Tax Rate Dips, City Council Shaves Expenses from FY10 Budget

By Virginia Myers

The City Council voted 5 to 2 last month for a $28 million FY10 budget that will lower the property tax rate. In spite of the lower tax rate, many homeowners may see an increase in the taxes they actually pay because of higher property values. Two council members – Terry Meiners and Barrie Lee Howard, interviewed them both at the June 15 meeting, and made its selection at the following meeting on June 22.

Victoria and her husband have been homeowners in the New Hampshire Gardens area of Ward 6 since 1994, and rented on Flower Avenue for two years before that. She is deeply involved in civic affairs: she is currently secretary treasurer of the New Hampshire Gardens Citizens Association, where her husband is president. Her two children attend the Rolling Terrace Elementary School Spanish immersion program, and she will be treasurer of the PTA there next year; she also acted as treasurer at the co-operative nursery school and was board member there. Victoria has been active with Friends of Sligo Creek, participating in creek clean-ups, eradication of invasive species (mustard pulls) and playground renovations. And, she volunteered in 2000 during the redistricting project, when she became familiar with the entirety of Ward 6, she says.

Most recently, Victoria has been following

Interim Council Member Donna Victoria Selected for Ward 6

By Virginia Myers

The City Council held numerous work sessions and two public hearings before it took the final vote on the budget. In the end, general fund revenues decreased from those outlined in the original budget proposal, from $20,611,944 to $20,077,552; expenditures decreased by $215,376, from those outlined in the original budget proposal, from $20,611,944 to $20,077,552;

City Council Debate Off-Site Liquor Sales

By Rick Henry

The changes to the Old Town Takoma Park restaurant scene are obvious. The wine bottles are uncorked and taps are flowing full speed ahead at Olive Lounge. A short hop down Carroll Avenue, a full bar at downtown Takoma Park’s newest restaurant, Roscoe’s, stands ready to play host to the thirsty patrons who order beer, wine and spirits when the restaurant’s license to serve alcohol becomes valid in July. Even venerable institution Mark’s Kitchen is getting in on the act and will begin serving beer and wine later this year.

To many residents an obvious next step and welcome addition, especially to the downtown area, would be to allow carry-out “off-sale” options where beer and wine could be purchased for off-site consumption, paving the way for someone to open a wine/beer shop.

Ward 1 City Councilmember Josh Wright, who represents the area encompassing Old Town, is among those who support the idea. When the subject of whether to allow off-site sales in Takoma Park came up for discussion at a June 1 Council worksession, Wright told his fellow council members, “There could be a real advantage to having this type of business [wine/beer shop] in my ward. It can help with revitalization.”

Wright also stressed that many of his constituents feel the same way and have broached the subject with him on numerous occasions, a situation shared by Roz Grigsby, Executive Director of the Old Takoma Business Association.

“Several times a year, I get a call about the possibility of opening a wine shop,” Grigsby told the Council. “I’ve been button-holed enough about it that I thought it was time to initiate a conversation [with the Council].”

Other council members and residents see it differently, however, emphasizing not only the potential risks involved, such as increased littering and crime, but also the lack of support among many residents for allowing off-site liquor sales.

Liquor Sales continues on page 12
City Council Action*

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

May 18, 2009 – Special Session

Resolution 2009-22 was adopted, adopting the Strategic Plan

First Reading Ordinance 2009-26 was accepted, to adopt the FY10 Tax Rate (voting no: Seamens, Wright)

First Reading Ordinance 2009-27 was accepted, to adopt the FY10 Stormwater Budget

First Reading Ordinance 2009-28 was accepted, to adopt the FY10 Budget (including the FY10-14 CIP Budget) (voting no: Seamens, Wright)

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-23 was adopted, adopting a revised FY09 pay scale for staff who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement (voting no: Seamens)

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-24 was adopted, adopting a revised FY09 pay scale for police officers

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-22 was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code, Title 5 Elections

May 26, 2009 - Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-26 was adopted, to adopt the FY10 Tax Rate (voting no: Seamens, Wright)

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-27 was adopted, to adopt the FY10 Stormwater Budget

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-28 was adopted, to adopt the FY10 Budget (including the FY10-14 CIP Budget) (voting no: Seamens, Wright)

First Reading Ordinance 2009-29 was accepted, amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 4, Chapter 4.24 Police Employees’ Retirement Plan by changing the service retirement benefits and line-of-duty disability benefits

First Reading Ordinance 2009-30 was accepted, amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 4, Personnel, Section 4.04.250 to add procedures for salaries above the pay bracket maximum

First Reading Ordinance 2009-31 was accepted, adopting a revised FY09 AFSCME pay scale (voting no: Seamens)

Single Reading Ordinance 2009-32 was adopted, authorizing the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Public Works Department

June 1, 2009 – Special Session

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-31 was adopted, adopting a revised FY09 AFSCME pay scale (voting no: Seamens)

Resolution 2009-23 was adopted, opposing Historic Preservation Amendment 09-1

June 8, 2009 – Regular Meeting

Resolution 2009-24 was adopted, supporting the Piney Branch Elementary School Young Activists Club in advocating for reusable lunch trays and other durable food service products

