Early Newsletter deadline

December 8 for January issue

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

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

City Offices Closed

Dec. 24 - Half Day
Dec. 25 - Closed

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Festivities Lend Local Flavor to the Holiday Season

By Virginia D. Myers, Editor

The economy may be gloomy, but Takoma Park merchants are warming up the season with their signature holiday charm and the idea that neighboring residents will shop locally to keep their favorite merchants thriving through winter. In honor of holiday sentiment, I am stepping outside the *Newsletter*'s usual objective approach to pitch the concept of shopping locally, and share my own experience on home turf.

Photo by Takoma Park Singers

The Takoma Park Singers entertained shoppers during last year's holiday open house; this year, the Takoma Park Community Jazz Band Ensemble will perform for the event, which is the first weekend of December. For more on the Takoma Park Singers, see page 3.

Pajamas, Art, and Window Dressing

I love it when the window dressers gussy up storefronts for the annual **Roscoe Award** for best windows, sponsored by the Old Town Business Association. The fun and funky competition runs from Thanksgiving through the first week of December; winners are announced at OTBA's annual party, December 9.

The decorations will be just in time for the **Holiday Open House**, the first weekend of December in Old Town. We'll all get to sip hot cider and take advantage of sales and lots of seasonal cheer, all along Carroll Avenue, down to the Metro and over to Takoma Junction.

Then **Pajamarama Day**, invites early-rising shoppers to wear their pj's to qualify for discounts, from 7 to 10 a.m. December 14. Wear jammies, slippers or a robe to enjoy sales as well as refreshments and music. Participating stores include American Craft, The Big Bad Woof, The Covered Market, The Culture Shop, Fair Day's Play, Moonshadow, Now & Then, S&A Beads, The Stillpoint Mind and Body Wellness Center, The Tranquil Soul, and Video Americain. Summer Delights will be serving breakfast.

I also look forward to a tour of local art studios December 13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (see notice, page 11).

At **Takoma-Langley Crossroads**, a pedestrian safety event will draw folks in to see Santa, on December 3 from noon to 2 p.m. And don't forget the holiday goodies hidden in the shopping centers there – clothing and accessories at El Alazan western shop, Bollywood films at Rhythm House, do-it-yourself supplies at Sarah's Fabrics, and unique gourmet gifts at India Emporium

FESTIVITIES
continues on page 12

Teen Homicide Arrests Made

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Major Crimes Division - Homicide/Sex Section, arrested Takoma Park resident, and MS-13 gang affiliate, Hector Mauricio Hernandez, 20, of the 8600 block of Flower Avenue in Takoma Park for the shooting death of 14-year-old Tai Lam, of the 1000 block of Quebec Terrace in Silver Spring. Six days after the November 7 arrest, two additional suspects were arrested. Gilmar Leonardo Romero, age 20, of unknown address, and Mario Ernesto Milan-Canales, 30, of unknown address, were arrested for first-degree murder, and accessory after the fact for first degree murder, respectively.

Through the course of the investigation, Hernandez was developed as a suspect and detectives obtained an arrest warrant for first degree murder. He was arrested and is being held without bond. Romero and Milan-Canales had fled to Texas, according to Montgomery County police reports, and

TEEN HOMICIDE
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FIREHOUSE HISTORY ..... *PAGE 9*

HOLIDAY ART SALE ..... *PAGE 11*

Public Weighing In on Purple Line Options

by Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

The public has the opportunity to weigh in, through January 14, 2009, on route and transit vehicle options for the Purple Line, a transit way that is proposed to connect Bethesda, Silver Spring, Takoma/Langley, College Park and New Carrollton. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has been holding public hearings during November and welcomes comments by e-mail at purpleline@mtamaryland.com.

The Purple Line is designed to address the need for easier east-west travel across Montgomery and Prince George's Counties inside the Beltway. It will also connect both ends of the Metro Red Line, and the Green and Orange Lines; the MARC Brunswick, Camden and Penn Lines; Amtrak; and regional and inter-city bus lines. Residents along the Purple Line route would therefore have significantly improved access to

PURPLE LINE
continues on page 6

The Takoma Park City Council favors Light Rail Transit (LRT) for the proposed Purple Line, a transit line that would connect the city to Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton.

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

The City Council will be on recess until Monday, January 5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 - Tree Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 - Committee on the Environment meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Forsythia Room)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 - Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Forsythia Room)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 - (tentative) Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CITY OFFICES CLOSE AT 12:30 FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (HALF DAY)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

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

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267, at least 48 hours in advance, at the telephone number listed in the notice or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

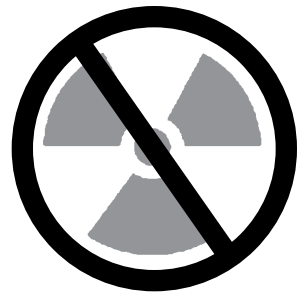
Speak with the Mayor

Holiday Schedule

Mayor Bruce Williams will meet with residents by appointment only during December.

For appointments, contact Peggye Washington, 301-891-7230 or peggyew@takomagov.org.

City Marks Quarter Century As Nuclear Free



Takoma Park will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its Nuclear Free Zone ordinance on December 10, with a commemorative program at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. The program will include music, a film, refreshments and presentations by Linda Gunter, co-founder of Takoma Park-based Beyond Nuclear, and Tom Collina, executive director of 20-20 Vision. The City Council will be passing a resolution declaring the week of December 7, 2007 Nuclear Free Zone Week.

The Takoma Park Nuclear Free Ordinance, passed on December 12, 1983, is the strongest Nuclear Free Zone law in the U.S. It prohibits the City from making purchases from any company making nuclear weapons, components or delivery systems and forbids the City from investing in such entities. As a result of the law, similar ordinances have been passed in cities around the country, with Arcata, California and Olympia, Washington modeling their laws on Takoma Park's. Another outcome of the ordinance is that Takoma Park is known both nationally and internationally among those who follow nuclear banning issues. The chair of the committee since 1996, Jay Levy, has made presentations representing Takoma Park in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, Vancouver, Canada and at the United Nations.

To learn more about the City's Nuclear Free status, attend the anniversary celebration; it is open to the public.

City Council Action*

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

October 27 - Regular Meeting

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2008-78, supporting the Montgomery County Housing Opportunity Commission purchase of 717 Sligo Creek Parkway

Resolution 2008-79, supporting continued charitable giving by Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae

November 3 - Special Session

Resolution 2008-80 was adopted, adopting the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Concept Plan

Resolution 2008-81 was adopted, supporting passage of legislation that would prohibit future spying by the Maryland State Police without probable cause

First Reading Ordinance 2008-48 was accepted, authorizing FY09 Budget Amendment No. 2

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Single Reading Ordinance 2008-49, authorizing a contract with Userful for Computer Center computers, software and support

Resolution 2008-82, appointing John Peterson to the Committee on the Environment

Resolution 2008-83, appointing Patricia Anne Murphy to the Ethics Commission

Resolution 2008-84, appointing John Peterson to the Noise Control Board

Resolution 2008-85, reappointing David Borden and Frederick L. Schultz to the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee

Proposed Administrative Regulation, Takoma Park Board of Elections Bylaws

An administrative regulation has been proposed to provide written bylaws for the Takoma Park Board of Elections (established by Ordinance 2006-36, adopted by the City Council on July 31, 2006).

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 published in the Takoma Park Newsletter and such notice must provide a minimum of 21 days for comment on the proposed regulation. An exact copy of the regulation is posted on the City's web page: www.takomaparkmd.gov. To request a copy of the regulation, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267.

Please direct any comments or concerns to the City Clerk by close of business on January 5, 2009. Comments may be mailed to City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912, or sent by e-mail to JessieC@takomagov.org, or faxed to 301-270-8794.

Volunteers Needed

TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

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

Committee on the Environment (vacancies)

Ethics Commission (vacancies)

Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee (vacancies)

Takoma Park Board of Elections (one vacancy)

Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)

Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)

In Tune with Our Town: The Takoma Park Singers

By Joy Lawson Jones

What strikes you most about the Takoma Park Singers is that they are *so* Takoma Park.

Joined together purely for the joy of singing and the gratification of their audiences, the Takoma Park Singers is open to all adult singers who want to work at singing a variety of musical forms and styles. That's it. No auditions. No grandstanding. No drama. Just a whole lot of commitment and fun.

