JULY 4

City offices closed for Independence Day

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

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

JULY 4

No Yard Trash Pickup

Published by the City of Takoma Park www.takomaparkmd.gov JULY 2011

Council Registers Concern Over Hospital Move

By Virginia Myers

Washington Adventist Hospital is all but approved to move out of Takoma Park and out to a new location in White Oak, but the City Council is still pressing for details and assurance that the hospital will continue to provide primary and urgent care at the smaller health care facility it will leave behind.

At its May 31 meeting, City Council passed a resolution outlining its concerns about the hospital's move, and the Village of Education, Health and Wellbeing it plans to establish on the old campus in Takoma Park. Chief among those concerns: the continued availability of affordable care for low-income patients; access to in-town, 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service; and a guaranteed and continuing advisory role for the community as the hospital makes plans to meet the City's health care needs. The city's WAH Land Use Committee echoed these concerns at the council's June 13 meeting.

As currently outlined, the Village of Education, Health and Wellbeing, a health center WAH intends to establish on its former campus on Carroll Avenue, will include primary and urgent care services, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services, and a behavioral health clinic. Health professional classrooms will support a partnership with Washington Adventist University and its nursing program.

Primary care services would be provided through a partnership with Mary's Center, a non-profit, non-religious organization that provides integrated health care, education and social services to low-income families. Mary's Center has an existing facility on Flower Avenue, where it serves more than 3,000 low-income and uninsured patients each year.

The City's resolution will be considered by the Maryland Health Care Commission as it decides whether or not to grant the hospital a Certificate of Need, the final hurdle before construction. The Commission will hear from some stakeholders in July, before its decision.

Providing Care in Town

At the May 31 meeting, WAH president Joyce Portela assured City Council that the hospital has the City's best interests in mind. Pointing out the hospital's 100-plus-year history in Takoma Park, she said, "We take that legacy very seriously. Taking care of Takoma Park residents and their health care needs is very, very important to us."

City Council, which has submitted comments twice before and been disappointed by the lack of detailed response from WAH, remained circumspect. Constituents, members said, have been clear that they want 24-7 health care in town. Takoma Park resident Pat Loveless, a perennial presence at City Council meetings, spoke movingly of his own need for round-the-clock facilities.

Limited by health issues and speaking

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Photo by Rick Jenkins

Sammy Levine, a bassist from the Jazz Academy of Music in Silver Spring, was just one of the many musicians at the well-attended Takoma Park Jazz Fest June 5, held in the streets of Old Town.

Takoma Prepares for Fantastic Fourth

For at least 121 years, Takoma Park has celebrated Independence Day in grand style, with a parade and fireworks. This year, the 122nd, the City will roll it all out again with the theme, "Living the Green Life."

The City's parade, one of the oldest on the Atlantic coast, is known for the quirky entries and political statements of floats and marchers who represent the distinctive style of Takoma Park: artsy, irreverent and activist. In fact, among the prizes for best floats is the "Wacky, Tacky Takoma Award." But tradition has long anchored the event, and in ad-

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Photo by Laurie Step p

Last year's parade floats included this one, from the Farmer's Market.

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

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, July 4 – City offices closed for the Independence Day Holiday

Tuesday, July 5 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Monday, July 11 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Monday, July 11 – Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, July 12 – Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Rose Room)

Tuesday, July 12 – Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, July 12 – Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Wednesday, July 13 – Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (Council Conference Room)

Thursday, July 14 – Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, July 18 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, July 19 – Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Thursday, July 21 – (tentative) Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, July 26 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, July 26 – Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, July 28 – Takoma Junction Task Force meetin, 7:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

The City Council will be on recess from July 26 until Tuesday, September 6.

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

Notice on ADA Compliance
The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

VISIT WITH THE MAYOR

Bruce Williams

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular hours on Tuesday: by appointment from 2 - 5 p.m., with walkins from 5 - 7 p.m.

To schedule a meeting, contact Peggye Washington at 301-891-7230 or peggyew@takomagov.org.

City Council Action*

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

May 16, 2011 – Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2011-20 was adopted, adopting the Fiscal Year 2012 Tax Rate (ABSTAIN: Robinson)

First Reading Ordinance 2011-21 was adopted, adopting the Fiscal Year 2012 Stormwater Budget (Council voting as the Stormwater Management Board)

First Reading Ordinance 2011-22 was adopted, adopting the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

May 23, 2011 – Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2011-20 was adopted, adopting the Fiscal Year 2012 Tax Rate (NAY: Robinson)

Second Reading Ordinance 2011-21 was adopted, adopting the Fiscal Year 2012 Stormwater Budget (Council voting as the Stormwater Management Board)

Second Reading Ordinance 2011-22 was adopted, adopting the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

First Reading Ordinance 2011-23 was adopted, establishing a Facility Reserve

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- **Resolution 2011-26** reappointing Jim DiLuigi as the Historic Takoma, Inc. representative to the Facade Advisory Board and reappointing Caroline Alderson as his alternate.
- **Resolution 2011-27** awarding a contract for replacement of the Public Works boiler

May 31, 2011 – Special Session

Resolution 2011-27 was adopted, requesting conditions in the Certificate of Need Application filed by Washington Adventist Hospital to relocate to White Oak in proceedings before the Maryland Health Care Commission, Docket No. 09-15-2295.

