

**CITY MANAGER'S
QUARTERLY UPDATE
JANUARY 1, 2009 – MARCH 31, 2009**

Outreach/Networking by City Manager

- Continued service on the Communications Committee of the Maryland Municipal League.
- Continued service on the Sustainability Advisory Committee of the International City/County Management Association.
- Attended the February meeting of the Prince George's County City Manager/Administration group.
- Along with Mayor Bruce Williams, met with Washington Adventist Hospital officials to discuss the Certificate of Need process for the hospital's proposed relocation.
- Participated in several meetings regarding the possible construction of a multi-use recreational facility on the campus of Columbia Union College.
- Along with Councilmember Barry and Housing and Community Development Director Sara Daines, met with officials of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- Met with County Councilmember Marc Elrich to discuss County financial support for maintenance repairs to the City's two bridges. Also provided an update on the work of the Municipal Revenue Sharing Task Force.
- Met with Ben Stutz, aide to County Councilmember Valerie Ervin, to discuss County financial support for maintenance repairs to the City's two bridges.
- Along with City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, met with the Chair of the Nuclear Free Committee to review current City procedures and to discuss possible ways to improve coordination between the Committee and staff.

Administration

- A major focus of departmental staff was the development of the City Manager's proposed budget for FY 2009. Considerable staff resources were devoted to this effort.
- City Manager Barb Matthews continued her service on the Municipal Revenue Sharing Task Force, which is reviewing the current methodology used to calculate tax duplication payments. In conjunction with the other municipal representatives, she reviewed a draft report prepared by the County staff.
- The primary focus of the Human Resources Division was the classification and compensation study undertaken by the City in Fiscal Year 2008.
- Departmental staff assisted the City Council in the development of a strategic plan for the City.

- Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow continued her oversight of the Auditorium Renovation project. Associated tasks included coordination with the project architect and City staff, consideration of design alternatives, and the discussion of options for the use of additional federal funding obtained through Congressman Van Hollen's earmark.
- The Deputy City Manager worked on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and M-NCPPC related to the Takoma/Piney Branch Park renovation. The MOU outlines maintenance responsibilities for the park after the renovation is completed. Ms. Ludlow also facilitated a construction access agreement between Park Ritchie and M-NCPPC.
- The Deputy City Manager worked with Ciekot and Elliott, the City's intergovernmental representative/advocate, in monitoring State legislative matters of interest to the City.
- The Deputy City Manager, in conjunction with other City staff, monitored funding opportunities available through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA).
- Departmental staff, in conjunction with the City Council, worked to secure funding from the County or through the ARRA for repair of the City's two bridges.
- Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow evaluated proposed changes to Ride On bus routes in the City and shared the information with the community. She also coordinated the submission of testimony with the City's senior residents and their participation at a Ride On public forum.
- The Information Systems Division completed the rewiring of the Library office space. As part of the project, new phone and data cabling was installed, increasing the bandwidth to the Local Area Network.
- Information Systems staff assisted with the installation of five new Useful computers in the Computer Learning Center. Division staff assembled the equipment, connected all the associated cabling, and downloaded and installed the software.
- The City's new customer service portal, My TKPK, was launched this quarter with the help of the Communications Office and the Information Systems Division. City residents now have a more reliable way of requesting city services and a 24/7 method of getting answers to frequently asked questions.
- Wiring in the Police Evidence Bay, located at the Public Works facility, was completed during the quarter. The Criminal Investigations Division now has a fully equipped office area with phone and computer. The Evidence Bay even has a wireless connection to facilitate evidence processing.
- The new Employee Access Center and Job Applicant Center software was also installed on City servers. Staff training will take place in June, with a go live date of July 1st.
- New servers and backup software were purchased during the quarter. The equipment will serve as part of the City's disaster management system
- The Information Systems Division installed new switches in the Police Department to provide necessary bandwidth for the speed camera program. A new switch was also added in the main server room.
- New ID and account processing stations were built and set up in the Recreation Department Office and at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center.

