

**CITY MANAGER'S
QUARTERLY UPDATE
OCTOBER 1, 2011 – DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Administration

- The City's biennial election for Mayor and members of the City Council was the primary focus of the City Clerk's Office during the quarter. Voter turnout was 18.6%. Of those who voted; 103 voters requested absentee ballots; 85 residents took the opportunity to vote early at the Community Center between November 2 and November 7. Twenty-five non-U.S. citizen Takoma Park residents voted in this election.
- Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow met with Montgomery County's head lobbyist, Melanie Wenger, and the City's lobbyist, Michele Douglas of Public Policy Partners, to discuss alternative ways to address the City Council's desire to play a more substantive role in alcoholic beverage licensing decisions, especially those associated with the proposed Class B Off-Sale license.
- The majority of the City Council, joined by the Deputy City Manager, attended the Maryland Municipal League's Fall Legislative Conference. The conference was held in Cambridge, Maryland from October 31 through November 2.
- The Deputy City Manager prepared testimony for the Montgomery Delegation's November 16 Joint Priorities Hearing, worked with the City Attorney's office to prepare testimony on proposed aggressive solicitation bills, and presented testimony at the Local Bill Hearing on the City's proposed alcoholic beverage bill and the aggressive solicitation bills proposed by Delegation members.
- On December 12, the City's lobbyist, Michele Douglas, met with the City Council to provide training and background information on legislative matters.
- City Manager Barb Matthews, Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, and Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite worked with City Attorney Susan Silber in negotiating with the Maryland State Highway Administration regarding maintenance responsibilities and authority for MD 410 through Takoma Park, Flower Avenue, and a portion of Carroll Avenue.
- The Deputy City Manager attended the last evidentiary hearing conducted by the Maryland Health Care Commission regarding the proposed relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital. In consultation with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and the City's health care consultant, the City Attorney prepared information for the evidentiary hearings to correct misinformation in the hearing record. The corrected information was shared with District 20 and Montgomery County representatives. The City Attorney and Deputy City Manager attended a meeting of the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (WAHLUC) to brief them on the hearing and to discuss educational actions they could take regarding the outcome of the hearings. The Deputy City Manager prepared a Newsletter article on the possible outcomes of the hearing and WAHLUC prepared a community survey that was inserted into the Newsletter to help them make recommendations to the City Council when a decision on the Hospital's request is made.
- The City's Passport Agents processed 197 passport applications during the quarter. Passport counts for the same quarter in FY 2011 and FY 2010 were 146 and 172, respectively. Applications for calendar year 2011 were up by 34% over calendar year 2010.

The United States State Department visited the City on October 18 to review the passport services and was pleased with the agents' handling of applications. Elements reviewed were the availability of information, the appropriate handling of confidential information, and overall customer service.

- Chinese officials visited the City of Takoma Park on November 28. The group was interested in emergency response plans by agencies at various levels of government. Mayor Bruce Williams greeted the group. Captain Edward Coursey provided information on how the City works with other government entities in the region to address storms and other emergencies. Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow and Captain Coursey answered questions posed by the group.
- A first meeting of the City employees' Health Task Force took place on November 15. The Task Force is looking at various types of employee health insurance plans and other strategies to help lower the City's cost for employee health insurance and provide a better fit for employees. The recommendations of the Task Force will go to the City Manager for consideration.
- The Information Systems Division had a busy quarter. Activities included the following:
 - Information Systems responded to 711 calls during the quarter.
 - Division staff continued to spend considerable time on tasks associated with the renovation of the Public Works Facility. Improvements to cabling and network routing in the shop buildings of Public Works were completed during the quarter. Staff also worked on providing electronic door access at the facility. The project will provide ten doors and two gates with electronic door access equipment.
 - In October, Information Specialist Cesar Neyra attended a five-day training class on ZenWorks 11. The class was conducted by UpTime, a Novell partner and support provider. ZenWorks is the software currently used by Information Systems to manage software updates on staff computers. We currently have ZenWorks 10. This class included instruction on how to migrate to ZenWorks 11 along with how to use new and improved features of the software.
 - In December, the new Canon copiers arrived. Information Systems staff installed software that monitors printing activities on the copiers and all other remote printers. A new Print Server will be used to monitor and generate reports on printing and copying usage. Staff members who have an identification card issued within the last year will be able to use their card to gain access to the copiers; older identification cards are not compatible.
 - Division staff worked with the Finance Department and City vendors to complete the credit card payment initiative. The payment website has been completed and tested and is ready to go. Once the new City website is operational, anyone needing to pay their rental licensing, refuse, or stormwater bill will be able to do it from the website.
 - The Police Department General Orders and other procedural documents are currently kept on a shared drive on a City server. Police officers out on patrol don't connect to City servers from their vehicle laptops and this has created issues when they need to reference the documents. To remedy this situation, the GroupWise document libraries

feature was activated on the City's e-mail system in December. This will give patrol officers access to the documents from their vehicles.

- The City's e-mail system has a web based client that lets user access their e-mail from the Internet. Data encryption and certificates of authenticity have been added to ensure communication between web based clients and City servers is secure. Additional servers with an Internet facing will also soon have these security improvements.
- The annual audit of the City's general purpose financial statements was completed. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2011 was presented to the Council on November 28.
- City Manager Barb Matthews served as the November luncheon speaker for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Institute for Regional Excellence Program.
- During the quarter, City Manager Barb Matthews attended a number of professional and community events, including the following:
 - The October meeting of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Chief Administrative Officers Committee as well as the December year-end advance hosted by Loudoun County.
 - The November 15 celebration honoring Erwin Mack, retiring Executive Director of the Takoma Langley Crossroads.
 - The November 16 grand opening of 7610 Maple Avenue, purchased by Montgomery Housing Partnership with financial assistance from many partners, including the City.
 - A luncheon meeting of municipal managers/administrators hosted by Tim Firestine, Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer, on December 8.
 - The Montgomery County Chapter of MML Legislative Dinner on December 15.
- City Manager Barb Matthews continued her service on the Sustainable Communities Committee of the International City/County Management Association and on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Municipal League. She currently serves as the President of the Maryland City/County Management Association.

