**City Offices Closed Monday, September 6 for Labor Day**

# Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

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

**Labor Day, Sept. 6**
No yard waste collection; trash picked up Sept. 7

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## City Council Considers Beer and Wine Sales

*Second public hearing scheduled September 13*

By Suzanne Ludlow
Deputy City Manager

After discussions and mixed public testimony in July, the City Council is asking for further input from the community before deciding whether or not to push for state legislation that would allow carryout beer and wine sales in Takoma Park.

A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 13 on these questions:

- Should the City of Takoma Park request state legislation allowing Montgomery County Class B off-sale licenses for restaurants in Takoma Park?
- Should the City request state legislation allowing Montgomery County Class D licenses for businesses in Takoma Park?
- Should the City request state legislation that would give the City veto power over Montgomery County alcoholic beverage licenses issued to businesses in Takoma Park?

The two licenses being considered are the Class B off-sale license and the Class D license, both obtained through the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners. A Class B license, for restaurants with a full kitchen and dining room seating for at least 30 patrons, allows on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages and purchase of beer (unopened) and light wine (sealed bottle) to carry out. A number of Takoma Park restaurants already have Class B on-sale licenses (Come to Africa Restaurant, Mogotillo Restaurant, Roscoe's Neapolitan Pizzeria and Walia Ethiopian Restaurant). Most of the other establishments that serve alcohol have Class H licenses, which don't include an off-sale option.

A Class D license also allows both on-site consumption and the sale of beer (unopened) and light wine (sealed bottle) to carry out, but doesn't require that the business meet the definition of a restaurant, and there is no seating requirement. Most businesses that want to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption both on site and off site go with Class D, so they don't have to meet the strin-

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*Firehouse Nearly Finished*

**The Takoma Park Firehouse, originally built in 1928, has been remodeled and will re-open in October. The renovation took two years, and 10 years of planning, and involved an entire rebuilding of the structure. Stones originally hauled up from Sligo Creek were salvaged and still make up the facade. Story, page 10.**

Photo by Laurie Stepp

## Condo Project Revived at Ecco Park

By Virginia Myers

It's been six years since SGA Architects bought the property at 235 Carroll Street NW, between Metro and Old Town; six years of residents watching the promising signage go up about the eco-friendly building planned for the site, then watching it come down again. Six years of meetings with the historic district authorities, of bank deals signed, then withdrawn, of cleaning up a toxic site that was once a gas station, where contaminated soil had to be removed and replaced and abandoned oil drums had to be extracted. Six years of selling half the condos, then giving all the money back to buyers when financing fell through.

But the development is back on track, says Sassan Gharai, chairman and founder of SGA, who is as enthusiastic as ever about building one of the first new buildings this close to Old Town Takoma Park in years. Why restart the project now? "I think what it shows is the market's finally coming around because the banks are willing to lend again," says Gharai.

Gharai says the four-story building will include 84 condominiums for sale, with 5,000 to 6,000 square feet of retail on the first floor and 70 below-grade parking spots. Gharai says he has several national and local retailers interested in the building, and although it is too soon to tell what will ultimately occupy the space, he is considering a small grocery store to serve building residents. He says he will not have a sit-down restaurant or bar there.

Condos, which will begin selling next month, will go for $199,000 for a "junior" one-bedroom; $260,000 for a one-bedroom, and $360,000 for a two-bedroom. Gharai expects buyers to be a mix of first-time home buyers, people interested in upgrading from nearby lower-quality housing stock, investors who will rent the units

**ECCO PARK CONDOS**
continues on page 3

## *Folk Festival Set for September 12*

The Takoma Park Folk Festival returns for its 33rd year on Sunday, September 12 at the Takoma Park Middle School (7611 Piney Branch Road), kicking off with community choir Carpe Diem at 10:30, then continuing with multiple bands and activities at 11 a.m. The event continues until the final bands pack up at 6:30 p.m. The festival will be held rain or shine.

This annual celebration of folk music and community spirit has become a hallmark Takoma Park event, and draws fans not only from the City's neighborhoods but from the metropolitan area. A full schedule of bands is featured on seven separate stages, and a juried arts and crafts show includes dozens of local and regional artists and craftspeople. Food vendors run the gamut, offering everything from soft ice cream to African, Asian and Caribbean cuisine; community tables offer information on local politics, advocacy organizations, arts education, environmental causes, human rights issues and more. And there is

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

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## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

**Monday, September 6 – City Offices Closed for the Labor Day Holiday. The Community Center will be closed September 4, 5, and 6.**

**Tuesday, September 7** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Wednesday, September 8** – Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Thursday, September 9** - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, September 13** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Monday, September 13** - Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

**Tuesday, September 14 -** Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

**Tuesday, September 14** - Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Tuesday, September 14** - Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

**Monday, September 20 –** City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, September 21** - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Monday, September 27** – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

**Tuesday, September 28** - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

**Thursday, September 30** - Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

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

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

### Takoma Park Small Community Grant Program Application Deadline – October 4, 2010

The deadline to apply for funding under the City's Small Community Grant Program is Monday, October 4. The program competitively awards small grants (up to $2,500) for projects that help to further the goals established in the Strategic Plan. A copy of the Strategic Plan, full description of the Small Community Grant Program, and application form is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk. Interested applicants may contact Jessie Carpenter for additional information (JessieC@takomagov.org or 301-891-767). Residents interested in serving as grant reviewers contact Jessie Carpenter.

# City Council Action*

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

## July 26 – Regular Meeting

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-31 was adopted**, authorizing the issuance and sale of City of Takoma Park General Obligation Bonds, 2010 Series C, for the purpose of financing the costs of renovating the City's Public Works Facility

**Second Reading Ordinance 2010-32 was adopted,** adopting the FY 2011 AFSCME pay scale

**Second Reading 2010-33 was adopted,** adopting the FY 2011 management and non-union pay scale

**Second Reading 2010-34 was adopted,** adopting the FY 2011 police pay scale

**Resolution 2010-46 was adopted,** requesting that Takoma Urban Park be renamed as Gilbert Kombe Park (Abstentions: Clay, Snipper)

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

- **Single Reading Ordinance 2010-37** authorizing purchase of a leaf collection vacuum
- **Resolution 2010-47** providing for the City Council's summer recess
- **Resolution 2010-48** authorizing the City Manager to sign a grant agreement with the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee
- **Resolution 2010-49** authorizing the City Manager to sign a grant agreement with the Crossroads Farmers Market
- **Resolution 2010-50** authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Old Takoma Business Association
- **Single Reading Ordinance 2010-38** authorizing the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Code Enforcement Division
- **Single Reading Ordinance 2010-39** authorizing a renewal contract with Public Policy Partners

### Campaign Season Yard Signs Come with Regulations

With elections just around the corner, it's important to note that the City of Takoma Park does have laws regulating political campaign signs. Political signs are considered "temporary signs" and do not require a permit. Signs considered temporary are those made of non-permanent materials like cardboard, paper, canvas or wood. The number of temporary signs displayed in a residential zone is not limited, but the total sign area must not exceed 10 square feet. In a commercial zone, the total square footage of all signs may not exceed 100 square feet.

Additionally, there are regulations regarding the placement of political signs. Signs may only be placed on private property. In no case should signs be on the public right of way, light posts, utility poles, bus shelters, City property, parks or trees. Signs should also be placed in a way that does not obstruct the view of traffic signals, traffic signs, oncoming traffic or pedestrians. Signs in violation may be removed by the City.

Finally, political signs must include the name of the person responsible for the sign, and also must state that it is a paid advertisement and has been printed under the authority of the person, candidate or political committee.

### Change in Parking Meters

**New Parking Meter Rates Effective September 27, 2010**

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

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

Parking meters with a 30-minute limit, one-hour limit, or two-hour limit shall have a rate of $.075 per hour.

Parking meters with an eight-hour limit or 12-hour limit shall have a rate of $0.50 per hour.

**Notice of Time Interval Change for Parking Meters on the Commercial Side of Laurel Avenue**

The City Manager has received a request to adjust the parking meters on the commercial side of Laurel Avenue from 30 minutes to one hour. If approved, the change would become effective on September 27. Residents or businesses may send comments on this proposal to City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by e-mail to clerk@takomagov.org. Deadline for public comments: Monday, September 20, 2010.

