CHECK OUT TAKOMA PARK'S NEW BLOG: www.cityoftakomapark.blogspot.com

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

NO TRASH HOLIDAYS
Trash collection on schedule this month

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

Renewed Interest in Takoma Junction Development

By Susan Holliday

Many Takoma Park residents know Takoma Junction as an area of traffic tie-ups, tricky pedestrian crossings, the new firehouse construction and shopping, with the popular Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op as its commercial anchor. Relatively few residents know that the City of Takoma Park owns two parcels of land at the Junction that, if developed, could spark revitalization for the area.

At the January 25 City Council meeting, a handful of concerned residents joined Junction business representatives and City staff in discussing options and concerns for the City's use or sale of its land holdings. The Council will be focusing more on Takoma Junction in coming months, indicating that now is a good time for interested people to consider offering constructive ideas.

Sara Daines, director of the Takoma

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PRE-SORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

'Snow Problem: Public Works Plows Through

Public Works crews, shown here, worked long and hard through the epic snow the City experienced last month. With some 30 inches of snow to remove from 32 miles of streets throughout Takoma Park's neighborhoods, they worked 12-hour rotating shifts for eight days in a row. The City brought in contractors and their equipment to help supplement the City staff's effort and more quickly clear roads. After the snow stopped, the effort expanded to include sidewalk clearing around City facilities and parks. Dozens of grateful residents cooked up home-made food to show their appreciation to the crews, who enjoyed a smorgasbord of a potluck at their headquarters in the Public Works building. For a photo of the volunteer effort, see page 11.

Photos by Daryl Braithwaite

Capital Cheesecake Moves Into Savory

By Virginia Myers

After three months' vacancy, 7071 Carroll Avenue, the old Savory Café building, has been snapped up by sisters Meaghan and Caitlin Murphy as the location for their Capital City Cheesecakes café. The Carroll Avenue location will be their first storefront; they've been making and selling miniature and full-size cheesecakes from a rented restaurant kitchen at Col. Brookes Tavern, in their Brookland, D.C. neighborhood. The Murphys hope to open in Takoma Park on April 3.

Meaghan says the Murphys plan to keep the café open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends, with cheesecakes – in flavors like original, crème brulee, and red velvet, with berry sauces optional — a few other baked goods, and coffee and tea on the menu. Individually-sized cheesecakes go for $2.50. On weekends, they'll serve buttermilk waffles (vegan and regular), bagels with cream cheese and fruit sauces, and homemade sticky buns. A new line of vegan cheesecake is being launched, and gluten-free options will be available as well. The menu may expand over time.

But what will set the place apart, says Meaghan, is its family flavor. There will be an open kitchen in the downstairs portion of the building, so children (and adults) can watch the bakers make crusts or cut up fresh fruit for cheesecakes; the sisters will use the kitchen for hands-on cooking birthday parties, as well, complete with chef hats, cookie cutters and decorating. Meaghan, the mother of a ten-year-old boy, also likes the idea of having crayons and drawing paper at the tables. Both sisters have been teachers, so their family focus has been a natural extension of that training. They hope to partner with different schools and offer internships with students as well.

There will even be classes in the kitchen: adult, vegan cooking classes. "There's a lot *to* us," says Meaghan "Our name doesn't

CAPITAL CHEESECAKE
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Main Street Takoma Works Towards the Future

By Ilona Blanchard
Community Development Coordinator

In Takoma Park, it's easy to look at the vacant storefronts and point fingers. They are big, dusty, and easy to see, especially if you used to get your favorite cup of coffee there. What isn't easy to see is the efforts of Main Street Takoma to create a more vibrant, lively downtown.

Economic development is not like planting a seed in the springtime and you have a tree in the summer. It is more like planting a sapling, watering it, weeding it, and eventually seeing it grow into a tree — if it isn't stepped on, eaten by insects or beset by some other unforeseen calamity.

Since Maryland designated Old Takoma a Main Street site in 2004, the Main Street Takoma Economic Restructuring Committee, a volunteer committee of residents and business and property owners, City staff (full disclosure, author is on the committee) and an executive director, has been tending to Old Town, meeting at least once monthly. Six years ago, the committee began with the easy stuff: What stores are here? With how many square feet? Which are vacant? Who are the leasing agents? Where is parking and who controls it?

Seth Grimes, an early devotee of the monthly meetings, says they were also fundamental in providing "a forum for discussion and strategic thinking about what Takoma Park should look like." But the committee does a lot more than brainstorming.

For example, the committee was instrumental in getting Roscoe's Neopolitan Pizzeria to move into town. When every potential restaurateur said the street looked "really sleepy," and noted that "everything closed down by 6 p.m.," remembers Roz Grigsby, executive director for the committee, the committee countered with an online consumer survey that showed, basically, "if you build it, they [customers] will

FYI:

The Main Street Takoma Market Analysis may be downloaded from www.mainstreettakoma.org.

For information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Old Takoma Business Association office at 240 253-4229 or visit the website.

Additional committees include Design, Promotions, and Organization.

MAIN STREET TAKOMA
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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, March 1 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Wednesday, March 3 - Task Force on Environmental Action meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Monday, March 8 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Tuesday, March 9 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Tuesday, March 9 - Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Art Room)

Tuesday, March 9 - Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee meeting (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, March 9 - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, March 9 - Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

Tuesday, March 9 - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Room TBA)

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

Monday, March 15 - Ward 2 Night. On Monday, March 15, the Council will host a ward night for residents of Ward 2. This is part of a series of ward-focused events hosted by the City Council. Ward 2 residents are invited to gather in the Community Center Atrium Lobby at 7 p.m. for refreshments and an opportunity to chat, one on one, with city councilmembers. The first part of the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will be devoted to hearing from Ward 2 residents about issues of interest and concern.

Monday, March 15 - City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Wednesday, March 17 - Task Force on Environmental Action meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Monday, March 22 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

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

Wednesday, March 24 - Task Force on Environmental Action meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Monday, March 29 – Community meeting and discussion regarding sale of beer and wine for carry out ("off sale") in Takoma Park, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Wednesday, March 31 - Task Force on Environmental Action meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea 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).

City Council Action*

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

Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk by mail: City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; by e-mail: Clerk@takomagov.org ; by fax: 301-270-8794.

Monday, January 25, 2010

January 25, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-1 was adopted, authorizing FY10 Budget Amendment No. 2.

The Consent Agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-5 authorizing purchase of three Ford Fusion Hybrid vehicles for the Police Department

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-6 authorizing purchase of two Dodge Charger police cruisers

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-7 authorizing the purchase and installation of police vehicle equipment

Resolution 2010-9 endorsing the use of Community Development Block Grant funds for weatherizing and energy efficiency improvements at multi-family rental facilities

Resolution 2010-10 providing for the appointment of John Hemphill to the Tree Commission

WARD 2 RESIDENTS – THE CITY COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU ON MARCH 15

On Monday, March 15, the Council will host a Ward Night for residents of Ward 2. This is part of a series of ward-focused events hosted by the City Council. Ward 2 residents are invited to gather in the Community Center Atrium Lobby at 7 p.m. for refreshments and an opportunity to chat, one on one, with city councilmembers. The first part of the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will be devoted to hearing from Ward 2 residents about issues of interest and concern to those living in the ward.

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING SALE OF BEER AND WINE FOR OFF-SITE CONSUMPTION IN THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

The City Council will host a community meeting/listening session on Monday, March 29, to hear from residents about whether to request a change to alcoholic beverage laws in Takoma Park to provide for sale of beer and wine for carry out ("off-sale"). Changes to alcoholic beverage laws in Takoma Park must be approved by the Maryland General Assembly.

Background information on this topic was prepared for a City Council discussion on January 11, 2010: http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2010/011110-4.pdf.

The community meeting will be held on Monday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in this informal discussion.

Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk by mail: City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; by e-mail: Clerk@takomagov.org: by fax: 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/clerk/committees or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

Façade Advisory Board (vacancies)
Takoma Park Board of Elections (vacancy)
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)
Recreation Committee (vacancies)
Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)

Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. (by appointment only), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. If a holiday falls on a Monday, office hours move to Wednesday, same time.

