and people-related activities along their length than other streets that have similar volumes of traffic.

Successful multi-way boulevards have trees, kiosks, bus stops and other obstacles that reduce lines of sight near intersections, so cars move more slowly and cautiously. Thus, they give more right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles parking or changing lanes. While most highways with 40-mile-per-hour speed limits have clear sight line requirements of 40 to 50 feet of an intersection, successful multi-way boulevards have trees planted to within 20 feet of the pavement.

Through lanes are controlled by stop lights and are given first priority. Cross streets such as Ethan Allen Avenue/ East West Highway, Poplar Avenue, and Sheridan Street, and any existing lights such as at the Shoppers Food Warehouse are given second priority and traffic is also controlled by stop lights. In contrast, access lanes are controlled by stop signs and have third priority. However, as long as the way is clear, vehicles may then proceed.

Medians

Boulevards are stately because they have space for large mature trees to grow, and these trees are not removed once they grow above regulation size. They may be in a single row or a double row.

When parking is located next to medians, the medians can be widened near crosswalks to expand queuing area for vehicles waiting to turn left from an access lane. Medians can also be widened into the parking lane to allow for expanded bus waiting areas with comfortable seating, lighting, and other facilities.

The New Hampshire Avenue concept plan, due to the current negative impacts on Sligo Creek Parkway, the Anacostia Watershed, and the Chesapeake Bay recommends perforated curbs to collect and filter water slashing off the pavement into the median’s special soils and plantings. Currently this water runs directly into storm drains.

Implementation

City staff, prompted by a supportive City Council, is advocating for funding for feasibility and planning studies.
Nighttime Burglaries Prompt Increased Safety Precautions at Home

By Catherine Plevy

As of Nov. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park Fire Station have responded to 668 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,621 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 3,289 this year. Totals for 2007 were 818 and 2,831 respectively, for a total of 3,649, representing a decrease of 360 incidents.

Families Received Holiday Dinners

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department marked its 14th year providing dinners for families at Thanksgiving. This year, with contributions from the Takoma Park Lions Club, Takoma Park VFW Post 350, the Auxiliary of the Cissel-Saxon No. 41 American Legion, Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary, 26 families enjoyed a wonderful dinner. Each dinner would serve six to eight people. A special thanks to Dave Hooker, Bob Jarboe and Jim Jarboe for delivering the dinners. Also thanks to Pam Taylor for her assistance with the project.

Holiday Fire Prevention Tips for the Entire Family

The holidays are a special time of year. But whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or New Year's, there is always potential for fire and accidents. As you enjoy the season, remember to take all of the usual fire safety precautions. Check all smoke alarms. Install carbon monoxide detectors. Have chimneys, fireplaces, and central heating units inspected by professionals. Develop a Home Fire Escape Plan and practice it with your family. Make sure escape routes are not blocked.

Common sense can keep a celebration from turning into a tragedy.

• About 1/6 of home fires started by candles occur in December.
• More than 5,000 people are treated for injuries related to holiday decorations and Christmas trees each year.
• Holiday lights and Christmas trees cause over 1,000 fires each year.
• When buying your Christmas tree, be sure to pick a fresh tree. You’ll know it’s fresh if the needles are firmly attached.
• Keep a real tree outside until you are ready to decorate it.
• When the tree is in your home, keep plenty of water around the base. A dry tree is the source of more than 1,000 home fires every year!
• Check the water level every morning and before you go to bed.
• Be bright about lights! Don’t use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. They can cause fires, shocks and even electrocution.
• Be careful when hanging several light strings together. You could have an overload situation. Remember, all lighting in the house must be turned off when leaving your home or when going to bed.
• Space heaters - keep away from curtains, bed spreads and furniture. They need space, at least two feet. Make sure children know they can get burned if they touch them!
• Do not staple or nail through electrical cords. It could cause a shock or fire.
• Never use extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or pinched behind furniture.
• Never decorate a tree with real candles.
• Be bright about lights! Don’t use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. They can cause fires, shocks and even electrocution.
• If you see suspicious persons, vehicles and/or activity, please call Takoma Park Fire at 301-270-1100 or 9-1-1.

Remember Your Pets in Emergencies

W

Remember Your Pets in Emergencies

When you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or New Year’s, there is always potential for fire and accidents. As you enjoy the season, remember to take all of the usual fire safety precautions. Check all smoke alarms. Install carbon monoxide detectors. Have chimneys, fireplaces, and central heating units inspected by professionals. Develop a Home Fire Escape Plan and practice it with your family. Make sure escape routes are not blocked.