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-29 was adopted, amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 4, Chapter 4.24 Police Employees’ Retirement Plan by changing the service retirement benefits and line-of-duty disability benefits

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-30 was adopted, amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 4, Personnel, Section 4.04.250 to add procedures for salaries above the pay bracket maximum

First Reading Ordinance 2009-33 was accepted, adopting the FY10 pay scale for staff who are covered by the AFSCME collective bargaining agreement

First Reading Ordinance 2009-34 was accepted, adopting the FY10 pay scale for staff who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement

First Reading Ordinance 2009-35 was accepted, adopting the FY10 pay scale for police officers

Resolution 2009-25 was adopted, authorizing execution of a Police Department Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Single Reading Ordinance 2009-36, authorizing the purchase of rent stabilization software

Resolution 2009-26 reappointing Anand Parikh to the Personnel Appeal Board

Resolution 2009-27 reappointing Barrie Hofmann and Anne Sergeant, and appointing Andrew Kohn, to the Takoma Park Board of Elections

Resolution 2009-28 reappointing Roy Austin, Kay Daniels-Cohen, Cindy Dyballa, Karen Mendez, Ray Scannell and Susan Wood to the Recreation Committee

Resolution 2009-29 reappointing Jarrett K. Smith, Mary Forrest-Doyle, Dorothy Clefton and Catherine Wakelyn, and appointing Lauren Price and Victoria Sutton, to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

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).

Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)
Committee on the Environment (vacancies)
Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)
Noise Control Board (vacancies)
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)
Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (vacancies)
Recreation Committee (vacancies)
Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)

Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. (by appointment only) and 5-7 p.m. (for walk-ins), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. Walk-ins are requested to check in at the reception desk on the main floor. If a holiday falls on a Monday, office hours move to Wednesday, same time. This month, office hours normally held Tuesday, July 14 will be moved to Wednesday, July 15.

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

Did You Know?

The Takoma Park Community Center and Library have Wi-Fi

Find Out More...
The Takoma Theatre at Fourth andues and other programs. According to a report by the DCHPRB, the Takoma Theatre was "one of the most endangered buildings in the nation." The Takoma Theatre has been designated a historic landmark by the City of Takoma Park, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Takoma Theatre Conservancy is currently working to acquire the property and convert it into a community arts center.

The Takoma Theatre has a long history dating back to the early 1900s. It was originally built as a movie theater in 1923, and was later acquired by the current owner, Mr. McGinty, in 2007. Mr. McGinty has worked to preserve the historic building and convert it into a live theater. The Takoma Theatre Conservancy is a community-based organization that is working to purchase and operate the theater.

The Takoma Theatre is located at 6837 4th Street, NW in Takoma Park, MD. For more information, please visit www.takomatheatreconservancy.org.
If you had $38,500 to spend on Maple Avenue, what would you do? What would you add, take away or change? A number of active residents continued to partner this month with City staff planners to develop creative options for improving Maple Avenue with available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

At the second planning workshop in May, staff had already translated residents’ initial visions into specific approaches. The resulting compilation of Development Recommendations included options such as bike lane installation, a Maple Avenue Clean-Up Day and increased police patrols. Development recommendations were posted on the wall and participants were invited to “shop around” and stick green dots on their top priorities. Participants were also armed with one red dot for any development option that they strongly opposed. This simple and interactive approach successfully gathers input from different groups, regardless of language barriers. The participants also brainstormed potential locations for these highly recommended improvements.

Before and After: With projecting awning and “limbed up” trees, the retail stores at Maple and Sherman Avenues appear more inviting

In order to hear from less traditional participants — i.e., those who rent their homes — and recognizing the effectiveness of the “Shop with your Dots” exercise, the planning team, with Amharic, Russian and Spanish translators, brought the workshops to individual apartment buildings along Maple Avenue. Staff set up shop at Park Ritchie and Essex House from late afternoon to early evening, to solicit input. These outreach efforts captured responses from about 130 residents.

Maple Avenue Improvement: the $38,500 question

By Carman Lam

City reviews the plan:
Monday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.
Tijuana’s Mexican Café III
949 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park
City Council & community discuss recommendations to Planning Board

Monday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park
Council votes on a resolution

Thursday, July 23, 7:30 p.m.
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring
Planning Board Public Hearing

Discuss potential build-out/redevelopment potential of commercial and residential sites, new streets, building height, environment/bike trails, business retention, and any other issue in the City’s interest to take a position.

View the draft plan online at www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/takoma_langley_crossroads or call 301-891-7205.

Low Interest Home Improvement Loans Available

How many years have you been thinking about replacing your roof or the windows on your home? What about that driveway that is sorely in need of re-paving? Now may be an opportune time to consider having this long overdue work done. The City has recently partnered with Montgomery County’s Department of Housing and Community Affairs to offer low-to no-interest loans to residents of Takoma Park who want to improve the exteriors of their homes.

The program’s rehabilitation specialists will help homeowners determine the best way to solve exterior problems, select the most suitable program from which to fund the repairs, assist with obtaining a responsible contractor to perform the work and inspect to make sure that work is done in compliance with specifications.

To qualify, applicants must:
• Be income eligible (one person- $44,800; two-person- $51,200, etc)
• Reside at the property, and
• Have code violations, need general improvements for livability or have significant deferred maintenance.

