

SAVE THE DATE

Independence Day Parade
10 a.m. July 4
Fireworks at dusk,
Takoma Park Middle School

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

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

NO TRASH HOLIDAYS

Trash collection on schedule this month.

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

JUNE 2010

Council Passes Budget Despite Late Cuts in County Funding

By VIRGINIA MYERS

On May 24, after weeks of discussion complicated by a major cut in funding from Montgomery County, the Takoma Park City Council passed what is widely considered to be the most difficult budget in recent memory. The process involved unprecedented layoffs, threatened entire departments, and was conducted through hours of meetings busy with City workers pleading to salvage positions and cost of living increases and, on the other hand, residents opposing tax hikes.

The final budget is approved at \$24,818,857, down from the City Manager Barbara Matthews' original proposal of \$25,045,303. Matthews' initial proposal had already reduced expenditures to accommodate diminished revenues, laying off eight employees and shifting two from full time to part-time schedules. Then the county executive proposed reducing by an additional 20 percent the tax rebate it pays the City for duplicate services (such as police and road maintenance). The cut would have taken a whopping \$600,000 from Takoma Park's budget. City officials rallied with other municipalities to fight the decrease, and the Montgomery County Council voted to restore half of the county executive's proposed reduction. The result: the City still had to absorb a \$300,000

shortfall more than halfway through the budget process.

As City Council debated what services to cut, everything was on the table, including police services, trash collection and library hours. One particularly dramatic proposal, from Councilmember Terry Seamens (Ward 4), suggested shifting the Recreation Department from a paid professional staff to all volunteers and contractors. The idea brought many employees and residents to the podium at the City Council meetings to defend Recreation Department programs and staff. Support for programming aimed at young people was particularly poignant, and came from young people who have been involved in the Recreation Department programs since they were small children.

"Closing down the Rec would just close down so many opportunities for all these youth growing up," said one teenager, Natalia Campos. "Closing it would just change things for everybody. Where are we supposed to go?"

While Seamens' proposal was never to close the Recreation Department entirely, it did suggest replacing permanent staff with volunteers, but teenagers objected. "How do you expect us to interact with these volunteers when we grew up with the staff we have now?" asked one. Another pointed to Leicia Monfort, a staff member who herself grew up in the Rec programs, and said, "She's more than a worker to us, she's a mother. She tries to set us on the right path."

In the end, Council decided to table a discussion of any possible Recreation Department reorganization until after the budget process has been completed.

BUDGET

continues on page 12



Takoma Park has pedal power

Some 25 bicyclists gathered at the Gazebo in Old Town on May 21 and pedaled off to work together to mark National Bike to Work Day. Takoma Park is a long-time gathering spot during the annual event, and one of many points at which bike commuting "convoys" form for the morning commute. This one included veteran commuters as well as some who had never commuted to work before. The group pedaled to Freedom Plaza in downtown D.C., one of several "pit stops" featuring free breakfast, giveaways and other bike commuting promotions.

Photo by Laurie Stepp

INSIDE:

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Takoma Park, MD 20912

Carryout Beer and Wine: Yes or No?

In July, the Takoma Park City Council will be considering a resolution asking the Maryland General Assembly to change alcoholic beverage laws affecting Takoma Park so that stores and restaurants may be allowed to sell beer and wine to go.

With the exception of two stores (K.C. Liquors, 7669 New Hampshire Ave. and International Deli, 912 East-West Highway) with alcoholic beverage licenses that were grandfathered in from Prince George's County before Takoma Park's unification into Montgomery County, no Takoma Park store or restaurant is allowed to sell beer and wine to carry out. There has been interest by some in the Takoma Park community to allow more stores and restaurants to sell beer and wine for consumption off-site.

The City Council held a sparsely-attended "listening session" on March 29 to hear community interest or concern about allowing what are known as "off-sale" alcoholic

beverage licenses. There was some discussion of alternative approaches to simply allowing off-sale Class A, B and D licenses in Takoma Park, such as geographic restrictions or a special public/private license that would give the City of Takoma Park a role in operations. (Classes A, B and D are determined primarily by different hours of operation; different classes also address the size of beverages sold, the inclusion of liquor with beer and wine and Sunday sales.) No strong consensus developed from that meeting.

If the General Assembly is to consider a change in the alcoholic beverage laws for Takoma Park in its 2011 Legislative Session, the City Council needs to take a position in July to meet local bill submission deadlines. All alcoholic beverage laws in Maryland are set by the General Assembly.

In general, the "pros" and "cons" of the issue are:

PRO – Residents in the interior of Takoma Park could have the opportunity to walk to a store to buy beer and wine. The opportunity to sell beer and wine might convince more stores and restaurants to locate in Takoma Park, thus helping economic development efforts. Montgomery County can remove an alcoholic beverage license from a business that does not follow regulations.

CON – There are already carry out beer, wine and liquor stores immediately adjacent to the border of Takoma Park in every direction. Carry out stores in Takoma Park might create loitering and disorderly conduct problems for residents and the police.

What do you think?

Come to a public hearing on July 12 and let the Council know. Or, send testimony to clerk@takomagov.org.

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

MONDAY, MAY 31 – City offices closed for the Memorial Day holiday

TUESDAY, JUNE 1 – No City Council meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 7 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

TUESDAY, JUNE 8 - Tree Commission hearing, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

TUESDAY, JUNE 8 – Façade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

THURSDAY, JUNE 10 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

MONDAY, JUNE 14 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 – Takoma Park Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 – Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

MONDAY, JUNE 21 - Ward 1 Night. On Monday, June 21, the Council will host a Ward Night for residents of Ward 1. This is part of a series of ward-focused events hosted by the City Council. Ward 1 residents are invited to gather in the Community Center Atrium Lobby at 7:00 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 1 residents about issues of interest and concern.

MONDAY, JUNE 21 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

TUESDAY, JUNE 22 - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

SUNDAY, JUNE 27 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30 - City Council attending the Maryland Municipal League Convention

*For the most up to date information, check <http://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.

April 19, 2010 – Special Session

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-18 was adopted, authorizing the issuance of a City of Takoma Park general obligation bond for the purpose of paying a deficit liability to the state retirement and pension system of Maryland

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-19 was adopted, authorizing the purchase of planters for the Maple Avenue community garden project

May 3, 2010 – Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2010-20 was accepted, enacting technical amendments to the stormwater management code

Resolution 2010-28 was adopted, appointing Jim Kuhn, Jay Levy, Jacob Rini and Robert Rini to the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (Nay: Clay)

The Consent Agenda was adopted, it consisted of:

- **Resolution 2010-21** recommending approval of the preliminary plan for 8435 Piney Branch Road
- **Single Reading Ordinance 2010-21** adopting the recommendations of the Arts and Humanities Commission and awarding a contract for a public art project

- **Resolution 2010-22**, recognizing National Public Service Recognition Week (May 3-9, 2010)
- **Resolution 2010-23** recognizing National Police Week (May 9-15, 2010) and Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15)
- **Resolution 2010-24** recognizing National Public Works Week (May 16-22, 2010)
- **Resolution 2010-26** appointing Jane Hurst, Jay Keller, Peter Munger, and Alice Sims to the Recreation Committee
- **Resolution 2010-25** appointing Sandra Coles-Bell to the Personnel Appeal Board
- **Resolution 2010-27** authorizing the city manager to enter into a grant agreement with the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee

May 20, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Resolution 2010-29 was adopted, renaming Jequie Park in honor of Belle Ziegler

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-20 was adopted, enacting technical amendments to the Stormwater Management Code

Resolution 2010-30 was adopted, appointing Lynne E. Bradley, Jacqueline L. Davison, Vanessa Dixon, Anne Hollander, Troy A. Jacobs, Susan Leitch and David Paris to the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

There are positions for Takoma Park residents available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Additional information can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

Arts and Humanities Commission
(vacancies)

Takoma Park Board of Elections
(two vacancies)

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
(two vacancies – tenants especially invited to apply)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
(vacancies)

Personnel Appeal Board
(one vacancies)

Recreation Committee
(vacancies)

Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee
(vacancies)



Ward 1 Residents – Meet with the City Council on June 21

On Monday, June 21, the City Council will host a Ward Night for residents of Ward 1. This is part of a series of ward-focused events hosted by the City Council. Ward 1 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 1 residents about issues of interest and concern to those living in the ward.



