

EN ESPAÑOL:  
INFORMACIÓN  
SOBRE LAS  
ELECCIONES

En pagina 7

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

# Takoma Park

## NEWSLETTER

NO TRASH  
HOLIDAYS

Trash collection  
on schedule this  
month.

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

AUGUST 2009

## TP Public Works Plans Renovation

By VIRGINIA MYERS

It may not be glamorous, but for Public Works staff who have long made do in 50-year-old buildings, the possibility of a truck washing bay, individual locker room showers (instead of the current gang-style arrangement) and reliable heating and cooling included in the proposed renovation plans being developed for the facility are improvements worth looking forward to.

Plans are moving ahead for an extensive renovation of the facility, which currently includes five buildings for equipment storage and maintenance, and offices. An initial master plan proposal, from architects Bignell, Watkins and Hasser, calls for combining and reconfiguring two of the buildings to maximize office and locker room space; tearing down the existing truck storage building and replacing it with one that can accommodate the City's trash trucks (which currently do not fit under cover); replacing the leaking roof and damaged wall on the current equipment storage building;

### RENOVATION

continues on page 5

## INSIDE:

New Eateries ..... Page 3

Election Calendar ..... Page 6

National Night Out ..... Page 8



### Parading for the Fourth

Music rang all up and down the streets of Takoma Park when bagpipes and drums, marching bands, guitars and even cellos joined antique cars, floats, marching children and several alternative forms of transportation – including a circular “conference bicycle” and a rickshaw – for the annual Independence Day Parade. For more photos, see page 12.

Photo by Lonni Moffet

## Takoma Park Elementary Ships Out

### *Renovation sends students to Bethesda holding school for a year*

By JOY LAWSON JONES

In just a few weeks, the 2009-2010 school year will begin, and Takoma Park Elementary School students will move for one year from Holly Avenue to a holding school in Bethesda while their home school building is expanded by a new addition. The expansion will allow TPES to serve a total of 411 students (current enrollment is 394) in permanent classrooms, disposing with the portables that have handled overflow enrollment for years.

TPES moved out of its building completely when school let out this past June, and demolition, land-clearing and some of the construction has already begun. TPES students are expected to return to the renovated Holly Avenue site at the start of the 2010-2011 academic year.

The addition will replace all of the previously existing portable classrooms, and includes 16 new classrooms. There will also be a pre-K room, a day care room, ESOL and speech therapy rooms, a new computer lab, a counselor's office, and a staff lounge. In addition, a new lane off Philadelphia Avenue will accommodate school buses. Changes will also be made to the front entrance of the school, to the all-purpose room, and some other rooms at the front of the building. In concert with Takoma Park's reputation for architectural preservation and environmental care, parents are already working with the construction firm to maintain the TPES atrium and to choose appropriate plantings for the site.

Shruti Bhatnagar is president of TPES

PTA, and along with other members of the TPES community, she is determined to work toward a smooth and successful move to the Grosvenor Holding School. Under her leadership, the PTA mounted teams of committees and organized dozens of parents and other volunteers to deal with every aspect of the move, including pre-move preparations, community outreach, transportation planning and design and construction.

Says Bhatnagar, “The TPES community has been just wonderful and so supportive about the move. I can't say enough about how parents and whole families have pitched in to help with every aspect of this undertaking. Everyone wants the move to work well and be as minimally disruptive to the children as possible... even pre-K parents whose children are not yet enrolled have been rolling up their sleeves to help out.” According to Bhatnagar, parents are participating actively on every subcommittee involved with the move, donating additional time, money and supplies, especially during the final weeks of packing. The PTA mounted a special project, *Passport Week*, funded by parent donations and PTA dollars, that provided multicultural, globally-focused learning activities during the last week of school after all educational materials had been packed for the move to Grosvenor.

An especially sensitive issue was deciding when and how to tell students about the move. Bhatnagar praises school counselor, Abby Golden, for her work with teachers, parents, the PTA and Principal Zadia Gad-

sden: Golden used informal, small groups to communicate about changeover events so that children would not be overwhelmed by information or be over-anxious about the move.

Emily Schabacker is a TPES parent and PTA member whose children will be making the daily commute to Grosvenor by bus. Schabacker gives high marks to Gadsden, school staff and the PTA for communicating with parents about every step of the transition. “I have a lot of confidence in the school administration,” she says. “Everyone has paid a lot of attention to how things will work next year. Everything has been done with the best interests of the children at heart.”

### The Wheels on the Bus

The commute to Grosvenor is expected to take at least 30 minutes, and will be perhaps the most disruptive part of the move. The County is providing bus transportation to all TPES students (including those who usually walked or were driven to TPES) along bus routes worked out by the County Boundary Advisory Committee and the TPES Transportation Committee; the planned bus routes can be seen at the MCPS website: <http://www.montgomery-schoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/busroutes/02754bus.pdf>.

According to MCPS, the MCPS Transportation Department will monitor bus usage during the first two weeks of school and

**ELEMENTARY**  
continues on page 12

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAKOMA PARK, MD  
PERMIT NO. 4422

Mayor & Council  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR\*

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

**Tuesday, August 11** - Tree Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

**Tuesday, August 11** - Committee on the Environment meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, August 18** - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Thursday, August 20** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, August 25** - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

\*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).

### Volunteers Needed for Task Force on Environmental Action

The City Council has established a Task Force on Environmental Action to review the current status of plans and operations related to climate change and the environment and to prepare a roadmap for achieving the vision elaborated in the Strategic Plan. The Task Force will be asked to prepare a report and recommendations by March 31, 2010.

Task Force members will be appointed by the City Council in September. Interested individuals should review information on the City's web page ([www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)) and submit an application by September 3. Contact [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org) or call 301-891-7267 for more information

### Speak with the Mayor

The City Council will be on recess for the month of August 2009. Mayor Bruce Williams will resume his regular office hours on Tuesday, August 25, 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. Residents who need immediate assistance during the recess may contact Peggys Washington, Executive Assistant, at 301-891-7230 or [peggyew@takomagov.org](mailto:peggyew@takomagov.org).



**Bruce Williams**

# 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).

## June 15, 2009 - Special Session

**First Reading Ordinance 2009-37** was accepted, making technical amendments to Takoma Park Code, Title 3, Ethics

**First Reading Ordinance 2009-38** was accepted, authorizing FY 09 Budget Amendment No. 4

**Resolution 2009-30** was adopted, authorizing the City to accept a conveyance of the condemned public nuisance property located at 36 Philadelphia Avenue

**Single Reading Ordinance 2009-39** was adopted, amending a previously awarded contract with ECC for the Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Assessment at Sligo Mill/Poplar Mill

**Single Reading Ordinance 2009-40** was adopted, authorizing the purchase of a roll-off trailer for the Public Works Department

## June 22, 2009 - Regular Meeting

**Resolution 2009-31** was adopted, recognizing Doug Barry for his service as Ward 6 Councilmember

**Resolution 2009-32** was adopted, appointing Donna Victoria to fill the unexpired term of Doug Barry

**Resolution 2009-33** was adopted, commenting on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Preliminary Sector Plan (Prince George's County)

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

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

**Second Reading Ordinance 2009-35** was adopted, adopting the FY10 pay scale for police officers

**Second Reading Ordinance 2009-37** was adopted, making technical amendments to Takoma Park Code, Title 3, Ethics

**Second Reading Ordinance 2009-38** was adopted, authorizing FY 09 Budget Amendment No. 4

**Resolution 2009-34** was adopted, approving 2009 amendments to the Takoma Park Affordable Housing Policy and Action Plan

**Resolution 2009-35** was adopted, authorizing submission of Maryland Municipal League legislative action requests

**The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:**  
**Single Reading Ordinance 2009-41**, authorizing ex-

ecution of a demolition contract for 6614 Allegheny Avenue

**Resolution 2009-36**, authorizing execution of a memorandum of agreement with the Old Takoma Business Association

**Resolution 2009-37**, authorizing execution of a memorandum of agreement with the Crossroads Farmers Market

**Resolution 2009-38**, endorsing purchase of 7411 Aspen Court by the Housing Opportunities Commission

**Resolution 2009-39**, appointing Anne Becker as the Takoma Park Poet Laureate

**Resolution 2009-40**, establishing a small community grant program

**Resolution 2009-41** was adopted, authorizing execution of a memorandum of agreement for continuation of the Community Indicators Project (voting no: Snipper, Williams)

## July 6, 2009 - Special Session

**Resolution 2009-42**, authorizing the FY 2010 Program Open Space allocation

**Single Reading Ordinance 2009-42** was adopted, authorizing the purchase of an automated license plate reader scanning device for the Police Department

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

Board of Elections (one vacancy)

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)

## Small Community Grants Available

The City Council has established a Small Community Grant Program to work in partnership with the community to help achieve the goals established in the Strategic Plan. Funding in the amount of \$20,000 has been allocated for the Small Community Grant Program in FY 2010.

Applicants must show how their proposed project or program directly benefits the Takoma Park community. The Council will consider a broad range of requests, but all grant proposals must describe how the project or program will address the Council's Strategic Plan.

Through this program, the Council seeks to encourage creative thinking about how to advance its goals and to foster the development of new ideas to solve our common problems. Grants may be used as seed money to start new programs. There is no minimum request; small requests for funding of discrete projects are encouraged. The maximum amount of each grant is \$2,500.