CITY CLERK *Briefs*

2011 City of Takoma Park Election – Important Dates

Nominating Caucus – Tuesday, October 4, 2011 (participants must be registered to vote)
Registration Deadline to Vote in the Election – Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Election Day – Tuesday, November 8, 2011

For information about registering to vote, running for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org .

Are You Prepared to Participate in the Nominating Caucus on October 4 and Vote in the November 8, 2011 Takoma Park Election?

Nominating Caucus - Tuesday, October 4, 2011
Election Day - Tuesday, November 8, 2011

All Takoma Park residents wishing to participate in the Nominating Caucus on October 4, 2011, or vote in the November 8, 2011 City Election must be registered voters at an address in the City. Voter registration information is available on the City's website or by calling 301-891-7267. Takoma Park residents who are not United States citizens may contact the City Clerk's office at 301-891-7267. If you are already registered through the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or with the City Clerk (for non-U.S. citizen residents), you do not need to do anything further.

¿Está Preparado para Participar en la Reunión Electoral de Nominaciones el 4 de Octubre y para Votar en la Elección Municipal el 8 de Noviembre?

Reunión Electoral de Nominaciones - Martes, 4 de Octubre
Día de Elección - Martes, 8 de Noviembre

Todo residente de la Ciudad de Takoma Park que desee participar en la reunión electoral de nominaciones el 4 de Octubre del 2011 o votar en la elección municipal el 8 de Noviembre del 2011, deben ser votantes registrados con una dirección municipal. Información sobre inscripción electoral se puede obtener en la página web de la Ciudad (www.takomaparkmd.gov) o puede llamar las Oficinas de la Municipalidad al 301-891-7214. Residentes que no son ciudadanos estadounidense pueden llamar la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al 301-891-7267 (en Español llame al 301-891-7214). Si está registrado con la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery o con la Secretaria Municipal (para residentes del la ciudad que no son ciudadanos estadounidense), no necesita hacer nada más.

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

A tenant contacted the Mailbox indicating that his refrigerator had been inoperative for two weeks. He noted that he had contacted his landlord both by phone and in writing, having sent his landlord a letter by certified and regular mail two days after the refrigerator stopped working. The tenant wants to know what his rights are in this matter.

The tenant in this situation would be advised to consider taking the following steps to seek resolution of the problem:

- Contact the Montgomery County Housing Code Enforcement Office at 240-777-0311 to report the problem and schedule an inspection by a housing code inspector. The inspector, after confirming the code violation, will provide the landlord with an abatement order deadline which, if not met, will be followed by the issuance of a municipal infraction (fine) and the scheduling of a court date; and
- File a complaint with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) requesting a specific remedy. In this scenario, the tenants' options include requesting that COLTA (1) require the landlord to immediately repair or replace the refrigerator; (2) seek reimbursement for a reduction in service from the landlord; and (3) seek a reimbursement for documented expenses incurred during the period the refrigerator was inoperative, such as grocery and restaurant bills.

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

Liz Lerman: Making Her Mark Nationally and Locally

By Kevin Adler

Liz Lerman was already well on her way to making her mark in modern dance when she decided to move The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange to Takoma Park in 1997. For more than 20 years, the Exchange had been creating unique works that blended movement, language, photography, and other media. Lerman and a shifting company of dancers had probed deeply into both personal exploration and social commentary—literally changing what was considered possible for professional dance by incorporating performers of wide age ranges, sizes, shapes and abilities.

Constantly exploring ideas onstage is one thing, but constantly having to find studios for rehearsals and classes is another. After renting numerous spaces in DC for many years, Lerman decided it was time to find a permanent home. She chose a square brick building on Maple Avenue, just outside Takoma Park's Main Street commercial district. "I saw immediately that the space had possibilities," Lerman said of the former post office she leased and later purchased and renovated.

It was an excellent match. The city gained dancers of national status to anchor its arts community, and The Exchange was welcomed by a city that appreciated its cerebral and innovative approach. "Takoma Park has been known for designating itself as a Nuclear-Free Zone—which is funny and also not so funny at the same time," said Lerman. "The same can be said about the core of the Dance Exchange. Our performances can be humorous or offbeat, but the content of our investigations is very serious. It's one reason why Takoma Park has been a good fit for us."

Now that relationship is changing, as Lerman exited The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange on July 1 (now renamed The Dance Exchange), in order to focus on other dance and teaching projects. Company member and choreographer Cassie Meador has become the new artistic director, and Lerman will be "choreographer emerita."

"Liz Lerman is irreplaceable. She's a visionary, she laid the groundwork for The Dance Exchange, and her presence will always be here," said Emily Macel Theys, Dance Exchange's communications manager. "But she is leaving on her own terms, and the organization is poised to grow and flourish. That's the legacy she wanted to create."

