City Council on Break Until Tuesday, Sept. 7

City offices closed for Labor Day

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

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

TRASH HOLIDAYS

Sept. 6 Labor Day, trash collection
Sept. 7, no yard waste collection

Published by the City of Takoma Park | www.takomaparkmd.gov | AUGUST 2010

TPES Back On Line

By Virginia Myers

"Back to School" this year means "Back to *Our* School" for hundreds of Takoma Park Elementary School students, who return to their newly renovated building August 30.

After a year of being bused to Grosvenor Elementary School in Bethesda, which served as a holding school during renovations in Takoma Park, students and their families are looking forward to returning home. For one thing, the 30-minute bus ride to Grosvenor will be eliminated.

And the building will be less crowded. The school, at 7511 Holly Avenue, was expanded so that the portable classrooms – temporary trailers — used for years to accommodate overflow population of students, could be eliminated. "The children don't have to leave the building at all, except to go to recess," says Principal Zadia Gadsden. "Proximity is better for everyone."

Security is improved as well, she adds. Doors can be locked with no need for worry over children going in and out of the building to get to portable classrooms. A buzzer is installed at the main entrance to facilitate entrance for visitors.

The school will now accommodate 562 students; enrollment is expected to be 476, though that number fluctuates until the day school starts. The renovation added 16 classrooms, a new pre-K room, new day care room, ESOL and speech therapy rooms, a new computer lab, a counselor's office, and a staff lounge. The Media Center has been renovated and enlarged, the special education resource room has been revamped, and the health room has been vastly improved, says Gadsden. Once tiny, it can now accommodate three sick students on cots.

"We're very excited about the children walking in to the new space the first day of school."
— TPES Principal Zadia Gadsden

Similarly, the main office, which in the old building was crowded with more than two parents visiting, is much larger, more open and light. Administrators had already set up shop there in July, while the rest of the building was being completed.

Outdoors, two new pieces of playground equipment have been installed, as well as a new blacktop. Additional parking off the bus loop will ease parking tangles in the nearby neighborhood.

One thing that has not changed is the signature atrium in the center of the school. Filled with plants, it has been a favorite element of the school for many years. Gadsden says volunteer parents were "troopers," maintaining the plants there throughout the dusty construction process.

If occupancy permits are granted in time, Gadsden plans a community open house, so neighbors can see the school's improvements before classes begin. Teachers are expected to return on August 23; the first day of school is August 30. Information on the open house will be posted as available on the school's web site, montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkes.

"We're very excited about the children walking in to the new space the first day of school," says Gadsden.

Recreation Department summer camps have swelled with children in programs like this one, "OnStage Footlights," taught by Gretchen Weigel and held in the new auditorium. The children, ages 4 to 6, are rehearsing their parts for a performance of The Wizard of Oz.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Summer Camp Hits Record Enrollment

By Virginia Myers

The Recreation Department has found a formula for summer camps that, apparently, appeals to local residents. After low enrollment last year, the department recorded a 60 percent increase in the number of campers for its first week-long session; a 30 percent increase for the second week; a 150 percent increase in the third week and a 60 percent increase the fourth, according to Recreation Department Director Debra Haiduven. Overall, the number of camp slots filled went from 350 in 2009 to 580 in 2010, a 66 percent increase. These camps do not include summer teen programming.

Haiduven attributes the boost in attendance to the specialty camps the department launched this year. Over the course of the summer, children could choose from among 12 camps (there were three or four offerings each week) for their morning session, which runs from 9 to 12. Then they join the more general camp for the afternoon, for traditional camp activities like art, sports, games and swimming.

SUMMER CAMP
continues on page 12

Two New Speed Cameras Recommended

By Virginia Myers

The City Council has voted to recommend installation of two new speed cameras which, if approved by the State Highway Administration, would be installed on University Boulevard and East West Highway.

These would be the fifth and sixth speed cameras installed in the City: the others, installed in spring 2009, are on New Hampshire Avenue near Sligo Creek Parkway, and in the 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue (East West Highway).

The photo radar units would be mounted in the 900 block of University Boulevard, eastbound (between Merrimac and Navahoe Drives), and in the 1000 block of East West Highway, westbound, just east of New Hampshire Avenue.

The radar recommendation follows a speed survey showing violations of the 35-mile-per-hour speed limit on University Boulevard, and of the 30-mile-per-hour limit on East West Highway. City staff also report that, since October 2009, there have been 29 accidents at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway, near the proposed speed camera; the City's traffic officer says she has written more than 100 tickets there in a period of six months.

Similarly, 26 accidents were reported in the 900 to 1100 blocks of University Boulevard since October 2009, and more than 200 speeding violations have been issued there.

The speed survey, conducted over the course of a week in June 2009, shows that, on the stretch of University Boulevard being considered for the speed camera, the average speed violation clocked in between 49 and 50 miles per hour, depending on the time of day or night. This indicates that drivers are speeding an average of 14 to 15 miles per hour over the speed limit, which is 35 miles per hour. Tickets are issued at 47 miles per hour.

On East West Highway, speed violations averaged between 45 and 47 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone – 15 to 17 miles over the speed limit. Enforcement there kicks in at 42 miles per hour.

SPEED CAMERAS
continues on page 12

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

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

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

Tuesday, August 10 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Thursday, August 12 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, August 24 - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

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

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).

Task Force Established to Look at Options for Takoma Junction: Residents Invited to Apply for Appointment

The City Council has established a Takoma Junction Task Force to:

- evaluate current conditions in Takoma Junction and identify opportunities for the redevelopment and revitalization of the area
- develop an outreach plan designed to solicit comment on future redevelopment proposals, increase awareness of available incentive programs and engage the community in revitalization initiatives that may be undertaken by the City and others; and
- create work plans with recommended near- and long-term actions for Council consideration that address the community's interest in improving existing traffic patterns, resolving pedestrian safety concerns, increasing public use of public spaces, providing for the redevelopment of city-owned properties, enhancing the physical appearance and condition of properties and increasing the economic viability of area businesses.

The Task Force is expected to complete its work and submit its recommendations to the City Council by September 30, 2011.

The Council will appoint seven to 21 members to the Task Force. Interested applicants should submit an application to the City Clerk by September 1. For an application and complete information about the Takoma Junction Task Force, see www.takomaparkmd.gov .

Takoma Park Small Community Grant Program Application Deadline – September 20, 2010

The deadline to apply for funding under the City's Small Community Grant Program is Monday, September 20. The program competitively awards small grants (up to $2,500) for projects that help to further the goals established in the Strategic Plan. A copy of the Strategic Plan, full description of the Small Community Grant Program, and application form is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk.

