

ANNUAL SPRING EGG HUNT

SEE PAGE 6

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

NO TRASH HOLIDAYS

Trash collection
on schedule this
month

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

APRIL 2011

Takoma Park Auditorium Receives LEED Silver Certification

The recent renovation of the Takoma Park Auditorium has received LEED® Silver Certification. Established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

The LEED Silver-certified auditorium was built with sustainability in mind from the top down: it features a roof-mounted 10.4KW solar array that provides energy to offset the demand of the auditorium's audio visual systems. Materials that helped the facility qualify for the LEED Silver Certification include:

- Fabric wall covering of organic kenaf grass with corn and soy-based top coat
- Ceilings and walls from 99 percent recycled content gypsum board
- Lighting from high-efficiency LED and compact fluorescent bulbs
- Theater seating made with recycled steel

LEED CERTIFICATION
continues on page 9

INSIDE:

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POETRY pg. 5



Takoma Park celebrates Arbor Day with special enthusiasm, as it is a city known for its embrace of all things green. Even before spring buds emerge, its trees provide dramatic scenery. To keep the canopy healthy, the City urges residents to continue to plant shade trees, which it will give away at the event April 16 (page 11). Larger trees are available at a discount as well (see page 12).

Photo by Laurie Stepp

Crime Rates Down in Takoma Park *Burglaries and Gangs Remain Priorities*

BY KEVIN ADLER

Takoma Park experienced a widespread decrease in crime in 2010, according to a report released in February by the City's police department. Police Chief Ronald A. Ricucci told the City Council during a Feb. 28 hearing that every category of crime fell last year, except for burglaries.

No homicides occurred in the City in 2010, and rapes fell from five to one. Robberies fell 11 percent (54 to 48), larceny fell 22 percent (470 to 364), and auto theft fell nearly 15 percent (78 to 63). Aggravated assaults fell 42 percent (45 to 26), but Andrew Gucciardo, the crime analyst who compiled the statistics, indicated that data in that category are not directly comparable year to year.

On the negative side, burglaries surged by 33 percent, rising from 112 to 150 last year. Wards 3 (20 percent) and 6 (25 percent) bore the brunt of crime, reflecting their location along New Hampshire Avenue, according to Ricucci. "It's not our residents who are committing crimes," he said at the hearing. "It's people coming into the City."

According to the annual report, only 26 percent of crimes in 2010 were committed by Takoma Park residents, up slightly from 22 percent in 2009. Hyattsville, Silver Spring, and DC residents combined to commit more than half of the crimes in the City.

Given those crime trends, Ricucci said that two issues will be his priorities in 2011: burglaries and gangs. "Robberies were a big thing when I first got here, and we reduced them. Then thefts from autos were a big thing, and we reduced them. We can do the same with burglaries," he told the City "Newsletter" in a phone interview after the Council meeting. "To target burglaries, we have increased our use of plainclothes patrols, and our cars are patrolling in residential neighborhoods where the burglaries

have been occurring."

Gangs perhaps present a more intractable problem, and inter-jurisdictional teamwork is essential, Ricucci said. "There are two gangs in Takoma Park, and their criminal activity has increased," he said. "But it's a problem across the county. Today, one-third of the crimes in Montgomery County are gang-related."

Takoma Park participates in a federally funded, county-wide initiative to fight gangs, and Ricucci called the impact of cooperation between the county and Takoma Park's one officer dedicated to gang issues "phenomenal." In early March, Ricucci followed up with a briefing for the Council about his department's gang initiatives.

Council Impressed with Progress

At the Council meeting on Feb. 28, council members praised Ricucci for the improvements in crime levels throughout the city. "We appreciate the effort of you and the department in the last few years, especially in closing cases," said Mayor Bruce Williams. "There's a wider feeling of safety in Takoma Park."

"Incredible progress has been made since you came here.... We are seeing a higher level of professionalism," added Ward 4 Councilmember Terry Seamens.

Budget issues entered into the discussion—not surprisingly, as total police expenditures were \$5.7 million in FY2010, or about 30 percent of the City's budget. The City's recent "Budget Game," in which residents are encouraged to identify their fiscal priorities, includes an option to eliminate 10 police positions for a savings of about \$1 million. Game participants have been divided about whether to cut any positions, or turn policing over to the county. The problem, according to Williams, is if the county took over, it would eliminate the annual county rebate

for police work. "I've been asked why we can't just give the detective work to the county," said Williams. "My answer is that ... we will lose more in the rebate." In FY2011, the county police rebate was \$1,973,720.

Ricucci added that, in addition to losing rebate money, City residents would miss the benefits of having police officers who are deeply invested in protecting Takoma Park residents. For example, a Takoma Park detective quickly solved the rape that occurred along the Sligo Creek bike path by spotting a man with muddy boots and pants in front of a store on New Hampshire Avenue. The detective got a consent for a photo and DNA sample, and he contacted Prince George's County police, who were investigating a similar crime on a nearby bike path. Working together, the departments made a positive identification, later backed with the DNA sample. "This man will probably never see the light of day again," said Ricucci.

Similarly effective police work ended a series of robberies at gas stations along New Hampshire Avenue in the fall and winter, Ricucci said. As yet another example, Ricucci said police officers stayed on the job beyond their shifts during the January 2011 snowstorm, and were able to respond to all incoming calls—service levels that many areas of the county did not receive.

Council Questions Information-Sharing Proposal

When he delivered the annual report, Ricucci proposed two policy changes that he said would help his department cooperate with neighboring jurisdictions. Both proposals are related to how Takoma Park retains and uses information gathered by electronic license tags "readers." One proposal

TAKOMA PARK CRIME
continues on page 10

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

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, April 4 – City Council meeting, including City Manager's proposed budget presentation, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Thursday, April 7 – Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Auditorium)

Monday, April 11 – Ward 3 Night reception, 7 - 7:30 p.m. (in the Community Center Atrium Lobby)

Monday, April 11 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

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

Tuesday, April 12 – Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, April 12 – Recreation Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Thursday, April 14 – Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, April 14 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Monday, April 18 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

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

Wednesday, April 20 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Monday, April 25 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

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

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

Notice on ADA Compliance

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 City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

City Clerk Wins Award

Takoma Park City Clerk Jessie Carpenter has been named Maryland Municipal Clerks' Association Clerk of the Year.

The award recognizes her professionalism, knowledge, creativity, and the respect she maintains in her dealings with City residents and staff, and for her leadership in updating elections technology.

Nominated by City Manager Barbara Matthews, she was supported by City staff who praised her dedication, patience and flexibility.

Carpenter came to Takoma Park as deputy city clerk in 2001; she has been city clerk for six years.



City Council Action*

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

February 14, 2011 – Regular Meeting

Resolution 2011-8 was adopted, authorizing the settlement and release of DeChiane v. City of Takoma Park

Single Reading Ordinance 2011-1 was adopted, authorizing the purchase of six replacement police mobile computers

Resolution 2011-9 was adopted, supporting The Lorraine Sheehan Health and Community Services Act of 2011 (HB121 and SB168)

Resolution 2011-10 was adopted, supporting HB 127 and SB 262, State Board of Education – Financial Literacy Curriculum – Graduation Requirement

Resolution 2011-11 was adopted, supporting the payment of stormwater fees by governmental entities

February 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting

First Reading Ordinance 2011-2 was adopted, authorizing FY 2011 Budget Amendment No. 2

March 7, 2011 – Special Session

Single Reading Ordinance 2011-3 was adopted, authorizing execution of a contract with a consultant to assist with matters related to the proposed relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital

March 14, 2011 – Regular Meeting

First Reading Ordinance 2011-4 was adopted, authorizing a contract with Enterprise Information Solutions for the development of a pavement condition index and related services

First Reading Ordinance 2011-5 was adopted, amending the Takoma Park Code to repeal the section on "Burning of Refuse" and to adopt the Montgomery County Code provisions regulating burning by open fire

Second Reading Ordinance 2011-2 was adopted, authorizing FY 2011 Budget Amendment No. 2

CITY CLERK News Briefs

Notice of Public Hearings FY 2012 Proposed Budget

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2011 to hear comments on the City Manager's proposed FY 2012 budget. The public hearing will be held in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak, or comment in writing to City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, e-mail: Clerk@takomagov.org. The City Manager's proposed budget will be available for review at the Community Center customer service desk and online at www.takomaparkmd.gov after the City Manager presents her proposed budget on April 4.

A second public hearing on the budget will be held on Monday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Notice of Public Hearing FY 2012 Tax Rate

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25, in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak, or comment in writing to City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, e-mail: Clerk@takomagov.org. Notice of the tax rate will be published on the City's website and in the *Takoma Park Gazette* in April.

Ward 3 Night – Monday, April 11

Residents of Ward 3 are invited to join the City Council on Monday, April 11, for a reception from 7–7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Lobby. A special Ward 3 public comment session will be held at the beginning of the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The tentative schedule for future Ward Nights is:

Ward 6 - May 16 (Monday)

Ward 2 - June 20 (Monday)

Residents who have questions may contact their City Councilmember or Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk at 301-891-7267, jessiec@takomagov.org.

Notice of Installation of New Parking Meters and a Change in the Time Limit for Existing Meters on Takoma Avenue

Pursuant to Chapter 13.12 "Parking Meters" of the Takoma Park Code, notice is hereby provided of the City Manager's intention to install eight new parking meters along the curbside on Takoma Avenue south of Fenton Street. The meters will be two-hour meters. Existing meters along Takoma Avenue between New York Avenue and Fenton Street will be changed from 12-hour meters to two-hour meters. Rates for all meters in this area will be \$1 for two hours, \$0.50 for one hour; \$0.25 for 30 minutes, \$0.10 for 12 minutes; and \$0.05 for six minutes.

