

## NO TRASH HOLIDAYS

Trash collection on schedule this month

# Takoma Park

\*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world...\*

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

## NEWSLETTER

## En Español:

Información sobre las elecciones  
En página 7

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

AUGUST 2011

## Rapist Sentenced 90 Years for Crime at Montgomery College

The man who raped a 19-year-old student at the Montgomery College campus in Takoma Park was sentenced to 90 years in prison on July 15. Nathaniel L. Hart, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to the rape, which occurred on Jan. 26, 2010. The sentence, three times the sentencing guidelines for first-degree rape, means the earliest Hart could receive probation is 2055.

The state's attorney's office called the crime, "a nightmare scenario," according to a report in the *Gazette* newspaper. The rape occurred at 3:30 p.m., when Hart crawled under the locked bathroom stall door and told his victim he had a gun. He raped her, then allowed her to dress and raped her again. According to the *Washington Post*, the victim was able to reach her cell phone and send a text message to her sister, who called the police.

But Hart escaped through a loading dock. Police chased him for five hours, searching Silver Spring and finally locat-

**RAPIST SENTENCED**  
continues on page 5



Takoma Park teens are often out late at night, but Montgomery County Council is considering a curfew that could change that.

Photo by Lauren Poor

## Teens Resist Proposed Curfew in Montgomery County

### Youth in Takoma Park Would be Affected

By Virginia Myers

The July 26 Montgomery County Council meeting included many teenagers, there to protest a new curfew being considered for the county. Proposed by County Executive Isiah Leggett, the curfew would prohibit people under age 18 from being out after 11 p.m. on week nights, and after midnight on weekends. Exceptions would be made for those returning from work, school or religious functions, or acting under the direction of a parent.

Penalties for breaking curfew could include community service, and parenting classes for parents of teenagers who have been detained.

The curfew would apply in Takoma Park, according to Assistant City Attorney Linda Pearlman, unless the City Council votes to opt out.

Many of the teens at the meeting frequent the downtown Silver Spring area, a popular night spot for young people, with a movie theater and eateries along a pedestrian mall. They have used the recent midnight release of the last Harry Potter movie as an example of a legitimate reason

to be out past midnight—teens and others lined up, many in costume, to see the show, which lasted until after 2 a.m.

Police proposed the curfew, which Leggett introduced to County Council, in part because surrounding jurisdictions—D.C. and Prince George's County—already enforce curfews. Police say youth cross over the border into Montgomery County to avoid them. They also argue that a curfew would help them address gang violence by dispersing crowds before fights begin. At a community meeting in Silver Spring, police started the evening with raw video of a July 1 gang fight at Georgia Avenue and Ellsworth Drive, in the downtown Silver Spring area; a 17-year-old girl was stabbed that night.

"This is when we encounter problem people, after hours," said Montgomery County Police Lt. Bob Carter, according to Silver Spring Patch. With the curfew, he said, "We have tools in our toolbox to hopefully lessen the chance of a bigger problem later."

But minors, and many parents, still object: A Facebook campaign against the law, Stand Up to the MoCo Youth Curfew! has thousands of followers, and the National

## Council Delays Hiring Process for Recreation Department Director

### Clarifying Vision for Recreation Services Takes Precedence

By Virginia Myers

City Council has delayed the replacement of outgoing Recreation Department director Debra Haiduven, voting 4 to 3 to more fully discuss its vision for recreation programming before City Manager Barbara Matthews fills the vacancy. Voting in favor of the delay were Colleen Clay (Ward 2), Dan Robinson (Ward 3), Terry Seamens (Ward 4) and Josh Wright (Ward 1). Voting to move ahead with the hiring were Fred Schultz (Ward 6), Reuben Snipper (Ward 5) and Mayor Bruce Williams.

Over the next three months, Council will consult with the Recreation Committee and with residents before finalizing its vision for the department by November 14. Meanwhile, Gregory Clark will serve as interim director, and the department will operate one staff person short.

The hiring delay came as a surprise: Matthews, anticipating the impact of the vacancy on a department of nine full-time employees, was trying to move quickly through the recruitment process. She had already scheduled interviews with replacement candidates. Those interviews were canceled (and related airline tickets refunded by the city).

"We have to decide, what do we really want this department to do, and then we go out to hire the person that is best equipped to fulfill the community vision," said Seamens, who introduced the idea at the July 25 council work session.

Schultz reminded his colleagues that they are not responsible for day to day operations—"Our job is to determine policy, not to presume that we know how to run a recreation department," he said—and felt it would be "grossly unfair to take out the quarterback of the team for an extended period of time and expect the recreation department to function without missing the skills and the leadership of that person." He did feel that further exploration of general recreation goals was "long overdue," however, and worth a "short delay" in the hiring process.

Councilmembers did debate about that delay's affect on staff, who will have to cover additional workload as well as operate in a leadership vacuum. "Losing an entire per-

**TEEN CURFEW**  
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**RECREATION DIRECTOR**  
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Mayor & Council  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

# City Council Action\*

\*Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org).

## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR\*

**Thursday, August 4** - Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, August 9** - Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, August 9** - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

**Thursday, August 11** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, August 16** - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

**Thursday, August 18** - Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

**Tuesday, August 23** - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Wednesday, August 24** - Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

**Thursday, August 30** - Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

\*For the most up to date information, check [takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda](http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda). Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. (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](mailto: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](mailto:suzannel@takomagov.org) at least 48 hours in advance.

## Fee Increases in Place for City Services

Effective July 1, 2011 (except where noted), fees for City services have increased to the following:

### Public Works

Dumpster Permit Fee (Aug. 1) .....	\$30
Driveway Apron Fee (Aug. 1).....	\$40
Utility Permit (Aug. 1).....	\$40
Heavy Trash Pick-up .....	\$10 for three items

### Library

Library Card, Montgomery County resident, TP non-resident.....	\$37
Library Card, non-resident of Montgomery County .....	\$60
Black and white copies or printing, .....	20 cents per page
Color printing.....	50 cents per page

### Police

Meter violation fines (Aug. 1).....	\$40
Other parking fines (Aug. 1) ....	\$5 increase from FY-2011
Police reports .....	\$10
Vehicle impound release (Aug. 1) .....	\$25

### Housing

Development application fees .....	vary
Non-resident workshop fees .....	\$25

### June 13, 2011 – Regular Meeting

**First Reading Resolution CR2011-1 was adopted**, amending the Takoma Park Charter, Article II, Section 202 “Description of Corporate Boundaries”

**Second Reading Ordinance 2011-23 was adopted**, establishing a Facility Maintenance Reserve

**Resolution 2011-28 was adopted**, authorizing continued participation with Montgomery County for the purpose of receiving CDBG and HOME Funds

**The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:**

- Resolution 2011-29 reappointing Christopher King, Lauren Price and Victoria Sutton to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
- Resolution 2011-30 appointing Merrill Leffler as the Takoma Park Poet Laureate

### July 5, 2011 – Special Session

**Resolution 2011-31 was adopted**, authorizing submission of Legislative Action Requests

**Single Reading Ordinance 2011-25 was adopted**, awarding a contract for a replacement of the Library rooftop air handler

**Single Reading Ordinance 2011-26 was adopted**, awarding a contract for installation of phone system, phone cables and data lines for the Public Works Facility

### July 11, 2011 – Regular Meeting

**Resolution 2011-32 was adopted**, submitting the

annual program for Program Open Space Funds

**Second Reading Resolution CR2011-1 was adopted**, amending the Takoma Park Charter, Article II, Section 202 “Description of Corporate Boundaries”

**First Reading Ordinance 2011-27 was adopted**, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 2.12 “Administrative Regulations”

**Second Reading Ordinance 2011-10 was adopted**, amending the Takoma Park Code to provide for adoption of administrative regulations for use of public space and public buildings

**First Reading Ordinance 2011-28 was adopted**, amending Takoma Park Code, Title 12, Trees and Vegetation (Urban Forest)

**First Reading Ordinance 2011-29 was adopted**, amending Takoma Park Code, Title 13, Vehicles and Traffic (Speed Humps)

**The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:**

- Single Reading Ordinance 2011-30 awarding a contract for engineering design of HVAC improvements in the Community Center
- Single Reading Ordinance 2011-31 authorizing the purchase of a leaf vacuum
- Resolution 2011-33 consenting to and approving the Ninth Amended and Restated Local Government Insurance Trust Agreement
- Resolution 2011-34 appointing Daniel Seligman to the Takoma Junction Task Force

## CITY CLERK Briefs

### CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

#### FAIR SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

This is to give notice that on July 11, 2011, the Council of the City of Takoma Park adopted Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2011-1 which amends Article II, Section 202 “Description of Corporate Boundaries” of the Takoma Park Charter. The revised description of corporate boundaries incorporates the Flower Avenue right-of-way as annexed pursuant to Takoma Park Annexation Resolution No. 2010-70. For further information, contact the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912, phone 301-891-7267, e-mail [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org). The full text of the amendment is available for review at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

*Attest: Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk*

#### RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

There are opportunities for Takoma Park residents to serve on a number of City boards, commissions and committees. If you feel you can make a positive contribution, please consider volunteering. Additional information can be found at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees) or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267) or [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)  
Board of Elections (vacancy)  
Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (vacancy)  
Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)  
Ethics Commission (terms expiring September 30)  
Façade Advisory Board (vacancy)  
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)  
Personnel Appeal Board (vacancy)  
Recreation Committee (vacancies)  
Tree Commission (terms expiring September 30)  
Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (vacancies)

### COUNCIL RECESS

The City Council will be on recess from July 26 through September 5, 2011.