City Council Action*

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

June 14 – Special Session

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-25 was adopted, authorizing FY 2010 Budget Amendment No. 3

Resolution 2010-34 was adopted, regarding Sligo Park Hills/Ritchie Community Traffic Access Restrictions

First Reading Ordinance 2010-27 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 12.12 to increase permit fees and to clarify the activities which require a tree impact assessment and a tree protection plan permit

First Reading Ordinance 2010-28 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 10.12, fees for refuse and recycling collection at multifamily dwelling units

June 21 – Regular Meeting

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-29 was adopted, awarding a contract for renovation of the Public Works facility

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-27 was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 12.12 to increase permit fees and to clarify the activities which require a tree impact assessment and a tree protection plan permit

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-28 was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 10.12, fees for refuse and recycling collection at multifamily dwelling units

Resolution 2010-35 was adopted, authorizing the submission of Legislative Action Requests to the Maryland Municipal League

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2010-36 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with Adventist Community Services for the Piney Branch Pool

Resolution 2010-37 appointing Juan Jose Canales, Galyna Husbands and Peter Munger to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Resolution 2010-38 appointing Karin J. Rodney-Haapala and Marcie Wolf-Hubbard to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Resolution 2010-39 appointing Denise Jones and Christopher King to the Recreation Committee

July 6 – Special Session

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-30 was adopted, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for construction management consulting services for the Public Works facility renovation

July 12 – Regular Meeting

First Reading Ordinance 2010-31 was accepted, authorizing the issuance and sale of City of Takoma Park General Obligation Bond, 2010 Series C, for the purpose of financing the costs of renovating the City's Public Works facility

First Reading Ordinance 2010-32 was accepted, adopting the FY 2011 AFSCME pay scale

First Reading Ordinance 2010-33 was accepted, adopting the FY 2011 management and non-union staff pay scale

First Reading Ordinance 2010-34 was accepted, adopting the FY 2011 police pay scale

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-35 was adopted, authorizing the City Manager to sign an amended agreement with ACS for the placement of two additional speed cameras

The consent agenda was adopted:

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-36 authorizing the purchase of equipment for the multimedia computer lab

Resolution 2010-40 establishing a Takoma Junction Task Force

Resolution 2020-41 amending the City Manager's employment contract

Resolution 2010-42 endorsing nomination of the Ethan Allen Gateway as a Maryland Smart Site

Resolution 2010-43 appointing Trevor Delafield and Sydney Davenport Katz to the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee

Resolution 2010-44 appointing Christopher King to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Resolution 2010-45 supporting financing by the Neighborhood Business Works Program for The Green Commuter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

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

Arts and Humanities Commission
(vacancies)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
(vacancies)

Personnel Appeal Board
(vacancy)

Recreation Committee
(vacancies)

Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee
(vacancies)

Tree Commission
(one term expires Sept. 30)

Ethics Commission
(four terms expire Sept. 30)

Takoma Junction Task Force
(new – see write up this page)

GROWING COMMUNITY

Michelle Mosher and Rani Parker (in inset, left to right) are just two of the gardeners cultivating vegetables, herbs and flowers at the Sligo Mill Overlook Community Garden. Photo by Laurie Stepp

County's first community garden thrives in Takoma Park

By Rick Henry

Many is the great idea that, once enacted, never bears fruit. That is not the case with the Orchard Avenue/ Sligo Mill Overlook Community Garden, however. In its 14-month existence, the garden has not only born fruit, but vegetables, and spices, and flowers of all kinds.

The garden, located in the Sligo Overlook Park at the intersection of Sligo Mill Road and Orchard Avenue in the Pinecrest section of the City, was the first community garden in Montgomery County. It was christened last May after efforts by Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin and Ward 3 Councilmember Dan Robinson, and has been a success from the outset.

"Orchard Ave/ Sligo Mill Overlook (SMO) is our first community garden and continues to be a gem in the Parks' [Montgomery Parks and Planning] eye," says Ursula Sabia-Sukinik, community garden coordinator for Park and Planning says. "[Since SMO was established] the demand for community gardens has continued."

Talk with some of the gardeners who tend plots at the garden and it's easy to understand why.

"It has completely transformed my life," says Rani Parker, who lives nearby on Elm Avenue in Takoma Park.

Parker says that the opportunity to grow and cook such a wide variety of fresh, organic vegetables has changed the eating habits of her family. "My 11-year-old daughter is eating things she would have never eaten before, like winter kale," says Parker. "In the spring, we lived on fresh, green salads."

Parker begins rattling off all of the items she has grown: kale, tomatoes, collards, carrots, parsley, beets, peppers, eggplant, garlic, butter gourd, squashes of all sorts. She recounts going down to the garden on Thanksgiving morning and gathering up a "feast" of carrots, beets and other vegetables and roasting them with the meal that evening.

Yet, the bounty is only a small part of the allure, and success, of the garden, Parker says. When it comes to a community garden, the "community" is as important as the "garden."

Laura Delaney, a resident of Davis Avenue in Takoma Park who has been gardening at the site since its inception, agrees. "One of the reasons I joined was to be around other people with similar passions," she says. "I like being around other people doing things I like."

"There is an interdependency that raises one's awareness about our interconnectedness."

— Laura Delaney

Beyond sharing a common interest in gardening, the gardeners also share tips and advice on everything from how to grow certain foods, to canning and preserving, to dealing with the dreaded bugs that intrude on the plants – an issue that is especially important given that the garden is organic, meaning no pesticides can be used. "I am constantly consulting with my plot neighbors asking 'what have you tried' [to get rid of the bugs] and 'what are you growing,'" says Delaney.

"We all learn from each other" says Parker. "There is an interdependency that raises one's awareness about our interconnectedness."

Garden members share common responsibilities and maintenance, including such tasks as filling the giant black cistern that supplies the water to the gardens, managing the compost bin and distributing the compost throughout the garden.

Sabia-Sukinik says the gardeners' self-reliance and initiative has impressed her. "My greatest surprise was when the gardeners came to me and asked me to let them organize and run the program with my oversight. They have organized themselves into work teams and have taken over running the whole interior with the oversight and support of Parks. They have become an amazing self-reliant community," she says.

Their reach also extends beyond the immediate community. Parker makes regular deliveries of her excess produce to the nearby Capital Area Foodbank in D.C, and according to Emily Osterhaus, From the Ground UP associate at the food bank, the donations are welcome, and extremely popular.

"Beautiful, fresh produce is in such short supply," she says. "So the produce [from the SMO garden] is in extremely high demand and goes the same day, often before we can even put it out on the shelves."

Osterhaus says that the relationship with the SMO garden is part of a larger outreach effort that the Food Bank has undertaken entitled "Grow-a-Row," where local organizations are paired with nearby gardeners and gardens. "Community gardens are a great resource," she says.

Soon, Osterhaus may be able to draw from another great Takoma Park resource as in Mid-June 2010, Parks and Planning partnered up with Takoma Park on the Maple Avenue Greening Project. The projects provides 29 two-by-six-foot containers dedicated to Maple Avenue residents for vegetable and flower growing at 7620 Maple Avenue. The application deadline has been extended for 20 remaining community garden spots there. Residents who live on Maple Avenue, between Philadelphia and Sligo Creek Parkway, are eligible to apply. There is a $25 annual fee for each container, which includes a water reserve (see notice below).

And according to Sabia-Sukinik, even more community gardens may be on the way for the area.

"Parks is reviewing a contract for a private parcel of land on King Street near Takoma Park for a community garden in 2011," she says. "While there are no additional sites planned for 2011 in Takoma Park at this time, several potential future sites have been noted and are being watched as buildings are being removed or sold." Should more community gardens be established, Sabia-Sukinik says SMO is an example to be emulated.

"SMO is a wonderful example of using underutilized park land for a garden and how to build a community. Its presentation and community spirit can help to move the parks community garden program forward to other sites all over the county."

Maple Avenue Community Garden

Are you interested in growing vegetables, herbs or flowers but don't have the space? If you live on Maple Avenue, between Philadelphia and Sligo Creek Parkway, then you're eligible to apply for one of the 20 available community gardening spots at 7620 Maple Avenue.

Planters will be assigned on a first-come first-serve basis.

For more information and application form, contact Carman Lam at (301) 891 7219, CarmanL@takomagov.org, or visit the City's website (http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/maple/Maple_Ave_lottery_form.pdf).

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.

