City Council Considers Beer and Wine Sales
Second public hearing scheduled September 13

By Suzanne Ludlow
deputy city manager

After discussions and mixed public testimony in July, the City Council is asking for further input from the community before deciding whether or not to push for state legislation that would allow carryout beer and wine sales in Takoma Park.

A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 13 on these questions:

- Should the City of Takoma Park request state legislation allowing Montgomery County Class B off-sale licenses for restaurants in Takoma Park?
- Should the City request state legislation that would give the city veto power over Montgomery County alcoholic beverage licenses issued to businesses in Takoma Park?
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- Should the City request state legislation that would allow Montgomery County alcoholic beverage licenses issued to businesses in Takoma Park?

The two licenses being considered are the Class B off-sale license and the Class D license, both obtained through the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners. A Class B license, for restaurants with a full kitchen and dining room seating for at least 30 patrons, allows on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages and purchase of beer (unopened) and light wine (sealed bottle) to carry out. A number of Takoma Park restaurants already have Class B on-sale licenses (Come to Africa Restaurant, Mogotillo Restaurant, Roscoe’s Neapolitan Pizzeria and Walia Ethiopian Restaurant). Most of the other establishments that serve alcohol have Class H licenses, which don’t include an off-sale option.

A Class D license also allows both on-site consumption and the sale of beer (unopened) and light wine (sealed bottle) to carry out, but doesn’t require that the business meet the definition of a restaurant, and there is no seating requirement. Most businesses that want to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption both on site and off site go with Class D, so they don’t have to meet the string-

Beer and wine sales continues on page 12

Condo Project Revived at Ecco Park

By Virginia Myers

It’s been six years since SGA Architects bought the property at 235 Carroll Street NW, between Metro and Old Town; six years of residents watching the promising signage go up about the eco-friendly building planned for the site, then watching it come down again. Six years of meetings with the historic district authorities, of bank deals signed, then withdrawn, of cleaning up a toxic site that was once a oil drums had to be extracted. Six years of selling half the condos, then giving all the money back to buyers when financing fell through.

But the development is back on track, says Sassan Gharai, chairman and founder of SGA, who is as enthusiastic as ever about building one of the first new buildings close to Old Town Takoma Park in years. Why restart the project now? “I think what it shows is the market’s finally coming around because the banks are willing to lend again,” says Gharai.

Gharai says the four-story building will include 84 condominiums for sale, with 3,000 to 6,000 square feet of retail on the first floor and 70 below-grade parking spots. Gharai says he has several national and local retailers interested in the building, and although it is too soon to tell what will ultimately occupy the space, he is considering a small grocery store to serve building residents. He says he will not have a sit-down restaurant or bar there.

Condos, which will begin selling next month, will go for $199,000 for a “junior” one-bedroom; $260,000 for a one-bedroom, and $360,000 for a two-bedroom. Gharai expects buyers to be a mix of first-time home buyers, people interested in upgrading from nearby lower-quality housing stock, investors who will rent the units.

Ecco Park Condos continues on page 3

Folk Festival Set for September 12

The Takoma Park Folk Festival returns for its 33rd year on Sunday, September 12 at the Takoma Park Middle School (7611 Piney Branch Road), kicking off with community choir Carpe Diem at 10:30, then continuing with multiple bands and activities at 11 a.m. The event continues until the final bands pack up at 6:30 p.m. The festival will be held rain or shine.

This annual celebration of folk music and community spirit has become a hallmark Takoma Park event, and draws fans not only from the City’s neighborhoods but from the metropolitan area. A full schedule of bands is featured on seven separate stages, and a juried arts and crafts show includes dozens of local and regional artists and craftspersons. Food vendors run the gamut, offering everything from soft ice cream to African, Asian and Caribbean cuisine; community tables offer information on local politics, advocacy organizations, arts education, environmental causes, human rights issues and more. And there is

Street Fest continues on page 3

Inside:
Page 5 Free Music
Page 10 National Night Out
Page 12 Back to School
**City Council Action**

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

### July 26 – Regular Meeting

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-31 was adopted,** authorizing the issuance and sale of City of Takoma Park General Obligation Bonds, 2010 Series C, for the purpose of financing the costs of renovating the City’s Public Works Facility

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-32 was adopted,** adopting the FY 2011 AFSCME pay scale

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-33 was adopted,** adopting the FY 2011 management and non-union pay scale

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-34 was adopted,** adopting the FY 2011 police pay scale

Resolution 2010-46 was adopted, requesting that Takoma Urban Park be renamed as Gilbert Kombe Park (Abstentions: Clay, Snipper)

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**Public Hearings for Traffic Calming**

**Notice of Public Hearing**

**Traffic Calming on the 200 Block of Grant Avenue**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 20, 2010 on residents’ request for a speed hump on the 200 block of Grant Avenue. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk by mail: City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; by e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org; or by fax to 301-270-8794.

**Notice of Public Hearing**

**Traffic Calming on the 100 Block of Sherman Avenue**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 20, 2010 on residents’ request for a speed hump on the 100 block of Sherman Avenue. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk by mail: City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; by e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org; or by fax to 301-270-8794.

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**Campaign Season Yard Signs Come with Regulations**

With elections just around the corner, it’s important to note that the City of Takoma Park does have laws regulating political campaign signs. Political signs are considered to be “temporary signs” and do not require a permit. Signs considered temporary are those made of non-permanent materials like cardboard, paper, canvas or wood. The number of temporary signs displayed in a residential zone is not limited, but the total sign area must not exceed 10 square feet. In a commercial zone, the total square footage of all signs may not exceed 100 square feet.