This change will become effective April 21, 2011. Public comments may be sent to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Friday, April 15, 2011. For additional information, contact Jessie Carpenter, 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org.

LETTER to the Editor

Homeless Population Deserves More Sympathy

To the Editor,

I was profoundly upset by the article in [the March 2011] "Newsletter" ("Sligo Creek Homeless Camp Cleared"). The article dealt with the very sad topic of homeless people and spoke about them as if they were vermin or pestilence which was polluting the very air that we all breathe.

The details of how these poor people exist are heart-breaking. I had hoped that we were far enough along in our development to progress from Bedlam or putting mentally ill people in cages to a more humanitarian view but I see now that I was wrong.

The metaphor cannot be more explicit: "Porcelain berry

vines are like a curtain that just crawls up trees and is almost impenetrable, once you get in there, you are hidden from view."

The goal, then, is to remove the trash. The trash, dear people, consists of our brothers and sisters who are mentally ill, brain damaged and destitute.

Who wears the neatly stacked clothing and who eats from the food containers?

Knee-jerk do-gooders say that some agency or another will come along to clean up the mess of humanity. The metaphor continues, "Porcelain berry vines are killing a lot of trees along the bank." That is true, and each tree that dies represents a human spirit.

Dr. John Breeskin
Proud to be a Takoma Park Resident

A Musical Tradition Continues to Play

The Institute of Musical Traditions Celebrates 30 years

BY RICK HENRY

The first one came from Ireland some 30 years ago and since that fateful day they have continued to pour in—from all over the United States and the world—plying their trade while remaining true to their heritage, leaving a rich cultural legacy with the City's residents.

"They" are the hundreds of musicians that have performed as part of the Institute of Musical Traditions concert series over the years, and they represent a diverse tapestry that parallels anything that has come through Ellis Island.

"We have had Tuvan throat singers, Celtic bands, gypsy jazz musicians, bluegrass, you name it," said IMT founder David Eisner, recalling the legions of groups that have graced the music stores, churches and community centers of Takoma Park and Montgomery County over the last 30 years, under the IMT banner. "Our [artist] profile is schizophrenic and that is absolutely on purpose."

As often happens, the concert series came about by accident. Eisner, who founded and has run the music store House of Musical Traditions in Takoma Park since 1972, had a friend in Takoma Park who was in an Irish band. He knew a musician from Ireland who was coming over and asked Eisner if the artist could play in the store. Eisner thought it was a great idea and agreed.

"We had 17 people who came to the store and said this is a great thing, so we decided to put on more," he said.

Eisner continued to put on shows inside the store, until one St. Patrick's Day 119 people showed up to see the Irish/Celtic band Ceoltoiri.

"I had to have the audience take guitars from the store and put them in their cars to create enough room for the band and people to sit. After that, I decided I need to find a larger venue," he said.

Numerous venues have hosted IMT shows since that day, but the series now splits its shows between the new Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium and Saint Mark Presbyterian church in Rockville, with occasional shows in larger venues such as the new Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College.

While the venues have changed, the mission of IMT—to preserve and promote folk music and cultura from around the world—hasn't.

Given the myriad of styles that have come to be lumped under the title, "folk music," fulfilling that mission is no easy task. But one look at the 2011 season calendar shows IMT has succeeded.

There are international artists such as Craobh Rua, from Belfast (April 6), Kinobe and Soul Beat Africa, from Uganda (April 25) and Scotland's Old Blind Dogs (May 23). There are legends like Ramblin' Jack Elliott

(May 9). All are considered folk musicians, none of them sound remotely the same.

There are also local virtuosos such as Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, who are teaming with fiddle legend Barbara Lamb on April 11. For all of its international focus and diversity, IMT has always showcased local artists as well, drawing from the rich talent pool that is Takoma Park and surrounding area.

"In 1985 there was a singer/songwriter living in Takoma Park that we decided to feature," said Eisner. "Her name was Mary Chapin-Carpenter." Chapin-Carpenter has gone on to become a national success story.

Such a diverse musical lineup breeds an equally diverse audience, said Eisner. Unlike most concert series which are linked by common themes and genres and thus draw

"I don't miss one unless I'm sick or out of town," he said.

Both Eisner and Richardson said that besides its eclectic lineup, there are other components that set IMT apart from other concert series. Besides the intimacy of the venue and the attentiveness of the audience, the sound quality at each show is fantastic, Richardson said. Eisner is a well-respected sound engineer and joins other highly regarded experts at the controls for IMT events. Such commitments don't go unnoticed—by the crowd, or, more importantly, the artists.

"There is a real intimate feeling [at IMT shows]," said Bethesda blues musician Jay Summerour, who has played several IMT concerts over the years. "You can interact with the audience. People come there to

Eisner said the level of quality has been enhanced even further with the opening of the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium, where approximately half of the concerts are now staged.

"I had a small part in the design of that room, but [Grammy-award winning sound engineer] Charlie Pilzer of Airshow Mastering had a large part in the design. It is a rare time that you can say to the owner of a building, if you do this and that you will have a great room and they are able to do everything, but in this case they did," he said. "You walk in and you know you are in a good room. The lighting's good, the sound is good. It even smells good."

Providing such quality and diversity is not easy, however, and cannot be covered by ticket prices alone. IMT is a 501 (c) (3)



Photo by Randolph Smith

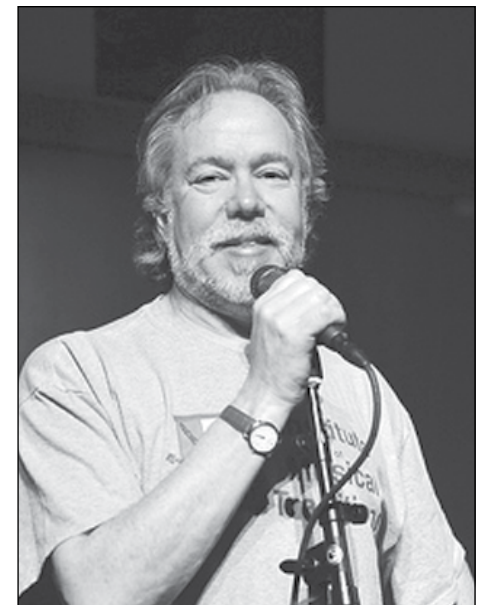


Photo by Erik Sharar

The people behind the Institute of Musical Traditions share sound, promotions and emcee duties to bring an array of musical talent to Takoma Park. Above, founder David Eisner does a sound check for guitarist Pierre Bensusan last month.

many of the same attendees for each show, each IMT show may draw its own independent audience.

"We don't have a dedicated following that comes to see every show, it's not the same people at each event," he said. "Does that make our life more difficult? Yes. But it is also what makes it rewarding."

"It is a very rare person who would go to every IMT show. You would have to have very eclectic musical tastes."

Count Dave Richardson as that very rare person. Richardson, an international grade attorney for the Department of Commerce, is the president of IMT's Board of Directors and has been involved with IMT since volunteering at one of the shows 21 years ago. Since then, he estimates he has been to several hundred IMT concerts.

hear music and they show respect and pay attention. Plus, it is always good to have a good sound man you can depend on. That is one thing I really appreciate about working with them."

Another local musician who has performed several IMT concerts is Takoma Park resident Ruthie Lodgson. She shares Summerour's feelings.

"For me, the best thing about playing an IMT concert is confidence in knowing I will have an attentive listening audience, a room full of people who are there to appreciate something new, and a good sound technician," she said. "I may even get fed before the show and if I am lucky, David Eisner will have something flip or funny to say about us when he introduces the band...another musical tradition."

organization and as such relies on corporate and individual donations, foundations and public funding for the 50-60 percent of its approximately \$140,000 budget that doesn't come from ticket sales. While its mission hasn't changed as the organization has grown over the years, accomplishing that mission has become more challenging.

To help sustain the series, the organization is undergoing a fundraising push coordinated with its 30th anniversary. Richardson is well aware of his responsibilities as president of the board, but he makes his funding case as a music fan.

"We are an amazing value for the money. We put on phenomenal concerts with virtuoso musicians in an intimate, up-close environment. I believe there is nothing us humans can do that is better than that."



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that

may contain opinion, or letters to the editor will be considered for publication if sent to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No.

1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

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The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.



A tenant contacted the Mailbox asking whether his failure to provide his landlord with a written, one-month notice will result in his security deposit being reduced. He also wants to know what the current security deposit interest rate is, and whether security deposits earn simple or compound annual interest.



BY MOSES A. WILDS, JR.,
LANDLORD-TENANT
MEDIATION SPECIALIST

The failure of the tenant to provide his landlord with written notice of his intent to vacate may result in his security deposit refund being reduced. In accordance with Section 6.16.150 of the City's Landlord-Tenant Law, a tenant should provide the landlord with a written, one-month notice prior to the rent due date of the final month of occupancy. Failure to provide this notice may result in the landlord charging the tenant an additional month's rent, which could be deducted from the security deposit refund.

It is the tenant's responsibility to have

documentation of the landlord's receipt of the vacate notice; therefore, mailing the notice by a method that will provide written receipt confirmation is strongly recommended. The intent to vacate notice should also be sent by regular mail, allowing for three days' mail transit time from mailing to delivery. Sending intent to vacate notices by email to a landlord, or relying on verbal communications with a landlord are strongly discouraged since the receipt date of an e-mail or the actual content of a verbal communication cannot be documented by the tenant.

Tenants should also note that staying even one day past the indicated vacate date or failing to return the rental unit's keys on the indicated vacate date may also result in the tenant having a full month's rent deducted from the security deposit refund.

