

## En Espanol

pagina 8  
¿Está  
preparado  
para votar?

# Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

## Independence Day

City Offices Closed

No trash collection  
Friday, July 3. Trash  
picked up Thursday,  
July 2

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www.takomaparkmd.gov

JULY 2009



Photo by Nessa Richman

## GREAT VEGGIES, GREAT PRICE

The Crossroads Farmers Market on Holton Lane at the Takoma-Langley Crossroads opened June 17, and will sell locally produced fruits, vegetables, baked goods, ethnic foods and handicrafts every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. through October 28. When the market first opened three years ago it was the first in the country to offer Fresh Checks, a program that doubles federal benefit nutrition program dollars like food stamps and fruit and vegetable coupons. It continues to be a national model for making fresh food available to low-income people, accepting food stamps, WIC and Seniors Farmers Market Coupons. The same programs are in place at the Takoma Park Farmers Market in Old Town, every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A bus to the Crossroads market leaves the Community Center every Wednesday at 3 and 4 p.m. and makes stops at the Franklin and Park Ritchie apartments and at Victory Towers.

## 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 Seamens (Ward 4) and Josh Wright (Ward

1) voted against the budget because they wanted to reduce the tax rate further.

The real property tax rate for FY10 is now set at 58 cents per \$100 – down 2.5 cents from City Manager Barbara Matthews' original budget proposal of 60.5 cents (the same as FY09). This tax rate is 3 cents more than the constant yield rate (the rate at which property tax revenues would be held constant from the prior year).

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

**BUDGET FINALIZED**  
continues on page 10

## Interim Council Member Donna Victoria Selected for Ward 6

By VIRGINIA MYERS

The City Council appointed Donna Victoria to the Ward 6 council seat, to serve out the remainder of Councilmember Doug Barry's term. Barry recently moved to Washington, D.C. and retired from the Council (see June 2009 Newsletter).

Because Barry left with fewer than 240 days before the next City Council election, no election was held to fill his vacancy. Instead, the City Council called for applicants to the position, urging that only those who were uninterested in running in November apply. Two people stepped forward: Victoria, and Barrie Lee Howard. The City Council 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

**COUNCILMEMBER**  
continues on page 10

## City Council Debates 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 loitering and crime, but also the lack of support among many residents for allowing off-

**LIQUOR SALES**  
continues on page 12

## INSIDE:

**Takoma Theater** ..... Page 3

**Maple Avenue** ..... Page 4

**Recycling Expands**..... Page 11

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR\*

**June 28 - July 1** - the City Council will be attending the Maryland Municipal League Convention

**Friday, July 3** - City offices closed for the Independence Day holiday

**Monday, July 6** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, July 13** – City Council workshop on the Takoma/Langley Sector Plan (Tijuanas Mexican Café III, 949 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park)

**Tuesday, July 14** - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, July 14** - Committee on the Environment meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, July 14** - Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

**Thursday, July 16** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, July 20** – City Council meeting, including public hearing on the Montgomery County Takoma/Langley Sector Plan, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, July 20** – Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

**Tuesday, July 21** - WAH Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, July 21** - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

**Monday, July 27** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, July 28** - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**The City Council will be on recess from Tuesday, July 28 until Tuesday, September 8.**

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

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

### Speak with the Mayor

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



Bruce Williams

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

# City Council Action\*

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

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

## Did You Know?

**The Takoma Park Community Center and Library have Wi-Fi**

**Find Out More...**

**MyTKPK, [http://takomaparkmd.gov/customer\\_service/index.html](http://takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service/index.html)**



# Takoma Theatre: At the Crossroads

By JOY LAWSON JONES

**T**he Takoma Theatre at Fourth and Butternut Streets in northwest Washington, D.C. sits literally at the crossroads of Takoma Park, Maryland, and Takoma, D.C. Today its location is symbolic of its future. Recently designated an historic site by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board (DCHPRB), the theatre has an eclectic history serving both Takomas, a history that leads to its current status as object of a tug-of-war between the Takoma Theatre Conservancy and the long-time owner of the property, Milton McGinty.