Communications

- City TV activities during the quarter included the following:
 - City TV covered all City Council Meetings live, as well as the certification of elections results.
 - In October, City TV staff covered the Takoma Park Street Festival. City TV cameras were present at all three stages. Also covered were the Nominating Caucus 2011, the Takoma Voice Candidate Forum, the musical production of "Drop the Knife," the Third Thursday Poetry Reading, the performance of the ULiners, the Eureka Dance Festival, a Musica Viva concert, and the "Dia de los Muertos" dance performance from De Colores Mexican Dance Company. Camera crews were sent to the International Walk to School

Day, the monthly Art Exhibit Reception, the set up of the Judy Setton Moore's sculpture "Takoma Trees," and the Halloween Parade.

- In November, staff covered two Musica Viva concerts, the Speaker Series, the Third Thursday Poetry Series, the We Are Takoma Taiko Drumming concert, and the African Summit. TV crews were sent to the Citizens' Police Academy and the Art Exhibit.
- In December, City TV covered the We Are Takoma Series DC Labor Chorus and Season of the Sailor performances, the Speaker Series, the Third Thursday Poetry Series, and the Institute of Musical Traditions Scandinavian Christmas concert.
- For the first time, City TV went live throughout Election Day in both English and Spanish to remind people of the time the polls were open and to interview some of the people involved in the elections. City TV went live over 20 times during the day, starting at 7:30 a.m. and finishing after 9:00 p.m. with the announcement of the election results.
- During the quarter, City TV provided audio-visual support for numerous activities. In October, City TV offered audiovisual support to several City departments, a fraternity Fashion Show, the Institute of Musical Traditions' Grace Petty and Ruthie and the Wranglers' concerts, a Washington Musica Viva concert, the Speaker Series, the New Dimension Singers concert, and the Mexican Dance Company rehearsals. November functions supported by City TV included activities of several City departments, the IMT concerts of Elizabeth Mitchell and John Doyle, and the rehearsal of the Taiko Drumming. In December, City TV provided audio-visual support to various City departments, the DC Labor Chorus rehearsal, and the Institute of Musical Traditions concert of Fink and Marxer
- The #102 episode of Snapshots featured the inauguration of Blessed Coffee, the seniors' computer class, International Walk to School Day, the Judy Sutton Moore's "Takoma Trees" sculpture installation, the art exhibit of Seleshi Fesha, and "Play Day."
- Three members of the City TV staff attended the Government Video Expo in DC and the Human Circuitry Fair in Greenbelt, Maryland.
- Original programming produced by City TV during the quarter totaled 50.5 hours. Of this, 15.5 hours represented coverage of City Council meetings. All programming for the quarter totaled 66 hours.
- During the quarter, staff identified problems with the City's broadcasting equipment. Some video files came out in the channel with video "hiccups." It was determined that the problems were related to the large size of the bit rate transfer; the problem was corrected. Problems with files in the Carousel bulletin board were also corrected. Tightrope and Carousel programs were upgraded, and the daily programming was linked to the City's website. Staff also identified that station audio was coming only from one channel; the City's contractors are working on the problem.
- During the quarter, a City TV Academy was initiated for middle and high school students. Three high school interns referred by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and another high school student videotaped and started editing on the Alternative Gift Fair, the Old Town Farmers' Market, and the Annual Holiday Art Sale.
- During the quarter, Media Specialist Craig Terrill continued work on the City's new website. Several sections of the new website were developed into a working beta format, and he

worked with the offsite developer to finish development of key features of the new website. A significant amount of time was spent on behind the scenes fixes and takedowns of sections of the current site.

- On the current website, there were 68,855 page views during the quarter, of which 52,753 were unique page views.
- The Media Specialist created specialty and uniquely styled pages for the November municipal election and for information related to Washington Adventist Hospital's proposed relocation. He also implemented a weekly back-up plan to Amazon S3 (cloud storage site).
- During the quarter, the City experienced a huge spike in social media use and participation right around the November election. The City's social media site is reaching more people than ever and, while the increase has slowed, there is growing independent use of our social media resources. Facebook (not New Ave or Police): 945 fans 309,315 total reach (friends of fans) Twitter: 358 followers 32 mentions
- Media Specialist Craig Terrill served as a panelist on the Society of Professional Journalists' sponsored forum "The Press & The Public," held in downtown Silver Spring on October 27. The panel also included journalism professors, a regional blogger, and a print journalist. During the well-attended panel discussion, the Media Specialist answered several questions from local journalists and the public about the government's role in the media. The discussion had some great takeaways, with the City of Takoma Park getting high marks for embracing the ideas of transparency and responsiveness to the public and to all types of journalists.

Housing and Community Development

- Tenant advocacy efforts during the quarter included the following:
 - The landlord for Hillwood Manor sent letters to many tenants in December, rolling back their rent effective January 1, 2012. The rollbacks were based on a chart that the City's housing staff had formulated, showing the allowable annual rent stabilization increases from 1990 to date. Previous rent reports submitted by Hillwood Manor (96 units) showed discrepancies in the rents. Additionally, on December 21, the landlord filed a Fair Return Rent Increase Petition seeking an increase in rent over the rent stabilization allowance. Staff has reviewed the documents and found numerous issues that need to be re-examined by the petitioner. Documentation of expenses is lacking. A copy of the petition was sent to the tenants on January 5, 2012. Staff is currently awaiting a response from the petitioner regarding the issues that need further examination.
 - A COLTA complaint was filed by the Tenant Association of Hampshire Towers (7401 New Hampshire Avenue) with the assistance of their pro-bono attorney from Arnold and Porter. The complaint alleges non-compliance by management in regard to entry requirements. Additionally, in September, management sent letters to all or many of the units where repairs were required by the inspection. The letter indicated an amount the tenant had to pay for the repairs. The COLTA complaint further alleges that the charges for the repairs are illegal as the repairs were for normal wear and tear and deferred maintenance. There was no response submitted by the landlord, despite repeated efforts to elicit an answer. The complaint is scheduled for a hearing in January 2012.
 - The Montgomery County Code Enforcement Division condemned Aspen Court properties in November, and a letter stating the same was sent to the tenants on

November 11 giving them until the end of November to vacate. The Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), which owns the buildings, met with the tenants on November 14 in an attempt to answer all questions; however, the tenants were extremely concerned even though HOC stated it was providing a \$5,000 relocation payment and would pay for all moving expenses. The tenants obtained a pro bono attorney and despite his efforts to have the Circuit Court declare the condemnation null and void, the notice remained in effect, with the vacate date extended to December 31, 2011. The City housing staff, HOC, and the County Department of Housing and Community Affairs made efforts to find alternative housing for the 12 affected families. It appears that all tenants did vacate by December 31, so construction at this property will begin. Tenants received guarantees from HOC that they would be able to return to their own apartments when the buildings were renovated, at the rent level that they had paid before vacating, plus any allowable increases the landlord is entitled to under the rent stabilization law.