The legacy includes influencing the lives of dancers and audience members—and, sometimes, audience members who become dancers. "No one who participates in a Liz Lerman Dance Exchange performance as a dancer or viewer goes away unchanged," said Eliot Rosen, chair emeritus of the Exchange's board of directors. He should know, having performed several years ago at the behest of his teenage daughter at Jacob's Pillow, America's premier modern dance venue, in a Lerman production.

Serving Takoma Park

In Takoma Park, much of The Exchange's impact in the last decade has been through engaging a new generation of dancers. "The Exchange is a warm, loving, supportive environment," said Takoma Park native Sadie Leigh Rothman, who danced with The Exchange from the age of eight through her high-school years. "It's not a dance teacher shouting out the steps that you then had to follow."

Now a fourth-year student majoring in dance at the University of Maryland, Rothman uses techniques and ideas she learned from Lerman and former Assistant Artistic Director Elizabeth Johnson to choreograph for her classes. "Liz developed a 'Toolbox' of techniques, which helps you find ways of translating bits of life around us to dance. They might be text, human interaction, gestures, improvisation," Rothman said.

Yet, the influence is deeper than dance. "Liz is a brilliant choreographer, but she believes in a collaborative process and in getting input from everyone," said Rothman. "Listening to people shows you how to grow to be a good human being. The Liz Lerman technique is a live-a-good-life technique."

Cedric Davis was 14 when he joined the Lerman Teen Exchange, and he continued to dance with the Community Exchange through his senior year at Blair High School. "In Liz Lerman's classes, I always heard, 'I want to see how you move when I suggest this or I ask this question,'" said Davis, now 25 and living in Burlington, VT. "I learned so much—I had a part in generating movement even when I was dancing in another dancer's piece. I dance everywhere, even walking down the street!"

Funny that Davis should mention dancing in the street because, over the years, Lerman danced in Takoma Park's streets, parking lots, and parks. On one memorable occasion, dancers swarmed across sidewalks and front yards—at one house, playing off the back-and-forth swish of a sprinkler system. "We danced in the July 4th parade, and we danced on our loading dock, and so on," said Lerman. "Folks were very tolerant here; it was the attitude that, 'Oh, it's the Dance Exchange, and that's okay.'"

In the future, the Dance Exchange intends to be a more-visible presence in the community through performances and increasing the number of classes led by the company's seven dancers and adjunct artists, said Wayles Haynes, lead artist for the Teen Exchange. "We are trying to find more ways of serving, and being served by, the community," she said.

From July 18-22, Haynes will lead a summer intensive workshop for teens that will explore what it means to do site-specific work. "We will wander the city, find a location that we think is fabulous, and develop a work," she said. Then, in the fall, she will revive the Youth Exchange for dancers age eight to 12, which has been dormant for a few years, as well as start another season of the Teen Exchange.

Other activities will include two one-week Summer Institute workshops for adults in July and August and shorter workshops throughout the year. As an example of programming, The Exchange last spring held a map-making workshop in which participants were given parts of maps, which they then ripped or cut, and then put back together in different ways—thus developing ideas about boundaries, both real and political. Additionally, The Exchange's long-standing work with older citizens will remain a major activity, both directly and through training programs organized with sponsor The MetLife Foundation.

Starting on July 21, Dance Exchange plans to sponsor an event every Thursday evening at the studio, said John Borstel, humanities director for the Dance Exchange. At least one of those events each month will be led by Exchange members, who might present a work in progress. Other events might be a lecture about dance history or a panel discussion about art and social issues. "We see many opportunities to link the dance community with storytellers, writers, musicians, and other artists in the area," said Borstel.

Borstel is now working on a presentation for December that he's calling Nutcracker Confidential. He envisions an evening of tales by dancers about their experience in various Nutcracker ballets. "Every experienced dancer has been in The Nutcracker at some point, and there's always story to tell. We'll dish the dirt and have some fun with the sour side of sugarplums," said Borstel.

Meanwhile, Haynes has a festive idea of her own in development. She and other dancers will adopt 1940s hairstyles and clothing and have a sock-hop. "It's peripherally about art, but it's not too serious," she said.

Breaking the Mold

Breaking the seal on some cherished notions about ballet and modern dance has been part of Lerman's magic since she be-

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LERMAN

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gan her company. In 1975, she was teaching seniors at the Roosevelt for Senior Citizens in DC, when she decided to create a dance about her mother's death. The dance, Woman of the Clear Vision, broke the mold by incorporating both professional dancers and Roosevelt residents. She eschewed the idea that dancers had to fit a particular physical model or that reaching age 30 meant the end of a vibrant dance career. "People have credited me with getting old people to dance," said Lerman at a celebration of her work on June 15 at the AFI Silver Theatre. "But old people have been dancing for thousands of years."

Lerman might be right that old people—all people—have danced for a long time. Her genius was to make everyone aware of it. "Liz Lerman had such an important impact on making dance accessible to so many people," said Helen Rea, a Silver Spring resident who was a dancer and dance instructor with Lerman in the 1970s and '80s and currently teaches Movement Improvement at Crossings in downtown Silver Spring. "The philosophy she nurtured in me is that everyone can dance, that we can bring out the 'inner dancer' in each of us."