Common sense can keep a celebration from turning into a tragedy.

• About 1/6 of home fires started by candles occur in December.
• More than 5,000 people are treated for injuries related to holiday decorations and Christmas trees each year.
• Holiday lights and Christmas trees cause over 1,000 fires each year.
• When buying your Christmas tree, be sure to pick a fresh tree. You’ll know it’s fresh if the needles are firmly attached.
• Keep a real tree outside until you are ready to decorate it.
• When the tree is in your home, keep plenty of water around the base. A dry tree is the source of more than 1,000 home fires every year!
• Check the water level every morning and before you go to bed.
• Be bright about lights! Don’t use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. They can cause fires, shocks and even electrocution.
• Be careful when hanging several light strings together. You could have an overload situation. Remember, all lighting in the house must be turned off when leaving your home or when going to bed.
• Space heaters - keep away from curtains, bed spreads and furniture. They need space, at least two feet. Make sure children know they can get burned if they touch them!
• Do not staple or nail through electrical cords. It could cause a shock or fire.
• Never use extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or pinched behind furniture.
• Never decorate a tree with real candles.
• Be bright about lights! Don’t use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. They can cause fires, shocks and even electrocution.
• If someone does come to your door, ask for identification.
• Keep an outside light on after dark.
• Do not leave items of value in plain sight from a window.
• Call the police if you see or hear anything suspicious.

On behalf of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, we want to wish you and your family a very, very happy and safe holiday.

Remember Your Pets in Emergencies

When you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or New Year’s, there is always potential for fire and accidents. As you enjoy the season, remember to take all of the usual fire safety precautions. Check all smoke alarms. Install carbon monoxide detectors. Have chimneys, fireplaces, and central heating units inspected by professionals. Develop a Home Fire Escape Plan and practice it with your family. Make sure escape routes are not blocked.

Common sense can keep a celebration from turning into a tragedy.

• About 1/6 of home fires started by candles occur in December.
• More than 5,000 people are treated for injuries related to holiday decorations and Christmas trees each year.
• Holiday lights and Christmas trees cause over 1,000 fires each year.
• When buying your Christmas tree, be sure to pick a fresh tree. You’ll know it’s fresh if the needles are firmly attached.
• Keep a real tree outside until you are ready to decorate it.
• When the tree is in your home, keep plenty of water around the base. A dry tree is the source of more than 1,000 home fires every year!
• Check the water level every morning and before you go to bed.
• Be bright about lights! Don’t use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. They can cause fires, shocks and even electrocution.
• Be careful when hanging several light strings together. You could have an overload situation. Remember, all lighting in the house must be turned off when leaving your home or when going to bed.
• Space heaters - keep away from curtains, bed spreads and furniture. They need space, at least two feet. Make sure children know they can get burned if they touch them!
• Do not staple or nail through electrical cords. It could cause a shock or fire.
• Never use extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or pinched behind furniture.
• Never decorate a tree with real candles.
• Be bright about lights! Don’t use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. They can cause fires, shocks and even electrocution.
• If someone does come to your door, ask for identification.
• Keep an outside light on after dark.
• Do not leave items of value in plain sight from a window.
• Call the police if you see or hear anything suspicious.

On behalf of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, we want to wish you and your family a very, very happy and safe holiday.
Bonjour! We’re going to start a new monthly program, a French-English Bilingual Circle Time. We’ll meet once each month on a Saturday morning, from 10:30-11 a.m., and sing songs, do rhymes and fingerplays and read some stories in French and English. No language experience necessary – just come and have fun learning a bit in another language! Our first program will take place on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10:30-11 a.m. No registration necessary; this program is perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Come join our Comics Jam on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Dave Burbank, the library’s graphic novel expert, will join with children’s/teen librarian Karen MacPherson to give a brief overview of the history of comics, talk about why some people don’t think kids should read them, and why we think they’re a good reading choice. Then, we’ll finish up by reading aloud some comics. Registration required.

On Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m., we’re offering a unique way for middle school and high students to earn community service hours. Local author Joy Jones has written a short story titled “The Cranberry Box” and is looking for feedback from pre-teen and teen readers. Participants will earn two community service hours for taking part in this event. Copies of the story are available at the Library’s main desk; you must read the story before the discussion. Registration required.

