

**Newsletter
Deadline**

January 19 for
February issue

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world..."
Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

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inside

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

January 2009



Santa and his friends look both ways at a pedestrian safety event December 3 at Takoma Langley Crossroads. Volunteers distributed candy canes, zipper pulls and bracelets to teach residents how to cross the street safely, and police from Takoma Park, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties drove the point home with more than 300 warnings to pedestrians failing to use a crosswalk, 30 warnings to drivers failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, and citations to drivers failing to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, failing to stop at a traffic signal, speeding and failing to use their seatbelt.

Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse

New Hampshire Avenue Concept Moves Forward

BY ILONA BLANCHARD

Over a year ago, people met many times to develop a concept plan for New Hampshire Avenue - that strip of asphalt that you speed along to get to the dentist, do your grocery shopping, or to quickly get downtown. The plan extends from Sligo Creek Parkway to Eastern Avenue and since the meetings, a corridor plan was written, and then was adopted this past November by the Takoma Park City Council. Many projects have been initiated, but the big parts - such as the Avenue re-design - will need everyone's participation.

Anatomy of a Multi-Way Boulevard

The New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Concept Plan states that the Multi-Way Boulevard is the "lynch pin" of the concept plan. The Multi-way Boulevard, a boule-

NH AVE. CONCEPT
continues on page 8

Morgan Day Care Says "Bye-Bye" 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 Cen-

MORGAN DAY CARE
continues on page 7

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 — with 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 Mont-

gomery County spent \$205,000. With the new center, Prince George's County for the first time is playing 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,"

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**CITY COUNCIL
AND COMMITTEE
CALENDAR***

The City Council will be on recess until Monday, January 5

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

Monday, January 5 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Monday, January 12 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, January 13 - Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

Tuesday, January 13 - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

Tuesday, January 13 - Committee on the Environment meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

Tuesday, January 13 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

MONDAY, JANUARY 19 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

Tuesday, January 20 - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee, 7:30 p.m. (Room TBA)

Wednesday, January 21 - City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Thursday, January 22 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Room TBA)

Monday, January 26 - City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

*For the most up to date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (CC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org.

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267, at least 48 hours in advance, at the telephone number listed in the notice or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

Speak with the Mayor



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

For appointments, contact Peggye Washington, 301-891-7230 or peggyew@takomagov.org.

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 B.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 7610 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 7610 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 tenants 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.

Volunteers Needed

TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

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

Committee on the Environment (vacancies)	Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)	Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)
Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)	Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (vacancies)	Takoma Park Board of Elections (one vacancy)
Noise Control Board (vacancies)		

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 the Urciolo property in Old Town, and Amado Tex-Mex Grill and Rotisserie 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 tpnewseditor@takomagov.org 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 sweets – several variations on baklava, cake, or stuffed



Deniz Kanter, who runs Magic Carpet, sips a strong brew of Turkish coffee at Middle Eastern Cuisine and Market.

Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse

dates with apricot puree and crushed pistachios oozing out of them. And when you're finished, if you're lucky, you'll have a friend who happens by – like Deniz Kanter, who is Turkish and runs the Magic Carpet gift store across the street – to read your coffee grounds, much like someone would read tea leaves (members of the Hishmeh family, who own the Market, say they can read them if Deniz isn't around). Even without the fortune, you'll feel energized by this tiny, tasty variation on your afternoon cup of Joe.

Falafel

The Organic Falafel Stand

Citgo parking lot, Carroll Avenue and East West Highway

Everyone is talking about the new place in town – the tiniest eatery this side of the pupusa wagon. And for good reason: the falafel there is phenomenal. Instead of the heavy, fried-to-a-crisp balls offered by some outlets, these sandwiches feature light, fluffy pillows of falafel nestled in a mixture of fresh shredded lettuce, cucumber and chunks of pickle, encased in soft, warm pita bread. It's a "take-away," so you have to stand outside at the edge of a gas station parking lot, waiting for four or five minutes while a very friendly Yaron Semitsky cooks up your food. He also offers mixed grill of tofu and mock meat, as well as baba ganouj, humus, lemonade, and a coffee reminiscent of the Turkish version down the street. You may recognize some



At the Caribbean Market, staff serves a sweet hit of pure sugar with a cup freshly squeezed sugar cane juice, or you can try a variety of other authentic sweets and savories.

Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse

of the flavors from Olive Tree, which is the mother company for this new venture.

Sugar Cane Juice

Caribbean Market
7505 New Hampshire Avenue

The only other place I've had sugar cane juice was high in the mountains of Venezuela, where a family squeezed liquid from the cane with a hand-operated press in their yard. The venue may be radically different, but this treat – light and refreshing, the very 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 a 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 familiars 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, 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 feasts give diners the opportunity 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, barbecue

chicken, barbecue 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
7680 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 Starbuck'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 roti, a sort of bread-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.



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Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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

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“Silent Sentinel” Keeps Waste from Sligo Creek

By ALI KHALILIAN, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

Every morning, waste collection trucks leave the Public Works yard, as do the road maintenance, seasonal leaf collection or snow treatment trucks. Mechanics are busy servicing the trucks making them ready to keep up with the routine year-round workload along with the rest of the city's fleet.

The Public Works site is a typical 1950s facility encompassing functional buildings, parking and a relatively large service yard area. The site contains over one acre of impervious surfaces generating roughly 1,500 gallons of run-off per hour during a two-year frequency storm event. The nature of operation in the yard is inherently pollution reducing. We collect trash and leaves, sweep the streets and have designated locations for used oil and antifreeze disposal in order to mitigate pollution introduced to the environment. Paradoxically, providing such services can also be potentially pollution generating.

To minimize the potential pollution from stormwater run-off from the Public Works site, the City contracted Environmental Site Solutions (ESS) to design, build and install a water quality treatment facility to filter the site run-off and eliminate water pollution leaving the site and 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 through-



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

Photo by Ali Khalilian

out the United States. The Sponge is installed in a vault connected to the main stormwater drain in the facility.

Construction of the water quality treatment vault at the Public Works Department yard was completed in October

of 2008 and now it stands as a “silent sentinel” capturing and filtering stormwater run-off from the site and releasing clean water to Sligo Creek.



COLTA's CORNER

By JEAN KERR,
HOUSING SPECIALIST

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved three fair return rent increase petitions for rental properties in Takoma Park.

Fair Return Rent Increase Petition(s)

8302 Roanoke Avenue (2008-8L)

On November 6, 2008, a fair return rent increase petition was approved for 11.34 percent (ranging from \$65.71 to \$73.38) for all six units at the property.

8304 Roanoke Avenue (2008-9L)

On November 6, 2008, a fair return rent increase petition was approved for 11.51 percent (ranging from \$71.55 to \$88.63) for all six units at the property.

8309 Roanoke Avenue (2008-7L)

On November 6, 2008, a fair return rent increase petition was approved for 11.48 percent (ranging from \$107.97 to \$110.04) for all three units at the property.

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 15 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. Showunmi (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 consti-

tuted 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

By DARYL BRAITHWAITE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

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.

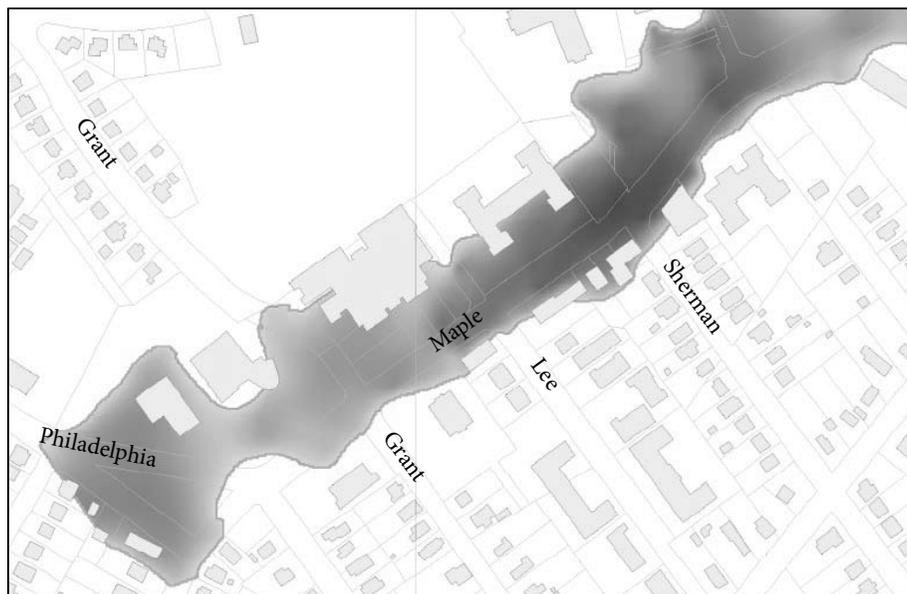
The maps below have been prepared to show the potential area of flooding in a 100 year storm event. The maps illustrate Maple Avenue and 4th Avenue.