The Takoma Theatre opened July 2, 1923, with 723 seats. Built in the Greek Revival style, Takoma Theatre was the first theatre its architect, John Jacob Zink, designed in Metro Washington, D.C. (among 14 others are the Uptown on Connecticut Avenue, the Atlas on H Street NE, and the Flower Theatre in Silver Spring, Md.). The Takoma Theatre was designed to be a neighborhood movie theatre, with a shallow stage and space for storefront retail businesses and offices. According to a report by the DCHPRB, Takoma Theater was "one of the first D.C. venues to get sound when the owners installed an RCA Photophone sound system in 1929.

"Like many independently owned theaters, the Takoma was later acquired by a movie theater chain, going to Warner Brothers in 1935. However, as early as the 1970s, the theatre was in trouble financially and in danger of closing. Spearheaded by former Takoma Park Mayor Sam Abbott, the first Takoma Park Folk Festival was held in 1978 as a fundraiser to save the theatre. It was operated by other movie chains until the early 1980s and was subsequently acquired by [current owner] Mr. McGinty and converted for live theater performances." The building exterior retains much of its original appearance today.

From 1984-1995, Milton McGinty (father of television news anchor Derek McGinty) operated the Takoma Theatre as a venue for plays, especially those with interracial casts and storylines that provided people of color with leading and nontraditional roles. According to McGinty, his original purpose in purchasing and renovating the property for live theatre was to provide a public service. "I wanted a place where people of color could go and see themselves in roles other than as domestics," he says. To support this objective and accommodate the needs of actors and dancers, McGinty renovated the building, enlarging the stage and reducing the number of seats to its current 516.

By the 1990s, it was clear that the Ta-



Photos courtesy of the Takoma Theatre Conservancy

**The Takoma Theatre has seen a lot of change in its 86 years. Now there is a tug of war between its owner and the Takoma Theatre Conservancy.**

koma Theatre had not achieved McGinty's original dream for live theatre (McGinty says that audiences were often as small as 50), and was also no longer succeeding as a movie theatre. In an effort to keep it going, from 2002-2005 residents from both Takoma Park, Md. and Takoma, D.C. formed the Takoma Theatre Arts Project, showing movies and holding live performances (entertainer Chris Rock filmed his "Bring the Pain" HBO special there) at the theatre. This strategy, too, was short-lived, and in 2007 owner McGinty petitioned the D.C. Historic Preservation Board to remove the site from its historic roster and raze the deteriorating building.

Enter the Takoma Theatre Conservancy. Formed in 2007 expressly to save the physical structure, the Conservancy (board members are from both Maryland and D.C.) garnered enough support from D.C. Ward 4 Councilwoman Muriel Bowser and DCHPRB staff to defeat McGinty's petition to raze the theatre. Takoma Theatre Conservancy president Loretta Neumann says she has three goals: 1) to preserve the historic building itself, 2) to establish a professionally managed, community-based nonprofit arts and cultural center, and 3) to create a catalyst for anchoring and revitalizing the Takoma Park-Takoma, D.C. economic corridor. The Conservancy, with grants from the Takoma Foundation, D.C. Neighborhood Investment Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has obtained the services of planners, ar-

chitects and fundraisers to study the feasibility of the center they envision.

On June 1, 2009, the Takoma Conservancy's Neumann and board member/treasurer Steve Smith made a presentation before the Takoma Park City Council to seek official support from the City of Takoma Park. According to that presentation, user needs studies indicate potential audiences and customers for a revitalized Takoma Theatre are more than adequate to support a successful cultural arts center. Those same studies, commissioned by the Conservancy, indicate that other neighboring arts entities located in the Takoma corridor (Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, Washington Opera, and Montgomery College, for example) would provide synergy with planned performances, classes and exhibits at the theatre. In addition, the Conservancy claims that proximity to Takoma Metro, an existing parking lot, and the fact that the building remains structurally sound with many design options for renovation that preserve the structure and allow for retail all indicate potential for sustainability of a cultural arts center that will serve residents of both Takomas and beyond.

Members of the Takoma Theatre Conservancy say they believe their nonprofit, community-based strategy will help them succeed where prior efforts have failed. They acknowledge that box office receipts will not support the theatre, and say they are prepared to meet the costs of purchasing and renovating the building (perhaps

as much as \$6-9 million) and operating planned programs (estimated by the Conservancy at more than \$1 million a year) via strategic fundraising and grantsmanship.