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

A prospective tenant contacted the Mailbox and stated that he had given a cash security deposit to a supposed agent of a landlord, only to later learn that the "agent" was a fraudulent set-up, completely unknown to the landlord. What can tenants do to protect themselves from scams?

Never give a security deposit before you actually view the apartment that is available for rent.

All meetings with an agent/landlord should occur at the prospective rental property site or office of the property owner or their agent. Meetings taking place at local commercial establishments should be particularly suspect.

Identification should be requested to confirm that the agent/associate is actually the representative of the property owner. Contact the Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development at 301-891-7119 to obtain the contact information for a landlord or agent. Reconfirm with a landlord that the person you are to meet is his/her agent.

Security deposits should be paid by a personal check or money order made out to the landlord or rental complex. Cash payments are not a good idea, even when a receipt is offered. Receipts provided from common receipt books without numbers or business markings are particularly suspect.

Although many landlords use Craig's List or other web sites to advertise their vacant units, be cautious and always take a person with you when viewing the advertised apartment. Never pay any fee or deposit up front, unless you want the apartment you are viewing.

Persons who suspect they have been victims of any scheme should immediately contact the Takoma Park Police Department and provide physical descriptions and other relevant information about the person(s) involved.

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

This year's Takoma Park Folk Festival takes place September 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Here, last year's festival shows the diversity of the crowds, who come to hear music from all over the world.

Photo by Wayne Botts

Carpe Diem Community Choir Kicks Off Folk Fest

By Kevin Adler
Folk Festival Publicity Co-Chair

If you're the type of person who arrives early at events, you'll be rewarded at this year's Takoma Park Folk Festival. The Festival will start 30 minutes earlier than in the past—at 10:30 a.m.—with a special performance by the Carpe Diem Community Choir.

The Choir will sing its way through the Festival grounds at 10:30 and parade to the Field Stage, where its members will welcome early arrivals with songs until 11 a.m. At 11, six of the Festival's seven stages will go live, and performances will continue until 6 p.m.

"Early is a great time at the Festival," says Program Co-Chair Catherine Chapman. "It's less crowded, and it's not as hot, if it's a high-temperature day. We hope that Carpe Diem can help us build the crowds at all the stages at 11 a.m."

The 33rd annual Takoma Park Folk Festival will be held on Sunday, September 12, at Takoma Park Middle School on Piney Branch Road. As always, the Festival is free and family-friendly. More than 50 performers, 25 crafters, 20 food vendors, and 100 community groups will be onsite for a day of music, dance, and cultural exploration.

Among this year's highlights are: tributes to Lucinda Williams and Bob Marley; several showcases of singer-songwriters and traditional Appalachian music; high-energy reggae, rockabilly, Afropop, and Mediterranean music; and the internationally known activist duo emma's revolution.

Drumming is also big this year: There will be West African drumming, a participatory drum circle, performer Nana Frimpong, steel drums with Lara Family and Friends, and Afropop favorites Elikeh at the Field Stage.

Dancers are also covered: there will be instruction in everything from Irish dancing and Morris dancing to double-dutch jump roping and Thai dance. Folks who like to sing can join the DC Labor Chorus and Charm City Labor Chorus at 11 a.m. at the Abbott Stage, and close down Abbott with a sea chantey sing-along at 5 p.m.

For complete information about the Folk Festival's program, crafts show, and other activities, please go to www.tpff.org.

Financial Management Classes

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

Now is the time to attend to your finances.

Sign up Now! Class size is limited.

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park

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

Where: Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

Cost: No Cost, but pre-registration is required

Call 301-891-7222

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

New Parking Meter Rates Effective Sept. 1, 2010

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

All parking meters shall have a minimum rate of $0.25.

Parking meters with a 30-minute limit shall have a rate of $0.25 for 20 minutes or $0.40 for 30 minutes.

Parking meters with a one-hour limit or two-hour limit shall have a rate of $.025 for each 20 minutes; $0.40 for 30 minutes; $0.50 for 40 minutes; $0.65 for 50 minutes; $0.75 for each hour.

Parking meters with an eight-hour limit or 12-hour limit shall have a rate of $0.50 for each hour; $0.25 for each 30 minutes.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Computer Learning Center in the Community Center is staffed and open every weekday from 2 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Computers available for by Takoma Park Library card holders; wireless access throughout the building. Wireless printing in Library.

Piecing Together a Community

A new mosaic is in the works at Westmoreland Avenue near Carroll Avenue, where members of the community came together over the summer to create about 40 mosaic panels for the wall that runs along the sidewalk there. Installation will take place in the fall, when the the corresponding garden is planted. The end result will be a "vertical garden" of greenery growing up the wall, and community-made mosaic. The project was organized by Art for the People and with some funding from the City of Takoma Park.

Photos by Laurie Stepp

CITY *Briefs*

New Fees Set for Tree Permits

As of July 1, permit fees for tree removal and tree protection have increased. The new charges are $25 for a tree removal waiver, $50 for a tree removal permit, $50 for a tree impact assessment, and $100 for a tree protection permit. Applications are available on the City's website or from the Public Works office. A permit is required for removal of any tree that is greater than 7-_ inch in diameter (24- inch circumference). A tree impact assessment is required prior to any site work within 50 feet of an urban forest tree. That work includes raising or lowering existing grade by three inches, excavation, construction activity, paving in excess of 25 square feet, or removing over 5 percent of the live tree canopy. For more information, call Public Works, 301-891-7633.

Passport Fees Increase

The United States Passport Agency has steeply increased prices for passport processing. Fees are now $135 for people age 16 and older (which includes a passport fee of $110, to be paid to the U.S. Department of State, and a $25 execution fee, paid to the City of Takoma Park). For people under age 16, the fee is $105 ($80 passport fee, and $25 execution fee). Renewals cost $110 for people ages 16 and older (no execution fee), and $105 for people under age 16 ($80 passport fee, $25 execution fee). For expedited services, add $60 to each application, paid to the U.S. Department of State.

There are also passport cards available at a reduced cost. These are more portable and less expensive, but can only be used for land or sea travel. Fees are $30 for adults and $15 for children, plus a processing fee of $25.

Passport services are offered at the main desk of the Takoma Park Community Center Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Emergency Heat Relief

Due to the conditions that have resulted in a heat advisory for much of the region, City Manager Barbara Matthews reminds residents that should they feel the need for immediate relief from the hot weather, and they do not have adequate air conditioning available in their residence, they are welcome to visit the Takoma Park Library or to other areas of the Takoma Park Municipal Building that are routinely open to the public.

When temperatures approach 100 degrees Fahrenheit, people should limit their exertion in the outdoors and remember to drink ample amounts of water. Anyone experiencing medical distress as a result of the heat should move to a cooler environment, and if symptoms persist call 911 immediately.

Speak with the Mayor

The City Council is on recess during August. Mayor Williams' office hours will resume in September.

Individuals wishing to speak with the Mayor in August may contact Peggye Washington at 301-891-7230 or peggyew@takomagov.org for an appointment.

Bruce Williams

Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

celebrating the creative spirit of our community

Julie Hart's "Positive Outlook Sunflower" is part of the show, Play of Color, in the Atrium Gallery July 11-Sept. 11.

Play of Color

An exploration of high-impact color by Juliet Arnaudo, Jennifer Brewer, Julie Hart, Soline Krug and Charla Wilkerson, the "Play of Color" art exhibit explores the use of color and gives the public a first in-depth glimpse of the artists, right at the cutting edge of their maturing exploration. The show will be on display in the Atrium Gallery from July 11 through September 11. Closing Reception – complete with a live painting demonstration by Jennifer Brewer – will be held on Friday, August 27, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Atrium Gallery, located on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center, is open Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Fridays until 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Upcoming Poetry Reading Series

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission's Third Thursday Poetry Series begins its fifth season this fall. As in the past, the series will feature some of the finest poets in Takoma Park and in the region. To be considered for the series, please submit three to five of your poems to the Arts and Humanities Commission at ahc@takomagov.org

The deadline for submissions is Monday, August 16.