Takoma Park Singers incorporated as Takoma Park Community Singers in 1968, and has continuously operated since 1976 ("Community" was later dropped from the name). In its early years under Director Grace Cangialosi, the group had a close relationship with the City of Takoma Park and was supported with rehearsal and performance space through the Department of Parks and Recreation. According to Carole Whittem, who has directed Takoma Park Singers since 1981, what holds the group together is "a love of music and the rapport and connections that build between the singers. We strive for excellence in performing both accessible and challenging pieces, but what is really important is that we enjoy the music and the singing."

That enjoyment is evident in the program planned for this year's Holiday Concert on December 12 at 7:30 p.m. From pop tunes like *Let it Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow* to spirituals like *Go Tell It On The Mountain* to Christian sacred music (*O Magnum Mysterium*) and Hebrew chants and Hanukkah songs (*Al Shlosha D'varim, Hanerot Halalu)*, Takoma Park Singers prides itself on performing a mix of new pieces and old sacred and secular favorites. Some pieces will be performed *a capella,* while others will have accompaniment. The Holiday Concert is always free, and will be performed at Marvin Memorial United Methodist Church in Silver Spring. The Singers will also present it on stage at the fountain plaza in Downtown Silver Spring, and at local retirement homes (including Victory Towers, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.), churches, and community events throughout the area.

Rehearsals, held on Wednesday nights at Piney Branch Elementary School, perfectly showcase both the camaraderie in the group and the joy in bringing and getting pleasure through music. While the size of Takoma Park Singers varies between 15 and 30 members (one singer has been with the group since it started in 1976; people tend to come and go over the years), singers come from a variety of musical and professional backgrounds. Some are experienced singers, active in church choirs or other choral groups. Some are first-timers who've never sung in a group before. Almost all of them live in Takoma Park. The age range is between 30 and 70 years, and although there are no professional musicians in the group at this time, there are lawyers, teachers, social activists, journalists and other professionals who simply love to sing. As member Suzanne Parrish has expressed it in "The Story of the Takoma Park Singers," an informational booklet, "Singing is the meeting ground."

Photos by Patrick Rittenhouse

Takoma Park Singers put in extra rehearsals during the holiday season, to prepare for concerts around the region. The group, established in 1968, shares their love of music with retirement communities, churches, and the community at large. This year, their holiday concert takes place December 12 at 7:30 p.m., at the Marvin Memorial United Methodist Church in Silver Spring. The concert is free.

Singers in the group are quick to praise Carole Whittem for her direction. "It's a pleasure to sing under Carole's direction," says David Frye, a tenor with the group for three years. Other group members cite Whittem's excellent musicianship and her "firm yet gentle" style, and say they especially appreciate her participatory leadership, a major factor in keeping the group together in the 27 years that she has directed Takoma Park Singers. Whittem herself first joined the group as a singer in 1978 when she was a schoolteacher and accompanist for her school's chorus and musical productions. Her musical passion and dedication, coupled with an interest in conducting, led her to take over as director.

In addition to the 2008 Holiday Concert, Takoma Park Singers will perform a spring 2009 concert. That program will be a mix of sacred, pop, folk and Broadway pieces, in the group's tradition of performing accessible and enjoyable music at community-based venues.

If you'd like to raise your own voice in song, Takoma Park-style, or for more information about the Holiday Concert and other performances, contact the Takoma Park Singers and Director Carole Whittem at 301-681-9498. They'd love to have you.

Roadwork to Slow Traffic at University Boulevard and Piney Branch Road

Work will soon begin on an $854,000 construction project at the intersection of MD 320 (Piney Branch Road) and MD 193 (University Boulevard) in Takoma Park. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be complete late-summer 2009.

The Maryland State Highway Administration, which is running the project, will widen and resurface the northwest corner of the intersection to provide an exclusive right turn lane from eastbound University Boulevard to southbound Piney Branch Road. Other improvements include replacing the traffic loop detectors, installing pavement markings, upgrading the existing sidewalks, replacing curb and gutter, cleaning and repairing existing inlets and pipes, installing a concrete median, cleaning and relocating/replacing directional signage for the intersection, replacing traffic signals and landscaping.

During construction, motorists can expect single lane closures in both directions of Piney Branch Road and University Boulevard between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., Monday through Friday. Motorists may experience delays. Detour signs, arrow panels, drums and concrete barriers will guide motorists through the work zone. SHA will also provide variable message signs, drums and arrow boards to guide motorists through the work zone.

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, or letters to the editor will be considered for publication if sent to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992–36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance. The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.

Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

celebrating the creative spirit of our community

Holiday Art Sale and Open Studio Tour

Join us for the annual Holiday Art Sale and Open Studio Tour on Saturday, December 13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Begin at the Takoma Park Community Center where you can purchase the works of local artists and then take advantage of the opportunity to tour area art studios. Tour map and listing of participating artists and crafts people is available at the Takoma Park Community Center and can be viewed online at *www.takomaparkmd.gov*

"third thursday" Poetry Reading Series

The "third thursday" poetry reading series continues this month with its popular open poetry reading. If you would like to share your original work with others, please join us at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11. The reading will be held in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Writing a Village: Adult Poetry Workshop

Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker is offering a series of poetry writing workshops on the third Monday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center. The workshops are free but registration is required. This month's workshop is scheduled for Monday, December 15.

Cranial Vault: Artifacts and Impressions

Using commissioned artwork, medical images, found sound and collectibles, "Cranial Vault" reflects one man's journey from a middle-of-the-night grand mal seizure through cancer treatment and brain surgery to a survivor's new normal. Part curiosity shop, part medical illustration, and part memoir, the exhibit serves as an experiential travelogue of a trip, nine years and continuing. The exhibit runs through December and can be viewed in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Community Center.

Functional Pottery

Long a collector and student of Japanese ceramics, Jane Spalding began three years ago to incorporate Asian aesthetics and forms into her own work. The result is a wide-ranging collection of functional vessels — some evincing soft shapes and subtle hues, others commanding attention with their bold textures and of-the-earth qualities. Spalding's work is on display in The Corridor (next to the Computer Learning Center) and can be viewed throughout the month of December. To see more of Spalding's work, join us during the Open Studio Tour on December 13, when you will have a chance to tour her pottery studio.

Joan Samworth and Her Students

Joan Samworth will be showcasing the work of her students - many of whom will be opening up their studios during the annual open studio tour - throughout the month of December in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the Community Center.

For more information on these and other activities sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.org.

Inspired Results from Takoma Park Poets, Artists

By Stephanie Sove Ney

Inspired Results, Poets and Artists of Takoma Park began with a space on a calendar that I needed to fill. As coordinator for the Takoma Park Community Center's galleries I was always looking for new exhibit ideas that would pull people in. Takoma Park'sof activists, advocates, idealists, visionaries, progressives, policy-makers, counter-culturists and non-conformists – along with its poets and artists – can be counted on to show enthusiasm for cooperative efforts and I figured that a collaborative project of poets and artists might go over well.

After the 2004 Community Center renovation created such an inviting space for events, displays, and happenings, the Arts and Humanities Commission, together with The Office of Community Development, launched The Atrium Gallery and the Richard R. Dempsey Memorial Gallery, with an Inaugural Invitational Exhibit. One hundred Takoma Park artists took part.

After that auspicious start, Alice Sims, a member of the Arts and Humanities Commission, and Sara Daines, the City's Housing and Community Development Director, saw to it that the gallery walls were filled with art, a new exhibit appearing each month. In 2006, serving as the first Exhibits Coordinator, I booked artists and helped them with the nuts and bolts of exhibiting. In addition, I was allotted a month to curate an exhibit of my own devising. I asked my artist friends and acquaintances if they had any interest in a poet/artist collaborative project, and I asked at Community Center poetry readings.

The response was enthusiastic and the length of my list kept growing until the numbers soon challenged the capacity of even the spacious Atrium Gallery. I held a series of fall get-togethers where people crowded in, showed art, read poems and brainstormed. The big turn out, high energy and positive vibe convinced me that this was an exhibit that had to happen. I signed on 18 poets and 18 artists who agreed to deliver two works each by early spring. "Inspired Results" became official.

My plan was to give the participants a chance to both inspire and to be inspired. Partners were randomly assigned, names picked from a hat. The paired poet and artist then exchanged work. Next, they had many weeks to live with and study the given painting or poem as the inspiration for a new work. It was, I realized later, an audaciously demanding directive: create on schedule, deliver on time.

