New Supermarket To Open In November

By Susan Holliday

The October 10 closing of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Safeway supermarket, which had anchored the Takoma Park shopping center reportedly since 1960, worried locals who frequented the store for everyday groceries. However, a spokesperson for the market opening in its stead claims the new store will stock many American supermarket standards in addition to expanded international offerings.

The Expo Emart, slated to open in mid-November at 1101 University Boulevard in New Hampshire Avenue, “will follow in the footsteps of Safeway,” but with “an international market flavor,” says Suzanne De Lyon, owner and chief financial officer of Expo Emart LLC.

Expo Emart is subleasing the space from Safeway, which in turn leases the property from owner B.F. Saul Company.

De Lyon says the store is currently undergoing a “facelift” and will feature many of the standard departments supermarket shoppers expect: meat, produce, seafood, flowers, and bakery. The difference will be in its expanded multicultural product lines.

Many of the 110,000 people living within a two-mile radius of the shopping center come from diverse cultures, says De Lyon, and the store will stock products from Latino and diverse Asian cultures. Though the Crossroads area already boasts several well-established international markets, De Lyon hopes that Expo Emart will compete on quality and price.

The company is negotiating with an established bakery to operate an in-store bakery and plans to reopen the store pharmacy, says De Lyon. The Safeway pharmacy closed in late September and transferred all its pre-

Crossroads Market Scores CDBG Funds

By Virginia Myers

In an unusual move, the City Council chose just one organization, instead of two or three, as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public service funds. This year’s public service portion of the CDBG funds will go to the Crossroads Farmers Market, which requested $25,000. The capital funding portion of the CDBG goes to the Affordable Housing Initiative ($113,000).

Each year, the City of Takoma Park receives a portion of the CDBG funding passed down from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through Montgomery County, and each year an advisory committee of residents selects two or three applicants to receive the funds.

This year’s selection reflects the City’s ongoing support of the Crossroads Farmers Market, which has struggled under an increased demand for low-cost food. The CDBG grant will be spent exclusively on the Fresh Checks program, which allows WIC, food stamp and senior assistance voucher recipients significant discounts on produce at the market. Held every Wednesday afternoon from May through October, the market also serves the general population with locally-grown produce and other locally-produced goods like bakery items, pupusas and frozen treats.

Another portion of CDBG funds, reserved for capital projects, goes to the Affordable Housing Initiative which will receive $113,000 for an as yet undetermined housing project – probably for purchase of a low- to moderate-income residential building or renovation of the same, according to Sara Daines, director of the City’s Housing and Community Development department.

The total amount of the CDBG funds designated to go to Takoma Park projects has not yet been determined, but City officials have estimated that they will cover the designated recipients’ requests; some adjustments may be made should the funding come in lower or higher than predicted.

The move to fund just one of the public service projects, says Daines, was the recommendation of the committee reviewing CDBG requests. “[Members] decided that the project was important and rather than under-funding multiple projects, they would fully fund their top choice.”

The three other applicants were Ministries United of Silver Spring for Better Financial Choices, Better Chances, a program providing emergency assistance to prevent eviction and utility disconnections and to pay for prescription drugs ($17,200 requested); Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington for scholarship memberships for prescription drugs ($17,200 requested); and Pyramid Atlantic for Youth Empowerment Skills, a job readiness program.

DON’T FORGET TO VOTE: City Election November 3

Residents will be gathering at the Community Center this November 3 for the biannual Mayor and City Council election. Citizens are hopeful that three races will boost voter turnout: two council seats are contested, as well as the mayoral position.

Voters must choose between two candidates for mayor – incumbent Bruce Williams and Roger Schlegel; two for City Council Ward 4 – incumbent Terry Seemans and Eric Mendoza; and two for Ward 6 – Fred Schultz and Navad Nasr. The current Ward 6 councilmember took the position temporarily when Councilmember Doug Barry resigned, and will not be running. Other City Councilmembers are standing for office unopposed.

Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Any Takoma Park resident who is registered to vote may participate.

For more information and for statements from each of the candidates, see pages 9 through 12.
City Council Action*

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 21, 2009 – Special Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Reading Ordinance 2009-50 was accepted, authorizing installation of New Hampshire Gardens traffic calming measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Reading Ordinance 2009-46 was adopted, providing for the 2009 City Election</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolution 2009-54 was adopted, recognizing and supporting Play Day (September 26, 2009) in Takoma Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolution 2009-55 was adopted, establishing a Debt Management Policy for the City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolution 2009-56 was adopted, appointing Nadine Bloch, Leandra Carrasco, Joe Edgell, Alphie Fair, Timothy Fox, Shari Friedman, David Bristol Hunter, Sat Jwan Iike-Khalsa, Timothy Male, Elizabeth Marshall, Austin Meyermann, Terril North, Emily Riddle, Scott Schang, Milford Sprecher, Patricia Stephenson and Catherine Tunis to the Task Force on Environmental Action</td>
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<tr>
<th>September 28, 2009 – Regular Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Second Reading Ordinance 2009-50 was adopted, authorizing installation of New Hampshire Gardens traffic calming measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Reading Ordinance 2009-51 was adopted, awarding a contract for the Linden Avenue retaining wall and stormwater structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Reading Ordinance 2009-52 was adopted, awarding a contract for installation of a green roof on the Community Center deck</td>
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The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- Resolution 2009-60, appointing Steve Davies and John Peterson to the Task Force on Environmental Action
- Resolution 2009-62, reappointing Carol Hotton and Melanie Feinsnault to the Tree Commission
- Resolution 2009-61, reappointing Aaron Lavalie to the Ethics Commission
- Resolution 2009-63, reappointing Janice Samuels and appointing Brooke Kenny and Angela Kurtz to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Volunteers Needed to Serve on Council-Appointed Boards, Committees, and Commissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board/Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Takoma Park Board of Elections (vacancies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Takoma Park Ethics Commission (one vacancy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noise Control Board (vacancies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Committee (vacancies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tree Commission (one vacancy)</td>
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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 or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. (by appointment only), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. If a holiday falls on a Monday, office hours move to Wednesday, same time.

Bruce Williams

Five Months to Census Day!

Census Day is April 1, 2010. All U.S. residents must be counted – citizens and non-citizens. Only ten questions – no long form. Personal information is completely confidential. No identifying information can be shared with police, immigration, housing officials or anyone else. Be Counted so your community gets the services it needs. Census Jobs Available: Go to www.2010census.gov, click jobs tab.

2010 CENSUS: IT’S IN OUR HANDS
Invasion of the Tree Snatchers

City Fights to Keep Invasive Plants from Choking Out Native Flora

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Porcelain berry, cultivated for its beauty, Kudzu, propagated for erosion control and cattle feed, Multiflora rose, used as natural fencing in cattle pastures. All useful enough vegetation — until they get out of control. Now these three species and many more are running rampant across Takoma Park. Commonly known as “invasives,” what were once attractive plants are now choking out native vegetation in backyards, parks and vacant lots. These plants propagate themselves at such a rate, they can throw entire swaths of the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem out of balance, sending their prolific seeds through the waterways and across forests and developed areas for miles.

Takoma Park is addressing the issue of invasives through Public Works crews, who have worked at tearing down porcelain berry, cultivated for its beauty. Kudzu, prop根entally: its leaf shape becomes more round, and it eventually fruits and begins to multiply. Its thick cover on tree branches can be destructive, as when trees are covered in heavy ice, and branches fall under their weight. And it can choke out younger, native vegetation.

Kudzu is a close second to ivy, as one of the worst of the plant invaders. It grows astonishingly fast — it’s said to grow as much as a foot a day — and is commonly seen covering entire wooded areas like a blanket, as it does behind the Takoma Park Middle School.

Top Two Culprits

Uproot plants like garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, porcelain berry, bamboo, privet and autumn olive are all invasive shrubs. Shrubbery that can be removed in cooler month include Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy and wintercreeper.

Adapted from FOSC web site, http://www.fosc.org/fosc.htm.

GUIDE TO GOOD RIDDANCE

To rid plants, uproot them if possible. If not possible, cut the stem and return for any new growth. As a last resort, use herbicide for information about appropriate use, contact the County Extension Agent, http://montgomery.umd.edu/.

Uproot plants like garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, wineberry, and young shrubs including rose after a soaking rain, as roots are more easily pulled then. Root fragments may re-grow but with less vigor.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

From October through March, work on shrubs and ground covers, which are easier to see when foliage drops. Rose, ush honey suckle, wineberry, barberry, bamboo, privet and autumn olive are all invasive shrubs. Groundcovers that can be removed in cooler month include Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy and wintercreeper. Adapted from FOSC web site, http://www.fosc.org/fosc.htm.

Invasives in Sligo Creek have long been an issue, and in fact they were the inspiration for the environmental group, Friends of Sligo Creek. According to Sally Gagne, past president, and current RIP (Removing Invasive Plants) co-ordinator, FOSC was founded eight years ago on the principle of eradicating invasives. With grants from organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Summit Foundation, it has organized a strong effort to recruit volunteers to tear out offending species. Currently RIP maintains 12 leaders in 10 sections of Sligo Creek Park, to oversee volunteer efforts to physically pull up garlic mustard, English ivy, mile-a-minute, lesser celandine and more.

Gagne reports that the program has been most effective by showing Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which is responsible for Sligo Creek Park maintenance, that residents care about the area’s health; procuring funding to coordinate park and volunteer efforts; expanding awareness of invasive species through posters, speakers, and colored cards describing 13 major invasive plants found in the park; reducing the amount of garlic mustard in the park; cutting back English ivy by about 80 percent in some sections; and preventing numerous other species from covering park trees.