Additionally, there are regulations regarding the placement of political signs. Signs may only be placed on private property. In no case should signs be on the public right of way, light posts, utility poles, bus shelters, City property, parks or trees. Signs should also be placed in a way that does not obstruct the view of traffic signals, traffic signs, oncoming traffic or pedestrians. Signs in violation may be removed by the City.

Finally, political signs must include the name of the person responsible for the sign, and also must state that it is a paid advertisement and has been printed under the authority of the person, candidate or political committee.

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**New Parking Meter Rates Effective September 27, 2010**

Effective September 1, 2010, rates for City of Takoma Park parking meters will be as follows:

- All parking meters shall have a minimum rate of $0.25.
- Parking meters with a 30-minute limit, one-hour limit, or two-hour limit shall have a rate of $0.075 per hour.
- Parking meters with an eight-hour limit or 12-hour limit shall have a rate of $0.50 per hour.

**Notice of Time Interval Change for Parking Meters on the Commercial Side of Laurel Avenue**

The City Manager has received a request to adjust the parking meters on the commercial side of Laurel Avenue from 30 minutes to one hour. If approved, the change would become effective on September 27. Residents or businesses may comment on this proposal to City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org.

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**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)
- **Recreation Committee** (vacancies)
- **Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee** (vacancies)
- **Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee** (vacancies)
- **Personnel Appeal Board** (vacancies)
- **Ethics Commission** (four terms expire Sept. 30)

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**City Council and Committee Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 6</td>
<td>City Offices Closed for the Labor Day Holiday. The Community Center will be closed September 4, 5, and 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 7</td>
<td>City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 8</td>
<td>Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Sept 9</td>
<td>Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 13</td>
<td>City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 13</td>
<td>Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 14</td>
<td>Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 14</td>
<td>Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 14</td>
<td>Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Rose Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 20</td>
<td>City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 21</td>
<td>Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 27</td>
<td>City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 28</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Sept 30</td>
<td>Police Employees’ Retirement Plan Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*For the most up to date information, check [http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/). Most of the information is listed in the notice or through the accommodations is invited to 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).
and empty nesters who want to downsize from their existing Takoma Park homes. Sustainable elements at Ecco Park include a partial green roof and recycled-content steel beams, use of natural lighting, and options to select recycled glass countertops, energy efficient appliances and eco-friendly finishes like nontoxic paints. In keeping with the larger community’s interests, Gharai also plans to hold yoga classes on the roof deck, in partnership with Willow Street Yoga, and his sales package offers free lifetime membership in the Takoma Park Co-op, extra parking for bicycles, and a Zip Car in the underground garage.

Ecco Park facades are sensitive to the local architectural aesthetic, he adds. A combination of brick veneer, metal and glass paneling, and stucco, they include one tower-like anchor on the corner and ground-floor windows that open the building up to the street. Ellisdale Construction, based in Rockville, will be handling construction. Ground breaking is expected in October, and Gharai anticipates the building will be completed by December 2011 or a bit later. “I think it will change the neighborhood,” he says. “Getting off the Metro, starting at the 7-11, it’s just a gaping hole that needs to be filled in. I think that once that happens there will be other developments in the area.”

Gharai admits there will be some disruption during construction, and residents may be “annoyed because it will be a little more crowded” once the condos are filled. “At the same time I think you need a certain amount of people to live in close proximity to each other to have a vibrant community.” Such a community, he adds, can decrease crime and support local shops and restaurants as well.

This artist’s rendering of Ecco Park shows a design owner Sassan Gharai says honors the neighborhood aesthetic.

**STREET FEST**

continued from page 1

an entire area devoted to children’s activities—not just children’s music and performance, but also face painting and games.

But music is the central attraction at the Folk Festival. This year festival performers feature all sorts of genres, and include popular Afro pop group, Elikh, with traditional music from Togo; singer-songwriter Lea; Cantaré Latin American music; Shango Band reggae; and Rick Franklin and his Delta Blues Boys. The Lenore Robinson Dance Stage will feature all types of dance, from traditional Irish to Thai, and festival goers can participate or watch from the sidelines.

For the youngest festival goers, the Grassy Nook stage features performances by musicians and entertainers under age 25, from West African drummers to rappers, blues players and storytellers. The stage is programmed by Marika Partridge and her teenage daughter.

The Folk Festival is run primarily through volunteer efforts. To join the approximately 300 volunteers who help make it happen, send an email to volunteer@tpfolk.org or leave a message at 301-589-0202. Updated information is available at www.tpf.org or on the Facebook Fanpage, www.facebook.com/takomaparkfolksfest.

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**Restaurant History Redux**

I read the article in the July issue concerning Mark’s Kitchen and that it took over the space occupied by the Electrik Maid. And that may be true. However, a long time ago the Electrik Maid was next door to where Mark’s Kitchen now is. The restaurant there before M.K. was called Nick’s Restaurant run by a Greek guy, Nick Bougadis.

My husband and I met in Nick’s Restaurant in 1943.

— Joan Sidell

**THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER**

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov. The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, or letters to the editor will be considered for publication if sent to newsletter@takomaparkmd.gov 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 necessarily 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.
A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding the required notice period for his landlord’s proposed increase in the apartment building’s air conditioning electricity fee. The tenant also asked if there is a maximum amount a landlord may charge for renting a window air conditioner to tenants.