Current owner McGinty, however, disagrees that such a cultural center is a guaranteed success, given that "nothing for performing arts has worked there before, and the location doesn't lend itself to that activity." Most important, as the current owner, he is adamant that the Takoma Theatre is "not for sale to any buyer under any circumstances." Although he has allowed Conservancy members to tour the structure more than once, McGinty says he has made it clear to the Takoma Conservancy that the Theatre is not for sale, and says he is not sure why the Conservancy persists in raising funds to buy the building.

McGinty's own plans for the building call for preservation of the historic façade and retail space as part of an apartment building that would "fit in" with the surrounding residential neighborhood. His renovation would include a multipurpose area with a small theatre that might function as a performance space, he says. He has an architect under contract to proceed with plans for redesign and renovation of the property into apartments.

What everyone seems to agree on is that the Takoma Theatre building itself is historic, structurally sound, and can be put to good use benefitting the general Takoma district. The question is, what is the highest and best use of this local resource, a community cultural center or well-located apartment dwellings for Takoma-District residents?

Neither side is taking any chances: owner McGinty has placed his property in a family trust to protect it against sale, and the Takoma Conservancy is on a mission to gain community and official support from the District and an apparently sympathetic City of Takoma Park – judging from City Council reaction to its recent presentation. The Conservancy is also in the middle of "Let's Open the Doors," a fundraising campaign for building acquisition and renovation.

*The Takoma Theatre's address is 6829-6837 4th Street, NW. More information on the Takoma Conservancy is available at [www.takomatheatreconservancy.org](http://www.takomatheatreconservancy.org).*

## CORRECTION

In last month's article, "Play's the Thing," Pat Rumbaugh's name was misspelled. The correct spelling is Rumbaugh. We regret the error.



## THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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# Maple Avenue Improvement : the \$38,500 question

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.

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



Images: John Moynahan, UDP

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

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.

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**  
continues on page 7

## Takoma Langley Crossroads Sector Plan



### City reviews the plan:

Monday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Tijuanas 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](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/takoma_langley_crossroads) or call 301-891-7205.



### 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](mailto:MosesW@takomagov.org).

## 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.



# 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, potentially damaging the local 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



Photo by Kea Woodruff

**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.**

will be held in Heffner Park at 42 Oswego 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 Oswego 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.

## Landscape Installations Improve Commercial Areas

By MELANIE ISIS

It's said that dappled shade, flowers and leafy plants make people linger, and the more they linger, the more they spend. If all goes as planned, 2009 may be remembered as the year the City's neighborhood commercial areas became more attractive. 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.

Last fall Prince George's County spruced up the New Hampshire Avenue medians south of East-West Highway 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 hollies, accented 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 in 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 Sheger Market, Unlimited Photography and Jason's Subs, which the businesses will be watering.

Several businesses in the Flower/Erie Avenue commercial centers were also pleased to participate in the program, and will be receiving new, large decorative flowerpots to highlight their entrances.

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 have 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 Kirklynn 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 lirioppe last winter, and zelvokas 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 lirioppe 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 and shrubs, to better define the parking area from the sidewalk.

Planners are hoping that residents take time over the summer to visit the city's commercial areas and see "how our gardens grow."



### Takoma Mosaic Project Exhibit

Inspired by the Takoma Mosaic, Jim DeArmon's drawings and narratives de-compose, and then re-assemble, the real-life principals of this public art project as well as fantasy personages inspired by its creation. The exhibit, which includes work created by participants during the mosaic project, is on display in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center can be viewed through July 17.

### Paño in American Tradition

Stop by Gallery 3 this month to see "Paño in American Tradition" – a unique art form created in prisons across America with handkerchiefs serving as the canvas. The exhibit is part of the collection of the Safe Streets Arts Foundation, which operates the Prison Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. The exhibit can be viewed in Gallery Three on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center until July 25.

### Anne Becker Continues as Poet Laureate

We are pleased to announce the reappointment of Anne Becker as Takoma Park Poet Laureate. During her second term as poet laureate, Becker will be working, in collaboration with local poets, artists, dancers and musicians, on a series of workshops, performance pieces and exhibits, building upon the previous work of the Arts and Humanities Commission's exhibitions program.