### City of Takoma Park Maryland

#### PUBLIC HEARING

#### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

#### Monday, September 26, 2011

7:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium  
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park MD

The City of Takoma Park will be holding a public hearing on Monday, September 26, 2011 to solicit community input regarding priority needs and proposed projects for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

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

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

# Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler

By Kevin Adler

**O**n a lovely Sunday afternoon in April, a dozen people stood near the Takoma Park Farmer's Market and recited poems they had written. Most market patrons surged past, intent on getting their weekly supply of organic produce and racing on to their next activities.

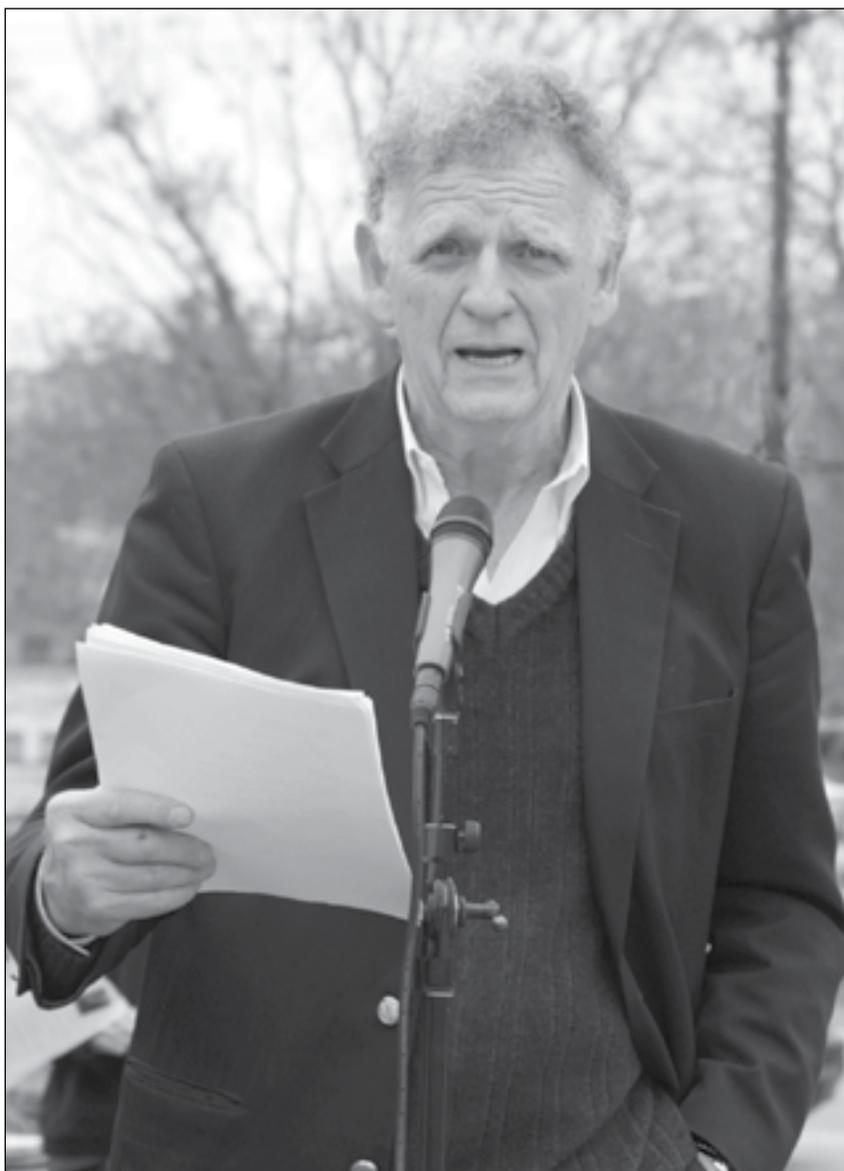
But more than a few people stopped to listen—and that was the point for Merrill Leffler, who helped to organize the readings as part of the Spring for Poetry project. “The arts are a critical part of life,” said Leffler. “They are not a luxury, whether we are in difficult times or ecstatic times. We can enjoy them, learn from them and discover what we ourselves may be capable of. Poetry is a way of reaching in to ourselves and reaching out to others.”

Developing venues for poets to share their work with the public has been a passion of Leffler's for many years, and it led to his selection as the city's third poet laureate, with a two-year term that started on July 1. A resident of Takoma Park since 1977 and an accomplished poet, critic and founder of the poetry magazine (*Dryad*) and publishing firm (Dryad Press), Leffler has been an important contributor to the literary life of Takoma Park.

“Takoma Park has been very supportive of the arts, including poetry, and it's an honor to have a chance to do my part,” said Leffler, who succeeds Anne Becker and Donald Berger as poet laureate.

Spring for Poetry, which debuted in 2007, is an example of Takoma Park's embrace. Leffler and his wife Ann Slayton conceived of the idea of a “poetry walk” as an international collection of poems on posters that residents could read as they made their way around town. Local resident Clair Garman volunteered to make the frames, and Friends of the Takoma Park Library jumped aboard. Graphics arts students at Montgomery College, under the direction of Michele Morgan and Prof. Andrea Adams, produced eye-catching designs. The Department of Public Works pitched in with sign installation. More than 30 poetry posters have been produced to date, and they can be found along the town's main walkways and in city parks.

For people who prefer consuming poetry from a seated position, the Arts and Humanities Commission sponsors poetry readings on the third Thursday of every month and the Friends of the Library sponsors the annual event called “Favorite Poem Evening,” in which all comers are invited to read their favorite poem and comment about what it means to them. As an organizer and participant, Leffler has experienced poetry's gift to both build communities and to challenge people's entrenched ways of thinking and communicating.



Merrill Leffler reading the Gettysburg Address, poem-style.

Photo by Michele Morgan

“What we call ‘community’ can be a fiction, a fabrication unless we have functions and celebrations that bring us together,” said Leffler. “People who are mostly strangers come together for an evening of poetry, and in reading poems that have some meaning for them, and in listening to others, for that time, there is a ‘communion,’ community,” Leffler said.

“British poet John Bailey said that poets write to cheer themselves up and, if they are lucky, someone else is cheered up, too,” continued Leffler, who enthusiastically quotes and paraphrases poets in casual conversation. “The idea is that if you get satisfaction from writing poetry, you want to share it. I want to move people towards sharing poetry.”

Yet, poetry is a challenging art form that demands a great deal from its listeners, said Leffler. “The Roman poet Horace wrote that poetry is sweet and beautiful, that poetry's aim is to ‘entertain and instruct’ (*dulce et utile*). I would add, it is to speak truths as best you can, and often, those truths are not what we might think

of as entertaining,” Leffler said. “Whatever the subject or theme, the poet's obligation is to write in a vivid and fresh language, so that the poems won't let you turn away—they sink their lines into you, like roots, and do not let go!”

Looking ahead to his two-year tenure, Leffler hopes to root poetry more deeply in Takoma Park by presenting it in ways that are convenient for busy people and enticing for new audiences. For example, he would like to redesign the Spring for Poetry posters as postcards that people can pick up from kiosks in town. “Keep them, or mail one to a friend,” he said. “It's a subtle thing, encouraging memory of the poem.”

Also, he would like to follow past poet laureate Anne Becker's model of collaborating with dancers, visual artists, and writers. “I've been doing some thinking about bringing together poetry and improvised music, music that's not traditionally melodic. Possibly, we can bring in video production with it, too,” he said.

At age 70, Leffler is alert to the substantial presence of older residents of the com-

munity, so he hopes to create a Recreation Department workshop for Takoma Park seniors. “Older people look back to their memories and fasten on them, mull them over,” he said. “My idea is to work with those folks to make poetry from their memories, which I've done in other workshops. It's surprising what can come up when you look at an episode from your life and then write about it, really study it, and then share it.”

