

**CITY OFFICES
CLOSED**

New Year's Day and
MLK Holiday Jan. 18

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

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

**TRASH
HOLIDAYS**

Jan. 1 no yard waste,
trash/recycling
collected Jan. 2
Jan. 18, trash/
recycling collected
Jan. 19

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www.takomaparkmd.gov

JANUARY 2010



Photo by Virginia Myers

TRASH TALK

Some Takoma Park residents have been abuzz after seeing trash collectors like Anthony Anderson, shown here, putting separated recyclables together into a truck that looks just like a trash truck. Does this mean our recycling is getting disposed of as trash and not recycled? Not at all. Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite explains that the City's expanded recycling program allows the City to collect all the recycling together and take it to a processing facility that is set up for separating the materials into their respective categories (paper, glass, metal or paper). The change allows the City to use just one truck, rather than two, for

collection, saving about 500 gallons of fuel per month and reducing the resultant carbon emissions.

Public Works prefers that newsprint and mixed paper continue to be placed in paper bags or otherwise bundled and not left loose in the recycling container with the bottles and cans. Having the paper in paper bags reduces the chance for the paper to become litter, either when it is sitting out at the curb or when the collection crews pick it up and dump it into the truck. Also, it makes it easier for the paper to be sorted at the processing facility. Plastic, glass and metal containers can be still be mixed together in the recycling bin. For more information, see the Public Works site: <http://takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks/trash>.

Fire Destroys 19-Year Old Business and Allen Theatre Building

By MELANIE ISIS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

In the middle of the night on December 4, Gussini Fashion and Shoes at 6822 New Hampshire Avenue burned to a shell with a three alarm fire that drew 125 firefighters from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Firefighters spent three hours getting the fire under control, and estimated the damage at \$950,000.

Gussini owner Ramon Rahimi was awakened by a phone call from ADT Security at about 2:30 a.m., notifying him of the fire. He quickly dressed and drove from Springfield, Va., to Takoma Park in about 45 minutes. Then he stood by, watching his business burn and the firefighters work. The week before, he and his employees had received a large shipment of merchandise for the holidays – scarves and bags for shoppers to give as gifts. It was, and still is, emotionally wrenching for him and his employees to have his business destroyed

GUSSINI
continues on page 12

Sidewalks Construction Could Begin This Summer

By RICK HENRY

Armed with data from an extensive city-wide inventory and in possession of two dedicated funding streams totaling more than \$660,000, the City is prepared to move forward on a number of sidewalk projects before the end of the current fiscal year in June.

"We now have a lot of data and know where a lot of gaps are," Councilmember Colleen Clay said, referring to the results of two citywide studies -- a missing sidewalks study and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance study. "Some time after we get back from [December] break the Council will meet and prioritize that information and decide how to best move forward."

Clay and others expect Council and Staff will decide which sidewalks to repair or build first by the end of the fiscal year -- in June. Construction would begin in the summer.

In moving forward, the Council will draw heavily on the recent studies, completed by Toole Design Group and presented to Council Oct. 26. Toole examined every street without a sidewalk, every sidewalk and every curb ramp in the city and developed a three-tiered priority ranking system. The total cost of the work suggested is \$41.5 million; prioritizing helps break down the expense over a multi-year period.

The missing sidewalks study was funded through a Federal Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) grant and its focus was on identifying missing sidewalks, especially those on walking routes to local schools. Rankings for that study were determined using the following criteria defining most important projects:

- Absence of a sidewalk
- Connectivity to a pedestrian generator (such as schools, multi-family housing, senior centers and parks), SRTS priority project or existing sidewalk

- Limited need for retaining wall
- Absence of obstacles, such as trees and telephone poles
- Availability of right-of-way

The goal of the ADA compliance study, funded with a Community Development Block Grant, (CDBG) was to identify ADA compliance and sidewalk needs and recommend a compliance plan. The following criteria were used to determine the ADA compliance priority rankings:

SIDEWALKS
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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Friday, January 1, 2010 – City offices closed for the New Year Holiday. The Community Center will be closed until January 4.

Monday, January 4 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Wednesday, January 6 – Task Force on Environmental Action meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Monday, January 11 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Tuesday, January 12 – Takoma Park/Montgomery County joint public hearing on traffic calming measures in the Sligo Park Hills and Ritchie Avenue Traffic Study - Access Restriction, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Tuesday, January 12 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Tuesday, January 12 - Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, January 12 - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, January 18 – City offices closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Tuesday, January 19 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Tuesday, January 19 – Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, January 20 – Task Force on Environmental Action meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Thursday, January 21 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, January 25 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Tuesday, January 26 - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, January 26 - Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

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

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

Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-7 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

City Council Action*

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

November 23, 2009 – Special Session

Resolution 2009-70 was adopted, recognizing former City Councilmember Donna Victoria for her service on the City Council

First Reading Ordinance 2009-54 was accepted, modifying the PILOT Agreement with MHP for 8508 and 8510 Flower Avenue

First Reading Ordinance 2009-55 was accepted, authorizing appointment of specialized counsel for labor and employment law matters

First Reading Ordinance 2009-57 was accepted, authorizing the sale and issuance of State Infrastructure Bonds for renovation of the Public Works Facility

First Reading Ordinance 2009-56 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 2.16 Boards and Commissions, by repealing Article 4, Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2009-71, reaffirming Takoma Park's support of its newcomers and urging enactment of Federal comprehensive immigration reform

Ordinance 2009-58, authorizing execution of a contract for provision of emergency services

Ordinance 2009-59, approving an indefinite quantities contract for street restoration and contract work

November 30, 2009 – Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-54 was adopted, modifying the PILOT Agreement with MHP for 8508 and 8510 Flower Avenue (Nay: Robinson)

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-55 was adopted, authorizing appointment of specialized counsel for labor and employment law matters

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-56 was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code, Chapter 2.16 Boards and Commissions, by repealing Article 4, Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

Single Reading Ordinance 2009-60 was adopted, authorizing a contract for capacity building services (Nay: Clay, Seamens)

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2009-72, awarding funds through the Small Community Grant Program

Resolution 2009-73, urging residents to shop locally and support local businesses

Resolution 2009-74, providing for the City Council's winter holiday recess



Takoma Park Small Community Grant Program Application Deadline Extended to February 8, 2010

The spring deadline to apply for funding under the City's Small Community Grant Program has been extended to February 8, 2010. The program competitively awards small grants (up to \$2,500) for projects that help to further the goals established in the Strategic Plan.

After review of the first round of applications in November, the City Council awarded \$1,250 to the Rolling Terrace Elementary School PTA to assist with a mural project for the school.

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

A copy of the Strategic Plan, full description of the Small Community Grant Program, and application form is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk. The deadline for applications is February 8, with grants to be awarded in March 2010.

January 1

February 1

March 1

April 1

Three 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



Photo by Virginia Myers

Off-Leash Advocate Offers Dog Park Perspective

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to your December article "Parks Could Go to the Dogs."

I have been bringing my dog, Midnight, to Spring Park almost every morning since July 2008. Many have been coming longer. I bought "Midnight" to help socialize my son with high functioning autism. Running off-leash keeps my dog happy which makes my son happy and, in turn, me happy.

I feel that the article, starting with its alarmist title, was mostly anti-leash. Except for the first paragraph, which was too idyllic, it turned into a yellow journalism piece that a Fox 5 reporter could be proud of.

Someone could have interviewed me and others who use the park, especially those who bring their children with their dogs. Yet only people and organi-

LETTER to the Editor

zations you quoted were anti-off leash. How about some fairness in reporting?

Why did you begin second paragraph with "Lots, apparently" (with off leash dogs)? There are also "lots" of good things about off leash parks, especially when they're in areas of cul-de-sacs where ours is. The joy in my son's face when he plays with Midnight means "lots" to me.

Also, you state in paragraph 4 that you didn't know whether anyone had been warned by authorities. We were warned and threatened at least two early Sunday mornings in August by Montgomery County animal control police. I think that the only reason he didn't fine us was he realized that a \$500 fine is unfair, especially for low-income residents. Takoma Park code enforcement has also parked its car on Cockerville and observed us, causing us to disperse.

The words "children, tots, students, etc." were used at least eight times, every time with anti-dog connotation. Why not mention the fun that young children have had over the years playing with their and other dogs at Spring Park (without one incident). Why does it have to be dogs vs. children?

Also, instead of just giving the apparent official location of Spring Park as at the corner of Elm and Poplar Avenues, you should have emphasized that the section we use is facing the cul-de-sac of Cockerille Avenue, a much safer place for dogs, and further from the tot lot. We have let the City Manager know that we will not allow our dogs to interfere with approved sports games even if held during our hours.