### Call for Entries, Shadowplay Photography Celebration

ShadowPlay – a celebration of the art of photography – continues this fall with the theme, "Seeds to Harvest." Scheduled for Friday, September 25, the celebration will be curated by Blair Murphy, from the Sparkplug Collective of the District of Columbia Arts Center (DCAC). For more information on the submission process, please check online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or contact [TKPKshadowplay@gmail.com](mailto:TKPKshadowplay@gmail.com).

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, by email at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or check online at [www.takomaparkmd.org](http://www.takomaparkmd.org)

## 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.tpff.org](http://www.tpff.org), and click on the link for Tables, or send an email to [tables@tpff.org](mailto:tables@tpff.org).



# 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:

<b>TP resident</b>	\$110/week
<b>Non-resident</b>	\$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



Photo by Eric Rasch

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



Photo by Debra Haiduven

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

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 avail-

able for the following camps: Camp Takoma, Visual Arts Camp, Takoma Soccer and SportsCamp.

Fee per week for Before/After Care:

TP residents \$30

Non-residents \$40

**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

**JULY RECREATION** continues on page 7



Photo by Debra Haiduven

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



## JULY RECREATION

continued from page 6

media painting, texture and found-object assemblage will be explored. Trips to the pool, art-related movies, access to the game room during the day and outdoor art adventures are all included. All materials are included in fee. Maximum 12, minimum nine. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman. No camp on July 3.

**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

Iyenger 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



Photo by Debra Haiduven

**Corrine Bell, a member of the Recreation staff, shows what she knows to a group of aspiring knitters — knitterbugs — in this class held at the Community Center.**

# 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 week-long tournament. Every player competes in each event of Friday’s Olympics as well as Tournament playoff 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.

### 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](http://www.takomasportscamps.org) for links to each camp’s website, pictures of camp and a link to the registration form.

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
(extended care is available)

**Location:** Takoma Park Middle School,

**Fees:** \$200 per week

**Aid:** Available based on need

**Deadline:** Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Contact:** Sue Immerman  
301-270-0534  
[sue@takomasportscamps.org](mailto:sue@takomasportscamps.org)

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

## MAPLE AVENUE

continued from page 4

from a wide range of ages and ethnic backgrounds, as moms brought kids home from school, and professionals and others returned from work. Certainly the range of perspectives broadened.

“Vegetable gardens should be banned!” said one little girl, “I hate eating vegetables!”

Three options — namely, youth involvement, street lighting, and a farmers’ market — have been consistently identified as top priorities by workshop participants. Other top priorities also included an anti-littering campaign, a community vegetable garden, a gym facility, additional commercial space and a festival space. One option that received red dots was a dog park, and while a gym received an overwhelming number of green dots in apartment buildings, at meetings with homeowners, the gym option garnered more red dots than other options.

During two informal afternoon events at the Franklin Building, a

senior apartment building, residents expressed concerns regarding safety and traffic. Since many residents do not drive, and may be visually or physically impaired, cars that speed and fail to stop at stop signs on Maple Avenue pose a concern. Lighting is another issue for residents who walk and use public transportation.

At the last community workshop in June, design consultant John Moy-nahan presented analyses of the area and feasible location options for top priority recommendations. For example, the option of locating a community vegetable garden on private green space and under-utilized apartment parking lots was explored, and potential locations for retail were considered.

At this workshop, Lt. Rick Bowers from the City’s Police Department also led a lively discussion with residents regarding safety. He emphasized that Maple Avenue has the lowest number of crime incidents within the City of Takoma Park, and there are actually higher crime incidents along Maple and Cedar south of Philadelphia towards the Metro station. However, the

perception of safety and loitering remains an issue that will require more creative solutions from both parties – one suggestion that drew laughter but some serious thought was to encourage responsible adults and families to congregate and patronize the businesses in the evening. “Maybe,” said a resident of Essex House, “we can set a good example for these young people growing up in our community.”

Next steps include a report to the City Council that consolidates the input gathered in May and June. Top priorities will be evaluated based on their financial feasibility, project site availability, public-private partnership and timing. The goal is to complete potential construction by December 2009.

To keep residents involved in the process, the City will provide updates through fliers, on the City’s website and in the *Takoma Park Newsletter*. For more information or to arrange individual meetings in other languages, please contact Carman Lam, Associate Planner, at 301-891-7219, or [carmanl@takomagov.org](mailto:carmanl@takomagov.org).

# CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY!

### Independence Day Parade

10 a.m., beginning at Takoma Junction, ending at Maple and Ritchie Avenues

### Community Barbeque

Ed Wilhelm Field, behind Piney Branch Elementary School  
Immediately following the Parade

### Fireworks Program

Takoma Park Middle School  
Expanded entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

Join the Fun!

<http://www.takomapark4th.org/>

# Community Thanks Crossing Guards on Appreciation Day

By Lucy Neher

**Y**ou 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 Sprouse at Maple and Philadelphia, Carolyn Pinkard at Philadelphia and Cedar, Virnia (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



Photo by Lucy Neher

**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.**

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.

## 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 be registered voters 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.

**¿Está Preparado para Participar en la Reunión Electoral de Nominaciones el 29 de Septiembre y para Votar en la Elección Municipal el 3 de Noviembre?**

**Reunión Electoral de Nominaciones - Martes, 29 de Septiembre  
Día de Elección - Martes, 3 de Noviembre**

Todo residente de la Ciudad de Takoma Park que desee participar en la reunión electoral de nominaciones el 29 de Septiembre del 2009 o votar en la elección municipal el 3 de Noviembre del 2009, deben ser votantes registrados con una dirección municipal. Información sobre inscripción electoral se puede obtener en la página web de la Ciudad ([www.takoma-parkmd.gov](http://www.takoma-parkmd.gov)) o puede llamar las Oficinas de la Municipalidad al 301-891-7100. Residentes que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses pueden llamar la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al 301-891-7267 (en Español llame al 301-891-7214). Si está registrado con la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery o con la Secretaria Municipal (para residentes de la ciudad que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses), no necesita hacer nada más.

## 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.

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](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org), or by fax to 301-270-8794.

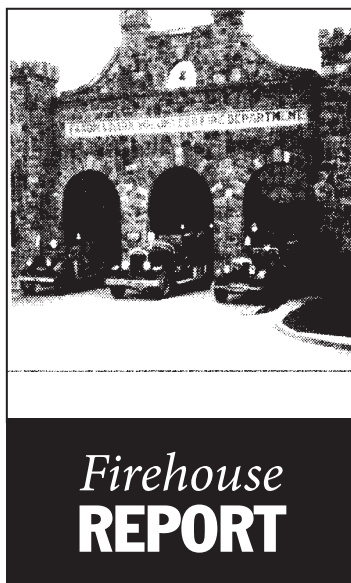
As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 323 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,145 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,468 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. Watch the fireworks from a distance and be safe. Have a safe holiday.

### Don't make your Cookout a Burnout

Hundreds of people are burned and their homes damaged each year in care-



## Firehouse REPORT

By JIM JARBOE

less accidents involving portable or built-in barbecues. The most common cause is using lighter fluid to get the fire going better, after the fire has already been started. And worse, some people still use gasoline as a starter fuel for charcoal.

### Some Safety Tips When Using Charcoal Grills

- Keep the grill at least 30 feet from any structure.
- Use only in a well-ventilated area.
- Keep children away from all cooking

equipment.

- Keep a fire extinguisher or garden hose nearby.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Use only approved fire starters.
- After cooking, soak the coals.
- Clean the grill with water and detergent to avoid grease buildup.

And remember that it is against the law to do any cooking on apartment balconies. This includes the use of charcoal-burning, other fuel-burning or electric cooking equipment.

### 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 may 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 the 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 CHANCES...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.





## LIBRARY Briefs

**Kids, you're invited to participate in our annual SummerQuest Campfire** program on Monday, July 27, at 7:30 p.m. We'll do a craft, then sing camp songs and tell stories around our "campfire." Everyone will go home with the makings for s'mores in a snack bag. Our program is aimed at kids ages 5 up. Registration is required.