As the opening date came closer, I checked people's progress and heard about some emergencies, illnesses, and, in one joyful case, a birth. But all 72 pieces arrived according to plan. As poet after poet and artist after artist carried their finished work into the gallery, I could see "Inspired Results" would be an intriguing and original exhibit.

During the opening reception, on the night of June 1, the Atrium Gallery and the Richard R. Dempsey Gallery were packed with laughter, music, singing, poetry and art. "Where will the project go from here?" someone asked. Maybe a book?
The "book committee" met for more than a year to guarantee that this book would come to be. Inspired Results, the Poets & Artists of Takoma Park will be available starting December 7, online at lulu.com.

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

A landlord contacted the Mailbox regarding the interest rate to be applied to a tenant's security deposit. The lease agreement was executed prior to October 1, 2004 and contained a 4 percent annual simple interest rate. The tenant's lease has not been amended since it was signed, nor has the landlord provided any written notice of a change in the security deposit interest rate. The tenant has indicated in writing that she will be vacating November 30, 2008.

In October 2004, the Maryland Legislature changed the allowed security deposit annual simple interest rate from 4 percent to 3 percent. However, in accordance with state law and reconfirmed in a July 2004, Maryland Attorney General's Office opinion, leases signed prior to October 1, 2004 that contain an interest rate of 4 percent, continue to apply that rate until changed in writing by the landlord. If, in this instance, the landlord has not yet given the tenant a written 30 days notice advising that the interest rate became 3 percent effective October 1, 2004, the landlord is obligated to pay the tenant the 4 percent interest, as stated in her lease.

For leases that became effective before October 1, 2004 and did not include a specific interest rate provision, but simply stated that interest would be returned in accordance with the Maryland Code, the security deposit interest rate would be 4 percent up to October 1, 2004 and 3 percent thereafter.

Landlords should make certain that all leases that became effective after October 1, 2004 indicate that the applicable interest rate for a security deposit is 3 percent simple interest annually. Leases having a 4 percent interest rate should be amended, changing it to 3 percent from the current date, forward.

Landlords and tenants who have questions about the city's Landlord-Tenant Law are encouraged to give me a call at 301-891-7215 and/or contact me at MosesW@takomagov.org.

Has Weather Canceled City Programs?

For General Info: 301-891-7100
For Recreation Programs: 301-891-7101 ext. 5605
For Library and Computer Learning: 301-891-7259.

City of Takoma Park government offices follow the federal government regarding liberal leave and closure due to inclement weather. Potential visitors to City buildings are advised to call 301-891-7100 before departing. The status of City Recreation Department activities will be reported on the cancellation line, 301-891-7101 ext. 5605. Recreation follows Montgomery County Public Schools for program cancellations. Information regarding activities at the Takoma Park Maryland Library and Computer Learning Center may be obtained by calling 301-891-7259. You can also check the City Notice Board http://www.bulletinboards.com/v2.cfm?comcode=takoma for cancellation notices.

The Police Department is open at all times.

RECREATION

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Teen Exchange members from Liz Lerman Dance Exchange help participants make masks during Family Night at the Takoma Park Middle School. This program was co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Recreation Department and TPMS staff.

TGIF
Ages 11 - 17
Takoma Park Recreation invites teens to participate in "TGIF," a series of safe, fun Friday night events for teens to socialize outside of school. TGIF is scheduled for the first and third Friday of each month.

Date: Dec. 5
Activity: Dodgeball
Date: Dec. 19
Activity: Kickball
Date: Jan. 2
Activity: Welcome the New Year Party
Date : Jan. 16
Activity: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
Location: T Zone - T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Free

Girls are Talkin'
Females Ages 13 - 17
An open forum for teen girls to discuss issues affecting them. Topics focus on promoting positive self image, health and wellness, school, jobs and peer pressure. After each meeting food is served.

When: First and Third Wed.
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.
Location: Auditorium - T.P. Com. Ctr., 7500 Maple Ave.
Fee: Free

Holla at Me
Males Ages 13 - 17
An open forum for male teenagers to discuss relevant issues that affectthem. Real life issues such as school, job skills, gangs, peer pressure, dating and more will be discussed. After each meeting food will be served.

When: First and Third Wed.
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.
Location: T-Zone - T.P. Com. Ctr., 7500 Maple Ave.
Fee: Free

RoadTripz
Ages 11 - 18
"Roadtripz" takes teens on adult-supervised trips to local destinations. Trips are scheduled for the second and fourth Friday of each month and selected non-school days.
Date: Dec. 12
Activity: Dave and Busters
Date: Jan. 9
Activity: Ice Skating
Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
Location: T Zone - T.P. Comm. Ctr., 7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Varies by trip

Co-Ed Winter Basketball League
Grades K - 8
The Takoma Park Recreation Department and Recreation Committee, in conjunction with the Long Branch Athletic Association, is hosting a new winter basketball league for grades K-8. The new league, which will get underway on December 8, is a community-based, convenient alternative to the County run program. Games will be held on Saturdays in Takoma Park gyms. Times vary depending upon age group.

Teams will be formed by grade as follows:
Kindergarten - Coed League
1 - 2 - Coed League
3 - 4 - Boys League
3 - 4 - Girls League
5 - 6 - Boys League
5 - 6 - Girls League
7 -8 - Coed League

The registration fee for the new winter basketball league is $50. A special $15 rate is available to Takoma Park residents who can provide proof of enrollment in the free or reduced meals or similar financial assistance program. You can download a registration form from the website tprecreation.org and send it in the mail.
Please contact the Recreation Department 301-891-7290 if interested!

Family Day Trips
Want to plan a family outing but don't have the time? Let us do the work for you! Trips are geared for families with children 6 years and older. One family member must be 18 years or older. We will meet in the parking lot of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Advance registration is required. Minimum enrollment must be met by RSVP date. Bringing a snack is recommended.

When: Sat. , Dec. 13
Trip: Holiday Light Tour
Bring your hats, gloves and a warm jacket as we visit the Festival of Lights and Mormon Temple. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.
Time: 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Fee: T.P. City Res. $5/person
Non-Res. $10/person
Need to register by Dec. 5.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Kids try out a new way to play soccer – on scooters – during Family Night at Takoma Park Middle School. The event was a joint effort of the Recreation Department and middle school staff.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

This Halloween scarecrow lit up the senior room at the community center for the Silver Foxes Halloween Party.

PURPLE LINE

continued from page 1

employment and services across the Washington, D.C. region.

MTA has been studying options for east-west transit and improved transit connectivity for 20 years; the general route for the Purple Line was recommended by the MTA in 2002. Since that time, detailed evaluations of routes, the type of vehicle to be used, ridership projections and environmental studies have been undertaken. The information is summarized in the Purple Line Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS) that is the subject of the current public comment period.

What Are the Options?

MTA evaluated eight options: a No Build option; a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) option that looks at optimizing existing transit services without constructing the Purple Line; three Bus Rapid Transit options (Low, Medium and High Investment); and three Light Rail Transit options (Low, Medium and High Investment). The six build options have some differences as to routes and environmental impacts, as well as significant cost differences.

What Does the City of Takoma Park Want?

The Takoma Park City Council has gone on record with Resolution #2008-86, urging the State of Maryland to proceed with the Medium Investment Light Rail Transit alternative of the Purple Line. This option has a number of benefits for the Takoma Park community and few disadvantages.

Since 2000, the Takoma Park City Council has encouraged the State to consider an east-west light rail transit line near Takoma Park. The economic benefits of having a rail transit station adjacent to the Long Branch and Takoma/Langley Crossroads areas of our community would be a tremendous boost to Takoma Park's efforts to revitalize these areas. The environmental impact of reducing auto traffic is critical to the region's efforts to improve air quality. And, the configuration of the Medium Investment Light Rail alternative will help meet these efforts while allowing for improvements in pedestrian safety, permitting grass along the tracks in the median of University Boulevard, permitting some on-street parking in commercial areas, minimizing noise and reducing the need for elevated structures that would divide our community.

Today, Takoma Park has excellent bus service, and the southwestern portion of Takoma Park is also well served by the Takoma Metro station. However, increasing traffic congestion will increase travel times for the bus service on which many residents depend. Traffic congestion will also make living and shopping in Takoma Park less attractive. A high capacity mass transit system along the northern side of our community will increase the livability and long-term sustainability of Takoma Park, which are goals of the Takoma Park City Council.

Isn't There Some Controversy over the Purple Line?