Finally, we are just asking for a little time daily to play with our dogs. We don't see how this would cause our parks to "go to the dogs."

Thanks,
Mary Jane Muchui
Allegheny Avenue

HAS WEATHER CANCELED CITY PROGRAMS?

For General Info: 301-891-7100

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

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

City of Takoma Park government offices follow the federal government regarding liberal leave and closure due to inclement weather. Potential visitors to City buildings are advised to call 301-

891-7100 before departing. The status of City Recreation Department activities will be reported on the cancellation line, 301-891-7101 ext. 5605. Recreation follows Montgomery County Public Schools for program cancellations. Information regarding activities at the Takoma Park Maryland Library and Computer Learning Center may be obtained by calling 301-891-7259. You can also check the City Notice Board <http://www.bulletinboards.com/v2.cfm?comcode=takoma> for cancellation notices.

The Police Department is open at all times.

NEWS Briefs

New Hampshire Avenue Improvements Underway

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has announced the start of a \$1.4 million safety and resurfacing project for New Hampshire Avenue from Rte. 410 to Holton Lane. The work began in December and will continue sporadically through the spring of 2010. The work includes replacing storm water inlets, upgrading existing sidewalk ramps to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and replacing curb and gutter. The resurfacing of the road is expected to take place in the spring of 2010. Traffic signals at Sligo Creek Parkway, Glenside Drive/Erskine Avenue, Merwood Avenue and Larch Avenue will be upgraded to have an audible pedestrian signal.

During construction, there may be single lane closures during the day. The resurfacing work will be scheduled for overnight and weekends.

The City's Public Works Department will be communicating with the Project Manager from SHA throughout the project. Any questions about the work can be directed to Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director, at 301-891-7615 or DarylB@takomagov.org.

This project has received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Rental Housing License Requirements

As the year draws to a close, the City is preparing to send out 2010 rental housing applications and bills to current landlords who own rental housing properties in the City of Takoma Park. If you own one or more rental housing properties in the City of Takoma Park, you are required to obtain a rental housing license from the Code Enforcement Division or you could face fines for operating an illegal rental facility.

There are five requirements that must be met in order to receive a rental housing license. They are as follows: 1) submit 2010 Rental Application, 2) pay license fee, 3) obtain and maintain landlord certification, 4) provide City with MDE Lead Certificate, 5) and complete a property maintenance code inspection. Licenses are issued for the calendar year and are only issued after all requirements have been met.

The first requirement is the rental application, which should be filled out completely, front and back, and returned to the City along with the license fee, which is \$94 per rental unit for 2010. Both must be completed for each rental cycle. For landlord certification, we offer a monthly class here at the Community Center that introduces and briefly reviews all the requirements and laws that apply to rental housing in Takoma Park. The classes are held the third Thursday of every month alternating mornings and evenings. If you plan on attending, please call 301-891-7255 in advance to register.

The fourth requirement is to meet the lead risk reduction requirements. This is a state law, and is only mandatory for properties built before 1950. Please contact the Maryland Department of the Environment for more information or to obtain information on how to schedule an inspection with an MDE certified inspector. You may do so at www.MDE.state.md.us/lead or at 800-633-6101.

The final requirement is a Property Maintenance Code Inspection. New landlords must first submit their Rental Application and pay the license fees to the City, after which they will be contacted to schedule an inspection. Current landlords are already on an inspection schedule, and will be contacted when they are due for an inspection.

If you have any questions on the requirements or the process of licensing, or if you would like to register for the Landlord Seminar, please call the Code Enforcement Division at 301-891-7255.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

Published material containing opinions does not neces-

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.



Landlord-Tenant Commission Considers Electricity, Security Deposit

The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently issued Opinions and Orders on two complaints regarding rental property in Takoma Park.

09-18T, Henson v. 8314 Roanoke Ave., LLC et al (Hearing Date 11/17/09)

On November 23, 2009, COLTA issued a decision on a tenant's complaint that the landlord charged an illegal rent of \$850 and caused a defective tenancy by failing to pay the electric bill for the common areas of the property, which resulted in the electric service being shut off. COLTA found that the landlord charged an illegal rent and that the legal rent for the apartment is \$693. COLTA further found that the landlord is liable for a defective tenancy because of its failure to maintain electrical service for the common areas of the property. COLTA ordered that the legal rent for the apartment is \$693 and that the rent should be reduced by \$25/monthly to \$668 until the landlord restores electric service to the common area. COLTA further ordered that the tenant is authorized to withhold \$1,880.50 from subsequent month's rent as damages for illegal rent and causing a defective tenancy. COLTA also ordered that the landlord restore electric service in the common areas.



COLTA'S CORNER

09-17T, Battle v. Giakoumatos (Hearing Date-11/4/09)

On November 25, the Commission issued its decision regarding the tenant's complaint that the landlord had failed to return her security deposit plus applicable interest. The tenant's complaint sought an award of three times the amount wrongfully withheld. In denying the tenant's complaint, the Commission found that the landlord had complied with Section 8-203(g) of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code when she provided the tenant within 45 days of the termination of the tenancy a written list of damages claimed together with a statement of the cost actually incurred.

The Commission's ruling noted that the landlord was not required to provide the tenant with confirmation of her payment for the indicated repairs along with the statement of damages. The ruling also noted that the photographs submitted by the landlord confirmed that the apartment damages did not constitute normal and wear and tear. Because the damages exceeded the amount of the tenant's security deposit plus accrued interest, the tenant was not entitled to any refund.

Contract for Tenant Capacity Building Program Is Renewed

By LINDA WALKER
AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANAGER

On November 30, the Council adopted an ordinance renewing the contract the City has for the Tenant Capacity Building Initiative, a program that has been an integral part of the services offered by the City's Department of Housing and Community Development's Landlord-Tenant division since 2003. If you are a tenant in Takoma Park, then you may have had the opportunity to experience the benefits of this program, by meeting Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo, the two community organizers who provide tenant support services through the program.

The work they do is varied and challenging. Although not every effort is successful, Look and Cristaldo believe this program, which is funded through the City's annual budget, helps tenants understand their rights and responsibilities under Takoma Park's landlord-tenant and tenant opportunity to purchase laws, and guides and encourages tenants to take on leadership roles in their rental facilities and in their communities.

In the six years Look and Cristaldo have worked with the City, they

have helped tenants form 12 tenant associations, assisted six tenant groups pursue their rights to purchase their rental facilities, obtained pro-bono legal services for seven associations needing legal counsel, and worked with five tenant associations in filing complaints with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA).

One example of their work can be seen at the Hilltop Condominium, a 20-unit property located on Maple Avenue. This was a rental property owned by Adventist Hospital. In 2007, the hospital decided to sell and the tenants contacted the City to investigate their opportunity to buy the building.

Purchasing a property is often a long and complicated process, but, with their experience, Look and Cristaldo helped the tenants form a tenant association, express their right to purchase within the time-frame of the law, and explore various options to convert to a condominium. Tenant association leaders interviewed developers and selected one to assist in the conversion and rehabilitation of the building. The Hilltop is now a 20-unit, owner-occupied condominium and a thriving example of how the City has helped tenants become homeowners.

Look and Cristaldo's thorough understanding of the City's housing code enforcement process and the landlord-tenant complaint procedure allows them to help tenants realize they are not alone in dealing with building code violations, and encourage them to exercise their rights as tenants. They ensure that tenants know registered tenant groups can file complaints with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, a City administrative body set up to hear landlord-tenant complaints that have not been resolved through the mediation process. Tenants often feel at risk when they file individual complaints. With a tenant association, the risk is diminished and it may be easier for a landlord understand that a complaint represents not just one person, but a group of at least one third of the tenants residing in a building.

Helping tenants understand and protect their rights is what this program is all about. If you would like more information about the Tenant Capacity Building Initiative or would like to form a tenant association in your building, please call 301-891-7222 or e-mail LindaW@takomagov.org.



HOUSING Mailbox

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

A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding what temperature is to be maintained in his apartment and what minimum temperature is required for hot water.

In accordance with the Montgomery County Code (Chapter 26-Housing and Building Maintenance Standards), which has been adopted by the City of Takoma Park, the temperature in each habitable room or bathroom in a rental facility must be maintained at a minimum of 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature readings should be measured at a distance of three feet above floor level and at least three feet from any exterior wall. The code does not specify a date when the heat is to be turned on.