Cultural Events Coordinator

The Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking a Cultural Events Coordinator to assist in its efforts to provide a variety of free cultural events to the community (music, dance, film, spoken word, etc.). The selected individual would serve as the key point of contact for programming, solicit and review proposals, and assist in marketing and coordinating selected events during a two-year term. This is not a paid position; an honorarium will be awarded. Deadline for application is 5 p.m. on Monday, August 30. www.takomaparkmd.gov

Call for Proposals for Programming

Are you interested in playing before an audience? Looking for a venue to hold the premiere performance of the new play you just finished? Want to share your storytelling talents with the community? Have you just wrapped up the filming of your latest documentary or new short? If so, consider submitting a proposal to the Arts and Humanities Commission. We are currently scheduling a series of free programming to begin this fall at the Takoma Park Community Center and want to be sure to include you in the mix. Throw caution to the wind and give it a shot, we'd love the opportunity to work with you to bring your talents to the community.

For more information on these and other arts activities, contact ahc@takomagov.org.

August Recreation

Shooting Hoops

The new half court behind the Takoma Park Community Center is an increasingly popular spot to meet up for an informal game of ball. It is open from dawn to dusk, and is used by people of all ages. Balls are available at the Recreation Department desk inside the building (the department will hold something of value in exchange — a cell phone or driver's license, for example). On Thursday nights from 6 to 8:45 p.m. (through August 12), the Y.E.S. League holds three on three games for high school age kids. For more information contact the Recreation Department, 301-891-7290.

Photo by Gregory Clark

Battle of the D.J.s

Ages 13 - 18
Youth will showcase their skills in the development of sound manipulation, selecting music and performance setting.

5 p.m. August 6
Ed Wilhelm Field, behind Piney Branch Elementary School
Free

Camp Takoma

Ages 6 - 12
(In Grade 1 starting September 2010)
Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, activities and presenters related to each theme. Swimming once a week and a camp T-shirt are included in your fee. The remaining themes for the year are Super Hero Week and Wet and Wild Week.

Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Week 6, August 2 - 6, Super Hero Week
Week 7, August 9 - 13, 2010 Wet and Wild Week
Takoma Park Community Center
TP residents $100/week
Non-residents $110/week

Reggie Williams Dribble, Pass and Shoot Basketball Camp

Ages 6 - 12
Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of camp. Coaching is designed to allow each participant to develop a sense of pride in individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit individual needs. Led by former Georgetown and NBA player Reggie Williams, who has more than ten years of coaching and currently is head coach at Archbishop Carroll High School. Maximum 40, minimum 15. Co-sponsored by Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
August 16 – 20
Takoma Park Recreation Center
$150

Super Sports Camp

Ages 6 - 8
Come on out and join qualified recreation staff member for Super Sports Camp. This camp will feature instruction and games in different sports from around the world such as: soccer, team handball, volleyball, badminton, lacrosse, tennis, flag football and more. A World Cup and Olympics competition will be held at the end of the camp. Maximum 10, minimum 8.

Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
August 9 - 13
Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elementary
TP residents $140/session
Non-residents $150/session

Cartoon and Manga Camp

Ages 9 - 12
Using a sketch pad and your imagination create whimsical pictures like manga drawings and cartoons. Work on developing the whole story from beginning to the end. An exhibit will be held at the Community Center after the camp to display campers' work. Maximum 10, minimum six. Instructor Rain Young.

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
August 2 - 6, 2010
Art Room, Takoma Park Community Center
TP residents $140
Non-residents $150

Morning Addition

Ages 5 - 11
This before-school program is designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff will be available to provide informal recreation activities and will escort participants to Takoma Park and Piney Branch Elementary Schools. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or prepare for their day at school. For more information please call Carey Antoszewski at 301-891-7233.

Monday – Friday 7 – 9 a.m.
August 30, 2010- June 16, 2011
Azalea Room, Takoma Park Community Center
TP residents $1,040
Non-residents $1,360

Afternoon Addition

Ages 5 - 12
Emphasis is on providing leisure and recreation programs utilizing our facilities to include but not limited to the computer learning center, dance studio, art room, game room, athletic fields, library and more. We have some exciting activities planned this year including: drama, music, art, special guests, sports, field trips, study time and playtime that will enlighten, empower and enrich minds and imaginations. For information

Cardio Fitness Equipment Introduced at Recreation Center

The Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue recently acquired previously used cardio fitness equipment from a prominent area health club. The 13 pieces of newly installed equipment include one treadmill, two stairmasters, three recumbent bikes, three stationary bikes and four elliptical machines.

Recreation staff members say the equipment will expand the facility's appeal to residents looking for an affordable, convenient place to work out, and they anticipate members will use it in conjunction with other fitness programs, like the jazzercise, Zumba and ladies boot camp classes that are also held at the center.

Memberships to the fitness room are available at $65 for a six-month membership, or $100 for a one-year membership.

The ReJoycers prevail for the third straight year as the champs of the Takoma Park Adult softball league.

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

Monday – Friday
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. on full days
1 - 6:30 p.m. on early release days
August 31, 2009 - June 16, 2010
Azalea Room, Takoma Park Community Center
TP residents $1,840
Non-residents $2,325

Morning and Afternoon Addition

A discount will be offered to those who register for both Morning and Afternoon Addition

TP residents $2600
Non-residents $3100

*Payments are made in four equal installments, unless otherwise arranged with the Recreation Director: #1 due at time of registration, #2 due November 5, 2010, #3 January 14, 2011 and #4 April 1, 2010.
*On half days of school, the After School Program will be open from 1 - 6:30 p.m. The Recreation Department provides Fun Day Programs on half days and some holidays for an additional fee.

*The Morning and Afternoon Addition will not operate on the days schools are closed: holidays or other school closings (including inclement weather, professional days, winter or spring breaks or school emergency closings).

*Recreation staff will escort children who attend Takoma Park and Piney Branch Elementary Schools to and from Takoma Park Community Center on whole day and half days of school.

Fun Day Program

The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings and activities and performances on schedule half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Please pack a lunch and bring a full water bottle . Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

Monday, September 9
Black Hills Park – Boat Ride, fishing and hiking
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
TP resident $35
Non-resident $40

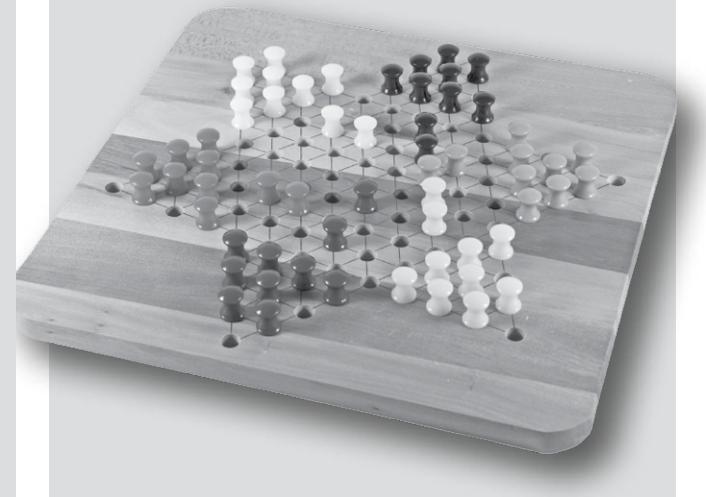
Wednesday, September 14
Adventure Park USA – Rides, games and mini-golf
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
TP resident $35
Non-resident $40

Teens on the Move

Dayzha DeCosta and Morgan Trivers donate their time to help out at the Victory Towers barbecue as part of the Teens on the Move summer program.