The current security deposit interest rate as established by the state legislature is 3 percent simple annual interest for all leases

entered into on or after October 1, 2004. Leases entered into, on or prior to October 1, 2004 earn 4 percent simple annual interest until the landlord amends the lease in writing, indicating that the interest rate is 3 percent. Security deposits interest accrues in six-month intervals, which means that a lease signed in January 2010 earned 1.5 percent simple interest at the end of

June 2010 and 1.5 percent simple interest at the end of December 2010.

Tenants or landlords with other questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant Law can contact Moses Wilds, 301-891-7215 or mosesw@takomagov.org.

Security Deposit Retrieved

Henson v. Exit Realty, et al. (10-25T)

On March 18, 2011, COLTA issued a decision in a case involving a former tenant's request that her security deposit plus interest and any penalty allowed under the city's Landlord-Tenant Law be returned. COLTA's decision held that the company acting as landlord had not complied with Section 8-203(g) of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, by failing to send to the last known address of the tenant a written list of the damages claimed, together with a statement of the cost actually in-



**COLTA's
CORNER**

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

curred within 45 days of the termination of the tenancy. Additionally, the landlord forfeited the right to withhold from the tenant's security deposit the costs of repairs that were not actually incurred within 45 days of the end of the tenancy. COLTA ordered the landlord to pay the former tenant the additional amount of \$1,486 within 14 days of the decision date, or the award will accrue interest at the judgment rate of interest under the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article of the Maryland Code. No punitive damages were deemed warranted since there was no evidence that the landlord intentionally violated the security deposit law or sought to defraud the tenant.

Homeowners' and Renters' Property Tax Credit Applications Now Available

Low- or fixed-income homeowners or renters may apply for a tax credit again this year. Applications for the Homeowners and Renters' Property Tax credit are now available; filing deadline is Sept. 1, but if you file by May 1 the credit could be applied directly to your July 1, 2011 tax bill.

To receive a tax credit, an application and supporting documentation must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation every year.

The maximum property assessment eligible for the Home Owners' Tax Credit is \$300,000, which means that even though your home may be assessed for an amount over this amount, it's only the first \$300,000 of its assessed value that will be counted for this credit. To qualify, you must own or have legal interest in the property; use the property as your principal residence; have a net worth of less than \$200,000 and a gross household income no more than

\$60,000.

Renters qualify for the Renters' Tax Credit as a certain portion of their rent is used to pay property taxes. Credits are calculated according to total household income. To qualify, the rental must be principal residence for at least six months, and you must be the lease holder. Eligibility guidelines are different for renters who are 100 percent disabled or over 60 years old. If under 60, you have to have had at least one dependent under the age of 18 living with you during 2010 and you cannot be receiving federal or state housing subsidies. Income limits for the renters' tax credit program are more restrictive (under 60 years/household of two cannot exceed \$14,787 gross annual household income)

For more information or an application for either program, call 1-800-944-7403, go to www.dat.state.md.us/datweb/taxcredits.html or call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222.

FREE CLASSES

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park

All Classes are held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

Pre-registration is required: call 301-891-7222

Understanding Credit

Wednesday, April 27, 7 - 9:15 p.m.
Credit: How it all began, understanding your credit report and score

Protecting and Improving Your Credit

Wednesday, May 11, 7 - 9:15 p.m.
Establishing credit, credit repair (fact or fiction), credit management skills

First Time Home Buyer Seminar

Saturday, May 14, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- Expert speakers from a lending institution, title company, real estate office and an inspection company
- Information on how to obtain a mortgage and understand the terms of the loan
- The role of the real estate agent

and how to identify a good one

- Certificate of completion which allows access to state and county low interest loans

Getting to Know the Financial You

Wednesday, May 25, 7 - 9:15 p.m.
Developing a financial plan, setting goals, keeping good records

Changing the Way You Think About Finances

Wednesday, June 8, 7 - 9:15 p.m.
Learn cash flow pattern, needs versus wants, assessments, budgets

Thinking Like an Investor

Wednesday, June 22, 7 - 9:15 p.m.
Identify different forms of income, move from savings to investing

"FREE"

COME JOIN US
FOR A DAY OF
INFORMATION
AND FUN!

Light Refreshments



Who Should Attend

Renters/Homeowners
Landlords
Neighborhood Associations
Non-Profits
Housing Counseling Agencies
Elected Officials
Persons with Disabilities
County Housing Professionals



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 7, 2011

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

in Partnership with

**Montgomery County Office of Human Rights and
Department of Housing & Community Affairs**

"Fair Housing Matters"

Silver Spring Civic Building

Veterans Plaza

One Veterans Place

Silver Spring, MD 20910

(Corner of Ellsworth Drive and Fenton Street)

Easy access from Silver Spring Metro • Parking Garage across the street

MAIN TOPICS!

- Foreclosure Education and Prevention
- Understanding Your Housing Rights and Responsibilities
- Scams: Loan Modification and Housing

For more information contact:

Brien Boone - 410-514-7019 • boone@mdhousing.org

or

Cecelia Hatton - 240-777-8468 • cecilia.hatton@montgomerycountymd.gov



TAKOMA Arts

We are Takoma Series Offers Whales, Stilts, Julius Caesar

The "We Are Takoma" series, sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, presents the following events at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. They are free of charge, unless otherwise noted.

INTO THE WHALE

What the Animal Mind Can Teach Us About the Limits of Human Perception

April 1, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

Using sound, images and story, and drawing on research from comparative neurobiology, behavioral ecology, acoustic tomography and echolocation, author Jeff Warren explores the inner experience of the world's great whales. What roles do empathy, intuition and imagination play in exploring the limits of knowledge and science? The imaginative and literary Warren, a Canadian science writer and radio producer, will dive deep into these questions, expanding the limits of human experience.



With Liz Briones, Pam Parker, Karla Chisholm and musician colleagues, Susan Faucon sings, squabbles and laughs about beauty, money, sex, love and conspiracy. The musical performance layers jazz, funk, blues and pop with provocative dialogue and a large dollop of humor, drawing from the collective experience of the artists, who have performed at some of the area's best known venues.



Julius Caesar, Empire, and the Fall of the Roman Republic

April 14, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Can a republic have an empire without its political institutions being corrupted by imperial pressures? The answer from the history of ancient Rome appears to be "no." University of Maryland History Professor and Distinguished Scholar/Teacher Arthur M. Eckstein describes the "imperial countercultures" ancient writers warned about as he explores Roman expansion and Julius Caesar, along with the corresponding influence of ideals about masculinity and power.

KILLER STILTS

Susan Faucon's WAMMIE Award Winning Theatrical Jazz Project

April 10, 2 – 4 p.m.

Suggested donation, \$15. Call 301-793-6550 for reservations



Art Hop Brightens up Spring

By DIANA KOHN

Local artists are hoping to banish the doldrums of winter with the second annual Art Hop, April 7 – 10. The works of more than 40 hometown artists will be on display in the windows and on the walls of local businesses, stretching along Carroll Avenue from Takoma Junction through Old Takoma and across the District line.

Although Takoma Park is home to a wealth of artistic talent, there is a much-lamented lack of gallery space. That prompted last year's experiment, when, as organizer Bobbi Kittner put it, "We decided to turn Carroll Avenue into our gallery." As in traditional galleries, the artwork is for sale, with a percentage going to the business owner. In addition, each store will be showcasing its spring inventory.

Elizabeth Brinkama, at Now and Then, credits Art Hop with "broadening our idea of what we could do as a store

to reach out to the greater community. Since then we've hosted a book signing, partnered with the Smithsonian for a workshop and sponsored a yarn 'tasting.' Art Hop reminded us how many vibrant artists live here."

Art Hop opens with a reception at 7:30 p.m. April 6, at DC Art Studios (A.Salon, 6925 Willow St. NW). The event will include an exhibit with a representative piece from each artist -- wearable art, photography, mixed media, sculpture, jewelry, textiles, sculpture and painting. The exhibit will remain open through April 10.

Each business will also host receptions for its individual artists, and over the weekend, the Art Hop will turn festival, with balloons, teen bands, jugglers and art demonstrations.

For a map and a list of artists, see www.arthoptakoma.com.



The following free events are sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities.

"Community" with June Collins

In her exhibit, "Community," June Collins combines her universal message of joy and American freedom with her rustic painting technique. Works appear on panels, windowpanes and other materials. Opening reception will be held in the Atrium Gallery on Friday, April 1 from 6 – 8 p.m. and will feature a poetry reading by local writer Jennifer Tiara at 6:30 p.m.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

The Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium will host four local poets on April 21, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Mary Beth Hatem, an editor and coach, has 20 years of experience sharing her poems in the area. Sally Rosen Kindred, a creative writing scholar at Duke, is an award-winning poet and teacher. Joshua Prentice, aka Joshua Gray, publishes internationally and writes on the culture of poetry; and Don Berger, Takoma Park's first Poet Laureate in 2005 and a poetry professor at the University of Maryland and Montgomery College, is the founder of the Third Thursday Poetry Reading series.

Share your Creativity

The Arts and Humanities Commission has issued calls for a new Poet Laureate and an exhibits coordinator. Applications are available online at www.takomagov.org and will be accepted until May 9. Appointments would become effective on July 1.

For 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 us out on Facebook <http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD>

Films Illuminate Nuclear Power

The Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee presents two films and corresponding speakers to explore the hazards and potential of nuclear power. Each is at 7:30 p.m., at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang

Tuesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

This award-winning film chronicles reporter and *Mother Jones* founder Paul Jacobs' exploration of the health hazards of low-level radiation as experienced by service men and civilians living downwind from the Nevada test site or near explosions in the Pacific, and farmers living around the Colorado plant that produced plutonium triggers. The film includes interviews with scientists who tried to warn the public about the hazards of nuclear power. Speaker is Robert Alvarez, senior scholar, Nuclear Policy Project, Institute for Policy Studies.

Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment

Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.