Tenants experiencing lack of heat in their apartment should buy a small thermometer and take temperature readings in a central location during the morning and evening hours for a week. If the temperature readings are below 68 degrees, you should contact your landlord regarding the problem and then follow up with the Montgomery County Code Enforcement Office (240-777-3785) if your landlord does not address the issue.

Section 26-7 (4) of the County Code indicates that hot water used in every kitchen sink, lavatory basin, bathtub or shower must be at a temperature of not less than 120 degrees or more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Tenants and Landlords having questions about the city's Landlord-Tenant Law should give me a call at 301-891-7215 or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.



Notice to Community Organizations Who Plan to Request Funding from the City of Takoma Park for Fiscal Year 2011 – Application Deadline Extended to January 8, 2010

The City Council has adopted a formalized process for review of requests for funding in amounts over \$2,500. The process is intended to ensure that requests are reviewed by the Council prior to consideration of the budget for the next fiscal year. Funding decisions will not be made until the Council has discussed the budget and determined whether sufficient funds are available. (Note the different process for smaller amounts of \$2,500 and under.)

Schedule for FY 2011 requests for funding:

Deadline for applications: January 8, 2010

Council review of applications and potential interviews of applicants: January 2010

Council selection of priorities for funding for FY 2011: January/February 2010

City Manager's proposed budget released: April/May 2010

Council discussion of budget and determination of availability of funds: April 2010

Adoption of FY 2011 Budget: May 2010

If requests for funds are granted, funds will be available after July 1, 2010

Complete information and the application materials are available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk.



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Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs at our interactive web site

www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service

Online Customer Service Center

Takoma Foundation Opens Grants Cycle

BY KEVIN ADLER

The Takoma Foundation's new grants cycle will be open from January 4 to February 12, 2010. All community-based nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for grants of \$500 to \$2,000 for projects that will support residents of Takoma Park, Takoma DC, or Silver Spring.

"Our goal is to help local organizations that make our community a better place to live, work, and play," said Franca Brilliant, a Takoma Foundation Board member and chair of the Grants Committee. "We especially look for grant proposals that encourage and involve resident participation in community life; provide opportunities to community residents that would not be possible otherwise; and meet the needs of low- and moderate-income residents, especially among youths aged 12 to 18, and through adult education and workforce development programs," she said.

In the most recent grant cycle in spring 2009, the Foundation awarded eight grants totaling nearly \$7,000:

- Community Tax Aid, tax-preparation workshops for low-income

Takoma Park Opens Small Community Grants Program

The Takoma Park City Council is accepting applications to the Small Community Grants Program through February 8, 2010.

Projects should help the community achieve the goals established in the Takoma Park Strategic Plan. The City Council particularly seeks pro-

posals for projects that increase community engagement and result in the formation of new neighborhood or tenant associations, or that are done in partnership with and serve to strengthen existing associations.

The maximum grant amount will be \$2,500, and awards will be announced by the end of March 2010. For more information, visit: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/sc-grants/>.

- and non-English speakers
- Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Association, streetscape beautification
- Rolling Terrace Elementary, summer book swap
- Takoma Park Middle School, African drumming after-school program
- Piney Branch Elementary, at-home visits by teachers
- Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, native plant garden
- Silver Spring YMCA, food safety certification program
- Takoma Park JazzFest

The Foundation's grant application is short and simple compared to many

other grants requirements, said Brilliant. "Don't be intimidated by the paperwork," she said. "We want to make this happen."

Applications may be for projects that find innovative ways to meet local health and social service needs, create or expand learning opportunities, beautify and improve the environment, engage residents to participate in community affairs, or that celebrate local arts and cultural diversity.

Application forms are available at the Takoma Park Library or online at www.takomafoundation.org. For additional questions, contact Franca Brilliant, Grants Committee Chair, 301-891-2581, or fbrilliant@aol.com.

Artists Invited to Expand Creativity at Mixer

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission will host an artists' mixer event, "Art Swoop," at Jackie's Restaurant on January 31 from 4-7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided, with wine donated by the restaurant's owner, Jackie Greenbaum. "Jackie's has been a proud supporter of artists, creative professionals and the artistic spirit since we opened our doors in 2004," says Greenbaum. "I myself am an oil painter, we've hired local fine artists and craftsmen to do projects here, and for years we have had working artists' studio spaces in our building...at the Quarry House Tavern--our other location--we have vigorously supported local musical talent."

The Commission is hosting the event to unify creative professionals in the Takoma Park area, to address findings within its cultural plan, and to inspire artists to get active within the community. With a casual atmosphere and a format based on Open Space technology, members of the Commission hope to encourage artists to come out with their creative minds sharpened and their ideas in hand. Artists, musicians, writers, poets, performers and other members of the creative community are welcome to attend.

Drafted in May 2005, the Commission's Cultural Plan was created to address the cultural needs of the Takoma Park area and to create mission and programming goals for the community. "What we want to do is create an environment where creative people will take ownership over the area's cultural landscape," Com-



Events like ShadowPlay 1: Borderlands, an art/music/poetry event at the Community Center last March, reflect the creativity the Arts and Humanities Commission will tap at the upcoming "Art Swoop" mixer, January 31.

File photo

missioner Adam Griffiths says. "We want to engage artists directly and find common ground in carrying out our goals together. The event is kind of like a speed date." The Commission is especially interested in artists' views and suggestions on public art, outreach, education and accessible venues for the visual and performing arts.

While the Commission has created original programming for the City in recent years, what artists may not be aware of is that the Commission does accept proposals from artists and groups for possible support, collaboration and a little funding. "We don't have a ton of money sitting around," Griffiths said, "but we do what we can with the resources we have in order to support the arts in the Takoma Park

ART SWOOP

January 31, 4-7 p.m.

Jackie's Restaurant
8081 Georgia Ave
(enter on Sligo Ave)
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RSVP to
adam@alienequivalent.net

area."

Takoma Park's Cultural Plan, Creative Vision: A Cultural Plan for Takoma Park, can be accessed at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/ach/ahcplan.pdf.



Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News
celebrating the creative spirit of our community

Exhibits at the Community Center

"Studies in Intimacy," an exhibition of found objects, concrete sculptures and charcoal and watercolor sketches by Nicole Salimbene will be on display in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center from January 15 through February 15. Please join us at the opening reception on Friday, January 15 from 6 - 9 p.m. when we celebrate both the artist and her work. More of Salimbene's work can be seen at www.nicolesalimbene.com

"Heads of Mindless States," will be on display in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center beginning January 8 and running through February 15. The exhibition features works by Frank Kowing that highlight tragic-comedy absurdities of contemporary icons, politicians and others. Work includes assemblages and various manifestations of "heads," rendered in acrylic paint, epoxy, canvas and found objects. Opening reception will be held on Friday, January 8 from 6 - 8 p.m. A sampling of Kowing's work can be viewed online at <http://www.frankkowing.com>.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Please join us on Thursday, January 21 to hear the work of poets Judith McCombs, Sally Rosen Kindred and David Gewanter. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. A reception follows the reading.

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



WARD 3 RESIDENTS INVITED TO MEET WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

On Tuesday, January 19 the Council will host a Ward Night for residents of Ward 3. This will be the first of a series of ward-focused events by the City Council.

Ward 3 residents are invited to gather in the Community Center Atrium Lobby at 7 p.m. for refreshments and an opportunity to chat, one on one, with City Councilmembers. The first part of the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will be devoted to hearing from Ward 3 residents about issues of interest and concern to those living in Ward 3.

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN REGISTER for Recreation Department PROGRAMS ON LINE!

<http://activenet10.active.com/takomaparkrecreation/>

JANUARY RECREATION

Family Fun Day

Want to plan a family outing but don't have the time? Let us do the work for you! Trips are geared for families with children 6 years and older. One family member must be 18 years or older. We will meet in the parking lot of the TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Advance registration is required. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing snack or lunch is recommended.

Snow Tubing, Liberty Mountain

Prepare yourself for two hours of tubing at Boulder Ridge. Snow Tubing is such a blast for all members of the family. We know you will have a great time! Bring a lunch or money for the snack bar.

When: Saturday, Jan. 9, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fee: TP resident \$30
 Non-resident \$35
Please register by Jan. 4.

