City offices closed for Labor Day
Sept. 5
Trash holidays
No yard waste pickup Labor Day Sept. 5

WHAT’S NEW
Fresh look
We’ve redesigned the newsletter to keep residents informed in the best way possible. And at no extra cost to our taxpayers! Tell us what you think: tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

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En español:
Calendario de la Elección Municipal del 2011 Pagina 4

TAKOMA PARK
A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland Volume 50, No. 9 takomaparkmd.gov

Takoma Park named most walkable city in Maryland

Residents who walk to the farmer’s market, to Metro, to the video store, library, grocery store, bank and restaurants may not be surprised: Takoma Park was recently named the most walkable city in Maryland.

Rankeled by Walk Score, a Seattle-based non-profit organization that rates the walkability of 2,300 cities and 10,000 neighborhoods across the nation, Takoma Park was judged for proximity to and accessibility of amenities like grocery stores, restaurants, schools, parks and public transit. Locals might add that they can walk to two different farmer’s markets (depending on their neighborhood), numerous banks, gift shops, hair salons, doctors, dentists, therapists, a hardware store and more.

Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau support the walkability claim: about 35 percent of the City’s residents do not own a car, 6 percent walk to work and another 30 percent use public transportation (presumably walking to bus stops and the metro station). Also significant are the pedestrian safety and pedestrian-friendly development initiatives supported by City government. Takoma

Ground was recently broken for Takoma Central, an apartment development going up on Carroll Street NW near the D.C./Takoma Park border. This artist’s rendering shows what it will look like upon completion.

Illustration courtesy of SGA Architects

Apartment construction begins on Carroll Street

Newly named development echoes original building plans

By Rick Henry

Construction has finally begun on one of the most visible projects in the area, the property at 235 Carroll Street, NW, between the Takoma Metro station and Old Town. And with the new construction, comes a new name: once known as Ecco Park, the property is now called Takoma Central.

For more than six years the echoes emanating from the project have been anything but harmonious. False starts, redesigns, and just plain bad luck (in the form of the financial crisis in 2008) have been associated with the project since it was conceived.

However, the developers believe those echoes have been silenced and that there is no better way to send the message loud and clear than by renaming the project. They have settled on Takoma Central, an apt name given its central location and potential role in bringing new residents and business to the area. Because of its prime location, Takoma Central has been arguably the most visible and watched project in the City since it was begun in 2004.

Changing the name of the complex signifies “new action, a new process—a sign that the project is really getting started,” says co-developer Jeff Blum of Level 2 Development and in Washington, D.C. Blum and Level 2 are new to the project themselves, having signed on as partners in March 2011. Given that they came into the project fresh and did not have to endure the previous six years of frustration, might their enthusiasm be unfounded?

Not at all, says Blum’s co-developer and the principal project architect, Sassan (Sas) Gharai of SGA Architects. As the project founder, Gharai could be forgiven if he didn’t share Blum’s optimism. Yet he is convinced that this time the project is going to proceed.

“There have been so many false starts and I know people are wondering if this is another,” he says. “But as we progress, people are going to see that this is it. It is finally happening.”

That’s good news not only for Blum and Gharai, but for residents, city officials and business owners in both Takoma Park and Takoma, D.C., who have waited anxiously for the property to be developed.

One of them is Ben Homola, owner of Troy’s, the housewares store that opened last year directly across the street from Takoma Central.

“Being a retailer in the community, I’m obviously excited to see anything that brings in new residents,” he says. Homola says he expects that many of those residents will frequent Troy’s looking to furnish their new apartments. In fact, knowing an apartment complex was being built on the site was a

CONSTRUCTION Page 11

Councilmembers announce they won’t seek reelection

Nominations for Council will be taken at nominating caucus, Oct. 4

As of August 31, three members of the City Council have announced that they will not seek reelection: Josh Wright (Ward 1); Colleen Clay (Ward 2); and Dan Robinson (Ward 3). Residents interested in running for office to represent any of the six wards, or for the office of mayor, should review the information on page 4 regarding nominations and deadlines, and contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 for additional information.

The Newsletter will continue to provide general information about the Nov. 8 City election, and the November issue will include more on the candidates nominated by that time. It is the policy of the Newsletter, as set by the City Council, to limit its coverage of candidates to the printing of the formal statements they are requested to submit for that issue. Look at other local media and neighborhood list serves for supplementary information.
Takoma Topics:

To historic district homeowners: If your property suffered damage (often chimney damage) from last week’s earthquake and/or Hurricane Irene, you are eligible for expedited permit approval. Contact county Historic Preservation Staff at 301-563-3400 for more details.

— Aug. 29, www.facebook.com/takomapark

Proposed regulation to establish reservation procedures and requirements, fees, rules and guidelines for the use of certain public facilities

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to establish reservation procedures and requirements, fees, rules and guidelines for the use of certain public facilities in accordance with Takoma Park Code, Chapter 14.20 Public Space and Public Buildings. This regulation governs use of the following public facilities: Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center (7500 Maple Ave.), Takoma Park Recreation Center (7215 New Hampshire Ave.), Heffner Community Center (42 Oswego Ave.), Belle Ziegler Park (Takoma and Albany avenues), Forest Park (Prince George’s and Elm avenues), Heffner Park (42 Oswego Ave.), Spring Park (Poplar and Elm avenues), Ed Wilhem Field (Darwin Ave.) Lee Jordan Field (Piney Branch Road/Takoma Park Middle School), and Hodges Field (Holly and Grant avenues).

Pursuant to the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12 “Administrative Regulations,” of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City’s intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publically noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review online at takomaparkmd.gov/clerk. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Sara Anne Daines, Clerk, at 301-891-7224, sarad@takomagov.org. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be sent to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912, or e-mailed to clerk@takomagov.org. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Friday, Sept. 23.

Stay in Touch with the Mayor and the City Council

The Mayor and City Councilmembers of Takoma Park welcome your comments and suggestions.

Mayor Bruce R. Williams

Office hours: Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. (by appointment only), and 5-7 p.m. (for walk-ins), in the third floor Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. To schedule a meeting with Mayor, contact Peggy Washington, 301-891-7230 or peggyw@takomagov.org.

City Council


Dan Robinson, Ward 3: 301-908-3504, danr@takomagov.org.

Terry Stearns, Ward 4: 301-585-0190, terryst@takomagov.org.

Reuben Snipper, Ward 5: 301-585-4103, reubens@takomagov.org.