Concern has been expressed about having the Purple Line run alongside the Capital Crescent Trail in the Georgetown Branch right-of-way in Chevy Chase. However, the right-of-way was purchased by Montgomery County when the old rail line was abandoned for use as a transit way and trail. Not using the right-of-way slows travel times to Bethesda and has harmful effects on residents of alternate routes.

Concern has also been expressed by residents along Thayer and Wayne Avenues in Silver Spring about the impacts of the possible routes through East Silver Spring.

The Maryland Transit Administration staff has spent a great deal of time meeting with the concerned residents of Chevy Chase and East Silver Spring to evaluate ways to minimize negative impacts on residents and trail users.

There has been very little controversy in Takoma Park about the route from the Arliss Street stop in Long Branch to the Takoma/Langley stop at New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard.

What Do You Think?

The Maryland Transit Administration wants to know what you think of the Purple Line and the various alternatives they have studied. Montgomery County and Prince George's County governments are also weighing in, as is the City of Takoma Park. The Maryland General As-

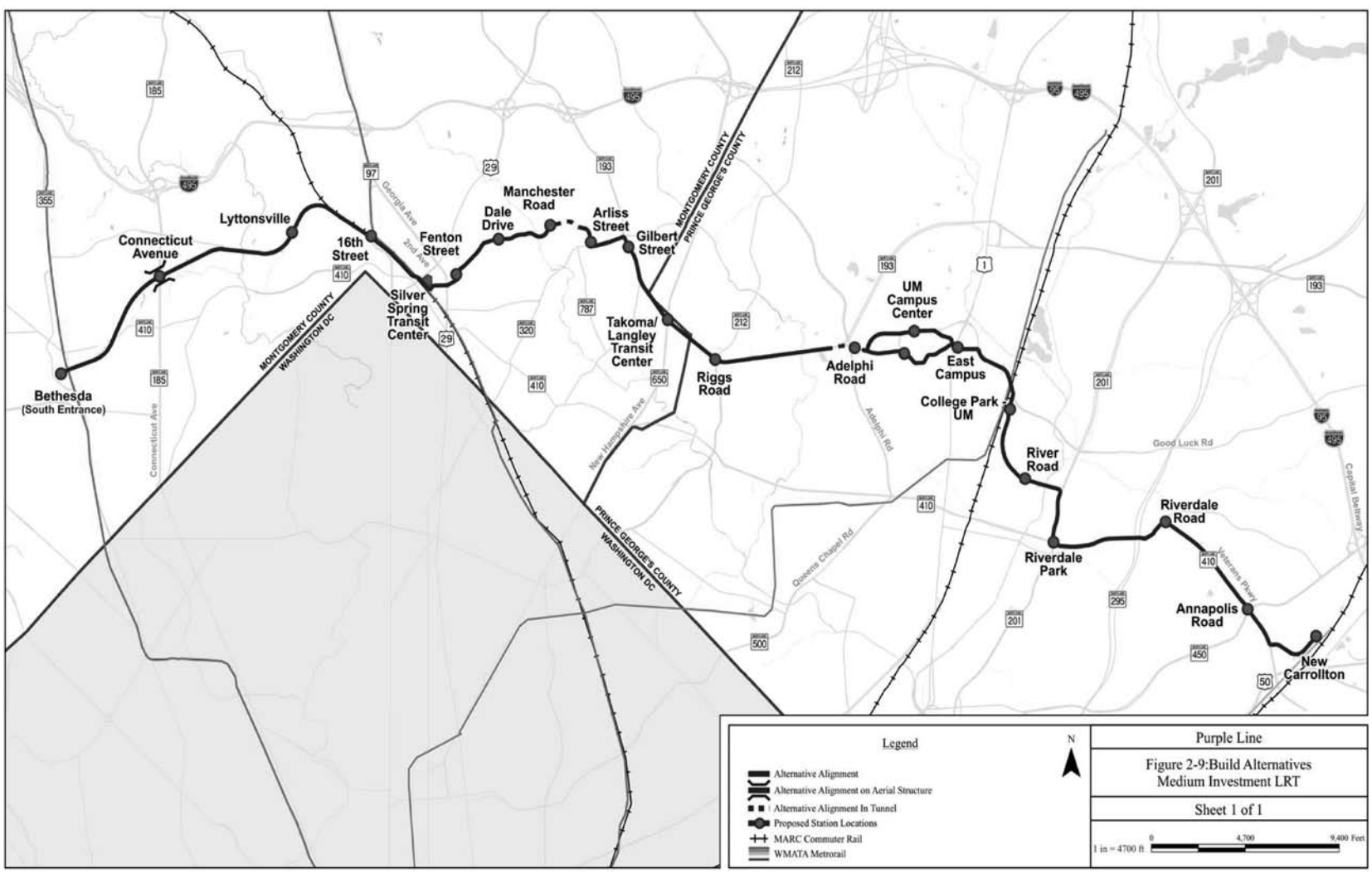
PURPLE LINE
continues on page 7

What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

- Similar in appearance to a single rail car, but with tires
- Has a low floor with several doors for easy access
- Fare collection is done before boarding, like with Metro
- Can operate in exclusive transit lanes or mix with street traffic
- Has lower capital costs
- Has less capacity than multi-car trains
- Usually powered by hybrid electric motors or Compressed Natural Gas
- Can be noisier than light rail when operating

What is Light Rail Transit (LRT)?

- Can be a single car vehicle or higher capacity train
- Has a low floor with several doors for easy access
- Fare collection is done before boarding, like with Metro
- Can operate in exclusive transit lanes or mix with street traffic
- When operating in exclusive lanes, rails can be surrounded by grass
- Powered by electricity, usually via overhead wires
- When vehicles are "skirted," almost no noise when operating



The proposed Purple Line route would connect Bethesda, Silver Spring, Takoma/ Langley, College Park and New Carrollton.

PURPLE LINE

continued from page 6

sembly will be involved in the Purple Line funding decision, so the State Senators and Delegates are also interested in hearing from you. Please share your thoughts with MTA, by January 14, 2009, at purpleline@mtamaryland.com or by mail to Diane Ratcliff, Director, Office of Planning, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 St. Paul Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

What are the Next Steps?

In February or March, 2009, the Maryland Secretary of Transportation will make his announcement as to which, if any, Purple Line alternative will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for consideration for federal funding. If the decision is to proceed with the submission, the proposal will be submitted in the spring of 2009. If the Federal Transit Administration approves funding for the project, design work will continue and construction will begin in 2012. Construction will take between three to five years.

Where Would the Stations Be in Our Area?

Silver Spring Metro - "Silver Spring Transit Center"
Wayne and Fenton - "Fenton Street"
Wayne and Dale - "Dale Drive"
Wayne and Manchester - "Manchester Road"
Arliss and Piney Branch - "Arliss Street"
University and Gilbert - "Gilbert Street"
University and New Hampshire - "Takoma/Langley Transit Center"
University and Riggs - "Riggs Road"
University and Adelphi - "Adelphi Road"
University of Maryland - "UM Campus Center"

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), above, is one option being considered for the Purple Line. At right, a depiction of what a completed trail beside Light Rail Transit (LRT) would look like.

Six Local Options

What are the route options between the Silver Spring Transit Center and the University of Maryland in College Park?

Low Investment BRT

Buses travel on Wayne Avenue, turn right on Flower Avenue, left on Arliss Street, left on Piney Branch Road, then right on University Boulevard to Campus Drive. All travel is via lanes shared with car traffic.

- Construction cost of full route: $386,390,000
- Average daily ridership for full route: 40,000
- Average travel time for full route: 96 minutes
- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 41 minutes

Medium Investment BRT

Buses travel on Bonifant, Fenton and Wayne, turn right on Flower, left on Arliss, left on Piney Branch, right on University Boulevard to Campus Drive. The bus will be in "dedicated lanes" (shared with local buses) on Bonifant, Piney Branch and University Boulevard. Travel on Wayne is via lanes shared with car traffic, but with added left turn lanes.

- Construction cost of full route: $579,820,000
- Average daily ridership for full route: 51,800
- Average travel time for full route: 73 minutes
- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 30 minutes

High Investment BRT

There are two options from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Piney Branch Road. The first has a tunnel to Wayne Avenue at Cedar Street then proceeds on Wayne Avenue at grade in dedicated lanes, with a tunnel under Plymouth to Arliss Street. The second option is a tunnel that emerges on Thayer Avenue behind East Silver Spring Elementary School then continues across Dale Drive, and turns left onto Piney Branch. In this second option, there would be no Fenton Street, Dale Drive or Manchester stations; a station would be located on Thayer Avenue. Both options would proceed on Piney Branch in dedicated lanes and turn right onto University. The buses would stay in dedicated lanes and have bridges over New Hampshire Avenue and Riggs Road and an underpass at Adelphi Road.