March 1 | April 1

One Month to Census Day!

Census Day is April 1, 2010.

All U.S. residents must be counted – citizens and non-citizens. Only ten questions – no long form. Personal information is completely confidential. No identifying information can be shared with police, immigration, housing officials or anyone else. **Be Counted so your community gets the services it needs**. Census Jobs Available: Go to www.2010census.gov, click jobs tab. See page 12 for more.

2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Time for a Healthy Exchange

Takoma Time Bank Trades Skills, Builds Community

By Rick Henry

The old adage "time is money" is undoubtedly true. However, for some people, such as those affiliated with the Takoma Time Community Time Bank, time is about something much more important than money.

For them, "time is community."

Started in 2007 by Sharon Villines, a writer who lives in the Takoma Village cooperative in Takoma D.C., Takoma Time is a time bank, a community organization that facilitates the sharing of skills and services among members and neighbors. Members offer their services and receive services from other members.

The concept goes back to early neighborhood labor exchanges, where offers and requests were posted on a community bulletin board or listed in monthly newsletters. Connections were made by phone and completed transactions were mailed or telephoned in to the exchange managers who recorded the hours given and received.

Then, as now, each member gives (deposits) or receives (withdraws) hours as they provide or receive services. Just as with a traditional bank, these hours are then "banked" for future use. Unlike traditional banks, however, the bottom line balance sheet isn't the most important measure.

"Recording and banking a lot of transactions and exchanges isn't the point," says Carol Jaka of Takoma Park. "The ultimate goal is to connect people."

And connect people it does. Villines and Jaka say that their participation in Takoma Time has expanded and deepened their connection to neighbors and other members of the community in ways that traditional listservs and other forms of social media cannot. Lea Browning, also of Takoma Park, agrees. Browning, who along with Jaka and Villines, make up three-fifths of the "Kitchen Cabinet" that administers Takoma Time (the others being Simone de Lima and Dodie Butler, both of Takoma, D.C.), said that Takoma/Takoma Park's sense of community involvement and dynamics make it a perfect host site for a time bank.

Besides such traditional–but valuable–services as child and pet sitting, transportation and manual labor, there are also offers for such unique services as a Rubik's Cube lesson, stretching sessions, real estate/development consulting, green renovation planning, nutrition counseling and sewing/alterations.

At Mark's Kitchen, "Kitchen Cabinet" members Simone de Lima, left, and Takoma Time founder Sharon Villines, right, discuss de Lima's upcoming Takoma Time exhange — having her plush toys repaired.

Photo by Rick Henry

"I even got a chapter of a book that I was working with translated," Villines said, citing an example of how she has used the time bank.

Villines started Takoma Time as part of the effort to save and revitalize the Takoma Theatre. As a member of the Takoma Theatre Conservancy Board, she convinced other members to support a time bank and call it Curtain Time. The Conservancy was unable to acquire the theater and when Villines left the board, she converted Curtain Time to a neighborhood time bank.

The first exchange was between Villines and Lou Lieb, who helped her transplant some plants. Membership has risen steadily since; Takoma Time now has more than 150 members and is adding more every day. Members are welcome from anywhere, and while some may restrict their services to the neighborhood, others can participate by telephone or internet.

Browning points out that with so many different sorts of professionals in the Takoma Park area, it's likely participants will find exactly what they need right down the street. "There are a lot of people who work from home (writers, etc…) and they can offer flexibility and a wide range of services," she said.

Jaka fits that profile. A publications consultant who lives on Lincoln Avenue, Jaka has been an active participant since joining in 2008.

"I can do a lot of things, and I enjoy doing them for others," she said. She's rehung a bathroom door, altered clothes, and installed light fixtures. "These things are easy for me but not for everyone, so people appreciate getting it done, and that feels good," she says.

Jaka is quick to add that while the personal fulfillment is great, there is a more tangible benefit.

"People can also save a lot of money," she said, pointing out that she got the motherboard on her computer replaced for only the very cheap cost of the part.

"Time is money," after all.

Take Time Out for Takoma Time

The concept of time banks is not unique to Takoma Time.

"Time banks can be huge and come in a lot of different varieties," Villines said. "There are major governments around the world that use them as a way to provide services."

There are active time banks in 22 countries and six continents, according to timebanks.org. Takoma Time is but one of numerous time banks around the world and is part of Time Banks USA (http://www.timebanks.org).

According to the organization's website, the roots of Time Banking extend back to the creation of Time Dollars™ in 1980 when Dr. Edgar S. Cahn, co-founder of the National Legal Services Program, author of "Our Brother's Keeper," and founder of the Antioch School of Law, suffered a massive heart attack. He was 46. Recuperating in the hospital and "feeling useless," he dreamed up Time Dollars as a new currency to provide a solution to massive cuts in government spending on social welfare. If there was not going to be enough of the old money to fix all the problems facing our country and our society, Edgar reasoned, why not make a new kind of money to pay people for what needs to be done? Time Dollars value everyone's contributions equally. One hour equals one service credit. Seven years later (in 1987) at the London School of Economics, Edgar developed his theoretical explanation for why the currency should work. He came back to the US and started putting service credits (not yet called Time Dollars) into operation.

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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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.

Be An Informed Tenant: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

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

Often tenants view themselves as victims subject to mistreatment by their landlords, with little or no recourse. In fact, nothing is further from the truth, and tenants who recognize this start to realize they have a critical and important role in the tenant-landlord relationship.

This relationship is based on a two-party contract whereby the landlord agrees to provide a safe and sanitary place to live to the tenant, who in return agrees to pay a monthly rent to occupy the landlord's property. The relationship works best when tenants and landlords recognize each others' rights and their mutual responsibilities.

The Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law at Sections 6.16.040 and 6.16.050 (available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov) respectively details the obligations of tenants and landlords to ensure compliance. Other sections of the city law provide requirements for leases, fees, entry requirements, vacate notices, security deposits and other subjects. Every tenant should become familiar with the city's Landlord-Tenant Law and direct any questions to the Landlord-Tenant Affairs Office.

Do not rely on hearsay, on-line information, opinions of neighbors or friends or what you think, in attempting to answer a question about the city's law. Instead, give a call to the office which works with the law daily. Sometimes the answer you receive will not be what you may have anticipated or indeed, want to hear, but receiving the correct answer should outweigh any disappointment.

When an issue arises at your apartment requiring you to contact your landlord for assistance, it is critical that you document, in writing, when you made contact with your landlord. If your initial contact is by phone, follow up your phone call with a letter in which the date and time of your call is referenced. To have confirmation that your landlord received your letter, send it by certified and regular mail. This will provide you with documentation which is critical should you need to pursue the matter with the landlord-tenant office or others.

Emergency situations in your apartment such as a water leak or a sparking outlet should be reported to the landlord and to the Montgomery County Code Enforcement Office (240-777-3785) and if necessary to the city Police Department if the landlord does not respond quickly. Utility outages or gas leaks should be immediately reported to the appropriate utility company.

In addition to becoming familiar with the city's Landlord-Tenant Law and contacting the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs (301-891-7215), if you have questions about the law and/or your tenant's rights, please also consider the following suggestions:

Comply with the terms of your lease and any additional rules for your apartment building which are applicable to you as well as your family members and visitors;

Make certain that your rent payment is received on the rent due date indicated on your lease. Do not withhold any part of your rent because there are outstanding repairs or other issues to be resolved between you and the landlord. Mail your payment for receipt by the landlord well before the rent due date to avoid having to pay a late fee (5 percent of the rent) added on by the landlord if the rent is not received within 10 days of the rent due date. Consider using certified mail to confirm when the landlord receives your payment. Maintain all rent payment receipts and a written record of all rent payments;

Do not unreasonably withhold consent to your landlord's written advance entry request. If you are not home when the entry is made by the landlord or his/her agent, you should be provided an entry report which should be left in your apartment following the entry;

Secure renter's insurance for your personal property since your landlord is not generally responsible for damage to or loss of your property. Retain receipts of your major personal property purchases for insurance claims and other purposes;

Consider the many benefits of establishing a tenants' association in your building, including having the support of your fellow tenants in addressing building concerns and problems;

Always appear in court if you have received a summons, even if you have paid the rent. Failure to appear in court may result in a judgment being entered against you;

Remember that calls to the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs are confidential and you may not be retaliated against by your landlord for calling our office.

Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a tenant will place you in a position of strength when addressing landlord-tenant concerns. Remember that you have the right and the obligation to make sure you are getting what you continue to pay rent for each month.

Tenants having questions about the city's Landlord-Tenant Law may call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.

Are You Eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit Program?

By Linda Walker
Affordable Housing Manager

Last October, the Newsletter reminded readers that they might be eligible to save money through the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program. As residents begin to complete 2009 income tax returns – and as the recession and high unemployment rate affect many families in our area – more people may now qualify for the program.

EITC was developed to assist those who are employed, but have modest incomes. Last year, almost 24 million people received EITC benefits, with an average credit of around $2,000.

If you qualify for the federal EITC program, you may also be entitled to a Maryland earned income tax credit on the state return, equal to 50 percent of whatever amount you qualified for under the federal program. Eligibility for both programs depends on your adjusted gross income and the size of your family. Below are the criteria that will help determine whether you qualify for the programs. Note that a "qualifying child" must meet residency, relationship and age requirements.

You may qualify for EITC if:

- You do not have a qualifying child and earn less than $13,440 ($18,440 if married filing jointly)
- You have one qualifying child and earn less than $35,463 ($40,463 if married filing jointly)
- You have two qualifying children and earn less than $40,295 ($45,295 if married filing jointly)
- You have three qualifying children and earn less than $43,279 ($48,279 if married filing jointly)
- The IRS website, www.irs.gov has a very helpful EITC assistant tool that will help you determine further eligibility.

Free tax preparation services are available at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites to help low and moderate income taxpayers file their federal and Maryland income tax returns. Trained volunteers will prepare your returns, make sure you claim all the tax credits you are entitled to and even file your returns electronically, if you desire. Three local organizations offering this service are:

TESS Community Service Center, 8513 Piney Branch Road, call 301-565-7675 for an appointment. Sessions are being held Tuesdays, from 6-9 p.m. from February 3 through April 14.

Montgomery County Community Action Agency, 8210 Colonial Lane, Suite B, Silver Spring, call 301-565-7451 to obtain details on appointments.

Acorn Housing Corporation, 3600 East-West Highway, Suite 202 Hyattsville 301-699-8000.

JUNCTION

continued from page 1

Park Housing and Community Development Department, outlined the City's situation at the Junction for the Council. The City owns two parcels of land, one fronting on Carroll Avenue and one facing Columbia Avenue. The temporary firehouse and adjacent parking lot currently occupy the Carroll Avenue site. The Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op now leases some of the land for parking, storage and access. The co-op should not be jeopardized if the City sold the land.

The City has the option to put the land up for bid, as long as any developer meets zoning, historic preservation and master plan requirements, but the City is highly unlikely to do so, Daines and the Council acknowledged. The expected option would be for the City to develop a request for proposals or request for qualifications. With these the City can decide basic parameters on the kind of development it wants.

Because the Junction is within the City's historic district, commercial and residential construction would have to be appropriate to the nature of the district, meeting requirements on height, building materials and other architectural aspects. Daines noted that in the upcoming fiscal year 2011 budget, the Council can direct City staff to complete much of the "front-end work" to get the development process started. The City can determine "what does the Council want, what is the community going to support, what's approved by all the different rules and regulations we have," said Daines. They can "pull together that basic information so that people understand what the development entails," she added.

"That's an expensive part of the redevelopment cost and the more the person who's looking at the project knows and understands about the project, the more likely they are to say, 'Nope, we're not interested,' or 'This sounds intriguing,' " said Daines.

Balance is important, Daines emphasized. "If you end up making too many conditions on the property, then nobody's going to [develop] it," she said.

Councilmembers who were around at the time that the City purchased the land in 1995 concurred. "My recollection is that the City put something out on the street to solicit interest from developers, but none responded," Mayor Bruce Williams remarked when questioned after the meeting. "If I recall correctly, among other things, [developers] felt that the lot was small and constricted, and that the more the City and residents had a hand in what might take place, the harder it was from the developer's view point to make a go of a successful project."

"It might be okay to lay out parameters to begin with, but at some point there has to be community buy-in and then go with the process," concluded Williams.

In 1989, prior to the City's ownership of the land, a private-sector consortium developed a fully designed, engineered and bid-out plan for developing the parcels. The plan received approval from Historic Takoma and the City, according to Joseph Klockner, one of the managing partners and a Takoma Park business owner and resident. He recalled that community opposition to a design feature even resulted in a change in the design to please the community. The deal failed because of funding problems precipitated by the savings and loan crisis of the time, but indicates that

JUNCTION
continues on page 5

Computer Center a Hub for Community Activity

By Phil Shapiro
Library Instructor

Takoma Park is wired: three different rooms in the Community Center – including part of the Seniors Room — offer a total of 24 computer workstations for resident use, and people young and old take advantage of the Library-managed service, available every afternoon, seven days a week, plus weekday evenings.

Puzzle Play

Walking into the Takoma Park Computer Center, it's likely you'll see young people lost in thought, trying to solve a colorful logic puzzle on their screens. The puzzle, called TetraVex, is popular with some seniors, too. A very bright fourth grade student introduced me to TetraVex last month and I've been showing this puzzle to several of our elementary, middle and high school students ever since.

TextraVex is related in some ways to the jigsaw puzzle game with which we are all familiar. The object of the game is to move colorful pieces from the right side of the screen into the puzzle shape on the left side of the screen. In doing so, you must match the colors and numbers on the pieces. The name "TetraVex" derives from the fact that each puzzle piece has four (tetra) colored triangles on it.

As with any jigsaw puzzle, the opening moves of the puzzle are usually the most difficult. But once you have several pieces in place, the rest of the puzzle seems to fall into place on its own. And you can always request a hint by choosing "hint" from the "game menu" at the top left of the screen. I show students how it's most fun to use the "hint" request sparingly.

To appreciate the appeal of TetraVex, you can view the short screencast (narrated explanation) I created on YouTube. Search YouTube for: How to Play TetraVex.

Touch typing

In other news, our computer center is often used by youth and adults wanting to learn how to touch type. The web site I recommend for everyone is Dance Mat Typing, a top-notch typing tutor from the BBC. Within five minutes of starting Dance Mat Typing, learners will be typing simple words on the home row keys.

Last month a newcomer to our community from Ethiopia used Dance Mat Typing to teach himself basic typing skills. He had never typed with ten fingers before. Within one week he had progressed far further than I thought possible. I should have videotaped his fingers typing after one week of practice. That video clip would be fun to show to others who wanted to know how far they could progress in just one week.

Our computer center is also used by community members doing blogging using free services such as Blogger.com. I've been using Blogger for almost ten years now and am happy to show anyone the ropes. It sure is a thrill when your ideas, your stories, your poetry are posted on the web for anyone else to read. Blogger.com also integrates very well with YouTube – for those of you who create videos for the web.

Ready for Use

Even if you have computer and Internet access at home, stop by the Takoma Park Computer Center to visit. We're open seven days a week. It's handy to remember that we're not open any mornings, though. The only thing you need to sign onto our computers is a valid library card from the Takoma Park Maryland Library. You can use the computers for up to two hours a day. The computer center has two laptop tables available and two standing stations for laptop users, too. Both the computer center and the library have wifi. Try out our wifi printing in the library, too. Yes, wifi printing seems pretty miraculous to us, too. (Pay for your prints at the reference desk.)

The hours for the Takoma Park Computer Center are: M-F, Noon to 8 p.m. (The computer center closes at 7:50 pm to give staff 10 minutes to clean up.) On weekends, we're open noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Yes, quiet talking is permitted in Room A of the computer center – where family members can work together. Room B is strictly for studying and no talking is allowed there. Printing is available at 15 cents per page via our self-service printing station.

JUNCTION

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development can garner community support.

At the Council meeting, a group of concerned residents urged the Council to make decisions about the Junction development with measured consideration. "Don't jump off a cliff," said resident Howard Kohn, prompting most councilmembers to chuckle and respond, "We don't move that fast."