In accordance with Section 6.16.110 of the city’s Landlord-Tenant Law all fees for building amenities, including air conditioning, must be disclosed at the beginning of the tenancy. A landlord may not charge a fee for an amenity, if the amenity previously existed and no fee was charged. Any proposed increase in an air conditioning fee requires that tenants be provided with two months advance written notice. An electricity increase fee may not exceed the amount being charged to the landlord by the utility company. A landlord who has received a written request from a tenant questioning the amount of an air conditioning fee is required to provide the tenant with applicable bills from the utility company and a written explanation of how the proposed fee increase was calculated.

Pursuant to Section 6.16.110.C. of the city law and Landlord-Tenant Administrative Regulation Number 3-06, the maximum amount that a landlord may charge for renting a window air conditioner is $35 per month. This rental fee may only be charged for the months of May through September. Tenants may, if permitted by their lease, provide their own window air conditioner if the unit is equivalent in size, configuration and energy efficiency standards to the unit being rented by the landlord.

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

**Financial Management Classes**

- Sept. 15 – Getting to know the financial YOU
- Sept. 29 – Changing the way you think about money
- Oct. 13 – Becoming financially literate
- Oct. 27 – Thinking like an investor

It’s time to attend to your finances. Sign up now! Class size is limited.

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park

**Time:** 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (food and refreshments will be provided)

**Where:** Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

**Cost:** No Cost, but pre-registration is required

**Call 301-891-7222**

Class conducted by Christopher King – Certified Credit Counselor and Financial Consultant

**You are invited to a free class, “Tenant Rights in Takoma Park”**

Wednesday, September 22
7 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

Light Refreshments will be served

To Register: 301-891-7215

**Public Works Office Moves to Community Center**

In preparation for the Public Works Facility renovation, the administrative staff, the arborist and the engineer relocated on August 16 to the Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. The Public Works office, at 31 Oswego Avenue, will be closed to the public until the office renovation is complete. The project is expected to be finished by August 2011.

Public Works staff phone numbers and email addresses will not change.

After August 17, please go to the Community Center for the following:

- Payment of heavy trash pickup fee
- Submit permit applications or payment of permit fees
- Payment for mulch delivery
- Purchase of large wheeled trash carts

The electronics and compact fluorescent light bulbs drop-off will be suspended until the facility re-opens next year.

Self hauling of mulch and drop-off of motor oil and antifreeze will continue to be available.

Please call 301-891-7633 if you have any questions.
“We Are Takoma” Series Launches With Basque Music Sept. 19

The City of Takoma Park and the Arts and Humanities Commission is launching a new performance series this month. We Are Takoma, featuring music, poetry, storytelling, film and other performance-based art from local artists and professionals, is passing through. The first show, by the musical group Oreka Tx, will be on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Takoma Park Auditorium, at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The performance is free.

Oreka Tx (Oreka, meaning “balance” in the Basque world, and Tx from the first letters of their instrument, the txalapartas) creates music from slabs of wood or stone laid over trestles, and struck vertically with cylindrical sticks. The instrument is similar to a xylophone, but so distinct to the Basque region and culture, it was banned during the Franco dictatorship. Basques Harkaitz Martinez de San Vicente and Igor Otxoa, the duo that makes up Oreka Tx, have helped revive its tradition.

Oreka Tx is partly known for an award-winning documentary tracking its visits with nomadic societies, where they used the txalapartas to bridge cultural divides and learn about other indigenous music in places like Mongolia, the Sahara, Lapland and India. Their music has been described as a “thrilling physical spectacle” as an aural treat (“described as a “thrilling physical spectacle” (www.777vote.org) has complete election information, including a link to the application to request an absentee ballot and a polling place lookup.

For more information, or to register to vote, please contact the Montgomery County Board of Elections website (www.777vote.org) has complete election information, including a link to the application to request an absentee ballot and a polling place lookup. The City of Takoma Park cannot accept absentee ballot applications for the 2010 election.

Exhibits Opportunity

The Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking proposals from visual artists and craftspersons interested in exhibiting their work. If selected, the work would be shown in one of three galleries—the Atrium Gallery, the Richard Dempsey Memorial Gallery, or Gallery Three—for a period of two months. Exhibits may feature the work of a group of artists or craftspersons in the work of a student groups or the work of an individual.

Second Thursday Poetry Reading

The Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting artists for its monthly series.

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September 2010
Page 5
**September Recreation**

**Zumba**

*Ages 16 and older*

Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program with a simple goal: to work out, love working out and get hooked on a new exercise routine. Zumba helps achieve long-term benefits in a fun, upbeat session: one hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing movement meant to engage and captivate participants for a lifetime. The routines feature interval training sessions that combine fast and slow rhythms with resistance training to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor Edurama.

Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 15 – Oct. 9
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
$40 for a four-week session

**Yogi’s D.J. Training** *(Street Outreach Network)*

*Ages 13-18*

If you love music and parties, a career as a DJ may be the answer for you. Yogi’s D.J. Training is an immersive audio education that takes youth into the world of being a D.J. Learn the skills of selecting music for the intended audience and performance setting, become interested in the Disc Jockey industry.

Fridays, 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 17 – Oct. 12
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Free with membership card

**Job Training Program**

*Ages 14-21*

This program develops the necessary skills and thinking for our youth to be gainfully employed. Includes resume writing, interviewing skills, dressing for success, and proper etiquette. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Eight weeks. Instructor Tangela Bullock.