Communications

- Major community events covered by City TV during the quarter included the annual Jazz Band Brawl. Special events held in the Council Chambers which aired live included a presentation on the Silver Spring/Takoma Park Community Indicators Project, “Hold Your Water: Rainbarrel Workshop,” and the public forum on WSSC-related issues.
- Snapshots episodes included "What's In It For Me? Offices and Services in Takoma Park's Community Center: the Recreation Department's Senior Club and Library Children's Services. Other community topics included the following: Takoma Park: Celebrating 25 Years as a Nuclear-Free City; Annual Holiday Sale and Studio Tour; Flower Arranging; the Takoma Mosaic Project; Pedestrian Safety Day with Santa at The Crossroads; Takoma Park Hopes: Celebrating the Inauguration of Barack Obama; Splashdown: Grand Reopening of Piney Branch Pool; and Jazz Band Brawl 2009 Highlights.
- New programming released this quarter included over 18:30 hours of musical performances from community festivals, public forums, art in the community center, and the Third Thursday Poetry Series.
- About 30 hours of City Council meetings were recorded and aired in this quarter.
- City TV staff have participated in the launching of Phase 2 of the Auditorium Renovation and planning for relocation of Council meetings. We have worked with the A/V Engineer to specify equipment for the Auditorium and equipment to be used while the Council meets in the Azalea Room. The equipment for the Azalea room will be used at community festivals, in addition to its duty in the Azalea room.
- Granicus, the web based video on demand service offered by the City, was upgraded in January. The upgrade solved some intermittent performance issues.
- Granicus continues to be well utilized, with 695 viewings reported during the quarter of various programs, primarily Council meetings and Snapshots. Curiously, the top viewed program this period was a Snapshots from March of 2007, which speaks to the practice of keeping older shows available.
- City photographers have been immortalizing many City and community activities for inclusion in the Newsletter and for the website. Still and video cameras covered the Piney Branch Pool reopening, inaugural events in the Auditorium, Shadowplay, the Takoma Park Film Festival, and the Jazz Band Brawl.
- Communications Office staff and Mayor Bruce Williams lobbied in Annapolis in favor of keeping cable telecommunications services franchised by local government. Local government benefits by having greater control over service delivery and from the receipt of franchise fees.
- Usage of the City's website continues to grow. The average number of unique visitors per month to the website for the period of January 1 through March 31, 2009 was 9,244—up from 8,432 last quarter.
- The January 2009 edition of the Newsletter was the first January issue published in some years. It included informational flyers from the FCC on the digital transition.

Housing and Community Development

- The Planning staff conducted outreach meetings for businesses on New Hampshire Avenue. Two meetings on the façade grant program were held; the first was for businesses on Holton Lane and the second was for the businesses located on the Bed and Carpet property in the Ethan Allen Gateway. An informational meeting on the Holton Lane Streetscape also took place during the quarter.
- As part of the Neighborhood Commercial District Improvement initiative, benches were installed on Maple and Flower Avenues.
- Departmental staff assisted Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin and M-NCPPC staff in the establishment of a community garden at Sligo Overlook Park, located in the Pinecrest neighborhood.
- Planning staff members continued to work with M-NCPPC on the Takoma Langley Crossroads Sector Plan.
- Outreach efforts were initiated in Ward 4 in preparation for the Maple Avenue Streetscape Plan.
- Eleven applications were received for funding through the New Hampshire Avenue Beautification Grant Program.
- Twenty-three permit letters were provided to individuals applying to Montgomery County for permits for the construction of a variety of projects, including fences, building additions, porches and other alterations, renovations, and new construction.
- A grant was received for middle school students to develop a Safe Routes to School photography exhibit.
- As part of the Safe Routes to School initiative, two bike rodeos and one pedestrian safety workshop were organized and held at local elementary schools.
- Three requests for bids for landscaping, signage, and streetscape amenities were issued in support of planned and ongoing projects.
- Planning for the Pinecrest traffic calming project was finalized, and the approved project was forwarded to the Public Works Department which will be overseeing its construction.
- In January, Carman Lam joined the department staff, serving as the City's Associate Planner.
- Director of Housing and Community Development Sara Daines coordinated the execution of required CDBG contracts with four subgrantees: Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park, Manna Foods, Columbia Union College, and the Boys and Girls Club of Takoma Park.
- Ms. Daines managed the issuance of a Request for Bids for the construction of site improvements at 7118 Carroll Avenue (the Park Avenue parking lot), prepared required contract documents, and coordinated their execution.
- Departmental staff assisted in the organization of four poetry readings; audiences for the readings ranged in number from 15 to 40. The department also coordinated the display and promotion of two exhibits in the Atrium Gallery and Gallery Three and aided in the planning and coordination of a still imagery festival—ShadowPlay I—which included two community