The residents stressed the need to prioritize pedestrian crossing and traffic flow improvements in any actions taken at the Junction. Roger Schlegel said opinions expressed at a December 2009 meeting of Ward 2 and Ward 3 residents to discuss Old Town and Takoma Junction confirmed these concerns. Kay Daniels-Cohen reported that a group of business owners would like to improve foot traffic and stressed the need for parking for patrons. The panel members testifying at the meeting supported maintaining free parking at the Junction and suggested, as a short-term fix, that the City post signs and publicize that the City-owned parking lot on the west side of the co-op is free for Junction business patrons.

The Council at the January 25 meeting did not establish a formal task force to make recommendations for actions, but encouraged the ad hoc group of residents to continue its efforts and agreed to revisit the Junction issues in a few months. Any City residents interested in attending the informal meetings of residents and business owners should contact Howard Kohn at kohn@erols.com. Those who would like to be considered for a possible City task force to study the issues and recommend actions to the Council should contact Sara Daines at sarad@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.

Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

celebrating the creative spirit of our community

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Please join us on Thursday, March 18 to hear the work of poets David Byers, Susan Okie and E. Laura Golberg. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. A reception follows the reading.

"This is Our Body" Exhibit

"This Is Our Body," an exhibition of thematically linked multi-media work which explores our often fraught relationships with the physical body, is Takoma Park's third collaboration between poets and visual artists. Featured artists and poets include Marilyn Banner and Tiziana Lohnes; John Borstel and Greta Ehrig; Bonnie Lee Holland and Dan Vera; Stéphane Janin and Anne Dykers; James Landry and Anne Becker; Michael Gessner and Regie Cabico; Nicole Salimbene and Regina Coll; Ruth Stenstrom and Teri Ellen Cross. The exhibit, co-curated by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker and David Fogel, co-founder of studio 88, is funded in part with a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

The exhibit will be on display in the Atrium Gallery through March 29. A panel discussion about the exhibition and the collaboration process is scheduled for Friday, March 12, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Atrium Gallery, located on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Art Hop Tour of Takoma

On March 20-21, the First Annual Art Hop will transform Old Takoma's main street into a neighborhood arts district. Free to the public, the two-day event will showcase a variety of art, from wearable art, to photography, to mixed media sculptural works in more than 30 businesses throughout Old Town, Takoma Junction and Takoma, D.C. Participants will have the opportunity to meet the artists at the various locations throughout the day on both Saturday and Sunday. Musicians and street performers will be scheduled on both days as well.

"We've had a lot of interest and excitement about Art Hop. We think people of all ages will be thrilled to see work from both local and regional artists while visiting the stores throughout Old Takoma," said Pennye Jones-Napier, both co-owner of The Big Bad Woof and board chair of Main Street Takoma. To find out more about Art Hop, the list of participating artists, and the host stores and their hours go to www.MainStreetTakoma.org

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, by email at ahc@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

MARCH
RECREATION

FUN DAY PROGRAM

Ages 5 - 11
The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings, as listed below, and activities and performances on half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, at 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park, and travel together to the scheduled activity. On full days, participants should pack their own lunch. Be aware that trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early.

Mon. 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
April 5
PORT DISCOVERY IN BALTIMORE

TP resident $25
Non-resident $30

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Tues. 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
April 6
TP resident $25
Non-resident $30

JUMPBUNCH KIDS®

Ages 3 – 5
JumpBunch® is a fun-filled, structured fitness and sports program geared to young children. This program helps build healthy bodies, self-esteem, socialization skills, body balance, eye-hand coordination and large motor skills in a hands-on, noncompetitive environment. We incorporate music, games, parachutes, balls and much more in a class filled with praise and encouragement. Six weeks. Instructor provided by JumpBunch.®
Azalea Room, Takoma Park Community Center
Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
March 17 - April 28, 2010
TP resident $85
Non-resident $95

Last year's annual egg hunt drew an enthusiastic pack of children who scoured the lawn for treasures. The hunt is scheduled for March 27 this year.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Get your baskets ready and join Takoma Park Recreation for an "egg"citing time. There are four age categories: ages 2 and under, 3 - 4, 5 - 6, and 7 - 8. The hunt begins at 11 a.m. SHARP!!!

Don't miss out!
Ed Wilhelm Field, Behind Piney Branch Elementary
March 27
Rain date April 3
Free

SPRING BREAK CAMP...BEST OF...

Come join your friends as we share with you Takoma Park Recreation Department's best moments of the summer. Jali-D will be coming back to share his musical talents. Sing songs around the camp fire. Challenge yourself on the obstacle course. Go rock climbing, duel your friends on the Dance Dance Revolution game or check out the virtual reality games in the X-Arcade at Jumping Jacks Sports. Get ready to have some fun. Games, outdoor play, arts and crafts and sports round out this camp experience.
TP Community Center
Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
March 29 - April 2
TP resident $120
Non-resident $125

Before and After Care Options
Before Care: Mon. - Fri. 7 - 9 a.m.
TP resident $30
Non-resident $40
After Care: Mon. - Fri. 4 - 6 p.m.
TP resident $30
Non-resident $40

Silver Foxes

2010 WASHINGTON HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Ages 55 and older
Senior Day Trip to the 2010 Washington Home and Garden Show. The biggest indoor home and garden show on the East Coast! Visit hundreds of displays, fully landscaped gardens, thousands of products and flowers. The Washington Convention Center is also home to over 120 works of art including sculpture, painting and mixed media displayed throughout the building. Bring spending money for lunch in the cafeteria. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Registration is required to participate. Please call 301-891-7280 to register.

Washington, D.C.
Fri., 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
March 12
$8

SENIOR DAY BUFFET

Ages 55 and older
This bi-monthly event offers a good game of Bingo and a delicious American food buffet from Old Country Buffet in Gaithersburg, Md. for only $7.95 plus tax. Those who can drive, please meet in the rear parking lot of the Community Center. If you need transportation, please call 301-891- 7280, two days in advance to arrange for pickup at Maple View Apts., Franklin Apts., and Victory Tower only. Call-in registration is required to participate. Please call 301-891-7280 to register.
Gaithersburg, Md
Wed. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
March 17
You pay for your meal

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

The Washington Adventist Hospital will be doing monthly blood pressure screening.
Senior Room, TP Community Center
Thurs. 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
March 25, April 22
Free

OPEN ARTS STUDIO

Ages 55 and older
Expand your art skills or learn new techniques in an open art studio with instructor Alice Sims. Classes include instruction on drawing, painting and working with clay. Be creative in a relaxed atmosphere and have fun. Call 301-891-7280 to register.
Art Room, TP Community Center
Mon. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
March 8
Free

GENTLE YOGA CLASS

Ages 55 and older
This class will introduce you to the ways yoga can help increase flexibility, strength, and balance using a series of seated and standing poses. Learn breathing and relaxation techniques. Everyone is encouraged to work at their own level. Beginners and experienced students welcome. If you have your own yoga mats, blocks and blankets, bring them to class. Instructor Carol Mermey, RYT. Seven weeks. Registration is required to participate. Space is limited. Please call 301-891-7280 to register by March 15.
Dance Room, TP Community Center
Every other Friday, noon – 1 p.m.
March 19 - June 4
Free

BIG BIRTHDAY BASH

Ages 55 and older
Let's celebrate you! Join your friends for a birthday celebration with cake, ice cream, well wishes and fun! Each season we will honor the birthdays that fall into a three month period. Our first party will celebrate January, February and March birthdays.
Senior Room, TP Community Center
Fri. 12:30 – 2 p.m.
March 19
Free

SPECIAL BINGO

Ages 55 and older
Come try your luck. Win a prize. Light refreshments.
Senior Room, TP Community Center
Thurs. noon – 2 p.m.
March 25
Free

COMPUTER CLASSES

Ages 55 and older
Become more familiar with how to use a computer. Learn how to use the internet and try using e-mail. Use a word processing program to make lists and type letters. Instructors Phil Shapiro, and volunteers Jim Mueller, and Jane Hawkanson. Six weeks. Registration is required to participate in this class. Limit eight participants per session.
Computer Lab, TP Community Center
Wed. 10 - 11:30 a.m.
March 3 - April 7
$10

Youth T-Ball

TP Recreation

COED GRADES K-1

Must be 5 yrs old by June 12

Registration begins on March 15.