His ambitions are high, but so are his optimism, energy and network of local poetry enthusiasts. “I don't believe that it's just a small cadre of people who are interested in poetry,” he said. “When we read poems at the Farmer's Market, everyone from adults to middle-schoolers gathered around to listen. Readings at the Community Center have brought in new visitors... One of the bright things about our country and, especially, our town is that we are a ‘culture of becoming’ and a culture of diversity. With poetry, we can amplify what the City of Takoma Park is doing in so many other ways.”

## THE PAST

*wasn't always so. It was a white hot '69 Corvette once or in 1954 a new T-Bird sleek and ebony passing you with wild contempt, or even a Kaiser convertible in 1952, rose-colored knight of peculiar countenance striding on Sunrise highway cast towards Montauk and the sea. Heads did turn in strange surmise.*

*But beauty ages, pal, and even the best lines go soft, the sweetest body (let's face it) cannot hold up. Service it though you will, garage it against life's storms, follow every precaution—you can never do enough. Either fatigue finally sets in—or boredom. Salute their former dignity or stash them in a museum, or write encomia remembering them fondly or sing of glories (like the ancient poets) that inevitably go to ruin.*

*You know the course: the child becomes the man, survives to three score ten, more or less, and then becomes a child again, or worse. Soon he's merely memory and then a blank. Listen up. The day is calling, and the night. Damn the clichés. Full speed ahead. Pull out all the stops. Just drive the poet wrote “into something rich and strange”—and keep the damn thing straight and on the road.*

— Merrill Leffler



## THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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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.

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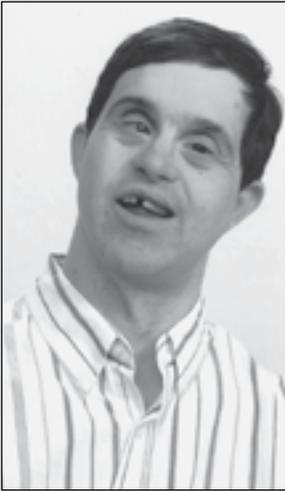


## Paul "Bart" Mayer, III

### Beloved Neighbor Remembered

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

One of the Takoma Park historic district's most unusual – and unusually charming – neighbors passed away last month at the age of 52. Many residents may not have known his name, but had likely seen Arthur Paul "Bart" Mayer III at one time or another over the past decade. Bart lived with his sister, Conny Mayer, and her four children for the past 20 years, first in D.C., then in Jerusalem, where Conny was working for the State Department, and then finally at the Mayer family house on Piney Branch Road.



Bart was a familiar figure, roaming the streets of Takoma Park and greeting everyone with a smile. He never let his Down's Syndrome dim his delight in life. Amazing and often hilarious stories abound about Bart and the people he inspired; here are a few from his sister, Conny:

"Bart just roamed and roamed and roamed around Takoma Park on an endless cycle of visiting almost every shop in town. He used to beset the 7-11 — generously helping himself to Coke Zero's — and we also came to realize he was clever enough to stand in line with whatever change he'd pilfered from around the house and then let his sweet face induce another patron to pay off the bill for him.

"We did, of course, try to control this pesky behavior. We worked with the Takoma Park police who really did the philosophy of working with the community proud. I got so upset with the petty thievery at one point that I dragged Bart down to the station for a tough love episode. Officer Roberto Rodriguez played along but, in the beginning not nearly tough enough to make an impression on Uncle Bart. So — with anyone else in the waiting room probably thinking we were all mad — I snuck around behind Bart to encourage Officer Rodriguez to get tougher. I mimed stomping about, folding my arms on my chest and frowning, shaking a tsk-tsk finger — but Officer Rodriguez couldn't figure out what I was trying to communicate until I pretended to whip out a pair of handcuffs and then point wildly at Bart.

"With that Eureka moment, Officer Rodriguez gave Bart the tough love, forcing Bart to look him in the eye and tell him if stealing was right or wrong, etc. Bart came out of there one chastised being. Scared straight lasted three weeks!

"Next we decided we'd pass out our cell numbers to all the merchants and they could call us when Bart was being a pest or stealing. That worked a bit better and the police also constantly called us to get him from hither or yon.

"All that and yet, when Bart stopped roaming around last year because the Alzheimers was starting and he was having episodic seizures, the merchants called us to see if Uncle Bart was okay because they hadn't seen him in awhile. It was very touching — we definitely did not think that they would have been able to see how sweet and charming Uncle Bart really was.

"Even as he lay dying in the hospital, Bart managed to provoke events that made us smile and laugh. As he had throughout his life, he brought out the best in all around him. The ICU staff eventually gave up on enforcing both visiting hours and the number of people they allowed in Bart's room. Leave it to my brother to charm and inspire people even from a coma."

*A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding her right as a victim of domestic violence to terminate her tenancy.*



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

Effective October 1, 2010, victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault have new rights under the law. Section 8-5A, Rental Housing-Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault of the Real Property Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, 2010 supp., provides affected persons rights they did not have previously. The new law applies to individuals who are the legal tenants or occupants of the property and who have obtained a final peace or protective order from the court and it provides the following protections under the law:

The right to terminate their tenan-

cy with 30 days written notice, mailed or hand-delivered to the landlord along with a copy of the final peace or protective order. Rent must be paid during the 30 days notice period and lease obligations cease at that point. Failure to vacate in accordance with the notice allows the landlord the right to either rescind it and require compliance with the terms of the original lease; OR file a

Tenant Holding Over action that may result in eviction from the rental unit;

The right to have the landlord change the rental unit locks following written notice to the landlord along with a copy of the final peace or protective order. The lock change must be completed by the close of the next business day following receipt of the written request from the tenant. If the landlord fails to change the locks

within this timeframe, the tenant has the right to have the locks changed by a certified locksmith without the landlord's permission. The tenant is required to give the landlord a copy of the new key by the close of the next business day after the locks have been changed. If the landlord changes the lock, he/she must provide the tenant with a copy of the key at a mutually agreed upon time, not to exceed 48 hours following the lock being changed. The landlord may charge a lock change fee not to exceed the reasonable cost of changing the locks. Failure of the tenant to pay the fee within 45 days after the locks have been changed may result in the fee being added as additional rent or deducted from the tenants' security deposit.

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

## COLTA: Landlord Failed to Provide Entry Notice

**Allen/Parrish v. Hillwood Manor Apartments et al (11-2T)**

On June 15, 2011 COLTA issued a decision on the tenants' complaint that the landlord twice improperly entered their apartment and failed to provide them with a report of entry in violation of the Takoma Park Code. The landlord in their complaint response



COLTA's  
CORNER

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

indicated that the tenants had been provided with proper notice of each entry.

The Commissions' decision issued after a May 24 hearing held that: (1) the landlord had violated Section 6.16.140 by failing to provide proper notice before entering the tenants' apartment and failing to leave a report of entry following each entry; (2) the landlord's violations were

intentional and had a severe impact upon the tenants' sense of security; (3) compliance with the entry notice and reporting requirements of Section 6.16.140 is important to provide tenants with a sense of security since landlords are required by law to hold a key to each rental unit; and (4) the landlord was ordered to pay the tenants the amount of \$1,600 as punitive damages for failing to provide proper notice and failing to provide a report of entry on two separate occasions.

The COLTA decision has been appealed to the Circuit Court.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

**Deadline 4 p.m. Tuesday, September 6, 2011**

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

Approximately \$25,000 is available for programming which primarily benefits individuals or house-

holds of low and moderate incomes. An estimated \$100,000 is available for capital projects benefiting low and moderate income neighborhoods. The project could be something that the organization does on its own or in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. Funds would be available in mid to late 2012.

Applications are available online [www.takomapark-md.gov](http://www.takomapark-md.gov).

Deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

For more information, contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7224 or [sarad@takomagov.org](mailto:sarad@takomagov.org).

## SPEAK WITH THE MAYOR

The City Council will be on recess for the month of August. Mayor Bruce Williams will resume office hours on Wednesday, September 7, 2-5 p.m. (by appointment only), and 5-7 p.m. (for walk-ins), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. Beginning September 13, office hours will return to Tuesdays. Residents who need immediate assistance during the recess may contact Peggy Washington, Executive Assistant, at 301-891-7230 or [peggyew@takomagov.org](mailto:peggyew@takomagov.org) to schedule a meeting with the Mayor.



**Bruce Williams**

# Police Say Goodbye to Officer Diesel

Takoma Park Police officers who worked closely with the unit's canine "officer," Diesel, mourned the loss of their faithful dog when he died July 7 of complications from a tumor.

Diesel, born in Hungary in 2003, received a number of awards for his law enforcement accomplishments in Takoma Park. He apprehended well over a dozen suspects and recovered countless packages of illegal narcotics from inside vehicles, hotel rooms and outdoor hiding places. Two were especially memorable, says PFC Ernest Atwell, who partnered with Diesel at the time: the capture of a suspected robber at Eastern Carry-Out, and of a suspected burglar who repeatedly targeted the Game Exchange in Silver Spring. The Silver Spring incident led to search warrants which closed several other cases for Montgomery County.