- The landlord for Carroll Gardens Apartments (Hancock and Lee Avenues) filed a Fair Return Rent Increase on this property (66 units) on November 14, 2011. Staff reviewed the documents and only a few items needed to be re-examined by the petitioner. Notice of the fair return petition filing was sent to the tenants, who promptly called the department seeking help in understanding the process. In response, staff provided a fair return rent increase training on December 12, the first that has been done for tenants. Attendance at the training was very good, and the tenants decided at that meeting to form a tenant association to address their concerns about the petition. Community organizers Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo met with the tenants, and an application for registration of their tenant association was submitted to the department on December 23. Certification is pending; no objection has been received yet from the landlord. Tenants had until January 10 to file their questions about the petition. Tenants have been meeting periodically at the Community Center. The complete petition application was sent to the Rents Analyst, who will review all documentation and write the COLTA decision.
- Affordable housing and rent stabilization activities are summarized below:
 - The renovation of 7513 Maple Avenue (Edinburgh House) is continuing. Floor by floor renovations are estimated to take up to a year to complete. The owner, Montgomery Housing Partnership, has reported that everything has been going smoothly. There have been no complaints filed by tenants in regard to the renovation or the process of relocating the tenants by floor.
 - 7610 Maple Avenue, a vacant and deteriorated high rise property purchased by Montgomery Housing Partnership, had a grand opening celebration on November 16. The event was well attended. On hand were representatives from the financing entities, political leaders, City staff, and residents of the building.
 - Staff promoted Montgomery County's new Energy Efficient Rebate Program that is available to homeowners. The County received over \$1 million for these individual grants. Rebates of up to \$3,000 are available on a first come, first serve basis.
 - Housing staff continued to strategize on how the Mission Serve home repair program will be conducted in Takoma Park. The organization received CDBG funding for this effort and will initiate its program in the summer of 2012. The organization provides the professional knowledge and labor to low-income homeowners who need repairs to their homes.

- Housing staff continued to review the annual rent stabilization reports that were due on September 30, 2011. Follow up notices were sent to those who failed to submit by the deadline. Municipal infraction citations will be issued in January to those who have not complied with the requirement.
- COLTA and Landlord-Tenant activities during the quarter included the following:
 - Four COLTA cases were filed. Those complaints not resolved will be scheduled for a hearing.
 - On December 8, Landlord-Tenant staff held a Fair Return Rent Increase Petition training for landlords. Five landlords attended the session. Another class is scheduled for January 25, 2012.
 - Landlord-Tenant staff participated in a new senior citizen initiative spearheaded by Takoma Park resident Wolfgang Mergner. The group has met several times in an effort to have seniors discuss their concerns about services and needs in the community. Sub-committees will be organized to follow up on many of these issues.
 - The Credit and Financial Management series was completed on November 30. Attendance at the various sessions ranged from 10 to 15 persons.
- Landlord-Tenant contacts during the quarter totaled 647. A breakdown of the contacts is provided below:

○ General Inquiries	169
○ Rent Stabilization	182
○ Property Maintenance	44
○ Evictions / Notice to Vacate	53
○ Security Deposit	6
○ COLTA complaints	70
○ Affordable Housing Inquiries	30
○ Foreclosure Assistance	1
○ Educational Opportunities	43
○ Capacity Building Initiative	23
○ Opportunity to Purchase	8
○ Miscellaneous	18
- Code enforcement and rental licensing activities during the quarter included the following:
 - Five condemned single family houses remained condemned due to either fire damage or abandonment in Wards 1, 3, and 5. A fire damaged five-unit rental building in Ward 3 remains vacant and condemned.
 - The new owners of the condemned house at 7123 Sycamore Avenue obtained a Historic Area Work Permit and a County building permit in December. Renovation work is to start in January. Protection of the structure and salvage of historic items preceded the obtaining of permits.
 - The City arranged for 36 Philadelphia Avenue, a single-family house condemned by the County, to be open for inspection in December. Three engineering firms along with a

restoration company partially accessed the house. District Court issued an order in November that allows the City to take initial steps towards demolition.

- The process for requesting renewal of rental housing licenses for 2012 has been completed. Licensing renewal procedures and license fee invoices are anticipated to be mailed in January to current landlords and owners.
- Targeted inspections continued in all six wards. The focused effort in Ward 6 was completed. Staff is processing the remaining code violations found during the inspections with either an extension of the Notice of Violation or with citations for legal processing.
- Code Enforcement Supervisor Marjorie Ciccone attended the annual national AACE Education Conference in Nashville in October for credits towards renewal of AACE and International Code Council (ICC) inspector certifications.
- Licensing staff completed the 2011 licensing cycle using the new rental housing rental software. Licensing requirements were verified with licenses approved and issued online. This was the first year the rental licensing software was in use. Staff worked with developer to improve software functions throughout the year.
- Code enforcement staff attended the Code Enforcement and Zoning Official Association (CEZOA) fall training and business meeting on December 8. The training/meeting was hosted by the Town of Ocean City. The training topic was rental inspections and non-conforming uses. CEZOA is a department of the Maryland Municipal League.
- During the quarter, there were 1,144 contacts regarding rental housing licensing. Additional statistics regarding licensing are provided below:
 - Renewal Applications reviewed 39
 - Initial Reviews Conducted 48
 - New rental licenses issued 13
 - Renewal licenses issued 63
 - Discontinued rental licenses 9
 - Notice of Violations Issued – Illegal Rentals 14
 - Notice of Violations Issued-Failure to Renew 27
 - Municipal Citations Issued 22
 - Cases Closed 38
- Three landlord-certification seminars were held, with a total of 36 seminar participants. Seventeen opted to take the alternative exam. A total of 49 certifications were issued.
- Streetscape activities included a workshop on future streetscape standards for New Hampshire Avenue. Community residents participating in the discussion shared ideas and discussed the existing identity and future character of the New Ave. Those who were unable to attend are encouraged to contribute online.