Council Resolution on Sligo Park Hills Traffic Restrictions

As a follow-up to the decision by the hearing examiner regarding the Sligo Park Hills traffic restrictions, the City Council will discuss the request by the Ritchie Citizens Association for traffic restrictions on Ritchie Avenue. The discussion will take place at the City Council meeting of June 7, following up with a resolution concerning those restrictions to be considered on June 14. The Hearing Examiner's decision can be viewed at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Greening from the Ground Up

Green roof, auditorium feature sustainable building elements

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Just about everyone is familiar with the buzz words of the increasingly popular green movement, and for those even remotely connected to or interested in green building, the same holds true. Solar panels, double pane windows, low flush toilets, and green roofs are at least concepts most people recognize. But how well are they really understood?

Now Takoma Park residents can see first hand some green building elements, built right into their own Community Center.

The City has already been using low-energy light fixtures in the building's offices and meeting rooms: high-efficiency lights use motion detectors and turn off automatically when no one is in the room. Thermostats in the community use rooms activate and deactivate heating and cooling according to whether the room is occupied as well. The windows on the sunny side of the building have reflective film to reduce energy consumption by cutting heat gain in the summer without obstructing the windows. The boiler for the building turns on in phases to reduce energy use. Even the paper towels in the building are made from recycled paper stock.

The City also purchases green energy credits generated from wind power to match the equivalent of 100 percent of the electricity used by city facilities and street lights. In 2006, the city purchased 5 percent wind power, then 10 percent, 25 percent, and 100 percent in FY10.

Rooftop Greenery

One of the most enterprising green projects incorporated into the Community Center is the green roof installed last year on a portion of the building's lowest level, above the parking garage. Its visibility is its most distinctive feature: visitors can see it clearly as they use the Community Center's main entrance, and can even walk out to get a closer look at the succulent plants carpeting its surface. A stair at the back of the building near Grant Avenue allows rear access.

"It's very accessible and it's really easy for people to see," says Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite, who helped facilitate the green roof design and installation. "Whereas most green roofs are ten stories up, this one's really almost at grade level so it's super visible. You can see it and walk around it, you can understand it." To extend that educational element, Braithwaite says she hopes to publish information about green roofs on the City web site for residents to learn more.

The purpose of a green roof is to filter stormwater and slow it down before it en-



Photo by Larrien Stephen Abrams

The plants on the green roof at the Community Center will fill in over the next two years; visitors can enjoy the greenery from the adjacent patio, where a reception celebrated the new roof and the newly renovated auditorium. The auditorium also features sustainable design.

ters the stormwater management system. The plants on the roof absorb some of the water, the water runs more slowly through the soil and eventually a significantly reduced amount of runoff rainwater makes its way to Sligo Creek and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. Greg Long, whose company, Capital Green Roofs, installed the roof at

the Community Center, says this particular roof, with its 4-inch deep blanket of sedum plants covering approximately 2,800 square feet, will reduce runoff by 50 to 60 percent.

In addition, a green roof increases the amount of vegetative surface, which is cooler than asphalt; this will cool the immediate area. A large enough green roof, or enough

Planning for the Future

As plans develop for the renovation of the Public Works facility, which is expected to begin this summer, Takoma Park is again committed to using green building methods and materials, and is following LEED guidelines for eventual certification. Among the green elements planned for the project are:

- Reusing existing buildings
- Reusing portions of building structure
- Recycling construction waste
- Using materials high in recycled content and available locally, reducing the energy cost of transporting materials to the site
- Using "low-VOC" materials, i.e. materials low in volatile organic chemicals that can emit pollutants into the air. These materials would include paint, flooring, and wall covering
- Use of construction techniques that will maximize the use of daylight
- A light-colored or white roof, which will reduce heat island effect
- Light fixtures that restrict light pollution by aiming the light beams down at the ground instead of spreading them out to the sides and overhead.
- Careful removal and replanting of seven mature trees which were located in the front of the building, and in the way of the expansion. The trees, which range in age from 10 to 20 years, were relocated to a City park.
- A grey water system that reuses water captured from the roofs for flushing toilets and watering nursery plants
- Energy-efficient equipment like lighting, fans and motors
- Increased levels of insulation
- Geothermal heating and cooling, which uses the constant (50-some degree) temperature of the earth to regulate indoor temperatures, depending on the season

small ones, can create a microclimate of cooler air in summer and combat the "urban heat island effect" of trapped heat near multiple buildings, asphalt and concrete. While the relatively small green roof at the Community Center is not big enough to create a microclimate, statistics from Capital Green Roofs suggest that if 20 percent of Washington, D.C.'s buildings were retrofitted with extensive green roofs, the city's average temperature could decrease by 1 to 2 degrees.

Lastly, the green roof will last about twice as long a conventional roof, says Long. He expects the Community Center roof will last about 60 years.

The Takoma Park roof will be low-maintenance – it requires occasional weeding and watering in dry weather, but Braithwaite anticipates maintenance will not take any more time than maintenance for a conventional roof, where staff must clean drains and pick up odd objects that collect.

The Community Center was designed from the start to support a green roof, though it was not installed immediately due to cost constraints. The concrete structure was reinforced, however, for the eventual installation of the green roof, so that it could hold the weight of soil, plants and water. When Federal Economic Stimulus funding came through in the summer of 2009, the \$69,500 green roof was installed. (There was also a \$30,000 expenditure of City funds to install a membrane over the deck before green roof installation). The project was completed February, 2009.

Plants, a variety of sedums, should fill in completely within two years.

Sound Building

In addition to the green roof, the recently renovated Community Center auditorium incorporates green features, and is eligible for LEED certification (LEED, an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, indicates that a building has met certain criteria for sustainable practice). A 10.4 kilowatt solar array on the roof of the Community Center provides power to offset demand from new auditorium systems. Inside, walls are covered with organic Kenaf grass and recycled newspaper, which is rapidly renewable, carbon neutral and 100 percent recyclable and biodegradable. The acoustic wall panels are from 100 percent post-consumer recycled polyester fabric printed with waterbased ink.

Council desks are made of bamboo, and the stage floor was cut from sustainably harvested maple, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Theatre lights are LED and energy efficient; the carpet is made from 15 percent post-consumer recycled content, and it is Green Label Plus certified. The new seats are made from 100 percent recycled polyester, and even the ceiling tiles are 40 percent recycled content. The heating and air conditioning is designed to be high-efficiency, and materials, where possible, were purchased locally to cut down on the amount of energy expended in transporting goods.

The \$1.39 million auditorium project, which was funded by federal and state funds with a contribution from the Washington Adventist Hospital, included \$80,000 to accommodate the additional expense of building more sustainably.



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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

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The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.



Tenant's Claim of Retaliation Supported

Gordon v. Simms (10-5T)

On April 23, COLTA issued its decision following an emergency hearing regarding the tenant's complaint alleging that the landlord had issued her a notice to vacate in retaliation for her written request that the landlord paint her apartment. The COLTA decision held that: the landlord's 2/19/10 notice to vacate was issued solely in retaliation for the tenant's 1/6/10 written request that her apartment be painted; the landlord failed to present persuasive evidence at the hearing of a non-retaliatory motive for seeking to terminate the tenancy and the landlord failed to assert when asked at the hearing of possible non-retaliatory motives for issuing the notice. The decision further noted that while a landlord may issue a no-cause notice to vacate to a month-to-month tenant, when a tenant alleges that the notice to vacate was retaliatory and presents evidence that it was issued shortly after the tenant engaged in protected activity (the tenant's request that the landlord paint her apartment was determined to be a complaint and therefore a protected activity), the landlord is required to provide a legitimate reason for issuing the notice to vacate to rebut the evidence of retaliation.



COLTA's CORNER

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

New Landlord Entry Law Applied

A landlord contacted the Mailbox regarding whether she may enter a tenant's apartment to complete tenant-requested repairs without securing the tenant's advance written permission if the proposed entry will take place within a week of the tenant's repair request. The landlord also asks what the penalty is if she or her agent enters the tenant's apartment without securing the tenant's advance written permission.