### Public Hearings for Traffic Calming

**Notice of Public Hearing Traffic Calming on the 200 Block of Grant Avenue September 20, 2010 7:30 p.m. – Community Center Auditorium**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 20, 2010 on residents' request for a speed hump on the 200 block of Grant Avenue. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. 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 to clerk@takomagov.org; or by fax to 301-270-8794.

**Notice of Public HearingTraffic Calming on the 100 Block of Sherman Avenue September 20, 2010 7:30 p.m. – Community Center Auditorium**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 20, 2010 on residents' request for a speed hump on the 100 block of Sherman Avenue. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. 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 to clerk@takomagov.org; or by fax to 301-270-8794.

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

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

**Arts and Humanities Commission** (vacancies)

**Takoma Park Board of Elections** (vacancy)

**Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee** (vacancies)

**Personnel Appeal Board** (vacancy)

**Recreation Committee** (vacancies)

**Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee** (vacancies)

**Tree Commission** (one term expires Sept. 30)

**Ethics Commission** (four terms expire Sept. 30)

## Takoma Park Stay-Cation

### WHAT DID YOU DO ON SUMMER VACATION?

It's a classic September conversation, and the answer is often served up with a string of photos showing the sites seen on holiday.

So, if you were a tourist in Takoma Park, what sorts of photos might you take? What is unique to this town? Here are a few ideas for a Takoma Park Stay-cation photo album, from photographer Laurie Stepp.

Clockwise from top: the internationally flavored Crossroads Farmers Market; Sligo Creek Parkway's shady greenway; Frank Cassel, "the banjo man," with Marisa Sotelino (left) and Valerie App; the hometown shopping district on Carroll Avenue; the Community Center; town mascot, Roscoe the Rooster; and a community art project in Forest Park.

## ECCO PARK CONDOS

continued from page 1

and empty nesters who want to downsize from their existing Takoma Park homes.

Sustainable elements at Ecco Park include a partial green roof and recycled-content steel beams, use of natural lighting, and options to select recycled glass countertops, energy efficient appliances and eco-friendly finishes like nontoxic paints. In keeping with the larger community's interests, Gharai also plans to hold yoga classes on the roof deck, in partnership with Willow Street Yoga, and his sales package offers free lifetime membership in the Takoma Park Co-op, extra parking for bicycles, and a Zip Car in the underground garage.

Ecco Park facades are sensitive to the local architectural aesthetic, he adds. A combination of brick veneer, metal and glass paneling, and stucco, they include one tower-like anchor on the corner and ground-floor windows that open the building up to the street. Ellisdale Construction, based in Rockville, will be handling construction. Ground breaking is expected in October, and Gharai anticipates the building will be completed by December 2011 or a bit later.

**This artist's rendering of Ecco Park shows a design owner Sassan Gahrai says honors the neighborhood aesthetic.**

"I think it will change the neighborhood," he says. "Getting off the Metro, starting at the 7-11, it's just a gaping hole that needs to be filled in. I think that once that happens there will be other developments in the area."

Gharai admits there will be some disruption during construction, and residents may be "annoyed because it will be a little more crowded" once the condos are filled. "At the same time I think you need a certain amount of people to live in close proximity to each other to have a vibrant community." Such a community, he adds, can decrease crime and support local shops and restaurants as well.

## LETTER *to the Editor*

### Restaurant History Redux

I read the article in the July issue concerning Mark's Kitchen and that it took over the space occupied by the Electrik Maid. And that may be true. However, a long time ago the Electrik Maid was next door to where Mark's Kitchen now is. The restaurant there before M.K. was called Nick's Restaurant run by a Greek guy, Nick Bougadis.

My husband and I met in Nick's Restaurant in l943.

*— Joan Sidell*

## STREET FEST

continued from page 1

an entire area devoted to children's activities—not just children's music and performance, but also face painting and games.

But music is the central attraction at the Folk Festival. This year festival performers feature all sorts of genres, and include popular Afro pop group, Elikeh, with traditional music from Togo; singer-songwriter Lea; Cantarè Latin American music; Shango Band reggae; and Rick Franklin and his Delta Blues Boys. The Lenore Robinson Dance Stage will feature all types of dance, from traditional Irish to Thai, and festival goers can participate or watch from the sidelines.

For the youngest festival goers, the Grassy Nook stage features performances by musicians and entertainers under age 25, from West African drummers to rappers, blues players and storytellers. The stage is programmed by Marika Partridge and her teenage daughter.

The Folk Festival is run primarily through volunteer efforts. To join the approximately 300 volunteers who help make it happen, send an email to volunteer@tpff.org or leave a message at 301-589-0202.

Updated information is available at www.tpff.org or on the Facebook Fanpage, www.facebook.com/takomaparkfolkfestival.

**THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER**

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

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.

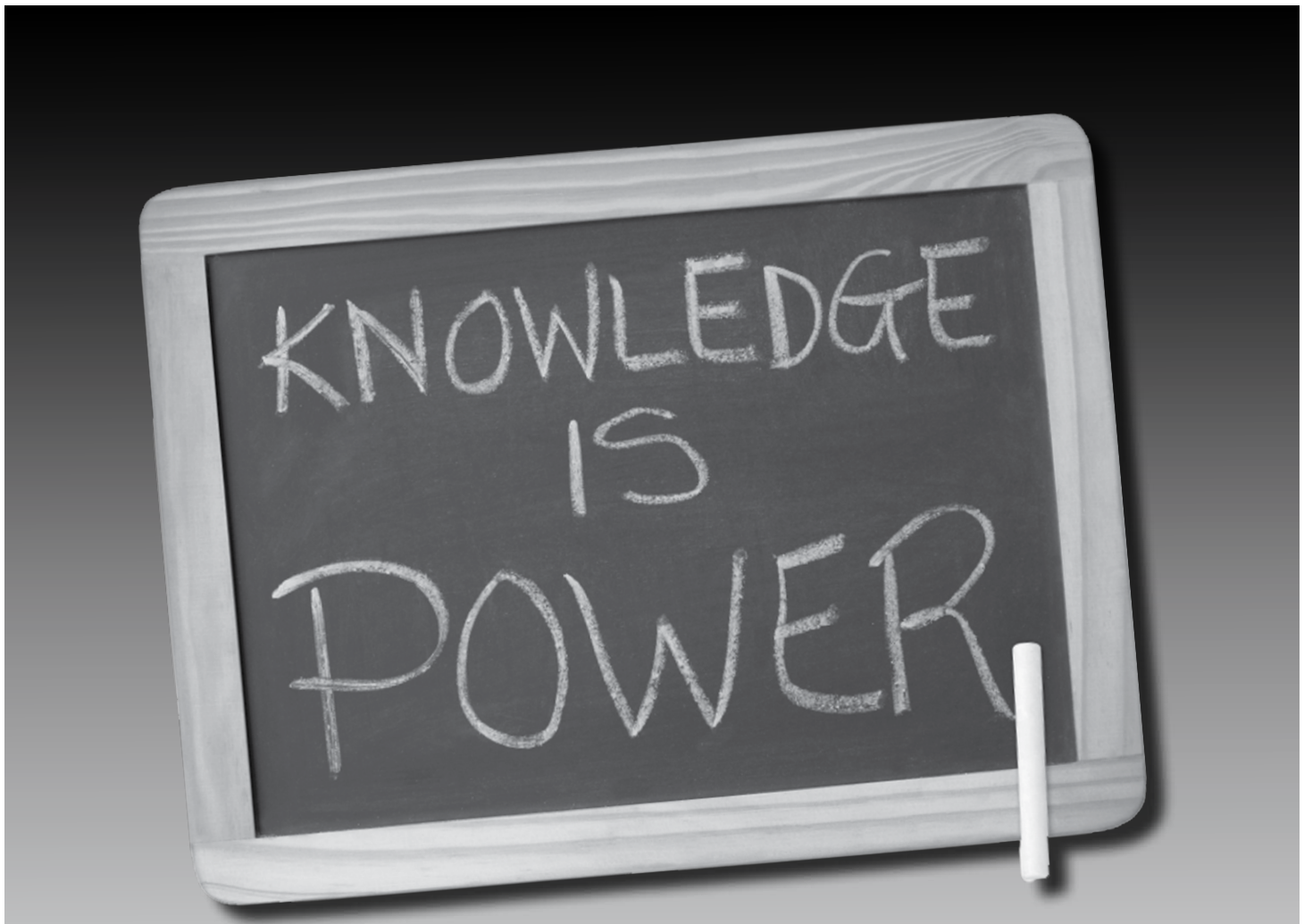
By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant
Coordinator

***A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding the required notice period for his landlord's proposed increase in the apartment building's air conditioning electricity fee. The tenant also asked if there is a maximum amount a landlord may charge for renting a window air conditioner to tenants.***

In accordance with Section 6.16.110 of the city's Landlord-Tenant Law all fees for building amenities, including air conditioning, must be disclosed at the beginning of the tenancy. A landlord may not charge a fee for an amenity, if the amenity previously existed and no fee was charged. Any proposed increase in an air conditioning fee requires that tenants be provided with two months advance written notice. An electricity increase fee may not exceed the amount being charged to the landlord by the utility company. A landlord who has received a written request from a tenant questioning the amount of an air conditioning fee is required to provide the tenant with applicable bills from the utility company and a written explanation of how the proposed fee increase was calculated.