The Council is particularly interested in projects that increase community engagement and result in the formation of new neighborhood or tenant associations, or that are done in partnership with and serve to strengthen existing associations.

Grants require receipt of at least 50 percent matching funds from other sources or City funding must be used to leverage funding from other sources. Volunteer hours and in-kind services or donations may be used to match City funds.

A copy of the Strategic Plan, full description of the Small Community Grant Program, and application form is available at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). The fall deadline for applications is October 5, 2009. Grants will be awarded on November 23, 2009. A second round of applications will be accepted January 11, 2010, with grants awarded on February 22, 2010.



# New Restaurants Expand Opportunities to “Eat Local”

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Over the last few months, Takoma Park has welcomed a number of new eateries to town. Here are a handful of promising restaurants — joining the tried and true favorites like Mark's Kitchen, Everyday Gourmet, Savory, Walia, Caribbean Palace, Udupi, the newer Olive Lounge and falafel wagon, Caribbean Sea and so many more. Now there's really no reason not to eat local!

## Roscoe's Neapolitan Pizzeria

7040 Carroll Avenue

301-920-0804

Mon-Sat., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.,

Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

entrees \$8 to \$12

Roscoe's, the new brick oven pizza restaurant in Old Town, is off and running, with a comfortable buzz of patrons even on weekday nights. Customers seem to enjoy the menu: 13 kinds of brick-oven pizzas, with additional toppings like roasted onions, mixed olives, rapini, eggplant and roasted red peppers; six types of paninis (including nutella and banana for the kids); salads spiked with flavorful additions like gorgonzola and golden raisins; and appetizers including a very good skewer of mussels wrapped in prosciutto. Quality is primary here: the mozzarella is house made, as is the tiramisu. Last month, Roscoe's added beer, wine and liquor to the menu, and now specializes in margaritas and mojitos.

Service is friendly, and the restaurant itself is easy-going but stylish, with creamy yellow walls, a warm wood bar, cool floor tiles, and enough room between tables for comfortable conversation.

## Pizza Roma

7322 Carroll Avenue

301-270-9292

Entrees \$5.75-\$10.75

Sun-Thurs, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. and

Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

After months of delay, Pizza Roma, at Takoma Junction, finally opened in May. The new pizzeria has an extensive menu, with everything from a Florentine calzone (with spinach and chicken) to bean pie. There are even pizza slices available. A couple of tables make eat-in a possibility, but the bulk of the business is carryout and delivery.

While the pizza is fine, with a medium crust and slightly sweet, tomatoe-y sauce, there is so much more: We hear the eggplant sub is good. There are also five kinds of calzone, from cheeseburger to all veggie; four pastas; cold and hot subs (including fried fish, and “Seekh Kebob,” a combination of ground beef with spices served with pita); gyros, salads and an array of all-American sides like French fries, Buffalo wings and mozzarella sticks. All of the meat on the menu is Halal, the Muslim equivalent of Kosher — i.e. the meat is acceptable under

Islamic code.

This new pizzeria is the second location for Pizza Roma, which also has a shop in College Park.

## Pupuseria El Comalito

1167-C University Boulevard

301-445-2225

Entrees \$4.95-\$10.95

Mon-Fri. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat. and

Sun. 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

In the realm of “coming and going,” we were sad to see Amado's, a promising home-grown variation of the Chipotle burrito chain, close after less than a year at Takoma-Langley Crossroads. In its place, however, is the appealing Pupuseria El Comalito, in the Takoma Langley shopping center, along the strip of shops between Safeway and Starbuck's.

This El Salvadoran eatery has a full if short menu of authentic fare, including some selections that gringos have probably not encountered before: the fruit salad drink, for example, with chunks of apple, pineapple, grapes and marañon, the fruit of the cashew tree; along with regional beverage favorites tamarind, horchata (a creamy drink made from rice and seeds) and milkshakes in flavors like banana, strawberry and melon. Instead of chicken, the menu offers gallina (hen) — a larger bird typically stewed longer to be juicy and tender, which it is. You can make a meal by selecting from six different types of pupusas, including an ayote (squash) variation (along with the usual combinations of cheese, beans, and meat); chicken or corn tamales; and platanos (plantains). The chicken sandwich, with pulled spiced chicken, looks delicious; there

is also carne asada (grilled steak). Among the desserts: deep fried cassava with sugar cane syrup, a little like a Salvadoran hush puppy.

Décor is much the same as it was for Amado, with lemony bright yellow walls and a spacious dining room; the kitchen is visible from the tables, so you can both see and hear the slap of hands forming tortillas for your meal. And you can choose either table service or carryout. This Pupuseria El Comalito is a second location for the original restaurant in Gaithersburg.

## La Chiquita

940 East West Highway

(301) 270-0366

Entrees \$5-10

7 a.m.-11 p.m. seven days a week

The bright and cheery little patio at La Chiquita, near the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway, feels like a piece of sunny El Salvador transported north and settled along Takoma Park's border. The airy outdoor café, transformed from an old Dairy Queen and later a Chinese carryout, has made full use of its outdoor eating area, and inside the restaurant space is maximized with tall counters and stools. Sit down and you'll feel the impression of having been transported to Central America deepen — there is very little English spoken here, as almost everyone has come for an authentic taste of the homeland.

That's not to say gringos are unwelcome: the menu uses photographs to describe its dishes, making language a non-issue, and the waitresses are friendly and welcoming, whatever language you speak.

La Chiquita's menu will be familiar to

anyone who frequents one of the pupusa wagons that serve so many of our immigrant population. You'll find pupusas and tacos (with chicken, steak, or tongue, with hard-cooked egg, peppers and radish); fajitas with shrimp, beef and chicken; and a hearty chicken sandwich of shredded meat with sauce and tomatoes, cucumbers, avocado and lettuce; along with homey soups with beef, tripe or seafood.

This is La Chiquita's fifth location; others (Chiquita Express) are in Hyattsville, Silver Spring and Riverdale.

## Up and Coming — or Not

Takoma Park still awaits the opening of Avenue Oven, across the street from Roscoe's on Carroll Avenue in the old Taliano's building. Owners Gillian Clark and Robin Smith, formerly of Colorado Kitchen, are busy with their General Store restaurant off Seminary Road in Silver Spring and construction delays have put the Takoma Park project on hold.

Also stalled is the building and possible restaurant John Urciolo had planned for the Laurel Avenue strip of old town, near the town clock. Urciolo's property has been under construction as he upgrades the parking lot, but due to a combination of high impact fees and permit charges plus a change in bank ownership the new building itself has been delayed until the economy turns around, he says. For now, Urciolo will stick to renovating the parking lot and adding parking on the lower end, with a staircase up to store level.



Roscoe's co-owner, Edward Gossman, left, has been busy at the new pizzeria on Carroll Avenue. La Chiquita, above, offers cheery atmosphere and authentic El Salvadoran fare.

Photos by Stephen Abrams



## THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, or letters to the editor will be considered for publication if sent to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of

Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

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

Published material containing opinions does not neces-

sarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.



## HOUSING Briefs

### Housing Programs Office Moves Closer

The Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), which administers the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) and other affordable housing programs in Montgomery County, has opened a customer service office in Silver Spring. You no longer have to go to Kensington to meet with a person who can answer all the questions you have about affordable housing programs. The new office is located at 8241 Georgia Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Floor in Silver Spring. You can also call 240-773-9009 for further information.

### Save on Property Tax: Applications Due Sept. 1

Homeowner and Renter Tax credit applications are available for the 2009 tax year and are due on September 1, 2009. The tax credit programs are designed to help low income home owners and renters by limiting the amount that they must pay in property taxes. To receive the tax credit, an application and all supporting documentation must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation no later than

September 1 of each year.

To obtain an application for the home owners' or renters' tax credit programs, call the State of Maryland at 1-800-944-7403, access it on their website, [www.dat.state.md.us/datweb/taxcredits.html](http://www.dat.state.md.us/datweb/taxcredits.html) or call Linda Walker, 301-891-7222.

### Rent Increase Training for Landlords August 6, October 8

The Department of Housing and Community Development is sponsoring a training for landlords who are subject to the Rent Stabilization Law and want to more clearly understand the guidelines for filing a Fair Return

Rent Increase Petition. A Fair Return petition is the process by which a landlord may seek rent increases that are in addition to the rent stabilization allowance allowed each year. The petition is reviewed by the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs.

Two classes are currently scheduled, one on August 6 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. and the other on October 8, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The classes will take place at the Community Center, located at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. Pre-registration is required. Please call 301-891-7222 to register for either class.



BY MOSES A. WILDS, JR.,  
LANDLORD-TENANT  
COORDINATOR

*A city landlord contacted the Mailbox regarding whether he may remove window air conditioners from his building because of spiraling utility costs, whether he may impose a new fee for air conditioners he provides and how much notice he is required to provide his tenants regarding increases in rental fees for air conditioners he provides during the summer months.*

In accordance with City Ordinance 2004-36, which was adopted by the Takoma Park City Council on December 14, 2004, landlords may not remove air conditioners or otherwise cease to provide air conditioning to their tenants if it was provided in the building in the past. The city's property maintenance code requires that each individual room air conditioning unit, regardless of its current rating, must be served by not less than an individual 20-amp circuit using Number 12 copper wire which terminates in a single receptacle.