Work on the development of the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape continued with information posted on a new project website (www.thenewave.com/development/projects/eag). The website provides online access to updates, meeting information, and a variety of other material. The first community workshop is scheduled for January 18, 2012.

- Property maintenance activities undertaken by Code Enforcement staff are summarized below:
 - Contacts (phone, email, walk-ins) 476
 - Handbills and Flyers Removed 591
 - Courtesy Notices Distributed 20
 - Complaints Received 31
 - Initial Inspections Conducted 49
 - Reinspections Conducted 304
 - Notice of Violations Issued 66
 - Municipal Citations Issued 22
 - Court Appearances 7
 - Cases Closed 76
 - Referrals to County Departments 20

- Planning staff attended the Planning Board's meeting on the Bus Rapid Transit Network (BRT) Methodology recommendations. Staff advocated for improved mass transit service, provided testimony that the K6 Bus Priority Corridor had just been completed, and showed that New Hampshire Avenue is eminently suited for services such as BRT or Express.

- Lobbying efforts for the implementation of the recommendations of the K6 Bus Study continued with staff preparing correspondence requesting that WMATA place high priority on the provision of additional training for drivers, oversight preventing buses from "bunching" and service gaps, introduction of more frequent buses during off peak hours, and the establishment of express bus service along New Hampshire Avenue.

- Planning staff members met with Montgomery County Planning Department staff to discuss an amendment to the Master Plan of Highways. The County will be updating the Master Plan to include routes and station locations for Bus Rapid Transit. Planning Board Staff will be making recommendations regarding selection of routes and use of existing roadway versus widening right-of-way. The potential routes within the City of Takoma Park include New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard.

- Work continued on the revision of the Urban Design Guidelines to ensure the document accurately reflects the desire of the community to create a safe, attractive and welcoming pedestrian oriented area while maintaining its unique character. The revised guidelines are to be presented to the community for comment in January 2012.

- Working in partnership with the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee, staff prepared a questionnaire providing community members with the opportunity to comment on the possible outcomes of the hospital's pending Certificate of Need application and potential relocation. Questionnaires were included in the December 2011 edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter and distributed to all of the households in the community. The questionnaire, in both English and Spanish, was also made available online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/wah/>

- Bike-related activities included the following:
 - A short online questionnaire was prepared to assist Montgomery County in its effort to expand Capital Bikeshare to Takoma Park. Over 400 responses were collected in a matter of days. In general, respondents supported the initiative. The most popular site for locating a station was Takoma Junction. Nearly 50 percent of respondents would consider using Bikeshare as part of their commute to work.

- Staff facilitated the addition of at least one pit stop on the New Ave for Bike to Work Day on May 18, 2012. The regional event is held annually to raise awareness for cycling to work as a viable commuting alternative.
- Planning staff and Safe Routes to School Coordinator Lucy Neher attended the County ride along for Montgomery County officials, urban districts, and other interested bicycle advocacy groups. It was an excellent opportunity to network with the County, SHA, and bicycle advocates on safety issues.
- The second New Ave Social was held at La Cuscaleta. The evening was part of an ongoing series of informal gatherings to discuss the New Ave initiative, network, and identify additional opportunities for redevelopment and revitalization on New Hampshire Avenue. The next event will be in the Maryland Gateway.
- Highlights of the City's Safe Routes to School initiative are summarized below:
 - Takoma Park Elementary School students have been learning the basics of crossing the street using the new crosswalk simulation kit developed by staff. At the invitation of the principal of Takoma Park Elementary School, the City's Safe Routes to School Coordinator conducted a Crosswalk Simulation Activity with students in the kindergarten and second grade level. After a lesson on pedestrian safety, students used props to create a "virtual" intersection. Taking turns acting as pedestrians, cars, and signs, they practiced their new crosswalk safety skills. Using this fun and engaging tool, they learned and remembered pedestrian safety best practices. Eighteen classes participated.
 - At Piney Branch Elementary, six classes of third grade students learned about Pedestrian and Bike Safety. The City's Safe Routes to School Coordinator and Piney Branch's new Physical Education teacher, Geoffrey Goidell, used the new interactive Crosswalk Simulation Activity and the Bike Rodeo to instruct the students over two PE periods. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) loaned Takoma Park a trailer with the necessary equipment to conduct the bike safety workshops on site. WABA trained parents, City, and school personnel to lead the Bike Rodeos at Piney Branch. These workshops will be offered in the future to fourth grade classes at East Silver Spring and at Rolling Terrace.
 - Wednesday, October 5 marked the fifth year that Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) has supported local schools by organizing Walk to School Day events. All five SRTS schools participated this year, with Takoma Park Middle School participating for the first time. An estimated 1,500 students, parents, and school staff chose to walk to school. Safe Routes provided stickers, pencils, and blinky lights for the students. The four elementary schools met at remote locations and walked together to school, holding an assembly when they arrived at school. Mayor Williams and Police Chief Ricucci addressed the students at Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School. Takoma Middle School parents staffed tables on walking routes to greet students with food and give away prizes. Mayor Williams greeted more than 200 middle school students on the way to school. Staff from Public Works and Recreation supported the effort. Channel 4 News covered the event with a nice piece on the midday and evening news.
- During the quarter, the Housing and Community Development Department welcomed Erkin Ozberk to fill the planning position vacated by Carman Lam. Mr. Ozberk received his

planning degree from York University in Toronto, Ontario and worked most recently for the National Building Museum on its youth program "Investigating Where We Live" and for the City of Toronto, conducting land use and business employment surveys. Prior to attending graduate school, he worked for the Carbonfund.org Foundation in Silver Spring, Maryland.