Fred Schultz, Ward 6: 301-434-7080, freds@takomagov.org.
Taking the two wheeler to the city

Biking into D.C. may be easier than you think

by Bob Guldin

For years, I was afraid to bicycle into D.C. Even though I was a regular weekend biker, the idea of bicycling through unknown territory made me nervous. "What if I get lost?" I wondered. "What if dangerous youth gangs stalk the streets?"

I finally asked for advice from some neighbors who did bike to work, studied some maps, mustered my courage, and found out it wasn't that hard.

Since then, I've biked to work in Dupont Circle, Metro Center, the National Mall, even to Crystal City in Arlington, Va. Despite a few flat tires and bruises, I've always made it home in one piece.

So if you've been thinking about bicycling to work, or for that matter, to the movies, the Smithsonian or a friend's house in D.C. but have hesitated, here's some practical info that may smooth those bumps in the road.

Your first question may be, "Is it safe?" Generally, yes. If you use the bike routes outlined here, you'll find that the streets are wide enough to accommodate both cars and bikes, and that traffic is fairly light, even during rush hour.

As for street crime, it's quite rare, especially during daylight. (It's safer in all ways to bike during the day.) In addition, most types of street crime have been gradually decreasing in the District in recent years. Of course, you should keep a careful eye on cars, obey traffic laws and wear a helmet.

For people biking downtown for the first time, you may want to try out your route on a weekend when you can take your time. That way you can scope out the terrain, and if you make a wrong turn, you've got plenty of time to get back on track.

It will take most people about 35-40 minutes to go from Takoma Park to Metro Center, and perhaps five minutes more coming back, because of the uphill climb.

The Best Bikeway

Experienced Takoma Park bikers tend to agree that the best routes into the city start with a simple but non-obvious combination of D.C. streets — 3rd Street, N.W. and Kansas Avenue. Together, these two streets get you more than halfway to downtown.

If you're starting from Takoma Park Old Town, ride south on Maple (or Laurel or Willow) to Aspen Street. Turn right on Aspen, go under the railroad tracks (never mind the construction) and make an immediate left onto Blair Boulevard.

Go south on Blair just 20 yards, then make a gentle right turn onto 3rd Street. Third is a great biking street. It takes you due south, has bike lanes part of the way, and has little through traffic. Also, much potential cross traffic is blocked, first by the Takoma Recreation Center, Coolidge High School, and a few blocks later by Fort High School, and a few blocks later by Fort Slocum Park. Streets without cross traffic are prized by bikers.

Go around a mile and a half on 3rd, cross the wide Missouri, then make a gentle right turn (about two o'clock) onto Kansas Avenue. You are now on another wide street with little traffic and with some bike lanes marked on the pavement.

On Kansas, after the first ¼ mile, bikers will start to split off on different south-bound streets.

To Capitol Hill and the Mall

If your destination is in or around Capitol Hill, turn left from Kansas onto 9th Street, N.W. Fifth is wide enough, has little traffic, and is surprisingly scenic.

Proceed carefully through Grant Circle (New Hampshire Avenue) and continue due south on 5th. Fifth Street turns into Park Place, N.W., and you'll see two nice lakes on your left on the grounds of the National Soldiers' and Airmen's Home.

Continue south and you'll pass through a busy intersection with Irving Street and Michigan Avenue. Stay in the bike lane as it curves around, and you'll find yourself going south again on Park Place, with scenic McMillan Reservoir on your left, Howard University on your right, and very little cross-traffic.

You'll soon be on 4th Street, N.W., in the old neighborhood, Ledroit Park. At U Street, turn right, go two blocks, and turn left onto 6th Street, the smoothest sailing through big avenues like Florida, Rhode Island and New York.

At this point, you can continue on 6th to go past Chinatown, right down to the Mall and the National Gallery. You're not far from the Hirshhorn, Air and Space and all the rest.

A couple of final thoughts:

If you're new to urban biking, watch other cyclists and see what they do.

If they all cruise through one intersection and come to a full stop at the next, there's probably a reason for that. You can also ask other cyclists for advice (like how do I get around 395?).

But if you're headed to the business side of Capitol Hill and its numerous federal agencies, your best move from 6th St. is to turn left on G Street, go two blocks, and then right on 4th Street, N.W. Fourth will take you into the belly of the beast, including the Capitol itself.

To Metro Center, Dupont Circle

If you're headed toward Metro Center and downtown D.C. (as in K Street), instead of turning left onto 3rd from Kansas, continue down Kansas, gliding smoothly through Sherman Circle, getting back on Kansas, and going through Georgia Avenue. Kansas ends at 13th Street, N.W.

Caution: 13th is not a fun street to bike on. It's fine for cars, but it's too narrow and busy for bikes. Instead, when you get to 13th, go south (left) on 13th for just one block, turn left onto Spring Road and after one block turn right onto 11th Street. Eleventh is wider, greener and safer than most north-south alternatives.

If Dupont Circle is your goal, try this: When you get to the end of Kansas, make a right onto Spring Road, which will take you to 16th. Surprisingly, even though 16th is a major arterial, it's a good bike route because it has wide sidewalks and lots of curb cuts. It's a smooth ride on either side of 16th between Spring and P Street.

But wait, there's more!

For bicyclists between Takoma Park and downtown D.C., there are other possibilities, too. The most publicized is the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT), which will someday provide a good eight-mile bike route from Union Station through Takoma Park to Silver Spring.

Right now, a smooth, off-road, three-mile section of the trail between Catholic University and a half-mile north of Union Station is complete. But this biker has found the on-street, interim MBT between Takoma Park and Catholic University hard to follow. It's easy to wind up on Blair or North Capitol—no fun to ride—and there
ELECTIONS

2011 ELECTION CALENDAR

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. – Nominating Caucus

Friday, Oct. 7, 5 p.m. – Deadline for candidates nominated at Caucus to withdraw.

Monday, Oct. 10 – Voter registration cut-off date.

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 4 p.m. – Last day to make application for regular absentee ballot

Wednesday, Nov. 2 – Late absentee balloting begins

Friday, Nov. 4, 5 p.m. – Any write-in candidate for Mayor or Council Member

who wishes to be pre-registered as a 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, Nov. 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, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. – Special meeting of the City Council to receive the certification of the election results.

Monday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. – Inauguration – Mayor and Councilmembers take office

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 votante ausente.