Cpl. Doug Malarkey partnered with Diesel beginning in 2004, and within that first year the dog made nine felony apprehensions. Malarkey particularly remembers chasing an MS-13 gang member who violently attacked a police officer and ran off with a machete. Malarkey deployed Diesel, following a strong track to University Boulevard, where the highway's hard surface would normally disrupt the scent. But Diesel pressed on. "I began to doubt Diesel but reverted to my training, where we were always taught, 'Trust your Dog,'" says Malarkey.

Across the highway, Diesel continued "at lightning speed" across several backyards to a six-foot, wooden fence, which he tried to jump. Malarkey helped him over, continued the chase over two more six-foot fences to the rear of a house where Diesel switched from "ground scenting" to "air scenting." This meant the assailant was close by.

Montgomery County Police (MCPD) set a perimeter and searched but found nothing. "Some MCPD Officers were looking at me now like I was crazy, since we were now over a mile from the location of the attack on the officer," says Malarkey. But once MCPD cleared, he recast Diesel



**"Officer Diesel," the official canine for the Takoma Park Police Department, died of complications from a tumor. The officers who worked most closely with him remember him as a devoted partner.**

Photo Courtesy Takoma Park Police

“Everyone, including those who are scared of dogs, loved Diesel.”

— PFC Ernest Atwell

and conducted a grid search of smaller structures. When he approached a shed at the back of the house, he could smell the sweat of the assailant inside. MCPD returned and an apprehension was made by Diesel after all verbal commands were ignored.

Although Diesel loved working, Atwell says he most enjoyed performing

in K9 demonstrations for the community. "Diesel loved the attention and the children," says Atwell, who suspects the dog believed himself to be an overgrown two-year old child. "Diesel was always kind and loving toward children," agrees Malarkey. Indeed, when Malarkey's daughter was born, Diesel stood guard when she slept, and loved to wear a T-shirt proclaiming him to be "big brother."

For Atwell, who was rarely apart from Diesel, the dog's death was like losing a best friend. "There aren't any words that could ever describe the devastation of losing Diesel," he wrote in a tribute. "Everyone, including those who are scared of dogs, loved Diesel. His life and career ended with dignity just as he deserved."

heard. Among them is Alan Xie, the County Board of Education's student member who helped organize the Facebook campaign.

Opponents cite studies that show curfews are not proven to reduce crime or gang violence, and some question police motives for targeting minors who cross over into Montgomery County, suggesting that because Montgomery's population has

a higher percentage of white teens, enforcement will involve racial profiling.

At the hearing July 26, individuals and representatives of community groups came forward on both sides of the issue. Councilmembers agreed that the bill as presented needs work, and many modifications were discussed. Among them were exceptions for entertainment venues (music and

student at the college, apologized to the victim and blamed his behavior on mental problems. The victim addressed him before the sentencing, telling him he was "a disgrace to your species." She is speaking out about the crime: the *Post*, contrary to its usual policy of protecting the iden-

tity of victims, published her name, with her permission, and quoted her: "This is capable of happening to anyone, and no one is untouchable," she said. "People can be vicious anywhere, anywhere that you feel most comfortable."

## TAKOMA Arts



Photo by Sam Kittner

### From a Model to a Rainbow

Community activists and art enthusiasts joined Takoma Park City Council and Mayor, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, D.C.



Photo by Richard Holzsgager

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and other community leaders on June 11 at the dedication of the new mural at the Takoma Metro station. Titled, "From a Model to a Rainbow," the 400-square-foot, hand-blown Italian glass mosaic, by internationally renowned artist and D.C. resident Sam Gilliam, is a permanent installation along the Metro wall beside Cedar Street. It was commissioned by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities in cooperation with the Metro Art in Transit program.

### Third Thursday Reading Calls for Poetry Submissions

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission's popular "Third Thursday" poetry series, hosted by Martin FitzPatrick, begins its sixth season this fall. As in the past, the series will feature some of the finest poets in Takoma Park and in the region.

To be considered as a featured poet in the 2011-2012 series, please submit three to five of your poems to the Commission at [sarad@takomagov.org](mailto:sarad@takomagov.org)

The deadline for submissions is Monday, August 15.

For more information, contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224 / [sarad@takomagov.org](mailto:sarad@takomagov.org).

## Local Events, More Music on City TV

As City Council takes its summer break, City TV will cover more music, poetry, art and information. During the usual Council time slots—Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and Fridays at noon—look for broad coverage of vibrant local events.

The rest of City TV's programming will include the latest Takoma Park JazzFest performances, including Dara Tucker, the Jazz Academy and Chuck Redd and Frank Vignola giving tribute to Charlie Byrd.

If you are a non-profit or a community organization you can advertise your activities on our bulletin board. Also, if you would like City TV to cover an event or add specific programming to its line-up, call 301-891-7118 or e-mail [cabletv@takomagov.org](mailto:cabletv@takomagov.org).

Do you have an idea for a production? Are you missing some type of programming you'd like City TV to add? Call us or e-mail us with your suggestions.



## TEEN CURFEW

continued from page 1

Youth Rights Association has spoken against the measure. Many of the local teen opponents are far from the gang stereotype: they are good students with supportive parents who are savvy enough to come to political meetings where their voices will be

## RAPIST SENTENCED

continued from page 1

ing him at the Days Inn on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, where he had broken into one of the rooms.

In court Hart, who was once a



# City Elections Approach

*It's an election year in Takoma Park. To get ready to vote in the November 8 election for Mayor and all six Councilmembers, take a look at the following information regarding nominations, voting rules and registration deadlines.*



## Voter Registration for Takoma Park residents – U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens

To vote in the election on November 8, a voter must be a qualified voter of the city and must have resided within the corporate limits of the City of Takoma Park for 30 days immediately preceding the election. The voter registration cut-off date is October 10. Changes of address must also be filed by this date. Voter registration or change of address forms are available in the Takoma Park Community Center.

## Thinking About Running for Office?

Candidates for Mayor or Councilmember who wish to have their names placed on the ballot for the November 8 election must receive a nomination and a second at the Nominating Caucus on October 4. Contact the City Clerk for an information package for candidates.

Candidates for the office of Mayor must have resided in the City for at least six months immediately preceding his/her election, and must be a qualified voter of the city. The Mayor must maintain principal residence in the City during his/her term of office. If the Mayor changes his/her principal residence from the City, the Mayor's term shall be immediately terminated and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Section 308 of the City Charter. The Mayor is prohibited from holding other publicly elected offices during his/her term of office, and is prohibited from serving on any city board, commission, or other body that has authority to adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes.

Candidates for the office of Councilmember shall have resided in the City (and ward from which they are elected) for at least six months immediately preceding their election and shall be qualified voters of the City. The Councilmembers shall maintain their principal residence in the City and in their ward during their term of office. If a Councilmember changes his/her principal residence from the City or from the ward from which the Councilmember was elected, the Councilmember's term shall be immediately terminated and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Section 308 of the City Charter. The Councilmembers are prohibited from holding other publicly elected offices during the term of office, and are prohibited from serving on any City board, commission, or other body that has authority to adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes.

## Nominating Caucus

The Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, to accept nominations of candidates for Mayor and Councilmember. The Nominating Caucus

## 2011 Election Calendar

- ☐ Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.** - Nominating Caucus
- ☐ Friday, October 7, 5 p.m.** - Deadline for candidates nominated at Caucus to withdraw.
- ☐ Monday, October 10** - Voter registration cut-off date.
- ☐ Tuesday, November 1, 4 p.m.** - Last day to make application for regular absentee ballot
- ☐ Wednesday, November 2** - Late absentee balloting begins
- ☐ Friday, November 4, 5 p.m.** - Any write-in candidate for Mayor or Councilmember who wishes to be pre-registered as a

will be held in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center–Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Only qualified voters of the City may participate in the Nominating Caucus. To participate in the caucus, your registration or change of address form must be in the hands of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or for non-U.S. Citizens, voter registration applications must be received by the City Clerk, by the close of day (5 p.m.) on Monday, October 3.

Nominations of candidates for Mayor shall be made on motion by any qualified voter of the City, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the City, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for Councilmember shall be made on motion of any qualified voter of her/his ward, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of his/her ward, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. Any nominated candidate may decline a nomination during the nomina-

tion meeting. A person may only accept a nomination of one City office. The name of each person nominated for the office of Mayor and Councilmember shall be placed upon the official ballot unless he/she shall file a declination with the City Clerk within three days after his/her nomination.

write-in candidate and to have his/her name posted in the voting booth for the purpose of identifying him/her as a candidate for office, must file his/her name with the City Clerk by this deadline.