If you have any questions, please contact Ali Khalilian, City Engineer at 301-891-7620 or AliK@takomagov.org.



The area shown here, around Fourth Street in the Pine Crest neighborhood, is vulnerable to flooding in a 100-year storm event.

Maple Avenue, with its apartments and residential neighborhoods, could experience flooding in the shaded areas of this map in an extreme storm event.



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.



"third Thursday" Poetry Reading

This month's "third Thursday" poetry reading features the work of local poets Ellen Cole, E. Laura Golberg and Judy Neri. Please join us at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 15 in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Attention All Poets!

Are you interested in being considered for a spot as one of the featured poets in the popular "third Thursday" poetry readings? The Commission is soliciting work from local poets for the second half of the series. To be considered, please send three to five poems to the Commission at ahc@takomagov.org. Selected poets will be featured in the readings beginning in April 2009. Submission deadline is Friday, February 27, 2009.

"Writing a Village: Adult Poetry Workshop"

Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker is offering a series of community poetry workshops on the third Monday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center. The workshops are free but registration is required. This month's workshop is scheduled for Monday, January 19, 2009.

Exhibits Feature Students, Prisoners

Two new exhibits can be viewed at the Takoma Park Community Center during the month of January. The first, "Drawing and Watercolor: Students of Katie Dell Kaufman," is on display in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the community center. The second, "Pano: Prison Art," features original works of art created by prison inmates and can be viewed in Gallery 3 on the third floor.

Interested in Exhibiting at the Community Center?

The Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking proposals from visual artists and crafts people interested in exhibiting their work at the Takoma Park Community Center. If selected, the work would be exhibited in one of four galleries: the Atrium Gallery, the Richard Dempsey Memorial Gallery, Gallery Three or The Corridor. Exhibits may feature the work of a group of artists or crafts people or the work of an individual.

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

RECREATION

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

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 Club 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.



Winter 2009
The Fun Starts Here!



Why Register Online?

- 24** **Convenient**
The flexibility to register and pay at your convenience, anytime, from anywhere.
- Easy**
Three simple steps, and you'll be enrolled in the program of your choice.
- Saves Time**
In less than five minutes, you can setup your account and enroll for your program.
- Environment**
You don't have to burn gas to drive over and register in person, and it saves paper.

Register Online!

Three easy steps stand between you and an unforgettable Winter!

- 01** **Setup an Account**
Visit activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation and click on "Create an Account." Enter your information, and press "Submit"
- 02** **Choose an Activity**
Browse through our online catalogue and find an activity that you want to enroll in. Click on "Enroll," and you're on your way to an amazing Winter.
- 03** **Member Benefits**
As an online member, you can have first-in line access, see availability schedules, and subscribe to our e-Newsletter to keep you informed of all of our events!



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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 demolition 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 offered 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 Referral 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 affordable for these families, who will have to find similar daycare alternatives. Miller is also concerned for her staff. It will not be easy to find jobs in the current economy.



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 29 years.

Photo by Patrick Rittenhouse

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 Miller 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 empower 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."

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 looking 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

**Fun Run and 5K Challenge
Takoma Park Safe Routes to School**



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.

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 also posted on the City's website.