Lerman and her colleagues also broke ground on what themes a dance could address, and how spoken word and image could complement movement. The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange has tackled everything from the Nuremberg Trials to baseball to the Human Genome Project. In Spring 2011, the Exchange performed The Matter of Origins, a dance and discussion to probe physics, concepts of infinity, and scientific inquiry. The Origins shows ended with tea parties in which audience members, dancers, and university scientists mingled in imitation of soirees thrown by Edith Warner for physicists at Los Alamos in the 1940s as they worked on developing nuclear weapons.

Yet, after more than 100 original dance and theatrical works and accolades for Lerman such as a 2006 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, it's easy to miss the point that "genius" does not guarantee financial stability, especially in the arts. The Exchange has had its financial ups and downs, and that's where Takoma Park's support also made a difference. Local landlord and developer John Urciolo saw The Exchange perform for the City Council soon after it arrived in Takoma Park, and he said he was "captivated that it could show how you can show anything through dance and movement." He joined the Board in the late 1990s and was instrumental in helping Lerman come up with a plan to purchase and renovate the studio. Takoma Park resident and then-State Sen. Peter Franchot, now Maryland's Comptroller, moved through bond bills to make the projects happen.

With dedicated supporters and devoted fans and participants, all indications are that The Dance Exchange will continue to break new artistic ground. Hammock, which will debut this fall at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, is described as "confront[ing] notions of restlessness in a hyper-driven society." It will include a work for the stage, a gallery installation and a site-specific happening that might take place in Takoma Park. Meanwhile, Meador is preparing How to Lose a Mountain for next spring. She will walk 500 miles from her Takoma Park home through Virginia and into West Virginia's coal country, performing with artists along the way, to examine energy usage and the impact of energy production.

"The world is changing so rapidly, and big issues are on the table—from the environment to immigration, and much more," said Lerman. "I want Cassie and the company to take Dance Exchange wherever they want it to go, and I want other people to take seriously whatever emanates from the studio."

Finally, Lerman's career is defined as much about the questions she asked as the works she produced. Fittingly, then, she offered a question or a challenge for Takoma Park residents to contemplate. "There are a lot of people in Takoma Park who care deeply about the state of the world. That's their life's work, their professional commitment," she said. "But I also believe it's as valuable for the over-professionalized person to engage artistically with the world … as a way to generate understanding. That's the challenge for many people in Takoma Park."

Deadline for Property Tax Relief Sept. 1

Many homeowners in Takoma Park are eligible for property tax credit: all it takes to get a break on property taxes is for them to file, and meet all requirements. Applications for Homeowners and Renters' Property Tax credit are still available for the 2011 tax year; the deadline for filing is September 1.

The tax credit program is designed to help low or fixed income home owners or renters, by limiting the amount they must pay in property taxes each year. To receive the tax credit, the application, with supporting documentation, must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation every year.

Home Owners' Tax Credit

The maximum property assessment eligible for the credit is $300,000, which means that even though a home may be assessed for an amount over this, it's only the first $300,000 of the assessed value that will be counted for this credit. To qualify for the program, individuals must meet these basic requirements:

- Must own or have legal interest in the property
- Must be a principal residence
- Net worth, not including the value of the home or qualified retirement savings/accounts, must be less than $200,000
- Gross household income cannot exceed $60,000

Renters' Tax Credit

As renters, residents may be eligible if they meet certain guidelines. This is because the state has determined that a certain portion of rent payments are used to pay property taxes. Rental credits are calculated according to total household income (gross income before deductions). To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Rental unit must be principal residence for a minimum of six months and the applicant must be the lease holder
- Eligibility guidelines are different for applicants who are 100 percent disabled or over 60 years old, than for those who are under 60 years old. If under 60 years old, applicants have to have had at least one dependent under the age of 18 living with them during 2010 and they cannot be receiving federal or state housing subsidies. Income limits for the renters' tax credit program are more restrictive (e.g. under 60 years, in a household of two, cannot exceed $14,787 gross annual household income)

To obtain an application for a homeowners' or renters' property tax credit, call 800-944-7403, go to www.dat.state.md.us/datweb/taxcredits.html or call Linda Walker, 301-891-7222.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST

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from his wheelchair, he thanked WAH for saving his life at its in-town facility: "If I had to have gone all the way to the other side of the county when I had this massive blood clot, I would not be holding this microphone today," he said. "I would be in a pine box. It's [because of] the close proximity to expert medical care that I was able to survive."

Identifying himself as one of the individuals who would be considered unable to pay full hospital costs, he added, "I hope that the poor people as well as the rich have equal access to medical care. Equal access is what we need."

Indeed, many in the community would prefer to have WAH stay put, and residents as well as councilmembers related their positive experiences with WAH hospital care here in town. But WAH maintains it cannot remain a viable institution in its present location, which is hampered by a lack of space for expansion.

Moving Forward

If the tentative agreement with Mary's Center works out, care for under-insured and uninsured patients will be available. Because the Center is a Federally Qualified Comprehensive Healthcare Center, it can take more Medicaid and Medicare patients without losing its financial viability. The Mary's Center agreement has not been finalized, however, pending financing for its anticipated move to WAH.