workshops and an evening showing of juried photography with music and poetry; about 125 individuals attended ShadowPlay I.

- During the quarter, three 90-minute Landlord Certification seminars were held. A total of 27 individuals—19 landlords, six agents, and two potential landlords—received their Landlord Certification following the presentation. Six persons elected to take the written exam instead of attending a seminar; all of them were issued a certificate based on the results of the written exam.
- In January, Walter Garcia joined the Code Enforcement Division as an inspector.
- In conjunction with the Target Area Inspection Program, 105 properties were inspected and found to be in violation of the Property Maintenance Code. Eighty property owners received Courtesy Notices, and 25 received a Notice of Violation. Twenty-three cases were closed within the abatement period.
- Twenty-seven new property maintenance complaints were received during the quarter. With the assistance of the new code enforcement inspector, the division was able to promptly investigate the new complaints, as well as clear the backlog from prior months. Ninety-three initial inspections were conducted during the quarter. Ninety-three violation notices were issued, with eleven citations issued to property owners for failing to correct the identified code violation within the abatement period. One hundred one open complaint cases were closed during the quarter.
- During the quarter, 155 rental housing licenses were issued. Twenty violation notices were issued to landlords for failing to renew an existing rental license. Two citations were issued to landlords for failing to obtain a rental housing license prior to operating a rental housing facility.
- The following is a recap of District Court cases that took place during the quarter:
 - 7305 Trescott: One contempt hearing for a Property Maintenance Code violation resulted in the issuance of a bench warrant for the absent property owner who failed to replace a roof as required in an earlier abatement order issued by the Court.
 - 7333/7401 New Hampshire Avenue: Two citations issued to property owner for operating an illegal rental facility and failing to renew the required rental license. Abatement Order was issued by the Court and the owner was required to pay two \$1,000 fines.
 - 8202 Houston and 703 Devonshire Avenues: Two separate cases for illegal rentals (failure to renew license) resulted in abatement orders being issued to pay City fees, to complete licensing requirements, and to pay a \$1,000 fine for each case.
 - 36 Philadelphia Avenue: Staff attended three status hearings where defendant failed to appear. The judge issued a body attachment order with a \$10,000 bond.
- Thirty-four flyers/handbills were removed from utility poles, boulevards, and other public rights-of-ways.
- During the quarter, the department received a total of 637 service calls/e-mails regarding the rental housing licensing program. An additional 270 service calls/e-mail inquiries about the property maintenance code were handled.
- Affordable Housing Manager Linda Walker served as the City's housing staff representative for the Community Indicators Project, which is sponsored by the Montgomery County Community

Foundation. Ms. Walker provided information on available housing data and insight on current affordable housing programming.