MLK Birthday	Monday, Jan. 19	No yard waste collection Monday recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday
President's Day	Monday, Feb. 16	No yard waste collection Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25	No yard waste collection Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday
Independence Day	Friday, July 3	Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday
Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 7	No yard waste collection Monday recycling routes will be collected Tuesday
Veteran's Day	Wednesday, Nov. 11	Wednesday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday
Thanksgiving	Thursday Nov 26	Thursday and Friday routes will be collected on Saturday
Christmas	Friday, Nov. 27	THIS IS A NEW SCHEDULE FOR THIS YEAR Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday
New Year's Day	Friday, Dec. 25	Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday
	Friday, Jan. 1	Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected Thursday

NH CONCEPT

continued from page 1

ward with sidewalks and side lanes separated by a median from center through lanes, creates

- attractive sidewalks people are comfortable walking on,
- “on-street” parking that supports neighborhood-friendly businesses,
- bicycle areas that are safe and dedicated hike bike trails along neighborhood/park areas,
- a strong green identity for the corridor,
- a way for through-traffic to quickly and unobtrusively move through the corridor,
- a design to prevent neighborhood cut-through traffic,
- attractive areas to wait for buses,
- a place to sit outside a café and people watch,
- a street people want to walk up and down, not run away from,
- green areas that bio-filter asphalt run-off before it gets to Sligo Creek – protecting the Chesapeake Bay.

Great neighborhood commercial areas are built around great streets. Successful multi-way boulevards range from a few blocks, such as Passieg de Gràcia in Barcelona, Spain (seven blocks), to several miles such as Ocean Parkway and Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn, NY. Successful multi-way boulevards carry large volumes of traffic *and* attract people who shop, linger, meet other people, exercise and live. They are great places to be. Following are some aspects of a viable multi-way boulevard. Residents interested in advocating for such a boulevard on New Hampshire Avenue can use the list as a guideline for describing such a place to legislators, state highway officials and their neighbors.

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 strips. 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 -- so 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.

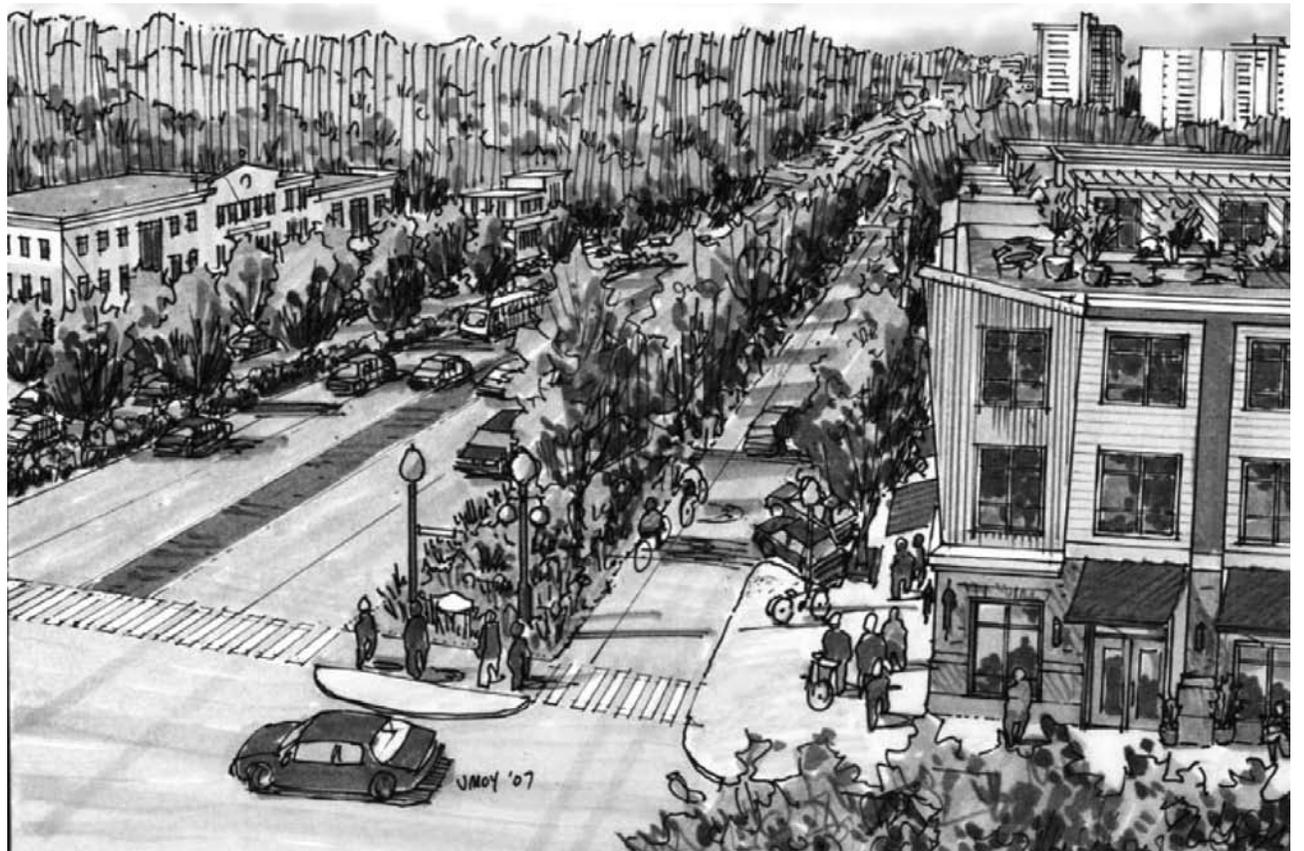
The result of well-designed access lanes is slower traffic. People feel comfortable crossing access lanes to reach the side medians, and the pedestrian realm becomes 45 to 50 percent of the boulevard. Contrast this with the current New Hampshire Avenue, where the pedestrian realm (two six-foot-wide sidewalks)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