But it’s not enough, says Gagne: “It takes more labor than volunteers can provide.”

Exacerbating the problem of invasives is the deer population, which also destroys native plants. Deer destruction is so severe, says Gagne, that the RIP program will close its doors this fall. “You have to have a plan for deer removal, or don’t bother doing anything with plants,” says Gagne, who is frustrated with the lack of deer management, a tricky and emotional issue as it can involve the thinning of the population by killing the animals.

“Friends of Sligo Creek will continue to combat invasive plants one way or the other, even if deer are not well-controlled,” says FOSC president Bruce Sidwell. “However, it does make it discouraging when plants saved from invasive vines are eaten by deer.”

If you are interested in saving the native plants in your own yard, there is a plethora of information on how to eradicate invasive plants, including photos that help you identify invasives, on the FOSC web site, http://www.fosc.org. For advice on how to care for trees that may be threatened by invasives, contact the City Arborist, Todd Bolton, 301-891-7612. He recommends the Maryland Native Plant Society for further information about both native and invasive plant issues, http://www.mdflora.org/.

City Arborist Todd Bolton stands in a tunnel of kudzu over taking the parkland behind the Takoma Park Middle School. Invasive plant species pose ecological problems the City is fighting to combat. (Photo by Virginia Myers)

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov.

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

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County Housing Fair Gives Personal Service

By Barbara Bonville
For the Montgomery County Housing Fair Planning Committee

Each year, the Montgomery County Housing Fair and Financial Fitness Day helps residents step away from what can seem like a tangle of phone calls and forms and government offices, and invites them to interact one-on-one with experts who can answer questions about issues like foreclosure, credit and first-time home purchases. And each year, members of the Takoma Park Housing and Community Development Department help organize the fair as a valuable resource for city residents.

This year’s fair, on October 3, was the 9th annual event. Held at the Bohrer Park Activity Center in Gaithersburg, it included 20 sponsors and 80 exhibitors. Here are some up-close impressions from a member of the fair housing community:

The one-on-one counseling at the fair, organized by the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs and its community partner, was in great demand. Classrooms were packed all day and banks of computers and printers hummed. Certified housing counselors with the Housing Initiative Partnership, Homeless Solutions, USA, and the Latino Economic Development Corporation (the three agencies in Montgomery County authorized to give foreclosure intervention assistance) met, face to face, with 38 homeowners and renters facing foreclosure. Each counseled person will also receive follow-up help this month, as well 10 other people who completed intake forms at the fair. Credit counselors with the Montgomery County Coalition for Financial Literacy met individually with 100 people. Each person walked away with a free credit report and analysis.

Another popular feature of the fair was “Ask an Attorney.” Lawyers with the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection, the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, and the Legal Aid Bureau conferred personally with 55 people who had legal questions. No delays. No rudeness, just expert, personal—not to mention free—service.

The counseling made a difference to those who came. So did the raffle. Ten persons received $500 toward their rent, mortgage or utilities. Among the lucky winners was Clystie, a single mother of three—ages 13, 14, and one year. She works full time as an activities director, teaching art therapy classes and cooking classes to seniors at an assisted living center. The prize money will go toward her rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Takoma Park, where she has lived for the last eight years. Jean, 69, also won the raffle. Her disability check ends in November. When her name was called, she burst into tears. The $500 will help her pay her mortgage on her Montgomery Village townhouse this month.

Many of the 1,000 people who attended the fair are conscientious, hard-working homeowners. Noel, born in Bolivia, is an example. Nineteen years ago he moved to Gaithersburg and bought a house on Orchard Drive. He steadily worked two jobs to be able to pay his mortgage—during the day as a pharmacy technician, compounding prescription drugs for a health-related firm, and during the night as a mainte-

A tenant wants to know what type of notice her landlord is required to provide prior to entering her apartment and if she must be at home when the landlord and/or his agent makes entry to complete tenant requested repairs.

In accordance with Section 6.16.140 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law, a landlord must provide his/her tenant with at least 48 hours written notification of the landlord or the agent’s intent to enter a rental unit. The landlord’s written notice must inform the tenant of the proposed entry date, the approximate time frame of the proposed entry and include the phone number of the landlord or his/her agent. The 48 hours written notice requirement applies to upcoming code inspections by the Montgomery County Code Inspectors who may not make entry to conduct inspections if the tenant indicates they have not received the required advance written notice or otherwise request that the entry be made at a later more convenient time.

A tenant does not have to be present (except when the tenant has requested a code complaint inspection) when entry is made into the rental unit. If the tenant is not present, the landlord is required to leave a Report of Entry in plain view advising the tenant of: (1) the names of all individuals who entered the rental unit; (2) the date and time of the entry; (3) the reason for the entry and any work performed during the entry; (4) the time of departure from the rental unit; and (5) the address and phone number of the landlord.

Tenants should note that if they have requested repairs, the landlord or the landlord’s agent may enter the rental unit to make the repairs without giving the tenant written notice if the repairs occur within two weeks of being requested. The other exception to the 48-hour written advance notice requirement occurs in the case of an emergency.

Finally, the advance entry written notice requirement is applicable to landlords, real estate agents and prospective purchasers of city rental properties.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city’s Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-949-7215 or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomapark.gov.
City Celebrates Gardens Along the “New Ave”

By Paul Grenier

Two years ago, the City created a grants program to encourage community gardening along New Hampshire Avenue. To get things started, City planners turned to Judy Tiger, an area expert on community garden organizing.

Tiger’s first presentation on the subject at the Takoma Park Recreation Center was especially memorable. “The first year,” she said to the mixed-age crowd of some 20 attendees, “you might just plant a single tree. Then you celebrate it.”

The celebration, she said, was all important. After more than two decades experience in the field, Tiger has concluded that, when it comes to building successful community gardens, the socializing is even more important than the plants.

Why start so small, though, with a single tree? Hardly seems worth the trouble. Not so, said Tiger. Plants, like people, need nurturing. You don’t just stick them in the ground and walk away.

The typical mistake of the novice is taking on too much all at once. The maintenance, Tiger said, will prove overwhelming. Long story short: have a grand vision, start small, celebrate and have lots of fun.

Today, two years into the City’s New Hampshire Avenue Community Gardening and Beautification grant program, how has experience born out Judy Tiger’s advice?

In the case of the Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Association Garden Subcommittee, lead by Pamela Sparr, pretty darn well.

The first season, the neighborhood group—though fairly bursting at the seams with landscaping know-how—restricted itself to planting a single tree and holding a clean-up day. But members also submitted an ambitious multi-year vision to the City.

By bit by bit, the Hillwood group has added more: first a butterfly garden, then a stone retaining wall, then a gateway garden at Erskine. Impressed by all this local initiative, the M-NCPDC Horticulture department decided to join in. They removed diseased trees, planted a row of redwoods, and delivered a huge load of decorative boulders—part of a “living river” landscaping concept designed by the Hillwood Manor group.

The Orchard Avenue Community Garden—where a whole functioning community garden sprang up virtually overnight—might appear to contradict Tiger’s “start small” principle.

And yet, even here, the process started with just a few locals meeting almost a year before anything got started, and deciding they liked the idea. In other words, the social basis for the garden preceded the thing itself.

More to the point, however, is that a great deal of the hard work here was absorbed by Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission’s horticultural department, including horticulture chief David Vismara and his assistant Ursula Sukinik.

Finally, the landscaping project initiated by Zion Lutheran Church, and designed by local master gardener Wendy Bell, started off at sort of an intermediate scale. When the trees Zion ordered turned out to be about three times the size anyone had expected, only some timely rescuing from City Gardener Mike Welsh saved the day.

Bottom line: nothing accomplished thus far has contradicted Tiger’s founding principles, and much has confirmed them.

Do you have an idea for a gardening or beautification project along the New Hampshire Corridor? If you do, please make use of the following simple steps:

Step one: talk your idea over with a few neighbors and come up with a plan.

Step two: give City staff a call to find out how we can help.

Step three: plant a tree.

Step four: celebrate!

Want to beautify the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor?

Contact Paul Grenier, Community Planning Specialist, for speakers to motivate your civic association, assistance in applying for grant funds, locations that may be good for gardens and information on the program at 301-891-7205 or pgrenier@takomagov.org.

Photo by Pam Sparr

PHILLYS RYDER TAKES A BREAK IN THE GARDEN NEAR HILLWOOD MANOR, ALONG THE NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE CORRIDOR. SHE JOINED NEIGHBORS TO PITCH IN AT ONE OF SEVERAL GREENING PROJECTS IN THE AREA.
Takoma Park Development Review Round-up

By Ilona Blanchard

This column provides updates on projects under review in the City. If you or your neighborhood organization receive a letter in the mail from a developer or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)/Montgomery County Montgomery County Planning Board, or see a sign posted on a property, this is the only notification you may receive, as the City does not duplicate these services. It is your responsibility to call to find out what is being planned at that location. We encourage you to contact your neighborhood organization to designate one or two members to track the project and to keep the neighborhood up to date on the plans.

Developers are interested in your input; only by calling the number on the letter you receive in the mail, appointing a member of your neighborhood association to serve as the primary contact with the developer, attending meetings and providing input, can you ensure that your views, concerns, support and ideas are heard.