Photo by Faye Wright

Silver Foxes



Chinese Checkers (and standard checkers, too) Tournament

The Silver Foxes Advisory Group challenges you to a checkers tournament. Ages 55 plus. Come join your friends for a fun time. Prize for the winner. For more information, and to register, please call 301-891-7280.

Wed. 1 - 3 p.m.
August 4
Senior Room, Takoma Park
Community Center
Free

Trip to Montgomery County Fair, Gaithersburg

Age 55 and older
Back by popular demand, enjoy a good old-fashioned county fair with animal and agricultural exhibits, craft shows, commercial vendor booths and festival foods. Bring your lunch or spending money to buy lunch, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Registration is required. Please call 301-891-7280 to register, and forms due Aug. 11.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., August 17
Free

Trip to the National Aquarium and the National Building Museum, Washington, DC

This trip is open to all seniors (age 55 plus). Grandparent/Grandchild opportunity #2: Seniors are welcome to bring their grandchildren along for this fun and educational trip. Last chance before school starts. Discover America's Aquatic Treasures at the nation's first aquarium, located in the Department of Commerce building, and see unique exhibits of more than 250 species including alligators, piranhas, sharks and eels. After the aquarium, we will visit the National Building Museum. Bring spending money for lunch in the museum cafe. Registration is required for seniors and children. Call 301-891-7280 to register, forms due by Aug. 17.

Tues. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., August 24
National Aquarium exhibits/admission:
$8 seniors/$4 child. (bring on Aug. 24).
National Building Museum general exhibits/admission: Free.

Comic Book Collection Leads New Genre in Children's Reading

By Karen MacPherson

Comics and graphic novels are hugely popular with kids, and that worries many parents who see them as substandard reading material. But you may be worrying for nothing. Comics, also called graphic novels or illustrated books, actually can provide quite a brain workout for kids. Remember that saying that "a picture is worth 1,000 words?" Think what happens when you take pictures and add text, as is the case with comics.

When you're reading comics, your brain also is required to make all kinds of instant connections as the story moves along from panel to panel. The white space between panels is called "the gutter," and it's there that the story connections are made as your brain connects what just happened in one panel with what's happening in the next.

Perhaps the best reason to let your kids read comics is that they are reading what they enjoy. And, because they enjoy reading, they are much more likely to continue reading throughout their lives.

Does this mean kids should read nothing but comics? Of course not. But, for kids who enjoy them, comics can be an important part of their mix of reading materials. That's especially true for reluctant readers, or for kids who have trouble reading.

Publishers, seeing the increasing interest of kids and teens in comics, have begun offering more books for that age group. Some of these comics have even won major children's literature awards. For example, "Pedro and Me" by Judd Winick was a 2001 Sibert Honor book, an award given by the American Library Association for outstanding children's non-fiction books. "The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain" by Peter Sis, meanwhile, won the 2008 Sibert Medal.

At the Takoma Park Maryland Library, we have one of the best collections of comics in the area. We've also got a comics expert on our staff, Library Assistant Dave Burbank. So, if you've got any questions or just want to get more information about this genre, feel free to ask for Dave. We also can give you a copy of our list of some great graphic novels and comics, in which we list books for various ages, from preschool through adult.

Meanwhile, here's a look at some great new graphic novels that kids can check out from our Library:

• Amelia McBride, star of author/illustrator Jimmy Gownley's popular "Amelia Rules!" series navigates the tricky waters of friendship and popularity in "The Tween-age Guide to Not Being Unpopular." In their quest to be cool – or at least cooler — Amelia and her crew try out different hairstyles and even new friends. But things backfire and Amelia ends up realizing that being popular may not be the most important thing after all. Once again, Gownley deftly combines humor and realism to create a thought-provoking story guaranteed to resonate with readers, who also will appreciate his wonderfully drawn illustrations. (Ages 8-12).

• It's June 1942 and Evelyn, a wealthy and motherless young girl, is forced by her newly-remarried father to summer with her bohemian, dilettante Aunt Lia in New York City. Evelyn is desperately unhappy until she meets Tony, whose dad manages the swanky apartment building where Evelyn is staying. In "The City of Spies," authors Susan Kim and Laurence Klavan detail how Evelyn and Tony eschew class distinctions as they work together uncovering a Nazi spy ring right in their neighborhood. Kim and Klavan's story is thrilling, while the illustrations by Pascal Dizin (Hilary Sycamore added the color) pay wonderful homage to Herge's "Tintin" books. (Ages 9 up).

• She seems like a mild-mannered lunch lady. But secretly she's a superheroine called "Lunch Lady," who dishes out justice to bad guys by using ingenious gadgets and some wicked karate kicks. In "Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown," author/illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka details how Lunch Lady and her cafeteria colleague Betty take on a mysterious swamp monster who is terrifying kids at a summer camp. Krosoczka's story moves along at a quick clip, while his cartoon drawings, done in black, white and yellow, spotlight Lunch Lady's superhero qualities. Kids who like this book will enjoy the other books in the "Lunch Lady" series. (Ages 5-10).

• The intrigue of 14th century Paris comes alive in "Solomon's Thieves." Author Jordan Mechner focuses on the adventures of a swashbuckling band of Crusaders, who are determined to keep their treasure safe from conniving French King Philip IV. Artists LeUyen Pham and Alex Puvilland do a spectacular job at conveying the medieval characters created by Mechner. Look also for "Prince of Persia," the graphic novel (and now movie) that Mechner created from his best-selling video game. (Both, ages 11 up).

• Lovers of Greek mythology, including those millions of fans of author Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson" series, will enjoy author/illustrator George O'Connor's vivid new graphic series focused on the different gods. Two books are available so far, "Zeus" and "Athena." (Ages 9 up)

• "The Secret Science Alliance and the

COMIC BOOKS continues on page 9

Takoma Park Library CALENDAR

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. For a few events, it is encouraged, but not required, as noted. 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.

Community Circle Time

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

Spanish Circle Time

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

Bedtime Stories

Monday, August 2, 7 p.m.
Come in p.js, bring your teddy or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs in this half-hour program. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Traveling Players

Thursday, August 12, 7:30 p.m.
Come watch the fun as middle school students perform Moliere's "The Learned Ladies."
Performance is best for ages 6 up.
(Note: This event will take place in the City Auditorium).

Comics Jam

Wednesday, August 18, 3 p.m.
Come read some comics with us! We'll show comics on the big screen; bring your favorites to share.

The Library's Summer Quest program was a big hit this year, with Librarian Dave Burbank (drawing, in back) concocting an adventurous story for readers to follow by selecting books that would help them "travel" their way along the story line. For each book read, the reader would get to advance to the next stop in the adventure. Participants could follow their progress along the big board in the Children's Room of the library. Children — and some adults — were inspired to read hundreds of books through the popular program.

Photo by Michele Morgan

COMIC BOOKS

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Copycat Crook" was published last year, but it's still worth highlighting once more. Author/artist Eleanor Davis makes science cool as she shows how three very different kids – Julian, a nerd, troublemaker Greta, and super-athlete Ben – join forces and their scientific knowledge to defeat the crooked Dr. Stringer. Davis' artwork, particularly her detailed drawings of the kids' science-stuffed clubhouse, is just wonderful. (Ages 8-12).