Driven by intensely personal testimony and painstaking research, this film exposes a shocking pattern of negligence and misinformation spanning several decades. Nine months after this film won the 1991 Oscar for Best Short Documentary, GE pulled out of the nuclear weapons industry, and GE boycott organizers declared victory in their grassroots campaign. Speakers are Leo Slaggie, retired Deputy Solicitor of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Cindy Folkers, Beyond Nuclear radiation health specialist.

April

Recreation

Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join Takoma Park Recreation for an "egg" citing time. There are four age categories: ages 2 and under, 3 – 4, 5 – 6, and 7 – 8. The hunt begins at 11 a.m. sharp. Don't miss out. Due to the construction on Ed Wilhelm Field the Egg Hunt has been moved.

**PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE IN LOCATION:**

Lee Jordan Field
7611 Piney Branch Road,
(behind Takoma Park
Middle School)
April 16,
rain date April 23
Free



Zachary and Javier McFarlane ham it up for the Catriona Castle Fun Day held in the Community Center Auditorium, where kids had the opportunity to act out storybook characters.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Spring Break Camp - The Great Outdoors

Ages 5 – 11

Come experience the great outdoors with Takoma Park Recreation. Hikes, crafts, swimming, trip to the Chesapeake Children's Museum, special guests and fun are in store. Earn stamps as you complete tasks and learn about the "Great Outdoors." The week will end with an Earth Day celebration.

TP Community Center
Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
April 18 – 22
TP residents \$140
Non-residents \$160

Before Care: 7 – 9 a.m., TP residents \$35; Non-residents \$45.

After Care: 4 – 6 p.m., TP residents \$35; Non-residents \$45.

On Stage: Spring Break Music Theater Workshop

Ages 6 – 8

Each day will start out with physical, vocal, imagination and focus-building warm-ups. Create and develop characters, explore improv, engage in drama games, learn new songs, block and choreograph musical numbers, learn the theater space and terminology and build props and costumes. The end of the session will commence with a performance of two Broadway musical numbers. Emphasis is on the process, not the product. A \$10 materials fee includes music files on CD, lyrics and supplies. Instructor Gretchen Weigel. Maximum 15, minimum 11.

Auditorium, TP Community Center
Mon. – Wed. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
April 18 – 20
TP residents \$99
Non-residents \$119

Wee Love Math

Ages 3 – 4

Math is everywhere, in our songs, games, rhymes and daily living. Wee Love Math is an age appropriate introduction to math concepts. This class will help your child recognize, appreciate and grow to love math. Participants 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 the child to class. Eight weeks. Instructor Amaya Lambert. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Mon. 10 – 11 a.m.
April 4 – June 6
TP residents \$85
Non-residents \$105

Teen Spring Break Camp

This year we're making spring break week a bit more interesting. Participants will provide a variety of community service projects to several non-profit organizations. Projects will range from on-site activities for children, to renovating facilities for displaced individuals. A few extra field trips throughout the week have been added, in addition to the traditional trip to Kings Dominion, on Friday, April 22. You must attend the full week in order to attend the trip to Kings Dominion. Space is limited, pre registration is required.

Ages 12-17
T Zone, TP Community Center
Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
April 18 - 22
\$30 for Kings Dominion

Babysitting

Ages 11 – 14

This class is designed for those interested in learning more about babysitting. Topics covered include: CPR, Fire Safety, First Aid, infant and child care and personal safety. A certificate will be issued

upon completion of all five classes and exam. Co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department. Five weeks. Instructor Chief Jarboe. Maximum 15, minimum 10.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Mon. 7 – 9 p.m.
April 25 – May 23
Free, but must pre-register

Camping Basics

Family

Camping is a wonderful way for families to explore nature together and to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Camp basics will include setting up camp, fire safety, cooking basics and "Leave No Trace" guidelines. Families will also find out where to camp in our area and get valuable handouts on various topics, such as "Ten Essentials of Camping." Families will learn through hands-on practice, games and how-to-videos, and there will be games and prizes. Instructor Eagle Scout candidate, Aaron Richards, for BSA Takoma Park, Troop 33. Four weeks. Maximum 25, minimum five.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
April 27 – May 18
TP residents Free
Non-residents \$10

Basic Puppy Obedience

Puppies six months and younger

Socialize your puppy and begin training basic obedience commands. You will learn how to teach your dog sit, down, come, stay and stand. Learn loose leash walking and husbandry. Problems behaviors such as nipping, barking and jumping will be addressed. Must have proof of rabies vaccine. Six weeks. Maximum 12, Minimum five.

Heffner Community Center
Tues. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Session 1 April 5 – May 10
Session 2 May 31 – July 5

Session 3 July 26 – August 30
Saturdays, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Session 1 May 14 – June 25
Session 2 July 16 – August 20
TP residents \$85/session
Non-residents \$105/session
No class on May 28.

Basic Dog Obedience

Dogs six months and older

Teach your dog basic obedience and expand on any commands they already know, cover problem behaviors such as nipping, barking, jumping, lunging and digging. Learn loose leash walking, heel, distance stop, directional commands and tricks. Must have proof of rabies vaccine. This class is not appropriate for aggressive dogs. Six weeks. Maximum 12, minimum five.

Heffner Community Center
Tues. 8 – 9 p.m.
Session 1 April 5 – May 10
Session 2 May 31 – July 5
Session 3 July 26 – August 30
Sat. 3 - 4 p.m.
Session 1 May 14 – June 25
Session 2 July 16 – August 20
TP residents \$85/session
Non-residents \$105/session
No class on May 28.

Track Skills Clinic

Ages 6-12

Parents, does your child love to run? If so this is the perfect program for you. This clinic will introduce your child to the basic fundamentals of track. The instructor will emphasize proper stretching, breathing and running techniques. You will leave this clinic with increased running knowledge, new friends and an enhanced love for the sport. Program is limited to 15 participants. Bring a water bottle. Registration is required for this program. Five weeks. Instructor Lew McAllister.

Silver Foxes For Active Adults Over 55

Pool Open House for Seniors

Joyce Seamens, Director of Pool Operations, invites you to a Piney Branch Pool Open House, where you can learn about beneficial swimming classes for senior citizens. Swimming can help develop strength, cardiovascular fitness and endurance. In addition, swimming is a great low-impact exercise for your body, especially water aerobics. Transportation will be provided for Victory Tower, Franklin Apartments, and Mapleview Apartments only. Pick up at 2:30 p.m. and drop off at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call 301-891-7280. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Piney Branch Pool (inside Piney Branch School).
7510 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD
3 - 4 p.m., April 5 Free Open House

Beginners Guide to Digital Cameras

Welcome to the digital age! Back by popular demand, we will repeat our digital camera workshop. Join instructors Jim Mueller and Phil Shapiro for this hands-on workshop to learn the

basic functions of digital cameras. If you have a digital camera, you may bring it to the workshop. Registration is required; forms are due 4/26/11 or earlier. For more information, please call 301-891-7280. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Senior Room, TP Community Center
1 - 4 p.m. April 30
\$10

Brain Games

Did you know that exercising your brain is as important as exercising your body in order to stay healthy? In order to stay mentally fit you need to challenge yourself by playing cognitive games: optical illusions, riddles, strategy, brain teasers and puzzles. An apple a day my help keep the doctor away, and playing brain games may help keep Alzheimer's away. Drop-in. Registration is not required. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Senior Room, TP Community Center
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. April 19
No cost

George Washington National Masonic Memorial

The George Washington National Masonic Memorial was built in the 1920s to honor and perpetuate the memory, character and virtues of American Freemason and President, George Washington. The memorial is a museum, research center, performing arts center and concert hall, banquet and celebration site, and meeting site for local and visiting Masonic lodges and organizations. Join us for a tour of the memorial including the Tower and Observation Deck. Bring spending money for lunch at a local restaurant. Meet at TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Bus pick up for Victory Tower, Franklin Apartments, and Mapleview Apartments only. Registration is required, call 301-891-7280 to pre-register. Registration forms due by 4/8/11 or earlier. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Tues. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
April 12
\$5 per person. Bring with you on 4/12/11.

RECREATION

continued from page 6

Takoma Park Middle School Track
Tuesdays, April 12 – May 10
3:45 – 4:45 p.m. (ages 6-9)
4:45 – 5:45 p.m. (ages 10-12)
TP residents Free
Non-residents \$10

Outdoor “Pick up” Soccer (6 vs. 6)

Grades 1 – 3 and 4 - 5
This style is different from the traditional outdoor season, as the games use a smaller 6-against-6 format allowing for a faster paced game. There are no designated breaks for substitutions, players enter and leave the field frequently and the ball is almost always in motion. Instructor Coach Omar. Five weeks.

Hodges Field
(Behind Takoma Park Elementary)
Thursdays, April 7 – May 12
Grades 1 – 3 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Grades 4 – 5 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
TP residents \$25
Non-residents \$35
No program on April 21.

Zumba

Ages 13 – 17 and 18 and older
The Zumba program fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a kind fitness program that will blow you away. The goal is simple: We want you to want work out, to love working out, and to get hooked. Zumba helps you achieve long-term benefits while experiencing an absolute blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life! The routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Six weeks. Maximum 25, minimum 5. Instructor Kimberly Pope.

Ages 13 – 17
Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Mondays and Wednesdays, April 14 – May 9
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
TP residents \$60
Non-residents \$70

Age 18 and older
Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Mondays, 7 – 8 p.m.
Saturdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Session 1 April 25 – June 4
Session 2 June 6 – July 16
Session 3 July 18 – August 27
TP residents \$60/session
Non-residents \$70/session
No class on May 28 and July 2.