Pursuant to Section 6.16.110.C. of the city law and Landlord-Tenant Administrative Regulation Number 3-06, the maximum amount that a landlord may charge for renting a window air conditioner is $35 per month. This rental fee may only be charged for the months of May through September. Tenants may, if permitted by their lease, provide their own window air conditioner if the unit is equivalent in size, configuration and energy efficiency standards to the unit being rented by the landlord.

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




## Financial Management Classes

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

It's time to attend to your finances. Sign up Now! Class size is limited.

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (food and refreshments will be provided)
Where: Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Cost: No Cost, but pre-registration is required

**Call 301-891-7222**
Class conducted by Christopher King – Certified Credit Counselor and Financial Consultant

## You are invited to a free class, "Tenant Rights in Takoma Park"

Wednesday, September 22
7 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

Light Refreshments will be served

**To Register: 301-891-7215**

## TP *Briefs*

### Online Annual Rent Reporting by Landlords Due Sept. 30

Landlords subject to Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law are required to submit annual rent reports by September 30 each year to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The report shows increases and decreases in rents being charged for the recording period (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010). The Rent Stabilization Allowance for this period was 0.4 percent. Starting this September, landlords will be required to submit the rent report(s) on-line via the City's website. Letters were mailed on August 12 and 13 with information about the new reporting requirements and a class schedule showing a list of dates for training on the new system. The new and improved feature will allow for easy transmission and evaluation of this information. For further information, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or JeanK@takomagov.org.

### Public Works Office Moves to Community Center

In preparation for the Public Works Facility renovation, the administrative staff, the arborist and the engineer relocated on August 16 to the Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. The Public Works office, at 31 Oswego Avenue, will be closed to the public until the office renovation is complete. The project is expected to be finished by August 2011.

Public Works staff phone numbers and email addresses will not change.

After August 17, please go to the Community Center for the following:

- payment of heavy trash pick up fee
- submit permit applications or payment of permit fees
- payment for mulch delivery
- purchase of large wheeled trash carts

The electronics and compact flourescent light bulbs drop-off will be suspended until the facility re-opens next year.

Self hauling of mulch and drop-off of motor oil and antifreeze will continue to be available.

Please call 301-891-7633 if you have any questions.

# "We Are Takoma" Series Launches With Basque Music Sept. 19

The City of Takoma Park and the Arts and Humanities Commission is launching a new performance series this month, We Are Takoma, featuring music, poetry, storytelling, film and other performance-based art from local artists and professionals passing through. The first show, by the musical group, Oreka Tx, will be on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Takoma Park Auditorium, at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The performance is free.

Oreka Tx (Oreka, meaning "balance" in the Basque world, and Tx from the first letters of their instrument, the txalapartas) creates music from slabs of wood or stone laid over trestles, and struck vertically with cylindrical sticks. The instrument is similar to a xylophone, but so distinct to the Basque region and culture, it was banned during the Franco dictatorship. Basques Harkaitz Martinez de San Vicente and Igor Otxoa, the duo that makes up Oreka Tx, have helped revive its tradition.

Oreka Tx is partly known for an award-winning documentary tracking its visits with nomadic societies, where they used the txalapartas to bridge cultural divides and learn about other indigenous music in places like Mongolia, the Sahara, Lapland and India. Their music has been described as a "thrilling physical spectacle as well as an aural treat" ( Sue Wilson, "The Scotsman"). They are stopping through Takoma Park on a tour of the U.S., and performing free of charge.

**Harkaitz Martinez de San Vicente and Igor Otxoa, the duo that makes up the musical group Oreka Tx, will play at the first performance in the We Are Takoma series, at the Community Center Auditorium on Sunday, Sept. 19. The performance is free.**

The Oreka Tx concert is the first in the We Are Takoma series, which will present up to two performances each month. Organizers are open to all sorts of presentations, as long as they have a "cultural" element, says Sara Anne Daines, the City staff member of the Arts and Humanities Commission. Among the possibilities: concerts and recitals, dance performances, spoken word events such as poetry readings or poetry slams, storytelling and oral history, film and still imagery, lectures, book readings and panel discussions. Selected programs may feature professional performers, the talents of a local resident and others or highlight the culture of a select ethnic group. Programming options are limited only by the capacity of the auditorium where events would be held, its availability, and the technical demands of the event.

Proposals for the series are currently being considered on a rolling basis by the City of Takoma Park on behalf of the Arts and Humanities Commission. For more information, call 301-891-7224 or email sarad@takomagov.org or ahc@takomagov.org.

## Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

*celebrating the creative spirit of our community*

### Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Please join us on Thursday, September 23 to hear the work of local poets. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue.

### Exhibits Opportunity

The Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking proposals from visual artists and craftspeople interested in exhibiting their work. If selected, the work would be shown in one of three galleries—the Atrium Gallery, the Richard Dempsey Memorial Gallery, or Gallery Three—for a period of two months. Exhibits may feature the work of a group of artists or craftspeople or the work of an individual.

To learn more about the exhibit space and the proposal process: http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees/arthum/exhibition.html.

### Takoma Artists Guild Shows Local Work

The Takoma Artists Guild, dedicated to artistic growth, will exhibit work from its members, in the Atrium gallery at the Community Center through the month of September. The show will include paintings, drawings, water color, collage and photographs.

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

### Be Part of Takoma's New Performance Series

The "We are Takoma" performance series (see article, this page) is soliciting artists for its monthly events. Performance possibilities include storytelling, documentary or short films, dance, drama or other creative presentations. To apply, contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224, or sarad@takomagov.org.

For 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 SaraD@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

## Street Fest Comes to Town Oct. 3

This year's Takoma Park Street Festival has a new, green twist to it: in addition to music, arts and crafts, food vendors and community information booths, a new Bike Zone will feature bicycling demonstrations, tune-ups, advocacy and more.

The 29th annual festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 3 in Old Town. As usual, Carroll Avenue will be closed to traffic and open to an eclectic mix of live music, artisans, community organizations, children's activities and food vendors. The event is hosted by the Old Takoma Business Association.

The Bike Zone will feature Takoma Bicycle and the Green Commuter, two new shops in town, offering bike tune-ups and demonstrating E-BikeKit installations. Bike advocacy organizations will feature commuting tips and trail maps, and Capital Bikeshare will provide an overview of its new bike share program, including a sample bike dock.

Three stages will feature 18 popular, local bands covering indie folk, big band, jazz, blues, reggae and everything in between. A third of the performers have their roots in Takoma Park. Hometown favorites include Natty Beaux, Chopteeth, The Sweater Set, Katy Gaughan and Joe Uehlein and the U-liners.

More than 150 artisans will sell handmade jewelry, fabric arts, paintings, photography, pottery, skin care products, glassworks and more. Children will enjoy a moon bounce, slide, face painting and other activities. Many community organizations round out the event with information tables covering area schools, political parties, churches and other community groups.

For more information, see www.takomafestival.com.

*For more information, see www.takomafestival.com.*

### 2010 Gubernatorial Election Information

Primary Election Day
September 14, 2010 - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
General Election Day
November 2, 2010 - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**This is not a City election.**

Voters who have questions about their polling place, early voting, and absentee voting should contact the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240-777-8500 during business hours (or the 24-hour voter information line at 240-777-8683).