Vehicle Lane Widths

Lane widths are recommended at a national level to prevent sideswipe 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.

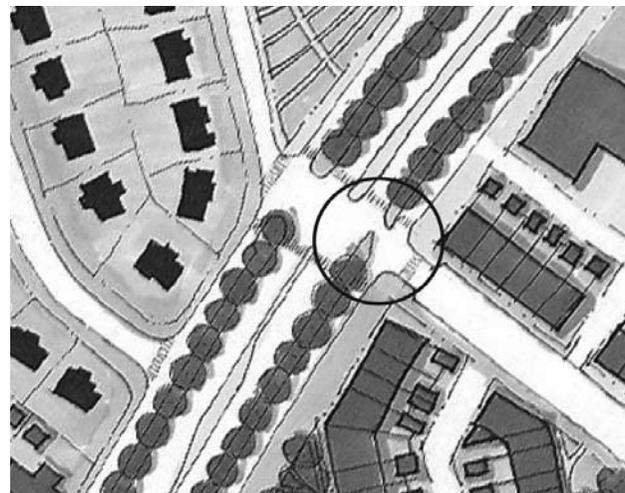
Studies have shown that narrower lane widths cause drivers to proceed with more caution, while wider lanes can induce speeding due to the wide lane’s sense of comfort and safety. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials sets these standards, however they also provide individual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



A tree-lined boulevard shelters pedestrians and bicyclists from fast-moving traffic.

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.



Median design controls how cars enter neighborhoods, slowing traffic and reducing cut-through by requiring cars to access residential streets from slower side lanes.

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 Yodan Rofé 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 than 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

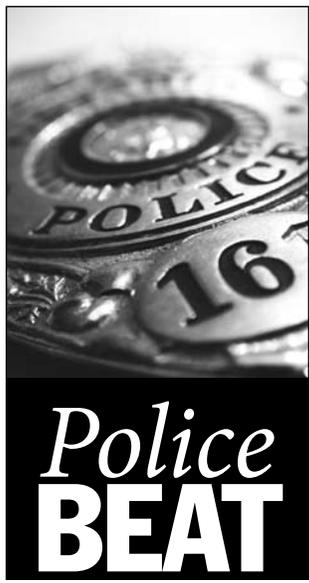
Boulevards are stately because they have space for large mature trees to grow, and these trees are not removed once they grow above regulation size. They may be in a single row or a double row.