• And don't forget the TOON books, which are aimed at kids learning to read. You'll find them in our beginning reading bookshelf. Among the latest TOON books are "Benny and Penny and the Toy Breaker," written and illustrated by Geoffrey Hayes. His earlier book, "Benny and Penny in the Big No-No" won the American Library Association's 2010 Geisel Award for best beginning reader, the first graphic novel to win the award. Look also for "Zig and Wikki in 'Something Ate My Homework,'" written by Nadja Spiegelman and illustrated by Trade Loeffler. This book is an intriguing combination of comic and non-fiction.

LIBRARY *Briefs*

Middle School Does Moliere

Come see the fun when a group of middle school students perform a play by French dramatist Moliere in the City Auditorium on Thursday, Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The students are part of the Traveling Players, a Northern Virginia-based group that trains young actors. The play features comical characters, including – as the Traveling Players folks put it – "dangerous wives, spineless husbands, civilized swordsmen, barbaric poets, dancing gypsies, bad grammar, and loony philosophy." The performance is aimed at kids ages 8 up; adults also will enjoy this show.

Twosies in September

Our "Twosies" program, which normally would be offered in August, will now take place on each Wednesday morning in September. The program goes from 11-11:30 a.m. and includes songs, rhymes, stories and a simple craft. Young participants must be between the ages of 24 months and 36 months, and registration is required as spaces are limited. To register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Library Hosts Lectures on College Selection

The Library's popular series of workshops on various aspects of the college choice and application process will be held on Tuesday evenings starting September 28 through October 19.

Some highlights of the series, designed for college bound students and their parents, will include:

• Two programs on the college selection process by Lori Potts-Dupre. Which schools might provide the right fit – academically, financially and personally – for you? Topics will include sorting out your personal criteria and goals, the admissions process, where do I go from here? A second workshop, "Crossing State Lines," will be a new presentation about the excellent and affordable educational opportunities for our students at public universities across the country, including information about honors colleges and other special programs for undergraduates. Potts-Dupre is a certified educational planner who has visited over 350 campuses nationwide and has a college consulting practice in Takoma Park.

• Funding Your College Education, a presentation by Dr. Herm Davis, executive director of the National College Scholarship Foundation and director of College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. Davis will discuss college financing options, including the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work study, college savings plans, the FAFSA application, recent and forthcoming changes in the laws governing Federal loan programs, and more.

• A presentation on preparation for and recent changes in the verbal and math components of SATs by nationally recognized experts.

Contact Ellen Robbins at the Library for program details and further information about registration. The College Bound Speakers series of programs are held at the Library and are open to all.

Resume Coaches Advise Job Seekers

The Library will once again offer three Resume Coaching Labs, taught by longtime Takoma Park resident Gabe Heilig, author-editor of books on various aspects of applying for Federal jobs. Heilig has written resumes for roughly 6,300 Washington DC area professionals, and has helped individuals with varying degrees of experience put together effective targeted resumes during the Library's spring series.

Each workshop is limited to approximately 12 people. Sign up now to attend one of the following programs, on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center:

- September 22 – Resumes for private sector and non-profit work
- October 13 – Resumes for federal government work
- November 10 – Resumes for private sector and non-profit work

Register by calling the Library (301-891-7259), or on-line at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html

Golf for the Library

The Tenth Annual Golf Tournament and Charity Fundraiser in memory of Mike Morrissey will be held Monday, September 27 at the Red Gate Golf Course in Rockville, with a party and silent auction at Rumors Restaurant afterwards. All proceeds benefit the Takoma Park Maryland Library through donations to the Friends of the Library.

Join Library staffers Gene Miller, Dave Burbank, Nic Fontem and Liz Ferry on the green – or sponsor one or more golfers for $100. For information contact Ellen Robbins at the Library.

Preventing Summer Crime

Summer is often a time of increased crime. Early this season, robberies, burglaries and graffiti crimes were on the upswing and the Takoma Park Police Department plainclothes unit was busy trying to address a rash of such incidents. Bike patrol was increased as well, and several significant arrests were made.

But police continue to rely on residents to "be our eyes and ears," and call in any suspicious activities. Following are a few tips to keep in mind for summer crime prevention.

Burglary Prevention Tips:

Burglary is an opportunist crime. A burglar will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. A home that presents itself as insecure is far more likely to be targeted than one which is properly secured. Please review the following in order to protect your home and your valuables:

- The most important thing you can do is call the police to report a crime or any suspicious activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes! Report burglaries immediately.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence. If you have not checked your house, let the police check it for you. Leave the house and call the police.
- It's important to keep a list of serial numbers and/or receipts of all electronic equipment, i.e., televisions, stereos, cell phones, iPods, computers, as well as a list of items that are easily sold or pawned, i.e., jewelry, collectibles. Photographs or video tapes are always useful to keep a record of what you own (and insurance companies would also find this useful and convenient). Update your list periodically and do not leave it in the residence, if possible. Use an engraving pen to write your current driver's license number on your property. Burglars don't want marked merchandise.
- Make it time-consuming for a burglar to break into your home - secure your residence. Sometimes installing deadbolt locks on all exterior doors or windows will deter a criminal; they don't want to spend too much time in one place. Check and double-check that all doors and windows are shut and locked before you leave the house; even if you are leaving for a short period of time.
- Display "Beware" signs. If you have a dog or an alarm system, put up signs that say you do. They do deter thieves.
- When you leave your residence, do not leave valuables in plain sight. For instance, if your dining room table is within view of a window, don't leave a laptop computer sitting there. When possible, pull shades or curtains so that property cannot be seen from outside the residence.
- Be one step ahead of the burglar – case your own home and look for easy ways into your home and then take appropriate measures to correct it.
- A big problem in this City is citizens not calling the police. If you see someone suspicious who does not belong in your neighborhood, call the police. If you see a suspicious vehicle, call the police. Write down the license plates of any suspicious vehicles. Write down a description of any suspicious persons. You can never be too careful. A lack of information on suspects can hinder an investigation.
- Burglars in most instances will case a neighborhood or the routine of residents. Every once in a while, leave at a different time. Change your routine to throw the burglar off. If you are not consistent, how can they be?

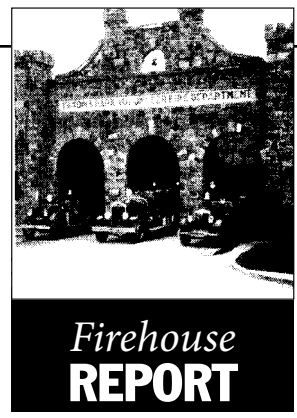
Burglars know where to look for hidden keys. Do not leave one.

- If you do encounter a burglar in your home, please attempt to secure yourself in a room where you have access to a phone and immediately contact police. Do not confront suspect(s) or attempt to fight and/or chase after suspect(s).
- These tips are not intended to scare or frighten anyone, however, crime is a fact of life everywhere. As partners, we can discourage criminals from targeting certain areas. We can make it hard for them.
- The Takoma Park Police Department currently has a task force in place made up of a Crime Analyst, detectives and patrol officers. We are committed to reducing the amount of crime in Takoma Park.
- If you are not satisfied with your contact with the Takoma Park Police Department, you are encouraged to call Chief Ricucci directly and let him know about it. His direct number is 301-891-7104. He is always happy to hear from our citizens.