The holiday season may be over, but the quest for good books to read never ends. If you haven’t already seen it, check out our lists of Best Kids Books of 2008, posted on the Library’s Books blog, and have some kind of unexplained hold on Joe. In an unsuccessful effort to escape from Coleridge’s attentions, Joe persuades Evie to choose between her first love and her family in a decision that will change her life forever.

Blundell’s story, from the intensity of Evie’s crush on Coleridge to the igneous pack of lies she must unravel. With its tale of romance gone wrong, What I Saw and How I Lied will most appeal to teenage girls. But the book’s roots in a historical event—the looting of Jewish valuables by American soldiers in Austria—should also spark interest among male readers. (Ages 12 up.)

In Chains, Promised freedom upon the death of her mistress, 13-year-old Isabel and her younger sister Ruth instead become spies for George Washington’s rebel troops but discovers that freedom for slaves isn’t at the top of anyone’s agenda in the Revolutionary War.

Welcome to the Friends Reading Group. Books are provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library and are available at the Library’s circulation desk. For intrepid readers, discussions of a new translation of Tolstoy’s War and Peace will begin on January 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Call Ellen Robbins at the Library for more information.

Reading Group to Discuss The Namesake

On Thursday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m. the Friends Reading Group will meet in the Takoma Park Community Center for a discussion of The Namesake. Jhumpa Lahiri’s novel, first published in 2003, won lavish praise for its Pulitzer Prize-winning author. It tells the story of two generations of the Ganguli family, and at the same time it is a novel about exile and its discontents. It begins in Boston in 1968, with the birth of a boy named Gogol Ganguli.

The New York Times called it “a quietly dazzling new novel...that rare thing: an intimate, closely observed family portrait that effortlessly and discreetly unfolds to disclose a capacious social vision...a novel that is as affecting in its Chekhovian exploration of fathers and sons, parents and children, as it is resonant in its exploration of what is acquired and lost by immigrants and their children in pursuit of the American dream...a debut novel that is as assured and eloquent as the work of a longtime master of the craft.”

All are welcome to attend discussions by the Friends Reading Group. Books are provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library and are available at the Library’s circulation desk. For intrepid readers, discussions of a new translation of Tolstoy’s War and Peace will begin on January 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Call Ellen Robbins at the Library for more information.

AWARD WINNING BOOKS Designed for Teens

If your teenager looking for some good books to read? Try one of these outstanding new novels:

Judy Blundell has published dozens of books for young readers, but What I Saw and How I Lied is the first novel she’s published under her real name.

Blundell’s dark-edged novel of a young teenager caught in a World War II-era web of lies won this year’s National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. Before this, Blundell was best known for her Star Wars novelizations, written under the pen name Jude Watson.

Here’s a closer look at Blundell’s book, plus the four finalists for the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature: What I Saw and How I Lied; Fifteen-year-old Evie is thrilled when her stepfather Joe Spooner returns home safely from World War II. But things go haywire when a handsome young man named Peter Coleridge suddenly appears on the scene.

Coleridge, who was a member of Joe’s company in post-war Austria, seems to have some kind of unexplained hold on Joe. In an unsuccessful effort to escape from Coleridge’s attentions, Joe persuades Evie and her gorgeous mother Bev to head to Florida for an unplanned holiday.

Coleridge, however, tracks them down and gradually insinuates himself into their social circle. Inexorably, Evie falls in love with him. Just as inexorably, tragedy strikes, forcing Evie to choose between her first love and her family in a decision that will change her life forever. In the book, the sultry temperatures of off-season Florida reflect the sensual heat of Blundell’s story, from the intensity of Evie’s crush on Coleridge to the igneous pack of lies she must unravel. With its tale of romance gone wrong, What I Saw and How I Lied will most appeal to teenage girls. But the book’s roots in a historical event—the looting of Jewish valuables by American soldiers in Austria—should also spark interest among male readers. (Ages 12 up.)

In Chains, Promised freedom upon the death of her mistress, 13-year-old Isabel and her younger sister Ruth instead become spies for General George Washington’s rebel troops but discovers that freedom for slaves isn’t at the top of anyone’s agenda in the Revolutionary War.

For intrepid readers, discussions of a new translation of Tolstoy’s War and Peace will begin on January 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Call Ellen Robbins at the Library for more information.