**☐ Tuesday, November 8, ELECTION DAY, Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.** at the Community Center. Absentee ballots must be received by the City Clerk prior to the closing of the polls.

**☐ Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.** - Special meeting of the City Council to receive the certification of the election results.

**☐ Monday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.** - Inauguration - Mayor and Councilmembers take office

Any person nominated as a candidate must meet the qualifications of the office for which she/he is nominated.

A sample ballot and information about candidates for office will be published in the November issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter.

## Election Day

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 is Election Day. The election will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

City elections are nonpartisan, and no party labels will be displayed on the ballot. Write-in votes are permitted in city elections. A voter may write in the name

of any [candidate] person for the office of Mayor or Councilmember in the method provided by the City Clerk on election day.

## Instant Runoff Voting in City Elections

The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 to adopt an instant runoff voting system for elections. Voters will have the opportunity to rank candidates by order of choice. The candidate receiving a majority of votes for Mayor shall be declared elected. The candidate for Council receiving a majority of votes in each ward shall be declared elected.

The first choice marked on each ballot shall be counted initially as one vote. If any candidate receives a majority of the first choices, that candidate shall be declared elected.

If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, the judges of election shall conduct an instant runoff consisting of additional rounds of ballot counting. In every round of counting, each ballot is counted as one vote for that ballot's highest ranked advancing candidate. "Advancing candidate" means a candidate for that office who has not been eliminated. A candidate receiving a majority of valid votes in a round shall be declared elected.

More information on instant runoff voting is available on the City of Takoma Park website: [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

## Election Judges Needed

The Takoma Park Board of Elections is seeking qualified voters to serve as election judges for the election. Expect long hours and hard work that will prove to be both rewarding and exciting!

Persons who have experience as judges or have bilingual abilities are urged to apply. Registered voters of Takoma Park who are not citizens of the United States are also encouraged to apply.

A Takoma Park election judge may not be a candidate for elective office, nor serve as a campaign manager or treasurer, nor take any other part in a campaign for a candidate or ballot initiative.

Election judges serve during the entire election and must attend one scheduled training prior to the election. Election judges are paid \$135 for their service. A chief judge receives \$175. For further information or to request an application, contact the City Clerk's Office by phone at 301-891-7214 or 301-891-7267 or e-mail [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org). Application deadline: September 16.

**For additional information about any facet of the election, contact the City Clerk's Office at [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org) or by calling 301-891-7267 or 301-891-7214**



# El Método de las Elecciones Municipales

Es el año de elecciones en Takoma Park. Preparese para votar en la elección el 8 de noviembre para elegir un Alcalde y seis Miembros del Consejo, leyendo la siguiente información sobre nominaciones, las reglas de votación y la fecha límite para registrarse como votante.



## Registración de Votantes para Residentes de Takoma Park – Ciudadanos Americanos y No Ciudadanos Americanos

Para votar en la elección el 8 de noviembre, el votante tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en la ciudad de Takoma Park y haber residido en la ciudad por 30 días inmediatamente antes del día de la elección. La fecha límite para registrarse para votar es el 10 de octubre. Aviso de cambio de domicilio también tendrán que ser sometidos para esta fecha. Se pueden obtener formulario de registración de votante o cambio de domicilio en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma

## ¿Está Pensando en Presentarse como Candidato?

Candidatos para el cargo de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo que desee tener su nombre en la boleta electoral para la elección del 8 de noviembre, tendrá que haber recibido una nominación y esa nominación tiene que haber sido apoyada por un segundo votante en la Reunión Electoral el 4 de octubre. Contacte la Secretaría Municipal para obtener información adicional para candidatos.

Candidatos para el cargo de Alcalde tendrán que haber residido en la ciudad por lo menos seis meses inmediatamente antes de su elección y tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en Takoma Park. El Alcalde tendrá que mantener su residencia principal en la ciudad durante su cargo. Si el Alcalde cambia su domicilio principal fuera de la ciudad, su cargo de Alcalde será terminado inmediatamente y el cargo vacante se llenará como indica la Sección 308 del Código de la Ciudad. Se le prohíbe al Alcalde mantener otro cargo público electoral durante su cargo y se le prohíbe servir en cualquier otro consejo de la ciudad, delegación, u otro grupo que tenga autorización de juzgar o resolver disputas.

Candidatos para Miembro del Consejo tendrán que haber residido en la ciudad (y el distrito de donde eran elegidos) por lo menos seis meses inmediatamente antes de su elección y tendrá que ser un votante capacitado en Takoma Park. Los Miembros del Consejo tendrán que mantener su residencia principal en la ciudad durante su cargo. Si algún miembro cambia su domicilio principal fuera de la ciudad o distrito en el cual fue elegido, su cargo como Miembro del Consejo será terminado inmediatamente y el cargo vacante se llenará como indica la Sección 308 de el Código de la Ciudad. Se les prohíbe a los Miembros del Consejo mantener otro cargo público electoral durante su cargo y se les prohíbe servir en cualquier otro consejo de la ciudad, delegación, u otro grupo que tenga autorización de juzgar o resolver disputas.

## Reunión Electoral

La Reunión Electoral empezará a las

## El Calendario de la Elección Municipal del 2011

**Martes, 4 de octubre, 7:30 p.m.** – Reunión Electoral

**Viernes, 7 de octubre, 5:00 p.m.** – Fecha límite para retirarse como candidato nominado en la reunión electoral.

**Lunes, 10 de octubre** – Fecha límite para registrarse para votar.

**Martes, 1 de noviembre, 4:00 p.m.** – Fecha límite para solicitar papeleta regular de voto ausente.

**Miércoles, 2 de noviembre** – Comienza la votación de emergencia por boleta en ausencia.

**Viernes, 4 de noviembre, 5 p.m.** – Fecha límite para cualquier candidato autonominado para el puesto de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo que desee

ser pre-registrado como candidato autonominado y para tener su nombre colocado en la cabina electoral para identificarlo/la como candidato, tendrá que someter su nombre a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal.

**Martes, 8 de noviembre, DIA DE LA ELECCIÓN MUNICIPAL, las urnas de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.** en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park. Esta es la fecha y hora límite para someter boletas en ausencia a la Secretaría Municipal.

**Miércoles, 9 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m.** – Junta especial del Consejo de la Ciudad para recibir certificación de los resultados de la elección.

**Lunes, 21 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m.** – Inauguración – Alcalde y Miembros del Consejo tomarán su puesto.

7:30 p.m. el martes, 4 de octubre para aceptar nominaciones de candidatos para el puesto de Alcalde y Miembros del Consejo. La Reunión Electoral se llevará a cabo en el Auditorio del Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park – Sam Abbot Citizen's Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Solamente votantes capacitados en Takoma Park podrán participar en la Reunión Electoral. Para participar en la Reunión Electoral, su aplicación de registración para votar y cambio de domicilio tendrá que haber sido recibido por la Oficina de Elecciones del Condado de Montgomery, o para los Ciudadanos No Americanos, aplicación de registración para votar tendrá que haber sido recibida por la Secretaría Municipal, con fecha límite del lunes, 3 de octubre antes de las 5 p.m.

Nominaciones de candidatos para el puesto de Alcalde se hará con una moción hecha por cualquier votante capacitado de la Ciudad de Takoma Park, y si la nominación es apoyada por un segundo votante capacitado de la Ciudad de Takoma Park, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. Nominaciones de cada candidato para Miembro del Consejo se hará con una moción por cualquier votante capacitado en el distrito de tal candidato. Cualquier candidato nominado podrá rechazar una nominación durante

la junta de nominaciones. Una persona podrá aceptar solamente una nominación de un sólo puesto. El nombre de cada persona nominada por el puesto de Alcalde y Miembro de Consejo será nombrado en la boleta oficial a menos que esa persona entregue una carta por escrito rechazando la nominación en la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal dentro de los tres días después de su nominación.

Cualquier persona nominado como candidato para el puesto de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo tendrá que satisfacer los requisitos de tal puesto.

Una boleta de muestra e información sobre los candidatos será publicada en el periódico de Takoma Park en el mes de noviembre.

## Día de la Elección

Martes, 8 de noviembre del 2011 es el día de la elección. La elección tomará a cabo en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Las urnas de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. Las elecciones de la ciudad son no partidistas, y no habrá rótulos de partidos en las boletas. Voto por candidato no oficial escritos en la boleta se permite en las elecciones de la ciudad. El votante podrá escribir el nombre de cualquier (candidato) persona par el cargo de

Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo siguiendo el metodo dado por la Secretaria Municipal en el día de la elección.

## Segunda Vuelta de Elecciones Inmediata

El Consejo de la Ciudad enmendó la Carta Municipal en el 2006 adoptando un sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones. Se le permitirá a los votantes clasificar a los candidatos según su orden de preferencia. El candidato para el cargo de Alcalde que reciba la mayoría de los votos será declarado como elegido. El candidato para Miembro del Consejo que recibe la mayoría de los votos en cada distrito será declarado como elegido.