Protect Yourself While Walking Throughout the Community:

Most criminals look for convenient and what they perceive as "easy" prey. There are some common sense precautions you can take to minimize the risk of being robbed.

SUMMER CRIME
continues on page 11



Firehouse REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of June 30, 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 384 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 1,654 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,038 this year. Totals for 2009 were 384 and 1,350 respectively, for a total of 1,734, representing an increase of 304 incidents.

The Importance of Escape Planning

- Bring all the people in your household together and write out your plan. Drawing a floor plan of your home and marking two exits from each room can prove to be a helpful aid, especially for children.
- Make sure all members of your household understands the escape plan. Be sure to assign someone to assist infants or anyone with mobility challenges.
- Choose an outside meeting place away from the home where all family members can meet after they have escaped. Examples of meeting places would be the mailbox, a neighbor's house, a street sign, etc. It is a good idea to share this meeting place with your neighbors as well.
- Walk through your home and make sure all escape routes are easily accessible and that doors and windows open easily. Never block an exit with furniture.
- Make sure your street number is visible from the street. You want emergency personnel to be able to find your home quickly.

Never leave a burning candle unattended

It's that time of the year, for possible power outages. Avoid using candles for emergency lighting.

- If your electrical service goes out, use flashlights and battery-powered lamps when possible.
- Don't carry lit candles.
- Don't use a candle for light when adding kerosene or any flammable fuel to a heater, lantern, or other device. The flame could ignite the fumes.
- Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

TPVFD welcomes two new members.

At the department's July 14 membership meeting, Dustin Eaddy and Alexandria Remond were voted into membership.

On Sunday, July 11th, Jim Jarboe had the honor of throwing out the first pitch at the Thunderbolts baseball game held at Montgomery Blair High School. For several years, the Takoma Park VFD has sponsored a game. The Takoma Park VFD took the opportunity to staff a fire prevention table, with a lot of handout materials and red fire helmets for the kids. Regarding the pitch, the Thunderbolt's catcher said...it was a strike.

Photo by Chip Py, for the Gazette Newspapers

If you think you might want to join, please contact Mike Livingston at the fire station 240-773-8954 for further information. It's another way of serving your community.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT®
America's Night Out Against Crime

August 3 National Night Out Aims to Prevent Crime

National Night Out, the night celebrated all over the country with anti-crime and public safety activities, will be held this year on Tuesday, August 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Essex House, 7777 Maple Avenue. The Takoma Park Police Department is hoping that community members come out of their homes, meet their neighbors and get to know local police officials and other governmental representatives.

The celebration, which combines fun and games with serious safety information, is designed to heighten community awareness of crime and drug prevention; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back; and promote emergency preparedness awareness.

Activities will include music, games, face painting, moon bounce, sno-cones, cotton candy, ice pops, fire truck, 9-1-1 emergency center demonstration by the fire chief, "Buckle-up for Safety" activities, general safety information, police horse demonstration, K-9 demonstrations, officers on bikes and other children's events and activities. Free child identification services will be available.

In addition, there will be an update on the Takoma Park Police Department's participation in the "Project 365" program. This program suggests each police department participating in National Night Out to designate a problem and/or problem area within their community. The goal is to work towards correcting, or having a major impact, on the problem within an estimated "365" days – or in other words, from National Out 2009 to National Night Out 2010.

Takoma Park Police's objective for "Project 365" was to target drug activity, in order to decrease crime in the area. By targeting the drug problem, the department also targeted gang activity, and other criminal offenses related to that lifestyle, i.e., graffiti, loitering, auto theft, theft from vehicles, etc.

Takoma Park police will be reminding residents of their frequently repeated mantra, that the success of any police department is contingent upon the involvement of the community. National Night Out, they say, provides a reminder that the police alone cannot be the sole providers of safety and security in a community. Citizen involvement and participation are instrumental in addressing crime and crime prevention, and the department hopes that National Night Out will reinforce its commitment to strengthening police community partnerships.

SUMMER CRIME

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- If you must walk alone at night, walk in highly visible, well lighted areas.
- Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. As you walk, look around you. Scan the area.
- Do not allow yourself to be distracted by using a cell phone or head phones.
- Walk purposefully and look confident. Keep your head up.
- If you see an individual, a group or a parked vehicle that looks suspicious or causes you concern, keep your distance. Take another route or ask for help.
- Do not walk close to shrubbery, doorways or cars where someone can easily hide.
- Hide your valuables. Don't flash jewelry or other expensive belongings. Keep any bag or purse close to your body, preferably in front.
- Try to limit your use of ATM machines to daytime, avoiding those that are out of the way and as always, be aware of your surroundings.
- If you think you are being followed, quickly change directions and if possible go to a location where there are other people that can help you.
- If an unknown vehicle approaches you, immediately change directions.
- If you do find yourself being robbed, avoid being injured by giving the robber what they want.
- Don't attempt to resist or attack the subject.
- If possible, try to note details that will help in catching the suspect, such as race, hair, facial features, height, weight, build, clothing and vehicle and tag information.
- Call police immediately (301.270.1100) or "911" and stay in a safe place nearby until they arrive.

Secure Your Vehicle

If you leave valuables in your vehicle, will they be there when you return? If they can see it, they can steal it. So, secure it!

Theft from auto can occur at any time, from any vehicle. Often, valuables left in a car are taken during the night, but daytime thefts can occur on busy streets, with nobody reporting any suspicious behavior.

The following items, although not all-inclusive, should be taken into your home, or you risk them being taken by thieves: cellular phones, money, purse, wallet, briefcases, CDs, iPods, portable GPS systems, laptop computers and sports equipment. Auto parts are also taken, including a vehicle's license plate.

Method of entry varies too. Unlocked cars with valuables in easy reach are as common as a window or door lock broken to gain entry.

Here are some effective deterrents to auto theft:

- Vehicle Theft: Many auto parts stores sell steering wheel locks which are inexpensive; these are a major deterrent to vehicle theft.
- For License Plate Theft: a unique screw, which requires a special tool to release the license plate, is available from auto parts stores. The cost can be as low as $4.
- Lock doors and close windows completely.
- Remove valuables from the vehicle or lock them in the trunk where they are out of sight.
- Do not leave electronic devices or accessories visible. (A cigarette lighter plug or cassette adapter are tell-tale signs of valuables in the car. Replace the lighter when exiting the vehicle.)
- Do not leave money in the car.
- Park in your garage, if you have one, or in a well-lit area.
- Install "tapered" door lock or an anti-theft device that has a visible indicator.
- Aid to Recovery: Some valuables can't be taken out of the vehicle, such as a stereo or speakers. When installing custom sound equipment, record the serial numbers and/or engrave your driver's license on the items before installation. If stolen, those numbers could make a difference in locating and recovering the property, and prosecuting the thieves.

If you see suspicious activity, on the street or in a parking lot, call Takoma Park Police at 301-270-1100.

City TV Video Takes Award

Takoma Park City TV received a Hometown Award from the Alliance for Community Media in the Professional Category of Government Activities. The piece that earned the distinction was "The Takoma Mosaic Project," produced by City TV producer/director John Pitt (left) and videographer Inmar Cedillos (right). It follows the work on a community-created mosaic on the exterior wall of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. The project was developed and implemented by co-directors Alice Sims (head of Art For The People) and Laurie Stepp, in conjunction with mosaic artist Arturo Ho. More than 300 community members participated in the creation of the 500-square-foot mosaic.

Photo by Laurie Stepp

Catch JazzFest on City TV

If you missed this year's Takoma Park JazzFest, you can still catch the music on City TV. Tuesday nights at 11 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m.: the JazzFest is featured then as the main event of the channel's Jazz Hour. This year's festival theme was "Blues to Bop," so there's plenty of dancing as well as music.