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

Viernes, 4 de noviembre, 5:00 p.m. – Fecha límite para cualquier candidato autonominado para el puesto de Alcalde o Miembro del Concejo

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

Martes, 8 de noviembre, DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN MUNICIPAL, las urnas de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7:00 a.m. a 8:00 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, 6:30 p.m. – Junta especial del Concejo para recibir certificación de los resultados de la elección.

Lunes, 21 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m. – Inauguración – Alcaldes y Miembros del Concejo tomarán su puesto.

SOLICITAR UNA APLICACIÓN PARA RECIBIR UNA BOLETA AUSENTE. Las solicitudes ahora están disponibles en línea en www.takomapark.gov.
Preparing for Hurricane Season 2011

Just before Hurricane Irene hit the East Coast, NOAA issued its updated 2011 Atlantic hurricane season outlook, predicting frequent and intense hurricane activity from August through October. The prediction until Nov. 30 is for 14 to 19 named storms (with top winds of 39 m.p.h. or higher), including seven to ten hurricanes (74 m.p.h. or higher), of which three to five could be major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5, at least 111 m.p.h.).

What does this mean for residents of Takoma Park? Hurricanes cause damage through extensive rains and floods, through high winds and through associated weather events such as tornados and thunderstorms. These forces of nature may threaten homes and most frequently will result in prolonged power outages in our area. These outages may be accompanied by other emergencies, such as impassable streets, and lack of water and food.

What can residents of Takoma Park do?

Step 1: Build A Kit / To-Go Bag

Get or create an emergency supply kit, which includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries, clothes, a mechanical can opener, a first aid kit and medicines. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car in case you are told to evacuate.

Step 2: Make a Plan

Create a family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency. You should consider: evacuation plans, family communications, utility shut-off and safety and safety skills. Have an out-of-town communication number to leave messages.

Step 3: Be Informed

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: lightning, tornados, flooding, storm surge, high winds, even landslides or mudslides can be triggered in mountainous regions. Look carefully at the safety actions associated with each type of hurricane hazard and prepare your family disaster plan accordingly. But remember this is only a guide. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

Special Needs

Get your children involved in preparation, think of people with disabilities and other access and functional needs and prepare care for pets.

What sort of hurricane is coming?

Familiarize yourself with the terms used to identify a hurricane as follows: A hurricane watch means a hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate. Monitor local radio and television news outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments. A hurricane warning is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately.

Hurricanes are classified into five categories:

- Category 1: Wind speed 74 – 95 m.p.h., dangerous winds will produce some damage, minor damage to exterior of homes, toppled tree branches, uprooting of smaller trees, extensive damage to power lines and power outages.
- Category 2: Wind speed 96 – 110 m.p.h., extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage, major damage to exterior of homes, uprooting of small trees and many roads blocked, power outages for long periods of time—days to weeks.
- Category 3: Wind speed 111 – 130 m.p.h., devastating damage will occur, extensive damage to exterior of homes, many trees uprooted and many roads blocked, extremely limited availability of water and electricity.
- Category 4: Wind speed, 131 – 155 m.p.h., catastrophic damage will occur; loss of roof structure and/or some exterior walls, most trees uprooted and most power lines down, isolated residential due to debris pile up, power outages lasting for weeks to months.
- Category 5: Wind speed more than 155 m.p.h., atrophic damage will occur; a high percentage of homes will be destroyed, fallen trees and power lines isolate residential areas, power outages lasting for weeks to months; most areas will be uninhabitable.

Plan to Protect Property

Cover all of your home’s windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds. Bring all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down inside. Keep trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind resistant, and close shutters.

Turn off utilities as instructed. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed. Turn off propane tanks. Consider a generator for emergencies. Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage, otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed. Turn off propane tanks. Consider a generator for emergencies. Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage, it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.

Water and Food

Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water. Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency by visiting www.foodsafety.gov. For further information hurricanes.gov/prepare and at FEMA’s ready.gov.

Police Department Hosts National Night Out

The Takoma Park Police Department’s National Night Out hosted special guests, Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley on Aug. 2. The event, a combination of activities like moon bounce, face painting and games, with informational services on safety and crime prevention, drew a lively crowd of residents to Piney Branch Elementary School. The nationally celebrated event is designed to strengthen ties among police, residents, local businesses and other organizations. From left, Maryland State Police Col. Marcus L. Brown, Gov. Martin O’Malley, Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams and Takoma Park Police Chief Ronald Ricucci. Photo by Cathy Plevy

By Jim Jarboe

Fire, by the numbers

As of July 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 419 fire-related incidents. The department addressed or assisted with 1,644 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,063 this year. Totals for 2010 were 469 and 1,954, representing a decrease of 360 incidents.

Evening fire damages Hickory Avenue home

On July 24, at 5:45 p.m., a serious fire occurred in the unit block of Hickory Avenue. The fire caused major damage to the first, second floors and attic of the house and to a neighboring house as well. Two fire fighters received minor injuries. Upon arrival of the first unit, they noticed heavy smoke coming from the rear. When they reached the rear, they found fire from the porch to the attic. The fire was under control within an hour. The cause was a possible discarded cigarette in the mulch.

Lightning Strikes House

On August 21, at 4:21 p.m. during a serious storm, lightning struck a house in the 7700 block of Garland Avenue. When fire fighters from the Takoma Park station arrived on the scene within minutes, they found smoke showing from the roof. Units also from Silver Spring, Chillum-Adelphia and Hyattsville responded. The fire quickly spread from the attic to the second floor. An additional alarm was sounded for more units. Hillamale, Kensington, Wheaton Rescue Squad and Walter Reed responded. Fire was under control within an hour. The fire caused major damage. No injuries were reported. The last unit cleared the scene at 8:15 p.m.

Sept. 11 Remembered

On Sunday, Sept. 11, at 8:30 a.m., the TPVFD is planning a 10th anniversary ceremony to pay tribute to the first responders and the people who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa./Flight 93. It will be held at the fire station.

TPVFD members honored for service

- Jerry Sanford was awarded a TPVFD Lifetime Membership at the August 10 membership meeting.
- Life member Richard “Busty” Willey was recognized for his 30th anniversary with TPVFD at the August 10 membership meeting.
- TPVFD Chaplain Dave Hooker was appointed assistant chaplain for the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association at its July 21 meeting.