La primera selección marcada en la boleta será contada inicialmente como un sólo voto. Si un candidato recibe la mayoría de esas primeras selecciones, ese candidato será declarado como elegido.

Si ninguno de los candidatos es elegido por la mayoría como primera opción, los jueces conducirán una segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediata que consiste en vueltas adicionales para contar las boletas. En cada vuelta donde se cuenta las boletas, cada boleta se cuenta como un voto para el candidato avanzado que fue seleccionado. "Candidato avanzado" se refiere a un candidato que no ha sido eliminado. Un candidato que recibe la mayoría de votos validos en una vuelta será declarado como elegido.

Más infomación sobre el sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato se puede obtener el la página web: [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)

## Se Necesita Jueces para la Elección

Miembros del Grupo de Elecciones de Takoma Park busca personas cualificadas como juez electoral para servir duante la elección. Cuente con largas horas y trabajo duro que resultará provechoso y emocionante!

Se le incita a personas que tengan experiencia como juez o que sean bilingües que apliquen. Votantes registrados en Takoma Park que no son ciudadanos Americanos también se les pide que apliquen.

Jueces de la elección de Takoma Park no podrán ser un candidato para el cargo de Alcalde o Miembro del Consejo, ni servir como director de campaña o tesorero o participar en una campaña de un candidato o iniciativa de boleta.

Jueces de la elección servirán durante toda la elección y tendrá que asistir a una charla programada antes de la elección. Jueces de la elección recibirán un pago de \$135. El juez principal recibirá \$175. Para más información o para pedir un formulario, comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al 301-891-7214 o 301-891-7267 o por correo electrónico [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org). Fecha limite : 16 de septiembre.

**Para más infomación sobre la elección, favor de contactar la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal: [Clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:Clerk@takomagov.org) o llame al 301-891-7267 o 301-891-7214**

# August Recreation

## Morning Addition

Ages 5 – 11

This before-school program is designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff will be available to provide informal recreation activities and will escort participants to Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or to prepare for their day at school. For more information call Carey Antoszewski, 301-891-7233.

Azalea Room

Takoma Park Community Center  
Monday – Friday 7 – 9 a.m.

August 29, 2011 – June 12, 2012

TP residents \$1090  
Non-residents \$1420

## Afternoon Addition

Ages 5 – 12

Emphasis is on providing leisure and recreation programs utilizing our facilities to include but not be limited to the computer learning center, dance studio, art room, game room, athletic fields, library and more. We have some exciting activities planned this year including: drama, music, art, special guests, sports, field trips, study time and playtime that will enlighten, empower and enrich minds and



**Anna Schmidt makes her way through the obstacle course during Rookie Sports Camp.**

Photo by Debra Haiduven

imaginations. For information call Carey Antoszewski, 301-891-7233. Enroll today, space is limited. Half day "Fun Day" programs are included in the fee.

Azalea Room

Takoma Park Community Center  
Monday – Friday 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

1 – 6:30 p.m. on early release days  
August 29 – June 12

TP residents	\$1,940
Non-residents	\$2,440
Discount for Morning and Afternoon Addition together	
TP residents	\$2,700
Non-residents	\$3,260

Payments are made in four equal installments. On half days of school, After School is open 1 - 6:30 p.m. Morning and Afternoon Addition does not operate on days schools are closed. Recreation Staff will escort children who attend Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School to and from Takoma Park Community Center on whole and half days.

## Dribble, Pass and Shoot Basketball Camp

Ages 6 – 12

Individual improvement, pride and accomplishment are the guiding philosophies of this camp, which covers a range of skills on the hardwood. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit each participant.

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
August 15 – 19  
\$200/week

# Silver Foxes For Active Adults Over 55

## Volunteers Needed To Lead Bone Builders

Bone Builders, a light exercise class for seniors, is sponsored by Montgomery County's RSVP and Aging and Disability Services in partnership with Takoma Park Recreation Department. Volunteer leaders are needed twice per week. Volunteers will receive a full day of free training and ongoing supervision by a master trainer. Contact Shawn Brennan, 240-777-1350 or shawn.brennan@montgomerycountymd.gov.

## National Capital Trolley Museum

Come see some great old street cars from this region and Europe on display in Street Car Hall and complete your visit by getting aboard a real, working streetcar for a fun ride through the surrounding area. Warm weather, dress appropriately. The Museum is accessible, but the streetcar is not wheelchair accessible. Bring spending money for lunch at a local restaurant. Grandchildren are welcome. Meet at Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin, Maplevue and Victory Tower apartments only. Registration is

required. Call 301-891-7280 to pre-register, fill out form by 8/5/11 or earlier. Open to active adults age 55 and older.

Silver Spring, Maryland  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Aug. 11  
\$5

## Senior Day, Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

By popular demand, we will return again this year to enjoy a good old-fashioned county fair with animal and agricultural exhibits, craft shows, commercial vendor booths and festival foods. Bring your lunch or spending money to buy lunch, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Some, but not all, of the fairground's buildings and grounds are accessible by wheelchair. Meet at Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin, Maplevue and Victory Tower apartments only. Registration is required. Call 301-891-7280 to pre-register, and then fill out registration form by 8/12/11 or earlier. Open to active adults age 55 and older.

Gaithersburg, Maryland  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Aug. 16

Free

## Game Show, Let's Make A Deal

Have you been watching other people win games on television over the years and wish you could play to win? Now is your chance. Paula and Faye of the Recreation Department will act as hosts for our interpretation of this popular television game show. Come and play! Registration is required. Call 301-891-7280. Open to adults age 55 and older. See you there!

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Aug. 9  
Senior Room  
Free

## Blood Pressure Screening

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a monthly blood pressure screening. Drop-in. Open to adults age 55 and older. After your screening, please stay for some games of bingo...lots of fun for everyone.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Aug. 25  
Senior Room. Free

## Bingo

Come and try your luck. Win a prize. Drop-in. Open to adults age 55 and older.

12 – 2 p.m. Aug. 25  
Senior Room  
Free

## 2011 Maryland Senior Olympics

The Maryland Senior Olympics, a non-profit organization for pro-active residents aged 50 and above, hosts the 2011 games Aug. 13 – Nov. 6, marking 31 years of helping raise physical fitness awareness for the senior population. For more information about the Olympics and how you can participate in an individual or team sport, go to: [www.mdseniorolympics.org](http://www.mdseniorolympics.org), visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation) or contact:

Edward P. Wroth, III  
Executive Director, Maryland Senior Olympics  
12900 Middlebrook Road  
Germantown, MD 20874

## RECREATION DIRECTOR

continued from page 1

son at the head of administration of recreation for that period of time just seems like a recipe for losing all the gains that have been made by recreation," said Snipper, when Council was considering up to a year of deliberation before hiring. After the meeting, outgoing director Haiduven agreed, describing any prolonged vacancy as having a "huge impact" on staff, and possibly on programming. In the end, Council agreed to produce a final policy by November 14, immediately after the November 8 City Council election and before the new Council takes office.

### Lack of direction

For several years, the Recreation Department has been a frequent topic of interest to City Council, but several members admitted they've fallen short of giving staff clear direction for the program. "I think the vision itself was never clearly articulated by this council," said Seamens. Instead, sporadic conversations would bloom during budget meetings, as when, last year, Seamens proposed replacing much of the department's permanent staff with volunteers.

"At times the Recreation Department and the city manager and staff have been frustrated about not quite knowing what the Council wants as regards to recreation," said Wright. "I think we need to clearly articulate that and put it in writing."

Mayor Bruce Williams got more specific, saying the Council has been "schizophren-

ic" about recreation department fees, with some members saying they should be low, to make programming accessible to low-income residents, and others advocating higher fees that would more closely cover programming costs.

### Moving forward

During discussion July 25, councilmembers took turns sharing their ideas about the changes they'd like to see in the Recreation Department. Clay wants to consider restructuring fees so that the city gets more of a return to fund activities; she suggests a smaller administrative staff, more aquatic programs, better software, more partnerships with organizations like the library, job training for teens and a consultant to provide advice to The Recreation Committee and staff. She also noted that the teen room and game room are too small, and suggested more creative use of that space.

Seamens referred to a 1999 Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee report that called for better youth programs, and wants to look at incorporating stronger partnerships, more use of volunteers and closer integration with the police department.

Schultz suggested raising fees for non-residents, providing scholarships for low-income families, better utilization of the Recreation Committee, better service for the hard-to-serve population – i.e. teenagers – and replacing the worn out Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue.