The Montgomery County Board of Elections website (www.777vote.org) has complete election information, including a link to the application to request an absentee ballot and a polling place lookup. *The City of Takoma Park cannot accept absentee ballot applications for the 2010 election.*

# September Recreation

**JOLLY ROGER WEEK AT CAMP TAKOMA included a pirate cruise in Baltimore and ended the week with this Treasure Island dress up activity for maties (clockwise from top left) Saatwik Bandyopadhyay, Uriah Zekarias, Tatiana Davison-Bajandas, Ramani Wilson and Zane Shafer.**

Photo by Carey Antoszewski

## Zumba

*Ages 16 and older*

Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program with a simple goal: to work out, love working out and get hooked on a new exercise routine. Zumba helps achieve long-term benefits in a fun, upbeat session: one hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing movement meant to engage and captivate participants for a lifetime. The routines feature interval training sessions that combine fast and slow rhythms with resistance training to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor Edurama.

Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m. and
Saturdays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 15 – Oct. 9
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
$40 for a four-week session

## Yogi's D.J. Training (Street Outreach Network)

*Ages 13-18*

If you love music and parties, a career as a DJ may be the answer for you. Yogi's D.J. Training is an immersive audio education that takes youth into the world of being a D.J. Learn the skills of selecting music for the intended audience and performance setting, become familiar with different media and develop your own way of manipulating sound—in other words, start building a career in the Disc Jockey industry.

Fridays, 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 17 – Oct. 12
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Free with membership card

## Job Training Program

*Ages 14-21*

This program develops the necessary skills and thinking for our youth to be gainfully employed. Includes resume writing, interviewing skills, dressing for success, proper way to complete a job application, proper way to complete forms for a job after you are hired, budgeting and finance, conflict resolution and role playing and proper etiquette. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Eight weeks. Instructor Tangela Bullock.

Mondays, 7 – 8 p.m.
Sept. 13 – Nov. 1
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Free

## Fun Day Program

*Ages 5 - 12*

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

Thurs., Sept. 9
Black Hills Park-Boat ride, fishing and hiking
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

| | |
|---|---|
| TP Resident | $35 |
| Non-Resident | $45 |

Tues., Sept. 14
Adventure Park USA-Rides, games and mini-golf
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

| | |
|---|---|
| TP Resident | $35 |
| Non-Resident | $45 |

## Builder Bee

*Ages 18 months – 6 years*

A family program that uses the process of architectural model building to develop problem-solving skills and encourage learning in a fun and exploratory atmosphere. Classes build on previous sessions to create a final project you can take home. Each session is based on developmental stages and set skills. Parent/guardian participation is part of the learning experience. Creator Amanda Faye Dowd, a Takoma Park resident, applies skills in conceptual design by teaching to your child's natural skills, and encouraging the process of sequential and spatial communication. A $24 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Builder Bee - Level 1, 18 mo – 3 yr
Mondays, 10:10 – 10:50 a.m
Sept. 20 - Nov. 8
No class on Oct. 11, Nov. 1

Builder Bee - Level 2, 3 – 5 yrs
Fridays 10:10 – 10:50 a.m.
Sept 24 - Oct. 29

| | |
|---|---|
| TP resident | $60 |
| Non-resident | $70 |

## Wee Love Math

*Ages 2 - 6*

How cool is math? "Way Cool!" is what your kids will say. This age-appropriate introduction to math concepts will explore counting, addition and subtraction, odd and even numbers, opposites, matching, doubling numbers, comparing sizes, amounts, weights and more. All of this is learned through play, stories, project activities and teaching tools such as Cuisenaire rods. A parent or caregiver should accompany child. Fee includes materials. Six weeks. Instructor Amaya Lambert. Maximum

**RECREATION** continues on page 7

**NORA ALMENDAREZ AND ARSIEMA TEKLE join Teens on the Move during a fishing trip and BBQ at Hanes Point.**

Photo by Faye Wright.

**CAMPERS PROUDLY PRESENT THE ART THEY CREATED IN THE CARTOONING AND MANGA CAMP with Instructor Rain Young held at the Community Center in August. A cartooning class is being offered this fall starting in September.**

Photo by Debra Haiduven

# Silver Foxes

## For Active Adults Over 55

### Square Dancing (New Class)

Betsy Taylor instructs and calls fun and energetic square dancing routines. Come and learn the basics of square dance or add to your square dancing skills. Choose the class that's right for you, beginners and more advanced students, singles and couples welcome. Both classes are six week sessions. Ages 55 and older.

Azalea Room, TP Community Center
Beginners Class
Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m.
Sept. 16 - Oct. 21

Intermediate Plus Class
Thursdays, 11 a.m. – noon
Sept. 16 - Oct. 21
$12 per person per session

### Birthday Celebration

*Ages 55 and older.*

Mark your calendars — our next Birthday Party is on Fri., Sept. 17 at 1 p.m., in the Senior Room, TP Community Center. Bring your friends and join us as we celebrate July, August and September birthdays with cake, ice cream, games and fun!

### Falls Prevention Workshop

*Ages 55 and older.*
Did you know that more than a third of older adults fall each year? Falls are a major threat to the health and well being of older citizens, and often lead to injuries that reduce activity and independence. The good news is that falls can be prevented. Please take advantage of an opportunity this month to learn how to prevent falls by attending a Falls Prevention Workshop. Occupational Therapists from the Department of Aging will lead a workshop here to help Takoma Park seniors learn how to "stay fit to prevent falls."

Senior Room, TP Community Center
Tues. 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Sept. 14
For more information and to RSVP, please call Paula Lisowski at 301-891-7280.

### Seafood Festival

*Ages 55 and older.*
Sandy Point State Park will again be the host site for the 43rd annual Maryland Seafood Festival with great food, exhibits, arts and crafts and entertainment. Friday is Senior Day, when seniors are admitted at half price. No additional charge to attend the Senior Expo, which includes speakers, seminars and health screenings. Bring spending money for lunch (meal tickets) and shopping. Registration is required. Please call 301-891-7280 to register.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sept. 10
$5 entry fee. Bring cash on 9/10/10.

### Fairfax, Virginia History Tour

*Ages 55 and older*
Join us for a history tour of Fairfax, Virginia. We will start the day with a visit to the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center housed in the former Fairfax Elementary School, built in 1873, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Fairfax Museum has general visitor information and special exhibitions on city history including the History Max big screen showing of Historic Postcards of Fairfax: Images from the Tony Chavez Collection. Afterwards, we will enjoy docent-led tours of the Civil War Interpretive Center and Historic Blenheim, and the Ratcliffe-Allison House. Dress for comfort, and bring spending money for lunch at a local restaurant and the museum gift shop. This is an active walking trip and there may be stairs. Registration is required. Please call 301-891-7280 to register.

Tues. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sept. 21
$3 (Bring cash on 9/21/10)

# Local Artists to be Focus of New "Lifestyle" Store on Carroll

By Virginia Myers

A new shop, selling furniture, home accessories, art, cards, gifts and other "lifestyle" items, is moving in to 232 Carroll Street, across from the CVS drugstore where the National Children's Adult Day Care Center has been. Owners expect it to open mid- to late November.

Trohv will be the second store for owners Ben Homola and Carmen Brock, whose Red Tree, in Baltimore's funky Hampden district, opened in 2006. The Takoma, D.C. spot will be similar in its focus on local and regional artists. At Red Tree, products from some 25 local/regional artists and crafters can be found on the shelves at any given time, and range from hand-screened t-shirts to jewelry made from vintage upholstery, paintings made on discarded lumber and greeting cards that can be planted.

Homola, who is just now leaving his day job as an attorney, and Brock, his partner, are currently looking for artists from Takoma and the surrounding region whose work they can feature as part of the new store's stock.

Along with artsy pieces, the inventory at Red Tree includes a line of leather furniture and another made from government-certified tree farm mahogany. At Takoma's Trohv, the furniture inventory will expand; there will also be more industrial/vintage salvage pieces, says Homola.

Beyond its inventory, he adds, Trohv will be a place people will want to spend time: in Red Tree, "We really strive to create an experiential retail setting that is well-designed, beautiful, smells delicious, has great music and generally just feels good. Our customers frequently say that they want to live in the store, which I think speaks well for the inviting sensory experience we try to create."