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 sluicing 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



Police BEAT

By CATHERINE PLEVY

Nighttime Burglaries Prompt Increased Safety Precautions at Home

Takoma Park Police detectives are investigating a series of residential burglaries that occurred throughout the City during November and December 2008. Within one week, three nighttime residential burglaries were committed, during a time

when the occupants of the targeted residences were at home. Burglars entered by various means, including through an unlocked door, by prying windows, and/or by smashing out windows. No violence occurred and no weapons were displayed during the burglaries, and in all three instances, suspects immediately fled after being encountered by the homeowner(s).

The three burglaries occurred between midnight and 5 a.m. In two out of the three burglaries, property was taken.

If homeowners do encounter a burglar in their home, police advise that they secure themselves in a room with

access to a phone, and immediately contact police. Do not confront suspect(s) or attempt to fight and/or chase after them.

Chief Ricucci has increased the number of uniform and plainclothes patrol officers to the areas where these burglaries have occurred.

Police ask that residents take extra safety precautions:

- Be mindful of keeping doors and windows locked at all times.
- Do not open the door to strangers.
- 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.

If you see suspicious persons, vehicles and/or activity, please call Takoma Park Police at 301-270-1100 or 9-1-1.

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 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.

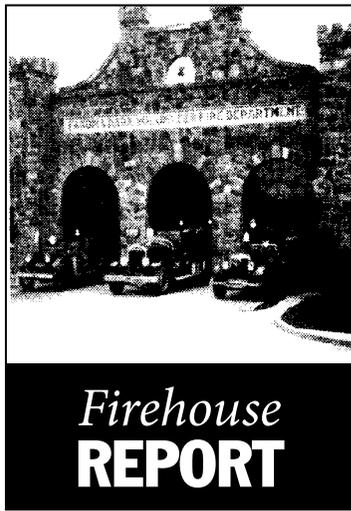
Holiday Fire Prevention Tips for the Entire Family

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



Firehouse REPORT

By JIM JARBOE

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 inside and out, should 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 could 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.

■ Are the stockings hung from the chimney with care? Be especially careful if there's a cozy fire going in the fireplace. Speaking of fireplaces, be sure the opening is covered with a sturdy metal screen or heat tempered glass doors. This reduces the chances of a fire from escaping sparks or wood.

■ Never place ashes from the fireplace on your porch or deck. They must be away from the house, and make sure they are out. To be sure, you can wet them down with a hose.

■ When the holidays are over, take the tree down. Every day it stands in the house, it gets a little drier.

■ If you are looking for a gift for a friend, neighbor or relative, consider buying them a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector. Remember - Smoke Alarms are a must on all levels of your home! Also, unattended cooking and smoking materials are still the top causes of home fires.

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

We may be prepared for emergencies with food, water, battery-powered radios, can openers, medicines, first aid kits and flashlights, but are we also prepared to take care of our pets? Your pet is an important member of your household. Thus, the pet should also part of our preparations for emergencies.

Shelter-in-Place: The most common situation is that you are asked to shelter "in place." For sheltering in-place, you need to prepare an emergency supply kit with food in a watertight container, medicines and medical records for your animal and a picture of you and your animal together. Do not forget sufficient water. Needed are at least three days of water in addition to your own water supply - one gallon per day per person. You also should place favorite toys into your kit. The minimum supplies should last for three days, but it is better to plan for one week. Your pet should also wear a collar, with an ID tag, including rabies vaccination and an extra leash. It is recommended to exchange stored food and water on a regular basis.

Sanitation: You need ample pet litter and perhaps a litter box and newspaper, paper towels and plastic bags for your pet's sanitation needs. Chlorine is a good disinfectant - one part chlorine with nine parts of water. Chlorine can also be used to disinfect drinking water: 16 drops per one gallon of water.

If you cannot return home: In case you cannot return to your home, you need to make arrangements with one or several neighbors for your pets. The neighbors need keys and need to be familiar with handling your animals. The neighbors need to know where your emergency supplies are, including a leash and what medicines, if any, your pet is receiving. In all cases, it could be life saving for your pet if you have a sign at the main entrance informing all who need to know how many and what kind of pets live in your household.