West African Dance

Ages 8 – 15
A friendly, high-energy workout. Students will begin each class with a full body warm-up, and then walk through the dance they are learning without the drum. Learn about the African culture and what each dance means. Next, participants will do the dance steps with drums. After, we will form a circle and encourage everyone to take turns going into the center and dance their favorite steps.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Mondays, April 11 – June 13
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
TP resident \$80
Non-resident \$100
No class on April 18 and May 30.

Doll Making

Ages 9 – 12 and 16 and older
Learn basic hand sewing and embroidery, how to follow a pattern and fit pieces together to make a beautiful 18-inch Waldorf-style doll. Learn basic crochet to make a fun wig, clothing and accessories. This class is designed for beginners and those who have some experience with sewing. There is a \$20 materials fee due to the instructor on the first day of

class. Instructor Johnnee' Cunningham. Six weeks. Maximum eight, minimum four.

Ages 9 – 12
Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, April 26 – May 31
4 – 6 p.m.
TP residents \$100
Non-residents \$120

Ages 16 and older
Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, April 26 – May 31
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
TP residents \$100
Non-residents \$120

Takoma Park Youth Community Chorus

Ages 8 – 12 and 13 – 16
Do you like singing? Want to perform music like you see on 'Glee'? The first Takoma Park Youth Chorus will feature fun and fast-paced songs, with light choreography and latest technology for a final performance. No experience or audition required. Maximum 15 singers. Instructor Lisa Shaw is an international opera, musical theater and jazz performer and teacher.

Youth Chorus: Ages 8 – 12
TP Community Center Auditorium
April 6 – June 15 (no class April 20)
4 – 5 p.m
Final Performance June 15
TP residents \$125
Non-residents \$145
\$10 material fee

Teen Chorus: Ages 13 – 16
TP Community Center Auditorium
April 6 – June 15 (no class April 20)
5:15 – 6:15 p.m.
Final Performance June 15
TP residents \$125
Non-residents \$145
\$10 material fee

Takoma Sports Camp Registration Begins

Not a Recreation Department Program

Takoma Park launches its 15th summer of baseball, basketball and softball with Takoma Sports Camps for children ages 6 ½ to 14. Each camp week focuses on a different sport, while helping players improve skills, learn the rules of the game and have fun. Professional coaches and college and high school athletes develop skills in the mornings and a weeklong tournament takes place in the afternoons.

Camp includes warm-ups, skills stations and games, lunch and videos, sports trivia and “Stump the Coach.” Every player competes in Friday's Olympics as well as Tournament playoff games.

For more information or to register, go to www.takomasportscamps.org.

Takoma Baseball Camp

Boys and girls, ages 6 1/2 – 14
Session 1, June 20 – 24
Session 2, June 27 – July 1

Takoma Basketball Camp

Boys and girls, ages 7 – 14
Session 1, June 5 – July 8
Session 2, July 11 – 15

Takoma Softball Camp

Girls, ages 7 - 15
One Session, July 18 – 22

All camps

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., extended care available
Takoma Park Middle School
Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5 – \$220 per week
Week 4 (July 5 – 8) – \$176

Financial assistance available based on need.

Deadline:

Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact Sue Immerman
301-270-3369
sue@takomasportscamps.org

Soccer Cleat Exchange Returns

For several years, the Takoma Park Neighborhood Youth Soccer League has maintained a soccer cleat exchange, so that all players can have cleats that fit, and turn in their used pairs. The “cleat exchange” continues this year on the porch at 220 Grant Avenue, directly across from the Ed Wilhelm Field and three houses up from the Community Center.

The “Exchange” consists of three turquoise bins of shoes, sorted into small, medium and large, and a chair to sit on. Players can come any time to try on the cleats to be sure they fit snugly; there is no need to call in advance. The cleats cost nothing: participants are simply asked to donate old shoes in return. The supply varies, but is especially good in the mid-range sizes 3 to 7.

For more information, call Pam Larson, 301-589-0890.

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

Community 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, April 4, 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, preschoolers and
their grown-ups.

Resume Building

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.
Final resume building workshop for
those seeking public sector employ-
ment Prior registration required
Community Center

French Circle Time

Saturday, April 9
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Thanks to the Friends of the Library
for sponsoring this program.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 7:45 p.m.
Library

Comics Jam

Wednesday, April 13, 4 p.m.
Read comics on the big screen.
Thanks to the Friends of the Library
for sponsoring this program.

Friends Reading Group

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.
Continued discussion of "Bleak
House." Community Center,
all welcome

French Circle Time

Saturday, April 23
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Thanks to the Friends of the Library
for sponsoring this program.

Junior Banned Books Club

Monday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.
For kids in third, fourth and fifth
grade. "Revolt Rhymes" by Roald
Dahl. A limited number of copies of
the book are available for check-out
at the main Library desk. Thanks to
the Friends of the Library for sponsor-
ing this program.

Banned Books Club

Monday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.
Award-winning book club for middle-
and high-school students "Black
Boy" by Richard Wright (postponed
from last month) A limited number of
copies of the book are available for
check-out at the main Library desk.
Thanks to the Friends of the Library
for sponsoring this program.

Friends Reading Group

Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of "Bleak House"
Community Center

Dia!

Saturday, April 30, 10:30 a.m.
A sing along in different languages
with Mr. Gabe
All welcome
Thanks to the Friends of the Library
for sponsoring this event.

Favorite Poem Evening

Thursday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.
Library

Library programs show that parents are kids at heart

By KAREN MACPHERSON

It seems like a paradox, but adults are a key audience for the Library's children's programs.

How does that work? Simply put, while kids are obviously the main focus of our various children's programs, we also want to help parents and caregivers join in the fun and carry the learning back home.

For some programs, like our hugely popular Circle Time program on Tuesday mornings, adults are directly encouraged to learn the rhymes, fingerplays and songs so they can develop a repertoire to use at home. All of the activities we do at Circle Time are designed to help young children develop important pre-literacy skills that lay the groundwork for learning to read; all of the activities also are easy for adults to learn and to use at home.

Some of our other children's activities promote family reading time. For example, many families use our unique Summer Quest reading program as a way to find books to share together, as reading aloud counts as a summer reading activity. Our local public schools encourage parents to participate in our Summer Quest program to keep their kids reading during the summer; last summer, our Summer Quest program was the only summer reading program offered in Montgomery County.

We also find that parents of our Banned Books Club and Junior Banned Books Club members read along with their children so they can discuss the books at home. We

carried the Banned Books theme further this past fall when the Library was one of seven nationwide to receive one of the first-ever Judith Krug Awards from the American Library Association. We sponsored a "Read Out" of picture books and children's chapter books that have been challenged in school and public libraries in other parts of the country, and used our grant money to purchase copies of challenged books to hand out to those who attended. Our two-hour "Read-Out" featured two dozen adult and child readers, attracted more than 100 listeners of all ages, and ended with a great pizza party, funded by our Friends.

One of our newest endeavors, the Caldecott Club, has brought together parents and children to read great picture books — using our Friends-purchased ELMO projector — and then discuss their merits and flaws. Families had a wonderful time trying to choose which book would win the 2011 Caldecott Medal; the actual winner, "A Sick Day for Amos McGee," was one of the top choices.

Adults also are an integral part of Spanish Circle Time, led each Thursday morning by Senora Geiza, and French Circle Time, offered on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month by Madame Marie. Both of these Friends-funded programs are unique in the area and have become increasingly popular, especially among adults who want to share their native language with their children or who want to have fun with their children as they learn the basics of a second language.

Our Library also serves as a fundamen-

tal resource for parents who are looking for just the right book for their young reader. In recent months, I've answered an increasing number of queries from parents whose children are just beginning to read and who need help in finding a book that will challenge — but not overwhelm — them. In addition, we help parents explore our parent-ing book collection, and frequently provide advice and book suggestions to parents on ways to get reluctant youngsters interested in reading.

Adults — with and without kids! — also are enthusiastic participants at our special programs, all funded by the Friends. These programs, many of which we offer each year, include: Halloween Storytelling by Candace Wolf; a look at American Indian dance and song with Eaglebear and his family; a celebration of the Winter Solstice; and our Holiday Sing Along. Our five annual Friends-funded craft programs also give adults a chance to spend some creative time with their children.

As we look towards the rest of 2011, we're excited about continuing this theme of adult participation in our children's programs. For example, our three-session Caldecott Club was so popular as an adult-child reading activity that we've decided to offer it up to five times this year. Library Assistant Dave Burbank, who creates the story and art for our Friends-funded Summer Quest program, already is cooking up ideas for this summer's program to entice both parents and kids. Watch for further developments!



LIBRARY Briefs

Celebrating Poetry

In celebration of April as National Poetry Month, the Junior Banned Books Club will read and discuss "Revolt Rhymes" by Roald Dahl. The meeting will take place on Monday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. The Junior Banned Books Club is for children in grades three through five.

In "Revolt Rhymes," Dahl retells six fairy tales in his typically quirky and dark-humored style. The book has been challenged in several states (not ours) because some readers argued that it showed "disrespect for nursery rhymes."

Some copies of the book will be available for check-out, thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. To register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

Multilingual Children's Day

On Saturday, April 30 at 10:30 a.m., all are welcome to join in the fourth annual "Dia" celebration. The program will feature local musician Mr. Gabe, who will lead us in songs

in Spanish, French, German, English and Russian. The program will conclude with a simple craft.

"Dia," formally called El Dia de los Ninos/El Dia de los Libros, or Children's Day/Book Day, was created 15 years ago by the American Library Association to emphasize the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

No registration is necessary for the event; anyone may come to celebrate Takoma Park's multicultural community.

Favorite Poem Evening Returns May 5

The Favorite Poem Evening, sponsored jointly by the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of the Library, is now in its twelfth year. This year's celebration of poems will be held in the Library on Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet other than you or your friends. Poems written in languages other than English are welcome, if they are accompanied by an English translation. There are plenty of ideas for possible choices in the Library's poetry collections.