Meanwhile, WAH is continuing to make plans for its new campus in White Oak. The $468 million project would be set on 23 acres, and include 281 beds, an emergency room, a center for spiritual life and healing, outpatient care facilities and a lakeside walking trail. It is near the FDA, and the hospital plans to partner with the agency in health research and medical innovation initiatives.

Although most observers expect the required Certificate of Need to be granted and construction to go forward, the plans, as they stand, are not universally popular. Dimensions Healthcare System, a nonprofit organization with three hospitals in Prince George's County, objects to the relocation because it could draw insured patients away from Dimensions facilities. Other parties, such as Casa of Maryland and IMPACT Silver Spring, have been supportive, praising the hospital for providing health care to low-income and uninsured people, particularly immigrants.

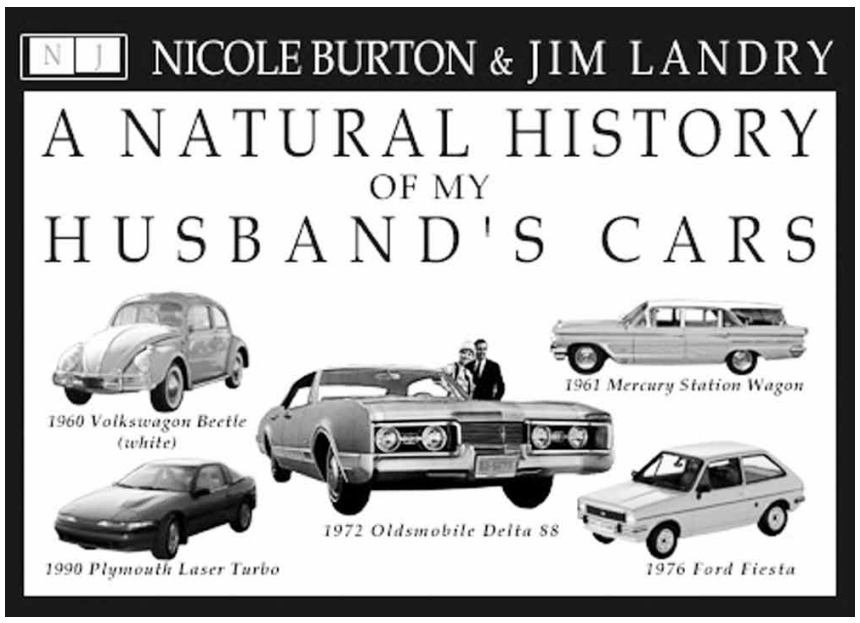
TAKOMA *Arts*

Painting the People of Takoma Park

To paint a picture of Takoma Park, artist Carollyn James turned to the residents—because really, isn't the character of a place determined by the people who live there? The result: 100 original portraits of Takoma Park residents and workers, designed to reflect the diversity of gender, age and ethnicity in the City. James' take on the 2010 census will be on display at the Takoma Park Community Center's Atrium Gallery through July and August. For a bigger sampling of what you'll see, go to takomaparkaportrait.blogspot.com.

The History of a Man, Told Through Cars

Multimedia performance premiers in Takoma Park



From his mother's '61 Mercury station wagon, in which he drove himself to piano lessons at age 12, through the '62 Volkswagon Beetle ragtop, the '72 Oldsmobile and the pocket-rocket '90 Plymouth Laser, Jim Landry has owned nine cars and each has a story. Now he has teamed up with his wife, playwright Nicole Burton, to tell each one in A Natural History of My Husband's Cars.

"A ride through one man's automotive life and times," the 75-minute, multi-media performance weaves together stories, photographs and original music, along with the social history of each of the cars. The event is part of the We Are Takoma series, and will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Admission is free, with a $15 suggested donation.

Jim Landry is a photographer, painter, and musician whose work has been exhibited many times in Maryland. He's a musical collaborator with poet Anne Becker and author of the photo-blog, MusicFromTheFilm.blogspot.com.

Nicole Burton is an award-winning playwright, whose recent play, Fred and Frieda, performed to sold-out houses at the Greenbelt Arts Center last year. She's also the author of "Swimming Up The Sun: A Memoir of Adoption" published by Apippa Publishing.

For more information about the upcoming performance, call 301-891-7224 and/or visit www.nicolejburton.com.

Weekly Music at Open Mic Mondays

A new gig has rolled into town, and it features, well, anybody who wants to get up and play. Which, in a musician-filled town like Takoma Park, is quite a number of folks.

Open Mic Mondays will be hosted by Rob Hinkal of the band ilyAIMY

The Open Mic Mondays at Everyday Gourmet began Memorial Day weekend, and are held each Monday from 7 to 10 p.m. at the newly-renovated restaurant, 6923 Laurel Ave. Once a bakery/sandwich shop, Everyday Gourmet has been transformed into a bar/restaurant with more than 20 beers on tap, a full menu and, on Mondays, a lively music scene. The first two sessions attracted 15 and 18 musical acts, and an audience of 40 or 50.