Evacuation. If you do evacuate, take your pets. You may need a second version of your emergency kit if you have to leave your place. It should be lighter in weight and smaller. The kit should also contain (1) food, (2) medicines, (3) medical records for your animal, (4) a picture of you and your animal together, and (5) water. The supplies should last for three days. As stated above, your pet should wear a collar, with an ID tag, including rabies vaccination and have an extra leash. Prepare or acquire a carrying case that is acceptable in air transportation. This type provides more protection and comfort to your pet. Shelters, those that accept pets, and evacuation transportation will only accept pets in such a carrier.

Have a plan. It is important to have a plan ahead of time, because evacuation shelters do not allow pets, except for service animals. So we are advised to seek a place that accepts animals: a hotel, motel, friend's houses, boarding facilities, veterinary's offices and/or the local animal shelter.

After a disaster. Do not allow the animal to roam the house, since familiar landmarks and smells might be gone. It is advisable to keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, until recovery has been initiated and underway. Be patient with your pets and try to get them gradually into a normal routine.



LIBRARY Briefs

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 then come check the books out of the Library. There's something for every age, from newborn through teen. To access the list, go to: <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/library/books/index.html>

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 discretely 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

Is 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).

Chains: Promised freedom upon the death of her mistress, 13-year-old Isabel and her younger sister Ruth instead become the property of a cruel family loyal to King George. Desperate to gain the freedom she had been promised, Isabel becomes a spy for Gen. George Washington's rebel troops but discovers that freedom for slaves isn't at the top of anyone's agenda in the Revolutionary War.

In *Chains*, author Laurie Halse Anderson offers readers a brilliantly-researched story that blends the colonists' fight for freedom from Great Britain with the battle of a slave to be set free. Isabel, a feisty, intelligent girl,

AWARD WINNING BOOKS
continues 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 September'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.
Come sing songs, do rhymes and hear stories in Spanish and English in this program led by Señora Maria.

Wonderful Ones!

A program for toddlers ages 12 months to 24 months and their grown-ups.
Wednesdays in January, 11 a.m.
Registration required.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, Jan. 5, 7 to 7:30 p.m.
Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is *The Namesake* (see related article).
All are welcome.

Banned Books Club

For kids grades 6 and up.
Monday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. All welcome; please register.

Comics Jam

For school-age kids and their parents.
Thursday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Come talk – and read – some comics.
Registration required.

"The Cranberry Box" Discussion

For middle school and high school students.
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Local author Joy Jones joins us for a discussion of her short story.
Registration required.

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.)



Fall Festivals Hit City TV

City TV starts off the new year with a number of new performances from the fall festivals fresh out of the edit room. New programs running this month include The Nighthawks, Verlette Simon, Capoeira Sul da Bahia and Nriytanjali, The New Misty Crystals, Molly Andrews, Elizabeth and Sandy LaPrelle, 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 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.

CASA DAY LABOR

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

In fact, says CASA press officer Mario Quiroz-Servellón, 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," Quiroz 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 organizer is from Cameroon," Quiroz 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-laborer 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 Foundation, CITGO Petroleum Corp., Public Welfare Foundation and 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 celebrate. Said Johnson, "Fostering multiculturalism is the key to keeping livable communities vibrant and economically sustainable."

"This center is a historic stepping stone for empowering low-wage immigrant and minority workers living in these communities," said Gustavo Torres, executive director of CASA de Maryland. "Our leaders understand that in this current economic crisis, education, training and workforce development programs for workers are essential to improving our economy."

A 2006 study by the 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 intersection 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

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

The 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 recluse, 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 in from the first page and not let them go until they finish the book. Frankie is a captivating heroine, and teen readers will readily identify with her as she tries to decide between her desire to be Matthew's girlfriend and her urge to prove to him that she's more than a pretty face. (Ages 12 up).

The Spectacular Now: Sutter Keely is a party animal, someone who "embraces the weird." If you want someone to start the party by jumping — clothed — into the pool, Sutter's your man.

But as author Tim Tharp shows in *The Spectacular Now*, there's more to Sutter than meets the eye. For one thing, there's his decision to date Aimee, a plain girl who's more substance than beauty. Then there's his decision to finally track down his absentee dad. Things don't always work out for Sutter. Still, as Sutter would say, the party must go on.

In *The Spectacular Now*, Tharp skillfully portrays a charming young man's alcohol-saturated efforts to live in the moment. Readers will want to hang out with Sutter even as they want to get him to shape up and face the world without booze. (Ages 14 up).

CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - January 2009

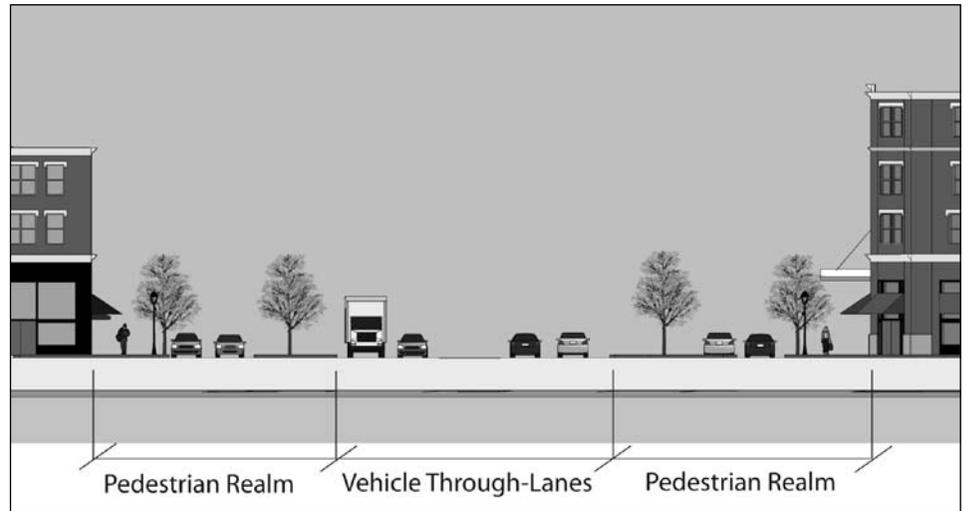
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Folk Festival: Children's Stage		Takoma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

Has Weather Canceled City Programs?

For General Info: 301-891-7100

For Recreation Programs: 301-891-7101 ext. 5605

For Library and Computer Learning: 301-891-7259.



Two views show what sorts of traffic and pedestrian patterns can be encouraged along New Hampshire Avenue. Below, residents help beautify the PEPCO substation near the Avenue by planting trees.

A Corridor in Transition – How to Begin?

Many recommendations and implementation steps contained in the New Hampshire Corridor Concept Plan may be accessed online from the City's website at www.takomaparkgov.org. 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 own-

ers 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 decorative 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 County Council to support such a bus, and City staff is encouraging other contact with political representatives, should residents want to support the reconstruction of New Hampshire Avenue through feasibility study funding. Early support and attention, they say, will help make Avenue reconstruction, the largest part of a revitalization of the entire area, a reality. 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.

ensure planning efforts support the concept plan.

City staff encourages residents to educate themselves further on the development of New Hampshire Avenue, and to participate in public meetings and opportunities to comment on the plans. One source for general design information is *The Boulevard Book* by Allen Jacobs, Elizabeth Macdonald and Yodan Rofé. Planners anticipate that attention to details such as those described in the book will ensure that the Boulevard works for people seated at a café, walking or running on foot, riding a bicycle or bus, and driving cars and trucks.



Are You Interested?

Council Supports Lobbying County and State this January

A note from Ilona Blanchard, City Planner

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 Montgomery County and Prince George's County state delegation, to Governor O'Malley, and to Transportation Secretary Porcari:

A request that the State Highway Administration conduct a detailed feasibility study and planning for the New Hampshire Avenue Multi-way Boulevard in FY10 with Planning and Engineering in FY11 will get their attention.

This study would include collecting and analyzing traffic data and accident data, running models of various street configurations, and developing cost and benefit estimates for the project. Planning and Engineering would include detailed surveys and construction plans. This phase can take more than a year.

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.

NH CONCEPT

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followed by engineering studies. This advocacy work will begin in earnest in January, with follow-up during budgeting sessions throughout the spring. To receive email alerts regarding advocacy opportunities for residents, interested parties may sign up by contacting Ilona Blanchard at ilonab@takomagov.org or 301-891-7205.

During this phase the City will also be working with property owners to dedicate the necessary right-of-way for the boulevard, and with Prince George's County to