Mondays, 7 – 8 p.m.
Sept. 13 – Nov. 1
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Free

**Fun Day Program**

*Ages 5 - 12*

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, 7300 Maple Ave. Be sure to pack a lunch. Trips, activities and performances are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

Thurs., Sept. 9
Black Hills Park-Boat ride, fishing and hiking
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
TP Resident $35
Non-Resident $45

Tues., Sept. 14
Adventure Park USA-Rides, games and mini-golf
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
TP Resident $35
Non-Resident $45

**Wee Love Math**

*Ages 2 - 6*

How cool is math? “Way Cool!” is what your kids will say. This age-appropriate introduction to math concepts will explore counting, addition and subtraction, odd and even numbers, opposites, matching, doubling numbers, comparing sizes, amounts, weights and more. All of this is learned through play, stories, project activities and teaching tools such as Cuisenaire rods. A parent or caregiver should accompany child. Fee includes materials. Six weeks. Instructor Amaya Lambert. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Non-resident $70
Non-resident $60

**Builder Bee**

*Ages 18 months – 6 years*

A family program that uses the process of architectural model building to develop problem-solving skills and encourage learning in a fun and exploratory atmosphere. Classes build on previous sessions to create a final project you can take home. Each session is based on developmental stages and set skills. Parent/guardian participation is part of the learning experience. Creator Amanda Faye Dowd, a Takoma Park resident, applies skills in conceptual design by teaching to your child’s natural skills, and encouraging the process of sequential and spatial communication. A $24 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Sept. 20 - Nov. 8
Builder Bee - Level 1, 18 mo – 3 yr
TP Resident $35
Non-Resident $45

Sept. 24 - Oct. 29
Builder Bee - Level 2, 3 – 5 yrs
TP Resident $35
Non-Resident $45

*No class on Oct. 11, Nov. 1*

**JOLLY ROGER WEEK AT CAMP TAKOMA included a pirate cruise in Baltimore and ended the week with this Treasure Island dress up activity for maties (clockwise from top left) Saatzvik Bandyopadhyay, Uriah Zekarias, Tatiana Davison-Bajandas, Ramani Wilson and Zane Shafes. Photo by Debra Haiduven**
Local Artists to be Focus of New “Lifestyle” Store on Carroll

BY VIRGINIA MYERS

A new shop, selling furniture, home accessories, art, cards, gifts and other “lifestyle” items, is moving in to 232 Carroll Street, across from the CVS drugstore where the National Children’s Adult Day Care Center has been. Owners expect it to open mid- to late November.

Trovoh will be the second store for owners Ben Homola and Carmen Brock, whose Red Tree, in Baltimore’s funky Hampden district, opened in 2006. The Takoma, D.C. spot will be similar in its focus on local and regional artists. At Red Tree, products from some 25 local/regional artists and crafters can be found on the shelves at any given time, and a range from hand-screened t-shirts to jewelry made from vintage upholstery, paintings made on discarded lumber and greeting cards that can be planted. Homola, who is just now leaving his day job as an attorney, and Brock, his partner, are currently looking for artists from Takoma and the surrounding region whose work they can feature as part of the new store’s stock.

Along witharty pieces, the inventory at Red Tree includes a line of leather furniture and another made from government-certified tree farm mahogany. At Takoma’s Trovoh, the furniture inventory will expand; there will also be more industrial/vintage salvage pieces, says Homola.

Beyond its inventory, he adds, Trovoh will be a place people will want to spend time: in Red Tree, “We really strive to create an experiential retail setting. The store is well-designed, beautiful, smells delicious, has great music and generally just feels good. Our customers frequently say that they want to live in the store, which I think speaks well for the inviting sensory experience we try to create.”

Expansion is nothing new for Homola and Brock; the Baltimore store went from its original 2,500 square feet to 5,000 the following year. And it’s taken Best of Baltimore awards each year from City Paper, for Best Home Accessories, Best Windows Displays, Best Eclectic Home Goods, Best Place to Buy New Furniture and Best Gift Shop. They’re moving their concept to Takoma because of its location: the existing retail community complements rather than competes with its concept, says Homola; it’s set up to be a community-oriented area, and it is affordable. The on-site parking and nearby Metro stop were another draw.

Takoma Foundation Accepts Grant Applications, Plans Beer Fundraiser

BY KEVIN ADLER

Senior Room, TP Community Center

Takoma Foundation Accepts Grant

Seventy-three applications were reviewed for grants of up to $2,500 to support local, grassroots organizations at a very affordable cost.

The event will include music and light refreshments. Tickets to the event will cost $35 per person.

“We sold out last year, and we’re optimistic that the Beer Tasting will be just as popular this year,” said Pep Peifer, chair of the event. “We had five beer selections last year from three organic brewers, and we are working with local microbrewers to expand our selections this year.” In addition to samples of a wide variety of beers, the event will include music and light food donated by local restaurants. “It’s a social event, as well as a chance to try some great craft beers, while raising money to support local groups that are doing great work,” said Feiden.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Old Town Takoma stores, the Takoma Foundation’s booth at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 12 or the StreetFest on October 3, or by contacting the Foundation through its website, www.takomafoundation.org.

Beer Tasting on October 16

Meanwhile, the Foundation is selling tickets for its Beer Tasting, which will be held on October 16, from 4-7 p.m. (location to be determined). Tickets to the event will cost $35 per person.