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) TA-KOMA ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL on Holly Avenue is now under construction. The project is scheduled to be completed in August 2010. For more information, contact Ray Marhamati at 240-314-1010 or ray_marhamati@mcpsmd.org.

A first draft of the TAKOMA/LANGLEY CROSSROADS SECTOR PLAN, a collaborative planning effort between the Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties’ Planning Boards in association with the City of Takoma Park, has been largely reviewed at the Planning Board level. Developed as two complementary planning documents, one for each jurisdiction, the plans present a redevelopment framework for private and public investment in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Riggs Road station areas. The Plans address pedestrian safety, community resources, housing and commercial/mixed use redevelopment.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold at least one additional work session in December of this year on the draft plan before forwarding it to the County Council for review in September of 2010. The Prince George’s County Planning Board has adopted the draft plan with modifications, but will not be submitting the plan to the Prince George’s County Council for roughly a year until such time as an affordable housing policy has been developed. If you are interested in learning more about the progress of the Sector Plans, contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org.

Maryland has announced a preferred alignment for the PURPLE LINE - the bi-county transit way that will connect the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Long Branch neighborhoods with Silver Spring, College Park, Bethesda, New Carrollton and possibly beyond. The project will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under its “New Starts” process as the State seeks FTA approval to begin the preliminary engineering of the project and compete for federal funding. Project costs are estimated at $1.5 billion. Additional information may be found online at www.purpleline.com or by contacting Michael Madden, Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration, at MMadden@mtamaryland.com or 410-767-3694.

The Maryland Department of Transportation also has funded and is working on the acquisition of land to develop a NEW TRANSIT CENTER at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard (where the Taco Bell is currently located). Contact Michael Madden, Project Manager, at MMadden@mtamaryland.com, or 410-767-3694 for more information.

GILBERTS ADDITION, the development at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Laurel Avenue in Old Town has been scaled back due to costs. The developer, John Urciolio, will go forward with developing an exit to the site on Eastern Avenue and is temporarily installing a parking lot on the lower level. This construction is expected to last through January 2010.

HOLTON LANE STREETSCAPE - a pedestrian safety and landscaping project is being built this fall. The project extends from New Hampshire Avenue to the EZ Storage building and includes the installation of streetlights and banners designed to improve the safety, visibility and pedestrian experience of the commercial area. For more information, contact Carman Lam at CarmanL@takomagov.org or 301-891-7219.

In the Maryland Gateway, a NEW CARWASH has been proposed for 6450 New Hampshire Avenue between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Mill Road at Orchard Avenue. The project was submitted for Site Plan but M-NCPCC will not review the project until it has been granted a special exception for a car wash on that site. The local community association has issued an opinion in opposition to the establishment of a car wash at this location. The developer has not yet completed the application for a Special Exception.

The Master Plan recommends that this site be used as a connection between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Mill Road, and it is identified as a proposed roadway in the New Hampshire Avenue Concept Plan. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at ilonab@takomagov.org or 301-891-7205.

8435 PINEY BRANCH ROAD, at the intersection of

Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road in Long Branch, is planning to add a 1,000-square-foot addition to the front of the old garage building next to Beijing Delight and to rehabilitate the building for retail storefronts and upper story office or retail. The project has been submitted for subdivision but will not go through site plan due to the small scale of the proposed development. The applicant has requested a waiver of five of the 24 parking spaces required under the zoning ordinance. The Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone allows the Planning Board to grant reductions in the number of parking spaces that must be provided in exchange for related pedestrian or transit improvements. It is expected that the City will provide comments to M-NCPCC prior to the plan being considered by the Planning Board. The City has applied for Community Legacy funds from the State of Maryland to leverage green features, pedestrian access and façade improvements in the rehabilitation of the building and the site. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org.

Kourosh Mehrabian, the owner of 8012 FLOWER AVE-NUE, is proposing to open a 1,154 square foot dental office in the building, which is currently residential in use. As the property is in the R-40 zone, a special exception is required to operate a dentist office in a residential zone. The application is requesting authorization to operate the dental office from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The practice would employ one full-time dentist and two additional employees. Five parking spaces would be created where the decks are currently located. The application is also requesting a waiver of one of the parking spaces, and of required driveway setback in order to continue to use the existing driveway. A hearing of the application will be held by the Board of Appeals on Friday, December 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Second Floor Davidson Memorial Hearing Room at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.

As of press time, the applicant had requested a post-pen- noming of this hearing, so the date is likely to change. The City Council is currently scheduled to discuss this proposal during the last two weeks in November. The Planning Board will also consider the special excep- tion request prior to the hearing. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205.
The New Ave Goes Live for Takoma Park, Area Officials

By Ilona Blanchard

“When I’m in my 80s, like my mom,” Seema Singh told a bus full of officials in early October, “I want to be coming here to Holton Lane to work in the store every day, too.” Singh spoke to an attentive audience on behalf of the many independent shop owners along New Hampshire Avenue.

No slouch at setting tone and sending a message, Singh, a recent recipient of a façade grant to improve the store her parents have owned and operated for more than 20 years, was participating in a tour of the area organized by the City of Takoma Park. The idea was billed as a launch of the new website, theNewAve.com, to show how the commercial district has improved with recent attention and funding, and how plans need continued support to see the revitalization of the area succeed. Among those listening were Montgomery and Prince George’s county, state, and federal officials whose support is considered essential.

Singh, whose parents built a landscaped patio in front of their two storefronts to invite customers in, lent a hand as the Mayor ceremonially laid down a sidewalk decal to launch the new website/guide to the area, theNewAve.com: where Takoma meets the World.” Visitors then met her parents, Malik and Shaksndila Sardana and toured their shop, Malik Grocers. Prince George’s Councilmember Will Campos and Reem berto Rodríguez, the new Silver Spring Regional Director responsible for marketing and administering the New Hampshire Avenue’s Enterprise Zone, bought samosas, a savory Indian snack, before they left.

Officials also admired the fresh concrete work around bolts and pipes emerging from the sidewalk nearby. This fall decorative pedestrian lights will be installed here, much to the relief of Arthur Sharkarji, the second generation owner of Joe’s Shoe Repair. Like others on the street, he hates for his mother to leave the shop after dark on the dimly lit street.

It got a bit crowded when officials filled Ernesto Portillo’s El Alazan Western Wear shop. With hundreds of cowboy boots on display, the family business smells sharply of leather. From the doorway of Joe’s Shoe Repair, which also carries some leather goods, the official from the Department of Economic Development from Montgomery County wanted to know, “Do I have time to buy anything?”

No, it was time to hear from Jorge Sactic, owner of La Chapina Bakery and head of a 50-member La Union Merchants Association. “We are honored that you have come to see us,” he said, “But we need assistance too. We are very small, but when we work together, bigger things happen.” He referred to the ability of small businesses to get loans at competitive terms; only larger businesses, assistance in dealing with landlords and other needs. And he asked officials to pose for a photo with other association business owners in front of the New Ave wall decal near the Post Office.

The new website, el Alazan Western Wear shop on Holton Lane, is just one of the merchants who visited local officials surveying improvements and assessing need along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor.

Arthur Sharkarji, who owns Joe’s Shoe Repair on Holton Lane with his family, listens with local officials during their tour of the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. The City hopes to win county, state and federal support for the revitalization of the area.

Planners and City officials also said that a walkable New Hampshire Avenue needs improved bus service, façade grants, and other streetscape improvements. And they stressed the importance of City, resident and business advocacy for investment and change. Partners are crucial, as well, they added: funding partners like the State of Maryland, which provides Community Legacy grants and develops the Purple Line; development and property partners like B.F. Saul, investigating how to transform its shopping center into a mixed use multi-activity area; and neighborhood partners like Hillwood Manor, where residents created a garden park out of a scrap of grass and stream.

And, of course, local business partners who care most about the area’s success. People like the merchants they met on their tour.

Nora Portillo, who with her husband, Ernesto, runs El Alazan Western Wear shop on Holton Lane, is just one of the merchants who visited local officials surveying improvements and assessing need along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor.
Life Sentence for Attempted Murder With Crucifix

By Catherine Plevy

It was cold on December 22, 2008, near Christmas time, and it was also her 23rd birthday. But, what awaited the victim on that evening was anything but celebratory for her and her two small children. When Ana Valdez arrived at her home that evening, her estranged boyfriend, and father of her two children, Carlos Ivan Ovalle, 33, was lying in wait, hiding in her closet.

Upon walking into her home, Valdez immediately sensed something was wrong and began to look around. Ovalle jumped out of the closet with a knife in his hand and told her that her birthday present was that she was going to die. He told her that her birthday present was going to be her last day alive, Takoma Park Police Officer Angela Donovan, responded to a call for a woman crying in an apartment. When Donovan arrived at the apartment, Valdez yelled through the door that everything was okay (as ordered to by Ovalle). With her training and expertise, Donovan sensed that everything was not okay and she needed to act swiftly. She forced her way into the apartment. The officer indicated that in her many years on the police force, she had never seen so much blood. She saw Ovalle holding a knife to Valdez’s throat and ordered him twice to drop his weapon. When he did not comply, Donovan shot him twice. Ovalle 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. On October 6, Judge Durke Thompson of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, sentenced Ovalle to life plus seven years.

During the sentencing phase, Ovalle was advised by his attorney, Samuel Delgado, not to speak. Ovalle did not heed that advice and he addressed the judge, disparaging Valdez and blaming her for his actions. He went on to tell the judge that Valdez “provoked him” and that he was drunk. “It’s not Ms. Valdez doing that, it’s him” and that he was drunk. Ovalle was advised by his attorney, Samuel Delgado, not to speak.