New member joins the TPVFD

At the August 10 membership meeting, Brian Jagat was voted into membership. If you are interested in joining the fire department, contact Mike Livingston at the fire station (240-773-8954).
RECREATION

TP YOUTH CHORUS
Ages 8 – 12
In this “Glee”-like ensemble, Master Teaching Artist Lisa Shaw teaches fun, fast-paced songs and light choreography, weaving true and/or fictional stories from participants’ lives and imaginations into an end-of-session sharing with family and friends. $10 materials fee to be paid to the instructor the first day of class. No experience or audition required.
Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, Sept. 14 – Dec. 14
Ages 8 – 12, 4 – 4:45 p.m.; ages 13 – 16, 5 – 5:45 p.m.
TP resident $125
Non-resident $145

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC PRODUCTION
Ages 12 – 18
Future production engineers and lovers of music can learn the basics of sound composition through Garage Band in Takoma Park’s new multi-media lab, which includes MIDI keyboards and software to record, arrange, edit and mix beats and songs. Participants will compose their own songs to contribute to a class project/CD. Work may also be used for school portfolio, and as preparation for more advanced classes. Six weeks.
Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 13 – Oct. 20
Ages 12 – 15, 3 - 4:30 p.m.; ages 16 – 18, 4:45 – 6:15 p.m.
TP resident $20
Non-resident $30

KILO VIBES D.J. TRAINING
Ages 12-17
Learn how to use D.J. equipment, prepare for rotation, and learn about the multiple methods to record set. Class also includes music theory related to sound, sound quality, basic mixing and scratching.
Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, Oct. 18 – Nov. 22, 5 – 6 p.m.
TP resident $195
Non-resident $225

OUTDOOR STREET HOCKEY
Ages 7 – 13
Based on ice hockey, street hockey is played on foot, with a ball made especially for street play. Develops motor skills, concentration and sportsmanship, but mostly it’s played for fun.
Outdoor basketball court
TP Community Center
Thursdays, Sept. 29 - Oct. 27, 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
TP resident $195, registration required
Non-resident $30
For more information contact Lew McAllister 301-891-7284 or lewm@takomaparkmd.gov

DRAWING
Ages 16 and older
Explore “seeing” as an active, individual process and “drawing” as a thoughtful and intuitive response. Develop your skills in representation, perspective and proportion, while experimenting with personally expressive mark making and color. Includes black/white and color drawing materials, wet and dry media, still life, floral and interior subject matter with studio lighting. Beginners and experienced students. All basic materials will be provided. $20 materials fee due on the first day of class.
Art Room, TP Community Center
Thursdays, Sept. 14 – Oct. 19, 6 – 9 p.m.
TP resident $195
Non-resident $225

CROCHET 101-BEGINNING CROCHET
Ages 18 and older
Crochet basics including a variety of stitches, patterns and a final project. For beginners or those who want to refresh their skills. A supply list is sent after registration; basic materials provided for a fee, due the first day of class.
Includes a field trip to craft yarn stores.
Rose Room, TP Community Center
Saturdays, Sept. 10 – Oct. 15, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
TP resident $80
Non-resident $70
No class on Sept. 24 and Oct. 1.

EMBROIDERY 101
Ages 8 – 12
This beginner class includes a variety of embroidery stitches, from basic to specialty. Participants create their own projects and take home a stitch guide for future reference.
Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Dave n Busters
Thursdays, Sept. 14 – Nov. 7, 3:35 – 4:45 p.m.
TP resident $60
Non-resident $50
No class on Oct. 31

CARTOON DRAWING
Ages 12 – 16
Use color pencils and markers to create cartoon characters, with instruction on drawing eyes, clothes and backgrounds. Work on developing characters and incorporating them in a story, visually depicting time and sequence of events.
Art Room, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, Sept. 19 – Oct. 24, 3:45 – 5 p.m.
TP resident $100
Non-resident $120

POTTERY
Ages 18 and older
Participants learn the fundamentals of hand building and throwing, wedging, centering and trimming. Other skills include cylinders, bowls, pulling petals, coil building, pinching pots and slab building. Wear clothes you don’t mind getting dirty. Supplies fee of $25 is paid on the first day of class.
Art Room, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, Sept. 14 – Oct. 27, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP resident $130
Non-resident $150

T.G.I. FRIAY ROAD TRIPZ
Ages 12 – 17
Adult-supervised trips for teens to various destinations. All trips depart from the T-Zone in the Takoma Park Community Center.
Non-resident $100
TP resident $75

HAIR BRAIDING WORKSHOP
Ages 10-17
This is a hands-on interactive workshop teaching basic and advanced techniques of hair braiding, including the three strand classic, three strand French braid, a variety of
Silver Foxes

INTRODUCTION TO MAC COMPUTERS
Age 55 and older
Instructor Akiki Brown’s new, six-week course provides guidance, support and inspiration to learn the basic functions and terminologies of the Mac OS X, plus helpful tips and tricks, and the basic skills to start many creative projects. In addition, this course will prepare students for a more advanced course covering how to make family photo albums, family movies and more. Registration form required. 301-891-7280.
Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, Sept. 7 – Oct. 21
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$35

THE SENIOR CONNECTION PRESENTATION
Age 55 and older
A lively presentation on services and volunteer opportunities for seniors in Montgomery County. Services include driving seniors to medical appointments and errands, grocery shopping, friendly visits and telephone reassurance. The Senior Connection’s mission is to “provide mobility by linking older adults to services and resources so they can live as independently as possible and remain integral members of our community.” 301-891-7280.
Senior Room, TP Community Center
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 12 – 1 p.m.
Free

SPRING BIRTHDAY PARTY
Age 55 and older
Bring your friends and join us to celebrate July, August and September birthdays with cake, ice cream and party games. All seniors welcome! Drop-in.
Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Friday, Sept. 16, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
Free

GENTLE YOGA
Age 55 and older
Carol Merrym, RYT, introduces the ways yoga can help increase flexibility, strength and balance, using a series of seated and standing poses as well as breathing and relaxation techniques. Beginners and experienced students welcome, students work at their own levels. Participants must bring a yoga mat. Registration required. 301-891-7280.
Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Alternate Fridays, Sept. 9 - Dec. 18, 12 – 1 p.m.
Free

BRAIN GAMES
Age 55 and older
An apple a day may keep the doctor away, and brain games may keep Alzheimer’s away! Includes a variety of cognitive puzzle challenges and games. Drop-in.
Senior Room, TP Community Center
Tuesday, Sept. 6, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Free

FRYING PAN FARM PARK
Age 55 and older
This working demonstration farm recreates the era of 1920 – 1950, when dairy farms blanketed the landscape. Greet the friendly farm animals, take a wagon ride, or watch the farm hands at work. Includes a farmhouse and barns, dairy, smokehouse, corn cribs, chicken house, “outhouse,” schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, farm equipment and more. Bring spending money to purchase lunch at a nearby restaurant. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. The park is not wheelchair accessible. Meet at TP Community Center; bus pick up at Franklin, Mapleview and Victory Tower apartments only. Registration required. Registration begins on Sept. 1 at 8:30 a.m. 301-891-7280 to pre-register. Herndon, Virginia
Punitive damages charged to landlord for entry without notification

Moses A. Wilds, Jr.,
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

The Commission On Landlord-Tenant Affairs hears complaints alleging violations of the City’s landlord-tenant law.