The ordinance also requires that all leases must include a provision which indicates

the building's air conditioning policy. An extra fee may not be imposed if the provision of air conditioning has always been included in the rent without such a fee. If the building policy has been to not provide air conditioning, that policy may remain but it must have been indicated in the lease.

If the landlord pays for the building's electricity and a separate fee has been charged for increased electricity usage during the summer months (May through September), that fee must be for the actual utility charges incurred. If the policy has been for the landlord to charge a fee for renting window air conditioner units to his/her tenants, that fee may not exceed \$35 per month during the summer months. Tenants may, if permitted by their lease, provide their own air conditioner unit if the tenant's unit is equivalent in size, configuration and energy efficiency standards to the one previously provided by the landlord.

A landlord seeking to increase a fee for optional services or amenities must, in accordance with Sec. 6.16.110.D of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law, disclose them at the beginning of the tenancy in the lease or by giving written notice two months prior to the date the increase is to become effective. An increase proposed to become effective for instance on June 1, 2009 would have required the tenant's receipt of written advisement of it no later than March 31, 2009.

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).

## COLTA Hearings Summarize Landlord/Tenant Disputes

### Gordon v. Simms (Hearing Date 1/13/09)

On February 25, the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant's complaint that her landlord was responsible for a defective tenancy because of a rodent infestation for which the tenant sought unspecified compensation for a reduction in service. The commission ruled that the landlord was not responsible for a defective tenancy since based on the code enforcement officer and commercial exterminator testimony at the hearing, the landlord had made timely and good faith efforts to remedy the alleged infestation and had eliminated any infestation that may have existed. The commission further found based on the testimony of the code enforcement officer, the landlord's commercial exterminator and the landlord, that the tenant had hindered efforts to address the alleged infestation because of the condition of the tenant's apartment, her unwillingness to move her belongings to facilitate the extermination efforts and her refusal to allow access to her rental unit.

### Saunders v. Tenacity 7333 New Hampshire Avenue LLC/Dreyfuss Management (Hearing Date May 12, 2009)

On July 6 the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant's complaint that (1) her landlord (Tenacity NH Avenue, LLC) and the property manager (Dreyfuss Management) had locked off and deprived her use of the apartment's balcony, (2) had allowed bird droppings, to which the tenant is allergic, to accumulate on the locked off balcony causing her to suffer allergy attacks and other health difficulties, and (3) had allowed four dirty rugs to remain on her kitchen floor. As relief, the tenant asked to be reimbursed \$50 per month for not being able to use her balcony, requested that her balcony be cleaned every two weeks, requested that management provide her at least 24 hours written notice before entering her apartment and that management be precluded from entering her apartment unless she was present.



BY MOSES A. WILDS, JR.,  
LANDLORD-TENANT  
COORDINATOR

The commission found that the landlord was liable for a defective tenancy for the closure of the balcony to the apartment and for the tenant's loss of use of the balcony based on the actual notice of the defect conveyed by county housing code inspector's initial notation of the unsafe balcony conditions and subsequent orders that the balconies be closed off until repairs of the balcony were made. The fact that the landlord had actual notice of the defect and the fact that the balcony remained locked more than

one and one-half years later confirmed that the landlord did not make good faith efforts to rectify the defect within one week of receiving notice in accordance with Sec. 6.16.170 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law.

In awarding the tenant a rent credit of \$50 per month for the loss of the use of her balcony, the commission noted that in the absence of the landlord's presentation of a different balcony credit amount based on industry standards or other calculations, it relied on the tenant's testimony regarding her frequent year round use of the balcony and that not being able to use it greatly diminished her enjoyment of the apartment. The commission's rent refund award to the tenant commences on March 1, 2008 (the first rent due date within one year preceding the complaint filing date of February 25, 2009) and continuing through July 31, 2009 for a total of \$850. Additionally, the tenant's monthly rent is to be reduced by \$50 per month, beginning with August 2009, and is to continue until the landlord restores the tenant's access to the balcony. The commission did not find a defective tenancy based on the alleged filthy condition of the four vinyl tiles in the tenant's kitchen.

The commission ordered the landlord to inspect the tenant's balcony for bird droppings and other debris every two weeks from spring through fall, until the tenant's balcony access is restored, and to clean the balcony during these periods as needed. The landlord was ordered to arrange the balcony inspections/balcony cleanings with the tenant, who must be provided 48 hours advance written notice of intent to enter the tenant's apartment as required by Sec. 16.140 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law.

## Grant Applications Available for Community Projects Deadline September 2

The City of Takoma Park is accepting proposals for the use of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to community organizations for a wide range of activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and the provision of improved community facilities and services.

Approximately \$25,000 is available for programming which primarily benefits individuals or households of low and moderate incomes. An estimated \$100,000 is available for capital projects

benefiting low and moderate income neighborhoods. The project could be something that the applying organization does on its own or in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. Funds would be available in mid- to late 2011.

Applications are available online [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2009.

For more information, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7224 or by email, [SaraD@takomagov.org](mailto:SaraD@takomagov.org).



## Public Tree Trimming Is Illegal

Admitting that recent anonymous tree-trimming may have been well intentioned, Takoma Park Arborist Todd Bolton was nevertheless furious that someone recently lopped off dozens of branches from City serviceberry trees along Poplar Avenue. The trimming took place without the City's knowledge, and was done in a manner that threatens the health and quite possibly the survival of the trees. A similar incidence occurred last year with redbud trees along Elm Avenue.

Bolton wants to remind residents that trimming City trees is a Class B Municipal Infraction subject to a \$400 fine, per the City's tree ordinance. If any resident has information about illegal pruning he encourages them to contact him at 301-891-7612.



Photo by Todd Bolton

## RENOVATION

continued from page 1

installing security gates; and upgrading energy efficiency throughout.

"It is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the Public Works staff that they are as productive and efficient with City resources as they are, given the condition of the current facilities," says Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite. "We are all looking forward to the improved working conditions."

The project is still in its design stage. The current FY10 budget included \$2 million earmarked for the renovation; construction estimates call for an additional \$1.5 million to complete it as currently outlined. On July 27, City Council added \$1 million to the FY10 budget to make up the difference, and the rest of the funding is being sought from outside sources. Council also specified that a geo thermal heating system, regrading of the Ritchie Avenue entrance and LEED environmental certification requirements be completed. Braithwaite, with City Manager Barbara Matthews and other City staff, will determine which other elements of the plan should be

completed with the first designation of funds. Priorities include repair and/or replacement of the two failing structures and the construction of locker room, showers and bathrooms to meet building code.

Most of the changes to the Public Works compound are utilitarian, but many will make a big difference in the day to day operation of the facilities. For example, the design elements included in the Master Plan would reconfigure the entrance to the office building so that it is no longer obstructed, and add a lobby for greeting and directing visitors. The entrance, restrooms and locker rooms would be made ADA accessible. Bathrooms, currently unheated, would get HVAC services. Mechanic bays, currently too small for some City vehicles, would be enlarged to accommodate two vehicles at a time, or one large truck. Paint, oil and chemicals would get separate storage areas appropriate for hazardous materials, and work areas would be upgraded with proper ventilation. The steep grade of the Ritchie Avenue entrance, where trucks enter the property, would be reduced so that larger trucks, which currently "bottom out" on their way in or out, can

pass through safely, without damaging their undersides. Neighbors have indicated that they prefer this option over trucks entering on the more residential Oswego Avenue side of the property.

The City, in keeping with its strategic plan initiative of sustainability, has also asked the architects to incorporate green features in the renovation. Staff will pursue LEED certification, a designation awarding environmentally sensitive construction and maintenance systems. Among the "green" possibilities for the renovated facility: using building materials with recycled content; installing solar water heating; employing high-efficiency plumbing fixtures; installing full cutoff light fixtures (to reduce light pollution); using a green roof to minimize stormwater runoff; and harvesting stormwater for truck washing and for watering the nursery plants.

The development of construction documents is expected to take place over the fall, and construction of the first phase of the renovation would begin in 2010. The Department anticipates remaining on site during construction.



**The City of Takoma Park is committed to sustainable practices, according to its recently approved strategic plan – and City staff members are apparently leading the way. Here, Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite shows her commitment at her reserved parking spot.**

Photo by Virginia Myers



Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission would like to let you know about:  
**"Closet Opera" by John Borstel**



An exhibition of photographs and objects by John Borstel in the Atrium of Takoma Park Community Center - 7500 Maple Ave Takoma Park, MD  
July 19 through August 29, 2009 - Closing Reception: Friday August 21, 6-9 PM

### New Exhibit in the Atrium Gallery

"Closet Opera," an exhibition by artist John Borstel, can be viewed through the end of August in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center. The show creates a mini-melodrama where 40 self-portrait photographs meet the transmuted contents of a collector's closet. A reception celebrating the work will be held on Friday, August 21, from 6 to 9 p.m.

### Call for Entries - Shadowplay Photography Celebration

ShadowPlay — a celebration of the art of photography — continues this fall with the theme of "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).

### Folk Fest Pays Tribute to Pete Seeger

The 32nd annual Takoma Park Folk Festival will conclude with a tribute to famed folk singer Pete Seeger, who celebrated his 90th birthday this spring. It's Takoma Park's contribution to "For Pete's Sake, Sing" commemorations that have been held worldwide throughout the year.