- The Affordable Housing Manager attended a County-sponsored Affordable Housing Conference on February 13th. The theme of the conference was “Revitalizing Rental Housing.”
- Affordable Housing Manager Linda Walker attended training on foreclosure counseling sponsored by NeighborWorks. After completing the one-week training, Ms. Walker received a NeighborWorks Certification in Housing Counseling; the certification is valid for three years.
- The department sponsored a “Knowing Your Rights as a Tenant” workshop on March 12th. Seven tenants attended.
- Through the Capacity Building Initiative, assistance was provided to tenants at the following rental facilities: 636 Houston Avenue (elevator in disrepair); 7401-7333 New Hampshire Avenue (relocation and displacement of tenants due to condominium conversion); 717 Sligo Creek Parkway (purchase of the property by HOC); and 8508-10 Flower Avenue (temporary relocation of tenants due to renovation).
- Extensive marketing was conducted regarding the First Time Home Buyer Workshop scheduled for April 25th. The workshop, to be conducted by the Latino Economic Development Corporation under contract with the City, was advertised in the *Takoma Voice* and the Takoma Park Newsletter; informational flyers were distributed throughout the community.
- Affordable Housing Manager Linda Walker continued her participation on the planning committee for the annual Montgomery County Housing Fair held on October 3, 2009.
- The Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs responded to 569 customer service requests during the quarter, averaging 190 contacts per month. The nature of the service requests follows: general inquiries (176), rent stabilization (149), affordable housing (84), COLTA (42), notice to vacate/evictions (34), defective tenancies (30), security deposits (28), and other landlord tenant concerns (26).
- Departmental employees assisted Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) staff in their efforts to purchase 7411 Aspen Court. HOC purchased two of the adjoining properties—717 Sligo Creek Parkway and 7423 Aspen Court—last year. If successful in obtaining the property, HOC will maintain the facility as an affordable rental facility.
- Departmental staff facilitated the filing of three COLTA cases—two security deposit disputes and one defective tenancy. One COLTA hearing was held in response to a defective tenancy complaint (*Gordon v. Simms*).
- Two municipal infraction citations which were issued for failure to file rent reports were processed in District Court. Judgments in the amount of \$1,000 were rendered for each. Liens against the properties will be filed as the property owners did not appear in court and are not expected to comply with the Court order.
- Seventy-three municipal infraction citations were issued for illegal rent increases at Hillwood Manor. The first 15 cases have been referred to the City Attorney’s Office for scheduling in District Court.
- The housing staff facilitated the reimbursement of \$2,160 to tenants who were overcharged for rent.

Library

- On February 13th, the Library began a new Friday afternoon “Comix Jam” with Dave Burbank. A new “Elmo” digital visual presenter, donated by the Friends of the Library, is used for the program.
- In February, Library Director Ellen Robbins and Children’s Librarian Karen MacPherson began collaboration with Montgomery County Public Schools on a grant funded student service learning project. The project involves ESOL learners from Takoma Elementary, Blair High School, and Montgomery College. The students met in the Community Center over a three-month period and worked together to write and illustrate stories that are being made into books for pediatric patients at Children’s National Medical Center.
- New, ongoing Library programs funded by the Friends of the Library included a French-English Circle Time with Marie DeFeche-Mackler (held one Saturday a month) and a “Tween Writing Club” with former Newsweek reporter and high school English teacher Susan Katz-Miller.
- On March 16th, author John Stokes visited the Library to discuss his book “Students on Strike: Growing Up African-American in the Segregated South.”
- In March, the Library sponsored a special resume-writing workshop in partnership with MontgomeryWorks.
- Children’s Librarian Karen MacPherson and middle school student Alanna Natanson were named recipients of the 2009 Immroth Memorial Award, presented by the American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Round Table. The two were recognized for organizing the Takoma Park Library’s Banned Books Club, in which young people gather to read and discuss frequently challenged or banned books. They will receive \$500 and a citation at a special reception during the Association’s annual conference in July.
- The Friends Reading Group met throughout the winter and early spring for on-going discussion of a new celebrated translation of Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*. The Friends support the group by funding the purchase of copies of the books for participants. The *War and Peace* discussions, which included a lecture by a University of Maryland professor of Russian language and literature, drew record numbers of participants to the reading group.
- In early March, Children’s Librarian Karen MacPherson and Library Assistant Dave Burbank addressed graduate students in the Library School of the University of Maryland. Their presentation focused on the history and diversity of graphic novels.