The open mic concept, with a host who invites musicians to sign up to give short performances, typically includes a mix of established, professional musicians as well as amateurs and those just beginning to build careers. The new Open Mic, hosted by Rob Hinkal of the band ilyAIMY and sponsored by the well-connected House of Musical Traditions, just down the street, welcomes banjos, guitars, washtub basses, melodicas, didgeridoos, flutes, poets, scribes, and dancers with family-friendly material – but no drum kits. A sound system is provided.

Sign-ups begin at 6 p.m., performance slots are 10 minutes or two songs, and performers must be 21 or older or include an adult in the performance.

For more information, call 301-910-2575 or email rbo@ilyaimy.com.

Merrill Leffler Named New Poet Laureate

City Council voted June 13 to name Merrill Leffler the new poet laureate for the City. Leffler, who will hold the office for two years, is the City's third poet laureate, taking over from Ann Becker.

Leffler is a long-time member of Takoma Park's literati, and an active participant in all things poetry. He organized poetry and fiction readings at the Library in the 1980s, and has been involved with the Library's Favorite Poem Evening, now in its 12th year. He founded the Spring for Poetry project with his wife, Ann Slayton, in 2005.

Leffler is founding director of Dryad Press, teaches poetry at various institutions and is anticipating the publication of his new poetry collection, "Mark the Music," this fall. Read more about Leffler and the poet laureate program in next month's newsletter.

FOURTH OF JULY

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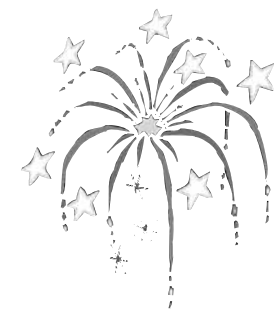


dition to entries like the Scottish Reels Precision Push Reel Lawn Mower Drill Team (last year's Wacky Tacky winner) there are perennial home-town favorites like the Washington Adventist University's acrobats, the Washington Revels musicians and actors and the eye-popping calypso band, as well as uniformed veterans, school bands and cheerleaders, boy scouts and girl scouts, baseball teams and masons and local politicians riding antique cars.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen avenues, and heads toward Old Town on Carroll, then right on Eastern to Maple and on to the Community Center, where a reviewing stand of judges awaits. This year's master of ceremonies is "Texas Fred," the Zydeco cowboy.

Following the parade, a community barbeque is hosted by former Takoma Park resident and basketball celebrity, Steve Francis, from noon to 6 p.m. at the corner of Lincoln and Maple avenues. A wiffle ball tournament sponsored by the Takoma Park Recreation Committee will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Lee Jordan Field; teams of friends, family and neighbors can register up to July 4 by calling 301-891-7290.

By evening, the City is gearing up for the fireworks. At 7 p.m., music and entertainment at the Takoma Park Middle School field will include Rizzy King of Harmony, the Acro-Airs acrobats and the Takoma Park Community Band. Parade winners will be announced, and patriotic songs and the national anthem will precede the big draw: fireworks, at 9:30 p.m.

All Independence Day festivities are organized by the all-volunteer Independence Day Committee, with help from the Mayor, Council, and Department of Public Works. They are funded through donations and raffle ticket sales as well as City contributions. To volunteer or to donate, call 301-588-1635.