The loan terms are low monthly payments based on ability to pay. In some cases, payments may be deferred until the sale of the house. Interest rates generally are 3 percent or less.

To request an application to be considered for this program, please call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

Housing Mailbox

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

A tenant who has an unexpired, one-year lease contacted the Mailbox regarding the right of a new owner who purchased her rental unit at a foreclosure sale on June 1, 2009, to issue her a notice to vacate effective 30 days later.

On May 20, 2009 the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act, Pub. L. No. 111-22, (Title VII of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009) became effective. The new national law protects tenants from immediate eviction by individuals or others who become the owners of residential property through the foreclosure process. Renters, according to an estimate by a national low-income advocacy group, comprise approximately 40 percent of the households across the country who lose their homes to foreclosure.

Under the new law, a tenant who has a lease for a year and whose lease term has not ended cannot be evicted during the lease term due to a foreclosure sale of the rental facility. The sole exception to this rule occurs if the new owner wants to live in the tenant’s rental unit as his/her primary residence. In this event the new owner is allowed to provide the tenant 90 days’ notice to vacate.

The new law, whose provisions expire in December 2012, does not preempt more protective state and local laws that provide longer time periods or other additional protections for tenants.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city’s Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.

By Carman Lam

If you had $38,500 to spend on Maple Avenue, what would you do? What would you add, take away or change? A number of active residents continued to partner this month with City staff planners to develop creative options for improving Maple Avenue with available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

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Rain Barrel Workshop on July 19

By Tim Fox

Want to save money and help the environment? The Takoma Park Committee on the Environment says installing a rain barrel is one way to do both. Rain barrels are used all over the world to collect and store water for drinking and irrigation. In the United States, and in Takoma Park, they are most often used to collect rain water that falls on roofs, to be used for watering gardens and lawns.

An inch of rainfall over a 1,000-square-foot area yields more than 600 gallons of water; if it’s not caught in a rain barrel, that water that would eventually flow down gutters and end up in the storm drain, potential streams. Rain barrels can save up to thousands of gallons of water during peak summer months and reduce runoff pollution. Even better, according to Environment Committee members, rain barrels are easy and inexpensive to make.

Interested area residents can participate in a rain barrel making workshop on Sunday, July 19 at 1 p.m. Participants will assemble their own rain barrels with provided supplies. Rain barrels are made with recycled, food grade, 55-gallon plastic barrels; they will fit beneath a gutter downspout to collect rainwater that falls on the roof. The workshop will include information about the environmental and economic benefits of rain barrels, and the committee hopes participants will have fun and find the work easy.

A $30 workshop fee will include a rain barrel and associated equipment. No equipment or tools are necessary to participate in this workshop. (Households that do not already have a downspout diverter will also need to purchase one; they are available at area hardware stores.) The workshop will be held in Heffner Park at 42 Oswoego Avenue at 1 p.m. on July 19. Participants must register and pay the registration fee by Wednesday, July 15 in order to reserve a space. Payment can be made by check or money order and mailed to the Public Works Department, 31 Oswoego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or dropped off at the office at the same address. Checks should be made payable to the City of Takoma Park. Space is limited—please call the Takoma Park Public Works Department to register, 301-891-7633.

Catherine Tunis, left, of the Committee on the Environment, and Daryl Braithwaite, director of Takoma Park Public Works, prepare rain barrels for assembly. The barrels are designed to save water for gardens and lawns, and to reduce runoff into the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Landscape Installations Improve Commercial Areas

By Melanie Isis

It’s said that dappled shade, flowers and leafy plants make people linger, and that they may linger longer the more they spend. If all goes as planned, 2009 may be remembered as the year the City’s neighborhood commercial areas became a destination place. With many planting initiatives throughout the City from last fall to this summer, and many June rains, Takoma Park’s commercial areas are looking better than ever before.

Last fall Prince George’s County spruced up the New Hampshire Avenue median near Prince George’s Avenue in partnership with the State Highway Administration (SHA). In the same area daffodils, planted last fall by volunteers to come up along the Pepco substation, along with blooming redbuds and thriving holies, accent the spring. Using Master Plan funds for small-scale improvements, the Maryland Gateway to the City, visible to visitors and residents driving north on New Hampshire Avenue, out of the District of Columbia, was improved. There, a newly landscaped garden wraps the corner of Eastern and New Hampshire Avenues, which includes the past alternated between weeds and mud.

In the Ethan Allen Gateway along the edge of Ethan Allen near New Hampshire Avenue, hundreds of day lilies were planted with small trees by SHA. Across the intersection, planters with summer blooms will be installed in front of Sherger Market, Unlimited Photography and Jason’s Subs, which the businesses will be watering.

Further north on New Hampshire Avenue, the medians north and south of Sligo Creek and at Holton Lane have scores of new native flowering plants to increase storm water absorption close to the creek and beautify the two commercial areas.

Those visiting the Holton Lane Post Office or Wednesday afternoon Farmer’s Market, will notice new planters outside the Post Office and adjacent businesses on Holton Lane. Several new trees have replaced ones that had died, or were added to increase the tree canopy and shade people shopping in the area. Many trees were also planted by State Highway during the recent roadwork, especially on New Hampshire Avenue north of Holton Lane. The City is extending the future tree canopy along New Hampshire Avenue by planting new trees up to the Kirklyn Avenue traffic light.