AWARD WINNING BOOKS

Continue on page 11.

Friends of Mike Morrissey Give to the Library

On November 17, organizers of the Seventh Annual Mike Morrissey charity golf tournament visited the Library and presented Ellen Robbins, Library staff and Friends of the Library a check for $5,650—proceeds from November’s tournament. Mayor Bruce Williams, Councilmember Josh Wright and City Manager Barb Matthews were present at the reception, held in the Library’s Children’s Room. The Library’s staff (four of whom played in the tournament) was presented with this year’s “Spirit Award.” All tournament proceeds go to the Friends, and are given to the Library in the form of gifts. Since the tournaments began, more than $32,000 has been raised for Library programs, services and resources.

Takoma Park Library Calendar

January 2008

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing.

You can register online by going to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or by calling 301-891-7259. Events take place in the Library unless otherwise noted.

Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday

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

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday 11:11:30 a.m.

French Bilingual Circle Time

Saturday, Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Come join us for stories, songs and rhymes in French and English.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Our book is War and Peace. (Call the library for information.)

AWARD WINNING BOOKS

Continue on page 11.
Fall Festivals Hit City TV

City TV starts off the new year with a number of new performances from the fall festivals out of the edit room. New programs running this month include The Nighthawks, Verleete Si-mon, Capeoira Sul da Bahia and Nrityanjali, The New Misty Crystals, Molly Andrews, Elizabeth and Sandy LaPelle, Zan McLeod and Tina Eck, Carrying It On, and Rick Franklin and his Delta Blues Boys.

We will also be airing replays of the 25th Anniversary of Nuclear Free Takoma, held on December 10 at the Community Center.

Takoma Snapshots this month will feature:

- What’s In It For Me? City Office of Landlord & Tenant Affairs
- Tree Planting on New Hampshire Avenue
- Arts and Humanities Day
- Walk to School Day
- Street Festival Highlights
- Halloween

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 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@takomamgov.org for more information.

AWARD WINNING BOOKS

continued from page 10

will capture readers’ hearts in her unceasing efforts to win freedom for herself and her handicapped sister. (Ages 12 up)

Underneath by Kathi Appelt is a beautifully-written but gut-wrenching book about an abused dog who befriends three cats. There’s much more to it than that, of course, as Appelt spins out a tale that includes a gin-swilling reclusive, watchful trees, and a shape-shifting snake who has lain dormant for a thousand years.

With engaging illustrations by Caldecott Medalist David Small, The Underneath would seem to be a perfect tale for middle-grade readers. Don’t be fooled; despite Appelt’s lyrical writing and heart-catching characterizations, this book’s dark tone and disturbing events are best suited for teens and even adults. (Ages 12 up)

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks: Frankie Landau-Banks, a student at an exclusive boarding school, loves her boyfriend. But she hates the fact that the secret society of which he is a member excludes girls. In The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, author E. Lockhart tells what happens when Frankie – under a male alias – takes over the leadership of the secret society.

Lockhart’s book is a delightful stew of realism, romance and humor that will pull readers into the first page and not let them go until they finish the book. Frankie is a captivating heroine; UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty reported that the Langley Park area had the largest concentration of day laborers in the United States, according to CASA press officer Mario Quiroz. Even though local business owners complained that the crowds of workers were keeping away customers, it has been difficult to arrange a comprehensive solution, in part because the industry is right at the convergence of three jurisdictions — Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park and Prince George’s County.

The new center is CASA’s fifth worker-assistance facility in Maryland. It operates two others nearby in Silver Spring, one in Wheaton and one in Baltimore.

CASA DAY LABOR

continued from page 1

an initiative to break down cultural barriers between Latino, African American and African residents of the area. CASA is undertaking this project with the Montgomery and Prince George’s branches of the NAACP, PRISCM (Partnership for Re-newal in Southern and Central Maryland), and a variety of other organizations.

In fact, says CASA press officer Mar-rio Quarocio, the training center will demonstrate how CASA is evolving from its original focus on serving Central American immigrants to a broader focus including helping immigrants from Africa (such as Cameroon and Kenya) and South America (Bolivia, Peru). “We now have signs in English, Spanish and French,” Quarocio says.

To emphasize that move toward multiculturalism, the organization last year changed its official name from Central American Solidarity and Assistance de Maryland to simply, CASA de Maryland. “Our manager in Silver Spring is from Haiti, and an organ-i-zer is from Cameroon,” Quarocio notes.