The goal of this program is to emphasize learning and to expand new skills, participation and fun! The T-Ball program is a safe introduction to the game of baseball. The ball is hit off a stand (tee) instead of being pitched. The main purpose is to teach girls and boys the basics of baseball in a positive environment. If you are interested in volunteering as a coach please contact Will Hanner at WilliamH@takomagov.org.
Jequie Park, Spring Park or Lee Jordan Field
Sat. mornings

June 12 – Aug. 7
TP resident $45 per player
Non-resident $55 per player

*A special $15 rate is available to Takoma Park residents who can provide proof of enrollment in the Free or Reduced Meals program or similar financial assistance program.

MARCH RECREATION

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COUPLES MASSAGE

Ages 21 and older
Fun introductory course designed for those with no prior massage experience. Couples learn basic techniques so they can design their own 10 – 30 minute massage for their loved ones. The class is a very relaxed atmosphere and a chance to enjoy a night out with your significant other while learning a very useful skill.

Azalea Room, TP Community Center
Fri. 6 – 9 p.m.
April 9
TP resident $75
Non-resident $85

IT'S YOUR MOVE

Ages 7 – 10 and 11 – 13
Will Hanner, Recreation Department sports coordinator, believes that you can have fun with exercise. This fitness program is designed to get the body moving through various obstacle courses, challenges and cardio fitness programs. Imagine, you catch a ball, spin 180 degrees, move your feet past eight hula hoops, and then throw the ball back at a specific target in under 30 seconds – this type of activity is what "It's Your Move" is all about. So come out and have fun burning calories by participating in challenging activities. It's your move to sign up for the program before it's too late!

Ed Wilhelm Field
Ages 7 - 10
Wed. 4 - 5 p.m.
Ages 11 - 13
Wed. 3 - 4 p.m.
March 10 - 31
TP resident Free
Non-resident $10

TRACK 'N' TRAIN (BEGINNERS)

Ages 11 – 15
The Takoma Park Recreation Department is introducing kids to physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through running activities. Focus will be placed on running, exercise, and specifically: Warm Ups, Starting, Sprinting, Middle Distance, and Relay. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes. *Youth will be transported via a City Van. Maximum number of participants 13. Instructor Will Hanner.
Meet at TP Community Center*
Thurs. 3:30 - 5 p.m.
March 4 - 25
TP resident Free
Non-resident $20

POETRY N' RAP CONTEST

Ages 13- 18
Come express yourself as we invite teenagers to attend our poetry and rap contest. Material must be original and you must register with material by March 12 to be eligible to participate. Trophies and gift cards will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners. Stick around after the contest for the Mix n' Mingle. Stop by the recreation office for rules of the contest.
Azalea Room, TP Community Center
Friday 6:30 p.m.
March 26
Fee: Free

CARDIO FUSION

Ages 16 and older
A complete workout for the entire body. Kick up your energy levels and decrease body fat through an infused mix of hi/lo cardiovascular conditioning and resistance training. Exercise modifications ensure effectiveness for any fitness level. Bring 3lb – 5 lb hand weights. Instructor Denise Pullet. Maximum of 20, minimum eight. Five weeks.
Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Mon. and Wed. 7 - 8 p.m.
March 1 - April 7
TP resident $60
Non-resident $65

COLLAGE

Ages 18 and older
Come enjoy new ways of combining materials and media. Using a variety of collage and paper altering processes, students combine found and altered papers and lightweight three dimensional materials. Principles of color and design will be presented, such as limiting the color palette and the principles of design will be explored such as structure, balance, repetition, value and gradation. This class is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be provided (some personal or found collage elements may be desired to enhance the collage as well). There is a $30 materials fee paid directly to the instructor, due the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.
Art Room, TP Community Center
Tues. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
March 9 - April 27
TP resident $205
Non-resident $225

DRAWING AND WATERCOLOR

Ages 11 – 14
Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High school. Materials fee of $25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Six weeks. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.
Art Room, TP Community Center
Tues. 3:15 - 5:30 p.m.
March 9 - April 27
TP resident $135
Non-resident $145

Batters Up!

Play Ball!! Registration for the 2010 TPSS baseball and softball season is open, with baseball for boys and girls grades 2-8 and softball for girls grades 2-8. Whether you are a novice, a seasoned veteran or something in between, this league is for you. This season features coed teams in baseball — rookies, machine pitch, minors, majors 60 and majors 70; and for girls softball, rookies, juniors and seniors. To determine the right division for you, go to www.tpssbaseball.org.

To register:
Online at www.tpssbaseball.org
Paper registration download form from www.tpssbaseball.org
Walk-in Registrations at Takoma Park Community Center
Saturday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday, April 10 at Second Annual "Play Ball in the Plaza" event, Downtown Silver Spring Plaza, noon–3 p.m.

For camps or high school activities see paper registration form at www.tpssbaseball.org

Registration fees are posted on the website and registration form. Scholarships are available to children in the Free and Reduced Meals school program. For more information, contact Phil Olivetti, info@takomabaseball.org or 301-270-0100.

The TPSS Baseball and Softball League is not a Takoma Park Recreation Department program. For more information, see tpssbaseball.org or call 301-270-0100.

CAPITAL CHEESECAKES

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do us justice, when people just see 'cheesecake.'"

For those who are interested in a coffeehouse atmosphere, complete with the tapping of laptop keyboards, the Murphys plan on having a comfy area on the walk-in level of the building, and they expect to eventually provide wifi service. The middle floor will be reserved for café-style tables.

Capital City Cheesecakes was born a little over a year ago, when Caitlin began mixing up cheesecake fillings at home. She found it was a good way to spend her time as she convalesced from a vision-related neurological disorder that prevented her from working as a teacher. Around the time Caitlin was experimenting with cheesecakes, sister Meaghan finished business school. When she tasted Caitlin's cheesecakes – edible works of art, she calls them — the two decided to test market the product. Their web site (www.captialcitycheescakes.com), along with the restaurant kitchen, became their center of operation, until now.

Takoma Park was an easy choice for a storefront, says Meaghan. "We asked ourselves, where is there a really tight-knit community?" They have friends in Takoma Park neighborhoods, and had always been fond of the city. "It's just such a great atmosphere to be in," says Meaghan. And, it includes their target market: families.

"Our concept is more of an experience than just a great product," explains Meaghan. She says they are "very excited," and a little incredulous that they'll be opening in just a few months. "I never could have imagined this," says Meaghan. "It's a blessing and we're going to do our best to continue to push forward with it."

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.

Neighborhood Circle Time

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

Spanish Circle Time

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

Bedtime Stories

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

Read Across America Day

Tuesday, March 2
A day-long celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday.
(See article for details)

Friends Reading Group

Thursday March 4, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is "An Unfinished Season" by Ward Just.
Hydrangea Room. All are welcome.

Petites Chansons

Saturday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.
Join Madame Marie as she leads singing, rhymes and stories in French.
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Silly Letters

Monday, March 15, 10 a.m.
With storyteller/teacher Arianna Ross
For ages 3-5 and their parents; registration required.

Comics Jam

Friday, March 19, 4:30 p.m.
Come enjoy our "comic books book club"!

Banned Books Club

For kids grades 6 and up.
Monday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is "The Amulet of Samarkand" by Jonathan Stroud.
Registration required.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

Tuesday March 23, 7:30 p.m.
Our guest is book critic Michael Dirda
(See article).

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.
First of a four-part discussion of

CALENDAR
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Formerly Local Author Is Newest Children's Literature Ambassador

By Karen MacPherson

Katherine Paterson, the new National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, has a special fondness for Takoma Park. It's here that Paterson, whose husband John was pastor at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, began writing books for children. One of those books, "Bridge To Terebithia," grew out of her family's efforts to deal with the loss of one of her son David's best friends, a girl named Lisa Hill who was killed at the age of eight after being struck by lightning.