Brown-Thomas v. Deauville Associates LLP et al (11-3T)

On August 2, 2011 COLTA ruled that the landlord at this property twice entered the tenant’s apartment without giving advance written notice, and on one of these occasions did not provide a report of entry, all in violation of Section 6.16.140 (Entry) of the Takoma Park Code. In addition to the complaint of illegal entries, the tenant also requested that the landlord reimburse her for items stolen from her apartment during a burglary, and for moving expenses. COLTA ruled that the tenant failed to prove that the burglary was the landlord’s responsibility, and denied her request for moving expense reimbursement. The Commission did, however, award the tenant punitive damages of $100 for each of the unannounced entries and incidences of failing to leave the required report of entry. The complete decision can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov under the City Code, under Housing, Landlord-Tenant Division, in the left column.

Credit/Financial Management and First Time Home Buyer Classes
Free for Takoma Park Residents

Understanding Credit,
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7 – 9:15 p.m.
Credit: How it all began, understanding your credit report and score, case studies

Protecting and Improving Your Credit,
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7 – 9:15 p.m.
Establishing credit, credit repair (fact or fiction), credit management skills, case studies

Getting to Know the Financial You,
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7 – 9:15 p.m.
Developing a financial plan, setting goals, keeping good records, case studies

First Time Home Buyer Seminar (English),
Saturday, Oct. 22, 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
A HUD-approved nonprofit affordable housing organization will conduct class that will include: expert speakers from a lending institution, title company, real estate and inspection firm, information about 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

Changing the Way You Think about Finances,
Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7 – 9:15 p.m.
Learning cash flow patterns, needs versus wants assessment, budgets, case studies

Thinking Like an Investor,
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7 – 9:15 p.m.
Identify different forms of income, move from savings to investing, case studies

Pre-Registration Required ($25/class for non-Takoma Park residents), by mail or walk-in at Takoma Park Recreation Department, 7500 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, Md., 20912

Application at: https://k3.amazonaws.com/recreation_takomapark/public/forms/Recreation_Registration_Form.pdf
All classes are held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, 301-891-7200

HOUSING MAILBOX

Moses A. Wilds, Jr.,
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

Q. I am a new landlord, and while I am aware of the rent stabilization laws in Takoma Park, I’m fuzzy on the details. I plan on increasing my tenant’s rent in November. What are the guidelines I must follow?

A. First of all, a landlord can only increase the rent once within any 12-month period, unless there is a vacancy. You must also provide a written notice of any increase at least two months before the rent goes up. These rules apply to all properties, including those that don’t fall under the rent stabilization law (rent stabilization does not apply to single family rentals and accessory apartments or owner-occupied homes with one rental unit).

Landlords who have properties subject to rent stabilization may only increase the rent by the rent stabilization allowance established by the City each year. This year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012), the rent stabilization allowance is 3 percent. Here’s how it works: if the rent is $850, a 3 percent increase would bring the rent to $875 ($850 x 1.03 = $878.50). The rent stabilization allowance is always equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) established by the federal government. The rent stabilization allowance is always equal to 100 percent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For a full explanation of the rent stabilization law, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov, left column “City Code.” Landlords or tenants with further questions about rent stabilization can contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or jeank@takomagov.org. Questions about the landlord-tenant law can be directed Moses Wilds, Jr. at 301-891-7213 or mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov.

You are Invited to a class

“Tenant Rights in Takoma Park”
Tuesday, Sept. 13 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave. • Takoma Park, Md.

Meet Your Neighbors!

Light Refreshments • RSVP-301-891-7215
**Writers Rock the middle grades in Takoma Park**

Three children’s novelists will tell us about their work and then sign their books at “Writers Rock!” on Monday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

All three authors—Tami Lewis Brown, Katy Kelly and Uma Krishnaswami—write “middle grade” novels, aimed at readers ages 8 to 12, although younger and older readers also might enjoy their books.


**Favorite books honor the memory of a beloved child**

Ian Thompson loved to read, having essentially taught himself to read at the age of four. So it’s not surprising that he loved going to the library, especially the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Sadly, Ian died in May, at the age of 7, after a valiant fight with an illness that appeared out of the blue. Now, in Ian’s memory, his parents, Corey and Kenann Thompson and his younger sister, Ayo, have donated copies of some of his favorite books to the Library. Other friends also have donated books in Ian’s memory; all of the books will include book plates noting that they were given to honor Ian.

While each child is special, Ian stood out for his gentle spirit, which was paired with an unmatched determination. As his mother Kenann Thompson recalled in a piece included in his funeral program: “Ian had a serene countenance unlike his years. He embraced love, harmony and well-being with his actions, behavior and relationships.”

She added: “One day Ian came home from school, kissed the floor and announced, ‘I just love my family, my house and my parents!’ Even though that sounds remarkable, that is the kind of thing Ian would utter constantly.

“The night before he took ill, he took his sister Ayo to the store and said, ‘Pick anything you want because I have saved my allowance.’ He generously bought her a book and then told her he loved her.”

One of Ian’s last projects was creating a non-profit with his family, Kenann Thompson said. The goal of the non-profit is to “create strong communities and healthy families,” she said, adding that it’s called Janyo, after Ian and his sister. The family plans to continue on with the non-profit as a way to honor Ian; those interested can read more on the Janyo blog that Kenann Thompson writes, www.grannywagreen.com.

For those interested, donations for the purchase of children’s books in Ian’s memory can be made to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) at the Library.