JumpBunch Kids®

Ages 3 – 5

JumpBunch is a fun-filled, structured fitness and sports program geared to young children. This program helps build healthy bodies, self-esteem, socialization skills, body balance, eye-hand coordination and large motor skills in a hands-on, non-competitive environment. We incorporate music, games, parachutes, balls and much more in a class filled with praise and encouragement. Six weeks. Instructor provided by JumpBunch.®

Where: Azalea Room, TP Community Center
When: Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
 Jan. 13 - Feb. 17
Fee: TP resident \$85
 Non-resident \$95

Let's Pretend

Ages 2 – 5

Two to five year-olds love to exercise their imagination through pretend play. Let's Pretend class members will



Artist and teacher Katie Dell Kaufman provides some style pointers to Patty Iglarsh, a student in her collage class at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

develop this natural creative behavior through dramatic readings, musical theatre, improv and theatre games. We will warm up (like real actors), read a story, engage in exercise and experiments based on the story, and finally perform the story. Parent/caregiver participation is encouraged. Eight weeks. Maximum 10, minimum six. Instructor Gretchen Weigel. There is a \$5 materials fee due to the instructor on the first day of class.

Where: Azalea Room, TP Community Center
When: Session 1, Thursdays, 11-11:45 a.m.
 Jan. 7 - Feb. 25
 Session 2, Fridays, 9:30 -10:15 a.m.
 Jan. 8 - Feb. 26
Fee: TP resident \$95/session
 Non-resident \$105/session

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. Pack a lunch. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

When: Monday, January 25, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Where: White Oak Lanes

Where: Heffner Community Center
When: Session 1, Thursdays, 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.
 Session 2, Thursdays, 6 - 6:45 p.m.
 Jan. 7 - March 11
 Session 3, Saturdays, 10 - 10:45 a.m.
 Jan. 9 - March 27
Fees: TP resident \$200/session
 Each additional child is \$70/session
 Non-resident \$220/session
 Each additional child is \$90/session

Kindermusik: Away We Go! – Our Time

Ages 18 months – 3 years

Hop on the train, get in the car, board the plane and Away We Go! This class focuses on transportation, a favorite topic for toddlers who are on the go, go, go. Explore fast and slow, smooth and bumpy, high and low. Your child learns important socialization skills and develops basic musical skills. Home materials include a CD, two story books, a home activity book and an instrument. Maximum of 12, minimum of six. Fee includes the \$50 home materials kit. Twelve weeks. Three sessions.

Where: Heffner Community Center
When: Session 1, Wednesdays
 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
 Jan. 6 - March 24

Fee: and Laurel Skating Center
 TP resident \$25
 Non-resident \$30

Taekwondo

Ages 4 – 11

The Korean martial art of Taekwondo promotes fitness and strength in a fun and social environment. Taekwondo (foot-hand-way) is known for beautiful and powerful kicks. Students learn self-defense and practice drills, forms and sparring. The Tenets of Taekwondo – courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit – are emphasized. No matter your initial fitness level, Taekwondo will help you become stronger and more flexible. There is a one-time fee paid to the instructor at the first class (non-refundable) for uniform. Children \$40. Thirteen weeks. Instructor Lois Shoenbrun.

Where: Dance Studio, TP Community Center
When: Saturdays, 1 - 2 p.m.
 Jan. 9 - April 17
Fee: TP resident \$75
 Non-resident \$85
 No class on Jan. 16 and Feb. 13.

JANUARY RECREATION continues on page 7

Kindermusik

Becky Linafelt is a local Takoma Park mom and licensed Kindermusik educator since 2003. In addition, she is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the Maryland Music Educators Association, and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. Becky has offered Kindermusik classes through the Takoma Park Recreation Department since 2004 and is proud to be a 2009 Takoma Park Azalea Award winner in the mentor category.

Register online @ www.kmwithbecky.kindermusik.net or call Becky at 240-353-9637.

Kindermusik: Here, There, Everywhere – Family Time

Ages: Newborn - Age 7 with grown-ups

Bringing children of all ages together provides a dynamic and integrated learning experience for everyone. In Here, There, and Everywhere the class focuses on five sub-themes which center around different family outings: a visit with a friend, an outing at the park, a trip to the city, an afternoon at the aquarium and a day on the farm. Home materials include two CDs, two story books, a family activity guide, hand puppet and finger puppet, and two musical instruments. Fee includes \$60 home materials fee. Maximum of 12, minimum of six. Ten weeks. Two sessions.

Session 2, Wednesdays
 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
 Jan. 6 - March 24
 Session 3, Thursdays
 10:15 - 11 a.m.
 Jan. 7 - March 25
Fees: TP resident \$200/session
 Non-resident \$220/session

Kindermusik: Cock-A-Doodle-Moo Village

Ages Newborn – 17 months

Hop on the hayride – it's time to head for the farm! In this class, you will sing songs about the farm, including "Old MacDonald," "Hayride," and "Clever Cows." You'll engage in rituals and playful activities with your baby, including infant massage, lap bounces, exercise and quiet time. Home materials include a CD, an instrument, a picture board book and a set of art banners. Maximum of 10, minimum of five. Fee includes the \$35 home materials kit. Eight weeks.

Where: Heffner Community Center
 42 Oswego Avenue
When: Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
 Jan. 7 - Feb. 25
Fees: TP resident \$120
 Non-resident \$130

SNOW FUN FOR TEENS

Ice Skating

Whether you are an experienced ice skater or just want to try it out, don't pass up this opportunity to get out and have fun. We will be heading to the Cabin John Ice Rink in Rockville, Maryland. Fee includes admission and skate rental. Space is limited. Register now.

Where: Teen Lounge, TP Community Center
When: Ages 11-12
Saturday, Jan. 23, 3 - 6:30 p.m.

Ages 13-18
Friday, Feb. 19, 7 - 10 p.m.

Fee: \$9

Snow Tubing for Teens

Ages 13 - 18
Grab your hat and gloves, then join us for a day of fun as we head to Liberty Mountain to go snow tubing. Race down one of ten tubing lanes solo or link up with a friend. During a break from snow tubing, hang inside the lodge and have a hot cup of cocoa or get a game of flag football started outside. It's your day so have fun the way you like it. Space is limited so register now!

Where: Teen Lounge, TP Community Center
When: Saturday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fee: \$25

Job Training Program Launches New Careers

On December 5, five young adults were congratulated for completing a new eight-session course on employment skills like resume writing, dressing for success, filling out job applications and other forms, and conflict resolution. They were the first graduates of the Recreation Department's new Job Training Program.

The program focuses on young people who may have aged out of many recreation programs, but can still use a helping hand launching their adult lives in the working world. So far, the effort has been successful: two of the graduates are working with the Recreation Department, and another has a job at Riderwood Village retirement community. A fourth is enrolled at Montgomery College.

A new session of the job training program will begin in January. In partnership with Southern Management, a realty company, this year's course will include GED preparation and money management instruction. Southern Management has also agreed to interview two participants for consideration for paid summer internships with the company.

The new program is especially gratifying because it has served a number of young people who have come up through other recreation programs



Graduates of the Job Training program at the Recreation Department on graduation day. From left, John Webster (Recreation Department), Ballah Salley, Lahai John, Isatu Kamara, Stephen Bean, Lakita Dukes, Angel Bullock (volunteer assistant) and Tangela Bullock (volunteer instructor).

Photo by Gregory Clark

as children, says Recreation Director Debra Haiduven – people the department has come to know over the years. John Webster, the recreation manager whose idea launched the program, is happy to extend new opportunities to these familiar faces, and others who come to the department for advice.

“You always want to try as much as you can to present people with positive options,” he says.

To sign up for the Job Training program, contact the Recreation Department, 301-891-7290, or tprecreation.org.

DECEMBER RECREATION

continued from page 6

Pilates

Ages 16 and older

Pilates is the ultimate mind-body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline and realign the body. This program focuses on integrating the entire body rather than exercising each body part separately. Pilates implements exercise that relieves stress and improves conditioning. If you want your abdomen firm, your arms trim and toned then Pilates is for you! Co-sponsored by Montgomery County Recreation Department. Eight weeks. Instructor Malaya Rucker.

Where: TP Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave
When: Wednesdays, 6 - 7 p.m.
Jan. 20 - March 10
Fee: \$75

Youth Ceramics

Ages 8 - 10

Do you like playing with clay? Students involved in the ceramics class will have the opportunity to make pottery and sculpture using several methods. All involved will learn to use hand-building techniques such as pinching, coil building and slab building. Another component of the class will be instruction in correct use of tools, and demonstrations in glazing. Make sure you have clothes that you don't mind getting dirty for studio time. Seven weeks. Instructor John Baker.

Where: Art Room, TP Community Center
When: Fridays, 4 - 6 p.m.
Jan. 15 - March 5
Fee: TP resident \$80
Non-resident \$90
No class on Feb. 26.