Police

- The department formalized an agreement with A Child Is Missing Alert Program to provide a high tech method to search locally for missing children, missing elderly persons (often suffering from Alzheimer’s disease), college students, and missing persons who may be mentally or physically challenged or disabled. The non-profit organization’s alert system is operated nationwide and utilizes sophisticated computer-mapping systems and trained technicians to place 1,000 phone calls per minute to residents and businesses in the area where someone has gone missing. The alert system is highly localized and can be used when an AMBER Alert is not warranted, or it can be used in tandem with AMBER Alerts, thereby increasing the effectiveness of both. To date, the efforts of this program have been credited by law enforcement with more than 460 safely assisted recoveries. This program is a free service to law enforcement and offers a valuable investigative tool.

- Speed cameras were installed in the 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (northbound) and the 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue (southbound). Two cameras were also installed in the eastbound and westbound lanes of the 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue. On March 16, 2009, the Takoma Park Police Department began issuing warnings to violators driving 11 miles over the speed limit. Citations were issued to violators as of April 1, 2009. The speed camera fine is \$40. There are no penalties or points assessed for speed camera violations
- In January, Chief Ricucci presented the 2008 Annual Report for the Takoma Park Police Department to the City Council. The report can be viewed on line at www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/annualreport. Highlights of the year include an 11% reduction in Part 1 crimes, with the most significant decreases occurring in auto thefts (24%), larceny (22%) and felony assaults (22%). The Criminal Investigations Division had a banner year by closing 47% of its cases—a 14% increase from last year—and having a 22% increase in arrests. The Patrol Division had a very successful year as well, with a 28% increase in Driving Under the Influence arrests. In an effort to interact more directly with the community, the Police Department increased bike patrol hours by 692 and foot patrol hours by 2,000 during calendar year 2008. The Annual Report will become a regular part of the department's sharing of information with City residents.
- Corporal Kristian Pedersen graduated from the Montgomery County Police K-9 Academy. He is now certified and working the street with his new K-9 partner, Ryker.
- Chief Ricucci incorporated CompStat presentations as part of his monthly staff meetings to ensure that departmental employees are aware of crime trends and patterns in the City. Public CompStat presentations will get underway later this calendar year.
- During the quarter, Chief Ricucci attended a number of community meetings. He met with residents of the Westmoreland Area Community Organization, SS Carroll, and Victory Towers. The Chief, along with other departmental staff, also attended a resident-sponsored meeting concerning license plate recognition scanners. On March 10th, Chief Ricucci met with residents of Piney Branch Road, Flower Avenue, Chester, Carroll and Barron Street to discuss crime in those areas; representatives of the Montgomery County Police Department and the Park Police were also in attendance.
- On February 4th, Accreditation Manager Jack Van Wagenen participated in a mock assessment or pre-assessment review of the Kent County Sheriff's Office accreditation files in Chestertown. The mock assessment team was comprised of 11 members, including Mr. Van Wagenen, of the Chesapeake Region Law Enforcement Accreditation Alliance (CRLEAA). An agency generally schedules a mock assessment about two to three months before the formal CALEA on-site assessment that determines accreditation/re-accreditation.
- Captain Ed Coursey participated in a number of meetings and conference calls in preparation for the presidential inauguration.
- During the month of February, Captain Coursey participated in the first of several conference calls for the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Plan revision team. He is representing the City's interests as the County updates its emergency operations plan.
- On February 25th, Captain Coursey attended the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center quarterly exercise. This exercise simulated a severe ice storm event and trained and evaluated the organization of EOC representatives into new groupings consistent with National Incident Management guidelines.