Several council members said they thought the current Recreation Department has improved significantly over the last few years, praising Haiduven and her staff. Rev-

## Recreation: What Do You Think?

Recreation Committee members will be contacting community leaders about what residents most want in their recreation program. Members also welcome informal input from all Takoma Park residents. Talk to any member you know, or use the information below to contact the chair or vice chair.

**Chair, Jay Keller**  
**Vice-chair, Cindy Dyballa**

jayktakoma@gmail.com, 301-891-2785  
c\_dyballa@yahoo.com, 301-270-9041

Kay Daniels-Cohen  
Jane Hurst  
Denise Jones  
Christopher King

Howard Kohn  
Peter Munger  
Ray Scannell  
Alice Sims

enue has almost doubled, and camps and other programs fill to capacity.

Nevertheless, the staff has felt beleaguered in recent years, and this recent development has created further tension. At the meeting, even those councilmembers who offered praise also suggested there is room for improvement.

"In my mind this isn't a criticism of the job you guys are doing," said Wright, addressing the staff members sitting in the auditorium during the meeting. "You're doing a good job. We're looking to hire a new director. That and the policy decision are completely interlinked."

### Residents urged to comment

To ensure community input, the Council turned to its Recreation Committee, asking that members solicit residents for ideas about what they'd like to see in their recre-

ation programming. Committee vice-chair Cindy Dyballa told the Council much of that work has already been done, in part through the report submitted to the City Council in April. The committee hopes to hold neighborhood or ward meetings about the issue, though none were scheduled at press time.

Dyballa summed up the committee's views this way: "We see a diverse community in Takoma and we want to reach as many segments of that community with recreation services as possible. That doesn't mean we can afford to be everything to everybody, but [we want] to go beyond traditional recreation programs and reach hard to reach populations, like teens in the community," she said. "We have a strong interest in staff and volunteer partnerships to deliver these programs."

The committee will continue to solicit opinions from the community. See box to learn how to contribute to the conversation.

## TAKOMA PARK CALENDAR - AUGUST 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 September issue is August 15. To submit calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org).

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### City Council Meetings

On break for the month of August Meetings resume Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium See [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) for schedule

### ARTS AND LITERATURE

#### Open Mic Mondays

Mondays, 7 – 10 p.m. Everyday Gourmet, 6923 Laurel Ave. House of Musical Traditions-sponsored showcase Sign-ups, 6 p.m. Free

#### Gabrielle Louise

Next to the House Concert Aug. 13, 8 p.m. 7014 Westmoreland Ave. Folk-roots with jazz undertones \$15 advance, \$18 door Students \$10 [lmtfolk.org](http://lmtfolk.org)

#### Deadline, Third Thursday Poetry Submissions

Aug. 15 Submit three to five poems for consideration 301-891-7224 / [sarad@takomagov.org](mailto:sarad@takomagov.org)

### We the People:

#### A Film Series to Promote Conversation about Race & Diversity

Aug. 19, 7 p.m. Seeker's Church, 276 Carroll St. Free

#### All Student Art Show

Through Sept. 9 Montgomery College Department of Visual Art and Design Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus - The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Fine Art Center 930 King Street 240-567-6821

### KIDS ACTIVITIES

#### Library Summer Quest "Campfire"

Aug. 8, 7 p.m. Takoma Park Library Share summer reading, with crafts and camp songs Register at 301-891-7259 or [www.takomaparkinfo/library/registration.html](http://www.takomaparkinfo/library/registration.html) Free

#### Comics Jam

Aug. 15, 7 p.m. Takoma Park Library Read comics on the big screen Free

### SENIORS

#### National Capital Trolley Museum

Aug. 11, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Meet at Community Center Active adults 55 and older Street car history and lunch with the Recreation Department See page 9 for more information \$5

#### Senior Day, Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Aug. 16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Meet at the Community Center Active adults age 55 and older. See page 9 for more information Gaithersburg, Maryland Free

### ONGOING

#### Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Laurel Ave.

#### Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. 7676 New Hampshire Ave. Near the corner at University Blvd.

### UPCOMING

#### Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sept. 11 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Takoma Park Middle School 7611 Piney Branch Road Multiple musicians, dance, crafts, food Free

#### Annual Play Day

Sept. 24 Takoma Park Middle School

7611 Piney Branch Road Two hours of games, music, dance and play. [Takomaplays.org](http://Takomaplays.org) Free

#### 2011 Takoma Park Election Nominating Caucus

Oct. 4 For information about registering to vote, running for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267 or [jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org).

#### Citizens' Police Academy

Thursdays beginning Oct. 6 7 – 9:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Ten weeks to learn about Police Department operations 301-891-7121, [carlam@takomagov.org](mailto:carlam@takomagov.org) Free

#### 2011 Takoma Park Election Voter Registration Deadline

Oct. 11 For information about registering to vote, running for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267 or [jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org).

#### 2011 Takoma Park Election Day Nov. 8

For information about registering to vote, running for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267 or [jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org).

## TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. You can register online by going to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or by calling 301-829-7259. Events take place in the Library unless otherwise noted.

### Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday  
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

### Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday  
10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza  
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

### Bedtime Stories

Monday, August 1, 7 p.m.  
Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes in this half-hour program.  
Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

### Summer Quest "Campfire"

Monday, August 8, 7 p.m.  
Come do a craft, sing some camp songs and hear some stories at our annual "campfire"  
Registration encouraged, so we can be sure to have enough craft supplies for everyone.  
Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this program.

### Comics Jam

Monday, August 15, 7 p.m.  
Kids and grownups -- come read comics on the big screen with our graphic novel guru, David Burbank.  
No registration.  
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

### Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 7:45 p.m.  
In the Library.



## LIBRARY Briefs

### Summer Quest Heats Up for Celebration

It's time for our annual Summer Quest "campfire," which will be held on Monday, Aug. 8 at 7 p.m. We'll begin with a simple craft, then gather around our "campfire" to sing a few silly camp songs and then read some stories. All are welcome, but registration is required so we can ensure that we have enough craft materials for all. To register, go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call 301-891-7259. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our program.

### Comic Relief for the Family

For some cool summer family fun, come to our Comics Jam on Monday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. Dave Burbank, the library's graphic novel guru, will lead the program, during which we'll read comics together on the big screen, with the help of our ELMO camera, a gift of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. No registration necessary for this program, which will conclude with Dave taking "drawing requests" from the audience.



## "Dark" Teen Fiction Debate Continues

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

The often-contentious relationship between parents and teens is mirrored in the decades-old debate over what constitutes appropriate reading for young adults.

This debate was first sparked by the 1967 publication of "The Outsiders," by S.E. Hinton, which is considered the first book truly aimed at teens. Many parents were horrified by Hinton's picture of violent, disillusioned young adults, but teen readers loved the book — and still do.

Since then, the debate over appropriate reading for teens has continued, as adults have attempted to ban books by numerous young adult authors, including Robert Cormier, whose novel, "The Chocolate War" is considered a seminal teen book; Judy Blume, author of books like "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" and "Forever"; and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, author of the "Alice" series.

Now, the debate has flared up again with the publication, earlier this summer, of an essay, "Darkness Too Visible," in *The Wall Street Journal*. In the essay, Meghan Cox Gurdon, the *Journal's* children's and teen book reviewer, contends that contemporary fiction for teens is "rife with explicit abuse, violence and depravity."

"If books show us the world, teen fiction can be like a hall of fun-house mirrors, constantly reflecting back hideously distorted portrayals of what life is," Cox Gurdon writes. "There are of course exceptions, but a careless young reader—or one who seeks out depravity—will find himself surrounded by images not of joy or beauty but of damage, brutality and losses of the most horrendous kinds."

Cox Gurdon's examples include the "hyper-violent" "Hunger Games" dystopian trilogy by Suzanne Collins, and author Lauren Myracle's newest book "Shine," which tells the story of a teen girl living in a small town, where she overcomes her shyness to investigate the brutal beating of her best friend, who is gay.

Both "The Hunger Games" and "Shine" have received excellent reviews from professional reviewers. Collins' three "Hunger Games" books are best-sellers with both teens and adults and also were among the top 10 most frequently challenged books in the country in 2010, according to the American Library Association (ALA). Myracle's books, which include "Ttfn" and "Ttyl,"

also are hugely popular with teens and also are among the most challenged books in the country, according to the ALA.

Cox Gurdon's essay triggered an immediate and angry response by young adult authors, as well as from librarians, booksellers and teen readers themselves. Maureen Johnson, author of a popular young adult novel titled "13 Little Blue Envelopes," created a Twitter campaign in support of contemporary teen fic-

because they are sad and lonely and enraged. They read because they live in an often-terrible world. They read because they believe, despite the callow protestations of certain adults, that books—especially the dark and dangerous ones—will save them."

In her essay, Cox Gurdon acknowledged "the argument in favor of such novels is that they validate the teen experience....If a teen has been abused, the logic follows, reading about another teen in the same straits will be comforting. Yet it is also possible — indeed, likely — that books focusing on pathologies help normalize them...."