**Thirteen middle schoolers who are part of the Traveling Players Ensemble** will present "The Bourgeois Gentleman," a comedy by the French playwright Moliere (a.k.a. Jean-Baptiste Poquelin) at the library on Thursday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. The play focuses on a rich man who dreams of improving his social standing and goes to ridiculous lengths to do it. The Ensemble, based in Great Falls, Va., presents comedies by Moliere and other classical playwrights to summer camps, libraries and hospitals. The group chooses humorous plays as a way of introducing young audiences to some classical playwrights. As Toby Mulford, the Ensemble's associate artistic director, puts it: "A perfect blend of heightened language and low-brow humor, the plays are short on windy speeches and long on laughs." The 45-minute performance of "The Bourgeois Gentleman" is best for ages 6 up; Mulford says very young children can't usually follow the story. Adults also are most welcome to attend. Registration is required.

**Amanda Jones, a graduate student at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies ("Maryland's iSchool"),** is doing an internship with us during the early part of the summer. Amanda has spruced up our Children's Room brochure – stop by and get a copy of this guide to the treasures on our shelves! She's also created annotated booklists of several topics, including: become a big brother/sister; trucks; princesses; and dinosaurs. Just ask us for a copy of the booklists.

## 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 critical themes of his life: work, politics, faith and family. With humor and insight, he describes how he became a happier, more satisfied person by recognizing the gifts of everyday life.

**Notes From a Small Island, Neither Here Nor There** and  
**AUDIO BOOKS**  
continues on page 10

# 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 in a word gets 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

**SOUND OF MUSIC**  
continues on page 11

## Immroth Award Made Official

**S**tate Senator Jamie Raskin visited the Library on June 4 and presented Children's Services Coordinator Karen MacPherson and middle school student Alanna Natanson with a special citation from the Maryland General Assembly – recognizing them for their "devotion to great and complex books and ... exemplary celebration of intellectual freedom in America." The two were awarded the American Library Association's Immroth 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 Natanson, 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

town. 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 1930s. 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 Schwartz.)

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.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org)

### TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. You can register online by going to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://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 12-24 months, and their grown-ups. Wednesdays in July, 11 a.m. Registration required.

#### Bedtime Stories

Monday, July 6, 7 p.m.  
Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes in this half-hour program. Perfect for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups.

#### Middle School Ensemble

Thursday, July 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Registration required.  
(See article)

#### Banned Books Club

For kids grades 6 and up. Monday, July 20, 7:30 p.m. Our book is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. Copies are available for check-out, thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. All welcome; registration required.

#### SummerQuest Campfire

Monday, July 27, 7:30 p.m. Registration required.

#### Friends of the Library Reading Group

Thursday, July 30, 7:30 p.m. Our book is *The White Hotel* by D.M. Thomas. Community Center Rose Room. All welcome.



## July 4 Road Closures and Detours:

- Carroll Avenue at Lincoln Avenue to Carroll Street and Eastern Avenue
- 6900 block of Laurel Avenue
- Ethan Allen Avenue at Jackson Avenue to Carroll Avenue
- Maple Avenue at Sligo Creek Parkway to Maple Avenue at Carroll Street
- Philadelphia Avenue at Carroll Avenue to Philadelphia Avenue at Piney Branch Road
- Sherman Avenue at Hancock Avenue to Sherman Avenue at Carroll Avenue
- Lee Avenue at Hancock Avenue to Lee Avenue at Carroll Avenue
- Grant Avenue at Hancock Avenue to Grant Avenue at Carroll Avenue
- Sherman Avenue at Hancock Avenue to Sherman Avenue at Maple Avenue (blocked-local traffic only)
- Lee Avenue at Hancock Avenue to Lee Avenue at Maple Avenue (blocked- local traffic only)
- Boyd Avenue at Carroll Avenue.
- Lincoln Avenue at Boyd Avenue
- Manor Circle at Carroll Avenue
- Barricades will be placed at the side streets along the parade route preventing traffic from entering the parade route. This would include Maple Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue, Carroll Avenue, Carroll Street and along Elm Avenue.
- Elm Avenue will be open, but barricades will be placed at the side streets limiting traffic toward Carroll Avenue. The parade route will be restricted to local residents only.
- Tulip Avenue will be closed from Tulip Avenue at Willow Avenue to Tulip Avenue at Carroll Avenue.

### The detour should be the following.

From New Hampshire Avenue: Take Ethan Allen Avenue to Jackson Avenue, make a right onto Jackson Avenue, left onto Sligo Creek Parkway, left onto Piney Branch Road to go to route 410 or continue straight to the Metro Station. From 410 and Piney Branch Road- make left onto Piney Branch Road, right onto Sligo Creek Parkway, right onto Jackson Avenue, and left onto Ethan Allen Avenue (410) to New Hampshire Avenue.