- Construction cost of full route: $1,088,480,000
- Average daily ridership for full route: 58,900
- Average travel time for full route: 59 minutes
- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 20 minutes

Low Investment LRT

The light rail vehicles travel on Bonifant, Fenton and Wayne, enter a tunnel after Manchester and emerge on Arliss Street, turn left on Piney Branch Road, then right on University Boulevard to Campus Drive. There is an underpass at Adelphi Road. Travel on Bonifant, Piney Branch and University is in dedicated lanes; travel on Wayne Avenue is via lanes shared with car traffic.

- Construction cost of full route: $1,206,150,000
- Average daily ridership for full route: 59,300
- Average travel time for full route: 62 minutes
- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 26 minutes

Medium Investment LRT

The light rail vehicles travel on Bonifant, Fenton and Wayne, enter a tunnel after Manchester and emerge on Arliss Street, turn left on Piney Branch Road, then right on University Boulevard to Campus Drive. There is an underpass at Adelphi Road. Travel on Bonifant, Piney Branch and University is in dedicated lanes; travel on Wayne Ave is via lanes shared with car traffic, with added left turn lanes.

- Construction cost of full route: $1,220,150,000
- Average daily ridership for full route: 62,600
- Average travel time for full route: 59 minutes
- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 25 minutes

High Investment LRT

There are two options from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Piney Branch Road. The first has a tunnel to Wayne Avenue at Cedar Street then proceeds on Wayne Avenue at grade in dedicated lanes, with a tunnel under Plymouth to Arliss Street. The second option is a tunnel that emerges on Thayer Avenue behind East Silver Spring Elementary School then continues across Dale Drive, and turns left onto Piney Branch. An aerial structure would be needed on Piney Branch Road. In this second option, there would be no Fenton Street, Dale Drive or Manchester stations; a station would be located on Thayer Avenue. Both options would proceed on Piney Branch in dedicated lanes and turn right onto University. The light rail vehicles would stay in dedicated lanes and have bridges over New Hampshire Avenue and Riggs Road and an underpass at Adelphi Road.

- Construction cost of full route: $1,634,840,000
- Average daily ridership for full route: 68,100
- Average travel time for full route: 50 minutes
- Average travel time for Silver Spring to College Park: 21 minutes

10 Ways to Be a Better Recycler

By Leandra Goedvolk

1. Rinse your recyclables!

Though they still get recycled with a bit of residue on them, the dirty containers can attract pests.

2. Recycle *almost* all your plastic bottles!

All small-mouth bottles with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 on the bottom can be recycled. If the bottle contained hazardous material, like motor oil or anti-freeze, save them up and drop them off at the Transfer Station or at a hazardous waste satellite location (call 240-777-6400 for schedule).

3. Toss in your tubs and their lids!

Containers, tubs, lids, pails, and buckets that are number 2, 3, 4, and 5 are now accepted in your "containers" bin. These are things like yogurt containers, margarine tubs, tofu tubs, prescription bottles, detergent and kitty litter buckets, as well as containers from non-hazardous household cleaning products.

4. Don't waste any mixed paper!

Toilet paper rolls, labels on tin or steel cans, and telephone books all make great recycled paper material. Don't forget your shredded paper – simply put it into a paper bag and set it on the curb for pickup.

5. Unscrew those tops!

Taking tops and lids off of bottles and containers then putting them in the recycling bin separately makes them easier to crush in the compactor, so there's more room in the truck – and fewer trips (using less gas) to the recycling center.

6. If you ate or drank it and it came in glass, put it in!

All food and beverage bottles and jars belong in your "commingled" bin. Broken glass should never go in your recycle bin – wrap it in paper and put in the trash.

7. Add aluminum foil to the list!

Aluminum products like foil wrap, pie plates, and cookie tins belong in your recycle bins.

8. Re-use wrapping paper!

Better yet, use reusable decorative paper bags or magazine picture or comics for wrapping paper. Once it has been thoroughly used recycle it with your mixed paper.

9. Recycle your plastic flower pots!

After some fall planting, check your nursery and flower pots. If they say number 2 or 5 on them, toss them in! Be sure to rinse these and remove all dirt first.

10. Keep trash out!

All things Styrofoam, #6 plastic, plastic bags and wrap, non-small-mouthed #1 plastic, and milk and juice cartons are ***not*** recyclable in Takoma Park's program. Keep them out of your bin to avoid contamination!

For more information on what you can and cannot recycle, see takomaparkgov.org for the Trash and Recycling Manual

Holiday Safety Precautions

As we approach the holiday season, we ask that our residents take a couple of safety precautions to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

1. Park in well-lighted spaces when at the shopping centers.
2. When shopping, keep your purse attached to you or your shopping cart. Do not leave your purse unattached or unattended.
3. Keep your children in sight at all times. Don't let them wander off.
4. Make sure all credit cards are returned to you when shopping.
5. If you take purchased items to your car and want to resume shopping, put those items in your trunk. Never leave packages in open view in an unattended car.
6. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
7. During the holidays, don't drink and drive - always have a designated driver.
8. During the holiday season, the police will be conducting sobriety checkpoints. Be aware.

The holiday season is a time for family and fun. Don't become a victim. Be safe, not sorry.

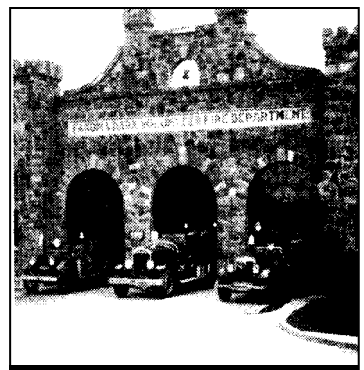
Happy Holidays from the Takoma Park Police Department!

Santa Keeps Crossroads Pedestrians Safe

The annual holiday pedestrian safety initiative at Takoma Langley Crossroads, coordinated by the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Team, will take place December 3, beginning with a press conference at noon with kid-friendly activities to follow from 12:30 to 2 p.m. This is a time for officers from multi-jurisdictions to come together, with Santa Claus, to stress the importance of pedestrian safety.

Police will be out in force looking for crosswalk violations committed by both pedestrians and drivers. They will also be conducting speed enforcement. Volunteers and officers will be on foot in the street distributing bilingual (Spanish and English) educational brochures, candy canes to those that cross the street safely and reflective zipper pulls with pedestrian safety messages.

The group is seeking volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Gretchen Hilburger at gretchenh@takomagov.org or 301-439-0972.



Firehouse REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Oct. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 599 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,392 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,991 this year. Totals for 2007 were 761 and 2,566, respectively, for a total of 3,327, representing a decrease of 336 incidents.

Firehouse Counts a History of Firsts

Counting 80 plus years of service to the community, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department has a history of being first in the county on a number of accomplishments. Here is an account, plus a few other historical facts:

- The first meeting was held on February 27, 1928.
- 1934: First fire department in the county to use breathing apparatus.
- 1936: First fire department in the county to use fog nozzle in fire fighting.
- 1937: First fire department in the county to use 1½ inch hose in fire fighting.
- 1941: Hired first full time fireman.
- 1948: July 1, Melvin E. McBride was appointed City of Takoma Park first paid Fire Chief. The Takoma Park VFD transferred the department over to the City of Takoma Park. Starting salary $3,000; now it is close to $40,000.
- 1949: Firehouse gets a face lift to front of the building. Renovation included a new front, wider bay doors, removing the present arches, floor reinforcement, installation of a wash rack and relocation of siren.
- 1949: Member Charles Howe, Jr. was appointed Montgomery County's first Fire Marshal.
- 1959: At the adoption of the Central Alarm in Montgomery County, each fire department was re-numbered as to the date of incorporation, i.e., Engine 16 to Engine 21 (Company 2). Note: In the beginning, Takoma Park VFD, as the first fire department in Montgomery County, had number one.
- 1960: Baby Sitters Training Program started. More than 2,000 girls and boys have completed the program.
- 1961: Member George Bennett sells his house (7135 Carroll Avenue) to the City to make way for a much needed parking lot for the fire department.
- 1964: A set of fire fighter gear consisting of a coat, boots and a helmet cost $75. Today's price, close to $1,000.
- 1968: D.C. Riots! On April 5, 16 members in four shifts spent more than 20 hours fighting fires in D.C.
- 1970: Firehouse makes way for a new "Tiller Truck," construction to raise the bay doors of the firehouse and install a 20-year roof at a cost of $12,000. The new 100-foot ladder truck is due in 1971 at a cost of $80,000. Today's price, close to $1 million.
- 1985: Life Member Henry Marschalk had his entire home fitted throughout with a residential sprinkler system. The first such effort in the City of Takoma Park.
- Eighteen members of the department have held the rank of Fire Chief with department, five paid and 13 as volunteer. Eleven members have been Fire Chiefs in other fire departments throughout the state and beyond, seven paid and four as volunteer.