"Bridge to Terebithia" won the 1978 Newbery Medal, awarded annually by the American Library Association to the best-written book for children. (Paterson won a second Newbery Medal in 1981 for "Jacob, Have I Loved," as well as a 1979 Newbery Honor for "The Great Gilly Hopkins.")

So Takoma Park residents can be particularly proud that Paterson was tapped as the second National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, a post created in 2008 by the Library of Congress and the Children's Book Council to highlight the importance of children's books.

Jon Scieszka, author of such books as "The Stinky Cheese Man" and "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by A. Wolf," served as the first ambassador and spent two years criss-crossing the country, visiting schools, libraries and bookstores. Given Scieszka's wacky personality, some children's literature folks wondered who could ever follow in his footsteps.

It turns out that they needn't have worried. Paterson, who looks like a sweet, silver-haired grandmother, actually has a wicked sense of humor, loves talking with kids and is a natural for the ambassador's job.

The contrast between Scieszka and Paterson is readily evident in their books: the 55-year-old Scieszka is known for his hilarious and wacky picture books and series books, while Paterson, 77, writes heartfelt novels about love and loss. Yet, in a recent joint interview, these two seemingly-disparate children's authors showed they are on the same page when it comes to getting kids to love reading.

"The key is getting the right book," Paterson said. "We all noticed how kids who supposedly didn't read were suddenly reading 700-page novels when the 'Harry Potter' books came out."

Author Katherine Paterson, who once lived in Takoma Park, signs one of her books for a young fan.

Photo by Abby Brack

Scieszka agreed, saying: "We need to really expand the definition of reading to include all kinds of things, including nonfiction, graphic novels, magazines and even websites."

Paterson summed up: "Let 'em choose what to read."

As the first National Ambassador of Young People's Literature, Scieszka focused on reaching reluctant readers, especially boys. Paterson says her platform will be "read for your life" and she's hoping to highlight the importance of families reading together.

Paterson may lack Scieszka's zaniness, but she's witty and quick with a quip. As she put it: "I don't think anyone who had four kids in four years can be fazed by anything!"

Although Paterson moved away from Takoma Park years ago, she retains connections here. Several years ago, she donated money to the Library for the purchase of the bookcase that houses our teen books. And she returned to Takoma Park in 2005 to attend the dedication of a new tree planted on the Takoma Park Elementary School property in memory of Lisa Hill.

While many young readers love Paterson's novel "Bridge to Terebithia," it was the eighth most challenged book of the 1990s, according to the American Library Association. Critics object to the fact that a main character dies, something they argue is inappropriate for a children's book. Some also contend the imaginary kingdom created by the two children borders on the occult, and they complain about "offensive language."

Paterson, however, believes in writing books with which young readers can identify, even if it means using bad language or talking about difficult issues like death. As she says: "A novel that has any power has the power to offend as well as to help readers."

Paterson is raring to get started with her new job. She'll get some help from Scieszka, who plans to remain active with the program. In his typical comic style, however, Scieszka put a different spin on the situation, joking: "I'm keeping the title and the privileges and letting her [Paterson] do all the work."

LIBRARY *Briefs*

Silly Letters Storytelling

On Monday, March 15, award-winning storyteller Arianna Ross will offer the first of two "Silly Letters" storytelling programs. The second program will take place on Friday, April 30. Both programs will take place at 10 a.m. and will include both a storytelling portion and a workshop where adults will learn ways to use storytelling to enrich their children's vocabulary. The programs are funded by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery Council, with additional funding by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

Twelve years ago, the National Education Association created "Read Across America," a program designed to celebrate the late, great Dr. Seuss and inspire kids to read more. The program is held each year on March 2, Dr. Seuss's birthday. This year, we'll celebrate at the Library in various ways. Young participants in our Circle Time programs at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. will each get a Dr. Seuss sticker and bookmark. Throughout the rest of the day, we'll have Dr. Seuss-themed word searches, crossword puzzles and coloring pages for young readers to do at the Library or take home with them. We'll also have bookmarks, stickers and some other giveaways, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Comics Jam

Calling all comics lovers! Come to our next Comics Jam, where we'll read comics together, using a projector, screen and our special ELMO document camera. Participants are invited to bring some of their favorite comics; we'll project them on the screen and read them together. Our club is led by Library Assistant and Artist Extraordinaire Dave Burbank, who finishes up

LIBRARY BRIEFS
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LIBRARY BRIEFS

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each program with a unique "draw it on the spot" program. Kids call out ideas and Dave draws them as his picture is projected up on the screen. No need to register.

Friends Big Book Club Dives into "Moby Dick"

On March 25, at 7:30 p.m., in the Azalea Room of the Community Center, the Friends of the Library "Great Big Book Club" will begin a four part discussion of Herman Melville's classic "Moby Dick." This first meeting will feature a lecture by University of Maryland Professor Robert Levine.

"Moby Dick" is "unlike anything written before or since. The obsessive hunt by the crazed Captain Ahab of the book's eponymous white whale is interspersed with digressions, paradoxes, philosophical riffs on whaling and life, and a display of techniques so advanced for its time that some have referred to it as the first 'modern' novel." [Adapted from a Summary by Stewart Wills of Librivox.org]

Copies of the book are available for participants at the Library. Supported by the Friends of the Library. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions.

Friends Collaborate on Library Outreach

At a recent Board meeting, Library Friends voted to direct some of their efforts and support toward helping the Library extend services into some areas of the City, including the New Hampshire Avenue corridor, where children can't easily get to the Library.

Board representatives, including Rebekah Zanditon, Michele Morgan and Karen Boyer, and Ellen Robbins and Karen MacPherson of the Library staff have since met with John Webster and Sandra Boone, who supervise activities at the Recreation Department's New Hampshire Avenue Center. The resulting collaboration promises to be a rewarding one. The Library staff and Friends will provide books and a special new book display cart for children in the Center's After School program. Library Assistant Dave Burbank has devised special interactive book-oriented programs that he will bring to children at the Center. And supervisor John Webster will bring children on 'field trips' to the Library, and encourage them to get Library cards and borrow books.

All programs and materials will be funded by the Friends of the Library. Everyone involved is excited about this new direction for Friends activities, scheduled to begin in early spring.

Favorite Poem Evening Returns

The 12th Annual Favorite Poem Evening will be held in the Library at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 29. This year's public celebration and reading of poems is sponsored jointly by the Library and the Friends of the Library.

If you would like to participate in this year's event, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet (rather than poems written by you or your friends). Poems written in languages other than English are welcome, if they are accompanied by an English translation.

Please send the name and author of the poem you have chosen, and your own name and generic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, or by e-mail to ellenr@takomagov.org The deadline for submissions is Monday April 26.

The Favorite Poem Evening has been a lovely, warm and community-building event for the past 11 years. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors! Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

Morrissey Golfers Honored at Library

On February 1, friends of Mike Morrissey joined Friends of the Library, Library staff and City Manager Barbara Matthews for a celebratory luncheon and presentation of a plaque naming the Children's Room after book lover and former Library patron Michael Morrissey.

Steve DuBos, Stan Barouh and other friends of Morrissey presented Library staff and Friends with a check for $3,250, representing proceeds from the most recent charity golf tournament held on September 21. The annual golf tournaments and auctions in memory of Morrissey have raised more than $35,000 for the Library since they began in 2002. Funds have been used to underwrite the purchase of books, craft materials and a variety of special Library programs – including children's programs in French and Spanish.

The commemorative plaque mounted just outside the Library children's room, reads: "Dedicated to the memory of Mike Morrissey, a lover of books and libraries, and in recognition of the contributions of his family and friends, whose extraordinary efforts in support of the Takoma Park Maryland Library have greatly strengthened our programs and services."

Morissey's friends, the staff of Rumors Restaurant in Dupont Circle, and relatives from as far away as Texas are already at work planning next year's tournament. Details may be found at www.rumorsgolf.com or www.ftpml.org

CALENDAR

continued from page 8

Melville's Moby Dick.
Introductory lecture by University of Maryland Professor Robert Levine.
Azalea Room. All are welcome.