- On February 17th, Chief Ricucci met with Commander Brown of the Metropolitan Police Department 4th District, and representatives of Safe Takoma to discuss the program's progress.
- During the quarter, Chief Ricucci met with the Safe Roads Committee to discuss bicyclists in the City.
- CSAFE Program Director Mary Kendall was a speaker at the 2009 Lifesavers Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. She spoke about the annual multi-jurisdictional pedestrian safety initiatives in the Crossroads and how the program serves as a tool for law enforcement to promote pedestrian safety.
- CSAFE activities during the quarter included the following:
 - In February, CSAFE co-sponsored a three-part Gang Prevention and Community Safety workshop at Broad Acres Elementary School.
 - In conjunction with the re-entry organization Lead4Life, CSAFE held an introductory meeting for those interested in participating in the First Chance Support Group. This group is open to clients of Parole and Probation in the CSAFE area. Group participants and their family members had the opportunity to improve their communication and job readiness skills. The goal of the support group is to reduce the participants' chances of recidivism.
 - CSAFE held a meeting with various community stakeholders to develop a work plan that addresses public intoxication in our multi-jurisdictional area. Sergeant Richard Skibicki from the Takoma Park Police Department was in attendance.
 - During the month of March, CSAFE held a HEAT Team meeting and Neighborhood Safety Team Meeting (NST). The NST worked together to develop a FY10 strategic plan for the CSAFE Program.
- On March 4th, Chief Ricucci attended a breakfast with principals of three public schools in the City. The event, which was held at Takoma Park Middle School, honored law enforcement. The Chief accepted an award on behalf of the Takoma Park Police Department.
- In mid-March, Chief Ricucci and City Manager Barb Matthews attended an emergency preparedness exercise at Park Police Headquarters. The exercise was organized by Montgomery County.

Public Works

- In February, a Request for Proposals was issued for design and construction administration services associated with the planned renovation of the Public Works facility. Bids were opened in early March, with interviews of the firms deemed to be most qualified taking place in late March.
- In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Montgomery County, departmental staff conducted a "clean and lien" project for a rental property on Philadelphia Avenue. The owner of the property failed to comply with an abatement order for property maintenance issues. The "clean and lien" program allows the property maintenance problems to be addressed by the City or County, with a lien placed against the property for the cost of the work.
- Mulch deliveries began on March 21st.

- A GPS system was installed on five departmental vehicles to track speeding, idling, and map use.
- The Equipment Maintenance Division completed 303 vehicle repairs/services during the quarter. Of these, 291 were done in one day.
- Building Maintenance Division projects includes the installation of window film in the Dance Room and Teen Room as an alternative to venetian blinds.
- In February, departmental staff met with the Westmoreland Avenue Community Organization regarding the replanting of bump-outs on Walnut Avenue. The project arose out of the community's desire for greater visibility to enhance public safety in the area.
- City Arborist Todd Bolton met with residents of Maple Avenue concerning a proposal to remove oak trees from the right-of-way of the 7100 to 7400 blocks. Councilmember Josh Wright and Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite were also in attendance.
- Maintenance tree pruning took place in all of Ward 6 and portions of Wards 1 and 5 during the quarter. The program was implemented several years ago in an effort to maintain the health and viability of the City's urban forest.
- A work day drop off for electronic and computer components was established at the Public Works facility. About 5,000 pounds of material were received during the quarter.
- The following permits were issued during the quarter:
 - Dumpster/Storage POD in Right-of-Way = 2
 - Tree Removal Permit = 24 trees
 - Tree Removal Waiver = 25 trees
 - Tree Protection Permit = 23
 - Utility Work in the Right-of-Way = 18
- The Flood Mitigation Steering Committee met twice during the quarter. Two public meetings also took place.
- The department entered into a partnership with the Friends of Sligo Creek for a pilot rain garden project. The City will provide soil and plants to establish five to eight gardens on private property in the City.
- The City's Stormwater Code was revised to bring the City's stormwater permit fees in line with those of surrounding jurisdictions, as well as provide an incentive for applicants who exceed the Code requirements to receive up to 50 percent reduction in their permit fee.
- Stormwater projects during the quarter included the construction of the New York Avenue stream channel outfall and the repair of an inlet at Maple Avenue and Valley View Avenue.
- A contract was awarded for Phase One and partial Phase Two environmental site assessment of Sligo Mill/Poplar Mill Park.