Special note: In the history of the department, not one member has been severely injured or killed in the line of duty. In 1956, the members of the department responded to 994 calls for assistance. In 2007, they assisted with 3,951. And would you believe, when this station opened in 1928 to the end of October 2008, the Takoma Park Fire Department, both volunteer and career, responded out of that building over 161,000 times to help the community and beyond. There is not enough room in this entire newspaper to write about the outstanding job of the men and women of the Takoma Park Fire Department. In closing, on behalf of the entire department, we want to thank all of you for your support over the years.

Safety Tips for a Safe Dinner

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while the food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- When young children are in the home, use the stove's back burners whenever possible.
- Use only microwave-safe containers to heat food in the microwave.
- Open microwaved food slowly. Let it cool for a minute or more before eating.
- Never use a wet oven mitt. A hot pan could turn that dampness into scalding steam.
- Keep pot holders, food packaging, cookbooks and other things that can catch fire off the stovetop.
- Wipe up spills and clean your oven. Built-up grease can catch fire.
- Keep curtains, dish towels and anything that burns away from the stove.
- Turn pot handles to the back so you can't bump them.

Fighting Kitchen Fires...

Grease fires: Always keep a pot holder, an oven mitt and a lid handy. If a pan of food catches fire, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Prevent flare-ups by leaving the pan covered until it is completely cool.

Oven fires: Turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.

Microwave fires: Keep the door closed and unplug the microwave if you can safely reach the plug. Have the oven serviced before you use it again.

It's a fact: unattended cooking is the number one cause of home fires!

Takoma Park VFD's Annual Christmas Toy Give Away

This will mark the 28th year helping families with toys. Starting on December 1 and ending on December 2 we'll be collecting new toys. You may drop off any new toys at our temporary station located between the Co-op parking lot and the old firehouse between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. If you know of any families needing help with toys for their families (ages 1 to 10 years old), please contact Pam Taylor at the fire station 301-270-8209.

Baby Sitting Graduates

On October 27, the Takoma Park VFD completed another class in baby sitting training. Assisting coordinator Jim Jarboe, were Sandy Egan, Sgt. Tina Smith, TPPD and EMTs Mike Livingston and Deanna Stewart, TPVFD. Sitting, left to right, Kiera Givens, Naimani Staley, Ife Adelona, Azalea Coste. Standing, left to right, Amelia Bell, Erin Nolan, Clara Weisman, Ariana Robles, Kimberly Arteaga, Calley Mayer-Marks. Last three, left to right, Maggie McClain, Julian Smith-Jones, Claire Koenig.

Conviction Reached in Assault/Abduction Case

On January 30, 2008, Takoma Park Police arrested Richard Manning Miller of the 4200 block of 58th Avenue in Bladensburg, Maryland, for the assault and attempted abduction of a young woman on January 29 at the Pollo Campero restaurant on University Blvd. in Takoma Park, Maryland. Miller's trial was held on November 3, 5 and 6 at the Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville, Maryland. On November 6, Miller was found guilty of attempted first degree sex offense, attempted kidnapping and first degree assault. Miller's sentencing has been scheduled for December 17.

The maximum penalty for the attempted first degree sex offense is life; first degree assault is 25 years and attempted kidnapping is 30 years; for a total of life plus 55 years.

Chief Ricucci continues to be grateful to the media for their outstanding and continuing coverage of the surveillance video, as well as the public who called in many tips which led detectives to Miller's vehicle and ultimately Miller. He continues to be thankful to Pollo Campero for the upkeep and maintenance of their surveillance videos that made it possible to garner the public's assistance in locating Miller.

Chief Ricucci is also proud of his TEU and CID units, as well as patrol officers, for their outstanding follow through and determination to bring closure to this crime for this young victim. The entire investigation was a joint effort between the police department, the media and the public which resulted in a successful arrest, and conviction, to a horrendous crime.

TEEN HOMICIDE continued from page 1

were arrested by the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force-Houston. It is believed both men are affiliated with the MS-13 gang, though that has not yet been confirmed.

The investigation began on Saturday, November 1 at approximately 11:08 p.m., when police officers were called to a bus stop on Piney Branch Road at Arliss Street for a shooting that had occurred. Upon arrival, they found three juvenile males on a Montgomery County Ride On bus suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. Tai Lam died of his wounds that night.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a group of 10 to 12 friends, including the three victims who were shot, got on the Ride On bus in downtown Silver Spring. There is no evidence that these individuals are affiliated with any gangs. Another group of four or five male subjects got on the same bus at two different locations. There was a verbal exchange between members of the two groups. What exactly was said and the manner in which it was said is still under investigation. It is believed that the two groups were only together on the bus for a short period of time.

For unknown reasons the four or five subjects got off the bus at the Piney Branch Road and Arliss Street stop. As one of those subjects was getting off, he turned and fired a handgun from the area of the rear door of the bus into the bus striking the three teens. That subject has been identified as Hernandez. All three victims were transported to area trauma centers. The two surviving victims, a 14-year-old male and a 15-year-old male, were released from the hospital and continue to recover from their injuries.

The local community, and especially students from Montgomery Blair High School, where Lam was a freshman, held vigils and memorials for the boy in Silver Spring, an area he frequented with his friends. The high school also made counselors available for students, many of whom knew Lam and were devastated by his death.

Montgomery County Police would like to thank all the members of the community who have called in and assisted in advancing this investigation.

This information was taken from a Montgomery County Media Services press release.

LIBRARY *Briefs*

Babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups are invited to our special Circle Times on Tuesday Dec. 2, when Daniel Barash will put on a shadow puppet show for our youngest library patrons. Daniel will do his magic twice – first at the 10 a.m. Circle Time, then at the 11 a.m. Circle Time. No registration necessary. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this special event.

We're offering two different holiday craft programs this season, with all the materials provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. First, on Friday, Dec. 19, from 4-5 p.m., school-aged kids are invited to come and make simple gifts for the special people in their lives. No registration necessary for this program. Then, on Monday, Dec. 22, from 6-8 p.m., families – including little ones — are invited to come and make holiday gifts. Registration required.

Kick off the new season with our annual Winter Solstice celebration on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Popular ethnomusicologist Bill Jenkins will open our program, and he'll be followed by the Foggy Bottom Morris Men. No need to register – just come! Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this event.

Come enjoy a unique program based on this year's Newbery Medal-winning book, "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!" by Laura Amy Schlitz. On Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m., a troupe of middle schoolers will perform the poems they wrote based on the book. The poems are the end result of a four-session workshop led by local poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer. This program is best for children ages 5 and up. Please register.

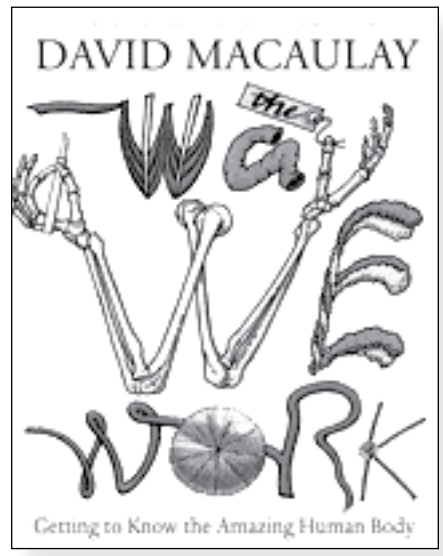
Sing some holiday songs with local musician Wendy Lanxner and her flute and guitar students on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. This is a fun event for the entire family – no registration required. Just bring your voice and good cheer!

Looking for the perfect holiday gift to give the children in your life? Try a book! Check our Children's Room and Teen Buzz Book blogs for some ideas of great books for every age and interest, from infants through teens. Check it out by going to www.takomapark.info/library and then clicking on one of our blogs. Happy Holidays!