In Old Town, the Carroll Avenue Streetscape plantings were finally completed. Serviceberry trees, a smaller, more appropriate tree for the small tree boxes under telephone wires, were installed with bulbs and liriope last winter, and zelkovas now march up from Eastern Avenue to Laurel Avenue. Trees were added to several private properties to shade pedestrians where there are no tree boxes. The Main Street Takoma program received a grant to install the new, smaller planters now sprinkled throughout the historic district.

Main Street volunteers also planted colorful petunias during the spring clean-up and talked businesses into improving flower beds.

In the Takoma Junction commercial area, five new trees replace those that had died, and their boxes were planted with liriope to reduce folks trampling the soil in the tree boxes and improve tree root access to water and air. Three large planters were installed in front of Savory (7071 Carroll Avenue) with seasonal blooms. A new, smaller planter now sprinkled on Laurel Avenue. Trees were added to several private properties to shade pedestrians where there are no tree boxes.

Publicity for Community Groups at Folk Fest

The 2009 Takoma Park Folk Festival is now accepting applications for Community Tables at this year’s event. The Folk Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Takoma Park Middle School, and it will feature seven stages of multi-cultural music and dance. One of the unique features of the Festival is the opportunity for 100 community groups to share information about their activities with thousands of visitors. Table applicants must be 501c3 organizations and must furnish their own materials, staff and canopy (all tables are outdoors). All applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis, and fees are $40 and $55. To obtain the application, go to www.tpf.org and check online for Tables. For more information, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224, by email at ehc@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.org.

Takoma Park Newsletter July 2009 Page 5
JULY RECREATION

Camp Takoma
Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '09)
Join us on a new adventure each week with plenty of opportunities to discover arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature activities, special events and trips to various fun locations. The fee includes all field trips, special events and a camp T-shirt. No camp on July 3.

When: Mon. – Fri., July 6 – Aug. 7
Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Before Care: 7 – 9 a.m. (additional fee)
After Care: 4 – 6 p.m. (additional fee)
Location: TP Community Center
Fees weeks 3-7:
  TP resident $110/week
  Non-resident $125/week

Dribble and Shoot Basketball Camp
Ages 6 – 12
The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each student. Instructor is Tremain Rowles, Western Kentucky University, who has coached and instructed basketball camps and classes for eight years.

When: Aug. 10 - 14
Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: TP Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Fee: $110/week

Digital Bridge Technology Camp
Ages 13 - 17
Learn how to shoot and edit videos and upload them to YouTube. Create videos with still photos, music and voice. Research and purchase a domain name and create your own website. Learn how to take digital photos and transfer images to T-shirts, mugs, write and post stories on web. For more information or if you have any questions please contact Digital Bridge, Martha Ocheing at 301-598-0604 or 240-330-7857. Co-sponsored by Montgomery County Recreation Department.

When: Mon. - Fri., Aug. 10 - 14
Time: 8:30 a.m. - noon
Location: TP Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Fee: $75

Extended Care Options
Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Before and after care are available for the following camps: Camp Takoma, Visual Arts Camp, Takoma Soccer and SportsCamp.

When: July 6 - August 7, 2009
Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.

Visual Arts Camp
Ages 11 – 14
Two hours of drawing in the morning using graphite, pen and ink, colored pencils, pastels, or conte crayon, etc. followed by two or more hours of painting and/or collage and assemblage in the afternoon. Media such as watercolor, painting, sumi-e, mixed

T-ball- Recreation staff member, Bruce Jenkins, provides batting tips for opening day of the 2009 T-ball season. Seventy-two kids are enrolled.

A couple of teens cheesing it up at the Recreation Center on NH Ave.

Dedicated members of the Ladies Boot Camp program under the direction of Denise Pullet.

JULY RECREATION continues on page 7
Takoma SportsCamps Offer Summer Fun

Local children, ages 6½ - 16, can come play baseball, basketball or softball this summer with Takoma SportsCamps. Each week focuses on a different sport, and helps players improve skills, learn the rules of the game and most importantly have fun! Professional coaches and college and high school athletes will help develop players' skills in the mornings and each player will participate in a weeklong tournament in the afternoons.

Since 1997 Takoma SportsCamps has provided a full-day sports camp with lots of practice, lots of playing time and lots of fun so kids have a great time and raise their skills considerably. The SportsCamps grew out of the Babe Ruth Baseball program, and carry on the tradition of a “rec” camp – any kid who likes to play is welcome, regardless of skill level.

Mornings include warm-ups, skills stations and games. After lunch and videos, campers and staff challenge each other with sports trivia or “Stump the Coach.” Afternoon games are part of a weeklong tournament. Every player competes in each event of Friday’s Olymics as well as Tournament playoffs games.

Senior staff members teach and coach at Montgomery County Public Schools and at area independent schools. College and Montgomery Blair High School players assist the senior staff in supervising skills training, games and fun. Most are graduates of Takoma Park Babe Ruth League and Takoma Sports Camps programs.

Not a Recreation Department Program - Call 301-270-0534 for information.