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Late Absentee Ballots / “Early Voting”. Beginning October 28 and continuing until November 2, voters may apply in person and vote by absentee ballot. Voters may vote at the City Clerk’s Office at 7500 Maple Avenue at the following times:

- Wednesday, October 28: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday, October 29: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday, October 30: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Monday, November 2: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If an applicant cannot apply and vote in person, he or she may designate in the application a registered voter of the City to act as agent in picking up and delivering the ballot (candidates and those representing them). The application must be completed and filed with the City Clerk prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day.

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 to adopt an instant runoff voting system for Takoma Park elections. Voters will have the opportunity to rank candidates for that ward. A space will be provided on the ballot to rank candidates for that ward. A space will be provided on the ballot to rank candidates for that ward.

Any registered voter of the City to vote at the Community Center on November 3!

City of Takoma Park Municipal Election

ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES DE LA CIUDAD DE TAKOMA PARK

Vote at the Community Center on November 3!

For Mayor

Bruce Williams

IN CUMBENT

I’m Bruce Williams, and I’m running for my second term as Mayor. In my service on the City Council since 1993, I’ve never seen conditions as tough as our current situation. Leaders at all levels are facing difficult choices about how to deal with failing revenues. We all have to think about what our most important priorities are, what services we might do without, and how potential cuts effect those whose job it is to provide the services we might cut. I think that there are a few key areas for the Council and all of us to focus on as we go forward. We need to find new and improved opportunities for resident engagement in all aspects of our community. We need to continue to protect our city. We need to continue to find grants, programs, and partners to fund ongoing needs. And, we need to protect current revenues.

Bruce Williams
301-891-0728
brucetwakoma@gmail.com

Roger Schlegel

FOR MAYOR

I’m a high school teacher with training and experience in local government administration. My wife and I have two young children and live in Ward 3. As mayor, I’d bring fresh energy, vision, and focus to the Council’s deliberations and actively lead all residents, including the “busy majority,” in a conversation about choices we face with respect to our tax burden, new development around our borders, and the urgent need for bold action on sustainability. In my vision, our spending choices can recognize the distinction between needs and wants. Our commercial districts can provide economic stability with a small-town feel. Creative partnerships can expand recreation programs, address the needs of youth and seniors, and reduce our carbon footprint. We can leverage simple improvements to create a walkable community where more “eyes on the street” enhance public safety. I ask for your vote on November 3 to move our community forward.

Roger Schlegel
202-445-6606
roger4mayor@yahoo.com
http://www.roger4mayor.com

November 2009
It has been a pleasure to work with my fellow residents as a City Councilmember. Looking forward, I believe we need to focus on policies that result in: Safe Neighborhoods – reducing crime and improving roadway safety; A “Greener Takoma” – regaining the position as the environmental leader among cities that set an example for other communities to follow; Fair Taxation – resolving the unfair tax duplication issues with the county, resulting in affordable taxation for all while improving services; Community-Driven Development – encouraging development and history of Takoma Park and benefiting the community; and Responsive and Efficient City Government – ensuring that the city government provides high quality, cost efficient services, in a timely manner. Our challenges are clear and our opportunities are great. I believe in our collective power to improve our community and look forward to continuing to lead these efforts.

Josh Wright
joshwright@gmail.com
301-312-2717
www.josh-wright.com

Colleen has lived in Takoma Park with her partner Karen Vernon and daughters Keegan and Piper since 2003. She is the only woman on the ballot this election and the only councilmember with children in Takoma Park public schools elected last term. Colleen holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. She has been a Girl Scout troop leader for seven years and serves on the board of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the region’s Metropolitan Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board. Colleen enjoys boating, biking, camping and riding her motorcycle.

Colleen Clay
301-270-6888
Colleenchay.com
colleen@takomagov.org

Many thanks to the residents of Ward 3, the staff of the City, and my colleagues for help over the past two years on the Council. Each issue in public service is unique: a curb to be painted, a parking space placement, giving dogs a chance to run free in the morning, reducing our use of energy, making our government more streamlined and responsive, or fighting for a fairer shake from the state and county governments. Each requires an open discussion and a shared solution that draws on our common strengths. Our taxes are too high, yet options beyond property taxes as income for the City are shrinking. Our Police department is great, but there is still too much crime on our streets. There are big challenges, but Takoma Park is a fine place to live. Count on me to face these challenges with you over the next two years.

Dan Robinson
301-908-3504
dan.robinson@homeintakoma.com

This is an exciting year. For the first time since 1995 more than one person is running for Ward 4. I look forward to this campaign, and a healthy discussion of the issues. During the coming two years, I will focus on the following primary goals for Ward 4: Reduced traffic in our neighborhoods, and improved traffic calming measures; Continued expansion of recreational activities, through partnerships; Fair and equitable treatment for everyone; Inclusion and empowerment of all community members; Improved economic opportunities for young adults; Systemization of support services for our most needy residents. The bad economy makes meeting community expectations challenging. Knowledge that comes through experience makes me the best Ward 4 candidate to find budget reductions while filling community needs. Regardless of how difficult the economy becomes, I will remain focused on serving all people of Takoma Park, regardless of their issue.

Terry Seamens
301-565-0190
TerryS@takomagov.org

ELECTIONS continued from page 9

candidates by order of choice (1, 2, and so on). The candidate receiving a majority of votes in each race shall be declared elected. Despite the number of uncontested races, ballots have been prepared using a ranked choice format for instant runoff voting. This format is used to keep the instructions the same on ballots for all six wards, and to help voters become accustomed to the system. Voters are free to rank only one candidate in each race.

More information on instant runoff voting is available on the City of Takoma Park website at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/elections/2009.

VERIFIED VOTING

This year, the Takoma Park Board of Elections has worked with Scantegrity to provide voters the opportunity to verify online that their votes were counted. This system will only be applicable for those who vote in person.

When marking their ballot, voters will receive a confirmation code that they can write down, take home, and check online to make sure their votes were counted. The confirmation number does not say how the voter voted, and the vote remains private. What it does say, however, is that the vote is included in the final tally and that the scanner read the vote correctly. The system is paper-based and works like an optical scan voting system, making it easy to use. The only difference is that when voting, voters will see a confirmation number instead of a completely black mark. Writing down and checking the confirmation number is optional.

More information about this system can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/elections/2009.
Hello, my name is Eric Mendoza and I am running for Ward four Councilmember in Takoma Park. I am an active volunteer youth minister in the neighborhood and have been one for over a decade. My campaign and I are here on a mission, and one of our main ideas is to get the people in the community out to voice their opinions. As the youngest candidate, my campaign and I are focusing on the changes for the youth. We are also focusing on the concerns and well being of the citizens of Ward four. The way we look at it, since we want to build a better community, why not ask the people of the community. So I, Eric Mendoza am here for the people because it’s not about me, it’s about us. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my campaign manager.

Eric Mendoza
Mr.Criswell@yahoo.com.

Editor’s Note: Mendoza has pre-registered as a write-in candidate

I am a candidate for City Council because I want to continue to work with you to protect and strengthen what makes our community special. Over the 23 years my family and I have lived in Ward 5, I have developed deep roots in our community. I have worked with many of you on local issues: appropriate development at Takoma Metro, the hospital move, affordable housing, Sligo Creek, local schools, traffic, safety, and many others. Together, we’ve achieved some real results. I know the big and small community issues from my own experience and from working and talking with you. You’ve told me to focus on concrete steps to make our neighborhood better, whether it’s preserving the environment, getting a fair rebate from the county, supporting affordable housing, controlling traffic, improving bus service, ensuring safety, or supporting our youth. I have the neighborly know-how to do it and I will.

Ruben Snipper
301-974-2136
ReubenS@takomagov.org

As a renter, a first-generation immigrant, and a resident of the east side of New Hampshire I hope to represent the interests of the people who reside not merely in the most neglected section of Ward 6, but the most neglected section of the city, period. Tenants deserve to have as much a say in what goes on in their city as homeowners, and newcomers to our city and our country deserve to have a seat at the table and to be made to feel welcome. Takoma Park is such a wonderful and unique city, unapologetically progressive in its politics, welcoming, diverse and a sanctuary for those who are made to feel hunted, unwelcome or scapegoated elsewhere. I hope I can do my part in ensuring that it stays that way.

Navid Nasr
301-233-2220
nnasr73@gmail.com

Ward 6 is facing serious short and long term issues, and I have the skills, experience, time and passion to work on these issues. Many residents are concerned about unglamorous, but important, issues like better housing code enforcement and rent controls; improving pedestrian safety and getting sidewalks built; improving crime prevention and slowing cut-thru traffic. I’ll help our two neighborhood associations attract more participation and provide residents with a strong, representative voice to city officials. Long range, the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan is moving forward. We must make sure affected citizens understand the impact of the proposed changes in zoning, new streets and mass transit. The proposed Purple Line, a bus transit center and rebuilt recreation center will be great additions, if done right. I’ve lived here 23 years. Over 40 years, I’ve worked in community organizing, city government, banking and owned a business. I know how to get things done.

Fred Schultz
301-434-7090
fshultz@starpower.net

ELECCIONES
continued from page 9

Municipal antes de que se le expida la boleta al agente. Al igual que ocurre con las votaciones regulares de elector ausente, no podrá emitirse una boleta hasta que no se determine si el votante cumple con los requisitos, y la boleta debe ser enviada de vuelta al Secretario Municipal antes de que cierren las urnas el día de las elecciones.