**Reading Out for Banned Books**

Banned Books Week is Sept. 24 - Oct. 1 this year and the Library is celebrating with its second annual Community Read Out, Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Community Center Auditorium. The program will be followed with pizza lunch for all attendees in the Azalea Room.

Last year, our Library was as one of seven groups to receive the first-ever Judith Krug Memorial Fund grants from the American Library Association’s Freedom to Read Foundation. We had such a good time — and such a good turnout, with 100-plus attendees — that we’ve decided to do it again this year.

The Read Out focuses on picture books and novels for kids through age 12. We will read passages from some of the novels, and read entire challenged picture books together with a projector. Adults are welcome to listen, or read from one of the books on our list; participants may also perform a scene from one of the challenged books on our list.

We do ask that participants register, at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259. If you are interested in reading, contact Karen MacPherson, children’s librarian, at 301-891-7259 or karenm@takomagov.org. We ask participants to read from the picture books or children’s novels on our booklist so that we can keep the program focused on books for kids under age 12. To see the lists of challenged picture books and children’s novels, go to www.takomapark.info/library and click on the Children’s Room blog on the left-hand side of the page, or come and pick up a printed copy of the list at the Library.
Banned book clubs continue

Mark your calendars; our next Banned Books club events will take place on Monday, Oct. 24. Our Junior Banned Books Club, for readers in grades 3, 4 and 5, will meet at 6:30 p.m. and discuss “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.” Our Banned Books Club, for readers in middle school or high school, will meet at 7:30 p.m. to discuss “The Sun Also Rises” by Ernest Hemingway. All are welcome, but registration is required. To register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Summer Quest celebrates

We’ll conclude our Summer Quest summer reading program with a party on Monday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. Come and discuss what books you loved – or didn’t like – in this year’s Summer Quest. We’ll have cupcakes, lemonade and free books for everyone to take home. Registration required so we can have enough food for all. To register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our Summer Quest program.

Tenth Morrissey golf tourney planned

Monday, Sept. 12 is the date of the tenth annual charity golf tournament in memory of book lover and library aficionado Mike Morrissey. The all-day event will be followed by a post-tournament party and auction at Rumors Restaurant. Gene Miller, Dave Burbank, Nic Fontem and Liz Ferry of the Library staff will be participating in the tournament.

The past nine tournaments have raised more than $40,000 for the Takoma Park Library. Funds have been used by the Friends of the Library to provide books, equipment, programs and other resources to the Library and the Computer Center.

In 2009, the Library’s children’s room was named after Mike Morrissey, in recognition of the continuing and energetic support of the Library by his friends and family.

There is still time to support the tournament, held at the Redgate Golf Course in Rockville. You may sponsor a hole, tee, green or make any other donation. For information, contact Ellen Robbins at 301-891-7259 or ellenr@takomagov.org.

College-bound speakers’ series returns

This year’s popular College Bound Speakers Series will be held on Tuesday evenings in September and October. Dr. Herm Davis kicks off on Sept. 27 with a comprehensive discussion of financing college. He will discuss the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work-study, college savings plans, the FAFSA application and more. Davis heads the National College Scholarship Foundation and directs College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. He is a consultant for Peterson’s financial publications and author of “College Financial Aid for Dum- mies.”

Camille Scott will speak on Oct. 4 about Montgomery College and community colleges in general. She will discuss programs of study, student life, college entrance, transfer opportunities, costs and financial aid. Montgomery College, with campuses in Germantown, Rockville, Takoma Park/ Silver Spring, and off-site centers around the county, is second in the state, just behind the University of Maryland, in total number of undergraduate students. Scott is Coordinator of Admissions Recruiting at Montgomery College and has more than 20 years experience working in higher education.

On Oct. 11, Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre returns with an overview of the college selection process. Which schools might provide the right fit—academically, financially and personally—for you? Topics will include sorting out personal criteria and goals and the admission process. Potts-Dupre is a certified educational planner and former faculty research associate at the University of Maryland. She has a private counseling practice in Takoma Park, and has evaluated more than 350 campuses nationwide.

Please pre-register for these free programs for college-bound students and their parents. Visit 301-891-7259 or at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html. The series is presented with the support of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Friends Reading Group kicks off fall

On Wednesday, Sept. 7, readers will meet in the Hydrangea Room at 7:30 p.m. to discuss “The Quiet American” by Graham Greene; the discussion will be led by Tim Rahn.

Published in 1955, this thinly veiled indictment of America’s cold war aroused controversy in its reviews. Nonetheless, the Chicago Sun-Times called it “the best novel written about the war in Indo-China,” and the London Daily Express reviewer wrote: “Unless I am very much mistaken, ‘The Quiet American’ is as near a masterpiece as anything else I have ever read in the last 20 years.”

On Wednesday Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m., the Readers Group begins a series of discussions on John Fowles’ ambitious 1977 novel, “Daniel Martin.” Educator and Fowles scholar Kelly Creasp will lead this exploration of what Time magazine called “…both a startlingly provocative novel and a courageous act of willed humanity.”

“Daniel Martin is a middle-aged Eng- lishman. A successful playwright turned screenwriter, who is summoned from Hol- lywood to Oxford by the imminent death of a long-stranged friend, a Catholic philo- sopher named Anthony…” (Newsweek)

“In Fowles’ hands, [Martin’s] pilgrimage becomes thoroughly absorbing, intelligently challenging – and not at all the snappy read his admirers have come to expect… Few novels in recent years have been more thoroughly textured with contemporary history or more rigorously reluctant to of- fer pat solutions… Like Henry James before him, Fowles has created rarified creatures free enough to take on the toughest questions that life offers. How to live?” (Time)

Friends Reading Group discussions are open to all without pre-registration.

City TV Snapshots airs its hundredth episode

Takoma Park Snapshots, Takoma Park City TV’s bi-monthly montage of local issues and interests, will air its 100th show in September, displaying yet another slice of life in Takoma Park.

Founded by former Takoma Park Communications Director Lorni Moffett and Producer Paula B. Rehr, Snapshots first aired in January 2001 as a monthly magazine, presenting local issues and events not covered by mainstream TV. Moffett and Rehr came up with the name Snapshots to signify a program that would be “like a time capsule, an archive that would represent the community in a positive way.”

The show continues to be what staff calls, “a small portrait of the history of Takoma Park.”