Takoma Baseball Camp
Coed, ages 6 1/2 - 14
(by Jan. 1, 2009)

Session 1
June 22 - 26

Session 2
June 29 - July 3

Takoma Basketball Camp
Coed, ages 7-14

Session 1
June 6 – July 10

Session 2
July 13 - 17

Takoma Softball Camp
Girls, ages 7 - 16
One Session
July 20 – 24

Web site: www.takomasportscamps.org for links to each camp’s website, pictures of camp and a link to the registration form.

When: Mon. - Fri., July 6 – 10
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Art Room, TP Community Center
Fee: TP resident $300
Non-resident $320

Yoga for Beginners
Ages 18 and older
This class will introduce and develop the foundation of standing poses and basic actions in forward bends, back bends and twists. Please come with comfortable clothing and an empty stomach. Six weeks. Instructor Carolyn Bluemle.

When: July 21 – August 25
Time: 6 – 7:15 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Fee: TP resident $55
Non-resident $60

Intermediate Yoga and Meditation
Iyengar yoga teaches stability and openness through alignment so that flow of energy and the focus of the mind are found in each pose. Inversions and advanced poses will be taught in this class. Some time will be set aside for seated meditation. Mats and props provided. Six weeks. Instructor Carolyn Bluemle.

When: July 21 – August 25
Time: 6 – 7:15 p.m.
Location: Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Fee: TP resident $55
Non-resident $60

Notable Events

Takoma SportsCamps
Offer Summer Fun

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Community Thanks Crossing Guards on Appreciation Day

By Lucy Neher

You know their faces and their smiles. You see them mornings and afternoons at the six posts along Maple and Philadelphia Avenues. The team of seven school crossing guards perform their duties every school day, rain or shine, hot or cold. They are Doris Rodgers at Maple and Sherman, Emma Garcia de Reyes at Maple and Grant, Pamela Grosse at Maple and Philadelphia, Carolyn Pinkard at Philadelphia and Cedar, Vurna (Liz) James at Philadelphia and Holly, and Ethel Sutton and Minnie Johnson at Philadelphia and Piney Branch. They keep the kids of Takoma Park safe on the way to school.

This year, Takoma Park Safe Routes to School, along with the PTAs at Takoma Park and Piney Branch Elementary Schools, made it possible for parents and students to collectively express their gratitude for the important work the crossing guards so skillfully do each day. And so, Takoma Park celebrated a Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.

On June 10, a bright, sunny morning, flowers, chocolates and cards were placed atop white tablecloths at each crossing guard post. Students and parents came with smiles and hugs and shouts of “Thank you!” Piney Branch Principal Bertram Generlette escorted a group of students on a stroll to visit with the guards along Maple Avenue. “It was so much fun...delivering cards made by PBES students. We should make this an annual event,” he said.

Carolyn Pinkard, a 36-year veteran employee of the City, crosses former students who are now grown with children of their own. Liz James claims all the students who cross at Philadelphia and Holly as her own. “I don’t have kids, these are my kids!” Jamie Griffin, a TPES parent who helped organize the event, nods; her three children “talk about Liz a lot.”

When presented with flowers and chocolates one guard exclaimed, “I didn’t think anyone noticed.” Participants were quick to remind her that the guards’ broad smiles, thoughtful encouragement, dedication, and years of service were, in fact, noticed – and appreciated.

Crossing guard Carolyn Pinkard directs children safely across the street near Piney Branch and Takoma Park Elementary Schools. Pinkard and others were celebrated on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day last month, with flowers, chocolates and greeting cards set at each of their posts.

As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue assigned to the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Station have responded to 323 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,145 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,468 this year. Totals for 2008 were 275 and 1,187 respectively, for a total of 1,462, representing an increase of six incidents.

It’s the Law...All Fireworks Are Illegal

The Fourth of July celebration wouldn’t be the same without the colorful and often spectacular public fireworks displays. However, personal possession or use of any fireworks, including sparklers, is illegal in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. So let’s enjoy the holiday celebration. Let the professionals handle the fireworks. Don’t become a firework statistic.

Don’t make your Cookout a Burnout

Hundreds of people are burned and their homes damaged each year in careless cooking, less accidents involving portable or built-in barbecues. The common cause of the fire is a gas leak. Never use an alternate escape path if the door is hot, use an alternate escape path. Keep the grill at least 30 feet from any building. Keep children away from all cooking equipment. Keep a fire extinguisher or garden hose nearby. Leave cooking unattended. Use only approved fire starters. After cooking, soak the coals. Clean the grill with water and detergent to avoid grease buildup. Remember to do any cooking on apartment balconies. This includes the use of charcoal-burning, other fuel-burning or electric cooking equipment.

Firefighting Report

By Jim Jarboe

The hearing will begin at approximately 7:45 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak, or comment in writing to City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, by e-mail to jessieC@takomagov.org, or by fax to 301-270-8794.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Are You Prepared to Participate in the Nominating Caucus on September 29 and Vote in the November 3, 2009 Takoma Park Election?