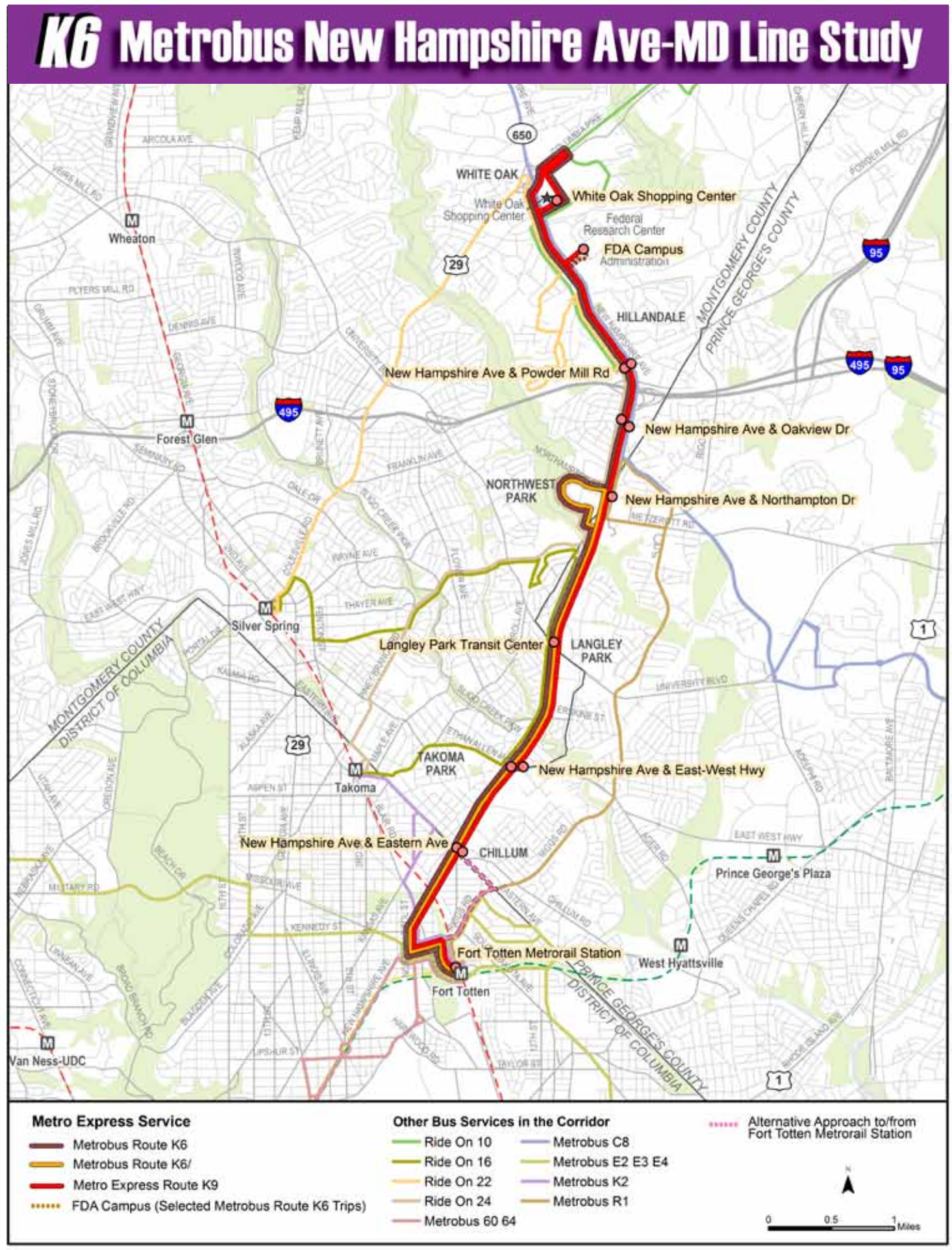
Metrobus Route K6 Recommended for Limited-Stop Service, Other Improvements

Over the past few years, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA, or Metro) has been studying ways to make needed improvements to its network of more than 150 Metrobus routes. Working closely with state and local transportation agencies, WMATA began the series of Metrobus studies with its most popular line – the 30s routes in the District of Columbia, with around 20,000 riders per day – and has expanded the series to routes in suburban Maryland and Virginia.

In early 2010, it was the K6 route's turn for a makeover.

The K6 serves about 5,800 Metrobus riders on an average weekday along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor from White Oak Shopping Center in Montgomery County to Takoma Park and the Fort Totten Metro Station in the District of Columbia. WMATA selected it for review because ridership on the K6 is among the highest of the Metrobus routes in Maryland, and because regular passengers on the route have complained of persistent problems with service such as a lack of reliability, buses bunching up on the route and buses becoming crowded at certain times of day.

The result of the study is a set of recommendations that will be brought to the WMATA Board. Assuming that the recommendations receive the board's approval, K6 riders can expect improvements to take place in several phases over the next few years, including better supervision of the line, enhanced communications, updated information for passengers, limited-stop service and a restructuring of the route that would allow more buses to travel the busiest parts of the corridor during the busiest times of day.



Public Involvement

To initiate the study, Metro teamed up with staff from the Maryland Department of Transportation (DOT), Montgomery County DOT, District of Columbia DOT, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and the City of Takoma Park. The team began the study by asking riders of the K6 what they think should be done to improve service on the line. For the rider survey conducted on April 21, 2011, the study team distributed thousands of paper surveys, at select bus stops on the K6 route and hung from the overhead railings on K6 buses. Riders completed their surveys while riding the bus and placed them in marked pouches, or mailed them later using a postage-paid bar code. The survey, offered in both English and Spanish, featured questions about the quality of buses, bus stops and bus drivers; safety and security; and service enhancements that riders would like to see. While the paper survey was a one-day only effort, an on-line version was available for two months afterward on the project website, www.metrobus-studies.com.

In all, 296 rider surveys were completed and returned: 256 on paper and 40 on line. One of the most reported issues was the frequency with which K6 buses arrive; 22 percent of respondents said it was a significant problem that three or four buses often come at once and then none come for a long period of time. Tied into frequency and bunching is the issue of schedule adherence; many respondents said that the schedules are not helpful in knowing when a K6 bus will arrive. Overcrowding was also seen as a problem. Although 65 percent of respondents said they could find a seat on the day of the survey, 22 percent claimed that K6 buses are often too crowded. And 60 percent of respondents reported that they are "very" or "somewhat" concerned with safety and security on K6 buses and at K6 bus stops.

Not all of the news was bad, though. Most survey respondents rated the condition, comfort and cleanliness of K6 buses as average or above average, and a large majority of respondents rated their bus driver highly in terms of job performance. Finally, a large portion – 87 percent – of respondents said they would continue to use additional transit services on the K6 Line (such as a limited-stop route) if they were made available on the New Hampshire Avenue corridor.