Expansion is nothing new for Homola and Brock; the Baltimore store went from its original 2,500 square feet to 5,000 the following year. And it's taken Best of Baltimore awards each year from City Paper, for Best Home Accessories, Best Windows Displays, Best Eclectic Home Goods, Best Place to Buy New Furniture and Best Gift Shop. They're moving their concept to Takoma because of its location: the existing retail community complements rather than competes with its concept, says Homola; it's set up to be a community-oriented area, and it is affordable. The on-site parking and nearby Metro stop were another draw.

# *Takoma Foundation Accepts Grant Applications, Plans Beer Fundraiser*

By Kevin Adler
Board member,
Takoma Foundation

Fall will be busy for members of the Takoma Foundation, as the organization opens its semi-annual grants cycle in September and prepares for its Second Annual Beer Tasting on October 16.

The Foundation's fall 2010 grant cycle will be open from September 13 through October 29, and up to $15,000 will be awarded in community grants. The total potential funding represents a substantial increase over the spring 2010 cycle and more than doubles the grant awards of fall 2009. "Through the generosity of members of our community, the Takoma Foundation has had several successful fundraising projects in the past year," says Franca Brilliant, a Foundation Board member and chair of the Grants Committee. "This is enabling us to expand our support of local, grassroots organizations at a very important time."

Community-based nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply for grants of up to $2,500 to support their activities in education, employment initiatives, the arts, neighborhood beautification and other activities that strengthen the community. Grant recipients in the last year have included Community Tax Aid (tax-preparation workshops for low-income and non-English speakers); Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Association (streetscape beautification); Rolling Terrace Elementary (summer book swap); and Silver Spring YMCA (food safety certification program for adults).

Non-profit organizations that have a letter of determination from the IRS or projects that have a non-profit fiscal agent are eligible to apply for grants. These can include PTAs, schools, neighborhood associations and civic groups. Applicants should identify activities and projects directed at the residents of Takoma Park, Takoma DC, or Silver Spring. Application forms are available at the Takoma Park Library or online at www.takomafoundation.org. For additional questions, contact Franca Brilliant, Grants Committee Chair, 301-891-2581, or fbrilliant@aol.com.

### Beer Tasting on October 16

Meanwhile, the Foundation is selling tickets for its Beer Tasting, which will be held on October 16, from 4-7 p.m. (location to be determined). Tickets to the event will cost $35 per person.

"We sold out last year, and we're optimistic that the Beer Tasting will be just as popular this year," said Peter Feiden, chair of the event. "We had five beer selections last year from three organic brewers, and we are working with local microbrewers to expand our selections this year." In addition to samples of a wide variety of beers, the event will include music and light food donated by local restaurants. "It's a social event, as well as a chance to try some great craft beers, while raising money to support local groups that are doing great work," said Feiden.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Old Town Takoma stores, the Takoma Foundation's booth at the Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 12 or the StreetFest on October 3, or by contacting the Foundation through its website, www.takomafoundation.org.

## RECREATION

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12, minimum six.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, 9:30 - 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. - noon
Sept. 21 - Oct. 26
TP resident $65
Non-resident $75

### Pre School FUNdamentals

*Ages 18 months – 3 years*
Ready, set, go! Sing, dance and paint our way from in-home or day care to big kid school. This engaging class will prepare your toddler for a more structured preschool environment. He/she will learn to transition between activities without the "dreaded meltdown." He/she will interact with friends, and share and create together. We will enjoy free play, circle time, songs, stories, craft projects, gross-motor skills and much more! A parent or caregiver should accompany child. Fee includes snack and craft materials. Twelve weeks. Instructor Amaya Lambert. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Lilac Room, T P Community Center
Thurs. 10:30 a.m. – noon
Sept 23 - Dec. 16
TP resident $150
Non-resident $170

## Takoma Park Library CALENDAR

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. For a few events, it is encouraged, but not required, as noted. You can register online by going to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or by calling 301-891-7259. Events take place in the Library unless otherwise noted.

**Community Circle Time**

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

**Spanish Circle Time**

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

**French Circle Time**

Saturday, Sept. 11
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

**Builder Bee Kids**

Saturday, Sept. 11, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Parents, bring your little ones to play and learn a bit about architecture. (See article for more details)
No registration required; program is geared to ages 1-4.

**Bedtime Stories**

Monday, September 13, 7 p.m.
Come in p.js, bring your teddy or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs in their half-hour program. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

**End of Summer Quest Party**

Wednesday, September 15, 7 p.m.
Kids: come celebrate all the reading you did this summer in our Summer Quest program! Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

**Junior Banned Books Club**

Monday, September 20, 6:30 p.m.
For kids in third, fourth and fifth grade
We'll be "The Higher Power of Lucky" by Susan Patron. A limited number of copies of the book are available for check-out at the main Library desk. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

**Banned Books Club**

Monday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.
Award-winning book club for middle- and high-school students. "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A limited number of copies of the book are available for check-out at the main Library desk. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program

**Friends of the Library Board Meeting**

Tuesday, September 21, 7:45 p.m.

**Resume Coaching Lab**

Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center
This program is aimed at those seeking private sector employment. Featuring Gabe Heilig. Registration limited.

**French Circle Time**

Saturday, Sept. 25
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program

**Mike Morrissey Charity Golf Tournament**

Monday, Sept. 25
Proceeds go to the Library. Contact Ellen Robbins for more information at 301-891-7259.

**LIBRARY CALENDAR**
continues on page 9

# Tales from Back to School Mark the Season

By Karen MacPherson

As kids head back to school, it's a perfect time to come to our Library and check out these school-theme books.

■ Author/illustrator Patricia Polacco has been plumbing her family history for years, creating a remarkable set of picture books for older readers. In her newest book, "The Junkyard Wonders," Polacco focuses on her childhood trials as a late academic bloomer who, in this case, was put in a class of seeming misfits that other students called "the junkyard." As in her earlier book, "Thank You, Mr. Falker," Polacco details how an inspired teacher named Mrs. Peterson celebrated her students' unique gifts, calling them geniuses and "junkyard wonders." Under Mrs. Peterson's direction, the students created "tribes" within the classroom and learned to see – and tap — their potential. Young readers will be riveted by the story, as well as Polacco's trademark illustrations, filled with color and energy. (Ages 5-10).

■ A young pirate fan takes readers through an unusual school day filled with swashbuckling buccaneers in "A Pirate's Guide to First Grade." Written entirely in pirate lingo by James Preller, this book will have young readers shouting "Arrrr!" and "Shiver me timbers!" in no time. But it's the illustrations by Greg Ruth that really put a spotlight on the protagonist's active imagination; Ruth shows the boy surrounded by pirates – drawn in brown – wherever he goes. Kids will love the contrast between the antics of the imaginary pirates and the regular school day routine. (Ages 4-8).

■ It's the first day of school, and a teacher asks her class: "What do you hope will happen this year?" As author Kay Winters writes in "This School Year Will Be the Best!," each student voices a different desire. Some are prosaic – "This year I'll kick the ball into the right goal," while others are funny — "I hope I won't be a vegetable in our school play!" Artist Renee Andriani does a wonderful job of extending Winters' text in her illustrations. (Ages 4-7).

■ Author/illustrator Hanoch Piven has won acclaim from critics and readers for his illustrations, which present portraits of people created through various objects, including pencils, balloons and marbles. In his newest book, "My Best Friend Is As Sharp As a Pencil," Piven offers a set of classroom portraits and, in the process, gives readers an entertaining lesson in similes. For example, the book's protagonist describes her art teacher "as artistic as a paint palette" and Piven then crafts the art teacher's face from a paint palette. Piven includes a note at the end urging young readers to try creating their own "object art" illustrations. (Ages 5-8).

■ One autumn day, a young dog named Rocket is wakened from his daily nap by a yellow bird who is thrilled to have her first student. Confused, Rocket says he's nothing of the sort, but the bird insists and begins her first lesson, focusing on "the wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet… where it all begins." In "How Rocket Learned to Read," author/illustrator Tad Hills celebrates the joy of learning, as well as the power of a good teacher to change lives. Hills' marvelous illustrations in this over-sized picture book are both simple and evocative, and Rocket and his winged friend are cute, but not cutesy. (Ages 3-6).

■ With a clear, rhyming text, authors Paul DuBois Jacobs and Jennifer Swender calmly take readers through a sometimes scary ritual in "Fire Drill." The cut-paper collages by Huy Voun Lee capture the children's emotions, showing one girl with her fingers in her ears to block out the sound, and other children getting antsy after they file out into the schoolyard. (Ages 3-6).