- The quarter was chock full of cultural programming activities. The following free cultural programming was offered through the "We are Takoma" series:
 - Three lectures—"The Wild Vine: A Forgotten Grape and the Untold Story of American Wine" (Todd Kliman); "The Failure of Capitalist Production" (Dr. Kliman); and the "History and Helicoptering: How Past Factors Explain Parents' Anxieties," (Dr. Peter N. Stearns)
 - Seven performances—"Drop the Knife: A Memoir-in-Song" (Jeanne Mackey); The Uliners n Concert; "Sail into the Season" (Calico Jack); "Concert of Favorite and Sacred Songs" (DC Union Labor Chorus); KIZUNA: Japanese Drumming; The Eureka Dance Festival; and "Dia de Los Muertos" (De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company of DC)
 - Three poetry readings—Featured poets included Donald Illich, Carlee Hallman, Pamela Winters, Jon Barrows, Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler, Kathleen O'Toole, and Bonnie Naradzay with one open reading.
- The City's sixth annual art sale was held at the Takoma Park Community Center on Saturday, December 10. Over 30 vendors offering a range of items including jewelry, pottery, photography, wearable art, glasswork, and more participated. Children's arts activities and seasonal music by the Takoma Park Singers were offered. The event was a high success with both vendors and community members commenting that it was the "best yet."
- Four exhibits were displayed in the galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center: "Watercolor Expressions 2011" (Takoma Watercolor Group); "The Apricot Tree" (Shannon Gerrity and Claudia Krizay); "Running with Scissors" (Sherill Anne Gross); and "Art for a Green World" (Seleshi Feseha). Opening receptions celebrating the artists and their work were held.
- Housing and Community Development Director Sara Daines coordinated the rental of the auditorium for 15 events, including two concert series, a fashion show, and the Governor's African Summit.

Library

- The College Bound Speakers' Series concluded on October 11, with an overview of the college selection process by Dr. Lori Potts-Dupre, a certified educational planner who has evaluated more than 350 college campuses nationwide. Earlier presentations in this popular series included Dr. Herm Davis who spoke on financing college education and Camille Scott who addressed community college opportunities.
- Nearly 50 people attended the Library's second annual Community Read Out on Saturday, October 2 in celebration of Banned Books Week. Those who read selections from banned or challenged children's books at the event included Maryland Senator Jamie Raskin. Festivities included a pizza party sponsored by the Friends of the Library

- On October 17, adults and children gathered for the first of a series of programs to discuss possibilities for the 2012 Caldecott Medal, which will be awarded in January to the best illustrated children's book of the year. A document camera was used for this and subsequent meetings to show likely candidates on the big screen as participants discussed their likes and dislikes. The programs have been popular and have drawn many adults as well as kids.
- The semi-annual Friends of the Library outdoor book sale was held on October 22. With the assistance of 30 volunteers, the sale netted \$2,406 for the Friends. All proceeds go the Library in the form of funding for programs, materials, and services.
- In October, Children's Librarian Karen MacPherson and Library Assistant Dave Burbank made a presentation on graphic novels to graduate students at the University of Maryland's School of Information Studies.
- Tomas (Shash) Eaglebear returned to the Library with members of his family on November 16 for a program of songs, stories and dances highlighting southwestern Native American culture.
- On November 12, a special Dungeons and Dragons program with Dave Burbank was held at the Library in honor of National Gaming Day.
- On December 17, the Friends of the Library held a special sale of children's books in the Atrium outside the Computer Center. The sale included review copies of children's books and copies of the newest "Wimpy Kid" book – *Cabin Fever* – autographed by the author. The four-hour sale netted just under \$1,200 for the Friends.
- A special Holiday Sing-Along program with Wendy Laxner and her students and a holiday craft workshop with Karen MacPherson in the Library drew upwards of 50 people. The programs were held on December 17.
- Steve DuBos, organizer of the annual charity golf tournament in honor of Library patron Mike Morrissey, visited the Library on December 19 for an informal lunch and gathering with the Library Friends, City Manager Barb Matthews, and Library staff. He presented Library Director Ellen Robbins and the Friends of the Library with a check for \$4,124 generated from last September's tournament and silent auction.
- The Friends Reading Group held a discussion of *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese in October as well as several discussions of John Fowles' *Daniel Martin* with educator and reading group member Kelly Cresap in October and November. The Junior and Senior Banned Books Clubs met to discuss *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* while the Senior Banned Books Club read *The Sun Also Rises*.
- The annual Winter Solstice Program was held on December 22, with drumming by Bill Jenkins and traditional dancing by the Foggy Bottom Morris Men. This has been a popular family holiday program at the Library for nearly 20 years.
- The Library grounds were adorned by colorful knitted "tree sweaters" in December – an anonymous gift by a resident – who perhaps was inspired by our book titled *Yarn Bombing: the Art of Crochet and Knit Graffiti* by Mandy Moore and Leanne Prain.

Police

- On October 6, the inaugural Citizens' Police Academy got underway. The ten-week program is an integral part of the Police Department's community outreach efforts. The program is designed to educate residents on the required duties and obligations of a police officer and to provide a glimpse into all aspects of the Takoma Park Police Department. Program participants are required to complete eight of the ten classes to be eligible for graduation.
- On September 30, a new fixed pole speed camera was installed in the 900 block of westbound East West Highway. Following a warning period, citations were issued for violators driving 12 miles over the speed limit as of midnight on October 15.
- The Takoma Park Police Department participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 29. The campaign gave the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs by bringing their prescriptions to the Takoma Park Police Department. The service was free and anonymous, no questions asked. There was a large turn-out in Takoma Park.
- The Takoma Park Police Department partnered with Ana Valdez, resident of Takoma Park and domestic violence survivor, to collect toys for children of domestic violence through her Silver Spring based organization, Angels Against Domestic Violence, Inc., a/k/a Angel's Project. Toys were presented to the children at her organization's Christmas gathering on December 17.
- Community Outreach Program activities, overseen by Officer Carla Magnaye, included the following:
 - In support of Celebrate Crime Prevention Month, a wide range of crime prevention tips were distributed to the public. Topics include school safety, crime reporting and community engagement, and home security.
 - As part of a collaborative effort with the Recreation Department, Officer Magnaye conducted a series of one-hour safety presentations to Takoma Park seniors at the Takoma Park Community Center. Topics included identify theft protection and Internet safety.
 - On December 19, Officer Magnaye spoke to about 25 residents at Victory Tower about personal security. A similar presentation for residents of the Franklin Apartments was scheduled for January.
- On October 12, Chief Ricucci and Crime Analyst Andrew Gucciardo attended a community meeting on Garland Avenue concerning the recent burglaries.
- During October 24-27, Chief Ricucci spoke to multiple kindergarten classes at Piney Branch Elementary School and Takoma Park Elementary School.
- On October 25, Captain Coursey attended a training session on Earthquake Preparedness for Schools, hosted by FEMA and MWCOG. The trainers were experts from the LA County Unified School District. MCPS representatives were also in attendance. Much of what was learned is applicable to the general public.