Alvaro Calabia, City TV’s video production manager, has been with the program since it started. Early emphasis was on Community Oriented Policing, he says, a hot topic at the time. Rehr later won an international award in 2006 for a Snapshots Community Policing segment called “Going to the Dogs,” highlighting the canine team handlers and their dog, the late “Diesel.”

All 100 Snapshots segments were produced and filmed by City TV, which has collaborated with some 50 organizations—non-profits, local, county and state governments; and organizations for art, environment, health and education—to bring bits of City life to the screen. In keeping with the community outreach orientation of the station, intern from local high schools and Montgomery College often help produce, film and edit the shows, which are typically between five and ten minutes. Segments have featured everything from Walking City Councils, when councilmembers walk around their wards to meet and listen to residents, to the clear staff favor: the annual Halloween parade.


Ideas for the segments come from staff, organizational collaborators and the public. “Snapshots are an informative, ‘this is who we are’ type of thing,” says CityTV producer, director Rick Jenkins. “Takoma Park is an extremely active community,” says Calabia, “like a small butterfly. Its wings generate a ripple effect that hurricanes the world.” The 100th episode of Snapshots will air in early September.

Air times for Snapshots are:

- Mondays, 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and midnight
- Tuesdays, 9 a.m. 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays, 4 p.m. and midnight
- Thursdays, 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Fridays, 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Saturdays, 10 a.m., 6 p.m. and midnight
- Sundays, 9 a.m. 7 p.m.

View the complete CityTV schedule at www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/schedule.html#program.

Alvaro Calabia, left, has worked with City TV’s Snapshots program since its inception; now it is celebrating its 100th episode. Here, Calabia films children at Takoma Park’s Halloween parade.

Photo by Angie Calabia
“We are Takoma” presents full roster of art, lectures

The We Are Takoma series has two events scheduled for September, and a full line-up throughout the fall. The events, some free and others with a suggested donation, are sponsored by the City’s Arts and Humanities Commission. They are held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park.

Playwright Ellen Cassedy won a Moondance Festival Award in 2002 for her play, upon which this film is based. Cassedy was a founder of 9 to 5, the working women’s organization that inspired the film Nine to Five. She is a frequent speaker, sharing the story of her great-aunt’s diary and encouraging dialogue about the ways in which individuals and society can respond to the unique needs of the elderly.

Upcoming We Are Takoma events

Read the Newsletter for more information as the dates approach.

THE WILD VINE: A FORGOTTEN GRAPE AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF AMERICAN WINE
With food critic Todd Kliman Thursday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.

DROP THE KNIFE: A MEMOIR IN SONG
With Jeanne Mackey Friday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.

THE ULIERS IN CONCERT
Saturday, Oct., 7:30 p.m.

EUREKA DANCE FESTIVAL
Sunday, Oct. 23, 5 p.m.

DECOLORES MEXICAN DANCE COMPANY
Saturday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.

HISTORY AND HELICOPTERING: HOW PAST FACTORS EXPLAIN PARENTS ANXIETIES
With historian Peter N. Stearns Thursday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.

DC LABOR CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT
Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

DOLLARS AND SENSE: A DISCUSSION OF U.S. ECONOMICS
With Wall Street Journal correspondent David Wessel Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT
With Jennifer Cutting Saturday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Art for a Green World

The Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center present an exhibit, Art for a Green World, Sept. 9 to Oct. 14, with an opening reception on Friday, Sept. 9 from 6 – 8 p.m.

Ethiopian artist and Takoma Park resident Seleshi Feseha’s works focus on themes of the environment and global warming. The artist works in mixed media with environmentally friendly materials and a unique ‘thread on canvas’ process he developed as an alternative to chemical-laden oil paints.

Feseha has chosen to do this ‘eco-fiber’ painting to raise awareness about our personal and community responsibilities towards the Earth. “It’s a thrill for me to have my art exhibited in this community where I have such a strong personal connection,” he says. “In some ways, it’s more meaningful for me to share my art locally in this community center than it would be at a downtown museum. I feel blessed that I can live here and do my art in this area.”
Development updates around town

By Ilona Blanchard
Community Development Coordinator
Housing and Community Development

Several development projects are underway in Takoma Park. Here, in our occasional series, we update readers on a few that are of particular interest.

Takoma/Langley Crossroads

Work on the sector plan, which will guide the future development and revitalization of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area, continues with the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED) of the Montgomery County Council reviewing the current draft of the plan. The PHED recently added language that allows large property owners more flexibility in meeting development standards; it is also considering changes in the zoning map.

The community has expressed an interest in establishing specific design guidelines for Takoma/Langley, which support walkability and higher quality and greener development. The City is working with the PHED to incorporate these objectives. For more information, visit www-the-NewAve.com or contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or ilona@takomagov.org.

The Federal evaluation of the Purple Line, which will eventually connect the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Long Branch with Silver Spring, College Park and Bethesda, is nearing completion. Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) expects to receive approval to enter the next phase, Preliminary Engineering, by the end of September. This upcoming stage will take approximately two years to complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2015, with operations beginning in 2020. MTA is planning outreach meetings for October 2011. For more information see www.purpleline.com or contact Michael Madden, mmadden@mtamaryland.com or 410-767-3694.

MTA continues work on the development of construction documents for the transit center, at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard (where the Taco Bell is currently located). Once these are approved and the project has gone out to bid, the State is expected to begin construction in the right-of-way, installing an additional traffic light at the shopping center entrance near Rite Aid.

What’s going up is different than what was originally planned, however. Originally a condo project, nearly half of the units were purchased. When project financing fell through in the wake of the financial crisis in 2008, the developers were forced to return the money to the buyers.

Now the complex is being repurposed as a rental property, a change both Blum and Gharai feel is positive given the changing housing market. “I have no concern about the market. There is a limited amount of Class A housing in the area and Takoma Park is a very desirable area,” says Blum. Indeed, Lam says the City frequently gets calls requesting information about rental properties. And developers are counting on the convenience of Metro and proximity to downtown D.C. to draw new residents who prefer a condo lifestyle.

The new plan involves two buildings connected at the lobby level. Construction on the 84-unit Phase I is scheduled for completion in late 2012/early 2013. Construction of Phase II, on the existing PML public parking lot behind the 7-11, is slated to begin later this year and be completed near the end of the first quarter of 2013, Blum says.

The first building will be longer in design, with four stories, including 84 rental units, 70 underground parking spots and 6,500 square feet of ground floor retail. Phase II will rise up five stories, and will feature 60 residential units and 35 parking spaces behind the building.