■ Anna is worried about going to kindergarten, but it turns out to be a wonderful experience as author/illustrator Antoinette Portis tells in "Kindergarten Diary." Young readers will readily relate to Anna's anxiety as well as her happiness at making friends and learning new skills. Portis' deceptively-simple mixed-media illustrations give the book added panache. (Ages 3-6).

■ Author David LaRochelle and illustrator Brenda Sexton team up to give readers a different take on math in "1 + 1 = 5 and Other Unlikely Additions." Just how does 1 + 1 = 5? Well, you take one set of triplets and add one set of twins and you end up with five babies. Or, how about 1 + 1 = 7? Add one square to one triangle and you've got seven sides. LaRochelle's text is thought-provoking, while Sexton's illustration kick up the comedy a few notches. (Ages 5-8).

# *College Bound Speakers Series Returns*

For the seventh year in a row, the Library will present a series of special workshops for college bound students and their parents by nationally recognized experts.

This year, Takoma Park college consultant Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre will present two workshops on college choice.

On Tuesday, September 28, she will help families get started on the college selection process. Which schools might provide the right fit – academically, financially and personally –for you? Topics include sorting out your personal criteria and goals, the admissions process, competitiveness, where do I go from here?

Potts-Dupre has a private counseling practice in Takoma Park and is a Certified Educational Planner. A former faculty research associate at the University of Maryland, where she taught in the honors undergraduate scholarship program, Potts-Dupre has visited and evaluated more than 350 colleges nationwide. She enjoys helping students define and achieve personal and educational goals.

On Tuesday October 5, Potts-Dupre will give a second presentation entitled "Crossing State Lines." Today's uncertain economy has prompted many families to consider alternatives to expensive private colleges. This workshop will focus on the excellent and affordable educational opportunities for our students at public universities across the country, including information about honors colleges and other special programs for undergraduates.

On Tuesday October 12, Dr. Herm Davis returns to educate families on the nuts and bolts of funding a college education. Author of "Financial Aid for Dummies," Dr. Davis will discuss the financial aid timetable, scholarships, loans, work-study options, college savings plans, the FAFSA application and more. Dr. Davis heads the National College Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit organization providing information to students, and directs College Financial Aid Counseling and Education Services, Inc. He is a 30 year veteran in providing financial aid and scholarship information.

All programs will be held in the Library at 7:30 p.m. Please preregister by calling the Library at 301-891-7259, or on-line at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html

**For Quick City Service ... Use My TKPK**

Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service

# LIBRARY *Briefs*

## Building Effective Resumes

It's not too late to register for our fall series of resume coaching labs conducted by resident expert Gabe Heilig. Call the Library to register for one of the following, or register on-line at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html.

- Wednesday, September 22 – Resumes for private sector and non-profit employment
- Wednesday, October 13 – Resumes for federal government employment.
- Wednesday, November 10 – Resumes for private sector and non-profit employment.

All workshops take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center. Registration is limited to 12 people per workshop. Call 301-891-7259 or register on-line at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html

## Charity Golf Tournament a Living Memorial

The Ninth Annual Rumors Golf Tournament and Fundraiser, in memory of Michael Morrissey, will be held Monday, September 27, at the Redgate Golf Course in Rockville, with a silent auction and celebratory gathering afterwards at Rumors Restaurant. The past eight tournaments have raised over $40,000 to support Takoma Park Library services and activities. Last year, by special Council proclamation, the Library's children's reading room was named in honor of avid reader and former Library patron Michael Morrissey. For information on how you can participate or support this important fundraiser, contact Ellen Robbins at the Library.

## Reading Group Discusses National Book Award Winner

On Thursday, September 30, the Friends of the Library Reading Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Hydrangea Room to discuss "Let the Great World Spin" by Colum McCann (2009).

Hailed by Johnathan Mahler of the New York Times Book Review as an "emotional tour de force…one of the most electric, profound novels I have read in years," the novel is set in New York City in 1974. "…the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers [where] a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in this stunning portrait of a city and its people, connected in ways they don't yet even know." [publisher's note]

Friends book discussions are open to all. The Friends of the Library supply a limited number of copies of the book for circulation to those who are committed to attending the discussion.

## More Library News

■ **KIDS: COME CELEBRATE ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING SUMMER QUEST PROGRAM** on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. This year, we had more kids register and read more books than ever before! Our celebration will begin with a discussion of the books you most enjoyed reading during Summer Quest, as well as those you didn't enjoy. Kids also will have a chance to show off what they learned to make or do in following Summer Quest Challenge No. 9, and we'll discuss possible themes for next year's Summer Quest. We'll finish the evening with snacks and drinks and everyone will go home with a free book or two, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Registration is required so we can be sure to have enough food and books; to register, please go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

■ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Our "Bedtime Stories" program, which usually takes place on the first Monday evening of the month will take place on the second Monday in September – September 13. That's because the first Monday is Labor Day, and the Library is closed. So come on September 13 to enjoy our monthly program of songs, rhymes and stories. No registration required; this program is perfect for babies through preschool age.

■ **BIENVENUE** – Madame Marie is back! Our French Circle Time, which takes place on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, returns in September. As always, Madame Marie will lead participants in French rhymes and songs, making it easy and fun for little ones to learn a bit of French. French Circle Time is a half-hour program that will take place on Saturday, Sept. 11 and Saturday, Sept. 25 from 10:30 a.m.- 11 a.m. No registration required.

■ **ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 11** at 3:15 p.m., children ages 14 months to kindergarten and their grown-ups are invited to a preview of a new Takoma Park Recreation Department program that teaches basic architectural concepts through play. Called "Builder Bee Kids," the program is the brainchild of Amanda Faye Dowd, an architect and mother of a one-year-old. Dowd will give parents and kids a taste of the program at the Library on September 11, helping kids to create their own architectural designs with boxes and other items. Participants are encouraged to bring milk cartons with them; Dowd also will have a supply of milk cartons on hand. Registration required; to register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

■ **PLANNING AHEAD….** Circle Saturday, Oct. 2 on your calendars. It's the date of our "Community Read-Out," at which we will celebrate Banned Books Week by reading aloud from children's books that have been challenged by people in other communities. Our event will take place in the newly-renovated City Auditorium, and we'll be reading both picture books and passages from children's novels. Sign up to read from our list of challenged children's books, which will be available at the Library's main desk. Or just come to listen and see – we'll use our ELMO projector to read challenged picture books page by page on the big screen. Registration is encouraged; to register go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

# LIBRARY CALENDAR

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### College Bound

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre will explore options for college choice.
Registration required.

### Comics Jam

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 4 p.m.
Come read comics with us on the big screen.
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

### Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is "Let the Great World Spin" by Colum McCann.
Community Center (see article).

### Community "Read-Out"

Saturday, Oct. 2, 10-noon
Come celebrate Banned Books Weeks by reading children's books that have been challenged.
Registration encouraged; contact Children's Librarian Karen MacPherson for more information: 301-891-7259.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Deadline 4 p.m. Monday, September 13, 2010

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

Approximately $25,000 is available for programming which primarily benefits individuals or households of low and moderate incomes. An estimated $100,000 is available for capital projects benefitting low and moderate income neighborhoods. The project could be something that the organization does on its own or in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. Funds would be available in mid to late 2011.

Applications are available online www.takomaparkmd.gov

Deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. on Monday, September 13.

For more information, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7224 or SaraD@takomagov.org.

## City of Takoma Park Maryland
## PUBLIC HEARING
## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Monday, September 27, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD

The City of Takoma Park will be holding a public hearing on Monday, September 27 to solicit community input regarding priority needs and proposed projects for its PY37 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

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

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

## Firehouse Renovation Nearing Completion

Two years ago, county and city officials gathered together for a ground-breaking at a construction site on East West Highway in Takoma Park. They will assemble again for a ribbon-cutting and open house October 28, as the two-year renovation of the Takoma Park Fire Department is completed. Planners expect the station to be up and running by mid-October.

"We're getting down to the end here," County Project Manager Charles Edwards told the Newsletter in late August. Remaining work includes pouring the concrete for the apron, where firetrucks come in and out of the station; interior finishes, installation of kitchen cabinets and bathroom fixtures and completing tilework.