Writing for Salon.com, Mary Elizabeth Williams agreed that part of a parent's job is to protect kids. But she added, "There's something almost comical about raising them with tales of big bad wolves and poisoned apples, and then deciding at a certain point that literature is too 'dark' for them to handle. Kids are smarter than that...."

Other critics of Cox Gurdon's essay noted that she focused on only a small slice of the burgeoning teen fiction market. With one exception—this year's winner "Shipbreaker" by Paolo Bacigalupi—she also ignored winners of the Printz Award, given annually by the ALA to the best teen books (to see the winners, go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/printzaward/previouswinners/winners.cfm>).

Several weeks after her first essay was published, Cox Gurdon responded to her critics, re-stating her position and adding: "If the American Library Association were inclined to burn people in effigy, I might well have gone up in smoke these past few days."

Meanwhile, David Levithan, editorial director at Scholastic and the author of several well-reviewed teen novels, told *Publishers Weekly* that Cox Gurdon's essay actually has rallied teen book lovers. Cox Gurdon "is entitled to her viewpoint," Levithan said, "but what she inadvertently released is all of this profound evidence of the worth of what we do."

(NOTE: On June 20, I was a guest of the "Midmorning" show on Minnesota Public Radio, on a program devoted to discussing the topic of teen fiction and the controversy surrounding Cox Gurdon's essay. To hear the program, go to this link: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/radio/programs/midmorning/?date=06-20-2011>.)

**The debate has flared up again with the publication, earlier this summer, of an essay, "Darkness Too Visible," in *The Wall Street Journal*. In the essay, Meghan Cox Gurdon, the *Journal's* children's and teen book reviewer, contends that contemporary fiction for teens is "rife with explicit abuse, violence and depravity."**

tion, using the hashtag #YAsaves. (With Twitter, users "tweet" messages of up to 140 characters; a hashtag is used to mark and categorize topics in a tweet.)

In her initial tweet, Johnson—recently named by Time magazine as one of the 140 top Twitter users to follow—asked: "Did YA help you? Let the world know how!" Within hours, according to an article in *Publishers Weekly*, "#YAsaves" got 15,000 responses from regular readers and from such big-name writers as Judy Blume and Neil Gaiman." Many teens wrote about how reading books of the type criticized by Cox Gurdon helped them make it through the darkness in their own lives, or understand the kinds of challenges faced by other teens.

Sherman Alexie, author of the National Book Award-winning novel "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," formally responded to Cox Gurdon in the June 9 edition of *The Wall Street Journal* in an essay titled "Why the Best Kids Books Are Written in Blood."

Noting his own background as a sexually-abused child, Alexie wrote: "... there are millions of teens who read

## Police Put on Party for National Night Out

Police will pull out all the stops to welcome residents to Piney Branch Elementary School on Tuesday, Aug. 2, during National Night Out festivities. Activities, all of which are free, will include games and music, giveaways, interactive educational activities and plenty of information on safety and crime prevention. There will be a moon bounce, face painting and bike safety demonstrations and tune-ups; officers will show off their vehicles, and mounted police will let residents pet their horses. McGruff the Crime Dog will be on hand as well, teaching children about safety. Parents can also have their children finger-printed.

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), is celebrated by police departments across the na-



tion. It is designed to heighten safety and crime prevention awareness; to support locally-based businesses, groups, and organizations; and to strengthen relationships among community members and between the community and local police department. It is open to all interested

### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

6 – 9 p.m.

Piney Branch Elementary School  
7510 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park

area residents.

Businesses and organizations that would like to be part of the event can reserve a spot by contacting Officer Carla Magnaye, 301-891-7121 or carlam@takomagov.org. Participation is free. Visit <http://takomaparkpolice.weebly.com> for details.



BY JIM JARBOE

As of June 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue assigned to the station have responded to 353 fire-related incidents. The department addressed or assisted with 1,423 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,776 this year. Totals for 2010 were 384 and 1,654, representing a decrease of 262 incidents.

### House Fire

On June 8, at 1 p.m., a serious fire occurred in the 7400 Block of Holly Avenue. The fire caused approximately \$15,000 in damage to the house. There were no injuries. The cause was determined to be a clothes dryer.

### Candles During Power Outages

Avoid using candles for emergency lighting.

\* If your electrical service goes out, use flashlights and battery powered lamps when possible.

\* Don't carry lit candles.

\* Keep candles at least three feet away from anything that can burn.

\* Store candles, matches, and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

\* Never leave a burning candle unattended.

\* Extinguish all candles when you leave a room, the home or go to sleep.

### TPVFD members receive special recognition

\* At the June 8 membership meeting, Chaplain Dave Hooker was be-

stowed TPVFD Lifetime Membership.

\* At the July 13 membership meeting, Jorge Alfaro received a certificate from the Maryland State Firemen's Association, for being the TPVFD Top Responder with 559 calls in 2010. Also Jerry Sanford was recognized for his 20th Anniversary with TPVFD. Congratulations to all!

### TP Truck Wins Parade Award

The Maryland State Firemen's Association Convention Parade awarded the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department's 1894 Hose Drawn Hose Reel the Judges Award, and the New Pumper won the Second Place Award.

### TPVFD Welcomes New Members

At the July 13 membership meeting, the following were voted into membership: Petar Georgiev, Tucker O'Brien and Michael Wheeler. If you are interested in joining the fire department, contact Mike Livingston at the fire station (240-773-8954). All we need is your commitment.

## EMERGENCY?

If you see a crime in progress and need to contact the Takoma Park Police ...

**CALL 301-270-1100**

If you need to report an emergency that involves the need for fire or rescue services, you must ...

**CALL 9-1-1**

## POLICE Briefs

### Click it or Ticket Campaign a Success

The statewide 2011 Chiefs' Challenge, Click it or Ticket, reminded residents of Maryland's seatbelt law, and promoted driver safety throughout the month of May.

The campaign, which emphasizes safety restraint enforcement, ran from May 1 through June 3. During that time, the Takoma Park Police Department issued 481 seatbelt violation tickets.

Police Chief Ronald Ricucci praised the department's efforts, and offered special congratulations to the top four ticket writers: Cpl. Michelle Holmes, Sgt. Richard Poole, Pvt. Peter Marable and Cpl. Jerome Erwin.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Click it or Ticket is the most successful seat belt enforcement campaign ever, helping create the highest national seat belt usage rate.

### Police Academy Begins in October

The Takoma Park Police Department is reaching out to the community with an academy program open to all residents interested in learning more about police operations in the City. The ten-week course is designed to educate residents on the required duties and obligations of a police officer, and it will provide a glimpse into all aspects of the City's police department that make it run smoothly on a daily basis.

The academy will begin on October 6, and run from 7 to 9:30 p.m. each Thursday night. Sessions will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center and there is no cost to participate. The deadline for registration is August 31. Seats are filling up quickly. Contact the Community Outreach Program Officer, Carla Magnaye, at 301-891-7121 or at carlam@takomagov.org to register.

### Summer Heat

Since summer weather has brought excessive heat to the Washington region, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) have issued Code Orange and Code Red Air Quality Alerts, signaling that air pollution concentrations in the region may become unhealthy for sensitive groups.

### Consider:

- Fueling your car only after dark
- Skipping the use of gas powered blowers, weed whackers, or edgers
- Avoiding idling your car excessively
- Avoiding or limiting exertion mid-day
- Carpooling, telecommuting, or taking mass transit to work
- Limiting driving and combining errands
- Waiting for a cooler day to use oil-based paints or switching to non-solvent or low VOC-based paints
- Avoiding using aerosols and household products that contain solvents
- Avoiding mid-day driving
- Conserving energy at home and work to reduce power demand.

To stay safe, avoid exertion mid-day and drink plenty of fluids. Do not leave pets or children in the car unattended. If you become over-heated seek an air-conditioned or shady location for rest. And check on elderly neighbors to be sure they are safe.

Remember locations such as libraries, community centers or other places that have air conditioning, and seek these places out if you are overheated or your air conditioning is not functioning.



The annual Takoma Park Independence Day Parade ran the gamut, from Caribbean music to Girl Scouts, Reel Lawn Mowers to Washington Revels. Float winners included the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 641 for Military/Veterans; Burtonsville Fire Department for fire companies; Finest! Parade Marching Wildcats for Performing Arts; Singo Lodoys USA for Costumed Entries; Cub Scout Pack #33/Boy Scouts of America Troop 33 for Youth Groups; Greenbelt Dog Training Marching Drill Team for Roscoe Award Animal Groups; Coalition for Natural Sports Fields for Wacky Tacky Takoma Award; and Takoma Park Presbyterian Church for the TPIDC Memorial Award.

Photos by Lloyd Wolf