VOTACIÓN PREFERENCIAL

El Consejo de la Ciudad enmendó los Estatutos de la Ciudad en el 2006 para adoptar un sistema de votación preferencial en las elecciones de Takoma Park. Los votantes tendrán la oportunidad de clasificar a los candidatos por orden de preferencia (1, 2, y así sucesivamente). El candidato que reciba la mayor cantidad de votos en cada contienda deberá declararse electo.

Independientemente del número de contiendas sin oposición que haya, las boletas se han diseñado usando un formato de clasificación por preferencia para votaciones preferenciales. Se usa este formato para mantener las mismas instrucciones en las boletas de los seis distritos electorales y para ayudar a los votantes a acostumbrarse al sistema. Los votantes pueden limitarse a seleccionar solamente un candidato en cada postulación.


VOTACIÓN VERIFICADA

Este año, la Junta Electoral ha colaborado con Scantegrity para brindarles a los votantes la oportunidad de verificar a través de Internet que su voto ha sido contado. Este sistema solamente estará disponible para quienes voten en persona.

Cuando marquen la boleta, los votantes recibirán un código de confirmación que pueden anotar, llevárselo para la casa y revisar por Internet para asegurarse de que su voto fue contado. El número de confirmación no dice por quién votó el elector y el voto seguirá siendo privado. Lo que sí dice, no obstante, es que el voto se incluyó en el conteo final y que el escáner leyó el voto correctamente. El sistema utiliza papel y funciona como un sistema de votación con un escáner óptico, lo cual hace que sea fácil de usar. La única diferencia es que cuando vayan a votar, los electores verán un número de confirmación en vez de una marca completamente negra. Anotar y revisar el número de confirmación es opcional.


ELECCIONES
continues on page 11
INSTRUCTIONS
Vote for candidates by indicating your first-choice candidate, your second-choice candidate, and so on. You are free to rank only a first choice if you wish. Do not fill in more than one box per column. Do not skip numbers in the ranking sequence.
Write-In Candidates: To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name in the space provided and fill in one box in the column indicating your ranking of the write-in candidate. Do not make any identifying marks on your ballot. If you make a mistake on your ballot, return it to the judge and get another.

FOR ALL WARDS / PARA TODAS LAS AREAS
MAYOR/ALCACE
Roger B. Schiegel
Bruce Williams

Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 1 / DISTRITO 1
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO
Josh Wright
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 2 / DISTRITO 2
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO
Colleen Clay
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 3 / DISTRITO 3
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO
Dan Robinson
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 4 / DISTRITO 4
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO
Terry Seamens
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 5 / DISTRITO 5
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO
Reuben Snipper
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 6 / DISTRITO 6
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO
Navid Nasr
Fred Schultz
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

NEW THIS YEAR!
TRANSPORTATION TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER ON ELECTION DAY
All residents vote at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The Recreation Department Bus will be available to transport residents to and from the Community Center.

Bus Schedule and Pick-Up Locations
• Victory Tower, 7051 Maple Avenue – pickups at 9:40 a.m.; 11:10 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.
• Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue – pickups at 9:55 a.m.; 11:25 a.m.; 1:15 p.m.
• Intersection of Houston and Roanoke Avenue – pickups at 10:10 a.m.; 11:40 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.
• Franklin Apartments, 7620 Maple Avenue – pickups at 10:20 a.m.; 11:50 a.m.; 1:40 p.m.
After the last group votes, the bus will transport those voters back along the same route, but there will be no more pickups. For information call 301-891-7267.
FACEOFF FLOOR HOCKEY
Ages 6 - 14
Looking for a fun new sport to play during those cold winter months? Look no further than Takoma Park Faceoff Floor Hockey. The participants will be taught the rules and skills of the game and after each session there will be a scrimmage to practice these skills. Maximum 16, minimum 10. Six weeks.
Instructor Carey Antoszewski.

Ages 7 - 9
When: Mondays, Nov. 9 – Dec. 14
Time: 5 – 6 p.m.

Ages 10 - 12
When: Wednesdays, Nov. 11 - Dec. 23
Time: 5 – 6 p.m.
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School Gym, 7510 Maple Avenue
Fee: TP City Residents $25
Non-Residents $30

Fun Day Program
Ages 5 - 11
The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings and activities and performances on scheduled half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. On half days only, students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up from their bus stop and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Full days pack a lunch. On half days bring a snack! Trips, activities and performances on scheduled half day closings. Schedules whole day school closings and activities

When: November 21 – December 5 – 19
Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Lilac Room - TP Community Center
Fee: TP residents $50
Non-residents $55

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS
Ages 13 - 18
Mind Your Own Business is designed to introduce teens to the world of business and entrepreneurship. Did you know that you are never too young to start a business? Our goal is to help participants develop basic skills by offering various workshops, in addition to giving participants the opportunity to enhance their current skills with confidence. Additional workshops will be provided.

When: Saturdays
Session 3: November 21 - December 5 – 19
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Senior Room - TP Community Center
Fee: Free

Dog Training Level 1
Ages 16 and older
(Unless permission from instructor)
Clicker-training is a gentle, fun way to train your dog to good manners, and walk on a loose lead. Learn how to teach your dog behaviors such as sit, down, come and stay, as well as “stupid pet tricks.” Best of all, learn how to build a relationship with your dog that will make him an eager learner throughout his life. Must have proof of a rabies vaccine. Not appropriate for aggressive dogs. Instructor Ann Riley. Maximum eight, minimum six. Six weeks.

When: Wednesdays
Session 2: November 4 – December 16
Time: 7 – 8 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center 42 Oswego Ave.
Fee: TP residents $85/session
Non-residents $95/session

No class on November 11.

Winter Basketball League
Now Forming
The Takoma Park Winter Basketball League is for male and female participants ages 4 through 15. Each child will have the opportunity to play in a quality basketball league where emphasis is placed on teaching the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. The league is community-based, and games are played at local gyms. Modified rules and lowered baskets will be used for the younger age groups.

Workout Dates: Saturdays, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, 2009
Practices Date: December 12, 2009

Baldur Basketball
Ages 4 - 5 co-ed
Jr. League
Age 6 - 7 co-ed
Inter. League
Ages 8 - 9 girls and boys
Upper League
Ages 10 - 12 girls and boys
Senior League
Ages 13 - 15 co-ed

Location: Local area gym
Games: Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fee: TP residents $50
Non-residents $60

Blood Pressure Screening
The Washington Adventist Hospital will be doing monthly blood pressure screening.

When: Thursday, Nov. 19, Dec. 17
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Senior Room
TP Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Free
RECREATION
continued from page 13

DOG TRAINING LEVEL 2
Ages 16 and older
(Unless permission from instructor)
A more advanced class for dogs that already have some obedience training. Use clicker training to build on the skills you and your dog already have whether you plan to compete in dog sports or would like your pet dog to be a more polite companion. Behaviors we focus on include the sit and down stay, sitting quietly for petting by a stranger, walking quietly on a leash around other people and dogs, working with distractions and tricks. Prerequisite: Beginning dog training Level 1 or any basic/introductory obedience class or permission of instructor, Instructor Ann Riley. Maximum eight, minimum six. Six weeks.

When: Wednesdays.
Session 2: November 4 – December 16
Time: 8:15 – 9:15 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center 42 Oswego Ave.
Fee: TP residents $85/session
Non-residents $95/session
No class on November 11.

INDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM
Ages 7 – 10
Soccer is your life! Can’t get enough soccer? If this is how you think, then this fast-paced, high energy soccer action is for you. So when the weather outside is frightful, we’ll be playing indoor soccer – oh how delightful. Bring a water bottle and indoor gym shoes. Maximum 80, minimum 10. Seven weeks.

When: Sundays, December 6 – January 31
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Time: 1 – 3 p.m.
Fee: Non-residents $45/session
TP residents $40/session
No program December 27, January 3.

CREATIVE MEMORIES
Scrapbook Workshop
Learn the techniques needed to produce a personal memories scrapbook. Students need to bring in photographs (which can be cut and applied) of family, friends, vacations and special events to include in the scrapbook, provided by instructor. The final product is yours to keep. Limit eight participants. Instructor Ellen Evanoff. Call 301-891-7280 to register.

When: Saturday, November 14
Time: 2 – 4 p.m.
Location: Senior Room – T.P Community Center
Fee: $30

Senior Day Buffet
This bi-monthly event offers a good game of Bingo and a delicious American food buffet from Old Country Buffet in Gaithersburg, Md. for only $7.95 plus tax. Those who can drive, please meet in the rear parking lot of the Community Center. If you need transportation, please call 301-891-7280, two days in advance to arrange for pickup at Maple View Apts., Franklin Apts., and Victory Tower only. Call-in registration is required to participate.

When: Wednesday, November 18
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fee: You pay for your meal.

COFFEE SOCIAL
Come to the Senior Room for coffee and conversation. The Seniors Program Manager will be on hand to share ideas and information about the program.

When: Thursdays, beginning November 12, ongoing (No meetings in the event of a planned special activity or day trip. Check the monthly newsletter.)
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Senior Room - TP Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Free

Silver Foxes On the Go

SILVER FOXES TRIPS
Please note: All day trips require advance registration. Please call 301-891-7280 to pre-register, fill out a registration form and sign up by the registration deadline. Limited space available. Lunch not included, you pay for your meal.