When it is completed, the station will have been entirely rebuilt. Just one wall was saved from the old building and the rest, according to Edwards, was "literally falling apart" and replaced. The stone from that wall (to the left as one faces the building), along with the stone salvaged and reused from the original building, was first hauled up from Sligo Creek, and recalls the original architecture of the station, first built in 1928. There is a new roof, windows, doors, heating and air conditioning system, locker rooms and kitchen. The renovation added 8,600 square feet to the building, and cost about $11 million.

Now clocking in around 15,200 gross square feet, the station includes apparatus bays for trucks and other equipment, dorm and support space, personal living quarters, administrative offices, and a training/meeting area as well as on-site parking.

The process to completion has been a long and grueling one. At one point the County considered demolishing the station and not replacing it at all. At another, the land had to be transferred from City to County. Later, the project was delayed when two occupied homes next to the property were candidates for demolition, to make way for the new station. The issue was solved when the City demolished the house closest to the station, and bought the other to renovate and give to the owners of the first one.

Once construction began, the steep slope behind the station presented an engineering challenge, as did the retention of the old wall. Weather, including the unusual snowstorms last winter, further delayed progress. "The timing of the blizzards was as bad as it could have possibly been," says Edwards, recalling that the roof was under construction at the time. The project was originally to be completed in April.

During construction, firehouse operations were run out of a makeshift tent and trailers.

Was it worth it? Edwards says, "It's going to be a beautiful building."

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT®
America's Night Out Against Crime

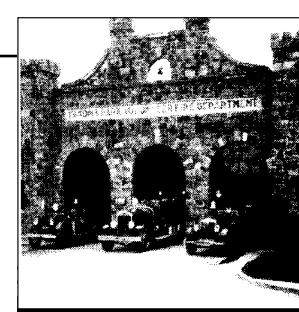
**THE TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATION WAS A BIGGER SUCCESS THAN EVER**, according to police department officials. Held in just one location this year, instead of the customary two, it drew people from many different neighborhoods to meet the City's police officers and take advantage of a full array of activities.

The parking lot at 7777 Maple Avenue was busy with people lining up in front of a row of grills to get hot dogs and hamburgers; other folks lined up at the moon bounce, a popular attraction for kids—along with an arts and crafts table, games about fire safety, and face painting. Horses from the Park Police were also on hand.

Twenty-one members of the police department participated, along with S.S. Carroll Civic Association, the Red Cross, Maryland National Capital Park Police, State's Attorney's Office, Recreation Department, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Buckle-Up for Safety, Positive Vibrations, Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department (led by Chief Jarboe), Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and the many residents of Takoma Park.

Clockwise from top left, face painting was popular among the children; a happy visitor; ice pops took the edge off the summer's heat; the hometown crowd; Police Chief Ronald Ricucci.

Photos by Laurie Stepp



## Firehouse REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of July 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 469 fire-related incidents. The department also handled or assisted with 1,954 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,423 this year. Totals for 2009 were 444 and 1,620 respectively, for a total of 2,064, representing an increase of 359 incidents.

### E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills In The Home)

#### Fire Safety Checklist for Parents and Guardians

Fires can be very dangerous, so it's important to know what to do in case they occur and how to prevent them. Read this with your children so that they understand the importance of E.D.I.T.H. Use the Fire Safety Checklist below to help you keep your home free of fire hazards. If there is anything you cannot check off yet, correct it so that you keep your family as safe as possible from fires.

- As you have learned from this, be sure to have a fire escape plan with two ways out of each room, and a meeting place for everyone to go to. Practice your escape plan with your family often.
- Know what task each family member has in a fire escape plan. If more than one child sleeps in a bedroom, decide who gets the younger one out first, etc.
- Make sure all exists from rooms have nothing blocking them.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near each bedroom.
- List emergency numbers near each phone. Teach children to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Keep all lighters and matches in a locked or high cabinet and teach children not to play with them.
- Educate children to stay away from hot things on the stove or outside grill. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stovetop.
- Use outlets safely. Do no overload them or plug more than one extension cord into each. If you have very young children, place childproof plugs in any unused outlets.
- Replace all frayed, cracked, or broken electrical cords.
- Teach children to STOP, DROP, and ROLL if their clothes catch on fire.

# Emergency Preparedness Month Includes Takoma Park Events

By Lawrence Hawkins and Wolfgang J. Mergner

September is National Observance of Emergency Preparedness month, during which the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee is making a special effort to raise awareness of personal disaster preparedness for Takoma Park's residents. A series of events, informational efforts and appeals are planned during September by the committee. The mayor will issue a special proclamation declaring September as National Preparedness month.

Look for the Emergency Preparedness Committee at the annual Takoma Park Folk Festival on September 12, with information about preparedness, animal care in emergencies and displays by the Red Cross. We will also be at the Takoma Park Street Festival the first Sunday in October.

The Committee has also planned a series of articles in the Takoma Park Newsletter as well as other Takoma Park-based publications. Special programs on Takoma Park City TV will include "Plan 9," a simple way to learn about what will prepare you and your family for any emergency. City TV will also air public service announcements that focus on specific issues of emergency preparedness, and the City website will be revised to hold important emergency information.

Another important step in ensuring that the City of Takoma Park can respond to emergencies is training volunteers. Such training is offered by a Montgomery County Program called Community Emergency Response Training or C.E.R.T. The training runs from September 22 to October 23 and will be held in Silver Spring. The training includes, among other topics, instructions on how an emergency response works, fire safety, first aid and resuscitation, and disaster medical operations. Participants will be instructed in light search and rescue operations. There will be practical exercises and participants will learn about disaster psychology, as well as how to coordinate volunteers during a disaster. C.E.R.T. is commissioned by Montgomery County to aid and support first responders throughout our county. Residents can sign up for C.E.R.T. training at TPEPC@takomagov.org. or call 301-270-1084.

The Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee's goals are to 1) reach out to all households in Takoma Park and to encourage residents of our community to prepare for potential emergencies and 2) to promote that neighborhoods have trained and knowledgeable neighbors who are able to support their community and aid first responders in a useful way. We invite you to be a part of meeting these goals by participating in any of our September activities and especially consider signing up for the C.E.R.T. training course.

## City TV Covers Old and New Territory

This month, City TV covers the old standards—the Takoma Park Folk Festival and resuming City Council meetings—and adds new programming, with "Partners," a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program.

On September 12, City TV cameras, along with the Montgomery County PEG Network, will cover the 33rd Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival. City TV brings cameras to four of the seven stages, to capture musical acts from reggae to blues. The Folk Festival starts at 10:30 a.m. with a performance by the Carpe Diem Community Choir. Visitors can stop by City TV's Remote Production Truck to meet the crew and star in their own City TV Promos.

In September the City Council is back from summer recess. Although Council meetings are held on Mondays, due to Labor Day the first meeting of the season is Tuesday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. City TV will record all meetings, which are available live on Cable TV and archived as video on the city's website. Residents are encouraged to be part of the meetings, with comments, ideas, agreements and disagreements, during public comment period.

New programming begins this month with the USDA video magazine, "Partners," which highlights research and presents educational programming from the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service and the Land Grant University System. "Partners" episodes might include programs on water conservation, biotechnology, organic agriculture or community gardens. Look for "Partners" on Mondays at 1 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 a.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m.

New episodes of Snapshots, those vignettes of community life, include segments about the July 4th parade, the visit of Maryland Secretary of the Environment Shari T. Wilson, the 2009 Police Awards, National Night Out, and the annual Takoma Park JazzFest.

For a full schedule of City TV programming, see http://takomaparkmd.gov/cable/grid.html. If you would like City TV to cover an event or add specific programming to its line-up, call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to cabletv@takomagov.org. And remember, if you'd just like an announcement placed on the electronic bulletin board, you can advertise your activities there as well. For more information, the same number and email apply.

### Emergency Assistance Fund Supports Local Families

As we follow our daily routines, often we don't realize that our neighbor or the family down the street may be faced with an unexpected, and what may seem to be an insurmountable crisis. To help those facing a financial emergency, the Takoma Park City Council in 2001 created the Emergency Assistance Fund. Since its creation, the fund has provided financial assistance to city residents experiencing a health crisis, a pending eviction or notice of a scheduled utility cut off. This is often the result of the loss of employment or financial circumstances beyond their control.