Silver Foxes

National Museum of the American Indian

Ages 55 and up

Senior Day Trip to the National Museum of the American Indian. This museum is filled with Native American art and artifacts from more than 1,200 indigenous cultures throughout the Americas. These works are of aesthetic, religious and historical significance. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring spending money for lunch in the museum cafe. Registration is required to participate. Please call 301-891-7280 to register.

Where: Washington, D.C.
When: Wed. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Jan. 13
Fee: Free

Knit/Crochet Get Together

Ages 55 and older

Would you like to work on your knitting or crochet with other needlework enthusiasts? Join us for fun conversation and support with your knit or crochet projects.

Where: Senior Room, TP Community Center
When: Mondays, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Ongoing, starting January 5
Fee: Free

Computer Classes

Ages 55 and older

Become more familiar with how to use a computer. Learn how to use the internet and try using e-mail.



Seniors enjoy Bone Builders classes at the Community Center. This month, activities also include a museum trip, knitting and computer classes.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Use a word processing program to make lists and type letters. Instructors Phil Shapiro, and volunteers Jim Mueller and Jane Hawkanson. Six weeks. Registration is required to participate in this class. Limit eight participants per session.

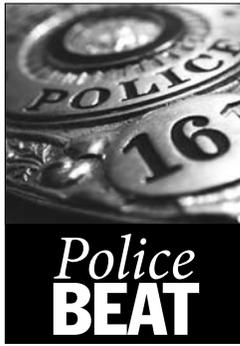
Where: Computer Lab, TP Community Center
When: Wednesdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
January 13 - February 17
Fee: \$10

To register for these and other recreation programs offered by Takoma Park Recreation, go to activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation. Call us at 301-891-7290, or visit our website at tprecreation.org.

Keep Walkways Clear of Snow and Ice

During this time of year, it is important to note that Takoma Park has regulations regarding snow and ice removal from public sidewalks. These regulations are in place to ensure the safety of all pedestrians in our community, whether they are mail carriers or school children.

In the event of snow, all residents are required to clear of snow any public sidewalk adjoining their property for the full paved width of the sidewalk. The sidewalk must be cleared by 7 p.m. on the day of the snowfall, or by



the end of four hours of daylight after the snowfall, whichever is later.

Shoveling the sidewalk to your front door is not required by code, but the mail carrier and your visitors will appreciate the effort. Also, you can be a good neighbor by offering to help those in your neighborhood who may be less able to shovel their own sidewalks.

Commercial properties must keep public sidewalks in front of their properties free of ice and snow between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Snow or ice removed must not obstruct free passageway of any street. Additionally, in the event

that the sidewalk is frozen so hard that the ice cannot be removed without injury to the sidewalk, the sidewalk must be strewn with sand, sawdust, or another appropriate material by the required time so that the sidewalk is safe to walk on. The sidewalk should be cleared of ice and strewn material as soon as practicable.

Failure to abide by these rules is a Class C offense and could result in a \$200 fine. If the snow and ice are not removed, the City's Public Works department may remove it and the owner of the property will be billed. Sidewalks must be safe during the winter and you can be a good neighbor by keeping the sidewalk adjacent to your property free of ice and snow.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 31-69(h), Residential Management Areas of, the Montgomery County Code 2004 as amended, the County Executive (or his designee) shall conduct a public hearing at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, 20912 to consider a proposed Residential Traffic Management Plan for the Sligo Park Hills and the City of Takoma Park Communities. The proposed Residential Traffic Management Plan includes turn restrictions as follows:

SLIGO PARK HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD

- DO NOT ENTER 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, sign for Hilltop Road westbound direction on eastern leg at Hilltop Road and Geneva Avenue intersection.

- DO NOT ENTER 4 to 7 p.m., Monday-Friday, sign for Hilltop Road eastbound direction on eastern leg at Hilltop Road and Mississippi Avenue intersection.

- NO LEFT TURN 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, sign for Sligo Creek Parkway northbound direction on

southern leg at Sligo Creek Parkway and Park Valley Road intersection.

- NO RIGHT TURN 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, sign for Sligo Creek Parkway southbound direction on northern leg at Sligo Creek Parkway and Park Valley Road intersection.

- DO NOT ENTER 6:30-9:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, sign for westbound Park Valley Road on western leg at Sligo Creek Parkway and Park Valley Road intersection.

- DO NOT ENTER 4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, sign for southbound Sligo Creek Parkway on southern leg at Sligo Creek Parkway and Park Valley Road intersection.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

- NO RIGHT TURN 6:30-9:30 a.m., Monday-Friday, sign for Maple Avenue westbound direction on eastern leg at Maple Avenue and Ritchie Avenue intersection.

- NO LEFT TURN 4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, sign for Ritchie Avenue southbound direction on northern leg at Maple Avenue and Ritchie Avenue intersection.

- NO RIGHT TURN 4- 7 p.m. Monday – Friday, sign for Geneva Avenue eastbound direction on western leg at Geneva Avenue and Hilltop Road intersection.

The proposed Residential Traffic Management Plan is intended to discourage the use of Park Valley Road, Hilltop Road, Mississippi Avenue, Sligo Creek Parkway, Maple Avenue, Ritchie Avenue and Geneva Avenue for non-local cut-through traffic during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

Details of the proposed Residential Traffic Management Plan are more fully described in exhibits available for examination at the offices of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations, located at 100 Edison Park Drive, 2nd Floor, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878.

The phone number is 240-777-2190.

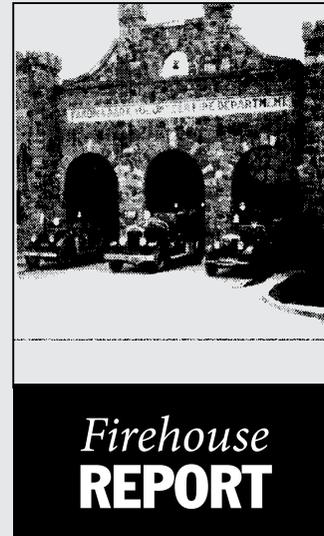
After the aforesaid hearing, the hearing examiner shall report his findings and recommendations to the county executive, who shall issue a statement of his decision.

Written statements for consideration in this matter may be submitted to Fred Lees, Chief, Traffic Engineering Studies Section, Division of Traffic Engineering and Operation, 100 Edison Park Drive, Maryland 20878. Anyone wishing to speak at the hearing may email at trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-21090 to be placed on the speakers list.

Curves Gets New Space

Curves, the fitness center designed specifically for women, is moving from its spot perched atop 7008 Westmoreland Avenue in Takoma Park, just downstairs to 7014, a space recently vacated by Contradiction Dance. Contradiction has moved to Round House Theatre in Silver Spring.

Curves owner Natalie Cooper-Berthe says she is looking forward to using the larger space for the personal training system known for its 24/7 member access. She adds that she'll host a variety of classes at the new address, exploring health issues like weight management, healthy cooking and managing diabetes, and she hopes to expand into pilates, stretch, zumba and belly dancing. Nearly all classes will be open to the public, both men and women.



Firehouse REPORT

By JIM JARBOE

As of November 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 697 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,670 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 3,367 this year. Totals for 2008 were 668 and 2,621 respectively, for a total of 3,289, representing an increase of 78 incidents.

A special message to you and your family

On behalf of all the members



Dinners for Needy Families - Complete turkey dinners, including pie for dessert, were purchased by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and others to feed needy families for the 15th year last month. Contributing organizations included the following - Takoma Park VFD Post 350, Takoma Park VFD and Auxiliary, Takoma Park Lions Club, and the Cissel Saxon American Legion Auxiliary. Twenty seven families received dinners. Shown loading the dinners to be delivered on Tuesday before Thanksgiving are Takoma Park VFD member Dave Hooker, TPLC member Michael Hall, and TPVFD Jim Jarboe.

of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service assigned to the station, we want to wish all of you a very Happy and Safe Holiday and New Year.

New Year's Resolution for a Fire Safe New Year

- * Check your home for potential fire hazards.

- * Install smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Test them monthly.

- * Never smoke in bed.

- * Teach children the dangers of matches and lighters.

- * Practice EDITH - Exit Drill In The Home

Draw an escape plan for your family that shows two ways out of every room in the event of fire. Review and practice the plan on a regular basis.

- * Clean grease from the stove, oven, exhaust hood and ducts on a regular basis.

- * Have your fireplace checked thoroughly if it has not been used in the last year. Make sure the chimney is clear. Don't forget your other heating devices.

- * Make sure everyone knows how to dial the fire department - Dial 911.