MUSICALITY
Back by popular demand! A great time for music lovers to gather and enjoy great music and meet new friends over delicious tea and light refreshments. Musical performances by Levine School of Music faculty-artists, students and guests.

When: Thursday, November 5
Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: The Music Center at Strathmore, Bethesda, MD
Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: 11/2/09

ARUNDEL MILLS MALL AND THE NATIONAL
Cryptology Museum - The National Cryptology Museum is located in Fort Meade, Maryland next to the (NSA) National Security Agency’s Headquarters. We will take a tour of the museum’s historical artifacts (machines, devices, techniques) used in the secret world of code making and code breaking by people who devoted their lives to national defense. Afterwards, we will enjoy shopping at Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, Maryland. Bring your lunch or buy your lunch at the mall.

When: Tuesday, November 10
Time: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Fort Meade/Hanover, Maryland
Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: 11/5/09

RECREATION
continued from page 15

OPEN ARTS STUDIO
Expand your art skills or learn new techniques in an open art studio with instructor Alice Sims. Classes include instruction on drawing, painting and working with clay. Be creative in a relaxed atmosphere and have fun. Call 301-891-7280 to register.

When: Mondays, October 26
November 9, December 14
Time: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Art Studio – TP Community Center
Fee: Free, but registration is required to participate.

Photo by Debra Haiduven
A happy group of local seniors flex their smiles after a free Bone Builders class at the Community Center. The popular class is offered in partnership with Montgomery County.

Silver Foxes On the Go

RENWICK ART MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, D.C.
The Renwick Gallery, designed by architect James Renwick Jr. in 1859, is a branch of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and features the collections of American craft and decorative arts (clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood) from the 19th century to the present. Lunch at Potbelly Sandwich Works.

When: Wednesday, December 9
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Washington, D.C.
Fee: Free
Registration Deadlines: 12/4/09

SPECIAL BINGO
Come try your luck. Win a prize. Light refreshments.

When: Thursdays, November 19
December 17
Time: 12 - 2 p.m.
Location: Senior Room, TP Community Center
Fee: Free

OPEN ARTS STUDIO
Expand your art skills or learn new techniques in an open art studio with instructor Alice Sims. Classes include instruction on drawing, painting and working with clay. Be creative in a relaxed atmosphere and have fun. Call 301-891-7280 to register.

When: Mondays, October 26
November 9, December 14
Time: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Art Studio – TP Community Center
Fee: Free, but registration is required to participate.
RECREATION
continued from page 14

CARDIO FUSION
Ages 16 and older

Days: Mondays and Wednesdays
Session 2: November 9 – December 9
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Dance Room – TP Community Center
Fee: TP residents $50/session
Non-residents $55/session
No class on November 11.

DRAWING AND WATERCOLOR
Ages 11 – 14
Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of $25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Six weeks, Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.

Day: Tuesdays
Session 2: November 3 – December 15
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Location: Art Room – TP Community Center
Fee: Residents $135
Non-Residents $145
No class on November 24.

COLLAGE
Ages 18 and older
Come enjoy new ways of combining materials and media. Using a variety of collage and paper altering processes, students combine found and altered papers and lightweight three dimensional materials. Principles of color and design will be presented, such as limiting the color palette and the principles of design will be explored such as structure, balance, repetition, value and gradation. This class is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be provided. There is a $30 materials fee paid directly to the instructor, due the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.

Day: Tuesdays
Session 2: November 3 – December 15
Time: 3 – 5:15 p.m.
Location: TP residents $205
Non-residents $225
No class on November 24.

BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH REGGIE WILLIAMS
Ages 8-15
The Takoma Park Basketball Clinic will be conducted under the watchful eyes of former NBA veteran Mr. Reggie Williams. Reggie, a star player at Dunbar High School (Baltimore) and Georgetown University, was part of the nucleus that led the Hoyas to become the National Champions in 1984. The developmental clinic, which will be held on Saturdays, is targeted to both male and female basketball players who want to improve their skills. Participants will gain a keen insight on the fundamentals of the game. Eight-week session. Instructor Reggie Williams.

Day: Saturdays
Session 2: October 24 – Dec. 19
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Art Room – TP Community Center
Fee: $50
No class on November 24.

ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST
** PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE
The FREAKS come out in the afternoon. Get all decked out and strut your stuff. Categories include most original, funniest, and scariest. Ages 2 and under; 3 - 4; 5 - 7; 8 - 10; 11 - 12; teen and adult. Overall group category. Join in the fun!

When: Saturday, October 31
Time: 4 p.m.**
Location: Intersection of Carroll and Laurel Avenues, Old Town Takoma Park

HALLOWEEN PARADE
** PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE
All are welcome to participate in this walking parade. Follow the Takoma Park Fire Department Fire Truck as it escorts you down the parade route. Beginning at Carroll and Laurel Avenues, following Carroll Avenue to Firehouse, left onto Philadelphia Avenue and ending at Piney Branch Elementary School.

When: Saturday, October 31
Time: Approximately 4:45 p.m.
** (Immediately following the Costume Contest)

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN EVENTS
Halloween Award Ceremony
Join us for refreshments, sponsored by the Takoma Park Lions Club, at Piney Branch Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, following the Halloween Parade for the announcement of the Contest Winners. We’d like to thank the Takoma Park Lions Club, who graciously served the Takoma Park community for several decades with its kindness and support.

When: Saturday, October 31
Time: Approximately 5:15 p.m. (Immediately following the parade)
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School
7510 Maple Avenue

Photo by Debra Haiduven

A young trucker gets a feel for riding high in the big Public Works truck at the annual Touch a Truck event.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Faye Wright, Recreation Department Teen Manager, drew a big crowd when she set up a popcorn machine one day after school. Visitors not only got free popcorn, they learned about the many Rec Department programs offered by the City.

Photo by Debra Haiduven
**LIBRARY Briefs**

Reading Group Discusses Cry, The Beloved Country

The next meeting of the Readers Reading Group will discuss Alan Paton’s Cry, The Beloved Country, Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Community Center. Set in Johannesburg in the 1940s (and published in 1948), the novel brought South Africa and its racial tensions to world awareness—it is “the most influential South African novel ever written,” wrote South African writer and Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer. In following Stephen Kumalo, a Zulu priest, and the disabling troubles his family encounters, the novel dramatizes with as much objectivity as may be possible the complexities of a society that gave rise to apartheid. For more information about the book and programs that the Friends support, go to www.fpml.org or call 301-891-7259.

**Book Sale Approaches**

Don’t forget to attend the Friends of the Library’s gala used book sale on the Library lawn on Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have nearly new children’s books, popular fiction and a variety of quality non-fiction plus some music CDs to sell at unbelievably low prices. The Friends semi-annual book sales are a major source of revenue for the Friends. All proceeds go to the Library in the form of gifts. They help to fund many of our special programs—such as the College Bound speakers’ series, Spanish and French Circle time, poetry programs with Rosanne Singer and Liz Rees, books for both the Banned Books Club and the Friends Reading Group, and crafts for our seasonal and holiday craft programs with Karen MacPherson. Community service is available for high school students who wish to help out on the day of the sale. Those interested should contact Ellen Robbins at ellen@takomagov.org or 301-891-7258. Adults who wish to volunteer for two hour shifts between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. are also welcome to sign up.

**Library Calendar**

continues on page 17

### 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 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

10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

**Bedtime Stories**

Monday, Nov. 2, 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, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

**Saturday Circle Time**

Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m.

Rhymes, fingerplays, songs and a story. Ages infant-5.

**Eaglebear and Friends**

Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

Great for kids and adults of all ages!

**Nursery Rhymes for Big Kids**

A four-program workshop for kids in grades 3-5

Tuesdays, Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, & 8

7:30-8 p.m.

Led by poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer

Registration required.

**Banned Books Club**

For kids grades 6 and up

Monday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Candide by Voltaire. Copies are available for check-out, thanks

**Library Calendar**

continues on page 17

### Geisel Award Highlights Best Beginner Books

**By Karen MacPherson**

Learning to read should be fun. All too often, however, the books available for beginning readers are simple-minded and boring.

Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, sought to change all that with his brilliantly witty books for beginning readers, such as The Cat in the Hat. So several years ago, the American Library Association decided to salute Geisel’s efforts to make reading fun by establishing a special award in his name.

The Geisel Award, first given in 2006, is given annually to the authors and illustrators of the most distinguished books for beginning readers. Chosen by a group of librarians, the winner of the Geisel Award is announced the same day as the Newbery and Caldecott medals.

If you’re a parent whose child is just learning to read, give the Geisel winners a try. You can find out more information about the award and previous winners at this website: http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscguideli/alscawardsgrants/bookmedia/geiselaward/index.cfm.

While the winning books have so far been beginning readers, several of the Geisel Honor books have been picture books, such as Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler, or even non-fiction like Vulture View by April Pulley Sayre.

This year, the Geisel Honor books included a picture book, a non-fiction volume and even a graphic novel. Here’s a closer look at the winner of the 2009 Geisel Award, as well as the four Geisel Honor books:

Mo Willems burst onto the children’s book scene in 2004, when one of his first children’s books, Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, won a Caldecott Honor. The following year, Willems won a second Caldecott Honor for his picture book titled Knuffle Bunny.

In 2007, Willems expanded his repertoire to beginning readers, publishing the first four volumes in a new series focused on two unlikely friends, Elephant and Piggie. One of those books, There Is a Bird On Your Head won the 2008 Geisel Award.