Currently no retailers or renters have committed to the complex, but Gharai says that is not unusual given the scheduled completion date. “It’s hard to get someone to commit to something more than a year out. But as the buildings get completed and people can see them, businesses and renters will show up,” he says confidently.

That Gharai is so confident is a testament to his commitment and dedication to the project. “It took a lot of perseverance to get to this point. I didn’t know if we would ever recover [after the previous setbacks],” he said.

“It has been a very long process, but I feel really good.”

The Ethan Allen Gateway

A new streetscape is planned for Ethan Allen Avenue at New Hampshire Avenue extending along East-West Highway to Prince George’s County. This project will improve pedestrian safety and access. The City is gathering information needed for community outreach, including structural and environmental surveys. For more information, contact Carman Lam at 301-891-7219 or carmanl@takomagov.org.

The owners of 6822 New Hampshire Ave. (the former site of Guissini Shoes) have submitted construction drawings to the Department of Permitting Services for review.

Long Branch

8435 Piney Branch Road, at the intersection of Flower Avenue, is under construction. Work includes the reconstructing of the garage building into a storefront and office, new sidewalks and landscaping.

Work on the Long Branch Sector Plan continues and will contain recommendations for future redevelopment around proposed purple line stops on Piney Branch Road at Arliss and at University Boulevard. For more information contact Jacob Sesker, Montgomery County Planning Staff, 301-650-5619 or jacob.sesker@mncppc-md.org.

Maryland Gateway

Along the border of Maryland and D.C. and on New Hampshire Avenue, the 6450 New Hampshire Ave. laundery project has been tentatively scheduled for Planning Board review Oct. 15.

Meanwhile, Maggio Roofing, a roofing and solar energy installation company on Shgo Mill Road, has proposed the construction of a building at 6413 Orchard Ave for storage of materials. For more information, contact Carman Lam, 301-891-7219 or carmanl@takomagov.org.

Nearby, 6530 New Hampshire Ave. has been sold, and the new property owner proposes to rehabilitate the building for reuse as a care facility for physically disabled adults.

Takoma Junction

The Takoma Junction Task Force, charged by the City Council to make recommendations on redevelopment, revitalization, outreach, traffic patterns, pedestrian safety and use of public space in the Takoma Junction area, is requesting community feedback September 8 and plans to present its report to the City Council near the end of September.

CONSTRUCTION

■ From page 1

factor in deciding where he would locate the store.

“I would not have signed my lease if that property was going to be developed into anything like a storage facility that wouldn’t have brought in new residents,” he says.

City officials are also excited to see construction on the site begin. “It is really important that the property is being developed, because it is one of the first things people see when they get off the Metro and come into town,” says Carman Lam, associate city planner for the City. “And it has been vacant for so long. Having something finally go up in that spot is a great thing.”

Walkability would fit into Takoma Park’s aim toward livability and quality of life. Walk Score gets more specific in measuring its value. Homes in walkable neighborhoods, it claims, are generally worth more than those in a suburban sprawl. walkable neighborhoods with easy public transit access save energy and money; and residents in walkable neighborhoods weigh eight pounds less than those who live in other areas, it claims.

For more information, and for other city rankings, see www.walkscore.com.

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TWO-WHEEL COMMUTE

■ From page 3

are some rough patches of road. Last spring, there was also a robbery along the trail between R and T streets.

Other bikers like the trail, including the editor of the Newsletter, who finds that the industrial scenery, newly commissioned public art and earnest attempts at cleaning up this corridor make for an intriguing and uniquely D.C.-flavored ride to the Union Station neighborhood.

Another well-known route into the city is Rock Creek Park, with bike paths much of the way. Be aware that, if you bike it during the week, you will have to share the road with cars for a couple of miles, and the shoulders are narrow to non-existent. It’s more pleasant on weekends, when cars are excluded from large parts of the Parkway. In addition, because the bike path curves so much, it does add miles to your trip.

Lastly, bike maps can provide a good guide to area pedaling – though some computer-generated routes can be confusing. WABA has online and hard-copy maps available: see www.waba.org for more information.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS
City Council Meeting
Every Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 5 meeting held Sept. 6
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

ARTS AND LITERATURE
Open Mic Sundays
Sundays, 6 – 9 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.
House of Musical Traditions-sponsored showcase
Sign-ups, 5:30 p.m.
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

Acosta and Clark CD Release Party
Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.
$8

Azalea City Recordings 15th Anniversary
Concert/ CD release
Friday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carolle Street, NW
Five performers, see page 5 for details
$15 donation

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Free

Beautiful Hills of Brooklyn
Film
Thursday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center
Film and discussion with playwright
Ellen Cassidy
Free

Laugh It Up, Funny Girl
Jazz cabaret
Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Free, suggested donation $15

The Kitchen Quartet
Irish music and dance
Wednesday, Sept. 28
TP Community Center Auditorium
$17 advance / $20 door, student discounts with ID-$12 advance / $15 door
301-754-3611, www.imffolk.org

KIDS ACTIVITIES
Comics Jam
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
Read comics on the big screen
Free

Library Summer Quest party
Monday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.
Celebrating the end of summer’s reading program. Lemonade and cupcakes
Registration required

Frying Pan Farm Park
Thursday, Sept. 8, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Meet at Community Center
Active adults age 55 and older
Working demonstration farm in Fairfax County
Page 8 for more info
Free

Black Hills Regional Park/ Pontoon Ride/Picnic
Thursday, Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Meet at Community Center
Active adults ages 55 and older

PAY STATION ANNOUNCEMENT
TP Community Center
Fees are now accepted at the pay station.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY
Takoma Park Police Department
Join our Citizen Police Academy!
10-week program:
Learn about our operations
Find out 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.

UPCOMING
2011 Takoma Park Election Nominating Caucus
Oct. 4
For information about registering to vote,
rallying for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections,
contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk
301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org.

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.

2011 Takoma Park Election Day
Nov. 8
For information about registering to vote,
rallying for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections,
contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk
301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
MAKE A DIFFERENCE PLANT A TREE

DISCOUNT TREES AVAILABLE TO BEAUTIFY YARDS, REPLACE THE CANOPY

Do you have an item for the City calendar?
Let us know if you have a non-profit event
Do the City of Takoma Park residents, and we will consider it
for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the
October issue is September 12.
To submit calendar items,
email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

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