Staying Warm and Safe in Stormy Weather

WHAT'S WHAT?

Know the Language of Winter

Freezing Rain: Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on the roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet: Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Winter Storm Watch: A winter storm is possible in your area.

Winter Storm Warning: A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Blizzard Warning: Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Frost/Freeze Warning: Below freezing temperatures are expected.

Prepare your Home and Family

Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

Winterize your house, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, or equipment. Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an addi-

tional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

Portable Space Heaters

More home fires are started by heating equipment than any other cause. Portable and electric heaters are the most dangerous. But it is possible to be warm and safe this winter by following these tips on space heaters:

- Make sure your heater has been tested for safety.
- Space heaters need to have plenty of space around them.
- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn – including furniture, people, pets and curtains.
- There should always be an adult in the room when a space heater is on. Turn off the space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.
- - Supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use.
- Never use space heaters to dry clothing or blankets.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves:

- Burn only seasonal hardwood like oak, ash or maple. Do not burn trash, cardboard boxes or Christmas trees because these items burn unevenly, and may contain poisons or cause a home fire.
- Have a professional chimney sweep inspect chimneys every year. They will fix any cracks, blockages and leaks and clean out any build-up in the chimney that could start a fire.
- Open flues before fireplaces are used.
- Use sturdy screens or glass doors to keep embers inside fireplaces.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside or near sleeping areas.
- Keep young children away from working wood stoves and heaters to avoid contact burn injuries.

Warming Up the Car Could Mean Losing It

The cold weather is upon us. Although many of us would like to start our cars and have them warm by the time we slip into them for the drive to work, school, etc., it is not a good safety habit.

You cannot leave your vehicle running. You must lock it up. Leaving your car running leaves the perfect opportunity for it to be stolen. Some criminals may hang around your neighborhood and watch you go out, start the car and go back into your residence.

Easily taken.

Be careful at daycare centers and schools. Parents who are rushing to get their children inside may leave the car running to make it easier when they

come back out.

There's nothing easy about having your car stolen. If you have acquired the habit of leaving your car running unattended, spare yourself and break it. A criminal will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. The more time having to spend stealing a car, the greater the chance of detection. That's why they take the easy route - it's faster. Don't help them out! Please, maintain good safety habits as we approach the winter season.

Prepare Your Car

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- Antifreeze levels – ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system – should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes – check for wear and fluid levels.
- Exhaust system – check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- Fuel and air filters – replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
- Heater and defroster – ensure they work properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights – check for serviceability.
- Oil – check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- Thermostat – ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment – repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- Install good winter tires – Make sure the tires have adequate tread.

- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If someone you know is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment, such as a ventilator, respirator or oxygen concentrator, you should make plans now to ensure their needs are met during severe winter weather and possible power outages.

- Help them stock a home disaster kit, including a flashlight and extra batteries, a battery-operated radio, bottled water, non-perishable foods, essential medicines and extra blankets or sleeping bags.
- Check on them after a storm or power outage. Register them as a special needs customer with their utility companies so they will become a priority customer. Notify others who could provide help such as neighbors, relatives, nearby friends, and local emergency responders, such as the fire department.
- Have a list of emergency numbers readily available.
- - Have a standby generator or an alternative source of power available. Be aware of the safety rules for use.

SIDEWALKS

continued from page 1

- Connectivity to a pedestrian generator

- ADA level of need (non-compliant pavement, excessive cross slope and presence of obstacles)

Many Council members were surprised by the results.

“The prioritization doesn't match the needs in my ward,” Clay told the representatives, expressing concern that the rankings seemed to give a higher priority to replacing existing sidewalks than to constructing new ones. “I think what's most important are the major routes where there are no sidewalks.”

Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow stressed that an existing sidewalk that is not ADA compli-

ant is a violation, whereas a missing sidewalk is not.

In presenting the results of the study, Toole representatives stressed that the rankings are designed with flexibility to re-rank projects based on Council priorities, which may change over time. Ludlow added that public input is also important. “City staff wants to go out with members of the Council and the public and examine the sidewalks and the streets with missing sidewalks, and explain the criteria outlined in the Toole study, so that everyone has an understanding and can provide input on the priorities.”

While deciding what to prioritize (constructing new vs. repairing existing sidewalks, for example) will help drive the decision of where to take action in the future, the City has an immediate

mandate to spend approximately \$161,000 in Federal SRTS grant money.

City planner Ilona Blanchard is recommending several sites as priorities for construction/repair, including: Wildwood Drive in Ward 6, Central Avenue in Ward 2, sections of Sherman and Lee Avenues (between Carroll and Maple Avenues) in Ward 3, and along Hilltop Road near Sligo Creek in Ward 5. Using data from the study, Blanchard said, “I picked sites that were near the top in the feasibility studies and sites that are obvious places.” All of the selections are located in rights-of-way that the city owns, she noted; that means the city can install sidewalks without having to purchase land from individual homeowners, a significant savings.

Assuming approval by the

Council and the state review agencies, construction on these projects will begin early this summer.

Funding Sidewalks with Speed Cameras

The SRTS grant money is one of two funding streams that will be applied to sidewalks. The other revenue source is the money generated by the city's speed cameras. The City has budgeted \$500,000 from speed camera revenue to be used for sidewalk improvements in the current year.

The ADA study identified numerous areas where curb ramps did not meet ADA standards, as well as locations where ramps are needed. City Manager Barb Matthews will recommend to the Council that curb ramps be one of the first projects that the City

tackles with the speed camera funds.

City staff make recommendations to the Council regarding priorities, the type of sidewalk material to use and contracts for design, survey, installation and construction inspection work.

While there is much left to be decided, Clay is particularly pleased to see that the issue is being addressed.

“[Regarding sidewalks] things have moved at a really, really slow pace since I've been here [six and a half years],” said Clay. “But sidewalks have become a greater issue as more and more young families have moved in with kids who walk to school or wait for buses. And we have a lot more people driving through the city as a thruway, so there is an increased danger to pedestrians.”

**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
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Stories in Action

Saturday Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m.
(see article)
Registration required.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, Jan. 11 7, 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.

Comics Jam

Friday, Jan. 15. 11, 4:30 p.m.
Come enjoy our "comic books book club"!

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Discuss *News From Paraguay* by Lily Tuck (see article).

Songs with Ms. Audrey

Saturday, Jan. 23, 10:30 a.m.
Come sing songs and have fun with local musician/music teacher, Ms. Audrey. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Banned Books Club

For kids grades 6 and up.
Monday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.
Registration required.

French Circle Time

Saturday, Jan. 30, 10:30 p.m.
Join Madame Marie as she sings, does rhymes and tells stories in French. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

The Darwins Move Beyond Evolution

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

Deborah Heiligman knew it would make a great book: the idea that Charles Darwin's religious wife Emma was terrified that her beloved husband would go to hell for his theory of evolution. "My first thought was, 'Has anyone else written a book about their relationship?'" Heiligman said during a recent talk to the Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C. When it turned out that no one had yet focused on the Darwins' marriage, Heiligman says, "I got right on it."

But Heiligman also was daunted by the idea of writing about Charles Darwin and evolution. "So many people have written about Darwin.... Not only that, but Darwin was Jon's story," Heiligman said, referring to her husband Jonathan Weiner, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book about Darwin, *The Beak of the Finch*.

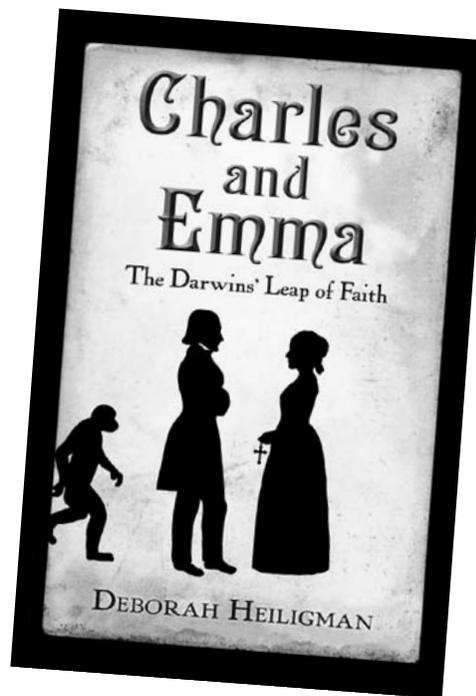
Fortunately, Heiligman, 51, was able to conquer her doubts and began to dive into the voluminous resources – letters, journals and other materials – that documented the great love story between Charles and Emma Darwin.