“We sold out last year, and we’re optimistic that the Beer Tasting will be just as popular this year,” said Peifer Feiden, chair of the event. “We had five beer selections last year from three organic brewers, and we are working with local microbrewers to expand our selections this year.” In addition to samples of a wide variety of beers, the event will include music and light food donated by local restaurants. “It’s a social event, as well as a chance to try some great craft beers, while raising money to support local groups that are doing great work,” said Feiden.

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Tales from Back to School Mark the Season

By Karen MacPherson

As kids head back to school, it’s a perfect time to come to our Library and check out these school-theme books.

- Author/illustrator Patricia Polacco has been plumbing her family history for years, creating a remarkable set of picture books for older readers. In her newest book, “The Junkyard Wonders,” Polacco focuses on her childhood trials as a late academic bloomer who, in this case, was put in a class of seeming misfits that other students called “the junkyard.” As in her earlier work, “Thank You, Mr. Falkner,” Polacco details how an inspired teacher named Mrs. Peterson celebrated her students’ unique gifts, calling them geniuses and “junkyard wonders.” Under Mrs. Peterson’s direction, the students created “tribes” within the classroom and learned to see — and tap — their potential. Young readers will be riveted by the story, as well as Polacco’s trademark illustrations, filled with color and energy. ( Ages 5-10)

- A young pirate fan takes readers through an unusual school day filled with swashbuckling buccaneers in “A Pirate’s Guide to First Grade.” Written entirely in pirate lingo by James Preller, this book will have young readers shouting “Arrrr!” and “Pir-ate’s Guide to First Grade.” Written entirely in pirate lingo by James Preller, this book will have young readers shouting “Arrrr!” and “Shiver me timbers!” in no time. But it’s the illustrations by Greg Ruth that really give readers a different take on math. Ruth shows one boy surrounded by pirates – drawn in brown – wherever he goes. Kids will love the contrast between the antics of the imaginary pirates and the regular school day routine. ( Ages 4-8)

- It’s the first day of school, and a teacher asks her class, “What do you hope will happen this year?” As author Kay Winters writes in “This School Year Will Be the Best!” each student voices a different desire. Some are prosaic – “This year I’ll kick the ball into the right goal,” while others are funny — “I hope I won’t be a vegetable in our school play!” Artist Renee Andriani does a wonderful job of extending Winters’ text in her illustrations. ( Ages 4-7)

- Author/illustrator Hanoch Piven has written a call to art for his illustrations, which present portraits of people created through various objects, including pencils, balloons and marbles. In his newest book, “My Best Friend Is As Sharp As a Pencil,” Piven offers a set of classroom portraits and, in the process, gives readers an entertaining lesson in similes. For example, the book’s protagonist describes her art teacher “as artistic as a paint palette” and Piven then crafts the art teacher’s face from a paint palette. Piven includes a note at the end urging young readers to try creating their own “object art” illustrations. ( Ages 5-8)

- One autumn day, a young dog named Rocket is wakened from his daily nap by a yellow bird who is thrilled to have her first student. Con-fused, Rocket says he’s nothing of the sort, but the bird insists and begins her first lesson, focusing on “the won-drous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet... where it all begins.” In “How Rocket Learned to Read,” author/illustrator Tad Hills celebrates the joy of learning, as well as the power of a good teacher to change lives. Hills’ mar-velous illustrations in this over-sized picture book are both simple and evocative, and Rocket and his winged friend are cute, but not cutesy. ( Ages 3-6)

- With a clear, rhyming text, authors Paul Dubois Jacobs and Jennifer Swender calmly take readers through a sometimes scary ritual in “Fire Drill.” The cut-paper collages by Huy Yoon Lee capture the children’s emo-tions, showing one girl with her fingers in her ears to block out the sound, and other children getting antsy after they file out into the schoolyard. ( Ages 3-6)

- Anna is worried about going to kindergarten, but it turns out to be a wonderful experience as author/illustrator Antoinette Portis tells in “Kindergarten Diary.” Young readers will readily relate to Anna’s anxiety as well as her happiness at making friends and learning new skills. Portis’ deceptively simple mixed-media illustrations give the book added pa-nache. ( Ages 3-6)

- Author David LaRochelle and illustrator Brenda Sexton team up to give readers a different take on math in “1 + 1 = 5 and Other Unlikely Additions.” Just how does 1 + 1 = 5? Well, you take one set of triplets and add one set of twins and you end up with five babies. Or, how about 1 + 1 = 7? Add one square to one triangle and you’ve got seven sides. LaRochelle’s text is thought-provoking, while Sexton’s illustration kick up the comedy a few notches. ( Ages 5-8)

College Bound Speakers Series Returns

For the seventh year in a row, the Library will present a series of special workshops for college bound students and their parents by nationally recognized experts.

This year, Takoma Park college consultant Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre will present two workshops on college choice.

On Tuesday, September 28, she will help families get started on the college selection process. Which schools might be the right fit – academically, financially and personally – for you? Topics include sorting out your personal criteria and goals, the admissions process, competitiveness, where do I go from here?

Potts-Dupre has a private counseling practice in Takoma Park and is a Certified Educational Planner. A former faculty research associ-ate at the University of Maryland, where she taught in the honors under-graduate scholarship program, Potts-Dupre has visited and evalu-ated more than 350 colleges nation-wide. She enjoys helping students define and achieve personal and educational goals.