HOUSING Mail Box

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

time the entry was made, the reason(s) for the entry, the time the person(s) entering left the apartment and provide the landlord's address and phone number.

City Ordinance 2010-16 also provides for additional remedies that the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) may impose (1) on landlords for making an improper entry or failing to provide an entry report and (2) on tenants for unreasonably

In accordance with City Ordinance 2010-16 which became effective on April 12, 2010, this landlord or her agent may not enter the tenant's apartment to complete the tenant-requested repairs without securing advance written permission from the requesting tenant. The change to Section 6.16.140 of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law eliminated the prior provision allowing a landlord to make entry without securing the tenant's advance written permission when the tenant had requested repairs if the entry was made within two weeks of the tenant's request.

The tenant's written permission allowing a landlord or his/her agent to make an entry in less than 48 hours may be provided to the landlord electronically or through a posting signed by the tenant and left on the tenant's apartment door. Landlords should carefully note that if the tenant is not present when the entry is made by the landlord or his/her agent, an entry report must be left in plain view in the rental unit telling the tenant, the name(s) of all individuals who entered the rental unit, the date and

withholding their consent to entry by a landlord. Section 6.24.090 of the COLTA Statute now provides that a landlord may, upon a Commission finding that a landlord has improperly entered into a rental unit or failed to provide a report of entry, be required to pay the tenant punitive damages of up to \$400 for each incidence. Section 6.24.090 of the COLTA Statute now also provides that upon a Commission finding that a tenant has unreasonably withheld his/her consent to entry by a landlord, the Commission may require the tenant to pay the landlord punitive damages of up to \$400 for each incidence. In considering the award of punitive damages to either tenants or landlords, the Commission is required to consider whether the violation(s) was/were intentional and its impact upon the offended tenant or landlord.

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

First Time Home Buyer Class



Saturday, June 26, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

at the

**Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue**

Expert speakers from a lending institution, title company, real estate office and an inspection company

Learn the entire process for buying a house or condo

Provided by a HUD-approved housing organization

Certificate of Completion awarded to attendees

**Pre-Registration Is Required
Class is Free**

Contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park
Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served.



Rent Stabilization Allowance (Annual Rent Increase)

2.3 percent

Effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

The Takoma Park law (City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization) maintains the affordability of rental units in the community by limiting the number and amount of rent increases that may be charged for a specific rental unit. Generally the rent may be increased only once in a given 12-month period, and rent increases are limited to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index. The rent stabilization allowance is calculated on an annual basis and applies to all licensed multi-family rental facilities with two or more rental units and to all licensed condominium units.

The 2010-2011 Rent Stabilization Allowance is 2.3 percent and will be in effect beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Landlords required to comply with Takoma Park's rent stabilization laws cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Multi-family rental properties and individually-owned condominium rental units are normally subject to Takoma Park's rent stabilization laws, however the following units may be exempt from many of the requirements of rent stabilization. The exemption is not automatic and is subject to the approval of the City.

Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program;

Any rental facility that is subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of one or more rental units so that they are available only to low and moderate income tenants;

Newly constructed rental units for a period five years after construction;

All rental units in a building with two dwelling units where the owner occupies one or more of the units as his/her principal residence.

If you have any questions about the rent on your unit or Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

For Quick City Service Use My TKPK

Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs

www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service

Auditorium Features High-Tech Equipment, Sustainable Features

By VIRGINIA MYERS

The City celebrated its new auditorium last month with two weeks' worth of free performances, from children's sing-alongs to literary readings, folk rock to calypso. Over the course of almost a dozen events, hundreds of residents came out to experience the new space, with its brand new sound and lighting equipment, projection and film screens, wireless technology and acoustically designed interior, sustainably built seating and environmentally friendly finishes.

Even before the official ribbon cutting, opening night, on Friday, May 7, packed the room for a film about legendary musician and Takoma Park native John Fahey and music from his fellow musician, Peter Lang. With sound system finely tuned and nuanced lighting on stage, the show had the feel of a professional music venue, right here at home.

At a "sustainable" ribbon cutting – instead of a ribbon, officials cut a rope of grasses and vines – some of the politicians and contributors who helped facilitate the renovation watched as footage of the old auditorium, with its vintage orange chairs and tangled media cables littering the floor, showed on the new projection screen, along with photos of the renovation in progress. In attendance were State Senator Jamie Raskin, State Delegates Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur (who joked that she might have stayed on City Council had the facility been as polished as it is now) and representatives of Delegate Sheila Hixson and U.S. representative Chris Van Hollen as well as Jere Stocks, President of Washington Adventist Hospital; and Barry Christy, of Project Open Space. Each had a role in obtaining funds for renovating the auditorium as part of the Community Center project.



Photo by Larriou Stephen Abrams

Politicians and private partners cut the "green" ribbon at the newly renovated auditorium. From left, State Delegates Heather Mizeur and Tom Hucker, State Senator Jamie Raskin; Karen McManus, a representative for U.S. Representative Chris Van Hollen; Barry Christy, of Program Open Space; Mayor Bruce Williams, Washington Adventist President Jere Stocks, and Monica Ettinger, a representative for State Delegate Sheila Hixson.

Among the new features in the auditorium:

- Five new remote-control cameras built into the ceiling, each of which can be converted to high-definition (the City had four previously, but they were not as up to date)
- A 32-channel sound board that can individuate sounds from different sources, and so present multiple sound presentations, like multi-instrumental bands, in a more dynamic way
- Two projection screens and a movie screen for superior power point presentations and movies
- Wireless capability that precludes the use of projectors mounted on carts, that require multiple cables.
- A blu-ray DVD/CD player and PC computer
- Acoustical wall panels that improve sound

The auditorium also has many sustainable construction features built into it, as it utilizes recycled content, recyclable materials, includes solar panels for power, and uses energy efficient heating and cooling systems (for more on the green features of the auditorium, see page 3).

City officials expect the auditorium to be a popular place for all kinds of shows, including music, dance, film, literary events and more. Fees for renting the space are yet to be determined, but as the City Council approved the budget May 24 it was clear that charges for auditorium use would help fund other City programs, and discussions have included the possibility of pricing use competitively with other facilities.

To learn more about renting the space for events, residents can contact Sara Daines, 301-891-7224 or sarad@takomagov.org.



Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

celebrating the creative spirit of our community

"Look In/Look Out, Portraits in Progress"

The original artwork by members of Studio Downstairs/Create Arts Center, a therapeutically informed and progressive art studio program for adults living with post-traumatic stress syndrome and mental illness, will be on display in the Atrium Gallery from June 4 through July 9. Please join us at the opening reception on Friday, June 4 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Atrium Gallery, located on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"Unique Perspectives: The Healing Power of Making Art"

A community and professional symposium, organized in conjunction with the "Look In/Look Out" exhibit, will be held on Friday, June 4 from 1 to 5 p.m. Featured

guest speaker is Matt Sesow, self-taught artist and author. Panel discussion on the personal and societal context of art making as a healing process follows. Symposium is free and open to the public. Pre-registration encouraged. CEUs pending. For more information, please contact Sally Brucker at sbrucker2@gmail.com or call 301-588-2787.

"God Made Me Blind So That I Might See"

In 1996, Mat Kessler became visually impaired at the age of 62. Formerly an oral surgeon, he was no longer able to operate, but he discovered that limited vision in this material world can actually "open up the internal eye to one's soul." Kessler's sculpture and ceramics, described as "uplifting, thought-provoking, whimsical, and spiritual," will be on display in Gallery 3 from June 14 through July 19. Please join us at the opening reception on Saturday, June 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gallery 3, located on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 SaraD@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.gov

Takoma Park Poetry Blossoms

By MERRILL LEFFLER

Spring with all its bursting colors is upon us – so too is *Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park*, the artfully-designed poetry posters planted along Carroll and Laurel avenues, from Takoma Junction to Old Town, in all the city's parks, and at the Library and Community Center. This unique poetry walk, conceived and supported by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, in collaboration with the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College, is now in its fourth year.

Walk along Carroll Avenue and you'll read Li-Young Lee's "Blossoms" in front of the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op, Naomi Shihab Nye's "My Grandmother in the Stars" in front of the "purple house" (Wisdom Path Healing Center), Denis Brutus's "Still the Sirens" at the bus stop at Victory Tower, Billy Collins's "The Blues" at (naturally) the Bandstand. Selected by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker, Rosanne Singer, Sidney March, Ann Slayton, and the author, the more than 30 poems are by U.S., British, Latin American, South African and Polish poets.