The result of Heiligman's labors is *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith*. The book, which was a finalist for the National Book Award in the Young People's Literature category, is a beautifully-written, true-life love story showing how two strong-minded people refused to let anything – even God and evolutionary theory – extinguish their marriage. Despite their own doubts, the two showed that religion and science can co-exist, Heiligman says.

But it wasn't easy, as Heiligman demonstrates. While Emma Darwin loved and supported her husband – even editing the first edition of *The Origin of Species* – she worried throughout her life that the two

would be separated for eternity because of Charles Darwin's theory.

For his part, Charles Darwin agonized about the pain he knew his ideas caused his wife. And in fact, he waited years to publish *The Origin of Species*, both because he wanted to put off the inevitable showdown with creationists and because he wanted to be able to rebut every argument they could make.



"I think Charles Darwin's life would have been terribly different – and his book, *The Origin of Species* would have been an entirely different book – without Emma," Heiligman said.

Heiligman, who majored in religious studies at Brown University, has written more than two dozen children's books, mostly non-fiction. Her books have gathered awards for their thorough research and clear writing, but Heiligman says she still was thrilled that her book was chosen

as one of five National Book Award finalists in the children's/teen category.

While the book is being marketed for kids ages 12 up, adults can readily enjoy *Charles and Emma*. Besides being a great love story, the book provides a good introduction to Darwin's theory of evolution.

Interestingly, Heiligman actually gave up writing Charles and Emma at one point when one publisher rejected the proposal and a second never responded. "So I stopped working on it," said Heiligman, who instead pored her energy into the National Geographic books she has written for children about major holidays.

When Heiligman finally decided to hire a book agent, he asked for some book proposals. Heiligman told him about the idea for a book about Charles and Emma Darwin, and "his eyes lit up. 'He made me do it,'" Heiligman laughs. "I was pretty terrified during the entire writing of this book.... You just have to find a way to tell the story that is yours."

One of Heiligman's biggest challenges was trying to figure out how to open her book. Obviously, she needed a way to hook readers, and tried a couple of different ways.

Then, Heiligman realized that she had a "God-given beginning" because of Charles Darwin's penchant for making lists. This penchant led him to make a list of pros and cons for getting married, and Heiligman used the list as the beginning of her book.

Heiligman, who has two grown sons, says she got into children's books "sort of by accident," as her first job was writing for a Scholastic newsletter. Now, however, she wouldn't trade her job for anything.

"I really, honestly, believe that writing for children is the most important thing in the world.... A book can change a child's life."



LIBRARY Briefs

Ross Opens Storytellers in January

Prize-winning storyteller Arianna Ross will offer the first of four monthly workshops for parents and children ages 1 to 3 on Saturday, Jan. 9 at 10:30 a.m. The January program, and a follow-up one on February 13 at 10:30 a.m., will begin with a storytime for kids and adults. Ross then will offer parents tips on how to bring stories alive for their children. The last two programs – on Friday, March 19 and Friday April 16 – will be aimed at older children, ages 3 to 5, and adults, including daycare providers. The entire quartet of programs is funded mostly by a grant from the Montgomery County Arts and

Humanities Council, with additional funding provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. For more information, call Karen MacPherson, children's and teen librarian, at 301-891-7259.

Please Don't Repair

A reminder from Dave Burbank, who is in charge of our book "hospital:" please don't try to mend your library books at home. Dave has special tape and tools that allow him to do professional mending of torn pages, ripped bindings, etc., unlike the homemade repairs of well-meaning library patrons. We do appreciate, however, if you bring a torn page or other needed repairs to our attention when you return a book. Thanks for your cooperation!

Song and Dance for Tots

Babies, toddlers and preschoolers – you're invited to come sing and dance with Ms. Audrey on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite grown-ups and join Ms. Audrey in a half-hour program of fast-paced fun. No registration is required for this program, which is spon-

sored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Reading Group to Discuss Award Winning Book

Winner of the National Book Award in 2004, *The News From Paraguay* by Lily Tuck, opens in 1854. "Francisco Solano Lopez, 'Franco,' the future dictator of Paraguay, begins "his courtship of a young, beautiful Irishwoman. From Paris, Ella Lynch follows Franco to Asuncion, where she reigns as his mistress. Isolated and estranged in this new world, she embraces her lover's ill-fated dream." [Publisher's note]

"Although Lynch is not as well known as Argentina's Eva Peron, she is a fascinating figure and makes a worthy subject for Tuck, who has a gift for blending fact and fiction to great poetic effect and for exploring the murkiest of moral and political realms. Soon [Franco's] army is simultaneously fighting neighboring Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in as disastrous war that by its end in 1870 leads to

LIBRARY BRIEFS
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MUSST Awarded Contract to Assist Families in Need

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

On November 23, the Council adopted an ordinance endorsing the selection of Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST) to administer the distribution of emergency assistance funds to eligible city residents facing an emergency financial need. The City has budgeted \$15,000 for this program this year, but also has in previous years received up to \$8,000 in donations from community residents. Last year, 35 Takoma Park families in need were assisted through this program.

Applicants for emergency assistance must be Takoma Park residents whose annual income does not exceed 60 percent of the area median income (AMI). MUSST will start its contract responsibilities in February 2010.

Located at 8818 Georgia Avenue, Room 216, Silver Spring, MD 20910 MUSST has served the community since 1996 and was the first program to open its offices at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Center. MUSST shares a collaborative working arrangement with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services which should prove beneficial to City residents.

MUSST Program Manager Maski (Ma-z-key) Akwei (Ak-way), following confirmation of her organization's selection to

distribute emergency assistance, expressed excitement with being able to continue working with Takoma Park residents. Akwei also reconfirmed that persons seeking emergency financial assistance should bring to their initial meeting the following documents:

- Current picture ID
- Social Security Card, if available
- Current telephone or utility bill with your address
- Children residing with applicant-birth certificate(s) or Social Security Card(s)
- Proof of Household Income-Tax Return for previous year, W-2 Form
- Statement from Social Security, SSI, Food Stamps, etc.

Persons seeking assistance relating to specific problems (eviction, prescriptions, utility discontinuance) should contact Akwei for additional documentation requirements.

MUSST Hours of operation are:
Monday-2-6 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday-10 a.m.-2 p.m.
MUSST Phone Numbers: 301-495-9454 or 301-495-4699/FAX 301-495-9055
MUSST Web Address-musst@verizon.net

the 1830s, the club's intrepid readers have now chosen the American epic for Spring 2010, Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.

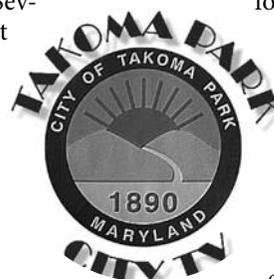
For many, *Moby Dick* rivals *War and Peace* as one of the great novels of all time. Narrated by Ishmael, an ordinary sailor, it is seemingly the story of Captain Ahab's mad quest for revenge on the White Whale who was responsible for Ahab's losing his leg on a previous voyage. But Melville gives us much more in this sprawling narrative – memorable characters to be sure, life aboard a 19th century whaling vessel, rich digressions on all aspects of whaling, let alone on life itself. *Moby Dick* is a tour de force that many have long intended to read, or started to read but could never finish, or read so long ago that they need to re-read it. And this is the place to do it!

So whichever you are, join the Friends Great Big Book Club on March 23rd for an initial discussion and talk by a university professor on the historical context of Melville and the novel. Subsequent gatherings are tentatively scheduled for April 8, April 22, May 6 – see the Friends website for more, including links to numerous discussions about *Moby Dick*.

Copies of the book are provided by the Friends of the Library, and available at the Library for check out. All Friends Reading Group discussions are open to the public and all are invited.

New Music on City TV

City TV starts 2010 with a fresh crop of musical performances just out of the edit room. From the Folk Festival, checkout kid-friendly Grassy Nook stage, and from the Seventh Heaven stage, check out performances featuring singer-songwriters Duo and Women. Also newly released will be Street Festival performances from Tommy Lepson, the Grandsons and Little Red and the Renegades.



Other new programming in January includes the Third Thursday Poetry Series.

The latest edition of Takoma Snapshots features:

- The NewAve
- Takoma-Langley Crossroads Pedestrian Safety ribbon cutting ceremony
- Art Exhibits in the Community Center

We'll also start telecasting the second edition of Takoma Informa, a periodic Spanish language program produced by

City TV staff and interns. The January segment features a Spanish language literacy program being held in the Crossroads area. The previous edition of Takoma Informa ran in October and was about the Takoma Park elections.