The Folk Festival will be held on Sunday, September 13, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Takoma Park Middle School. It's free and family-friendly, supported by a grant from the City of Takoma Park, as well as other sponsors.

At about 5:45 p.m., the musicians at each of the festival's seven stages will conclude their performances by leading the audience in songs made famous by Seeger. "Many performers will sing Pete Seeger songs throughout the day of the festival," said Catherine Chapman, co-chair of the Program Committee. "But we wanted to wrap it up with something very special. We think that a giant sing-along going on simultaneously across the event will capture some of Pete's spirit."

This year's festival will include performances by local favorites such as Ruthie and the Wranglers, the Jelly Roll Mortals, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, Joe Hickerson, IlyAIMY, and Cletus Kennelly and Lori Kelley. The Grassy Nook Stage will feature several bands formed by Takoma Park middle schoolers and high schoolers, an experiment in 2008 that proved to be highly popular, said Chapman.

"The music and dance represents a wide range of styles and cultures. Plus, we'll have a large crafts show, more than a dozen food vendors, and special activities for kids," said Chapman.

For more information, go to [www.tpff.org](http://www.tpff.org)

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)





# City Elections Approach

*It's an election year in Takoma Park. To get ready to vote in the November 3 election for Mayor and all six Councilmembers, take a look at the following information regarding nominations, voting rules and registration deadlines.*



## Voter Registration for Takoma Park residents – U.S. citizens and non-citizens

To vote in the election on November 3, a voter must be a qualified voter of the city and must have resided within the corporate limits of the City of Takoma Park for 30 days immediately preceding the election. **The voter registration cut-off date is October 5.** Changes of address must also be filed by this date. Voter registration or change of address forms are available in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center and in the City Library.

## Thinking About Running for Office?

Candidates for Mayor or Councilmember who wish to have their names placed on the ballot for the November 3 election must receive a nomination and a second at the Nominating Caucus on September 29. Contact the City Clerk for an information package for candidates.

Candidates for the office of Mayor must have resided in the city for at least six months immediately preceding his/her election, and must be a qualified voter of the city. The Mayor must maintain principal residence in the city during his/her term of office. If the Mayor changes his/her principal residence from the city, the Mayor's term shall be immediately terminated and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Section 308 of the City Charter. The Mayor is prohibited from holding other publicly elective offices during his/her term of office, and is prohibited from serving on any city board, commission, or other body that has authority to adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes.

Candidates for the office of Councilmember shall have resided in the city (and ward from which they are elected) for at least six months immediately preceding their election and shall be qualified voters of the city. The Councilmembers shall maintain their principal residence in the city and in their ward during their term of office. If a Councilmember changes his/her principal residence from the city or from the ward from which the Councilmember was elected, the Councilmember's term shall be immediately terminated and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Section 308 of the City Charter. The Councilmembers are prohibited from holding other publicly elected offices during the term of office, and are prohibited from serving on any city board, commission, or other body that has authority to adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes.

## Nominating Caucus

The Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29, to accept nominations of candidates for Mayor

## 2009 Election Calendar

☐ **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 7:30 P.M. - Nominating Caucus**

☐ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 5 P.M. - Deadline for candidates nominated at Caucus to withdraw.**

☐ **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 - Voter registration cut-off date.**

☐ **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 4 P.M. - Last day to make application for regular absentee ballot**

☐ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 - Late absentee balloting begins**

☐ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 5 P.M. - Any write-in candidate for Mayor or Councilmember who wishes to be pre-registered as a write-in candidate and to have his/her name posted**

**in the voting booth for the purpose of identifying him/her as a candidate for office, must file his/her name with the City Clerk by this deadline.**

☐ **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, ELECTION DAY, POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. at the Community Center. Absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk prior to the closing of the polls.**

☐ **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:30 P.M. - Special meeting of the City Council to receive the certification of the election results.**

☐ **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 7:30 P.M. - Inauguration - Mayor and Councilmembers take office**

and Councilmember. The Nominating Caucus will be held in the Azalea Room of the Takoma Park Community Center–Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Only qualified voters of the City may participate in the Nominating Caucus. To participate in the caucus, your registration or change of address form must be in the hands of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or for non-U.S. Citizens, voter registration applications must be received by the City Clerk, by the close of day (5 p.m.) on Monday, September 28.

Nominations of candidates for Mayor shall be made on motion by any qualified voter of the city, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the City, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for Councilmember shall be made on motion of any qualified voter of her/his ward, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of his/her ward, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Any nominated candidate may decline a nomination during the nomina-

tion meeting. A person may only accept a nomination of one city office. The name of each person nominated for the office of Mayor and Councilmember shall be placed upon the official ballot unless he/she shall file a declination with the City Clerk within three (3) days after his/her nomination.

Any person nominated as a candidate must meet the qualifications of the office for which she/he is nominated.

A sample ballot and information about candidates for office will be published in the November issue of the *Takoma Park Newsletter*.

## Election Day

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 is Election Day. The election will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

City elections are nonpartisan, and no party labels will be displayed on the ballot. Write-in votes are permitted in city elections. A voter may write-in the name of any [candidate] person for the office of

Mayor or Councilmember in the method provided by the City Clerk on election day.

## Instant Runoff Voting in City Elections

The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 to adopt an instant runoff voting system for elections. Voters will have the opportunity to rank candidates by order of choice. The candidate receiving a majority of votes for Mayor shall be declared elected. The candidate for Council receiving a majority of votes in each ward shall be declared elected.

The first choice marked on each ballot shall be counted initially as one vote. If any candidate receives a majority of the first choices, that candidate shall be declared elected.

If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, the judges of election shall conduct an instant runoff consisting of additional rounds of ballot counting. In every round of counting, each ballot is counted as one vote for that ballot's highest ranked advancing candidate. "Advancing candidate" means a candidate for that office who has not been eliminated. A candidate receiving a majority of valid votes in a round shall be declared elected.

More information on instant runoff voting is available on the City of Takoma Park website: [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

## Election Judges Needed

The Takoma Park Board of Elections is seeking election judges to serve during the election. Expect long hours and hard work that will prove to be both rewarding and exciting!

Persons who have experience as judges or have bilingual abilities are urged to apply. Registered voters of Takoma Park who are not citizens of the United States are also encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to Takoma Park residents.

City election judges must be registered Montgomery County voters or non-U.S. citizen voters registered with the City of Takoma Park. A Takoma Park election judge may not be a candidate for elective office, nor serve as a campaign manager or treasurer, nor take any other part in a campaign for a candidate or ballot initiative.

Election judges serve during the entire election and must attend one scheduled training prior to the election. Election judges are paid \$135 for their service. A chief judge receives \$175. For further information or to request an application, contact the City Clerk's Office by phone at 301-891-7214 or 301-891-7267 or e-mail [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org). Application deadline: September 18.

**For additional information about any facet of the election, contact the City Clerk's Office at [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org) or by calling 301-891-7267 or 301-891-7214**



# El Método de las Elecciones Municipales

*Es el año de elecciones en Takoma Park. Prepárese para votar en la elección el 3 de noviembre para elegir un Alcalde y seis Miembros del Consejo, leyendo la siguiente información sobre nominaciones, las reglas de votación y la fecha límite para registrarse como votante.*



## Registración de Votantes para Residentes de Takoma Park – Ciudadanos Americanos y No Americanos

Para votar en la elección el 3 de noviembre, el votante tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en la ciudad de Takoma Park y haber residido en la ciudad por 30 días inmediatamente antes del día de la elección. La fecha límite para registrarse para votar es el 5 de octubre. Aviso de cambio de domicilio también tendrán que ser sometidos para esta fecha. Se pueden obtener formulario de registración de votante o cambio de domicilio en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center y en la Librería de Takoma Park.

## ¿Está Pensando en Presentarse como Candidato?

Candidatos para el cargo de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo que desee tener su nombre en la boleta electoral para la elección del 3 de noviembre, tendrá que haber recibido una nominación y esa nominación tiene que haber sido apoyada por un segundo votante en la Reunión Electoral el 29 de septiembre. Contacte la Secretaría Municipal para obtener información adicional para candidatos.

Candidatos para el cargo de Alcalde tendrán que haber residido en la ciudad por lo menos seis meses inmediatamente antes de su elección y tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en Takoma Park. El Alcalde tendrá que mantener su residencia principal en la ciudad durante su cargo. Si el Alcalde cambia su domicilio principal fuera de la ciudad, su cargo de Alcalde será terminado inmediatamente y el cargo vacante se llenará como indica la Sección 308 del Código de la Ciudad. Se le prohíbe al Alcalde mantener otro cargo público electoral durante su cargo y se le prohíbe servir en cualquier otro consejo de la ciudad, delegación, u otro grupo que tenga autorización de juzgar o resolver disputas.

Candidatos del Consejo tendrán que haber residido en la ciudad (y el distrito de donde eran elegidos) por lo menos seis meses inmediatamente antes de su elección y tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en Takoma Park. Los Miembros del Consejo tendrán que mantener su residencia principal en la ciudad durante su cargo. Si algún miembro cambia su domicilio principal fuera de la ciudad o distrito en el cual fue elegido, su cargo como Miembro del Consejo será terminado inmediatamente y el cargo vacante se llenará como indica la Sección 308 de el Código de la Ciudad. Se les prohíbe a los Miembros del Consejo mantener otro cargo público electoral durante su cargo y se les prohíbe servir en cualquier otro consejo de la ciudad, delegación, u otro grupo que tenga autorización de juzgar o resolver disputas.