Nominating Caucus
Tuesday, September 29
Election Day
Tuesday, November 3

All Takoma Park residents wishing to participate in the Nominating Caucus on September 29, 2009, or vote in the November 3, 2009 City Election, must register to vote at an address in the City. Voter registration information is available on the City’s website or by calling 301-891-7100. Takoma Park residents who are not United States citizens may contact the City Clerk’s office at 301-891-7267. If you are already registered through the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or with the City Clerk (for non-U.S. citizen residents), you do not need to do anything further.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Speed Hump Removal Request - 6700 Block of Poplar Avenue

The City of Takoma Park Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 6, 2009, to hear public comments on a request for removal of a speed hump in the 6700 block of Poplar Avenue.

What to do if you are caught in an actual fire

Fire spreads quickly. Even with early warning, you can be trapped in a fire. If you know what to do and are prepared, you can save your life and the lives of others.

- Most important, DON’T PANIC!
- Smoke and fumes are toxic. Remember to get down low and crawl quickly to safety.
- Touch all doors to see if they are hot before you open them. If the door is hot, use an alternate escape path. If the door is cool, open it carefully. Be prepared to close it quickly if you feel smoke or fire coming towards you. Remember to close the door behind you as you exit the room.
- If, for any reason, you can’t get out of the room, keep the door closed. Stuff blankets, towels, or sheets in any cracks or openings around the doors and heating or air conditioning ducts. Open a window as long as no smoke is entering the room.
- Use a bright cloth or flashlight to signal your whereabouts. If there is a phone, call the fire department and tell them where you are.

REMEMBER, DON’T TAKE CHANCE: ES...BE PREPARED!

Campaign Increases Seatbelt Use

The statewide 2009 Chiefs’ Challenge - Click it or Ticket, which emphasizes safety restraint enforcement, began on May 1 and ended on May 31. Chief Ronald Ricucci would like to congratulate Cpl. Michelle Holmes, Pfc. Joseph Butler, Pfc. Angela Donovan, Pfc. Walter Smith, Pvt. Jeffrey Demuth, Cpl. Kristian Pedersen, Pfc. Abigail Gaines-Brown, Sgt. Tyrone Collington and Cpl. Jerome Erwin, of the Takoma Park Police Department, for issuing a total of 273 seatbelt violation tickets. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Click it or Ticket is the most successful seat belt enforcement campaign ever, helping create the highest national seat belt usage rate, now recorded at 82 percent.
Listen Up On Audio Books

The Library has an exciting array of the best new fiction and non-fiction audiobooks to entertain families on those long drives to the beach or the mountains during the summer months. Some titles that may interest a range of ages include:

Merle's Door, by Ted Kerasote. Ten-month-old Merle and 41-year-old Ted found one another in the Utah desert. Funny and fascinating, this moving story reveals how the partnership between dogs and humans can become far more than we imagined.

Always Looking Up: The Adventures of an Incurable Optimist, written and read by Michael J. Fox. A memoir of this well-known actor's past decade, told through the lens of his life experiences; and dinosaurs. Just ask us for a copy of the booklist.

Immeroth Award Made Official

Senator James Raskin visited the Library on June 4 and presented Children’s Services Coordinator Karen MacPherson and middle school student Alanna Nanatonson with a special citation from the Maryland General Assembly – recognizing them for their “devotion to great and expansive works of literature, and exemplary celebration of the intellectual freedom in America.” The two were awarded the American Library Associations Immeroth Award, given annually for special programs and other endeavors that resist censorship. The Takoma Park Maryland Library’s Banned Books Club, begun by MacPherson and Nanatonson, was nominated for the award by Jim Kuhn. All three, as well as Library Director Ellen Robbins, will travel to the American Library Association’s annual convention in Chicago in July, where the award will be given.

Readers to Tackle Another Classic

This past winter and early spring, an adventurous contingent of the Friends Reading Group undertook an exciting new translation of Tolstoy’s War and Peace. The discussion series, which featured a talk by a University of Maryland scholar, was so popular that it doubled the size of the group – now reading The White Hotel by D.M. Thomas (see calendar). The War and Peace contingent has enthusiastically decided to read another classic. Discussions of Middlemarch by George Eliot will begin in early October, and will also include a lecture by a local scholar.

‘Often called the greatest nineteenth-century British novelist, George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) created in Middlemarch a vast panorama of life in a provincial Midlands county. Eliot surrounds her figures with a gallery of characters drawn from every social class…Together they form an extraordinarily rich and precisely detailed portrait of English provincial life in the 1830s. Strikingly modern in its painful ironies and psychological insight, Middlemarch was pivotal in the shaping of twentieth-century realism.’ (From the introduction by Lynn Sharon Shwartz.)

Copies of Friends Reading Group selections are available at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, and are supported by the Friends of the Library. All are invited to participate, and no pre-registration is necessary.

For more information, call 301-891-7259 or check the Friends website at www tpml.org

The Sound of (Children’s) Music

Sharing music with little children is all about having fun. But did you know that literacy experts believe that listening to music also helps babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers develop one of six key pre-reading skills?

Music can help young children develop “phonological awareness,” according to materials developed by the American Library Association for its “Every Child Ready To Read” program. What is phonological awareness? Simply put, it’s the ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words. As kids begin to read, being able to hear the sounds that make up words helps kids sound out written words.