The Emergency Assistance Fund is financed with tax-deductible contributions from Takoma Park residents and the assistance is limited to Takoma Park residents. The level of assistance provided is based upon the availability of funds and the need(s) of the individual or family.

Between July 2009 and June 2010, 34 Takoma Park households received financial assistance from the Emergency Assistance Fund. Current national and state economic conditions suggest that even more of your neighbors will be seeking financial help throughout the upcoming year.

Please continue to help your fellow city residents by contributing to the Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund. Please use the form provided below to send in your tax-deductible contribution. A letter confirming your donation will be sent to you within 30 days of receipt of your contribution.

Thank you for continuing to support this program and the critical service that it provides to the community.

### Emergency Assistance Fund DONATION FORM

Please detach and send to:
City of Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund, Finance Office
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.)

I/We wish to donate $_____ to the Emergency Assistance Fund. Please make your check payable to City of Takoma Park and write EAF on the memo line of your check.

Name(s): _____

_____

Mailing Address:

_____

_____

_____

**Please call 301-891-7215 if you have questions regarding the Emergency Assistance Fund.**

## BEER AND WINE SALES

continued from page 1

gent food requirements of Class B. Among the Class D businesses are the Flower Deli at 8707 Flower Ave. and Adega Restaurant in downtown Silver Spring.

Hard liquor cannot be purchased to carry out from businesses with either a Class B or Class D license.

### Pros and Cons

In general, those who support allowing carry out alcoholic beverage sales believe residents want these sorts of businesses close to home, and opening the City up to them would help economic development efforts. They believe that concerns about loitering, trash or public disturbances could be adequately handled by police and County authorities.

Those opposed to carry out alcoholic beverage sales generally believe the businesses could hurt the character of Takoma Park and that loitering, trash and public disturbances might become a problem. They note that stores selling alcoholic beverages are located just over the city's border on every side.

Takoma Park already has one carry out beer, wine and liquor store: T.J.'s (7669 New Hampshire Avenue), which was permitted when the property was in Prince George's County and was grandfathered in when the County line was moved in 1997 to place all of Takoma Park into Montgomery County. T.J.'s has a Class A license, for carry out beverages only. Other nearby Class A establishments include Bestway Supermarket on Piney Branch Road, and small stores such as the Four U carry out, also on Piney Branch Road. The City Council is not considering requesting Class A licenses to be available in Takoma Park.

### What next?

If, after the public hearing, the City Council decides to pursue the change in State law allowing carry out alcohol, it will also request a provision giving them veto power over alcohol licenses in Takoma Park. Currently, decisions on granting and rescinding the licenses are the sole purview of the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners.

It is likely that a request for veto would be resisted by the Montgomery County government, and so may not be supported by the Montgomery Delegation, the State Senators and Delegates who represent Montgomery County districts.

If the Montgomery Delegation supports a Takoma Park request to change alcoholic beverage licenses allowable in Takoma Park, that change is likely to be approved by the full General Assembly. If Takoma Park requests this change, the Montgomery Delegation would be considering the request in October and November, in advance of the opening of the Legislative Session in January.

### Public Opinion

A general public hearing on beer and wine licenses in July generated written and verbal testimony from just 19 people, whose opinions were fairly evenly split. Now that the City Council has clarified options to consider, it will gather further input.

Public testimony can be submitted by email to clerk@takomagov.org. To testify at the hearing on September 13 come to the Takoma Park Auditorium in the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. No advance registration is required.

### TAKOMA PARK LIQUOR LICENSES

| Class | Description | Examples | TP Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Class A (BWL) | Carryout beer, wine, liquor | TJ's<br>County liquor store on Flower | TJ's grandfathered in, no further requests pending |
| Class B (BW) | Carryout beer, wine only | Bestway<br>Four U | Not being pursued |
| Class D | Consume on premises or carry unopened beer or wine; no restaurant or seating requirements but food may be served | Flower Deli<br>Adega | City Council considering recommendation to state legislature |
| Class H | On premises consumption only | Mark's Kitchen<br>Middle East<br>Tiffin | Already existing |

# Advocacy Group Plans for a Safe Route Back to School

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School, now, entering its fourth year, is helping children get back to school once again this year with a number of fall events designed to promote walking and biking to school safely.

### Bike Rodeos

Practice makes perfect! After a presentation about bike safety, young students will be invited to ride a tricky obstacle course of traffic cones and other challenges, to demonstrate skills and knowledge. Safe Routes will invite trainers from the Washington Area Bicyclists Association to conduct workshops during the rodeos, which will be held at Piney Branch, Rolling Terrace and East Silver Spring Elementary Schools on various dates throughout the fall.

### Crossing Safely

Also this fall, Safe Routes will launch a new Crosswalk Activity for use at school and community events. With a portable "crosswalk kit," the Safe Routes coordinator will be able to work with small groups of children to simulate a variety of real life situations in a fun and engaging way.

### Walking School Buses

Safe Routes invites parents to consider sharing the duty of walking neighborhood students to school by starting a Walking School Bus. Groups of students can walk one day a week or every day with parents who rotate the responsibility of escorting the group. This simple concept allows students increased physical activity and parents a chance to leave the car in the garage! It's a winning proposition. For assistance with getting a Walking School Bus started, contact the Safe Routes Coordinator at lucyn@takomagov.org.

### So Far, So Good

The past year was a busy one for Safe Routes. In May, the second annual **5K Challenge** was such a success, it is being planned again this year (May 1). Each participating school is required to conduct a school-based walking or running program to train for the race. While working to get fit, students are introduced to the fundamentals of pedestrian safety. Proceeds from the race are divided evenly between the four schools to fund future health and pedestrian safety programs. This month, each school receives $1,500 from last year's race.

Safe Routes funds have also paid for **sidewalk improvements** at the Maple Avenue and Sligo Avenue/Hilltop intersection, for a new sidewalk on Grant Avenue from Piney Branch Elementary School to Holly Avenue, and for an evaluation of missing sidewalks throughout the City. The City is also studying right-of-way for sidewalks on Hilltop, Lee, Wildwood and Central, and working with State Highway to bid out new sidewalk construction. Already, the highest priority missing sidewalks between Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School are being addressed.

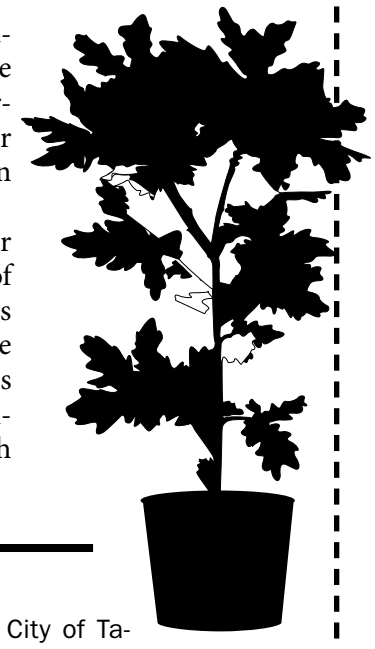
For its Crossing Guard colleagues, Safe Routes hosted a **Crossing Guard Appreciation Day** last spring. But you don't have to wait until the next Appreciation Day, in June, to let your Crossing Guard know how you feel. Get to know the guard on your way to school! Here are the names and locations of these dedicated public servants:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Doris Rodgers** | **Maple/Sherman** |
| **Emma Garcia de Reyes** | **Maple/Grant** |
| **Pamela Sprouse** | **Maple/Philadelphia** |
| **Carolyn Pinkard** | **Philadelphia/Cedar** |
| **Virnia (Liz) James** | **Philadelphia/Holly** |
| **Ethel Sutton** | **Philadelphia/Piney Branch** |
| **Minnie Johnson** | **Philadelphia/Piney Branch** |

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School is now entering its fourth year of promoting walking and biking to school safely through pedestrian safety education and improved infrastructure. Now partnering with five area schools, Safe Routes enjoys a productive relationship with school administration and staff, the PTA and most importantly the students and families who attend Piney Branch, Rolling Terrace, Takoma Park and East Silver Spring Elementary Schools and Takoma Park Middle School. Safe Routes has also joined forces with area businesses and organizations to support pedestrian safety initiatives.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE
# PLANT A TREE

*Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy*



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

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

### Order Form

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

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

*Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.*

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

**Total amount enclosed** _____