On Tuesday October 5, Potts-Dupre will give a second presenta-tion entitled “Crossing State Lines.” Today’s uncertain economy has prompted many families to consider alternatives to expensive private col- leges. This workshop will focus on the excellent and affordable edu-ca tional opportunities for our stu-dents at public universities across the country, including information about honors colleges and other special programs for undergraduates.

On Tuesday October 12, Dr. Herr Davis returns to educate fami-lies on the nuts and bolts of fund-ing a college education. Author of “Financial Aid for Dummies,” Dr. Davis will discuss the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work-study options, college savings plans, the FAFSA application and more. Dr. Davis heads the National College Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit organization providing information to students, and directs College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. He is a 30 year veteran in providing finan-cial aid and scholarship informa-tion.

All programs will be held in the Library at 7:30 p.m. Please pre-register by calling the Library at 301-891-7259, or on-line at www.takomaparkinfo/libraryregistration.html
Building Effective Resumes

It’s not too late to register for our fall se-
ties of resume coaching labs conducted by resi-
tent expert Gabe Heilig. Call the Li-
rary to register for one of the following, or 
register on-line at www.takomapark.info/
library/registration.html.
• Wednesday, September 22 – Resumes for 
private sector and non-profit employ-
ment
• Wednesday, October 13 – Resumes for 
government employment
• Wednesday, November 10 – Resumes for 
private sector and non-profit employ-
ment.

All workshops take place at 7:30 p.m. 
in the Takoma Park Community Center. 
Registration is limited to 12 people per 
workshop. Call 301-891-7259 or register 
on-line at www.takomapark.info/library/ 
registration.html

Charity Golf Tournament a 
Living Memorial

The Ninth Annual Rumors Golf Tour-
nament and Fundraiser, in memory of 
Michael Morrissey, will be held Monday, 
September 27, at the Redgate Golf Course 
in Rockville, with a silent auction and cel-
bratory gathering afterwards at Rumors 
Restaurant.
The past eight tournaments have raised over $40,000 to support Ta-
Koma Park Library services and activities. Last year, by special Council proclamation, 
The Library’s children’s reading room was 
named in honor of avid reader and former 
Library patron Michael Morrissey. For in-
formation on how you can participate or 
support this important fundraiser, contact 
Ellen Robbins at the Library.

Reading Group Discusses 
National Book Award Winner

On Thursday, September 30, the Friends of the Library Reading Group will meet at 
7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Hy-
drangea Room to discuss “Let the Great 
World Spin” by Colum McCann (2009).
Harried by Johnathan Mahler of the 
New York Times Book Review as an “emotional 
tour de force—one of the most electric, 
profound novels I have read in years,” the 
work is set in New York City in 1974. “…the 
people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, 
standing up in disbelief at the Twin Towers 
[where] a mysterious tightrope walker is 
running, dancing, leaping between the 
towers, suspended a quarter mile above the 
ground. In the streets below, a slew of or-
dinary citizens become extraordinary in this 
straining portrait of a city and its people, 
connected in ways they don’t yet even 
know.” [publisher’s note]
Friends book discussions are open to all. 
The Friends of the Library supply a limited 
number of copies of the book for circula-
tion to those who are committed to attend-
ing the discussion.

More Library News

■ KIDS: COME CELEBRATE ANOTHER 
RECORD-BREAKING SUMMER QUEST 
PROGRAM on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.
This year, we had more kids register and read more books than ever before! Our 
celebration will begin with a discussion of 
the books you most enjoyed reading dur-
ing Summer Quest, as well as those you 
didn’t enjoy. Kids also will have a chance 
to show off what they learned to make or 
do in following Summer Quest Challenge 
No. 9. and we’ll discuss possible themes for 
next year’s Summer Quest. We’ll finish the 
evening with snacks and drinks and every-
one will go home with a free book or two, 
courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park 
Maryland Library. Registration is required 
so we can be sure to have enough food and 
books; to register, please go to www.tako-
mapark.info/library/registration.html or 
call us at 301-891-7259.

■ MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our “Bet-
time Stories” program, which usually takes 
place on the first Monday evening of the 
month will take place on the second Mon-
day in September – September 13. That’s 
because the first Monday is Labor Day, and 
the Library is closed. So come on September 
13 to enjoy our monthly program of 
songs, rhymes and stories. No registration 
required; this program is perfect for babies 
through preschool age.

■ BIENVENUE – Madame Marie is back!
Our French Circle Time, which takes place 
on the second and fourth Saturdays of each 
month, returns in September. As always, 
Madame Marie will lead participants in 
French rhymes and songs, making it easy 
and fun for little ones to learn a bit of 
French. French Circle Time is a half-hour 
program that will take place on Saturday, 
Sept. 11 and Saturday, Sept. 25 from 10:30 
a.m. – 11 a.m. No registration required.

■ ON SATURDAY, Sept. 11 at 3:15 p.m., chil-
dren ages 14 months to kindergarten and 
their grown-ups are invited to a preview 
of a new Takoma Park Recreation Depart-
ment program that teaches basic architec-
tural concepts through play. Called “Build-
der Bee Kids,” the program is the brainchild 
of Amanda Faye Dowd, an architect and 
mother of a one-year-old. Dowd will give 
presents and kids a taste of the program at the 
Library on September 11, helping kids to 
create their own architectural designs with 
boxes and other items. Participants are 
encouraged to bring milk cartons with 
them; Dowd also will have a supply of milk 
cartons on hand. Registration required; 
to register, go to www.takomapark.info/
library/registration.html or call us at 301-
891-7259.