Recreation

- Recreation Director Debra Haiduven participated in meeting of the Piney Branch Pool Committee meetings and related special events, including the January 6th pool re-opening ceremony.

- Ms. Haiduven attended several meetings regarding the possible construction of a multi-use recreational facility on the campus of Columbia Union College.
- Assistant Recreation Director Gregory Clark met with members of the Tenacity Group, the owner of Takoma Overlook, to discuss a potential partnership.
- Departmental staff participated in the planning of Family Night, a partnership with Takoma Park Middle School. The event was held in April.
- Senior Programs Coordinator Paula Lisowski convened the Senior Advisory group. One of the issues taken up by the group was a proposed change in Ride On bus service to make it easier to travel to and from the Community Center.
- During the month of February, the Heyday Players, Round House Theatre's senior acting troupe, presented an entertaining and original three act play, "Senior Fairy Tales," at the Takoma Park Community Center. The seniors also took an educational bus trip to the Kennedy Center, followed by lunch and shopping at Union Station.
- Beautiful clay tiles were designed and hand painted by Takoma Park seniors in their Open Arts Studio. The tiles will be included in the Takoma Park Community Center Mosaic Project.
- On March 12th, seniors took a trip to Strathmore Music Center for a Musicali Tea performance (piano and violin) by the students and faculty of the Levine School of Music, followed by tea and light refreshments.
- The Recreation Department successfully launched Activenet software which allows participants to register for programs and to reserve facility space on line.
- During the quarter, the department welcomed two new full-time staff members. Faye Wright joined the staff as Teen Manager while Eric Rasch was hired as the Senior Manager overseeing facilities.
- The Takoma Park Winter Basketball League kicked off a successful partnership with the Takoma Park Recreation Committee and the Long Branch Athletic PBES. The League was comprised of 48 teams, comprised of 470 youth in grades K-8. About 80 volunteers played an integral role in the program's success.
- In January, Takoma Park families enjoyed snow tubing at Ski Liberty, Pennsylvania in a trip sponsored by the Recreation Department.
- New Teen Programs started by Teen Manager Faye Wright included Music and Magazines, Healthy Snacks Creating Own Smoothies, Connect Four Tournament, Hip Hop Jeopardy, Taboo/Charades Game Night, and a Cup Cakes and Trivia Valentine's event.
- A group of ten Howard University alumni initiated a mentoring program for Takoma Park male teens. The group will be involved in programming and educational opportunities with the youth on a regular basis.
- Afternoon Addition activities included Mad Science, which provided participants with knowledge about fundamental forces like centripetal force and Newton's Law. Visits to the Piney Branch Pool introduced children to water safety; if authorized by their parents, students had the opportunity to take swimming lessons. St. Patrick's Day brought games, trivia, decorating a hat,

and designing a cookie to look like a leprechaun. Special classes offered to participants included Kung Fu, silk painting, chess, dance, art, and time at the Library.

- The March Madness Table Tennis Tournament captured the interest of many youth in the Community Center.
- The department rolled out a new Code of Conduct to promote positive behavior on the part of participants in programs as well as visitors to the Community Center.
- The Lilac and Forsythia Rooms at the Community Center were combined to form one room to accommodate the community demand for larger meeting/program space. The work was done in-house by the Public Works Department.
- The Community Center hosted the following special events: ShadowPlay Borderland Project, Takoma Park Film Festival, and the Mosaic Project.