## BUDGET FINALIZED

continued from page 1

\$23,111,398 to \$22,896,022.

### Among the cost savings in the final budget:

- Leaving a police officer position vacant, returning to a staff of 41 (\$93,500)
- Leaving a crossing guard position vacant (\$19,555)
- Eliminating \$50,000 allocated for affordable housing programming not yet defined
- Decreasing the unappropriated reserve fund by \$412,239
- Decreasing the general contingency account by \$2,672

### Expenses the City Council added to the city manager's proposed budget included:

- Increasing wind power purchase from 50 to 100 percent (\$30,000)
- Paving Palmer Lane (\$25,000)
- Funding the Community Indicators Project (\$25,000)
- Donating \$15,000 for emergency services for food and utilities assistance for low-income residents
- Contributing \$10,000 toward the operation of the Piney Branch Pool
- Donating \$5,000 to the Folk Festival

In addition, the revised budget had to compensate for the loss of Highway User Revenues from the State Highway Administration.

A number of items were carried over from the previous year's budget for various reasons, including delays in implementing projects. Among the carryovers were a

Historic Takoma archive project (\$5,000), rent stabilization program software and training (\$4,280); structure demolition (\$40,000); Park Avenue parking lot enhancement; neighborhood commercial district improvements; gateway signage, BY Morrison Park column repair, public art, a hook and lift vehicle, and renovation of the Public Works building.

Over the course of two months, City Council also discussed many possibilities to reduce expenditures but ultimately elected not to implement them.

### These included:

- Eliminating vacuum leaf services (\$58,000), or reducing their frequency
- Eliminating the resident survey (\$40,000)
- Reducing field maintenance (from \$40,000 to \$10,000 or \$20,000)
- Withholding support from Main Street Takoma and Takoma Old Town Business Association (\$30,000)
- Eliminating overtime pay for city festivals and charging event sponsors (\$30,000)
- Eliminating \$20,000 for small community grants
- Closing the Community Center and Recreation Center at 9 p.m. on weekdays (\$19,500)
- Reducing maintenance of right of way from weekly to every two weeks (\$47,500)
- Reducing the number of issues of the *Newsletter* and printing fewer extra pages (\$15,000)
- Withholding support from the Crossroads Farmer's Market (\$10,000)
- Eliminating printing costs for the Cooperative Nursery School's Takoma Park Survival Guide (\$9,000)

### Council also considered new ways to increase revenue:

- Splitting revenue with recreation program instructors 65/35 instead of 70/30
- Increasing facility rental fees at the Community Center, New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center, and Heffner Park by \$10 an hour
- Charging a \$10 per player per season fee for field maintenance
- Increasing fees for after-school programs by 20 percent

In addition, Council explored the possibility of hiring a sustainability coordinator and paying for the Public Works building renovation exclusively through bond financing; the City Manager's proposed budget contemplated a mixture of bond and cash financing. The Council did not move forward on either of these issues.

During the budget process, the Council had extensive discussions regarding the appropriate level of the unreserved fund balance. The Council agreed to revisit this issue following completion of the FY09 audit.

Over the course of discussions, Council stuck to a few general policies, namely: that it would prefer to keep existing staff and leave vacant positions unfilled, rather than furlough or lay off workers to save money; that it remains committed to a resolution passed in 2007 to avoid saving money by using contractual or part-time, non-benefited positions; and that it is not interested in major restructuring such as eliminating the police department or library and relying on the county to provide those services.

*Residents can view details about the City budget on the City's web site, [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).*

## 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.



**A reception to welcome Interim Councilmember Donna Victoria will be held on July 6 at 7 p.m. in the Atrium Lobby of the Community Center.**

## AUDIO BOOKS

continued from page 9

*I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, by Bill Bryson. Three travel narratives by the foremost chronicler of all that is weird, wonderful and outrageous about his two homelands – Britain and the United States.

*The Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War*, by Michael Shaara. A Pulitzer Prize-winning classic and a dramatic re-creation of events and characters leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg. This 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition is unabridged, and contains a new introduction written and read by the author.