■ PLANNING AHEAD…. Circle Saturday, 
Oct. 2 on your calendars. It’s the date of our 
“Community Read-Out,” at which we will 
celebrate Banned Books Week by 
reading aloud from children’s books that 
have been challenged by people in other 
communities. Our event will take place 
in the newly-remodeled City Auditorium, 
and we’ll be reading both picture books 
and passages from children’s novels. Sign 
up to read from our list of challenged chil-
dren’s books, which will be available at the 
Library’s main desk. Or just come to listen 
and see – we’ll use our ELMO projector to 
read challenged picture books page by page 
on the big screen. Registration is encour-
ged; to register go to www.takomapark.
info/library/registration.html or call us at 
301-891-7259.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK 
GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Deadline 4 p.m. Monday, September 13, 2010

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

Approximately $25,000 is available for programming which primarily bene-
fits individuals or households of low and moderate incomes. An estimated 
$100,000 is available for capital projects benefitting low and moderate 
income neighborhoods. The project could be something that the organiza-
tion does on its own or in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. Funds 
would be available in mid to late 2011.

Applications are available online www.takomaparkmd.gov

Deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. on Monday, September 13.

For more information, please contact the Housing and Community Develop-
ment Department at 301-891-7224 or SaraD@takomagov.org.

City of Takoma Park Maryland
PUBLIC HEARING
Community Development Block Grant 
(CDBG)

Monday, September 27, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD

The City of Takoma Park will be holding a public hearing on Monday, 
September 27 to solicit community input regarding priority needs and 
proposed projects for its PY37 Community Development Block Grant 
(CDBG) program.

The CDBG program, initiated in 1974, is one of the oldest programs at the 
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is designed 
to fund activities that primarily benefit low and moderate-income residents. 
CDBG grants are provided on an annual basis to communities such as 
Takoma Park to ensure decent affordable housing for all, provide services 
to the most vulnerable, create jobs and expand business opportunities.

For more information on the CDBG program and the upcoming public hearing, 
please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 
301-891-7224.
Firehouse Renovation Nearing Completion

Two years ago, county and city officials gathered together for a groundbreaking at a construction site on East West Highway in Takoma Park. They will assemble again for a ribbon-cutting and open house October 28, as the two-year renovation of the Takoma Park Fire Department is completed. Planners expect the station to be up and running by mid-October.

"We’re getting down to the end here," County Project Manager Charles Edwards told the Newsletter in late August. Remaining work includes pouring the concrete for the apron, which leads into and out of the station; interior finishes, installation of kitchen cabinets and bathroom fixtures and completing tilework.

When it is completed, the station will have been entirely rebuilt. Just one wall was saved from the old building and the rest, according to Edwards, was "literally falling apart" and replaced. The stone from that wall (to the left as one faces the building), along with the stone salvaged and reused from the original building, was first hauled up from Sligo Creek, and recalls the original architecture of the station, first built in 1928. There is a new roof, windows, doors, heating and air conditioning system, locker rooms and kitchen. The renovation added 8,600 square feet to the building, and cost about $11 million.

Now clocking in around 15,200 gross square feet, the station includes apparatus bays for trucks and other equipment, dorm and support space, personal living quarters, administrative offices, and a training/meeting area as well as on-site parking.

The process to completion has been a long and grueling one. At one point the County considered demolishing the station and not replacing it at all. At another, the land had to be transferred from City to County. Later, the project was delayed when two occupied homes next to the property were candidates for demolition, to make way for the new station. The issue was solved when the City demolished the house closest to the station, and bought the other to renovate and give to the owners of the first one.

Once construction began, the steep slope behind the station presented an engineering challenge, as did the retention of the old wall. Weather, including the unusual snowstorms last winter, further delayed progress. "The timing of the blizzards was as bad as it could have possibly been," says Edwards, recalling that the roof was under construction at the time. The project was originally to be completed in April.

During construction, firehouse operations were run out of a makeshift tent and trailers.

Was it worth it? Edwards says, "It’s going to be a beautiful building."

As of July 31, 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 469 fire-related incidents. The department also handled or assisted with 1,954 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,423 this year. Totals for 2009 were 444 and 1,620 respectively, for a total of 2,064, representing an increase of 359 incidents.

E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills In The Home)

Fire Safety Checklist for Parents and Guardians

Fires can be very dangerous, so it’s important to know what to do in case they occur and how to prevent them. Read this with your children so that they understand the importance of E.D.I.T.H. Use the Fire Safety Checklist below to help you keep your home free of fire hazards. If there is anything you cannot check off yet, correct it so that you keep your family as safe as possible from fires.

- As you have learned from this, be sure to have a fire escape plan with two ways out of each room, and a meeting place for everyone to go to. Practice your escape plan with your family often.
- Know what task each family member has in a fire escape plan. If more than one child sleeps in a bedroom, decide who gets the younger one out first, etc.
- Make sure all exists from rooms have nothing blocking them.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near each bedroom.
- List emergency numbers near each phone. Teach children to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Keep all lighters and matches in a locked or high cabinet and teach children not to play with them.
- Educate children to stay away from hot things on the stove or outside grill. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove top.
- Use outlets safely. Do not overload them or plug more than one extension cord into each. If you have very young children, place childproof plugs in any unused outlets.
- Replace all frayed, cracked, or broken electrical cords.
- Teach children to STOP, DROP, and ROLL if their clothes catch on fire.
Emergency Preparedness Month Includes Takoma Park Events

By Lawrence Hawkins and Wolfgang J. Merger

September is National Observance of Emergency Preparedness month, during which the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee is making a special effort to raise awareness of personal disaster preparedness for Takoma Park’s residents. A series of events and informational efforts and appeals are planned during September by the committee. The mayor will issue a special proclamation declaring September as National Preparedness month.