- On October 26, Captain Coursey and Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite attended a meeting with FEMA representatives to go over potentially reimbursable expenses incurred during the City's response to Hurricane Irene.
- On October 28, Captain Coursey participated in a regional webinar on National Capital Region transportation and evacuation issues during an event such as a "Dirty Bomb" in the District.
- On November 8 and 9, Captain Coursey attended a two day train-the-trainer course for Continuity of Operations (COOP) managers, held at the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center. The course was instructed by FEMA staff and affiliated experts in the field of continuity planning.

Public Works

- Work continued on the renovation of the Public Works Facility. The facility was substantially complete as of the end of calendar year 2011, with only a few inspection-related issues remaining to be addressed.
- The Public Works Director joined Councilmember Fred Schultz at a community meeting regarding the installation of sidewalks in Ward 6. The meeting was held on October 11.
- Building maintenance tasks included the quarterly cleaning of carpets in the Community Center, preparation and issuance of a Request for Proposals for HVAC improvements in the Community Center, and the winter weatherization of exterior water fountains.
- Solar Solutions began installation of solar panels in multiple City locations (the Library, the Community Center, and the Public Works Facility) on December 21.
- Street and park maintenance activities included crackfilling on Boyd and Lincoln, street sweeping, updating of signage in all City parks regarding dogs, cleaning of the flood wall chamber in the front parking area of the Community Center, and providing logistical support for multiple events including the Street Festival.
- The annual leaf vacuum collection program took place from November 21 through December 23. This year, two collections were provided to the five State highway routes in Takoma Park; additional funding was provided by the City Council in the FY 2012 budget. The newly purchased leaf grinder improved the speed and efficiency of the leaf grinding operation which runs concurrently with the leaf vacuum collection program.
- The City Arborist oversaw the planting of 127 trees in City right-of-way areas and City-owned parks. The second round of tree pruning got underway; the pruning is part of a four-year cycle in accordance with the City's Urban Forest Tree Maintenance Plan.
- Residents purchased 37 trees through the City's fall bulk buy tree program. The program allows residents to buy trees at discounted prices.
- The City Gardens Division oversaw a Boy Scout volunteer effort that spread wood chips and removed plants on the hillside behind the Community Center.
- Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite was a presenter at the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Conference held in Cambridge, Maryland. Her presentation concerned Takoma

Park's stormwater management fee. She made a similar presentation to the Local Government Advisory Committee (an advisory body to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay).

- The City's submitted its Watershed Improvement Plan program to the Maryland Department of the Environment on November 18.
- Educational signage was installed at the Hancock Avenue rain garden facility on December 14.
- The following is a summary of permit activity during the quarter:
 - Dumpster/Storage Pod 9 applications received and approved
 - Utility Work 21 applications received and approved
 - Tree Impact Assessment 20 applications received and processed
 - Tree Protection Permit 4 issued
 - Tree Removal 68 applications received
 - Tree Removal Waiver 51 issued (# of trees)
 - Tree Removal Denial 3 issued
- Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite continued service on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council, serving as the urban representative for the Maryland Municipal League.

Recreation

- The Recreation Department's Friday, October "Fun Day" program was filled to capacity. The 32 participants visited Greenbelt Park. During the trip, the kids were able to play outdoors, walk on trails, and eat lunch. They continued the fun at Laugh Out Loud where more activities awaited.
- Takoma Park residents showed up in great numbers on Saturday, October 29 for the Recreation Department sponsored Halloween festivities. Even with the unusual October snowstorm, which moved the event indoors, more than 200 people dressed up in costumes and attended this year's festivities. As guests entered the event at Piney Branch Elementary School, they were greeted by several activities, including coloring original art work, guessing the weight of a pumpkin and the amount of candy corn, bean bag toss, trivia, and much more. The guests then participated in a Costume Contest in the Multi-Purpose Room, which was followed by a party. Everyone had a great time rocking out to the RTT's, while enjoying cookies and juice provided by the Takoma Park Lions Club.
- The Aftercare program held its first talent show of the year on November 11. Parents enjoyed seeing their children perform on stage in the Takoma Park Auditorium.
- On Thursday, December 22, departmental staff hosted a holiday party for Game Room participants from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Music and games were played as kids enjoyed each other's company.
- The quarter was chocked full of activities for the City's senior residents. Certain activities are featured below:

- Paula Lisowski, Recreation Department staff member, attended the inaugural meeting to bring together residents and community service providers in partnership to address senior issues in Takoma Park. This exploratory group was created and facilitated by Takoma Park resident, Wolfgang Mergner to encourage the exchange of ideas, analyze senior needs, and to establish mechanisms by which seniors can find access to senior services. Approximately 60 people attended the first meeting on October 6 and, based on positive feedback, additional bi-monthly meetings are planned for the future.
- Eight seniors attended the quarterly meeting of the Silver Foxes Advisory Group on October 7.
- A dozen seniors attended the October 12 presentation by Courtney Hobson, the new Outreach and Tour Coordinator for Darnall's Chance House and Museum in Upper Marlboro. Ms Hobson, dressed in period costume, offered a 45-minute PowerPoint presentation on the colonial history of Prince George's County. The program, entitled "Prince George's County: An 18th Century Perspective" covers the founding of Maryland as a colony, the types of people who made up the colony, its economy, the founding of Prince George's County, and some of the 18th Century architecture that still stands in the county.
- Seniors requested this trip so away they went on the Recreation bus. Twenty seniors shopped and had lunch at the fabulous outlet center in Leesburg, Virginia on October 14.
- Anita A. Joseph, Client Assistance Specialist with Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services, was on site at the Takoma Park Community Center on Tuesday, October 11 and Thursday October 13. Ms. Joseph met Takoma Park seniors and talked to them about the services and resources available to them.
- The New Dimension Singers took Takoma Park seniors on a musical tour across America in an energetic performance on Tuesday, October 18. The event was held in the Community Center Auditorium. Fifty seniors enjoyed many familiar tunes including Georgia on My Mind, Oklahoma, New York-New York, Nothing Could Be Finer than to be in Carolina, and many other favorites. The performance was enhanced by delightful props, dialogue, costumes, and choreography.
- Twenty seniors celebrated Oktoberfest in a unique way this month with a tour of the Brewmaster's Caste. This fascinating historic site, built in 1892, is the late-Victorian style home of German-American beer baron Christian Heurich, and is included on the National Register of Historic Places. Heurich was most successful brewer in Washington, D.C. and ran his brewer, on what is now the site of the Kennedy Center until his death in 1945.
- Fall session II of the popular Computer Class for Seniors began on October 26. The class was filled to capacity (eight students) and ended on December 7.
- Fifteen seniors came to the Takoma Park Community Center on October 27 to play bingo in the Senior Room. We welcomed two seniors who were new to the program and to the bingo games day. Both newcomers experienced "beginners luck" and each won a game.

- Fifteen participants enjoyed listening to original poems by talented poets, including Takoma Park's former poet laureate Anne Becker and Silver Foxes poet Dr. Charlotte Cooper at the first Seniors Open Poetry Reading on November 2.
- On November 4, Jill Feasley, Director of Meals on Wheels in Takoma Park, gave a presentation at the Takoma Park Community Center. During her visit, 20 seniors were able to learn more about the benefits of this program.
- Officer Carla Magnaye of the Takoma Park Police Department presented the first topic in a series of safety presentations to Takoma Park seniors on November 7. Two additional sessions were held in November.
- Carol Mermey, Registered Yoga Teacher, led a full class of 15 seniors in another Gentle Yoga class on December 2 in the Dance Studio. The seniors were happy to see improvements in flexibility, strength, and balance as a result of participating in this class.
- Eleven seniors expressed their creativity using glass techniques and materials in the Open Art Studio on December 12.
- What a fabulous way for the Silver Foxes to end the year. Twenty seniors began the festivities on Tuesday, December 13, with an evening trip to see the Festival of Lights including a wonderful performance by the Stonewall Jackson High School Choir & Vocal Ensemble at the Washington D.C. Mormon Temple Visitors' Center. More holiday fun was had on Thursday, December 15 when the New Dimension Singers presented "A Warm and Wondrous Christmas" performance for 30 seniors in the Community Center Auditorium.
- Cake, ice cream and an entertaining game of "Wheel of Fortune" kept 15 seniors laughing as they celebrated their October, November, and December birthdays. The party took place on Friday, December 16 in the Lilac Room.
- A dozen seniors had fun on Thursday, December 22 playing bingo games in the Senior Room.
- Sixteen seniors traveled by Recreation bus to Lorton, Virginia on Wednesday, November 9 to visit the Workhouse Arts Center. The Workhouse Arts Center, a project of the Lorton Arts Foundation, was once a prisoner rehabilitation facility, then a correctional facility, and now is a center for art, culture, and history where visitors can tour the grounds, learn about the history of the complex, and visit the museum and artist's studios.
- Teen activities during the quarter are summarized below:
 - Twelve teens, accompanied by departmental staff members, visited Morgan and Coppin State Universities on October 21 while on a college tour.
 - Takoma Park teens participated in an X-BOX tournament in the Teen Lounge on November 4. They had a round robin tournament featuring Madden 2011 and NBA 2K11. On November 7, staff presented the two winners with a first place ribbon, an X-BOX crown, and each winner received a gift card to Regal Movie Theaters.
 - On November 12, the Teen Program staff escorted teens to the College Expo at the University of Maryland College Park which consisted of 300+ schools from around the nation. Staff took high school juniors and seniors so that they could connect directly with

colleges to find out information about potential schools and programs. The Expo also provided access to scholarship programs.

- On Tuesday November 22, Takoma Park teens, along with M.A.N.U.P. Program volunteers, delivered canned food, ten pounds of potatoes, turkeys, and two sacks of onions to the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington D.C. Fourteen teens that took part delivering the items to the food bank where they were distributed on Thanksgiving.
- During “Creative Teen Week” staff challenged the teens to use their creativity. The girls began with nail art. Staff provided nail polish paint which then gave them a chance to design their own nails. In addition, teens designed t-shirts with fabric glue paint, glitter, beads, and more.
- The second annual Teen Talent showcase took place on Friday, December 9. This Talent showcase was non-competitive and provided teens who had never performed in front of an audience the confidence to do so. Nine acts, ranging from singing and spoken word to belly dancing and rap, performed. Refreshments were served after the event.
- Eight teens registered for the 2012 “Ski and Snowboard Night Club.” Takoma Park Recreation Department staff will escort these teens to Liberty and Whitetail mountains during five trips taking place from January to March.
- A holiday party took place in the teen lounge in December. This party was for teens and pre teens. During the party teens listened to music, enjoyed refreshments, and played bingo. Prizes included gift cards, basketballs, winter accessories, beauty products, refreshments and more.
- Sports activities were a major part of departmental activities during the quarter. A summary of program offerings is provided below:
 - The “Go Deep” flag football program really took flight with over 30 participants. Games were non-stop fun, and each player was challenged throughout the season. Sportsmanship was one of the themes during this program. All participants finished the season excited and looking forward to the spring program.
 - Participants in the outdoor street hockey program were able to enjoy the beautiful weather as the games were held outside on the basketball court. This program was popular and averaged 20-30 participants each week. Due to overwhelming response by parents and participants, the Outdoor Street Hockey program was extended two weeks.
 - The department’s tennis clinic gave players the opportunity to perfect their backhand and forehand strokes while engaging in a volleying competition amongst their peers. Every week each player was given a specific skill to work on outside of the clinic. This program was full with a wait list and has proven to be popular with parents.