Send the name and author of the poem you have chosen and your own name and generic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins, ellenr@takomago.org, or drop it by the library to her attention. The deadline for submission is May 2.

Originally conceived as a national event by poet laureate Robert Pinsky, the Favorite

Poem Evening in Takoma Park has been a lovely, warm and community-building event for the past 11 years. All ages are welcome. Please attend and bring your friends and neighbors. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

Friends Host Board Elections

The Friends of the Library held their Annual Meeting and Board election at the Library on March 15. It was a festive and well-attended event, despite the absence of guest speaker Richard Harris, who was on assignment in Japan. His talk will be re-scheduled. Board members elected for second terms were Secretary Pat Hanrahan and Member-At-Large Ben Frey. Sylvie Shaffer was newly elected as Member-at-Large. Nominating Committee members Faith Stern, Karen Fishman and Kay Daniels-Cohen conducted the election, and refreshments were provided by the Friends.

Reading Group Studies Faulkner's "As I Lay Dying"

The Friends Reading Group will discuss William Faulkner's classic, "As I Lay Dying," on May 18.

Originally published in 1930, "As I Lay Dying" is William Faulkner's fifth novel, and is ranked as among the best novels of the 20th century. Faulkner was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1949 for his body of work published up to then, including this novel.

LIBRARY BRIEFS
continues on page 9

Library “Friends” Support Unique Institution

By ELLEN ROBBINS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
WITH MERRILL LEFFLER

An independent municipal library – the only one in the state – the Takoma Park library is at the center of the city, in more ways than one. Within walking distance of five schools, it is a gathering place not only for young children, but for youth, adults and senior citizens as well. Visitors may come to read or borrow books and periodicals, to work on computers or consult on school projects with librarians, to participate in any of a number of diverse programs – from Spanish and French Circle Times for pre-schoolers, to the Summer Quest reading program for youth, to book clubs for middle and high school students and adults. Even in difficult economic times, the library has thrived, in large part because of the Friends of the Library, through its many fund-raising activities. The creative use of donated funds by the Friends, a non-profit support organization, say Library staff members, have enabled them to nurture a love of reading with innovative programs that have brought increased use, as well as national recognition. Statistics tell part of the story. For example, in 2011 circulation is expected to rise by more than 10 percent over 2010. Attendance at all library programs increased by

14 percent in 2010, following a 17 percent rise in 2009.

Here are some of the Friends’ many contributions:

- The Spring Poetry Walk features framed, artistically designed poems on posters throughout the City, through a collaboration of the Friends with Montgomery College Department of Art and Design, poets and educators.
- The Friends hold poetry readings at a local outdoor farmers’ market in the spring.
- The “Banned Books Club” for high school and middle school students discusses books that have been banned or challenged in schools or libraries across the country. It won the 2009 Immroth Award from the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the ALA. The Friends fund books for participants in this club and a Junior Banned Books Club as well.
- Two adult reading groups, funded through the Friends, examine lengthy classics such as “War and Peace” as well as shorter works, and invite local scholars to kick off discussions. Between 17 and 30 avid readers attend the discussions.
- The Favorite Poem Evening, originally begun by U.S. Poet Laureate Robert

Pinsky, has continued at the TP Library annually, with funding and organizational support from the Friends.

- The Summer Quest kids’ reading program has its own art and read-to-play interactive adventure story. In 2010, Takoma Park was the only area library with a summer reading program – as those in surrounding county libraries had been eliminated through budget reductions. It attracted more than 200 participants.
- The Library holds regular pre-school programs in Spanish and French, funded by the Friends. These increasingly popular programs appeal to a diverse audience, and attract between 30 and 80 children and care-givers to each program.
- In the College Bound Speakers’ Series, experts discuss college choice, funding options and other topics with high school students and their parents.
- Resume-building workshops are held several times a year, and participants receive individual critiques by a professional consultant. There is always a waiting list for registration at these programs.
- The Friends provide a wide range of special programs by nationally known storytellers, journalists, poets and per-

formers, such as award-winning books critic Michael Dirda and story teller Arianna Ross.

- Friends fund Library outreach efforts to children who frequent the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center, which is located in Takoma Park a few miles from the Library.
- The gift of a digital projector from the Friends has enabled the Library to highlight its collection of graphic novels in programs for elementary age children, to leverage their interest in books and improve their reading skills.
- In some years the Friends have helped to augment the Library collections of books for both children and adults. There is a growing collection of books in Spanish for adults and children, and books in French for kids. There are also have audio books, magazines, and fiction and non-fiction for all ages – including burgeoning collections of young adult novels and graphic novels.

These highlights are just that: they represent only a few of the Friends’ efforts on behalf of the Library and the Takoma Park community. The Friends have made a small public library very large in its ability to reach a diverse population, promote reading and literacy, and enrich the lives of its citizens.

Takoma Park Springs for Poetry

By MERRILL LEFFLER

If winter comes, can spring be far behind, wrote the English poet Shelley in “Ode to the West Wind.” Well, winter’s nearly gone and the warming temperatures of spring are upon us with lengthening hours of daylight, birds frisking about, green shoots breaking through the hard ground, and—unique to Takoma Park—poetry posters that once more have sprung up along Carroll Avenue, from Takoma Junction to Old Town, in the city’s parks and playgrounds, and at the community center and library.

This distinctive literary walk, “Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park,” is now in its fifth year. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, in collaboration with Montgomery College’s School of Art and Design, whose second-year students in Professor Andrea Adams’ design class incorporate poems into compelling posters. A small committee selected the poems, this year Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker, poets Sidney March, Ann Slayton and the author of this article, Merrill Leffler.

“This collaboration has been terrific for students, who take on a project that has a great deal of visibility,” says Karen Boyer, president of the Friends, “and for residents and visitors to Takoma Park.” For many, Boyer says, the posters will be the one encounter they have with poetry. Some 30 poems reflect an international spectrum: from ancient Greece, 12th century Islamic Spain, Latin America, Russia, France, England (Lewis Carroll’s “Jabberwocky”),

Italy, India and the United States. Poets include American classics Emily Dickinson and Langston Hughes, and contemporary poets like Rita Dove, Naomi Shihab Nye, Robert Bly, Paul Zimmer and the late Lucille Clifton, former Maryland Poet Laureate. Here is a sample: Clifton’s “Ode to My Hips.”

*these hips are big hips
they need space to
move around in
they don’t fit into little
petty places. these hips
are free hips.
they don’t like to be held back.
these hips have never been enslaved,
they go where they want to go
they do what they want to do.
these hips are mighty hips.
these hips are magic hips.
I have known them
to put a spell on a man
and spin him like a top!*

There’s one special work, never before reproduced in the cadenced lines of a poem: Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. Look for Lincoln beneath the tower clock in Old Town.

If there are poems and designs you would especially like to include in Spring for Poetry, poems you don’t enjoy, or poems you’d like to see spring up in the future, the Friends would love to hear from you. You can find all the posters on-line, along with their locations and posters from previous years, at the Friends website: www.ftpml.org.

Mulch Delivery Available

Takoma Park’s popular mulch delivery is again available for spring gardening – but residents must schedule a delivery soon, as the service is booked well into April already.

The mulch, made by grinding leaves collected each fall in the City’s vacuum leaf collection program, can be used as a soil amendment or a top dressing around trees and plants. Deliveries are available from March through October, or until supplies run out. Residents can also self-load mulch at any time, from the Public Works Yard, 31 Oswego Avenue. Truck loading is done

for a fee, and must be scheduled by calling 301-891-7633.

Delivery is available on Fridays, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., by appointment only (call 301-891-7633 or email tiffanys@takomagov.org). The price is \$45 for three yards, and \$65 for seven or ten yards for City residents, \$65 and \$105 for those outside the City. This year, there is a new cancellation fee of \$15 for canceled deliveries.

Mulch deliveries are made to driveways only. If there is no driveway, special arrangements must be made when you schedule your delivery.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

continued from page 8

“As I Lay Dying” uses 13 narrators to explore the many voices found in a Southern family and community. Addie Burden, the wife and mother to a poor white farm family, is on her deathbed, and friends and family members gather to ease her pain and prepare for her funeral. Her husband agrees to her

dying wish that she be buried among her family in the town of Jefferson. Upon her death, her family follows through with her wish, and we hear from everyone involved in the journey, including Addie from the grave (abridged from comments in “The Southern Literary Review” May 7, 2009).

The discussion will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

LEED CERTIFICATION

continued from page 1

and seating materials use recycled content, Greenguard certified (low formaldehyde/low VOC)

The renovation was funded with federal and state grants and a donation from Washington Adventist Hospital. Its completion has spurred a flurry of special events, including the City’s “We Are Takoma” arts series, IMT concerts and an upcoming film series

(see calendar of events, page 12). It is also used to host weekly City Council meetings.

“We are thrilled we are able to meet the LEED Silver level,” says Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow. The attention to environmental details in the design by Rick Schneider and Chris French of iStudio architects, and the careful treatment of materials during the construction process by David Michaelson and Alex Polanco of Marion Construction were the basis for what is now a wonderful gathering space for the people of Takoma Park.”

POLICE Briefs

Police Chief Commissioners Chosen

Chief Ronald Ricucci has chosen four commissioners to fill vacancies on his Chief's Advisory Board. He says many of the applicants had valuable contributions to make, but since the Board has only 12 members, he had to make difficult choices. Advisory Board members are as follows: Barre Bull, Geneva Green, Renay Johnson, Glenda Kapsalis, Andy Kelemen, Christy Lopez, Susanne Lowen, Terrill North, Sean Tipton, Juan Luis Torres, Jay Ulfelder and Donna Victoria.