Look for the Emergency Preparedness Committee at the annual Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 12, with information about preparedness, animal care in emergencies and displays by the Red Cross. We will also be at the Takoma Park Street Festival the first Sunday in October.

The Committee has also planned a series of articles in the Takoma Park Newsletter as well as other Takoma Park-based publications. Special programs on Takoma Park City TV will include “Plan 9,” a simple way to learn about what will prepare you and your family for any emergency. City TV will also air public service announcements that focus on specific issues of emergency preparedness, and the City website will be revised to hold important emergency information.

Another important step in ensuring that the City of Takoma Park can respond to emergencies is training volunteers. Such training is offered by a Montgomery County Program called Community Emergency Response Training or C.E.R.T. The training runs from September 22 to October 23 and will be held in Silver Spring. The training includes, among other topics, instructions on how an emergency response works, fire safety, first aid and re-suscitation, and disaster medical operations. Participants will be instructed in light search and rescue operations. There will be practical exercises and participants will learn about disaster psychology, as well as how to coordinate volunteers during a disaster. C.E.R.T. is commissioned by Montgomery County to aid and support first responders throughout our county. Residents can sign up for C.E.R.T. training at TPEPC@takomagov.org, or call 301-270-1084.

The Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee’s goals are to 1) reach out to all households in Takoma Park and to encourage residents of our community to prepare for potential emergencies and 2) to promote that neighborhoods have trained and knowledgeable participants who are able to support their community and aid first responders in a useful way. We invite you to be a part of meeting these goals by participating in any of our September activities and especially consider signing up for the C.E.R.T. training course.

Emergency Assistance Fund Supports Local Families

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 near eviction, and 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 is limited to Takoma Park residents. The level of assistance provided is based upon the availability of funds and the need(s) of the individual or family. Between July 2009 and June 2010, 34 Takoma Park households received financial assistance from the Emergency Assistance Fund. Current national and state economic conditions suggest that even more of our 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.
Advocacy Group Plans for a Safe Route Back to School

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School, now entering its fourth year, is helping children get back to school once again this year with a number of fall events designed to promote walking and biking to school safely.

Bike Rodeos

Practice makes perfect! After a presentation about bike safety, young students will be invited to ride a tricky obstacle course of traffic cones and other challenges, to demonstrate skills and knowledge. Safe Routes will invite trainers from the Washington Area Bicyclists Association to conduct workshops during the rodeos, which will be held at Piney Branch, Rolling Terrace and East Silver Spring Elementary Schools on various dates throughout the fall.

Crossing Safely

Also this fall, Safe Routes will launch a new Crosswalk Activity for use at school and community events. With a portable “crosswalk kit,” the Safe Routes coordinator will be able to work with small groups of children to simulate a variety of real life situations in a fun and engaging way.

Walking School Buses

Safe Routes invites parents to consider sharing the duty of walking neighborhood students to school by starting a Walking School Buses program. It’s likely that a request for veto would be denied by police and County authorities.

So Far, So Good

The past year was a busy one for Safe Routes. In May, the second annual 5K Challenge was such a success, it is being planned again this year (May 1). Each participating school is required to conduct a school-based walking or running program to train for the race. While working to get fit, students are just over the city’s border on every side.

Takoma Park already has one carry out beer, wine and liquor store: TJ’s (7660 New Hampshire Avenue), which was permitted when the property was in Prince George’s County and was grandfathered in when the County line was moved in 1997 to place all of Takoma Park into Montgomery County. TJ’s has a Class A license, for carry out beverages only. Other nearby Class A establishments include Bestway Supermarket on Piney Branch Road, and small stores such as the Four U carry out, also on Piney Branch Road. The City Council is not considering requesting Class A licenses to be available in Takoma Park.

What next?

If, after the public hearing, the City Council decides to pursue the change in State law allowing carry out alcohol, it will also request a provision giving them veto power over alcohol licenses in Takoma Park. Currently, decisions on granting and rescinding the licenses are the sole purview of the Montgomery County Board of Licenses.

Public Opinion

A general public hearing on beer and wine licenses in July generated written and verbal testimony from just 19 people, whose opinions were fairly evenly split. Now that the City Council has clarified options to consider, it will gather further input.

Public testimony can be submitted by email to clerk@takomagov.org. To testify at the hearing on September 13 come to the Takoma Park Auditorium in the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. No advance registration is required.

BEER AND WINE SALES

continued from page 1

gent food requirements of Class B. Among the Class D businesses are the Flower Deli, the Four U, and the Four U liquor store at 8707 Flower Ave. and Aedge Restaurant in downtown Silver Spring.

Hard liquor cannot be purchased to carry out from businesses with either a Class B or Class D license.

Pros and Cons

In general, those who support allowing carry out alcoholic beverage sales believe residents want these sorts of businesses close to home, and opening the City up to them would help economic development efforts. They believe that concerns about loitering, trash or public disturbances could be adequately handled by police and County authorities.

Those opposed to carry out alcoholic beverage sales generally believe the businesses could hurt the character of Takoma Park and that loitering, trash and public disturbances might become a problem. They note that stores selling alcoholic beverages are located nearby.