Some poems, like Walt Whitman's "A Noiseless Patient Spider," Galway Kinnell's "Memories of My Father" and César Vallejo's "Black Stone on Top of a White Stone" (in English and Spanish), are sober and meditative, while others such as Etheridge Knight's "It Was a Funky Deal" and Philip Schultz's "Laughter" can be wild, if not raucous. Others like "In Praise of My Sister" – in front of the post office -- by Polish Nobel Prize winning poet Wislawa Szymborska are whimsically reflective:

*My sister doesn't write poems,
and it's unlikely that she'll suddenly start writing poems.*

*She takes after her mother, who didn't write poems,
and also her father, who likewise didn't write poems.*

*I feel safe beneath my sister's roof:
my sister's husband would rather die than write poems.*

*And even though this is starting to sound as repetitive as Peter Piper,
the truth is, none of my relatives write poems.*

From its inception, the Spring for Poetry posters have been designed by students in Professor Andrea Adam's Typography Design class at Montgomery College. "We have a marvelous collaboration," says Karen Boyer, president of the Friends. "Students do a real project which has great visibility and that they can use in their portfolios." Walkers in our city are the beneficiaries.

The posters will be up through summer's end -- you can find the poems, poets and locations in a downloadable file on the Friends website at www.ftpml.org/poetry/PoetryWalk.htm. Boyer invites comments about the poems, those you especially like . . . and don't! Just go to www.ftpml.org/poetry/PoetryFeedback.htm -- "we look forward to hearing from you," she says, "perhaps with your own suggestions for next year."

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Do you write poetry? Are you interested in sharing your work? Consider participating in the open poetry reading on Thursday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center. The event is free and open to the public.

June Recreation

Register online for Recreation Programs at activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation

SPORTS

T-Ball

This youth T-ball league emphasizes learning, expands skills, and encourages participation and fun! Designed for grades K-1, it is a safe introduction to baseball: The ball is hit off a stand (tee) instead of being pitched. Girls and boys learn the basics, and every child gets to play.

Times vary, 9 a.m. and later, Saturday mornings, June 12-August 7

Locations vary by date:

Belle Ziegler Park (aka Jequie Park), at Takoma and Buffalo Avenues
Spring Park, at Cockerille Ave. near Second Ave.
Lee Jordan Field, 7611 Piney Branch Road behind Takoma Park Middle School

TP resident \$45
Non-resident..... \$55
\$15 rate available to residents with proof of enrollment in free or reduced meal or similar financial assistance programs

Y.E.S. League

The co-ed "Youth Exposed to Success" Basketball League is back at it again. Teams are guaranteed eight games and every player will receive a Y.E.S League t-shirt. The League will be broken up into five separate divisions, between Grades 5 through 12 (as of September 2010). Advance registration required. Sign up at the Community Center Recreation office or at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation>.

6:30-9:30 p.m., dates per division, to be determined Piney Branch Elementary School gym

Grades 5-6 begins Monday, June 21
Grades 7-8 begins Tuesday, June 22
Grades 9-10 begins Wednesday, June 23
Grades 11-12 begins Thursday, June 24

TP resident \$25
Non-resident \$35
\$15 rate available to residents with proof of enrollment in free or reduced meal or similar financial assistance programs

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Tremendous Trips

Age 6-12 (In Grade 1 starting September 2010)
Each day offers a different trip. Sign up for one or register for all. Minimum registration must be met. Trips are subject to change pending the last day of school. Participants meet at the Community Center.

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

College Park Bowling and College Park Air Museum
Monday, June 21

Reston Zoo
Tuesday, June 22

Marshy Point Nature Center
Wednesday, June 23



Lauren Tayler of Defend Yourself teaches safety techniques to 15 girls from area high schools and middle schools.

Photo by Faye Wright

Cameron Run Water Park
Thursday, June 24

Bohrer Park Mini Golf and Water Park
Friday, June 25

TP resident \$35/trip
Non-resident..... \$40/trip

Counselor in Training

Ages 14-16

Participants develop leadership and recreation skills while providing support for Recreation Department programs. A CIT helps run all planned program activities on site as well as any regularly scheduled off-site activities such as swimming and field trips, under direct adult leadership. They work directly with children by helping them to enjoy and feel successful in each activity. It is a responsible position that requires a serious commitment and a cooperative attitude towards other CITs and staff. For more information contact Carey Antoszewski, 301-891-7233 or careya@takomagov.org.

TP Community Center
June 28 - August 13
TP resident \$100
Non-resident \$110

Golf and Tennis Camp Specialty Camp

Ages 9 - 12

A combination specialty camp to assist in learning technique and improving skills. Focus will be on enhancing fundamentals, strategy, practice techniques and court and course etiquette and management. Our goal is to ensure that each camper is safe,

builds skills and knowledge and comes away with a memorable and fun experience. This specialty camp runs from 9 a.m. – noon. After lunch, campers will participate in recreational activities with a larger camp group to include art projects, sports, field trips and fun! Maximum 10, minimum five.

TP Community Center
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
June 28-July 2

TP resident \$140
Non-resident \$150

Rookie Sports Camp

Ages 3-5

A great way to introduce your child to soccer, T-ball and kickball. A safe, structured environment where sports are played through a series of games and activities designed to ensure learning and, most importantly, fun. No previous experience is required in any sport to participate. All the sports promote hand-eye-coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills. Maximum 15, minimum eight.

Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elementary School
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-noon

June 28-July 2
TP resident \$70
Non-resident \$75

Visual Arts Camp

Ages 11 - 14

Have fun and express yourself through color, shape, drawing and design! Each session includes new media and activities. Two hours of drawing in the

Silver Foxes

Seniors - Celebrate Your Birthday!

Bring your friends and join us as we celebrate April, May and June birthdays with cake, ice cream, games and fun! For adults 55 and older. For more information, 301-891-7280.

1 p.m., June 18
Senior Room, TP Community Center
No registration required
Free

Strawberry Festival (blueberries and raspberries too!)

June is "Berry Month" for TP Seniors. Celebrate the flavor and health benefits with goodies provided by the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op and other vendors. Very, berry fun! For adults 55 and older. For more information, 301- 891-7280.

Noon, June 8
Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Free.

morning using graphite, pen and ink, colored pencils, charcoal pencils, pastels, oil pastels or conte crayon, etc. followed by more than two hours of painting and/or collage and assemblage in the afternoon. Media such as watercolor painting, sumi-e, mixed media painting, texture and found object assemblage will be explored. Trip to the pool, art-related movies, access to the game room during the day and outdoor art adventures are all included. All materials are included in the fee. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.

Art Room, TP Community Center
 Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 June 28-July 2
 TP resident \$280
 Non-resident \$300

Camp Takoma

Ages 6 – 12 (in grade 1 starting September 2010)
 Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, activities and presenters related to each theme. Swimming once a week and a camp t-shirt are included in the fee. This year's themes include: health and fitness, adventure, Jolly Roger, super hero, rock star, nature and wild water.

TP Community Center
 Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Week 1, June 28 - July 2
 Week 2 July 6-9**
 Week 3 July 12-6
 Week 4 July 19-23
 Week 5 July 26-30
 Week 6 August 2-6
 Week 7 August 9-13
 TP resident \$100/week
 Non-resident \$110/week
 CAMP TAKOMA ONLY - Receive week two free when you register for all seven weeks!

EXTENDED CARE OPTIONS

Before and After Care

Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Activities include games, outdoor play and sports. Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: Camp Takoma, Specialty Camps, TP Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball Camp, Basketball and Soccer Camps.

June 28-August 13.
 Fee per week for Before Care, 7 - 9 a.m..
 TP resident \$30/week
 Non-resident \$40/week

Fee per week for After Care, 4-6 p.m.
 TP resident \$30/week
 Non-resident \$40/week

Fun Day Program

Ages 5-12
 Field trips for half-days of school. Students attending Takoma Park Elementary School will be picked up from their bus stop and children attending Piney Branch Elementary School will be picked up by staff in the hall near the pool. All other students need to make sure arrangements are made with the Recreation Department for pick-up. Trip is subject to change. Space is limited, sign-up early! Students registered in Afternoon Addition, the half day program is included in your registration fee. Please mark down your child's swimming ability in the special consideration section.