New Program Checks on Special Needs Residents

Residents who live alone with special needs are the focus of a new program from the Takoma Park Police Department. Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE) is a service available to residents who would benefit from being checked in on each day. Established Takoma Park Police Chief Ronald Ricucci, the program is similar to a Sheriff's Department program currently in Warren County, Virginia, which was in operation when he was Police Chief in Front Royal.

Recent weather events, Pepco electrical outages and the urging of a City resident, Catherine Tunis, led Ricucci to develop CARE. Residents who need to be checked



The Lion's Club selected Cpl. Michelle Holmes, the Takoma Park Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Officer, as Police Officer of the Year. She will be honored at their annual dinner for police and fire on April 19, at 6:45 p.m., at the Firehouse Restaurant in downtown Silver Spring. Chief Ricucci praises Cpl. Holmes as a very dedicated officer whose hard work has made a difference in traffic safety in our City.

on will register with the Police Department. They will call the police once each day between noon and 5 p.m. If they don't call, the police will call them. If they do not answer, police will send a patrol officer to check on their welfare.

This program is to protect those in need and bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who are not close enough to check themselves. Please contact Cpl. Cynthia Conrad at 301-891-7140 to register.

TAKOMA PARK CRIME

continued from page 1

was adopted, and one received pushback from the Council.

Two Takoma Park police cruisers are outfitted with the readers, and a third can be set up at a particular site by an officer. "These are tremendously helpful, because we get a 'hit' on a tag, we can stop the vehicle. The hit could be for a bench warrant on a traffic ticket, no insurance or other violations. That can lead to identifying the people who are coming into Takoma Park and committing crimes," Ricucci said.

Currently, license tag records are erased at the end of each officer's shift, and the data are not shared with other law enforcement authorities unless a request is made for a

specific tag number. These restrictions on use of the data were part of the General Order approved by the City Council in 2009, when it authorized purchase of three scanners through a grant of more than \$27,000. The General Order also limited the matching of tag information to National Crime Information Center files, Motor Vehicle Administration records of suspended drivers or vehicles, and "amber alert" databases.

Ricucci proposed two changes. First, that the police department be allowed to retain the information for 30 days. Second, that the department be allowed to share information with other law enforcement officials through the Maryland Coordination and Action Center, a terrorism-prevention and crime-solving data base known as the "Maryland Fusion Center."

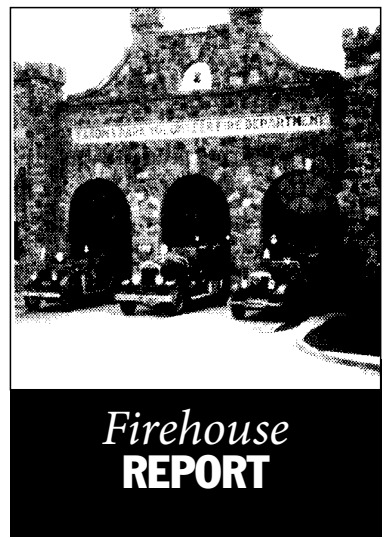
Other area jurisdictions allow data reten-

tion and sharing, said Ricucci, and it can help to solve crimes. He cited a situation in 2010 when his department was able to request license plate information from D.C. police that led to a robbery arrest. "Sharing information like that is a two-way street ... that this city is not doing," he said.

Council members gave a go-ahead to retaining data, but expressed significant skepticism about sharing information through the Maryland Fusion Center. "I don't mind holding the data for 30 days," said Ward 2 Councilmember Colleen Clay, "But I want to talk more about giving the state access to that information. The Maryland Fusion Center is 'owned' by state and local entities ... and you remember that our policy is in effect because they spied on us." Clay was referring to surveillance and spying conducted against civic activists by the Maryland State Police in 2005 and 2006, under the guise of anti-terrorism programs. Information about activists was held in state-wide police data bases, and from there, it was shared with the National Security Agency and the military.

Councilmember Josh Wright (Ward 1) suggested holding a public hearing on data-sharing. "I would want to have, in writing, specifically what the data would be used for," he said. Ricucci responded that substantial restrictions are placed on the use of information in the data bases. "I believe that sharing of information can be accomplished without compromising residents' privacy," he said at the hearing. "There are strict rules and guidelines for its use."

In a phone interview two weeks after the hearing, Ricucci said that his department is now holding data for 30 days. However, he has not yet decided whether to formally request permission to share information with the Maryland Fusion Center, and a public hearing has not been scheduled.



Firehouse REPORT

By JIM JARBOE

As of February 28, 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 137 fire-related incidents. The department addressed or assisted with 510 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 647 this year. Totals for 2010 were 134 and 524 respectively, for a total of 658, representing a decrease of 11 incidents.

Keeping Your Family Safe From Fire

* Do you have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area?

* For the best protection install interconnected smoke alarms in each bedroom and throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

* Do your smoke alarms work? Do you test them at least once a month and replace batteries at least once a year? Consider installing smoke alarms with a "long-life" (10 year) battery. These alarms must also be tested at least once a month.

* Does everyone in your home know the sound of your smoke alarms?

* Do you have alarms with flashing lights for people who are deaf or hard of hearing?

* Are any smoke alarms in your home more than 10 years old? If so, replace them.

* Does your family have a home fire escape plan, and do you practice it every six months?

Smoking Materials

* Do you encourage smokers to smoke outside?

* If anyone smokes in your home, do you have large, deep, sturdy ashtrays?

* Are matches and lighters locked up high, out of sight and reach of children?

Kitchen Tips

* Does an adult stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food?

* Is your stovetop clean - no grease, no spills, no clutter?

* When you cook, do you turn pot handles in toward the back of the stove?

* Do not place hot foods or liquids near the counter's edge.



Sunday, May 1, 2011

8:00 a.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

NEW FOR 2011: USATF 5K COURSE AND CHIP TIMING!

www.TKPK5K.com

East Silver Spring ES • Piney Branch ES
 Rolling Terrace ES • Takoma Park ES



Residents Use Legos, Train Sets to Plan the Future of the Crossroads

By ILONA BLANCHARD, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

As the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Sector Plan, a document designed to influence anticipated development in the area near the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard, moves forward, planners are recommending that developers keep the area green, attractive and people-friendly. The Montgomery County Council will begin working on these general recommendations this spring, leaving details to the Planning Board.

In Montgomery County, plans and zoning act as a flexible framework to support investment and change over time, which means they are more general. The details will go into a more easily amendable document called "Urban Design Guidelines."

In Silver Spring, similar guidelines are undergoing amendment, showing the flexibility of the system. "We are now amending the streetscape requirement document for Silver Spring for the first time since 1992," says John Marcolin, Park and Planning urban designer on the Takoma Langley Sector Plan. Some of the trees that were planted on retail streets in the early 90s have a dense canopy and tend to block retail signage. The branching pattern makes it difficult to prune. [Since] the Silver Spring Streetscape Standards are not determined by the zoning or the Sector Plan for Downtown Silver Spring we are able to address them at this time.

Since February, neighbors and property owners in New Hampshire Gardens, Hillwood Manor, Carroll Gardens and the Crossroads have been meeting to learn about and weigh in on potential guidelines in Takoma-Langley. The biggest area of interest (addressed first) has been the commercial properties that face or abut neighborhoods of single-family houses. The

April Urban Design Guidelines Meetings:

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Recreation Center at 7315 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park.

Thursday, April 7
Thursday, April 14
Thursday, April 21

practice to date has been to build a high brick wall adjacent to or confronting the neighborhood, frequently hiding a parking lot or loading area.

The guidelines will allow properties facing the neighborhood to build office or residential (such as townhouses, stacked flats or apartments) rather than a wall. One of the options would allow a corner store or neighborhood services such as a dry cleaner.

In March, residents worked with 1/20 scale map of the neighborhood—a map that took up the whole room in the Takoma Recreation Center. Wooden blocks, Duplo, Legos and model trees came out of basements, attics and garages and went onto the table to help participants envision the possibilities. Even a Santa Fe model train engine came out to represent the proposed Purple Line light rail. While it sounds like play, hard thinkers were working.

"Why is the height on the Takoma Overlook Property 110 feet tall?" asked Jim DiLuigi, a Hillwood Manor resident.

Answer: "So the existing housing in the condominium and apartment buildings are preserved." These two buildings have approximately the same number of households as the entire New Hampshire Gardens. After a discussion, it was agreed that

new buildings on the property should have their height capped at 60 feet.

Blocks were stacked and moved around, with properties that directly adjoin houses being required to mimic standards regulating the homes in the neighborhood. New development confronting houses across the street could have slightly more height but nowhere near the maximum allowed on the rest of the site.

In March, meeting participants also looked at streetscapes, circulation, open space and landscaping. "Too many choices" was a definite message during the streetscape discussion. Liz Moses, a resident of New Hampshire Gardens, pointed out that "A specific style of paver is not a deal breaker for me as long as the project looks great overall. I just don't care about that level of detail. It is much more important that it still looks classy in 20 years."

Participants did have strong opinions on street lamps. Wider, tapered shades (as opposed to 1940s cloche hats or factory cage protected lighting) were a big winner, especially hanging as pendants from more stylized arms. More detail on the base was also favored over pared down poles.

In April, planners have scheduled time to review the text of the Sector Plan. Park and Planning staff will also participate more in the discussion. At the end of the day, Park and Planning staff will need to edit and format the guidelines and present them to the Planning Board for consideration and adoption.

Once the guidelines are adopted, planners and other stakeholders are hoping investors will be attracted to the area with the idea that they can transform it into a greener, more attractive, people friendly place.

To read draft text and learn more about the meetings, go to www.thenewwave.com or call Ilona Blanchard, Community Development Coordinator, at 301-891-7205.



Azalea Awards, Budget Sessions on City TV

Watch City TV on Saturday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. to see The Azalea Awards. These Awards, organized by Takoma Foundation, are given to community leaders and activists nominated and selected by Takoma Park residents.