Macaulay Tackles How Bodies Work

By Karen MacPherson

Recently, I interviewed David Macaulay for the children's book column I write weekly for Scripps Howard News Service. Here's the story that resulted:



Caldecott Medalist David Macaulay had an idea – an inkling, least — that creating a children's book on the human body might be a rather tough challenge.

"But an inkling is a kind of exciting thing, a 'Let's see if I can do this' kind of thing," Macaulay said in a recent interview. "If I'd had a clear understanding of how hard it would be to do this book, I might never have done it."

That would have been a shame, because Macaulay's new 336-page book, "*The Way We Work*" is a true masterpiece, taking readers on a fascinating journey through the various systems of the human body.

The text, which Macaulay worked on with British science writer Richard Walker, is written in clear, simple prose that makes even the most complicated concepts accessible. But it is Macaulay's colored pencil illustrations, teeming with details and laced with humor, that make this book a standout among the dozens of other children's volumes on the human body.

As in his now classic book, "The Way Things Work," Macaulay's comedic sense is a key to why this new book works so well. On one page, for example, Macaulay illustrates how certain body parts carry more sensory receptors by showing two ping pong players, one with outsized lips and hands. In another section, Macaulay shows the connection between the respiratory and circulatory systems in terms of a roller coaster at an amusement park.

"How can you teach without humor?" the 61-year-old Macaulay said. "That's the thing that cuts across the differences among us. I've long believed that if you can put a smile on the face of a reader, they will better absorb the information you give them."

Macaulay originally began research on the book in 2000, but put it aside to create his book, "Mosque," in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. He then went back to "The Way We Work" in 2002.

Macaulay, who won the Caldecott Medal in 1991 for "Black and White," said he began by steeping himself in research, reading everything he could find and talking to various experts. They became a "built-in little jury" for the book, he said.

Macaulay also sat in on anatomy classes and dissections, and even put his hands into cadavers to get a better sense of where things are.

The hardest thing, Macaulay added, "was just the sheer amount of information. I had to decide what to include and what not to include. It was overwhelming. A couple of times, I was ready to quit."

Each time that happened, however, Walter Lorraine, Macaulay's long-time editor at Houghton Mifflin, put him back on track. It was Lorraine's suggestion that Macaulay collaborate with another writer on the text so that he could focus most of his energy on the illustrations.

"He (Lorraine) basically refused to let me stop," Macaulay said.

One of Macaulay's most important decisions was basically determining where to start his story of the human body. He eventually settled on the idea of beginning with cells, believing that "without cells none of the other stuff mattered."

Creating a book that was different was one of Macaulay's major goals. He also wanted to ensure that it was better than the many other children's books on the human body published over the years.

"I found them unsatisfactory, and so I

MACAULAY
continues on page 11

Takoma's 'One Book' Is "War and Peace"

A brave and adventurous contingent of the Friends Reading Group will spend the cold winter months reading the new translation of Tolstoy's "*War and Peace*" by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky.

Published last year to rave reviews, "The Washington Post" called it "Shimmering… [It] offers an opportunity to see this great classic afresh, to approach it not as a monument but rather as a deeply touching story about our contradictory human hearts." the "Los Angeles Times Book Review" pronounced it "stunning" and "The New York Review of Books" called it "…an extraordinary achievement…wonderfully fresh and readable."

Discussions of the book will take place in January, February and March. Copies of the new translation have been purchased by the Friends for the Library, and more will be made available when the paperback edition is published on December 2. Borrowers are exempt from overdues until the discussions end, provided they participate. Get your copy, while they last – or reserve a copy for early December.

Thomas Mann compared "*War and Peace*" to Homer's "*Iliad*," and wrote of Tolstoy: "To read him…is to find one's way home…to everything within us that is fundamental and sane."

For those who prefer shorter selections, the reading group will be planning other discussions for January and March. A discussion of "The Namesake" will be held Thursday, January 8.

Takoma Park Library CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2008

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing.

You can register online by going to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or by calling 301-891-7259. Events take place in the Library unless otherwise noted.

Neighborhood Circle Time
Every Tuesday
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m. at the Library.

Spanish Circle Time
Every Thursday, 11-11:30 a.m.
Come sing songs, do rhymes and hear stories in Spanish and English in this program led by Señora Maria.

Lapsit
A program for babies ages newborn through 12 months and their grown-ups.
Wednesdays in November, 10 a.m. Registration required.

Shadow Puppet Show
Tuesday, Dec. 2, 10-10:30 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m.
Watch shadow puppeteer Daniel Barash bring stories to life in a new way.
(Note: These programs substitute for our regular Tuesday Circle Times)

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Bilingual Circle Time
Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Come join us for stories, songs and rhymes in Spanish and English.

Bedtime Stories
Monday, Dec. 8, 7-7:30 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. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Holiday Music Sing-a-long
Saturday, Dec. 13, 10:30-11 a.m.
Join local guitar and recorder students as we sing holiday favorites.
All ages.

Banned Books Club
For kids grades 6 and up.
Monday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
We'll be reading aloud various picture books that have been challenged.
All welcome; please register.

CALENDAR
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Book Sale a Rousing Success

The weather cooperated, bringing sunny skies and mild temperatures to the Friends of the Library book sale on November 1. In five hours, the sale netted $2,200 for the Friends. All proceeds go back to the Library in the form of gifts – including special programs, books, lanyards for children's Library cards, the Library's summer reading program and many other endeavors.

We wish to thank the following staff and volunteers whose efforts made the sale a success: Judy Treible, Bob and Mary Ann Annis, Michele Morgan, Dee and Mel Raff, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Eric Hauser, Karen Fishman, Linda Carlson, Susan Robb, Andrew Wilson, Pam Coffey, Pat Hanrahan, Maurice Belanger, Rebekah Zanditon, Karen Boyer, Nadine Wettstein, Jane Williams- Grube, Douglas Grube, Clair Garman, Alanna Natanson, Sam McCollin and his friend Carlos, Willie Hopkins, Dave Burbank, and Book Sale Coordinator Merrill Leffler. Rebekah Zanditon and Walter Mulbry are helping to find homes for books left over from the sale.

Thanks also to the many book sale supporters in Takoma Park who donated wonderful books, bought books and visited with us and each other through the day – helping to make this a true community event.

CALENDAR

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"Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!"
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Dramatic readings by middle-school poets based on the Newbery Medal-winning book.
Best for audiences ages 5 up.
Please register.

Winter Solstice Celebration
Thursday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.
Join ethnomusicologist Bill Jenkins and Foggy Bottom Morris Men at this annual celebration.

Crafty Kids
Friday, Dec. 19, 4-5 p.m.
Come make holiday gifts.
Materials provided, thanks to the Friends of the Library.
For kids ages 5 and up.

Holiday Gift-Making For Families
Monday, Dec. 22, 6 -8 p.m.
Come make holiday gifts.
Materials provided, thanks to the Friends of the Library.
Kids of all ages welcome; parental supervision required for the littlest ones.
Registration required.

MACAULAY

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tried to figure out why. I didn't want to burden an already-overburdened subject…. But I really believe that if you respond to a subject with a personal passion, that your book will distinguish itself from other books on the same subject."

Because of working on the book, Macaulay now has much more respect for his body, noting that he now has "pictures in my head of what an area of the body might look like…. I'm able to connect what I am doing… with the internal architecture and engineering that makes it possible."

Putting the book together was an enormous project, Macaulay said. So it was particularly good timing when Macaulay was named a "genius" by the MacArthur Foundation in 2006. Chosen for their "exceptional creativity," recipients are given $500,000 over five years.

"This book took at least two years longer than I expected, so this award could not have come at a better time," Macaulay said.

Now that he's finally finished "The Way We Work," Macaulay's going to take a brief vacation with his wife and two young children. Then it's on to new projects, which include a book about Earth's systems and another book about how various machines have changed history.

"I've got plenty to keep me busy," Macaulay said. "I'm just not capable of taking a big break."

More Performances Air on City TV

The City Council will be in recess this month, so City TV will be adding more community events to the schedule. Visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable/schedule for updated program information as our edit crews release more performances from the Folk Festival and Street Festival.

Takoma Snapshots this month will feature:

Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board.