## Reunión Electoral

La Reunión Electoral empezará a las

## El Calendario de la Elección Municipal del 2009

**MARTES, 29 DE SEPTIEMBRE, 7:30 P.M.**

**Reunión Electoral**

**VIERNES, 2 DE OCTUBRE, 5 P.M.**

**Fecha límite para retirarse como candidato nominado en la reunión electoral.**

**LUNES, 5 DE OCTUBRE**

**Fecha límite para registrarse para votar.**

**MARTES, 27 DE OCTUBRE, 4 P.M.**

**Fecha límite para solicitar pa-peleta regular de voto ausente.**

**MIÉRCOLES, 28 DE OCTUBRE**

**Comienza la votación tardía por boleta en ausencia.**

**VIERNES, 30 DE OCTUBRE, 5 P.M.**

**Fecha límite para cualquier candidato autonominado para el puesto de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo que desee ser pre-registrado como candidato autonomi-**

**nado y para tener su nombre colocado en la cabina electoral para identificarlo/la como candidato, tendrá que someter su nombre a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal.**

**MARTES, 3 DE NOVIEMBRE DIA DE LA ELECCIÓN MUNICIPAL, las urnas de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park. Esta es la fecha y hora límite para someter boletas en ausencia a la Secretaría Municipal.**

**MIÉRCOLES, 4 DE NOVIEMBRE, 7:30 P.M.**

**Junta especial del Consejo de la Ciudad para recibir certificación de los resultados de la elección.**

**LUNES, 16 DE NOVIEMBRE, 7:30 P.M.**

**Inauguración – Alcalde y Miembros del Consejo tomarán puesto.**

7:30 p.m. el martes, 29 de septiembre para aceptar nominaciones de candidatos para el puesto de Alcalde y Miembros del Consejo. La Reunión Electoral se llevará a cabo en el salón Azalea del Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park – Sam Abbot Citizen's Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Solamente votantes capacitados en Takoma Park podrán participar en la Reunión Electoral. Para participar en la Reunión Electoral, su aplicación de registración para votar y cambio de domicilio tendrá que haber sido recibido por la Oficina de Elecciones del Condado de Montgomery, o para los Ciudadanos No Americanos, aplicación de registración para votar tendrá que haber ser recibida por la Secretaría Municipal, con fecha límite del lunes, 28 de septiembre antes de las 5 p.m.

Nominaciones de candidatos para el puesto de Alcalde se hará con una moción hecho por cualquier votante capacitado de la Ciudad de Takoma Park, y si la nominación es apoyada por un segundo votante capacitado de la Ciudad de Takoma Park, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. Nominaciones de cada candidato para Miembro del Consejo se hará con una moción por cualquier votante capacitado en el distrito de tal candidato. Cualquier candidato nominado podrá rechazar una nominación durante la junta de nominaciones. Una person podrá aceptar solamente una nominación de un sólo puesto. El nombre da cada persona nominada por el puesto de Alcalde y Miembro de Consejo será nom-

brado en la boleta oficial a menos que esa persona entregue una carta por escrito rechazando la nominación en la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal dentro de los 3 días después de su nominación.

Cualquier persona nominado como candidato para el puesto de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo tendrá que satisfacer los requisitos de tal puesto.

Una boleta de muestra e información sobre los candidatos será publicada en el periódico de Takoma Park del mes de noviembre.

## Día de la Elección

Martes, 3 de Noviembre del 2009 es el día de la elección. La elección tomará a cabo en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Las urnas de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. Las elecciones de la ciudad no son partidistas, y no habrá rótulos de partidos en las boletas. Voto por candidato no oficial escritos en la boleta se permite en las elecciones de la ciudad. El votante podrá escribir el nombre de cualquier (candidato) persona par el cargo de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo siguiendo el metodo dado por la Secretaría Municipal en el día de la elección.

## Segunda Vuelta de Elecciones Inmediata

El Consejo de la Ciudad enmendó la Carta Municipal en el 2006 adoptando un sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones. Se le permitirá a los votantes clasificar a los candidatos según su orden de preferencia. El candidato para el cargo de Alcalde que reciba la mayoría de los votos será declarado como elegido. El candidato para Miembro del Consejo que recibe la mayoría de los votos en cada distrito será declarado como elegido.

La primera selección marcada en la boleta será contada inicialmente como un sólo voto. Si un candidato recibe la mayoría de esas primeras selecciones, ese candidato será declarado como elegido.

Si ninguno de los candidatos es elegido por la mayoría como primera opción, los jueces conducirán una segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediata que consiste en vueltas adicionales para contar las boletas. En cada vuelta donde se cuenta las boletas, cada boleta se cuenta como un voto para el candidato avanzado que fue seleccionado. "Candidato avanzado" se refiere a un candidato que no ha sido eliminado. Un candidato que recibe la mayoría de votos validos en una vuelta será declarado como elegido.

Más infomación sobre el sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato se puede obtener el la página web: [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)

## Se Necesita Jueces para la Elección

El Grupo de Elecciones de Takoma Park busca jueces electorales para servir duante la elección. Cuento con largas horas y trabajo duro que resultará provechoso y emocionante!

Se le incita a personas que tengan experiencia como juez o que sean bilingües que apliquen. Votantes registrados en Takoma Park son ciudadanos No Americanos también se les pide que apliquen. Se le dará preferencia a los residentes de Takoma Park.

Jueces que participen en las elecciones municipales tendrán que ser registrado en el Condado de Montgomery como votante o registrado como votante ciudadano No Americano en Takoma Park. El juez de la elección de Takoma Park no podrá ser un candidato para el cargo de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo, ni servir como director de campaña o tesorero o participar en una campaña de un candidato o iniciativa de boleta.

Jueces de la elección servirán durante toda la elección y tendrá que asistir a una charla programada antes de la elección. Jueces de la elección recibirán un pago de \$135. El juez principal recibirá \$175. Para más información o para pedir un formulario, comínquese con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al 301-891-7214 o 301-891-7267 o por correo electrónico [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org). Fecha limite : 18 de septiembre.

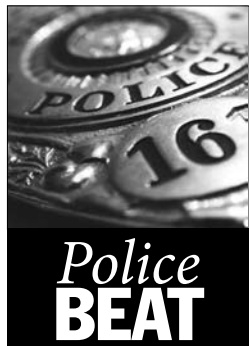
**Para más infomación sobre la elección, favor contactar a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal: [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org) o llame al 301-891-7267 o 301-891-7214**



# Music, Games, Demonstrations at Free National Night Out

By CATHY PLEVY

The City of Takoma Park Police Department would like to encourage you to attend one of the City's annual National Night Out



**Police  
BEAT**

Activities at two different locations. Remember, August 4 is National Night Out, a nationally recognized celebration. National Night Out is a time for community members to come out of their homes, meet their neighbors,

local police officials and other governmental representatives.

## Essex House Celebrates Night Out on Maple Avenue

While the City of Takoma Park Police will be participating in all events, they are the lead organizers and hosts for the "National

Night Out" at the Essex House, 7777 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, on Tuesday, August 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. The event has been extended this year to show a "safe" video to the children on a big outdoor screen.

The video is titled "Stranger Safety" and is an award-winning video put out by John Walsh, host of America's Most Wanted. The Safe Side, which produced the video, is a financial supporter of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. The video discusses with children potentially dangerous situations. It keeps kids engaged while introducing them to seven easy-to-remember "Hot Tips." Hosted by "Safe Side Superchick" and featuring a cameo by John Walsh, the program is fun to watch and never scary.

There will be a Tuesday morning pre-National Night Out "safe walk" kickoff event with the community.

The early part of National Night Out will be filled with music by local band, Positive Vibrations — it is tradition for them to play at our National Night Out. Activities will

## "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" August 4

**Two locations:**  
**Essex House,**  
**777 Maple Ave. 6-10 p.m.**  
**Takoma-Langley**  
**Crossroads, 5:30-9 p.m.**

include food, music, games, face painting, tattoos, moon bounce, raffles, fire truck, 9-1-1 emergency center demonstration by the Fire Chief, safety information, police horse demonstration, other children's activities and officers on bikes. Free child identification services will be available.

For more information at this location contact Catherine Plevy at 301-891-7142/240-338-2901 or Sgt. Tina Smith at 301-891-7106.

## Takoma/Langley Crossroads Celebrates National Night Out

The Maryland International Corridor, in collaboration with various organizations and agencies, will host "National Night Out" in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads on Tuesday, August 4 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at 8011 New Hampshire Avenue (in the parking lot adjacent to the McDonald's and former Toys R Us building).

Representatives from Montgomery

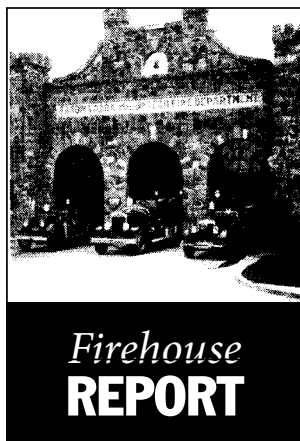
County, Prince George's County, the City of Takoma Park, non-profits and local businesses will be in attendance the evening of the event.