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

Many City TV programs, including Council meetings and Snapshots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website. Much of City TV programming is streaming live on the website as well. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for more information.

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

CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - January 2010

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	PreSchool Power!	Education TV	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Folk Festival	
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots		Coffeehouse			Takoma Park Snapshots
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival				Road to Recovery	Takoma Park Folk Festival
NOON				Takoma Park City Council Events	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Local Events	
1:00 PM	Education TV	Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
2:00 PM	NASA 360		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	Music da Camera
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Music da Camera		Road to Recovery			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	Preschool Power	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Preschool Power	
5:00 PM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA 360	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Education TV	
6:00 PM		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art
7:00 PM				Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Jazz Night	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (LIVE)						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
10:00 PM							Coffeehouse
11:00 PM		Takoma Jazz Night		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots		Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited		
1:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	

LIBRARY BRIEFS

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the death of two-thirds of Paraguay's adult males."

"Modern Paraguay remains an underdeveloped country little known to the outside, except for a lawless area considered to be a crossroads for money laundering, smuggling, arms and drug trafficking, and a safe haven for Islamic militants."

"Although Tuck's novel is framed as a love story, it reaches deep into the political realm. The world she creates is exotic, vivid and relevant for anyone concerned about abuses of power, corruption and generations-long consequences of devastating war." [Publisher's Weekly May 3, 2004]

The Friends Reading Group discussion will be held on Thursday January 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center. Copies of Tuck's book are available at the Library, funded through the Friends of the Library. All are invited to attend.

"Big Book Club" to Plumb Depths of Moby Dick

After one year, the Friends Great Big Book Club is going strong! Having taken on Leo Tolstoy's epic, *War and Peace* last spring and then this fall, George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, a novel of provincial English life in



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GUSSINI FIRE

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after 19 years at this location, and right before their busiest season. Rahimi's store had sold fashions and accessories priced for young teens.

The fire was tremendous and damaged the building severely, creating instability in the walls, so that the entire building had to be demolished. The cause of the fire is undetermined because the building was too damaged for firefighters to find an origin. As it was an older building, there were no sprinklers or other fire safety measures such as the fire retardant materials now required by building codes. Fortunately, the fire did not spread to adjacent businesses because Gussini Fashion and Shoes was in the part of the commercial center that stood alone. The building was formerly the Allen Theater, separated by a narrow alleyway from the other shopping center's businesses.

The Allen Theater opened March 24, 1951, with a stage show, an orchestra and the movie *At War With the Army*, starring Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. The building was designed by James Hogan and Francis Groff. The lobby had glass windows from the sidewalk to the roof, and comedy and tragedy masks on the interior walls and sides of the movie screen. The auditorium seated 946. The theater's interior walls were covered in burgundy damask imprinted with gold designs, with maroon wainscoting.

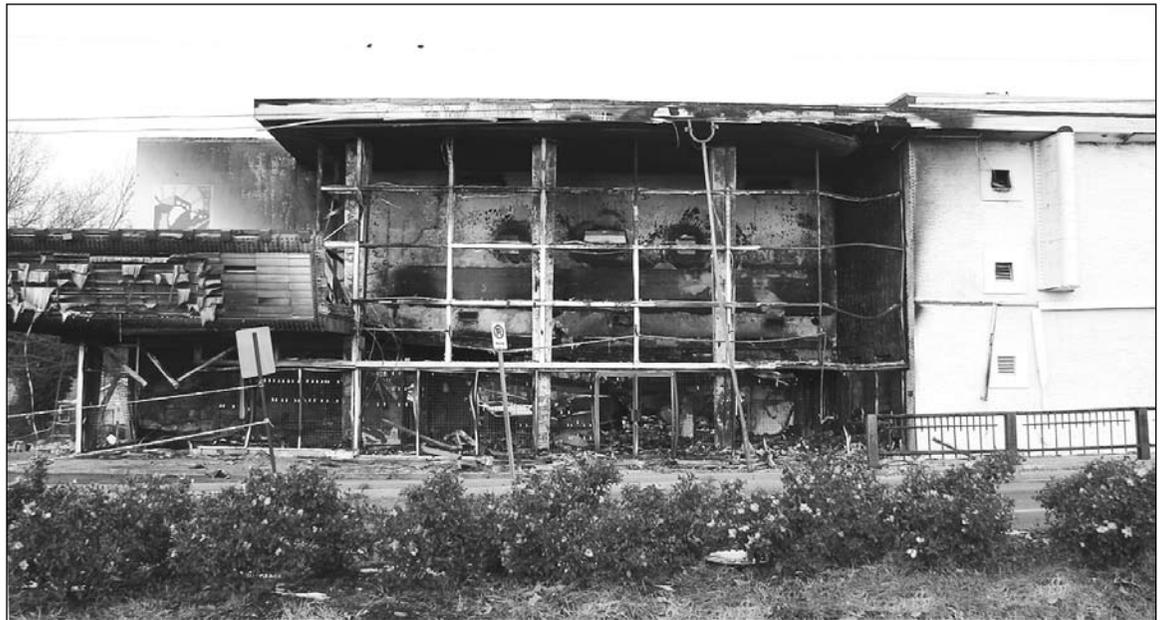
The Allen Theater was operated by Sidney Lust for many years. In 1975, Paul Sanchez took over,

and ten years later, split the auditorium into two theaters, creating the Allen 1 and 2. New operators took over in 1989, but quickly gave up the next year.

Rahimi leased the space for a store in 1990, having run a Gussini at 19th and M Streets, N.W. in Washington, D.C., with his brothers. Today the Rahimi family owns eight stores in the D.C. region, with two stores in northern Virginia, and six Maryland locations (Bladensburg, Hyattsville, Briggs Chaney, Laurel, and Takoma Park). The Rahimis grew up in the clothing business their family owned in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Rahimi hopes to re-open a new store at the same location if the property owner rebuilds on the site. He has insurance on his business, and the property owner, John Spanos, has insurance on the building. In the meantime, Rahimi is looking for a temporary location in the area.

The Gussini store has a loyal customer base, according to Rahimi, including employees from neighboring businesses in New Hampshire Center. One server at Walia Restaurant, just down the row of shops from Gussini, "shopped at Gussini a lot" and said she would miss it. Florence Nwaki, owner of nearby Discount Cleaners, shopped there occasionally and knew Rahimi, who often stopped in to talk. He came by the night before the fire to pick up candy he'd ordered from Nwaki's children for a school fundraiser, she said. He opened the candy at her counter and shared it with her kids. "I'm going to miss them," she said.



A three-alarm fire gutted the New Hampshire Avenue shop, Gussini Fashion and Shoes, last month. The building was once the historic Allen Theater, opened in 1951.

Photo by Melanie Isis



Hopes of revitalization still hang on the burned out shell of the Gussini's building. The cause of the fire is unknown, but both business owner and landlord had insurance and there is a possibility that the place will be rebuilt.

Photo by Melanie Isis



Opening day at the Allen Theater drew crowds to see Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis on the big screen. Later, the interior was divided to accommodate two screens; it remained a movie theater until 1990.

Help Support TP's Emergency Assistance Fund

As we follow our daily routines, often we don't realize that our neighbor or the family down the street may be faced with an unexpected, and what may seem to be an insurmountable crisis. To help those facing a financial emergency, the Takoma Park City Council in 2001 created the Emergency Assistance Fund. Since its creation, the fund has provided financial assistance to City residents experiencing a health crisis, a pending eviction or notice of a scheduled utility cut off. This is often the result of the loss of employment or financial circumstances beyond their control.

The Emergency Assistance Fund is financed with tax-deductible contributions from Takoma Park residents and the assistance is limited to Takoma Park residents. The level of assistance provided is based upon the availability of funds and

the need of the individual or family.

Between July 2008 and June 2009, 35 Takoma Park households received financial assistance from the Emergency Assistance Fund. Current national and state economic forecasts suggest that even more of your neighbors will be seeking financial help throughout the upcoming year.

Please continue to help your fellow City residents by contributing to the Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund. Please use the form provided below to send in your tax-deductible contribution. A letter confirming your donation will be sent to you within 30 days of receipt of your contribution.

Thank you for continuing to support this program and the critical service that it provides to the community.

Emergency Assistance Fund DONATION FORM

I/We wish to donate \$_____ to the Emergency Assistance Fund. Please make your check payable to City of Takoma Park and write EAF on the memo line of your check.

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please call 301-891-7215 if you have questions regarding the Emergency Assistance Fund.

(Please detach and send to: City of Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund, Finance Office, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.)