Singing songs is a great way to help kids hear syllables in words. That’s because, in most songs, each syllable is a word of a different note. Adding actions as you sing a song or recite a nursery rhyme further helps kids break down language into separate sounds. Get up and dance with your child as you sing along to music; as you move to the beat, you are unconsciously emphasizing syllables to your child.

Listening and singing along with music also offers other key benefits. Many of the musicians who produce “family music” use richly detailed vocabulary in their lyrics. Research shows that kids who have larger vocabularies are better readers.

In addition, spending time listening to music with your child helps develop their power of concentration. Whether or not children understand a song’s lyrics, they are honing their ability to listen and focus.

While all of this is important, the main reason to listen to music with your young child is just to have fun together. In recent months, the library has greatly increased its collection of music CDs for children. Some of the CDs are aimed at young children; others can be called “family music” because the music and lyrics can truly be enjoyed by both adults and kids.

Here’s a look at some of the CDs in our collection:

- Local musicians Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer have won a couple of Grammys for their music for kids. Both are spectacular musicians who also create music for adults. On their kids’ CDs, Cathy and Marcy usually offer songs in a variety of musical styles – from jazz to gospel to folk — which is a great way for kids to expand their musical horizons. Among the Cathy and Marcy kids’ CDs in our collection are: Grandma Slid Down the Mountain; Air Guitar; Blanket Full of Dreams; Scat Like That; and CELLabration: A Tribute to Ella Jenkins.
- Tom Chapin is another musician who records for adults. On their kids’ CDs, Cathy and Marcy usually offer songs in a variety of musical styles – from jazz to gospel to folk — which is a great way for kids to expand their musical horizons. Among the Cathy and Marcy kids’ CDs in our collection are: Grandma Slid Down the Mountain; Air Guitar; Blanket Full of Dreams; Scat Like That; and CELLabration: A Tribute to Ella Jenkins.

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COUNCILMEMBER
continued from page 1

the big issues in Ward 6: school boundary changes, the Takoma-Langley sector plan, and traffic calming efforts.

Professionally, Victoria runs her own business as a political pollster and research consultant; her office is in downtown Takoma Park and she says she will be available to constituents throughout the day. Her work increases during election years, so she is not at all interested in running for office in November, she told the Council.

Victoria will be sworn in July 6.
Curbside Recycling Expands

By Daryl Brathwaite
Public Works Director

Residents served by the City’s curbside recycling collection program can now recycle more items. The expanded program, which accepts a combination of glass, metal or plastic beverage or food containers, for plastic food and beverage containers, this means that all numbered containers #1 through #7 will be accepted, regardless of whether they are wide mouthed or narrow necked containers. In addition to the paper items currently accepted — newspaper, mixed paper, paperboard boxes (like cereal, etc.) and corrugated cardboard there will be the addition of gable-top containers – like paper milk cartons and juice boxes.

The City has negotiated a contract with Recycle America, a recycling processing facility located in Prince George’s County. The parent company is Waste Management and they are currently processing recycling for Prince George’s County and many Southern Maryland Counties at their Capitol Heights facility.

The recycling facility operates a “single stream” processing operation. This will enable the City to use one truck for the collection of all recycling. Previously the City used a “dual stream” processing facility operated in Montgomery County that required paper and commingled items to be delivered separately. The City recently put in service a new, larger recycling truck that will handle the quantity of recycled materials set out daily by City residents. In addition to the expanded number of materials the new arrangement will allow, the use of a single truck will reduce the fuel use and carbon emissions that are generated by the collection process.

Residents are asked to prepare the recycled materials in the same way that they currently do. All paper items should be placed in paper bags or tied into secure bundles. This reduces the likelihood of litter from loose paper. All bottles and cans should be rinsed free of food particles and placed in the recycling bin provided by the City.

Listed below are the details of Acceptable materials for the expanded recycling program:

All paper items should be placed in paper bags or tied into secure bundles to avoid becoming litter, and make collection and processing easier. All containers should be rinsed and placed in the recycling container. For items too large to fit into the recycling container – just place beside container at the curb on your recycling day.

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at 31 Osweego Avenue, 301-891-7623, or review the information on the City’s website www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Watch Fireworks on City TV

Celebrate Independence Day with City TV as we cover the annual Parade on Saturday, July 4. See page 7 for information about the community barbecue and fireworks.

New summer programs will be released this month include performances from the June Takoma Jazzfest held in Old Town on Sunday, June 14.

The latest edition of Takoma Snapshots will feature:

- What’s In For Me? Safe Roadways Committee
- Jazz Fest Highlights
- Crossroads Farmer’s Market

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. Many 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@takomapark.gov for more information.

### CITY TV PROGRAM SCHEDULE - JULY 2009

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### SOUND OF MUSIC continued from page 9

both adults and children. We currently have two of his children’s CDs, which are filled with good humor and cheerful music and are particularly good for kids ages 4-8. The CDs are: Family Tree and Mother Earth.

- Raffi, the one-name musician, has been singing songs for kids for a couple of decades. We have several Raffi CDs, including Animal Songs; Rise and Shine; Singable Songs for the Very Young; and Five Little Ducks. These CDs are especially great for young children.

- Lisa Monet is another musician who focuses on very young children. Try her CDs Circle Time and My Best Friend.