National Night Out activities will include music, raffles, games, face painting, moon bounce, martial arts demonstration, performances from local cultural groups and other children's activities, a candlelight vigil (8:30 p.m.) and ice cream. Participants will also be able to view the police and public safety vehicles on display from the Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Takoma Park Police Department. Free child identification services will be available.

Key sponsors of this important annual event will include El-Zol 99.1 FM Radio and local businesses and organizations, including but not limited to McDonald's and Home Depot. County elected officials, police officers, and representatives of county and municipal agencies are also planning to attend.

For more information about this location contact CSAFE at 301-439-0971 or 301-439-0972.

As of June 30, 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 384 fire-related incidents in 2009. The department handled or assisted with 1,350 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,734 this year. Totals for 2008 were 351 and 1,415 respectively, for a total of 1,766, representing a decrease of 32 incidents.



By JIM JARBOE

800 degrees. A gas flame goes over 1,000 degrees. Your dish towel or pot holder can catch fire at 400 degrees. So can your bathrobe, apron or other loose clothing!

- You should never put anything on the stove you don't want to heat. Never heat cooking oil and leave the room. Clean exhaust hood and duct over stove regularly. Wipe up spilled grease as soon as the surface of the stove is cool.

Keep a fire extinguisher mounted nearby. Only use it if you have been trained to do so. Watch young children when in the kitchen, keep all pot handles on the stove pointing toward the back. Use back burners whenever possible. Never pour water on a grease fire -- it scatters the flame. Instead, when you have a grease fire, turn off the stove and cover the pan or close oven door. Remember, unattended cooking is the number one cause of home fires.

## New Members Join TPVFD

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department recently welcomed two new members, Hannah Raskin and Pierre Aguilar. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Membership Chairman Mike Livingston at the fire station, 240-773-8954.

## Kitchen Fire Safety Tips

- Watch what you put on the stove. An electrical coil reaches a temperature of

## Award Winning Team

Takoma Park firefighters were honored recently with special recognition certificates from the Maryland State Firemen's Association. Edna Fiske, who turned 94 years old this year and completed her 63rd year with the Takoma Park VFD Auxiliary, received an award for "90 Years of Age and Still Serving." The Baker family received an award for "Three Generations Currently Actively Serving." They have served as follows: — Hilda Baker, 57 years; Tina Baker Willey (daughter), 31 years; and Andrew Willey (grandson), three years.

Not pictured are FF/EMT Deanna Stewart, awarded "Top Volunteer Emergency Responder" for the Takoma Park VFD



during 2008. She responded to 198 incidents.

From left, back, TPVFD Chief Jim Jarboe; Auxiliary Sgt. at Arms Andrew Willey; and TPVFD President Elmer Hamm. From left, front, Auxiliary President Edna Fiske; Auxiliary Vice President Tina Willey; and Auxiliary Chaplain Hilda Baker.

# Takoma Park Resident Convicted of Attempted First Degree Murder

By CATHY PLEVY

**O**n December 22, 2008, Carlos Ivan Ovalle, 33, of Takoma Park, Maryland, was arrested for, among other charges, attempted first degree murder and first degree assault. Ovalle's trial was held on July 13, 14 and 15, 2009, at the Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville, Maryland.

On July 15, Ovalle was found guilty of attempted first degree murder, burglary, stalking and two violations of a protective order. Ovalle's sentencing has been scheduled for October 6, 2009. The maximum sentence for the attempted murder conviction is life in prison. The burglary charge carries a sentence up to 20 years and the stalking charge carries a sentence of up to five years. The state will be asking for life imprisonment, according to the prosecuting attorney.

On December 22, 2008, at approximately 12:13 a.m., the Takoma Park Police Department

received a call for a woman crying in an apartment in the 700 block of Hudson Avenue. A veteran female police officer responded to the scene. She located the apartment and heard a commotion outside the door. The officer demanded entry and was refused. She advised dispatch that she needed back-up assistance and was going to make entry. She made a forced entry and confronted a female victim covered in blood and a male suspect holding a knife to her throat. The victim had multiple lacerations to her head and other parts of her body. The officer demanded that the suspect drop his weapon, and when he refused, she shot him twice. One of the bullets went through the suspect striking the victim in her arm. Both victim and suspect were transported to the Med Star unit at the Washington Hospital Center where they were later released. The victim did not sustain any permanent physical injuries.

## Crackdown on Felony Fugitives in Maryland

By CATHY PLEVY

Four officers of the Takoma Park Police Department, assigned to the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU), participated in Operation Falcon (June 22 - 26, 2009), a crackdown on felony fugitives in Maryland. The program, originating from the U.S. Marshals Service, targeted felony fugitives with warrants. Working with Montgomery

County Police, Montgomery County Sheriff, Prince George's County Police, Anne Arundel County Police, Howard County Police, Parole and Probation and Metropolitan Police, Takoma Park police were part of a successful effort that resulted in the arrest of 170 suspects and the serving of 212 arrest warrants. The cross-jurisdictional effort was launched because the suspected criminals commit crimes regardless of area boundaries.

The operation, which directly impacts our City, was deemed a success by area enforcement organizations.



# AUGUST RECREATION



A team from the senior division of the YES basketball league hams it up for the camera.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

## Healthcare Lecture Series

Senior healthcare series presented by Washington Adventist Hospital on the first Tuesday of the month. Call-in registration is required, 301-891-7280.

**When:** Aug. 4 - Nutrition  
Sept. 1 - Cholesterol Education  
**Time:** Noon - 1 p.m.  
**Location:** Senior Room  
TP Community Center,  
7500 Maple Ave.  
**Fee:** Free

## Dribble and Shoot Basketball Camp

Ages 6 - 12  
Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this camp. Campers will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each player to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each student.

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

## Morning and Afternoon Addition Job Openings

Program aides, assistants, leaders and attendants for Morning 7-9 a.m. and Afternoon Addition 3-6 p.m., PT role, responsible for assisting in planning and conducting programs in art, sports, drama and other activities for children. Experience with children, and CPR and first aid certification a plus. \$7.25 - \$11 an hour, depending upon experience. Contact Carey Antoszewski, 301-891-7233 or careya@takomagov.org.

## Camp Takoma

Grades 1 - 5 (as of Sept. '09)  
Don't sit around wishing you had something to do! Join us on a new adventure 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.

**When:** Mon. - Fri., Aug. 3 - 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,  
7500 Maple Ave.

**Fees:**  
TP residents \$110/week  
Non-residents \$125/week

## Digital Bridge

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, call 301-598-0604 or 240-330-7857.

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

## Kindermusik's On the Road Camp

Age 3 - 5  
Relive your childhood, with your child! Every song in On the Road is likely to revive a memory from summers past. Play "Eye Spy" and find shapes in the clouds to pass the time. Take imaginary trips in an imaginary bus named "Van Go" to fun-filled vacation destinations such as the carnival, a summer cottage and the beach. Home materials include On the Road book, CD,

frog guiro instrument, and poster. Our morning will include musical play and movement, a craft activity, snack time and play. Fee includes materials. Maximum of 10, minimum of six. Instructor Becky Linafelt.

**When:** Mon. - Fri., Aug. 3 - 7  
**Time:** 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Dance Studio, TP Community Center  
**Fee:** TP residents \$145  
Non-residents \$155

## Whitewater Rafting

Ages 13 - 18  
Don't let your summer end without getting in some real fun and adventure in the great outdoors. Experience the thrills and spills of rafting in the Shenandoah and Potomac River with BTI whitewater. Each raft seats up to six of your friends plus an experienced guide, and all equipment is provided. No rafting experience is required, however the minimum age for this event is 13. Basic paddle strokes, maneuvering techniques and river safety skills will be discussed prior to rafting. This is an adventure you don't want to miss! A cook-out will follow the trip.

**When:** Sat., Aug. 15  
**Departure:** TP Community Center,  
7500 Maple Ave.  
**Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Fee:** \$15

## Morning Addition

Ages 5 - 11  
This before-school program is designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff will be available to provide informal recreation activities and will escort the children to the TP Elementary School bus and Piney Branch Elementary School. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or prepare for their day at school. For more information please call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.

**When:** Mon. - Fri., Aug. 31, 2009  
through June 16, 2010  
**Time:** 7 - 9 a.m.

**Location:** Azalea Room  
TP Community Center,  
7500 Maple Ave.  
**Fee:** TP residents \$976  
Non-residents \$1,200

## Afternoon Addition

Ages 5 - 12  
Emphasis is on providing leisure and recreation programs utilizing our facilities to include but not limited to the computer learning center, dance studio, art room, game room, athletic fields and library. We have some exciting activities planned this year including: drama, music, art, special guests, sports, field trips, study time and playtime that will enlighten, empower and enrich minds and imaginations. For information please call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233. Enroll today, space is limited.