The center will offer classes in financial literacy, HIV/AIDS prevention and English as a second language. And like other CASA facilities, it will provide an organized system for people to be hired as day laborers for tasks such as construction and landscaping. In cooperation with Prince George’s Community College, it will offer free hands-on instruction in trades such as tile-laying, plumbing and electrical work.

At 6,000 square feet, the facility on New Hampshire Avenue will be the largest day labor center in the country, able to serve as many as 160 workers at a time. It cost about $720,000, with support coming from Prince George’s County, the State of Maryland and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds for the first year of programming come from the Ford Foundation, Bank of America Foun-dation, CITGO Petroleum Corp., Public Welfare Foundation, United Way of Prince George’s County.

The center had its official opening Nov. 19, with Prince George’s County Executive Jack Johnson, state Sen. David Harrington, members of the Prince George’s County Council, and state housing officials on hand to cele-brate. Said Johnson, “Fostering multiculturalism is the key to keeping livable communi-ties vibrant and economically sustainable.”

“Takoma Park is a historic stepping stone for empowering low-wage immigrant and minority workers living in these communi-ties,” said Gustavo Torres, executive di-rector of CASA de Maryland. “Our leaders understand that in this current economic crisis, education, training and workforce development programs for workers are es-sential to improving our economy.”

2006 study by the UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty reported that the Langley Park area had the largest concentra-tion of day laborers in the United States, according to CASA press officer Mario Quiroz. Even though local business owners complained that the crowds of workers were keeping away customers, it has been difficult to arrange a comprehensive solution, in part because the industry is right at the convergence of three jurisdictions — Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park and Prince George’s County.

The new center is CASA’s fifth worker-assistance facility in Maryland. It operates two others nearby in Silver Spring, one in Wheaton and one in Baltimore.

AWARD WINNING BOOKS

continued from page 10

will capture readers’ hearts in her unceasing efforts to win freedom for herself and her handicapped sister. (Ages 12 up)

Underneath by Kathi Appelt is a beautifully-written but gut-wrenching book about an abused dog who befriends three cats. There’s much more to it than that, of course, as Appelt spins out a tale that includes a gin-swilling reclusive, watchful trees, and a shape-shifting snake who has lain dormant for a thousand years.

With engaging illustrations by Caldecott Medalist David Small, The Underneath would seem to be a perfect tale for middle-grade readers. Don’t be fooled; despite Appelt’s lyrical writing and heart-catching characterizations, this book’s dark tone and disturbing events are best suited for teens and even adults. (Ages 12 up)

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks: Frankie Landau-Banks, a student at an exclusive boarding school, loves her boyfriend. But she hates the fact that the secret society of which he is a member excludes girls. In The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, author E. Lockhart tells what happens when Frankie – under a male alias – takes over the leadership of the secret society.

Lockhart’s book is a delightful stew of realism, romance and humor that will pull readers into the first page and not let them go until they finish the book. Frankie is a captivating heroine; UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty reported that the Langley Park area had the largest concentration of day laborers in the United States, according to CASA press officer Mario Quiroz. Even though local business owners complained that the crowds of workers were keeping away customers, it has been difficult to arrange a comprehensive solution, in part because the industry is right at the convergence of three jurisdictions — Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park and Prince George’s County.

The new center is CASA’s fifth worker-assistance facility in Maryland. It operates two others nearby in Silver Spring, one in Wheaton and one in Baltimore.

AWARD WINNING BOOKS

continued from page 10

will capture readers’ hearts in her unceasing efforts to win freedom for herself and her handicapped sister. (Ages 12 up)

Underneath by Kathi Appelt is a beautifully-written but gut-wrenching book about an abused dog who befriends three cats. There’s much more to it than that, of course, as Appelt spins out a tale that includes a gin-swilling reclusive, watchful trees, and a shape-shifting snake who has lain dormant for a thousand years.

With engaging illustrations by Caldecott Medalist David Small, The Underneath would seem to be a perfect tale for middle-grade readers. Don’t be fooled; despite Appelt’s lyrical writing and heart-catching characterizations, this book’s dark tone and disturbing events are best suited for teens and even adults. (Ages 12 up)

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks: Frankie Landau-Banks, a student at an exclusive boarding school, loves her boyfriend. But she hates the fact that the secret society of which he is a member excludes girls. In The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, author E. Lockhart tells what happens when Frankie – under a male alias – takes over the leadership of the secret society.