- Folk singer Pete Seeger offers some toe-tapping music for the whole family in American Folk, Game & Activity Songs for Children and Children’s Concert At Town Hall.

- We have several great CDs by Dan Zanes, including Family Dance and Catch That Train! And we’ve got Big Round World by Trout Fishing in America, a duo that – like Zanes – produces music the entire family can enjoy.

- If baroque is your kind of music, you and your family will love Girls and Boys, Come Out To Play, a one-of-a-kind CD produced by the Barolk Folk with Madeline MacNeil.

- Joanie Bartels has produced several CDs of bouncy music, many of them based around themes: Travelin’ Magic; Bath-time Magic; Lullaby Magic; Morning Magic; Jump For Joy; and Dreamland.

- In addition to Cathy Fink and Marcia Mariner, we’ve got CDs by other local musicians, including Rick & Audrey (Imagine That!) and Eliza Newlin Carney (Love Flows Down).

- Some singers who made their names in the adult arena also have created CDs for kids, including Carly Simon, Carly & Lucy Simon Sing Songs For Children and Neil Sedaka Waking Up Is Hard To Do.

- We’ve got several CDs in other languages, including Songs In French For Children and Let The Good Times Roller (French) and Mis Amigos Los Animales and Diez Deditos (Spanish).

- Of course, we’ve got lots of lullaby CDs, including Mediterranean Lullaby, Brazilian Lullaby and Jazz Lullaby. This is just a sampling — come on in and try out some of the music for yourself!
LIQUOR SALES
continued from page 1

site sales in the city. Council members Terry Seamens and Reuben Snipper who represent Wards 4 and 5 respectively, spoke against pursuing such a measure at the session.

"I'm not supportive of this," said Seamens. "There are a lot of other priorities we should be worrying about."

Snipper agreed. "I have definitely heard from the 'opposed' camp," he said.

The 'opposed' camp has a long history on this issue in Takoma Park. The city was dry for more than 100 years. While the Prince George's County side of the City allowed alcoholic beverage licenses, no on-sale or off-sale licenses were permitted in the Montgomery County side until a referendum in the late 1980s showed support for the issuance, leading to the introduction and adoption by the state legislature.

Allowing off-site sales would require following roughly the same procedure this time - assessing public feedback, a likely referendum and submitting a local request to the Montgomery Delegation for state approval. Deadline for such a submission is early September.

Thus, the Council placed the issue on the agenda at the June worksession.

Council members heard from Grigsby, Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, City Attorney Susan Silber and Police Chief Ronald Ricucci.

Silber shared her experience with the issue when she worked for the town of Mount Rainer in Prince George's County, a place with a similar geographic profile to Takoma Park.

"What worries me is being right on the District line. Maryland licenses have longer hours than D.C. licenses," she said.

Silber stressed that once off-site sales are allowed you can't guarantee who the owner of an establishment is going to be. She recounted that in Mount Rainer, an off-site sale license was issued with the best intentions, but the business began attracting the wrong element and creating problems and the city had difficulty revoking the license.

"I just want to make sure we have our eyes open to the worst-case scenario," she said.

Chief Ricucci, a long-time officer in various Montgomery County jurisdictions, emphasized that there is "a major difference between Montgomery County and Prince George's County" on this issue.

"When you want to shut a down a place, Montgomery County works very closely with you. In my experience, when there was a place that was a problem, the County responded very favorably to help you revoke the license."

Kathie Durbin, Division Chief, Licensure, Regulation and Education of the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, echoed Ricucci's comments from the meeting, pointing out that every off-site license has to be renewed on an annual basis, giving municipalities the ability to deny licenses to problem businesses.

Durbin also stressed that just because a community allows off-sale licenses, doesn't mean potential business owners have carte blanche to open such establishments.

Opening a business with any kind of alcohol license involves approval from a county board, which weighs feedback from the governing municipality and the community, Durbin said.

"If there is a lot of negative feedback from the community and the council, we will often deny," she said. "We have a really fair process and we try and make sure all parties are in communication before anyone applies for a license so that there are no surprises."

Council members discussed the option of limiting the licenses to a certain geographic area (likely Old Town) and Mayor Bruce Williams brought forward the model used by the city of Kensington, which limits not only the geographic area for off-site sales, but the hours as well.

"I spoke with the Mayor of Kensington about their situation and he said that they (city officials) spent 25 days one year getting the specifics through and then went back the next year and spent 10 more days," Williams said.

Durbin said that while the system is set up to allow for specific exemptions, the Kensington example provides a cautionary tale.

"You want to be careful about boxing yourself in. Once you make restrictions and things change, you then have to go back and revise your agreement, which is what Kensington has discovered," she said.

Ludlow raised the issue that limiting the licenses to a certain geographic area could be viewed as discriminatory.

The council tasked Ludlow with gathering more information on the specific licenses that can be granted and the various options the City can pursue, and Ricucci with gathering information on the service calls related to some of the existing on-site sale establishments in Takoma Park and off-site establishments in close proximity (i.e. Takoma, D.C. and Prince George's County).

With more information in hand, the City will likely solicit public comment on the issue later this summer, said Ludlow.

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Takoma Park Gets Jazzy

Photos by Lonni Moffet