**When:** Mon. - Fri., Aug. 31, 2009  
through June 16, 2010  
**Time:** 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
on full days  
1 - 6:30 p.m. on early  
release days

**Location:** Azalea Room  
TP Community Center,  
7500 Maple Ave.  
**Fee:** TP residents \$1,720  
Non-residents \$2,040

## Morning and Afternoon Addition

A discount will be offered to those who register for both Morning and Afternoon Addition

TP residents \$2,400  
Non-residents \$2,800

*\*On half days of school, the After School Program will be open from 1 - 6:30 p.m. The Recreation Department provides Fun Day Programs on half days and some holidays for an additional fee.*

*\*The Morning and Afternoon Addition will not operate on the days schools are closed: holidays or other school closings (including inclement weather, professional days, winter or spring breaks or school emergency closings).*

*\*Recreation Staff will escort children who attend TP Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School to and from TP Community Center on whole and half days.*



## In memory of Corinne Bell 1988-2009

Corinne Bell, back row, middle, was Rec Department employee, 2007-2009, resident of Takoma Park and Montgomery Blair High School grad. You touched so many lives, inspired so many children, and taught us to love life. You will truly be missed!



## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. For a few events, it is encouraged, but not required, as noted.

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.

### Twosies

A program for toddlers ages 24-36 months, and their grown-ups Wednesdays in August, 11 a.m. Registration required

### Bedtime Stories

Monday, August 3, 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

### Magic of the Sea

Saturday, August 8, 10:30 a.m.

Come hear master storyteller Arianna Ross tell some stories of the sea. All ages welcome; registration encouraged

### Do You Plarn?

Monday, August 10, 7 p.m.

Kids: come learn to knit with plastic bags. Registration required. All welcome. See article for more information.

### Fusion Science Theater

Wednesday, August 19, 7:30 p.m.

Come see why water boils. Best for kids ages 5 up; registration required. See article for more information.

### Banned Books Club

For kids grades 6 and up Monday, August 24, 7:30 p.m. Our book is *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. Copies are available for check-out, thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. All welcome; registration required.

# Local Librarians Gather Tales From the ALA Convention

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Recently, Library Director Ellen Arnold-Robbins and I attended the annual meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) in Chicago. Our main goal was to participate in a luncheon honoring the Library's Banned Books Club for middle schoolers, which was the brainchild of rising 8th grader Alanna Natanson. Our club won this year's John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, a national anti-censorship award sponsored by the ALA's Intellectual Freedom Round Table.

The Immroth luncheon took place on Friday, July 10, just as the ALA's annual meeting was getting underway. At the luncheon, two awards were given: the Immroth Award to our Library and the Pro-Quest/SIR Award to teachers, librarians and civil libertarians in Oregon for their effort to create a statewide celebration of Banned Books Weeks last September.

From there on, the five-day ALA conference was a blur of programs and awards ceremonies. The programs focused on everything from ways to boost libraries' Spanish language collections to adding technology to book programs for kids to dealing with challenges to graphic novels.

The awards presentations, meanwhile, were focused on children's and teen books. The ALA sponsors the nation's major children's literature awards, such as the Newbery Medal, Caldecott Medal, etc. The awards are announced each January at the ALA's midwinter conference and then presented at the organization's annual conference in the summer.

I attended several nuts-and-bolts programs – you'll see some of the results in Library events over the next few months. But I also spent a good deal of time at

various awards ceremonies, soaking up the words and thoughts of some of today's best creators of books for children's and teens.

As a former newspaper reporter, it's second nature for me to take notes when I'm at programs. Here are some of the notes I made at the various ALA children's literature award ceremonies.

### Superstars of Kid Lit

Without a doubt, the star of the "kid lit" world at the ALA conference was Neil Gaiman. For those who don't know Gaiman, he's a major power in the adult graphic novel world; his children's novel, *The Graveyard Book*, won the 2009 Newbery Medal. Gaiman, who is 48, is a cool character who dresses mostly in black, "tweets" daily on "Twitter" and just exudes charisma.

Everyone expected Gaiman to give a memorable Newbery Medal acceptance speech, and he exceeded those expectations at the Newbery/Caldecott banquet, attended by hundreds of librarians, teachers, publishers, and children's literature lovers. Gaiman, a father of three, immediately won over the audience – many of them obviously parents themselves – by noting that winning the Newbery Medal "made me cool to my children, which is as good as it gets.... It is a glorious — if improbable — thing to be cool to your children."

In his speech, Gaiman addressed the controversy roiling the children's literature world about the Newbery Medal. Some critics contend that recent Newbery Medal winners (i.e. *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* and *The Higher Power of Lucky*) weren't good choices because they appealed to few children; others argue that spotlighting unusual books is an impor-

tant role for the Newbery Medal. Gaiman's novel, meanwhile, is seen as a book that will appeal to many young readers, and thus he found himself in the middle of the debate.

But Gaiman believes that such a debate is unnecessary. As he put it: "I was, and still am, on the side of books you love." One book Gaiman said that he particularly loved as a child was the Newbery Medal-winning novel, *A Wrinkle In Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. After saying this, Gaiman peered out over the audience and asked if anyone remembered the book's first line. Immediately, audience members responded with an enthusiastic chorus of "It was a dark and stormy night" -- this was a gathering of children's literature lovers, after all!

As he concluded, Gaiman won cheers from the librarians in the audience when he noted that, although he was a "feral child raised among the stacks... libraries are not child-care facilities."

### Reinventing Speech

Following Gaiman at the banquet was Ashley Bryan, the 86-year-old author/illustrator of folktales and other books such as *Beautiful Blackbird*, who won the prestigious Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal for his "substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children." Many people wondered how Bryan could possibly top Gaiman's well-received speech. It turns out they worried for nothing. Bryan's speech – part revival meeting, part story-telling – mesmerized the crowd. As one audience member, Anne Heidemann, a Canton, Mich. librarian, later wrote in her blog that "Bryan completely reinvented the acceptance speech."

**NEW PROGRAMS**  
continues on page 11



## LIBRARY Briefs

**Kids, grab some plastic bags and come learn to make "plarn" at the Library on Monday, August 24 at 7:30 p.m.** What exactly is "plarn"? It's yarn created from plastic bags; the plarn then can be knitted just like regular yarn to create scarves, bags, etc. Patti Mallin, a Library substitute employee, and her daughter Camden will teach us the basics of the "plarn" process, including how to create a lanyard from plarn. We'll provide the lanyard "hooks," thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Participants should bring plastic newspaper or grocery store bags – 3-4 of them -- in as many different colors as you like. Registration required. To register, go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call us at 301-891-7259.

**The Friends of the Library Reading Group will be offering a series of discussions about *Middlemarch* by George Eliot beginning in October.**

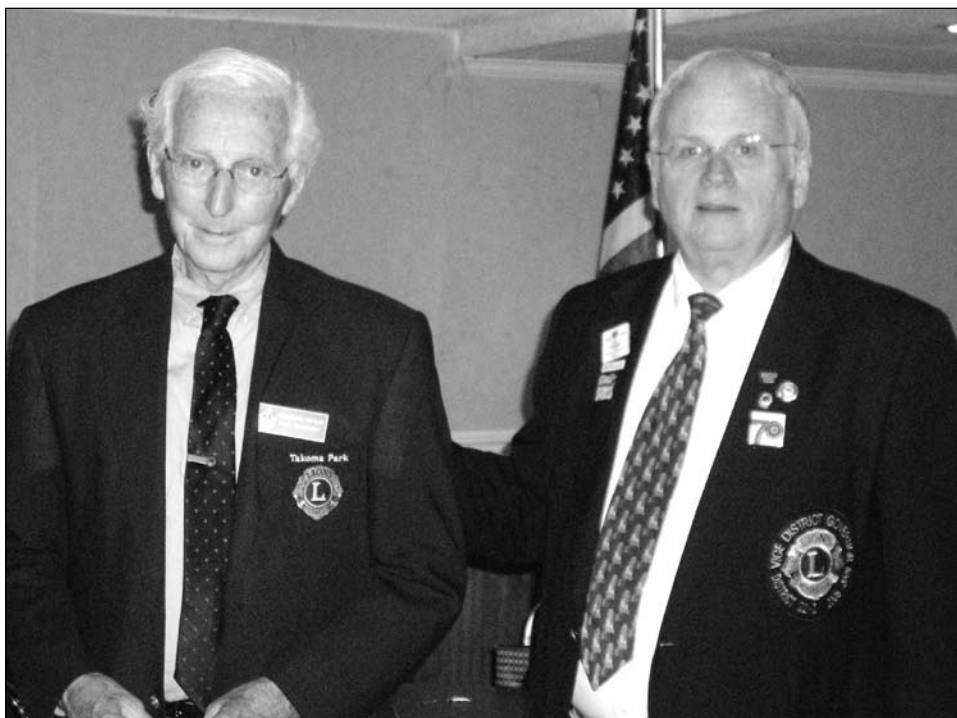
Those interested in participating, however, can get started now on the thick tome by coming into the Library and checking out a copy. We've got plenty of copies available, thanks to the Friends. For more information, call us at 301-891-7259.

**Come have some fun while learning a bit of science with "The Boiling Point,"** a science-theater show which takes place Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m. Performed by Fusion

Science Theater, the show helps kids understand what happens to water molecules when they go from liquid to gas. Even more importantly, kids will learn how scientists figure out answers to questions. This 45-minute show, which combines chemistry experiments with audience participation, dancing molecules and a very mysterious box, is aimed at elementary-aged kids. Registration is required; to register, go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call us at 301-891-7259.