Now, Willems has done it again, winning the 2009 Geisel Award for another Elephant and Piggie book, Are You Ready to Play Outside? Once again, Elephant, whose name is Gerald, isn’t sure he’s up to doing what his exuberant friend Piggie is planning.

Piggie wants to spend the day outside so they can skip, jump and run. “Nothing can stop us,” he adds confidently.

Then it begins to rain, and Piggie is furious. Fortunately, Gerald has a solution or two that makes their play time turn out perfectly.

Willems’ text uses basic words but vibrates with energy, and young readers will love the way Gerald creates a happy ending for Piggie. As always, Willems’ artwork is wonderful as he uses simple lines and a limited color palette to add lots of detail and emotion to his story. (Ages 4-7).

**Geisel Honor books**

Young readers can learn all about a tiny but fascinating “backyard predator” in Wolfsnail. Written by Sarah Campbell, the book follows a wolfsnail as it spots and then devours its prey—a smaller snail. Campbell’s text is full of interesting facts, and readers can gather further information from the close-up color photographs taken by Campbell’s husband, Richard Campbell. (Ages 4-7).

Stinky’s a swamp-dwelling monster who dislikes kids because they like to take baths, they don’t like mud and they eat cake and apples. So Stinky is appalled when a boy decides to build a tree house in one of his trees. Despite his best efforts, however, Stinky can’t get rid of the boy and they eventually become friends, brought together by Stinky’s enormous toad Wartbelly. In Stinky, author/illustrator Eleanor Davis has created a graphic novel that’s perfect for beginning readers. As in all the Toon Book readers, kids can get the entire story by just looking at the pictures, which cuts down on frustration as they attempt to decipher the text. (Ages 4-7).

Author/illustrator Laura Vaccaro Seeger combines vibrant artwork with a clever story and die-cut pages to create the memorable One Boy. In this picture book, kids will learn to read numbers and other simple words as they try to figure out just how Seeger is going to tie things up in the end. Young readers will particularly enjoy exploring Seeger’s use of die-cut pages to tell her story. (Ages 3-6).

Earl and Pearl are trying to get some gardening done, and Chicken just won’t stay out of their pumpkin patch. But, as author Judyanne Ackerman Grant shows in Chick-en Said, ‘Cluck!’, Chicken ends up saving the pumpkin patch from hungry grasshoppers. Grant’s text will entertain young readers, who will enjoy repeating “Cluck, cluck, cluck” and “Shoo, shoo, shoo.” Sue Truesdell’s illustrations further broaden the comedy. (Ages 4-7).

New Faces Join Library Staff

The Library has welcomed three new staff members in recent months—two substitute staff and a part time Library Assistant.

Jill Raymond replaced Lucia Acin on our permanent staff in June. Jill has lived in Takoma Park for more than 25 years. Since she received her Masters degree in Library Science from Catholic University, she has worked professionally for National Public Radio, NBC News, Montgomery College, Congressional Quarterly and at the Takoma Park Library in a variety of capacities. She is also a nationally certified massage therapist and a member of the outreach team for the Protect Seals Team organized by the Humane Society of America.

**Library Briefs**

continues on page 17
Takoma Park Newsletter

LIBRARY BRIEFS continued from page 16

Patty Mallin has lived in Takoma Park since 1997. She is a free-lance web design-er, and worked as Program Director for the Institute for Global Communications from 1996 to 2002. Patty has served on the Board of the Friends of the Library, and organized a mother-daughter book club in 2007. She currently works at the Takoma Park Library as a substitute librarian and library assistant.

Olga Stroevsky Sirota is also a long-time City resident. She has worked extensively with children, including at the Takoma Park Child Development Center. She has also taught Spanish at several schools in the Montgomery County public school system. As a fluent speaker of Spanish as well as French and Portuguese, Olga is a welcome addition to our substitute staff following the departure of Lucin Acini.

Eaglebear Returns

It’s time for our yearly visit from Eaglebear — aka Tomas Shash — and his family and friends. Join us on Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. for this harvest celebration, which is perfect for both adults and kids of all ages. During the program, Eaglebear and members of his family present songs, stories and dances of their Xicano and Apache cultures. Afterwards, participants can get a closer look at some of the drums, animal pelts and other artifacts that Eaglebear brings to teach others about his cultures. No registration necessary. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring Eaglebear’s visit.

Poetry for Big Kids

So you think nursery rhymes are just for little kids? Not so, as local poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer will demonstrate during a four-program workshop for kids in grades 3-5. In the workshop, which culminates in a performance, kids will look at some of the familiar childhood nursery rhymes and investigate the history behind them. For example, did you know that Humpty Dumpty was the name of a powerful cannon during the English Civil War for 1642-1649 or that Mary, Mary Quite Contrary was a blood-thirsty queen? After looking at the history behind the rhymes, participants will then create their own poetic responses. Maybe kids want to take on the persona of Mary’s Little Lamb or the Farmer’s Wife who cut off the tails of the three blind mice. What were they thinking? Why did they do what they did? Participants will perform their poems during the final evening. Dates for the programs in the workshop are all Tuesdays: Nov. 10 and 17, and Dec. 1 and 8. Spaces are limited and registration is required.

French Circle Time

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:30 p.m.

Join Madame Marie as she does songs, rymes and stories in French.

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Our book is Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton.

Community Center

Takoma Park Newsletter

November 2009

Page 17

LIBRARY CALENDAR continued from page 16

to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. All welcome; registration required.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:45 p.m.

Comics Jam

Friday, Nov. 20, 4 p.m.

Come enjoy our “comic books book club”!

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON RESIDENTS’ REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF OFF-LEASH DOG HOURS IN SPRING PARK

The City Clerk has received a petition requesting designation of off-leash dog hours in Spring Park. The hours requested are: Monday – Friday, Dawn to 9 a.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.; 4 p.m. to dusk every day.

Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 03-05 “Dogs Off-Leash in Parks,” residents may send comments to the City Manager (c/o the City Clerk’s Office, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912, Fax: 301-270-8794, E-mail: Clerk@takomagov.org).

Comments will be accepted until December 21, 2009. A full copy of the administrative regulation may be viewed at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/regulations. Questions may be addressed to Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267.

Takoma Park TV Events - November 2009

City TV is pleased to announce that it won three awards this year: an Honorable Men-
tion for its Snapshots segment entitled “Art in the Community Center” /WinoOafBde -
Fusion of Poetry and Art” from the Alliance for Community Media’s Annual Hometown Video Festival, and two Honorable Mentions for the Jazz Band Brawl per-
formance by Sabroso in the Government Program-
ing Awards in the categories of Visual Arts and Arts and Entertainment.

City TV will start November off with election results sometime on the night of November 3rd. Results will also be posted to the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

The current edition of Takoma Snapshots will feature:

• Green Takoma Park - Where does my recycling go?
• HLC Diabetes Foundation - working to make life sweeter
• Community Gardens - Building a Community

City Clerk Office by John Borstel
• Fall & Winter Sports in Takoma Park
• 32nd Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival

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

Many City TV programs, in-
cluding Council meetings and Snapshots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website.

Much of City TV programming is streaming live on the website as well. Be sure to visit City TV’s award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for more information.

All Council meetings and Snapshots epi-
isodes 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@ta-
komagov.org for more information.

Takoma Park Newsletter

November 2009

Page 17

LIBRARY CALENDAR continued from page 16

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Come enjoy our “comic books book club”!

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Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:30 p.m.

Join Madame Marie as she does songs, rhymes and stories in French.

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Community Center

Our book is Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton.

Books available at the Library. All are welcome.

For Quick City Service Use My TKPK

Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs

www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service/index.html
International Walk to School Day Hits Home

By Lucy Neher

“I feel famous,” one student was heard announcing as he walked to school on Wednesday, October 7, International Walk to School Day. Another student held tight to a treasure found along the way: a leaf the size of a basketball. Together students smiled and chanted as they made their way up Maple Avenue toward Piney Branch Elementary School.

As the flag was raised at school, the entire school community sang the national anthem and recited the pledge. Takoma Park Police Chief Ricucci addressed the students, empowering them to feel responsible for their safety and promising that pedestrian safety was a top priority for the Takoma Park Police Department, and City officials and event organizers were on hand to enforce the message of commitment to the safety of Takoma Park’s students.

Walk to School Day is one way the City-supported Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) educates and encourages families to walk and bike safely to school and emphasizes the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

Now in its third year, Safe Routes to School will continue to offer a range of programs to the seven participating schools: Piney Branch, Takoma Park, Rolling Terrace and East Silver Spring Elementary Schools, Takoma Park Middle School, and John Nevins Andrews and Sligo Adventist Schools.

Each school will be offered a Bike Rodeo to reinforce pedestrian and bike safety procedures. After watching an instructional video, the students all get a chance to practice bike safety skills on an obstacle course.

The SRTS Takoma Park 5K Challenge was a tremendous success last spring. The pedestrian safety message spread across the City as more than 350 runners registered to run in the May 3 event. Plans are already underway for the second annual SRTS Takoma Park 5K Challenge to be held Sunday, May 2, 2010.

Other SRTS programs include the continued maintenance of the trail behind Takoma Park Middle School, school-based walking, running and biking clubs, sidewalk installations and intersection redesign, and speed enforcement near the schools. The Safe Routes Coordinator is available to classroom teachers for small group instruction on pedestrian safety including hands on crosswalk training.

Walking to school will not make you famous, ensure that you get along with your neighbors or promise you treasured discoveries every day. Walking to school will improve your health, help you see your world with new eyes, reduce emissions and congestion and may even surprise you with added benefits like these each day.