Participants in the tennis clinic proudly participated in First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” exercise initiative. Time was set aside during both the 3:45 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. sessions to see how many jumping jacks could be completed prior to exhaustion. The 3:45 p.m. session (ages 7-9) had 15 participants (13 youth and 2 adults); they were able to achieve a total of 20 jumping jacks a piece. The 4:45 p.m. session (ages 10-12) had 11 participants (9 youth and 2 adults); this group was able to complete 25 jumping jacks each. Results were submitted to the White House.

- The Recreation Department found many spirited and dedicated volunteers to serve as coaches, game clock attendants, officials, and scorekeepers for the Winter Basketball League. On Tuesday, November 22, the Recreation Department hosted its 2012 Winter Basketball Coaches Meeting. The event was held at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center. A total of 38 coaches participated. During the meeting, the overall structure of the league was explained; this included practices, games, rules, philosophy of the league, and coach's feedback.

On December 6, the department hosted the "FUNDamentals of Coaching Youth Basketball" Clinic. The event was held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. There were two Coaches Clinics, one for grades K- and the other for grades 3-8. With the help of Gary Weinstein, a Takoma Park "Legend" and Frank Simpson, Head Basketball Coach/Athletic Director at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, the Recreation Department hosted a successful basketball clinic. The two coaches spoke on the importance of teaching youth the game of basketball while having fun! They went over tips and tricks to make practices easy and worry free. There were two "hands on" sessions which allowed the coaches to play the role as players and coaches. All coaches walked away with hand books and articles to help them become a better coach.

The Takoma Park Recreation Committee hosted a walk-in registration event for the 2012 Winter Basketball League at the Community Center in December. Games began on January 7.

- The quarter brought lots of activities to the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center, as described below.
 - Jazzercise had another successful month in November at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Jazzercise was offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. This class combined the art of Jazz with the science of exercise physiology. Approximately 18 – 22 participants attended each class.
 - The department's FutSal Program continued to be popular. FutSal had 25 – 40 youth and teen participants each week in the month of November. This program was offered in collaboration with the Capitol Community Soccer Club and was organized by Recreation Center staff.
 - A special demonstration was performed by Isshin-Ryu Karate from Okinawa. Sensei Paul J. Cote, Renshi-Go5, served as the guest instructor.
 - Double Dutch had another successful month in November. This program had eight participants who learned the fine art of Double Dutch.
 - The Takoma Park Recreation Center has a Fitness Room with 13 pieces of cardiovascular equipment (stair climbers, ellipticals, treadmills, upright bikes and recumbent bikes) as well as dumbbells and other strength enhancing equipment. A total of 40 people took advantage of their memberships to the fitness room during October, November, and December.
 - The pumpkin carving workshop was a haunted hit. On Thursday, October 27, youth were entertained by carving and decorating pumpkins. There were many designs created such as ghosts, goblins, and other scary characters carved into the jack-o-lanterns. Youth ages 5 – 12 participated in this activity.

- On Monday, October 31, Takoma Park Recreation Center offered a Teen Fitness program. The program assisted in agility, flexibility, and strength. The teens were excited to test their skills with center fitness guru, Cedric Brickey.
- Pure Muscle demonstration classes were offered on Thursdays during the month of November at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. The time of the class was from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This class focused on building strength and toning muscles in the arms, abs, and legs. After the demonstration classes, actual program classes were held on Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- On Tuesday, November 22, Kidz City participants held their annual Thanksgiving party. Great fun was had by all!
- A new session for Zumba began on Wednesday, November 30. There were 13 participants registered for the intense workout. Class met on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 9:15 a.m. Zumba helped participants achieve long-term health benefits.
- A chess program was offered for youth ages 6-17 on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The program introduced chess fundamentals like identifying the chessmen and learning chess terminology.
- On Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., karate/self defense classes were offered. The classes promoted physical fitness, self defense, leadership, and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu. This program was free for ages 14 years and up.
- On Tuesday, December 20, the participants in Kidz City held their holiday party. Participants finished decorating their classroom, sang holiday songs, and watched holiday movies. Great fun was had by all.
- In December 2011, City Manager Barb Matthews announced her selection of Gregory Clark as the City's new Recreation Director. Mr. Clark had been serving as Interim Recreation Director since the departure of Debra Haiduven in August.
- Eric Rasch, Recreation Manager, successfully completed the Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE). IRE is a collaborative effort between George Washington University and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. On hand to congratulate Mr. Rasch and the other graduates were Recreation Director Gregory Clark and Mayor Bruce Williams, who chairs the IRE Advisory Board.
- Departmental outreach efforts during the quarter included the following:
 - The Recreation Department participated in the Takoma Park Street Festival and supervised the carnival games. One recreation staff person, along with two volunteers, provided information about Recreation programs in the kids section. Special promotion was placed on the upcoming 2012 Winter Basketball League.
 - Eric Rasch, Recreation Manager, was invited to speak to parents at Piney Branch Elementary School on Wednesday, October 19. The school held an "English for Speakers of Other Languages" outreach event; the event was held in the evening. Translators spoke to parents directly in Amharic, French, and Spanish through wireless devices. Approximately 50 parents attended the event.

- Recreation Department administrative staff joined the Takoma Park Recreation Committee in discussing recreation and leisure services during the October, November, and December meetings.
- During the month of November, Lew McAllister, Sports Coordinator, visited the Takoma Park Middle School cafeteria during the children's lunch break to discuss participation in Recreation Department programs. Specific efforts were placed on recruiting middle school participants for the Winter Basketball League.
- During the month of December, Alice Sims (Recreation Committee member and a member of the Board of Directors of Art For The People) worked with part-time recreation staff member Miguel Dean to promote art opportunities to children that could not afford typical art class fees. Ms. Sims and Mr. Dean visited school counselors to identify youth that could use assistance with program fees and that were interested in participating in an art class. This outreach was successful in several ways as it strengthened relationships with the schools and introduced participants to an art program at the Community Center.