1-6 p.m. June 16
 MLK Outdoor Pool
 TP resident \$20
 Non-resident \$25



Rec Department staffers Faye Wright and Bradley Williams attended the 4th Annual HIV/Aids Expo at Blair High School, sponsored by Gap Busters enrichment and learning center, to promote Takoma Park Recreation Department programs and network with other agencies serving youth.

Photo courtesy of Gap Buster

Encaustic Collage Weekend Workshop

Ages 18 and older
 Encaustic collage is a collage medium that uses bees wax as an adhesive and allows for layering of papers and lightweight found materials as a base for over painting with oil and encaustic paint. This workshop will cover collage layering processes using translucent and opaque papers and sculptural effects that can be created with the wax with stencils, stamps and incising. Ways to enhance your collage with encaustic paint will be introduced, as well as principles of layering wax and wax based paint over absorbent surfaces such as wood, cloth, canvas and watercolor paper. All materials will be provided for the \$35 materials fee to be paid to the instructor on the first day. Two days. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman. Maximum 12, minimum seven.

Art Room, TP Community Center
 Sat. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
 June 12-13
 TP resident \$210
 Non-resident \$230



Alice Sims and her students in the Open Art Studio program admire their tile work, crafted into a table on display in the Senior Room at the Community Center.

Photo by Paula Lisowski

Arabic Dance Raqs Sharqi - Belly Dancing

Ages 16 and older
 Arabic Raqs Sharqi, or Belly Dance is an ancient social dance that originated in the Middle East. Raqs Sharqi is a joyous form of self expression, a celebration of life and femininity. Suitable for people of all ages and shapes, the style is characterized by the intricate isolation, fluid undulations, energetic shimmies and graceful arm movements. Learn instructor Laurel Victoria Gray's signature system of basic position, traveling steps, shimmies and turns. Six weeks. Maximum 20, minimum five.

Azalea Room, TP Community Center
 Tues. 7-8 p.m.
 June 1-July 6
 TP resident \$60
 Non-resident \$65

Summer Dungeons and Dragons

Ages 9-18
 A bit more fast and loose than our usual sessions. We'll try high level characters, or playing as monsters or super heros, World War II zombie apocalypse—whatever people are most interested in. Feel free to bring a snack. Instructor Dave Burbank. Maximum 15, minimum five. Four weeks.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
 Thurs. 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 July 1, 8, 15, 22
 TP resident \$35
 Non-resident \$40

Taekwondo

Ages 4 and older
 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. Adults are welcome to register with their child. There is a one-time fee paid to the instructor at the first class (non-refundable) for uniform (\$40 children, \$50 for adult). Seven weeks. Instructor Lois Schoenbrun.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
 1-2 p.m., July 10-August 21
 TP resident \$75/person
 Non-resident \$85/person

Note: Scholarships are available for Takoma Park residents.

**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.

Bedtime Stories

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

Resumé Boot Camp

Wednesday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.
Polish your resumé for private sector and non-profit employment. Hydrangea Room. Registration limited.

Petites Chansons

Saturday, June 12, 10:30 a.m.
Join Madame Marie as she leads singing and rhymes in French. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Gifts for Dads and Teachers

Monday, June 14, 6:30-8 p.m.
Kids make gift for Dads and/or teachers. Materials supplied. Registration required. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 7:45 p.m.

Summer Quest Kick-Off

Monday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.
Share ideas behind our latest Summer Quest adventure and get started on summer reading. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Petites Chansons

Saturday, June 26, 10:30 a.m.
Join Madame Marie as she leads singing and rhymes in French. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Junior Banned Books Club

Tuesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.
Third, fourth and fifth graders
Current book: "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" Book available for check-out at the main Library desk. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Rick Riordan Brings Ancient Egypt to Life in "The Red Pyramid"

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

If you're a young reader between the ages of seven and 12, you already know that one of the hottest authors for kids today is Rick Riordan. Here's a look at Riordan's latest blockbuster for kids, plus comments Riordan made about kids and writing during a recent telephone interview I had with him.

When author Rick Riordan concluded his wildly-popular "Percy Jackson" series last year, his young fans wondered just what he'd write next. Last month, Riordan gave them the answer with his newest book, "The Red Pyramid." The first of a planned series called "The Kane Chronicles," Riordan's latest novel puts a spotlight on ancient Egypt in much the same way he wove Greek mythology into the "Percy Jackson" series.

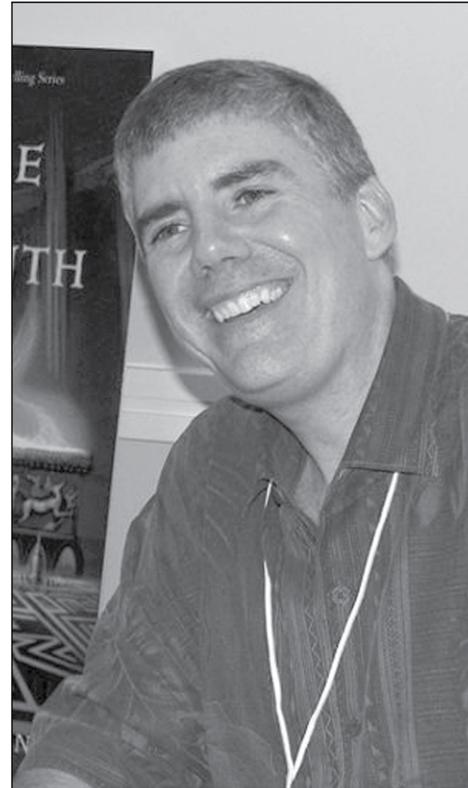
And, like the "Percy Jackson" series, "The Red Pyramid" features his reader-friendly mix of short, snappy, action-filled chapters and a boatload of wisecracking humor. Of course, there's also some learning mixed in as Riordan connects readers with the gods and magicians of ancient Egypt, who – in "The Red Pyramid," at least -- are alive and well and living in Brooklyn, Memphis, London and other places around the world.

This time, Riordan tells his story through two narrators – mixed-race siblings Carter and Sadie Kane. The two alternate detailing what happened after their father, Julius Kane, blew up the Rosetta Stone and unleashed five Egyptian gods before disappearing himself.

Having two protagonists "was a challenge," Riordan said in the interview from his San Antonio, Tex. home. "I like to push myself and do different things. I didn't want a carbon copy of Percy."

Riordan, whose name is pronounced "Ryer (rhymes with "fire") -dan," was especially worried about finding the right voice for Sadie. "But her character really came to me – she was so endearing, so spunky, that she just leapt off the page."

As the story begins, 14-year-old Carter and 12-year-old Sadie hardly know each other. Since their mother's unexplained



Author Rick Riordan signs copies of his books during a recent promotional tour.

Courtesy photo

death several years ago, Sadie's been living with grandparents in England while Carter has traveled the world with his father, an eminent archeologist.

After their father's disappearance, Carter and Sadie are stunned to learn from their Uncle Amos that they are descended from powerful Egyptian magicians. Despite some inevitable personality clashes and fierce sibling rivalry, Carter and Sadie realize that they've got to team up if they're going to defeat the forces of evil led by the Egyptian god Set.

As a former middle school teacher, Riordan knew that many kids are enthralled with ancient Egypt. "There are the pyramids, mummies, curses, hieroglyphics – so much to wrap your mind around," he said.

But kids also tend to know less about it than the Greek mythology featured in the

"Percy Jackson" books, said Riordan. As a result, he had to find a way to pack "The Red Pyramid" with facts about ancient Egypt while still entertaining his readers. "I tried to spice it up, to find those nuggets that will capture kids' interest while they learn."

Riordan did extensive research for "The Red Pyramid." What most amazed him, however, was the fact that no other author apparently had attempted to build a kids' novel around the fact that Egyptian magic "is the oldest school of magic in the world." "I loved the idea of reinventing magic from the beginning," Riordan said.