**Mark your calendars now for the Mike Morrissey Memorial Golf Tournament,** which will take place this year on Monday, Sept. 21. All are welcome to sign up for the tournament, which is sponsored by the friends of Mike Morrissey, a long-time library patron. Tournament proceeds go to the Library for programs and equipment. For more information, call us Ellen Robbins 301-891-7259.





## 50 Years of Lionism

Life member Paul McGarvey of the Takoma Park Lions Club was lauded recently for his 50 years of dedicated service to his club and community. From left, McGarvey and District Governor Bill Thomas.

## CONVENTION

continued from page 10

Bryan used “call and response” to get and keep the crowd’s attention as he told the story of how he was drawn to children’s books. He noted: “My challenge is to find a way to keep the voice of oral traditions alive.... I hope my readers will feel they are hearing the storyteller.” Bryan concluded his speech by exhorting the audience to join him in singing a spiritual.

Beth Krommes, who won the 2009 Caldecott Medal for her illustrations in *The House In the Night*, was the night’s first speaker at the Newbery/Caldecott banquet. The soft-spoken Krommes said she was sitting at home in New Hampshire, trying to forget that it was “Caldecott day” when she received the good news in a phone call. Thrilled, Krommes called family and friends and then realized that she had to fly to New York City that afternoon for the obligatory “Today Show” appearance and “I had nothing to wear.” In her speech, Krommes particularly thanked her children, saying they had opened her eyes to “the spectacular art in children’s books” and inspired her to switch her artistic focus to picture books.

## Teen Reads

Laurie Halse Anderson, who uses her stellar writing skills to tackle tough teen topics like anorexia and date rape, won this year’s Margaret Edwards Award, which honors an author “for significant and lasting contributions to young adult literature.”

Best known for her novels *Speak* and *Fever 1793*, Anderson gave a rousing acceptance speech to a lunchtime crowd of teen librarians. Anderson began by noting that some teen readers told her they’re worried she’ll stop writing now that she’s won the Edwards Award. “I want to state for the record that I’m just getting started,” Anderson said as the audience cheered.

In her speech, Anderson noted how “books opened up the world to me, one story at a time,” adding that she also read

through the entire World Book encyclopedia set as a child.

Anderson said that she writes teen, or young adult, fiction “because my nuclear family went into a nuclear melt-down” when she was a teenager. “One of the ugliest truths about adolescence is this: we have very little control over the bad things,” Anderson said. “But there’s also grace because you have total control over how you respond. That is the core of my work.”

Anderson concluded by urging teen librarians to continue their work of helping young readers find the stories they need, adding: “If you pledge to do your part, I pledge to do mine.”

Mo Willems has won two Caldecott Honors for his picture books, *Knuffle Bunny* and *Knuffle Bunny Too*. This year, Willems’ book, *Are You Ready To Play Outside?* won the top Theodor Seuss Geisel Award, given annually to the “most distinguished American book for beginning readers.” Willems’ book is part of his *Elephant and Piggie* series for beginning readers.

In accepting the award at a morning event crowded with cheering children’s librarians, the ever-humorous Willems quipped: “It is seriously an honor to be honored with this honor.”

Willems added that he “walks in hallways” and often wondered how he could possibly hope to create books like Dr. Seuss. One of his favorite childhood books, was *Go, Dog. Go!* written by P.D. Eastman and edited by Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. But Willems added that he was always puzzled about the book’s recurring gag where one dog asking another whether he likes her hat, and he says “no” until the very end.

To Willems, the dog with the hat should have stopped asking the other dog for his opinion the first time. That was the book’s only hole, Willems added. But it was this hole that convinced Willems that he could create an easy reader series of his own. As he put it, the hole in *Go, Dog. Go!* was just “big enough to put *Elephant and Piggie* through.

## Soccer Season Kicks In

Nursery schoolers through high schoolers can sign up to play again this fall in the Takoma Soccer league. On-line registration is at [www.takomasoccer.org](http://www.takomasoccer.org), and walk-in registration will be Saturday, Sept. 5 in the back parking lot of the Takoma Park Community Center, 10 a. m. to noon.

All players will be in action starting the weekend of Sept. 19-20. The season ends in early November. Games are played on fields in Takoma Park or nearby Silver Spring. The fee is \$50, but scholarships are available for children in the federal lunch program.

For more information contact Howard Kohn at [kohn@erols.com](mailto:kohn@erols.com) or 301-270-8187.

This program is not affiliated with the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

## YES League, National Night Out on City TV

Join City TV in August as TV crews cover two favorite annual events. Watch the Y.E.S. League Basketball Championships on August 4 and 5 at Piney Branch Elementary. And on August 4 join the Takoma Park Police Department celebrate National Night Out at locations on Maple Avenue (the Essex House, 7777 Maple Avenue, 6 to 10 p.m.) and at Takoma Langley Crossroads (8011 New Hampshire Avenue (parking lot adjacent to McDonald’s), 5:30-9 p.m.)

New summer programs to be released this month include performances from the June Takoma JazzFest held in Old Town on Sunday, June 14. Also look for the Independence Day Parade.

**The latest edition of Takoma Snapshots will feature:**

- Plan 9: Emergency Preparedness in Takoma Park
- TTPD Award Ceremony
- Takoma Mosaic Project

- Independence Day Parade Photo Montage

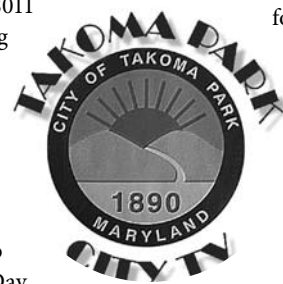
Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board.

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. 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 - August 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 TV Local Events	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 TV Local Events	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 TV Local Events						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
10:00 PM							Coffeehouse
11:00 PM		Takoma Jazz Night		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots		Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited		
1:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	





### INDEPENDENCE DAY MARCHES TO THE BEAT OF TAKOMA PARK

The Independence Day Parade brought all sorts of folks out to the streets to celebrate everything from Cajun cowboys to South American dance. The parade was followed by a community barbeque and fireworks.

Photos by Lonni Moffet

## RENOVATION

continued from page 1

may make necessary route and schedule adjustments based on the experience of these initial weeks.

The commute is of concern to parent Schabacker. While she anticipates that her second-grader son will be just fine, Schabacker knows it will be a very long day for her daughter who is five and entering kindergarten; her daughter will leave before 8:30 a.m. and may not arrive home until after 4 p.m.. Schabacker also notes that because the Grosvenor site is so far away, TPES may not have the numbers of parent volunteers it has relied on previously. Volunteering will be especially difficult for neighborhood parents without cars and those who rely on public transportation.

On the other hand, says parent Jayne Holt, the inconvenience will only last a year. "This is one of those things where we have to suck it up because it's good for the whole community."

Because the commute will make a longer day for students, Principal Gadsden and the PTA are looking at ways to end the school day a few minutes early to allow for pre-commute bathroom breaks and snacks to ease the trip home for students. Again, says Bhatnagar, parents have been invaluable in providing their input and anticipating the children's needs; many are organizing carpools as an additional transportation option.

### Who Will Attend?

Another looming issue has been: once the new addition is completed, how will Mont-



**Construction at Takoma Park Elementary School has begun, and students will be displaced for a year while the building is expanded.**

Photo by Stephen Abrams

gomery County Public Schools decide which children will go to TPES? The Takoma Park Elementary School Community Boundary Study Committee, a group of TPES parents, provided community feedback to MCPS for its possible boundary changes, which involve East Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Piney Branch and Sligo Creek Elementary Schools. The primary concern the committee relayed to the county, according to Jayne Holt, who was on the committee, was that families across the Takoma Park/Silver Spring boundary, on the other side of Piney Branch Road, be allowed to send their children to TPES rather than be shifted over to

East Silver Spring Elementary. "Their students felt a strong bond . . . not just with the school but with the [Takoma Park] community itself," explains Holt, who adds that many of these families are involved in City recreation leagues, preschools, and other local groups.

Not everyone is happy with the County's Boundary Study process thus far. Chuck Thomas, of [www.reopentheprocess.org](http://www.reopentheprocess.org), says that in his view representation of neighborhoods on the Boundary Study Committee "was not all-inclusive." He is particularly concerned with areas on the eastern side of New Hampshire Avenue. He also thinks

the committee "ought to be able to come up with its own recommendations," not merely review and comment on County options for redistricting.

Thomas has circulated a petition for the County to revise its process for deciding on new school boundaries, extending the deadline for community input to September 10 and including representation from all the neighborhoods affected by school redistricting. So far Thomas says there are more than 100 signatories to the petition, including 12 clergy from 10 local churches and civil rights groups like Casa de Maryland.

While MCPS will be revisiting this issue well prior to the formal re-opening of TPES, the Council of the City of Takoma Park passed a resolution on Monday, July 20, urging the Montgomery County Board of Education "to choose a boundary configuration for schools in Takoma Park and eastern Silver Spring that considers... the input received through the Community Advisory Committee and that considers the interests of the school children of populations that are traditionally less active in community processes."

As boundary issues are decided, local school children are expected to have that first day of classes much as they have in the past – just a few miles away. And MCPS has assured the community the children will be back in place for fall 2010.

For more information on the TPES move, visit Takoma Park Elementary School at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkes](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkes) and the TPES PTA at <http://www.tpespta.org/pages/grosvenor.html>.