*The Children of Hurin*, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Long before *The Lord Of the Rings*, Morgoth – the first Dark Lord – waged war against the lands and secret cities of the Elves. Within this shadow of fear unfolds the tragedy of Turin and his sister Nienor, the children of Hurin...

*A Lion Called Christian*, by Anthony Bourke and John Rendall. In 2008 an extraordinary film clip appeared on YouTube – capturing the reunion of two young men and their pet lion, Christian, after they had left him in Africa to introduce him into his rightful home in the wild. This book captures the true story of their friendship.

*Letter To My Daughter*, by Maya Angelou. Dedicated to the daughter she never had but sees all around her, this book reveals the author's path to living well and living a life with meaning.

*Agincourt*, by Bernard Cornwell. One of the most dramatic victories in British history, the battle of Agincourt pitted undermanned and overwhelmed English forces under Henry V against a French army determined to keep their crown out of his hands. The novel's protagonist is young Nicholas Hook – driven to fight first as a mercenary archer in France – and later as part of the army Henry leads in his quest to claim the French crown.

*The Lord of the Rings*, by J.R.R. Tolkien. The complete trilogy, dramatized with an outstanding cast.

*B is For Beer*, by Tom Robbins. Yes, believe it or not...children's book about beer, and also a book for adults! The work of maverick bestselling novelist Tom Robbins, internationally known for his ability to both seriously illuminate and comically entertain.

*These and many other new audiobooks are now available at the Takoma Park Library.*



# Curbside Recycling Expands

By Daryl Braithwaite  
Public Works Director

Residents served by the City’s curbside recycling collection program can now recycle more items. The expanded program will accept any kind of glass, metal or plastic beverage or food container. 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 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 Oswego Avenue, 301-891-7623, or review the information on the City’s website [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

## PAPER

- Newspaper (with inserts)
- Magazines, catalogs and phone books
- Junk mail and office paper
- Paperboard boxes (cereal boxes, etc. – remove liners)
- Frozen food packaging
- Corrugated cardboard boxes (please break down and fold up)
- Computer print outs
- Books (paperbacks, textbooks and hardback – though best to offer them for reuse to the Library or organizations that can reuse them)
- Non-metallic wrapping paper
- Asceptic/gable top milk and juice cartons

## CONTAINERS AND OTHER

- Glass beverage containers and jars

- Ferrous and bi-metal food and beverage containers
- All narrow necked plastic bottles – Code 1 – 7 – (no motor oil or containers used for hazardous chemicals)
- Wide mouth plastic containers (examples: peanut butter, yogurt, margarine, whipped topping, etc.)
- Aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil and pie pans (clean)
- Rigid plastic containers including milk and soda bottles, plastic buckets, laundry baskets, lawn furniture, flower pots, drinking cups, 5-gallon bottles, plastic toys and broken plastic garbage and recycling bins
- Plastic film – must be in placed in a bag to keep it contained, includes grocery bags, stretch film or shrink wrap

# 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 to 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 It 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. Much of City TV programming is streaming live on the website as well. Be sure

to visit City TV’s award-winning webpage at [www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable](http://www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable) for more information.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Dubs of Takoma Park City TV events may be purchased on VHS or DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org) for more information.

## CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - JULY 2009

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	PreSchool Power!	Education TV	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	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				Road to Recovery	Takoma Park Folk Festival
NOON				Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	
1:00 PM	Education TV	Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
2:00 PM	NASA 360		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	Music da Camera
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Music da Camera		Road to Recovery			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	Preschool Power	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Preschool Power	
5:00 PM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA 360	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Education TV	
6:00 PM		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art
7:00 PM				Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Jazz Night	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					
9:00 PM							Coffeehouse
10:00 PM		Takoma Jazz Night		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
11:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots		Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited		
12:00 Midnight			Takoma Park Folk Festival			Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	
1:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival						

# 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 great 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 Marcy Marxer, 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 Rouler* (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!



# Takoma Park Gets Jazzy



**The Takoma Park Jazz Fest, in Old Town Takoma Park on June 14. With the theme, "Swing's the Thing," there was plenty of danceable music with 12 bands on two separate stages, along with food vendors and art/craft displays.**

**Photos by Lonni Moffet**

## 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 place down, a place, Montgomery County works very closely with you. In my experience, when there was a place that was a problem, the County re-

sponded 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.