He also was happy with the idea of making Sadie and Carter the children of a mixed race couple; their mother was white and their father was African-American. "Egypt straddles civilizations – African civilization and western civilization. I wanted to capture the sense that Egypt is a multi-cultural society."

Sadie and Carter's mixed-race heritage also added another emotional layer to the story, Riordan said. "At a time when kids are searching for their identity, when you add race to it, it's a big challenge," he said.

At the moment, Riordan sees his new "Kane Chronicles" series as a trilogy, saying: "That's as far as I've taken the story." Meanwhile, he's also working on a second new, five-book series featuring a mainstay of the "Percy Jackson" series, Camp Half-Blood. The first book will be published in October. "I wanted readers to know that I'm not totally abandoning Percy. He's got a big role to play in this book, but I can't say anymore and need to ask readers to be patient."

Riordan says he plans to do one book in each of the new series each year. "No one is pressuring me to do this, but I didn't want to keep my fans waiting so long.... Still, they can read a lot faster than I can write!"

Given the huge success of the "Percy Jackson" books, Riordan could well afford a wealthier lifestyle. He's not interested, however. "We like to keep things simple," he said. "I didn't become a full-time writer until I was almost 40. So my identity was really shaped before that."



LIBRARY Briefs

■ **Kids in third, fourth and fifth grade are invited to the debut of our latest book club, the Junior Banned Books Club.** This new book club is modeled after our national-award-winning Banned Books Club for teens, at which we discuss books that some people (not in our community!) believe should be taken off the library shelves. The first meeting of our Junior Banned Books Club will take place on

Tuesday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m. Our book is "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by J.K. Rowling. Come ready to discuss the book! Copies are available for check-out at the main Library desk, thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Space is limited, so registration is required. To register, please go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

■ **It's time for our newest Summer Quest reading adventure!** We're the only public library in Maryland to create our own summer reading program. This year, our formal kick-off event will be on Monday, June 21, at 7:30 p.m. Library assistant and Summer Quest creator Dave Burbank will do an interactive story/drawing program giving kids a taste of this year's adventure, and kids will be able to sign up for

the program. As always, our program is a reading game: when participants sign up, they choose a character and give the character a name. We keep the character (although kids can take home a smaller version of it to play the game at home) and, as they complete each of the 10 reading challenges, we move their character along our giant game board in our Children's Room.

Reading challenges are open-ended (things like "read a book about someone different than you" and "read a book by someone whose last name begins with the same letter as your last name") as a way to make reading fun for kids. But readers of all ages are invited to participate in our Summer Quest program. Parents, if you

LIBRARY BRIEFS
continues on page 9



LIBRARY Briefs

continued from page 8

have a little one who doesn't yet read, you can read to them and still play the game. We've even had a few adults play the game, reading adult books for the challenges! Our program will end in early September, when we host a party and hand out free books to all Summer Quest participants. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our Summer Quest program.

■ **Kids are invited to come make a gift for their Dad or favorite teacher on Monday, June 14, from 6:30-8 p.m.** We'll provide the materials, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. All kids have to do is provide the creativity. Registration is required so we can be sure to have enough materials for everyone. To register, please go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

■ **A gentle reminder: please don't try to repair library books yourself!** Library Assistant Dave Burbank, our master book mender, has special materials for repairing books, as well as years of experience in mending books. We do ask, however, that you let us know about ripped or missing pages and other problems as you return your books. Thanks very much!

■ **Volunteer Opportunity for Pages** - On July 1, we're beginning a new Library Page program and we need volunteers! This is a great opportunity to help the Library, and - for high school students - a perfect way to earn lots of community service hours. The main job of our Library pages will be helping to shelve books and other materials each day. We need volunteers who know - or can quickly learn - our shelving system, which is based on the Dewey Decimal System. In addition, volunteers must be 13 or older and must be physically able to lift sometimes heavy books and to reach both high and low shelves.

Most importantly, we need volunteers who are reliable, efficient, and committed to helping our Library run smoothly. High school students will earn one community service hour for each hour they volunteer. All volunteers must be able to commit to one two- or three-hour shelving stint per week, but are welcome to do more if they are able. We will have Dewey Decimal System study materials - very simple and brief - available, as prospective volunteers will be asked to take a brief test demonstrating their knowledge of how books are shelved. For more information about the Library Page program, please email Karen MacPherson, children's and teen librarian, at karenm@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7259.

Gateway Art Signs Evoke Takoma Park's Colorful History

BY KEVIN ADLER

When the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission issued a call for proposals for art panels to be added to the "gateway" signs across the city, local husband-and-wife artists Jim Colwell and Alison Baker took several walks in the February snow to look at the sites. They were intrigued by the opportunity, but presented with a design challenge.

"The panels are roughly the proportion of a bumper sticker...long and narrow," said Colwell. "My first reaction was that it was going to be tough to come up with something that would grab someone's attention in that confined space."

After thinking about it for a while, Colwell and Baker decided that the shape of the panels was similar to the colorful labels used in the 1940s and 50s on the sides of crates of fruits and vegetables. They proposed to create their own "Vintage Crate Labels," using Takoma Park's history and

culture as the subjects.

"The vintage labels are whimsical and imaginative, while also being descriptive," said Colwell. "I felt that there were many things about Takoma Park that could be depicted in that way."

Vintage Crate Labels will combine colorful, boldly lettered words with images of Takoma Park icons, such as the Farmer's Market, Roscoe the Rooster, city founder B.F. Gilbert, and popular festivals. When possible, the panels will be installed on signs near where the particular activities occur.

"Many Takoma Park homes were built in the 1940s, so the panels also are evocative of that era," said Colwell. "One of the things I really love about Takoma Park is the feeling that this is a town that has been lived in for a while and has a history—that it's not all new."

After receiving public comment about all of the proposed designs, the Arts and Humanities Commission made its selection, and the City Council authorized funding

in May. "We are very excited about going forward with the Gateway Art Panels. Jim Colwell's graphics are beautiful," said Sara Daines, director of the City's Housing and Community Development Department, which will oversee installation of the panels.

In total, Colwell and Baker will design 30 unique panels (two for each of 15 gateway signs), which Colwell will paint on wood and treat with marine-grade epoxy. The project will cost \$15,000, and the funds have been allocated from the city's capital budget, said Daines. Installation is anticipated in the fall.

The city has placed three other public art projects on hold—a gateway sculpture for the Long Branch neighborhood, art for several traffic circles, and a triumphal arch—reflecting the city's difficult financial circumstances. The design of the arch was approved in 2008 but has been delayed due to lengthy permitting issues and authorizations required for its installation.

Friends Book Sale Sets New Record

Graced by crystalline spring weather, an abundance of volunteers and an outstanding selection of books, the Friends of the Library book sale on May 15 was an unqualified success. More than \$2,100 was raised by the Friends to support Library programs and services, setting a new record for the bi-annual sales.

The Library staff and Friends wish to thank the many people whose enthusiasm and herculean efforts made the sale possible. In no particular order, they are: Clair Garman, Walter and Rachel Mulbry, Annemarie and Ripley Stroud, Suzanne Morgan, Judy Treble, Rohini Pande, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Andy Saindon, Sherelyn Ernst, Mel and Dee Raff, Tim Hardin, Tim Rahn, Sam McCollin, Bob and MaryAnn Annis, Sophie Leffler, Michael Culliton, Karen Boyer, Nadine Wettstein, David Reiser, Jenny Apostol, Kay Daniels Cohen, Susan Robb, Rebekah Zanditon,, Patty Ghezzi, Noreen Wells, and Lamont Cary of the Takoma Park Department of Public Works. Special thanks go to Dave Burbank, who sorted endless cartons of donated books in the months prior to the sale, Michele Morgan who publicized the sale throughout the City, and Booksale Coordinator Merrill Leffler.



Friends Share New Books at Rec Center

Children at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue peruse the books on their new Library cart as the Friends of the Library President, Karen Boyer, looks on. The cart, stocked with 76 books of fiction and non-fiction, is part of a Friends-funded program to encourage reading among Takoma Park children in the Kidz City After School Program run by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Young participants will receive credit for completing each book.

Photo by Michele Morgan

City TV Showcases Programs from New Auditorium



The JazzFest is here once again. Look for City TV cameras around the JazzFest on Sunday June 13, and stop by to say hello to our staff and record a Station ID. Festival performances will continue to show throughout the month.