Petites Chansons

Saturday, March 27, 10:30 a.m.
Join Madame Marie as she leads singing, rhymes and stories in French.
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

All are cordially invited to the

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Annual Meeting

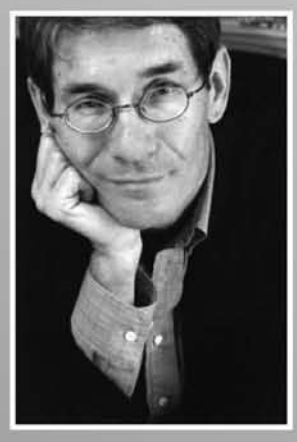
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 7:30pm in the Library

featuring

GUEST SPEAKER

Michael Dirda

Michael Dirda is columnist for *The Washington Post Book World*. He has received the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism, and his reviews and his essays have appeared regularly in national publications, including *The New York Review of Books*.



"It is hard to think of another writer who loves books so passionately, who has such broad tastes and impeccably high standards—and who writes about literature with such intelligence, generosity, and enthusiasm. Michael Dirda is a cultural treasure." —Francine Prose

Books by Michael Dirda include:
Classics for Pleasure
Bound to Please
An Open Book: Chapters from a Reader's Life
Book by Book: Notes on Reading and Life
Readings: Essays and Literary Entertainments

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
101 Philadelphia Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
www.ftpml.org

Refreshments will follow the guest speaker's presentation.

Elections for the FTPML Board of Directors will then be held. Nonmembers are welcome to leave or stay for the election.

Members of the Friends whose dues are current are eligible to serve on the Board and vote in the election. Those interested in serving on the Board may contact Ellen Robbins at 301-891-7258 or by e-mail at ellenr@takomagov.org for information.
New and renewed memberships will be accepted at the meeting.

Police Reach Out with Facebook

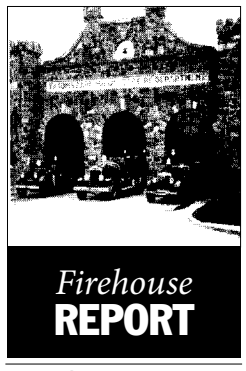
Residents can now add the Takoma Park Police Department to their list of "friends" on Facebook, and get the latest crime updates, safety information and community announcements through this popular social media outlet.

The Police Department launched a Facebook presence last month, as part of its outreach to young people, who, according to the department's public information officer, Catherine Plevy, are more likely to log on here than to subscribe to the existing Takoma Alert system, or even to local list serves that receive her email announcements. "While youth are invited to join the Takoma Park alert system, or even sign up for the PIO advisories, we believe they will be more drawn to Facebook, even if out of curiosity," says Plevy, who is administering the Facebook page. "In this day and age of social media, we're basically using it as another piece of community policing."

Plevy is using Facebook to distribute information about recently committed crimes, details about missing persons and wanted suspects, safety tips and crime prevention material, and announcements about upcoming events such as National Night Out. She points out that it is an opportunity for dialogue with residents, as well: "It gives citizens an opportunity to voice opinions and forward tips," she notes. "We believe Facebook will prove to be a very effective tool in building community awareness."

As of this writing, the police department had 101 fans. In addition to Facebook, the department uses TP Alert (brief emergency notices sent to email or cell phones), a web site (with everything from a beat map to bicycle registration information and parking permit applications, http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/index.html), a blotter/blog listing recent crimes and other information (http://tppolice.blogspot.com/), tip411(using a cell phone, text anonymously to 847411, type TPPDTIP at the beginning of the message), and advisories and press releases sent via email to individuals and neighborhood list-serves.

To "become a fan" of the City of Takoma Park Police Department Facebook page, first be sure you have a Facebook account (facebook.com). Then search "City of Takoma Park Police Department" and add the page to your account. You will receive police communications directly to your Facebook page.



By Jim Jarboe

As of January 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 56 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 254 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 310 this year. Totals for 2009 were 71 and 211 respectively, for a total of 282, representing an increase of 28 incidents.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces, and proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

Furnace Heating

It's important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.

General Heating System Guidelines

- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Is the chimney solid, or does it have cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit.
- Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame (otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space). Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily.

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Each year hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been prevented by CO alarms in the home. CO is an invisible, odorless gas that is produced by burning wood, coal, charcoal, natural gas, gasoline, propane, oil, methane and other common fuels. CO is also produced by gas water heaters, stoves, dryers, automobiles, snow blowers and gas-powered generators.

What is the danger?

CO enters your body, undetected, through your breathing. CO poisoning can be confused with the flu, food poisoning or other illnesses. Symptoms include headache, nausea, dizziness, light-headedness and shortness of breath. High levels of CO can cause death within just a few minutes. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO over a short period of time.

Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Install a CO alarm in a central location outside your home's sleeping areas. If sleeping areas are spaced far apart, each area will need a CO alarm. If your CO alarm sounds, immediately go outside and call 9-1-1. Stay out of building until emergency personnel tell you it is safe. Prevent a carbon monoxide tragedy by installing CO alarms. CO alarms look like smoke alarms. In fact, you can purchase a single alarm unit that detects both smoke and carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide alarms may be battery-powered or current-powered (plug-in models).

Fire Hydrant Dig-Out

Finally, we need your help. If there is a fire hydrant near your home, you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located. Also, in the event of weather-related power failures, avoid using candles or kerosene lanterns for light in your home. Make sure you have flashlights available with a supply of fresh batteries. Be Ready - Be Prepared!

Police Department Going Green

City Council recently approved the purchase of three Ford Fusion Hybrids for the Police Department, demonstrating the City's commitment to environmental sustainability. The three cars make a total of five hybrids used by administrative staff and investigators in the Police Department, and a total of eight hybrids used by City government as a whole. The police department began selecting hybrids last year.

In addition, two Dodge Charger police cruisers have been approved for purchase. This model is designed with additional or enhanced parts for the heavier use of patrol assignments.

The hybrids were purchased for $25,030 each; the Chargers cost $20,843 each. An additional $66,842 has been approved for special equipment such as emergency lights, sirens, computers and computer docks, and installation of that gear in both models; and an additional $4,415 was approved for radio installation.

One of the Hybrids will replace an unmarked car destroyed in a collision; the other two replace unmarked cars scheduled for replacement. The Chargers are part of scheduled vehicle replacement, and will not increase the size of the police fleet, which includes 39 vehicles.

The new cars should be on the street around April 25, approximately 90 days after the City Council voted to approve their purchase on Jan. 25.

The City currently has a total of five hybrids: the two existing hybrids in the police department (Toyota Camrys), one Toyota Prius for Public Works administration, and two Toyota Priuses for general administrative use. In addition, Public Works runs all its diesel vehicles and equipment on an 80/20 biodiesel fuel mix – that is, 20 percent soy and 80 percent regular diesel. Purchase of hybrids and of biodiesel reflects the environmental sustainability commitment written into the City's strategic plan.

Adult Mentors Needed

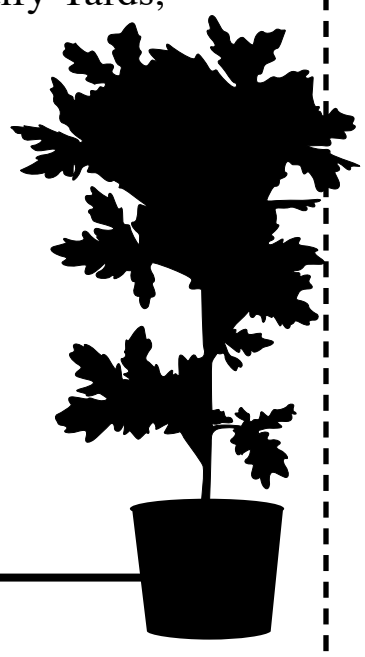
Lead4Life, Inc. and the CSAFE-VPI Program are seeking adult volunteers to mentor young adults (18-25 years) involved in the criminal justice system. Lead4Life will be conducting an eight-week support group for a small group of young adults and is hoping, upon completion of the group, to connect them to a mentor who will continue to provide guidance and support throughout the community-reentry process. We ask that all those who are interested be at least 21 years old and have some experience in mentoring at-risk populations, the mental health profession or with reentry initiatives. Please contact either Jen Gauthier, Executive Director of Lead4Life Inc at 301-672-4319 or Max Regland, Group Facilitator at 443-528-0354. This program is funded in part by the City of Takoma Park.

Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams teamed up with a number of other residents during the epic snowstorm last month, to deliver homemade food to the Public Works staff busy plowing City streets. Williams and others delivered dozens of donated dishes to keep the snow plow crews well fed and aware of the resident's gratitude of their work. Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite said she and her staff were overwhelmed by the residents' generosity.

Photo by Howard Kohn

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, sweet gum, black gum, white oak, and willow oak—all native shade trees that usually retail for about $350 – for $195, installed. Sale dates run through April 16, with installation around mid-May.

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 April 16. Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Map of property/tree installation locations

Species	Price	Quantity	Total
Sugar Maple (2")	195		
Sweet Gum (2")	195		
Black Gum (2")	195		
White Oak (2")	195		
Willow Oak (2")	195		
6 % Sales Tax			

Total amount enclosed _____

Hort Club Presents Garden Artistry

Get a jump on spring gardening at the March 17 meeting of the Takoma Horticultural Club, when Landscape Designer John Gordon presents Paths, Plants and Punctuation: The Artistry of Garden Design. Gordon will cover the basic principles and ideas common to all art and architecture and show that knowledge of plant names is unnecessary in the artistry of garden design. Gordon's intent is to open up the right brain to concepts, ideas, and tips that will help gardeners appreciate good gardens, and understand great gardens.

The free presentation is open to the public and will be held from 7:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, in the Lilac Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. For more information, call 301-585-5707.

Music, Art and Mediation on City TV

Newly released programming featured on City TV includes Folk Festival performances from Lyuti Chuski, Somapa, Tribute to Pete Seeger, Triple Goddess and Clube do Samba. New Street Festival programs include Summerour and Gold, and Justin Trawick. The most recent Third Thursday Poetry Series sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Commission will also air.

The latest edition of Takoma Snapshots includes the following features:

- Going Green – The Green Roof Project
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations
- Jazz Band Brawl 2010 Highlights

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 - MARCH 2010

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	PreSchool Power!	Education TV	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	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 Council Meeting (Replay)	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				Road to Recovery	Takoma Park Folk Festival
NOON				Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	
1:00 PM	Education TV	Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
2:00 PM	NASA 360		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	Music da Camera
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Music da Camera		Road to Recovery			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	Preschool Power	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Preschool Power	
5:00 PM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA 360	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Education TV	
6:00 PM		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art
7:00 PM				Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Jazz Night	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (LIVE)						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	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 Jazz Night		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		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	

Census Forms are On the Way

It's Time to Show that Takoma Park Counts

By Suzanne Ludlow
Deputy City Manager

This month, every household in the United States should receive a Census form in the mail. The purpose of the Census is to count all residents so that the proper number of elected officials and the proper amount of funding may be allocated to each jurisdiction in the United States. Every person matters. For that reason, please make sure that the Census form for your household is completed and mailed in!

There are ten questions on the Census form. The questions clarify the number of people living in the housing unit, ask if the housing unit is owned or rented, and then—for each person—ask the name, age, race, and whether or not the person is of Hispanic/Latino origin. Please complete the form and mail it in. Households that do not return their forms will receive home visits from Census enumerators to obtain the information.

The information you submit to the Census is completely confidential. Federal law dictates that the information about individuals and individual households may not be shared with police, immigration authorities, fire marshals, housing or code enforcement officials, or anyone else. Persons who are not citizens of the United States but live here should complete a Census form. Persons who are living in someone else's home should be included on the Census form, even if sharing the home is not legal or is not permitted by the landlord. All residents of the United States matter, no matter where they are living on April 1. Do not be nervous about completing a Census form!

If you are not counted, the community loses. A smaller Census count can mean:

- less money for the social services you depend on
- fewer elected representatives looking out for your interests
- less money for the schools your children attend
- less money for public transportation and roads in our area
- less interest by businesses looking for a new location, because they don't know you're here to buy their products
- an incomplete picture of our community

Need more information? Go to 2010census.gov.

United States® Census 2010
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Where Should You Be Counted?

Sometimes it's difficult to know where someone should be counted. Most people should be counted in the residence in which they live or sleep most of the time. However, some individuals or groups have unique living situations.

Common situations are outlined in the chart on the right:

	Living situation	Where they are counted
Typical living situations	Live at their home and nowhere else	Their home
	On vacation or a business trip	Their home where they live and sleep most of the time
	Live no one place regularly OR experiencing homelessness	The residence in which they are staying on Census Day
People in places where groups of people live	Places where groups of people live such as jails or prisons, group homes, domestic violence shelters, and emergency or transitional shelters for people experiencing homelessness	Group location
U.S. military personnel	In barracks in the United States	The barracks
	On base or off base in the United States, but not in the barracks	The residence where they live and sleep most of the time
	In the military and living overseas	Counted using the military's records for home address
College students	Live with their parents while attending college in the United States	Parental home
	Live away from the parental home while attending college in the United States	On-campus or off-campus housing
	Attend college outside the United States	Not counted in the Census
Foreign citizens in the United States	Citizens of foreign countries living in the United States	The residence where they live and sleep most of the time
	Foreign citizens visiting the United States on a vacation or business trip	Not counted in the Census
People on the move	Staying at more than one place (like a vacation home) or at a transitory location, such as RV parks, campgrounds, marinas, racetracks, circuses or carnivals	In the residence in which they live and sleep most of the time, OR in the residence in which they are staying on Census Day, if time is divided equally

MAIN STREET TAKOMA

continued from page 1

come."

"One of the reasons Roscoe's chose Takoma Park," according to Grigsby, "is because we sat down with the Consumer Survey and walked [Roscoe's owners] through it, and showed them why they would have a viable business in this community."

But the committee doesn't just engage with prospective tenants. One ongoing interest is working with commercial property owners, most of whom live outside the community, but who control the appearance of everything past the sidewalk. The committee has held breakfasts for them, to learn about their current projects and listen to their issues. Property owners need a safe place where they do not face well-meaning but angry tenants or residents, says Grigsby. "We provided that space." Consequently, Main Street Takoma now has a very good relationship with many property owners who sponsor events, work hard to find tenants that fit into the shopping interests of residents, and come regularly to meetings.

Some committee projects are just bearing fruit. The 2007 grant application for a revolving loan and retail market analysis, was subsequently funded by the State of Maryland, and at a higher level than any other of the City's Community Legacy grants that year. "The exciting thing," says Randy Gibson, who spearheaded the project, "is the committee saw the need for more information and the need for collective action." The result of its efforts: an in-depth statistical breakdown of the business district and an analysis identifying areas of positive economic potential as well as barriers and gaps to growth and/or recruitment. "The Market Analysis was already used to recruit the hardware store," Gibson says, referring to the Ace Hardware store set to open on Carroll Avenue in the spring. "We can't say it was the decider, but it was . .. .a factor." A hardware store was one of the most clearly identified unmet needs, according to the analysis.

Bruce Levin, the owner of 7001 Carroll Avenue – site of the upcoming hardware store — agrees. He notes enthusiastically that the Main Street Takoma Revolving Loan Fund, another committee project begun in 2007 – was, in his words, "huge."

"I didn't have the cash, there was a timing issue with funding, and the short term loan provided the cash for design, demolition and construction for the store when I needed it," he says. Grigsby says the loan program is so popular, she is already getting queries for a second round.

The Economic Restructuring Committee is one of four Main Street committees, along with Design, Promotions, and Organization, but it is seen by Grigsby as the "meat and potatoes" of the program. Recently, it has welcomed a spate of new members - which is important. Volunteer burn-out is a big risk, especially as projects become bigger and more involved.

Gibson had high hopes for the public meeting held in early February to work with the community to prioritize the market report's strategic recommendations and next steps. The meeting was well attended with many businesses and residents – and even included a prospective Takoma Junction entrepreneur in the lease signing stage. Participants started off on a good note with the announcement that the District has funded an art piece for the underpass wall near the Takoma Metro. The meeting generated several top next steps with the most discussed being developing a single brand (currently Old Takoma and Main Street Takoma are used). The committee plans to use these to develop an action plan, "both individual and collective," says Gibson, to move the business district forward.