Fall Leaf Collection Program

Loose leaf collection will be provided by the City from November 16 through December 31. Residents can rake leaves out to the curb at their convenience. Most City streets will not have an assigned collection day. However, every street in the City will receive at least two collections. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Leaf collection is dependent on the weather. Rain and freezing conditions can slow collection.

There are five streets that will have assigned and posted collection dates, due to the heavy traffic volume on the streets. Carroll Avenue from the 7000 to 7800 block, Ethan Allen Avenue, and Flower Avenue from the 7900 to 8600 block will have collection on Monday, November 30 and Thursday, December 17. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Thursday, December 3 and Monday, December 21. On these dates, only these streets will receive collection.

There are several holidays during the collection period. Veteran’s Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 11, Thanksgiving holiday is Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, and Christmas on Friday, December 25.

For the month of November, the crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. In December, when the crews are making the last collection on each street, they will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves from the gutter and grassy strip.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. Please contact Public Works by phone: 301-891-7633. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 to notify us when your leaves have been raked out. We plan to collect reported piles from the hotline calls within a week to 10 days of the call.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. Do not rake leaves into the street. Leaf piles can create traffic hazards.
2. Do not park your car in front of a leaf pile and when raking please try to avoid piling leaves where cars are likely to be parked.
3. The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. Do not include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.
4. Do not pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.

The City also operates the weekly Monday collection for bagged grass, leaves, branches and brush all year long. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than four feet long and less than three inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in a trash can. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled on weeks with a Monday holiday.

LEAF COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Collection will occur continuously from November 16 to December 31.
- Residents can rake leaves at their convenience, there is no assigned collection day (except for the five state highways in the City which have assigned collection days).
- Rake leaves just to the curb – not in the street.
- Do not put branches, brush, rocks or debris in the leaf piles.
- Vacuum leaf collection will end December 31, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.
- Leaf Collection Hotline for reporting when your pile is at the curb, 301-891-7626.
EMERGENCY PLANNING

continued from page 8

who wish to receive federal funding for emergency management activities or equipment. This system is used by all responders in the nation and works to maintain order when numerous organizations come together to manage major emergencies. This may be necessary, for example, when an incident commander in Takoma Park needs additional resources from Montgomery County, Fredericksburg, Virginia or even Fairbanks, Alaska.

Under the ICS, each individual or asset deployed has an easily identifiable role or assignment and an entity to whom they are responsible in the chain of command. To ensure compliance with the national standards, it is important that all organizations have adopted and trained in this concept. Potential incident commanders here in Takoma Park are trained accordingly, and participate in periodic exercises to refresh and reinforce that training.

Who’s in Charge?

The Incident Commander is usually the highest ranking member of the primary organization on any emergency scene, working at the Incident Command Post. This individual is ultimately in charge of overall emergency response to particular situations, but in some cases, command of the incident might move to a Unified Command, in which two or more agencies share the Incident Commander role.

The other major features of the National Incident Management System and National Response Framework are the Emergency Support Functions. These are 15 broadly-based categories of services used by government to address emergency management, including ESF 1 - Transportation, ESF 4 - Firefighting, ESF 9 - Search and Rescue, or ESF 13 - Public Safety and Security or Law Enforcement. Each ESF has a group of government or private sector organizations represented in the Emergency Management Group. Their role during an emergency is to ensure that the related basic services of government are met when addressing a crisis.

Emergency Plans in Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park has its own Emergency Operations Plan for bringing together its various departments during a local emergency. The two primary agencies in the City involved in emergency management are the Police Department and the Department of Public Works. The City’s plan provides for the operation of a Takoma Park Emergency Operation Center should that be necessary. Currently the Police Chief holds the position of the City’s Emergency Manager, on behalf of the City Manager.

The various EOPs spell out ground rules that apply in the field regarding which agency is responsible for Incident Command. Most emergency situations designate the Department of Fire and Rescue Services as the lead agency, but in some cases, a Unified Command would bring additional agencies into the picture. The Incident Commander relies on the EOC, when activated, to support the Incident Command with additional resources.

Incidents that call for the Police Department to lead underscore another dynamic here in Takoma Park: the City’s Police Department, because of its size and scope of specialization, may have to rely on additional manpower from surrounding agencies. The first stop in seeking assistance would be the Montgomery County Police. If that were to happen, in most cases the Takoma Park Police Commander would retain control incident response, but in some cases, where the deployment of County police assets might outweigh that of the City, command could be passed to the ranking Montgomery County Police official.

CERTS: Volunteer Programs

Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, Rockville and Takoma Park participate regularly in Emergency Management Group activities. If an incident were happening, a direct impact in a specific municipality, then the municipal representatives would be involved in the operations and planning efforts. City representatives would maintain contact with various departments here in the City, help arrange resource assets, and provide contact with the Takoma Park Emergency Operations Center, should that be into action.

State and Federal Roles

There are also significant assets for emergency management that are provided by state and federal agencies. Examples include National Guard support, specialized FEMA teams, or Department of Defense units with specialized capabilities for particular types of emergencies. The call for these assets comes through the County EOC to the State of Maryland’s EOC operated by MEMA. State authorities are responsible for notifying the federal government of needed assets, through either FEMA or the Department of Defense. When deployed to the scene of an incident though, these state or federal assets will usually be reporting to the Incident Commander, in order to receive situational status information about the emergency and to coordinate efforts with resources already deployed.

Most of this coordination effort appears transparent to the average community member needing government services during an emergency. Having a good understanding of these intra-governmental relationships, though, helps the informed citizen to be aware of local government’s ability to provide for the safety and welfare of its residents during a crisis.

CROSSROADS MARKET

continued from page 1

for low-income immigrant youth ages 13-18 ($15,500 requested).

Daines points out that, besides meeting the federal criteria that CDBG projects benefit individuals and households of low and moderate income, the Market accomplishes a number of objectives in the City’s strategic plan: it is environmentally sustainable, economically sustainable, as it supports local merchants and suppliers and promotes the “shop local” mantra; and it creates livable community by providing a pleasant, safe outdoor space and healthy food.

Michele Levy, a Crossroads Market staff member, lists other benefits: the market educates the public about healthy eating, increases buying power among low-income people, and builds community. Many of the senior citizens who take the City’s bus from the Community Center to the market each Wednesday are on a first-name basis with vendors, she notes; mothers bring children, and leave with nutrition information and activity books for the kids. “One woman who has been shopping at the market with WIC and food stamps... is now on the market staff,” says Levy.

The CDBG funds are crucial to the Market’s survival. With a 300 percent increase this year in the number of Fresh Check recipients, “We exceeded our projected budget early in the season, and have been actively fundraising to continue the project,” says Levy. She and the Market’s other staff, Michelle Dudley, remain optimistic about the market’s continued survival, though, and recently received an additional $50,000 grant from the Kaiser Permanente Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) and $5,000 from the Wallace Genetic Foundation. City assistance has gone beyond CDBG allocation. “When Crossroads Market founder, John Hyde, passed away last spring, it was the Department of Housing and Community Development who provided the organizational support to keep the market running,” says Levy. She praises Daines in particular as “an invaluable resource,” who provided meeting space, helped oversee market bus service, suggested organizational strategies, and gave budget advice; other City staffs have also pitched in.

“The Crossroads Market definitely credits the City for its survival,” says Dudley, and the market will “certainly” continue next year.

Training to help in Emergencies

Volunteers are an essential part of any emergency response plan, and training makes volunteers as effective as they can be. The City of Montgomery offers training for volunteers in several categories. They are:

Emergency Action Team: The Emergency Action Team is closest to the community: the team may be assigned to help neighboring an emergency hot line, work at a volunteer dispatch center, or help transport people. Obligation: Attend training sessions four times a year (not stringent).

Community Emergency Response Team (also called CERT): CERTs provide front-line assistance during large emergencies. CERTs will be able to identify and mitigate hazards at home and at work, provide assistance until professional emergency responders arrive at an emergency response, if needed. Obligation: Attend seven classes over a three-week period as well as one all-day practical instruction on Saturday. A test will be given.

Medical Reserve Corps: The Medical Reserve Corps is for medical professionals such as doctors, technicians and nurses to help their community by responding to emergencies. Members may assist in emergencies in shelters or they may supplement the County’s public health staff. Practicing or retired health professionals are welcome. Obligation: Attend four training sessions per year (not stringent).

Other opportunities: American Red Cross, Radio Response such as Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) for FCC licensed amateurs and Radio Emergency Agency Communication (REACT), and Sky-warn and Search and Rescue.

Sign up! The City of Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee will host the Volunteer Center of Montgomery County on Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. Volunteer Center staff will discuss volunteer training in detail and sign up interested participants.
Takoma Park welcomed throngs of people to the Takoma Park Street Festival October 4 - organizers estimate near 15,000 attended the event to listen to music, dance in the streets, shop among vendors, learn about community issues and visit with friends. Extending farther than ever this year - all the way down to the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Station - there were an additional 40 booths since last year lining the streets, from photography, painting, and one-of-a-kind clothing to grilled chicken, Caribbean calaloo, and ice cold lemonade, plus plenty of community information tables where visitors could learn about area development, community safety, local politics and human rights. Proceeds, from sponsorships, help support Main Street Takoma, which organizes summer concerts, clean-up days and Old Takoma business promotions. To help plan next year’s festival, volunteers can contact execdirector@takomaonline.com or 240-253-4229.

Photos: Lenni Moffet