You can also remember "We Are Takoma," the programming that celebrated the opening of the newly renovated auditorium in May. Watch City TV to enjoy the live programming and replays from two weeks' worth of entertainment and activi-

ties there. And if you've got a poet inside, mark Thursday, June 17, in your calendar for the open reading at the Third Thursday Poetry Series. Come and share your poems on City TV.

Do you have an idea for a production? Are you missing some type of programming you'd like City TV to add? Call us at 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to cabletv@takomagov.org to give us your suggestions.

Bike Patrol Expands Police Access to City

By VIRGINIA MYERS

As the weather warms, Takoma Park Police officers have an opportunity to trade their patrol cars for bicycles, and several have done just that, pedaling through the city and patrolling areas they might not otherwise reach.

This year ten officers (of the total 42) have completed a required 40-hour advanced riding and safety course, and are trained for two-wheel patrol. The department owns six Trek bikes, and there are generally one or two officers out on bikes at any given time. They are most visible in the Old Town area and in Takoma-Langley Crossroads, but they ride throughout the City.

"Biking opens [officers] up to more interaction," says Lt. Richard Bowers, who helps organize the officers who volunteer to patrol by bike. In addition to meeting more

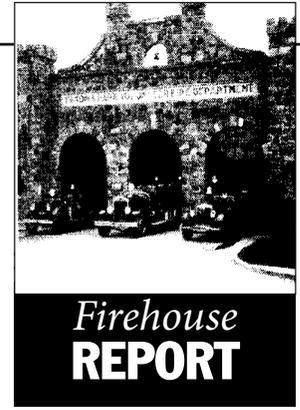
residents, many of whom are curious about why officers would choose to ride bikes rather than drive cars, officers can access areas that are difficult to reach by automobile, including parks and the pedestrian areas of commercial districts. Other than that, their patrols do not differ dramatically from car patrols.

Why do they do it? Besides meeting the departmental commitment to getting out of the patrol cars and interacting more with the public, an edict Chief Ronald Ricucci has strongly emphasized since he joined the force three years ago, officers mount their bikes for exercise, for a break in routine, and for the opportunity to see, more intimately, what is happening in the community around them. "You have a tendency to see things that people would have hidden from you," says Bowers, referring to quality of life issues like drinking in public.



Corporal Jerome Erwin, a 13-year officer with the Takoma Park Police Department, is one of ten officers trained for bike patrol. "It's physically healthy for me, plus it's excellent PR," he says. "Every time I ride, citizens thank me and say it's great to see you out here."

Photo by Laurie Stepp



By JIM JARBOE

As April 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 255 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,080 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,335 this year. Totals for 2009 were 258 and 907, respectively, for a total of 1,165, representing an increase of 170 incidents.

Serving up safety at barbecues

Everyone loves a barbecue! In fact, one of the great pleasures of summer is eating and cooking outside with family and friends. Unfortunately, cooking on gas and charcoal grills can also be dangerous. With a little extra precaution, you can make sure that the sizzle of summer doesn't turn into a disaster.

Grilling safety with gas

Gas grills are a popular choice among today's barbecue enthusiasts. However, if not used properly they can pose a serious safety and fire hazard.

- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions and be sure you understand them.
 - Always use the proper size wrench to make sure all connections are tight and check all washers. Apply a soapy solution to detect leaks. If there are bubbles, tighten the connection more.
 - Never use a gas grill inside any building or structure.
 - Place grill 15 feet away from any structure.
 - Do not allow grease to accumulate.
 - Never let children use a gas grill.
 - Grilling safely with charcoal
 - Charcoal may seem less dangerous than gas, but it is also necessary for you to take precautions. The combustion of charcoal emits carbon monoxide gas which can cause death even in small quantities.
 - Don't be tempted on a rainy day to use grills inside, not even in a garage.
 - Do not use grills under an over-hang, or on a wooden deck, porch or balcony.
 - Never add starter fluid once a fire has been started. Fire can follow the stream of fluid back into the container, causing an explosion and scattering flaming liquid.
 - Always use great caution when disposing of ashes. They may contain hot coals which can start a fire. Wet ashes thoroughly before emptying the grill.
 - Never use charcoal grills in an enclosed space.
- Enjoy your cookouts - be alert and prepared!

The City of Takoma Park requires that you renew your parking permits prior to July 1 every year. Registration begins Tuesday, June 1

There is no grace period and tickets will be written for expired permits after June 30. To ease the process and to encourage early registration, the Police Department offers permits by mail, as well as in-person purchasing. Residents should complete the following form, and drop it off or mail it in with payment to TPPD, Permit Parking, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Permit-Area Parking (please print legibly)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: Takoma Park State: MD Zip Code: _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

A photocopy of the current registration card for each vehicle is attached.
A photocopy of the current Driver's License for at least one resident is attached.

A 50% discount for hybrid or all-electric vehicle applies to Vehicle(s) # _____ below.

Vehicle #1 _____(license plate #) One-year permit (\$12.50) Two-year permit (\$20)

Vehicle #2 _____(license plate #) One-year permit (\$12.50) Two-year permit (\$20)

Vehicle #3 _____(license plate #) One-year permit (\$12.50) Two-year permit (\$20)

List additional vehicles on a separate sheet. Current registration showing the address in the permit parking area must be attached for each.

Two Visitor Permits will be included per household that purchases a permit.
Return this form with payment to TPPD, Permit Parking, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Permits will be mailed within three business days of receipt.

TPPD USE ONLY: Area 1 Area 1A Area 2 Area 2A Area 3 Area 4 Area 5

- Parking permits for designated permit-parking areas expire on June 30.
- Permits by mail are for residences only, with a \$1 charge for mailing and handling.
- In-person purchasing is required for businesses and for Area B permits.
- Residents should complete the attached form and return it, with payment, to the Police Department. Photocopies of the current vehicle registration card for each vehicle and a driver's license for at least one owner must be submitted with this form. Attachments must show a current Takoma Park address in the requested permit area. Include day and evening phone numbers in case any questions arise in processing.
- A decal and year sticker for each registered vehicle will be mailed back within three business days of receipt. Two visitor parking permits will be included for each address.
- Businesses in the permit areas should submit the names of employees on company letterhead with their request. Not more than three employees permits are allowed. A home-based business must show evidence of a currently-operated business, which is current on payment of personal property taxes.
- A 50 percent discount is offered to hybrid or all-electric vehicles.
- Nine Area B permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis to residents living more than .75 miles from the Takoma Metro station. Call for date applications are accepted.
- Questions regarding permit parking can be answered at 301-891-7102, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bridge Building: Maintaining Takoma Park's Infrastructure

BY ALI KHALILIAN P. E.
CITY ENGINEER

Two months ago, just as the City engineer was visiting the Maple Avenue bridge and preparing a final evaluation of its rehabilitation, the April issue of the *American Society of Civil Engineers Magazine* published a harrowing photograph of the 2007 Minneapolis, Minn. I-35W bridge collapse. The caption called the reconstruction of the Minneapolis bridge, "an example of rapid response to a public sense of urgency."

Minneapolis was not the only jurisdiction that responded when that city's infrastructure so dramatically and tragically failed. The recently completed work on the Maple and Flower Avenue bridges in Takoma Park was initiated with a re-evaluation of bridge conditions made just after that incident.

Now -- as of May 14, 2010 -- both bridges over Sligo Creek have been fully rehabilitated. Improvements include fortification of the substructure and superstructure and updated safety features. Additional improvements to drainage and surface waterproofing will extend the life of the pavement, and newly installed guard rails improve safety and aesthetics.

Rehabilitation, which began in November, 2009, continued through record snow storms, near-record heat in April and numerous rain events. In addition, the contractor, Highway and Safety Services, took many measures to minimize the impact of construction on the streambed, even during extreme weather.

The rehabilitation of the two bridges was undertaken to address deteriorating conditions reported in Montgomery County's bi-annual assessment of bridges. Major structural concerns included scouring (erosion of the river channel) and undermining of the central piers (in the case of the Maple Avenue bridge), as well as severe deterioration of concrete-encased steel beams (in



City Engineer Ali Khalilian inspects the newly restored Flower Avenue Bridge over Sligo Creek.