Lockhart’s book is a delightful stew of realism, romance and humor that will pull readers into the first page and not let them go until they finish the book. Frankie is a captivating heroine; UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty reported that the Langley Park area had the largest concentration of day laborers in the United States, according to CASA press officer Mario Quiroz. Even though local business owners complained that the crowds of workers were keeping away customers, it has been difficult to arrange a comprehensive solution, in part because the industry is right at the convergence of three jurisdictions — Montgomery County, the City of Takoma Park and Prince George’s County.

The new center is CASA’s fifth worker-assistance facility in Maryland. It operates two others nearby in Silver Spring, one in Wheaton and one in Baltimore.
Many recommendations and implementation steps contained in the New Hampshire Corridor Concept Plan may be accessed online from the City’s website at www.takomaparkmd.gov. If you do not have web access and would like a copy, please call 301-891-7119. The following provides a brief overview.

There are key properties that the City will be working with in the near term. These include properties that are not likely to redevelop but that would be easy to spruce up—several multi-story brick buildings towards Eastern Avenue, the Redline Motorsports property, and 6900 New Hampshire Avenue. The City has begun reaching out to key property owners, including the Shoppers Food Warehouse, the U-haul property, and the Bed and Carpet property, in order to achieve long-term objectives. The City has also made contact with the owners of the Mid Atlantic Seafood property, the Jiffy Lube property and the vacant office building north of Sheridan, currently owned by the Potomac Conference.

The City has already worked with residents and Prince George’s County to plant the beginnings of a green buffer along the New Hampshire Avenue side of the PEPCO substation, scheduled clean-up days, and initiated a community gardening program.

Outreach efforts are expected to continue to strengthen small businesses along the corridor. In November, City staff held meetings to market beautification matching grants to businesses as well as to introduce small business owners to micro lending agencies. And, staff has initiated a project to upgrade bus stop furniture along the corridor and make stops more comfortable and interesting places to wait. The project will include seating, landscaping, and new trash and recycling cans.

The City will be monitoring the development of the Priority Bus Corridor program and advocating for inclusion of the K6 bus connection to Fort Totten Metro. Some residents may want to contact Council to support such a bus, and City staff is encouraging other contact with political representatives, or should residents want to “change New Hampshire Avenue,” a broad-based support for the transformation of the entire area, a realty. Legislative changes that support the concept plan include enabling the development of a business improvement district or other funding mechanism for improved services such as trash pick-up, tree care, and security; the designation of New Hampshire Avenue as a corridor in the Prince George’s General Plan; Ethan Allen Gateway as a community center; and Maryland Gateway as a node.

Starting in the new year the City will begin providing Corridor Updates for residents who have expressed continued interest in the corridor. They will learn what the City is working on, have the opportunity to review new projects, and learn about advocacy opportunities. Residents will also be able to track the project online, and via newsletter updates.

Are You Interested?

Council Supports Lobbying County and State this January

In January, budgets are discussed and agendas are set. Last November, the City’s Council passed a resolution authorizing staff to move forward with lobbying efforts; however, staff alone cannot obtain sufficient funding and resources to implement the project. The Council will represent the community to politicians, but resident phone calls, e-mails, personal contact and letters show politicians more broad-based support for the transformation of New Hampshire Avenue.

I wish lobbying were as simple as suggesting that you ask your representative to “change New Hampshire Avenue,” and while that is a start, successful lobbying requires more specific information. Remember, folks who represent the City at the County and State level are multi-tasking too, so the more specific a request, the more likely it will be granted. The jargon that follows designates ways that government officials fund and work on projects.

To the County Executives, County Councils, and Montgomery County Department of Transportation and Prince George’s County Department of Public Works:

A request that these officials include the New Hampshire Avenue Multi-way Boulevard Planning for FY10 and Feasibility Study and Planning and Engineering for FY11 in the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County transportation priority letter to the State will get the best results.

A request that the County Executives, Montgomery County Council and Prince George’s County Council fund enhancements to the K6 metro bus between White Oak and Fort Totten along New Hampshire Avenue as a Priority Corridor with faster, more frequent service and amenities will also get their attention. For further support, a request that the Montgomery County Council and the County Executive provide small businesses support similar to that provided in Wheaton, Long Branch and Silver Spring could go a long way. This might include one-on-one outreach or funding for other efforts.