Many City TV programs, including Council meetings and Snapshots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website. Much of City TV programming is streaming live on the website as well. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for more information.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Dubs of Takoma Park City TV events may be purchased on VHS or DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2008

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Folk Festival		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Folk Festival	
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots		Coffeehouse			Takoma Park Snapshots
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City TV Special Events)	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival				Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
NOON					Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)		
1:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			
2:00 PM			Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots						Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	Preschool Power		Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Preschool Power	
5:00 PM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Community Bulletin Board	
6:00 PM		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Snapshots	
7:00 PM				Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Jazz Friday	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	Takoma Park City TV Special Events						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
10:00 PM							Coffeehouse
11:00 PM				Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots		Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited		
1:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	Takoma Park Folk Festival			Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	

Third Annual HOLiDAY & ART SALE & STUDiO TOUR

Saturday, December 13
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park

Tour Local Art Studios
View the Work of More Than 75 Artists

Open Studio tour map and listing of artists and crafts people is available at the Takoma Park Community Center and can be found online at www.takomaparkmd.gov

Hosted by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission and A. Salon, Ltd. Studios

"celebrating the creative spirit of our community"

Takoma Parkers Embrace 2008 Election

In a Line of Firsts, She's First in Line to Vote

By Joy Lawson Jones

With tears in my eyes, I cast the very first vote this morning at Takoma Park Elementary School. It was a gift from God to be able to get up, get dressed, ignore the dogs and get to the polls by 5:50 a.m. I set up my stadium chair (thanks to all my teenage nieces who told it would come in handy one day) and claimed my spot directly in front of the double doors.

For ten minutes I was alone, savoring the quiet, the fresh air and the importance of the day, the time, and the place.

My first companion was a 40-ish woman who was scheduled for surgery at 9 a.m. Her husband brought her a milk crate to sit on. We chatted about the chill, and agreed it didn't matter. Then a young man came with his own chair but he didn't get to sit much because he kept hopping up to help poll workers carry in tables. What a gentleman. After him came two very young women, perhaps 20 or so, armed with books, coffee and very serious expressions. Voters seven and eight arrived with a hearty and determined "Are we all here to vote? Yes we can!"

By 7 a.m. I could no longer see the end of the line.

I was so excited about being the first to vote that it's all a blur now. I just remember people applauding me as I completed the process and two little boys beaming up at me as I left the room.

I gave everyone in line the thumbs up as I left. Somebody took my picture...twice! Somebody else yelled "Congratulations!" Everyone wanted to know what time I got there. By this time my neighbors and fellow dog walkers were in the line that was now two blocks long. I offered my chair to two people on canes; they refused but finally a woman took it, promising to bring it by my home. In the spirit of the day, she agreed to offer the chair to another who might need it after she had cast her vote.

What a great morning. This 60-year-old African American woman has often been first (first-born, first Negro at her elementary school in Boston, first in the family to go to college, etc), but nothing has meant as much to me in my life as to be the first to cast my vote today.

Hats Off to the Election Night Police

By Judy Rosenthal

Hats off to this country for pulling off such a decisively important election and choosing Obama! The multitudes who got involved, learned about the issues and believed they could make a difference, along with all the new and first time voters, deserve our gratitude and praise, as do the Takoma Park Police.

Tuesday night, following the announcement that Obama had just surpassed the 270 electoral votes to become our next president, an exuberant crowd of neighbors on Elm Avenue, both teenagers and adults, emerged onto the street. Clanging pots and pans, drumming on trash cans, chanting O-BA-MA, and howling in delight, the celebration began. As we paraded up Elm, our crowd gathered force, attracting the attention of well wishers who flashed their porch lights, cheered and waved from open front doors and others who left their porches and joined the celebration.

We marched down Poplar, up Columbia, across Carroll and down Tulip where a naked man leapt onto the street and streaked jubilantly into the crowd, and disappeared again. As we turned onto Maple Avenue, we encountered those ominous flashing pink and blue lights: the Takoma Park Police.

As three police cars approached and positioned themselves, we asked ourselves whether it was worth risking arrest to continue the festivities. Then we realized they were not coming to break up the party or to arrest us. Instead, one thrust his fist out the window flashing a thumbs-up and they proceeded to escort us. For nearly an hour, they followed our lead as we marched, matching our pace all the way back to Elm. They are to be commended for their decision and actions, supporting a spontaneous outburst of citizen revelry!

The Newsletter *would like to thank our readers for sharing their impressions and experiences of the recent presidential election. If you have something to share with the* Newsletter, *please contact us at tpnewseditor@takomagov.org, or call the editor, Virginia Myers, at 301-920-0244.*

FESTIVITIES

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and Sheger Market, on New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway respectively.

Get it All, Get it Locally

Like many Takoma Parkers, I hop down to the video store regularly, frequent our restaurants, and buy gifts and cards in the shops. But in this precarious economy, I'd like to up the ante to ensure these shops, where merchants call me by name, will be around next year.

On a recent trip to the mall, I resisted some pretty cute winter hats in Target – even though they looked great on my teenage daughter -- and I didn't even enter the funky homewares store. We did buy some essentials I thought I wouldn't find in Takoma Park – oops! Now I realize I could have purchased socks and leggings right on Carroll Avenue.

As far as costs go, I explained it to my thrifty 15-year-old this way: we may pay a little more for a handmade hat in Old Town, but we're not just buying a hat. We're buying a culture of community, we're preserving the little strip of shops that we love so much, and in many cases we're supporting the artists, musicians, fair-trade wages and lifestyles (like organic farming) we favor.

That's a lot of value for just $15 or $20.

You'll find those hats, deliciously bright and textured, at several stores – including S&A Beads, Amano, and Tranquil Soul – and, at Now and Then you can choose between buying a pre-made hat and getting inspired to knit your own with the yarn and patterns available there. The home accents at Magic Carpet strike just the right balance of beauty and function, with lamps, pillows, candle holders and even small furniture. Now and Then is famous for its tasteful gifts and fun toys – for kids or adults. There are clothes at ReRun, Peggy Sue's, Amano, Tranquil Soul and, down the street, Willow Street Yoga; and more unique gifts and home items at the Covered Market, Moonshadow, Tranquil Soul, and the Culture Shop just beyond the Metro. Check out the video selection at Video Americain. Decorate with flowers from Park Florist. Fair Day's Play carries only fair trade toys for kids and adults, from board games to Frisbees.

Photo by Ilona Blanchard

Window decorations at S&A Beads get fancy during the holidays for the annual Roscoe Award.

At Takoma Junction, you'll find oodles of kids' clothing and toys at the Pajama Squid.

Then there are the one-of-a-kind shops. American Craft carries hand-made art and craft, much of it by local artists. The House of Musical Traditions, in its new location on Westmoreland Avenue, is a magnet for musicians looking for instruments, or for those who just want to incorporate a little music into their lives with a simple harmonica or penny whistle. Or you could consider music lessons – teachers at HMT offer everything from banjo to bass, didgeridoo to dulcimer, or more standard guitar and piano.

For more lessons, there are two new dance studios – Roda, for Latin flavor, and Contradiction Dance, for modern – plus the Dance Exchange. Roda and Dance Exchange offer gift certificates, as do Willow Street Yoga and Bikram Yoga. There are also gift certificates for a natural manicure, pedicure or facial at the Still Point, or for massage, acupuncture or other body therapies. Tired of shopping? Recharge at a local eatery – Mark's Kitchen, Savory, Everyday Gourmet or Middle Eastern Market, which now has a bar in the back. Or grab an ice cream or coffee at Summer Delights. Then head for Takoma Junction, where you'll find food gifts, body care products and stocking stuffers at the Co-op, and the soon-to-be-open pizza restaurant, which makes dinner easy.

Roz Grigsby, executive director of the Old Town Business Association (OTBA), agrees that shopping local has everything to do with aesthetics, but she takes it a logical step further. Not only is it enjoyable to shop where the merchants cater to you and your neighbors – it is also a big perk of living in Takoma Park that we have this attractive, vibrant downtown area.

"People like the idea of a pedestrian-friendly area where they can walk down and get a last minute house warming present," she says. "We like the idea of it because in some ways the shops we have are so typical of Takoma Park, they're independent, they're quirky, they're one-of –a-kind places. We actually need to give them our custom so that they can survive."

Holiday Collection Schedule for December and January

There are several holidays in November and December that will affect trash and recycling collection.

Christmas, Thursday, December 25: Thursday routes will be collected on Friday, December 26.

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1: Thursday routes will be collected on Friday, January 2.

Martin Luther King's Birthday, Monday, January 19: There will be no Monday yard waste collection. Monday recycling routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 20.