Photo: Jorge Pedro

the Flower Avenue bridge) and spalling, a condition involving the deterioration and fragmentation of the concrete itself (in both bridges). Other more minor defects included poor pavement drainage and sub-standard guardrails.

The cost of repairs totaled \$336,000, and was shared by Montgomery County and Takoma Park. City staff worked closely with the county and contractors, reviewing products, sequence of work and inspections as they arose.

Both the Takoma Park bridges were constructed in 1930s. The Maple Avenue bridge is 24 feet wide, supported on concrete abutment and wing walls along with solid shaft concrete piers supporting the substructure. The Flower Avenue bridge is 23 feet wide and consists of concrete cantilever abutments and wing walls. A number of wide flange steel beams encased in con-

crete (composite beam system) support the bridge's monolithic concrete deck, which rests on piers under spread footings.

Average daily traffic on the Maple and Flower bridges is reported to be in excess of 3,600 vehicles per day and 1,000 vehicles per day, respectively. Maple Avenue allows a maximum weight of 24 tons; Flower Avenue allows a maximum weight of 9 tons. Typical construction vehicles are within that weight limit; semi tractor-trailers would exceed the weight limit on the Flower Avenue bridge, as would a firetruck, which weighs about 20 tons.

The work on the bridges was designed to ensure they remain sound for decades. In completing these projects, Takoma Park Public Works staff members are proud of the work they helped supervise and manage-- work that will keep residents traveling local roadways safe from disaster.

Obituary

Suzanne Miller, Morgan Daycare Center Founder, Dies

By JENESSE MILLER

Suzanne Jane Miller, co-founder of Morgan Day Care Center in Takoma Park, died April 10.



Miller was born in 1947 in Kalamazoo, Michigan to Karl George and Mary Elizabeth Zipple. She was known as "Suzie" by her close friends and family, including her three sisters, Karol Elizabeth Zipple (Washington DC), Melinda Joyce Rumph (Los Angeles), and Judith Jean Morrison (Kalamazoo, MI). She was predeceased by an infant brother.

Miller graduated from Hackett High School and attended the University of Detroit before moving to Washington D.C., where she graduated from George Washington University with a degree in art education. She was passionate and knowledgeable about art and art history, and won prizes for her sculpture and pottery. She met her husband, Stephan Francis Miller, while they were both students in Washington D.C. Miller completed a Master's in Education at Catholic University in 1972.

Miller taught art in D.C. public schools before opening her first home day care center. Along with her business partner Janette Morgan, she co-founded Morgan Day Care Center (MDC) in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1979. For more than 30 years, she served as director of the non-profit center, caring for thousands of young children who knew her as "Ms. Suzanne." Many of MDC's children (some of whom are now adults), their parents, and the staff attended Miller's memorial at Collins Funeral Home in Silver Spring on April 17 and spoke highly of the profound difference she had made in their lives.

Miller passed away at her Silver Spring home on April 10 shortly after undergoing major heart surgery. She is survived by her husband, her sisters, her children Nicholas Reed Miller, Jenesse Elizabeth Miller, and Christina Lee Miller, and two grandchildren, Juliet and Lila Wood.

Suzanne was a world traveler who visited Europe, Russia, Egypt, Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico, Jamaica and Canada, as well as most of the United States. She was a lifelong educator, talented gardener, art and ballet enthusiast, avid reader, and a recent and enthusiastic student of yoga. Most of all, she was a loving mother and, in recent years, a proud grandmother.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Suzanne Miller's memory can be made to the Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry, the American Heart Association or a local Humane Society.

Help Support Takoma Park'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 a 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

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

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.



More than 500 runners showed up for the second annual Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge and Fun Run on May 2. The starting line was busy.

Photo by Randolph Smith

“Race day!”

Safe Routes Race Draws Hundreds

By LUCY NEHER

“Race Day!” Echoes of the loud cheer rang through the Community Center early Sunday morning, May 2. By 6 a.m., volunteers were already setting up the registration table for the second annual Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge. Volunteers had been planning the event since October, when they set a goal of 500 registrants, a figure, they say, that seemed like pie in the sky. As it turns out, they underestimated: by the 8 a.m. start, the roster would hit 540.

The 5K Challenge was initiated two years ago by runners and walkers, parents and community volunteers, school and City staff and sponsors. The race is about raising money for the PTA programs at Piney Branch, Takoma Park, East Silver Spring and Rolling Terrace Elementary Schools, and building a sense community. Most importantly, from the City’s perspective, this event raises awareness of the Safe Routes to School Program and the importance of pedestrian safety, especially as it relates to students walking to school.

All student runners received a ribbon and an activity book about walking safely.

As the runners came over the finish line with the crowd cheering, the community spirit grew. A 76-year-old runner, who had been watching competitors out his apartment window, grabbed his shoes and suited up to participate in the one-mile fun run. Classes, friends and families ran together. Parents talked amongst themselves about crosswalks, sidewalks and traffic signals.

People were talking about pedestrian safety. In the midst of the activity, race organizers felt they had succeeded on many levels, stimulating dialogue about pedestrian safety and building community. Race committee members were especially grateful for volunteers and sponsors who contributed to the event, and look forward to another next May.

Proceeds of the race will fund pedestrian safety programs and other activities at the four schools.



Yoa Johnson, above, shows off his ribbon for completing the quarter mile fun run. Below, Nicole Pauls, Takoma Park Elementary School parent volunteer, cheers on Lisa Moran, Piney Branch 5th Grade Teacher.

Photos by Randolph Smith



And the winners are ... everybody!

Six runners were awarded medals for their performance:

MALE (OVERALL):

Matt Miller, 26, 16:55

FEMALE (OVERALL):

Calley Mayer-Marks, 14, 21:07

MALE (1-10):

Tyler Wilson, 10, 24:05

FEMALE (1-10):

Adriana Rosas, 10, 26:58

MALE (11-18):

Austin Read, 14, 18:35

FEMALE (11-18):

Isabel Fetter, 11, 23:00

BUDGET

continued from page 1

Some of the more significant projects that were canceled or postponed:

- \$145,000 to resurface and repair Ethan Allen Avenue, a late addition by the Council to the budget. This item is under discussion as the state may be responsible for this expense.
- \$10,000 to improve a small park on Allegheny Avenue, another late addition by the Council
- \$20,000 to add street lights
- A \$500,000 reduction in the \$2 million bond financing for the Public Works facility renovation; instead, the City will use an additional \$500,000 from the reserve, decreasing debt service payments
- \$30,000 for an economic market study through the Housing and Community Development Department
- A reduction from \$35,000 to \$20,000 from code enforcement abatement – this money is used to clean up private properties in violation of city code
- A \$50,000 reduction in the account that covers miscellaneous fringe benefits, including unemployment benefits
- \$22,500 for neighborhood commercial center improvements
- \$21,500 for public art installations, including art for several traffic circles and a triumphal arch
- Approximately \$13,000 reduction by decreasing leaf vacuum services from seven to five weeks
- \$5,000 reduction by transferring a portion of the Activenet software user fees associated with online registration for Recreation Department programs to customers. Currently the City pays these fees for the customer.

Increased fees for various City services also help balance the budget. (Individual fees will be determined in the coming weeks, the figures shown are the total revenue anticipated from the changes):

- \$7,500 increase from tree-related permit fees
- \$10,000 from renting the auditorium
- \$15,000 from increasing multifamily unit refuse collection fees
- \$32,000 from increasing room rental rates, field permit cost and winter basketball registration fees in the Recreation Department.
- \$15,000 from changing the parking meters so that they accept only quarters (i.e. the current six minutes for a nickel and 12 minutes for a dime will no longer apply)

During its deliberations, the Council also considered a number of budget reduction measures proposed by the city manager but declined to adopt them. They included:

- Eliminating an additional Library staff position which would have triggered a reduction in Library operating hours
- Eliminating City-provided sanitation services, thereby reducing the cost of the Public Works Facility renovation and avoiding costly vehicle acquisitions in the future. Residents would have received services under the Montgomery County contract and paid the associated user fee.
- Contracting for custodial work in City facilities rather than having the work performed in-house
- Reducing funding for the Main Street Takoma program to the level in prior years