City Council meetings will not be shown this month, as the Council takes a break for summer. Instead, viewers will find more music on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. and Fridays at noon as City TV airs local music, poetry and art events and information in the time slots usually filled by City Council meetings.

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

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

Emergency Preparedness Makes the Difference

Committee Lists Items for a Basic Emergency Kit

By Kathe Quinn and Lawrence Hawkins
Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee Members

Hopefully an emergency will never strike you, your family, or your neighbors. However, if it does, you will be safer by taking the time now to build a home emergency kit.

For emergencies you will want to have water, at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days, food, and nonperishable food for at least three days. Organizations like the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) suggest you select items that require no preparation, refrigeration or cooking such as high energy foods and ready-to-eat canned meat, vegetables, fruit. A manual can opener, preferably on a multi-use tool, will be helpful in the event you have to open cans without the benefit of electricity. Don't forget infant formula and diapers if you have small children, as well as pet supplies, including food, water, medication, leash, travel case and documents. Reusable plates, cups, utensils, saucepan and portable stove could also be helpful.

Be sure you have a first aid kit. You will also want to have prescription medications and medical equipment/care aids on the ready, if necessary. In addition to a well-stocked first aid kit and back up medication, for your safety, you may also want to include N95- or N100-rated dust masks, which can be purchased at most local hardware stores. Remember, if you have to use a mask, adjust the mask to make sure that it forms a proper fit around your nose and mouth. Also, read the directions carefully to know if you need to change the mask you are using after a few hours.

Personal hygiene and weather-appropriate clothing should also be included in your kit. Include personal sanitation supplies, such as a tooth brush, and moist towelettes, and also garbage bags and plastic ties.

A number of tools could also be helpful in an emergency. You'll need a flashlight for each person, as well as packs of un-opened batteries, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio and cell phone charger, an All-Hazards NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) Weather Radio, a fire extinguisher, matches or flint in a waterproof container, light-sticks, and tools to turn off your gas. In fact, make sure you know how to turn off your gas and electricity now.

A special note if you have kids: Add things like paper, pencils, pens, crayons, books, board games, toys and other kinds of happy distractions for small children. In fact things like games could come in handy to keep up the spirits of your entire family.

Be sure to make copies of important documents and keep them as part of your emergency kit, such as your will, medical and financial power of attorney, property documents, medical prescriptions and instructions.

Depending on the weather, you'll want to include cold-rated sleeping bags as part of your emergency kit. Rain wear, such as slickers or ponchos would be a great addition to your kit any time of year.

It is important to have a plan as part of your home emergency kit. Take time now to think and write out the things you'll both want and need in your kit, decide where in your home (house or apartment) you will keep your kit, plan out how you will maintain your kits, i.e., changing out old food, batteries and/or medications, etc. And make sure every person in your home is familiar with your plan.

For more information on Emergency Preparedness:

- The American Red Cross (www.redcross.org)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html)
- En Español (http://www.listo.gov/america/getakit/index.html

In the Science Explorers program, campers ages 6 to 8 explore the wonder of making their own crystals.
Photo by Debra Haiduven

The golf and tennis camp group finished out the week with a morning at the Paint Branch Golf Course. Kids used all of the skills they learned during the week on the course.
Photo by Debra Haiduven

SUMMER CAMP

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"Breaking [the day] up a little bit seems to work for people," says Haiduven. "You don't want your kid playing tennis for eight hours a day. You get the specialty, and then you get the general camp."

Specialty camps include golf and tennis, which have been especially popular; science explorers, art camp, super sports (with a variety of sports), theater (which takes place in the newly renovated auditorium) and an upcoming manga and cartooning camp. These morning groups are small – from six to ten children – and the more intimate experience has appealed to families who have signed up. "We're just really pleased with them," says Haiduven.

The new formula has allowed the department to experiment with some new offerings – and not all of them have taken off. A dance camp for very young children did not attract enough enrollment, for example. Different activities appeal to different age groups; the staff is still working out the best combinations.

Also new this year is staffing: with budget cuts, managers have had to pitch in and get more involved with the children. School Age Programs and Special Events Manager Carey Antoszewski ran the rookie sports camp; Manager for Facilities Eric Rasch ran the Super Sports Camp; Assistant Director Gregory Clark and Recreation Center Supervisor John Webster taught golf and tennis. "Everybody is pitching in," says Haiduven, who has been driving the new van to take campers to the swimming pool at Long Branch. "Everybody's rolling up their sleeves and getting involved. . . I think that's working well because we're getting more kid contact, and more customer service with people in the community."

Camps will continue through August 13. The August camps include Manga and Cartooning, and Super Sports (ages 6-8). For more information, call 301-891-7290 or see takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

SPEED CAMERAS

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The speed camera proposed for East West Highway would be a fixed unit; the one on University Boulevard is portable. Takoma Park Police Chief Ronald Ricucci explained that the portable unit is less expensive, and the vendor, ACS State and Local Solutions, is trying it out to see how workable it will be. The unit runs on batteries that must be changed periodically. If the portable unit is too cumbersome, a fixed unit will be considered.

Ricucci said the fixed unit was chosen for East West Highway as that site presents a more urgent safety concern. "It's a speedway into the city," he says. "[Drivers] try to beat the light. It's a serious situation there."

Speed cameras do generate some revenue for the City; funds may be used for pedestrian safety spending. But during the City Council meeting that addressed the speed cameras, revenue was dismissed as secondary to safety. The reason the cameras are being installed, councilmembers and City staff agreed, was to make the roads in Takoma Park safer.

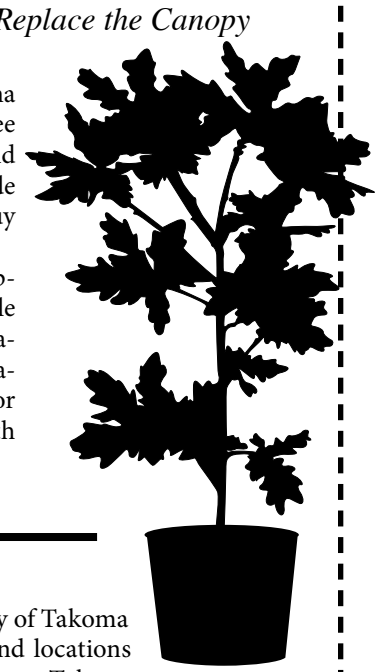
A Fabulous Fourth!

The Annual Takoma Park Independence Day Parade had the usual mix of quirky and traditional marchers, from Boy Scouts to protest floats and "reel mowers." Following the parade, a whiffle ball tournament made its debut as a new Fourth of July tradition, followed by the popular fireworks display at the Takoma Park Middle School. Fireworks this year got rave reviews.

Photos by Laurie Stepp

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
PLANT A TREE

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy



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

Acting as a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the City is making a number of species available at wholesale prices. Residents can purchase sugar maple, black gum, white oak and willow oak — all native shade trees that usually retail for about $350 – for $195, installed. Sale dates run through October 8, with installation at the beginning of November.

Order Form

Please include check, including tax, written to City of Takoma Park and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation (see order form). Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 by close of business October 8. Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Map of property/tree installation locations.

Species	Price	Quantity	Total
Red Maple (2")	195		
Red Oak (2")	195		
Black Gum (2")	195		
Swamp White Oak (2")	195		
Tulip Poplar (2")	195		
6 % Sales Tax			

Total amount enclosed _____