On Thursday, April 14, and tentatively on Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m., the City Council will hold special sessions to address the FY12 Budget. If you are unable to attend the meetings in person, watch City TV live or the webstream on demand.

If you are a non-profit or a community organization you can advertise your activities on our bulletin board, and also on the City's facebook page and twitter feed, contact Craigt@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7236. Also, if you would like City TV to cover an event or add specific programming to its line-up, call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to cabletv@takomagov.org.

If you are a middle or high school student and want to get involved in television production, contact City TV to get hands-on experience.

Tree Giveaway Kicks Off Tree Stewardship Program

As spring brings the return of Takoma Park's leafy canopy overhead, City residents are reminded of the beauty and environmental benefits that trees bring to our community. The City's annual Arbor Day celebration provides residents with information about caring for their existing trees as well as the opportunity to replenish the canopy. This year's event will be held Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Takoma Park Library, and, in keeping with yearly tradition, will include the popular giveaway of free seedlings purchased by the City of Takoma Park Public Works Department.

These seedlings are vigorous young trees that typically are somewhat larger than many seedlings given away through other Arbor Day programs. Trees available this year include river birch, black gum, sweet gum, hazelnut, pawpaw, redbud, southern red oak, and white oak. This selection pro-

A Checklist for Stewardship

In order to preserve Takoma Park's urban forest for future generations, here are some simple steps to follow:

- Encourage a variety of species to grow in your yard, especially tall native species such as oaks.
- Allow seedlings that have sprouted in your yard to grow, even if they are in the shade of taller trees. As older trees decline and die out, these young trees will become the next generation of shade trees.
- Keep invasive vines such as English ivy, porcelainberry and wisteria off of trees.
- Give your trees a deep drink of water during dry spells, leaving the hose on at a trickle for several hours or overnight.
- Avoid compacting soil around tree roots through excessive foot traffic.
- Avoid running heavy machinery or vehicles in the root zones around trees.
- For more tips on caring for and protecting your trees, sign up for the Tree Stewardship Program, where you can check your stewardship rating against our expanded checklist and earn a certificate of recognition. Watch for the new Tree Commission page on the City of Takoma Park website, or ask a Tree Commissioner at the Arbor Day celebration for more information.

motes a diversity of species within Takoma Park's urban forest, and as these trees mature, many of them will be able to serve as important food sources for wildlife. Instructions for planting and care of the trees will be provided with the seedlings.

As part of the Arbor Day celebration, the City of Takoma Park Tree Commission will also officially kick off a Tree Stewardship Program to encourage residents to foster a healthy urban forest in the City. Residents who complete a checklist specifying the steps they take to care for the trees in their yards (see a partial checklist, sidebar) will be eligible to receive a certificate recognizing their achievement as Tree Stewards of Takoma Park. The program will serve both as an educational resource for residents who want to learn how to care for the trees surrounding them as well as a means to increase awareness of the importance of Takoma Park's trees. Participation is free.

TAKOMA PARK CALENDAR - APRIL 2011

Do you have an item for the City calendar? Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to most City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the May issue is April 18. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Council Meeting
April 4, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
Regular meeting and city manager's budget presentation. See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda.

Ward 3 Night reception
April 11, 7 - 7:30 p.m.
Community Center Atrium Lobby

City Council meeting
April 11, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

Public Hearing, Budget
April 11, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak, or comment in writing to City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, clerk@takomagov.org. Proposed budget is available for review at the Community Center customer service desk and online at www.takomaparkmd.gov after April 4.

City Council meeting
April 14, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room. See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council meeting
April 18, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council meeting
April 20, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council meeting
April 25, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

Public Hearing, Tax Rate
April 25, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak, or comment in writing to City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, or clerk@takomagov.org. Notice of the tax rate will be published on the City's website and in the *Takoma Park Gazette* in April.

Second Public Hearing, Budget
April 25, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.
Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak, or comment in writing to City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, clerk@takomagov.org. Proposed budget is available for review at the Community Center customer service desk and online at www.takomaparkmd.gov after April 4.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

"Community" Opening Reception
April 1, 6 – 8 p.m.
The Galleries at Takoma Park Community Center. Paintings and mixed media works by June Collins. Poetry reading with Jennifer Tiara, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free
sarad@takomagov.org , 301-891-7224

"Into the Whale" with Jeff Warren
April 1, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
What the animal mind can teach us about the limits of human perception. Free
sarad@takomagov.org , 301-891-7224

Nuclear Free Film Night
"Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang"
April 5, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Free
julieboddy@gmail.com, 301-585-8166

Craobh Rua Concert
April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Based in Belfast, Craobh Rua's music has earned wide acclaim. Tickets, the Institute of Musical Traditions at http://imtfolk.org/html/imt_calendar.shtml.

Art Hop
April 7 – April 10, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Old Takoma area
Visual arts exhibited throughout Old Takoma's shops. Free attendance; art is for sale

Poetry Collection Release
April 7, 7 p.m.
Takoma, D.C. Library, 416 Cedar St., Washington, D.C. Kathleen O'Toole celebrates the release of her poetry collection, "Meanwhile" with a reading. Free.
takomaparklibrary@dc.gov.

Folk Music Coffeehouse
April 8, 6 – 11 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW
Promotes personal inspiration, societal elucidation fellow feeling, fun and music.

Spring for Poetry at the Takoma Park Farmers Market.
April 10, 11 a.m.
Laurel and Carroll Avenues
A reading of poems from this year's selections for the city-wide poetry poster project. Free

"Killer Stilts"
April 10, 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Susan Faucon's WAMMIE Award Winning Theatrical Jazz Project. Suggested donation \$15. Reservations 301-793-6550

Nuclear Free Film Night
April 12, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
"Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment." Free
julieboddy@gmail.com, 301-585-8166

"Julius Caesar, Empire, and the Fall of the Roman Republic"
April 14, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Dr. Arthur Eckstein. Free
sarad@takomagov.org, 301-891-7224

Free Concert Series
April 14, 7 – 9 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake , 7071 Carroll Ave.
A series of monthly concerts co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Folk Festival and Capital City Cheesecake. Free

ReCYCLE Art Fund Raiser
April 19, 5 – 9 p.m.
Mark's Kitchen , 7006 Carroll Ave.
Fundraiser for the public art project in Old Takoma for making recycled bicycle parts into sculpture in Old Takoma

Third Thursday Reading Series
April 21, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Hosted by Martin Fitzpatrick and featuring poets Mary Beth Hatem, Sally Rosen Kindred, Joshua Gray and Don Berger.

Writing a Village
April 25, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Hydrangea Room
Free monthly poetry workshop led by Anne Becker, poet laureate of Takoma Park. Bring a poem and ten copies to share with the group.
annebecker@bodywriting.org

Poetry Discussion
April 29, 2 p.m.
Victory Tower, 7051 Carroll Ave.
Takoma Park poet laureate Anne Becker reads from and discusses her chapbook, "The Good Body," in downtown Takoma Park.
annebecker@bodywriting.org.

Mahbood Len Concert
April 30 - 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
WAMMIE-nominated singer, songwriter, chant leader.
\$15 Fee
<http://www.mahbood.com>, 301-592-0099

FAMILY EVENTS

Annual Egg Hunt
April 16, 11 a.m., rain date April 23
Ed Wilhelm Field
Annual Takoma Park Recreation Department Egg Hunt.
See page 6 for details.

Spring Break Camps
Takoma Park Community Center
The Great Outdoors, activities camp
Ages 5 –11
April 18-22, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Before/after care available
On Stage, musical theater workshops
Ages 6 – 8
April 18 – 20, 9 a.m. – noon. Fees.
More information, page 6.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Arbor Day Celebration
April 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
The grounds of the Takoma Park Library
Includes seedling giveaway
See page 1 for details

Azalea Awards
April 16 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
The Seventh Annual Azalea Awards, to celebrate the heroes among us who contribute so much to our community. Sponsored by "The Takoma Voice" and Takoma Founda-

tion. To cast your vote: www.takoma.com.

Earth Day Celebration
April 17, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
TPSS Food-Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
A celebration of spring and Earth Day, with a full day of festivities at TPSS Co-op and special promotions at local businesses. Free

Takoma Voice Bike Around
April 17, 10 a.m. – noon
Meet at the Gazebo, across from Takoma Bicycles, 7034 Carroll Ave., for a bike demonstration. Ride ends at The Green Commuter, 7320 Carroll Ave. Check www.takoma.com for details.

Main Street Takoma Spring Clean-Up Day
April 23, 9 a.m. – noon
Carroll Ave. corridor
Volunteers all along the Carroll Corridor will be sprucing up for spring. Student service learning hours available.

SENIORS

Field Trip: George Washington National Masonic Memorial
April 12, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Meet at Takoma Park Community Center
Bus pick up for Victory Tower, Franklin Apartments, and Maplevue Apartments only.
Registration is required. Ages 55 and older
301-891-7280. Fee.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
PLANT A TREE

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means you could be saving the aging tree canopy in the City. If you're interested in replacing old growth in your yard, or adding to greenery outside your door, you can save through the City's bulk buy tree sale.

Acting as a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the City is making a number of species available at wholesale prices. Residents can purchase black gum, red oak, willow oak, red maple and sycamore -- all native shade trees that usually retail for about \$350 – for \$195, installed. Sale dates run through May 13.



Order Form

Please include check, including tax, written to Arbor Landscapers Inc. and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation (see order form). Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 by close of business May 13. Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

Species	Price	Quantity	Total
Red Maple (2")	195		
Red Oak (2")	195		
Willow Oak (2")	195		
Black Gum (2")	195		
Sycamore (2")	195		
6 % Sales Tax			
Total amount enclosed			_____