In addition to the rider survey, Metro and its agency partners learned about the views of K6 riders at two public meetings in 2010. At the first one, in Langley Park in May, the study team reported the results of the rider survey and collected more input from riders about persistent problems and measures they wanted Metro to take to address them. At the second public meeting, in Takoma Park in October, the study team brought its preliminary recommendations for improvements and asked participants to comment on which ideas they liked and which they thought might be less effective.

The information that the study team received from the rider survey and public meetings guided the process of developing improvements to be evaluated, which, in turn, went into the recommendations now set to be voted on by the WMATA Board.

Recommended Improvements to the K6 – New Hampshire Avenue Line

The study team is recommending three types of improvements to the K6 Line: service, operations and traffic.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Add Service to the K6. Currently, only one Metrobus route serves the New Hampshire Avenue corridor from White Oak to Fort Totten: the K6. One of the quickest improvements to make is simply to put additional buses on the K6 route so that riders can be more evenly spread among them. This can be accomplished by giving K6 bus drivers more time to complete their runs (the study team's research showed that the K6 schedule is inaccurate because it doesn't account for increased traffic). Allowing more time for bus drivers to complete K6 runs means that a few more buses would be available to serve the route, which would help with issues of crowding and reliability.

New "Short-Turn" Pattern

Another service recommendation that can be implemented in the near-term is a short-turn route that would be called the "K6/". "Short turn" is another way of saying that instead of a K6 bus traveling the entire length of the K6 route, it would go up to a certain point, then turn around and go back to where it originated. This way, extra buses would serve the busiest part of the K6 corridor during the busiest times of day. The "K6/" would start at Fort Totten Metro and turn around at Northwest Park Apartments during weekday peak periods only, in addition to K6 buses that would continue to travel the entire length of the corridor. "K6/" buses would be put into service every 30 to 40 minutes to maintain the current schedule and help keep the frequency of buses more consistent.

New Express Service

Between 2007 and 2010, WMATA has had success with its new "Metro Express" bus services. The new routes include the 79 route on Georgia Avenue and 7th Street NW/SW; the 37 route on Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Avenues NW; the 39 route on Pennsylvania Avenue SE; the S9 along 16th Street NW; and the X9 along H Street and Benning Road NE. The buses on these new, faster services were painted a different color so they'd be easily identifiable and not confused with local buses. Metro has received favorable feedback from riders about the efficiency and time savings of Metro Express services, and is recommending one for the K6 corridor. This new limited-stop route, tentatively called the K9, would initially run in both directions during peak periods only. It would stop at nine major locations in the corridor: White Oak Shopping Center, the FDA Campus, Powder Mill Road, Oakview Drive, Northampton Drive, University Boulevard, East-West Highway, Eastern Avenue, and Fort Totten Metro. The new K9 limited-stop service would run in addition to existing local service, meaning faster travel times and more frequency at major stops along the corridor. Long-range improvements to the K9 limited-stop route may include midday, late evening, and weekend service.

New Zoned-Limited Service

This last recommended service improvement combines the limited-stop service with local service. It would run the full length of the corridor – southbound in the AM peak and northbound in the PM peak – stopping at all local stops between White Oak and Northwest Apartments. But, south of Northampton Drive, the zoned-limited service would stop only at University Boulevard, East-West Highway, Eastern Avenue, and Fort Totten Metro.

With all of the above recommendations in place, the K9 (limited stop – express service) would run every 10 minutes in both directions during the morning and afternoon peak periods on weekdays. The "K6/" (between Fort Totten and Northwest Park Apartments) would run every 12 minutes during the same time. The zoned-limited service would run every 20 minutes during peak periods in the peak direction, but would not run at other times. The existing K6 local service would continue with the current schedule during peak periods and be upgraded to run every 20 minutes off peak.

The cumulative effect of the recommended service changes is that Metrobus service on the New Hampshire Avenue corridor would offer new, faster services; greater reliability and adherence to schedules with more buses during the middle of the day at all stops and during peak hours at express stops; and less crowding on buses during the busiest times of day.

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

On top of new and restructured Metrobus routes on the K6 corridor, WMATA is recommending several operational changes to better manage the line and provide more communication with riders.

Enhanced Supervision

A technique that has been employed in the past by WMATA is to appoint a supervisor whose sole job is to manage a busy Metrobus line. In this case, a full-time supervisor would be put in charge of the K6 Line to ensure that buses are adequately spaced apart on the route, anticipate and solve service problems, and communicate with bus drivers. Supervisors are provided with a "playbook" of what to do when an issue presents itself on his or her appointed line.

Line-Specific Bus Driver Training

Another recommendation is to ensure that K6 Line bus drivers are adequately trained in how to handle recurring problems on the line. A driver-training module would be distributed so that drivers can refer to it when asked questions by riders about connecting routes, popular destinations in the corridor, service changes, and so on. The module would also contain up-to-date maps and other information specifically about the K6 Line.

Customer Service and Communications

Metrobus riders often comment on a need for updated maps, schedules and communication methods. The K6 recommendations call for new and improved route maps and schedules for the line, as well as the replacement of broken or missing information boxes at bus stops. Additional signage and more on-board customer information (particularly for riders with disabilities) are also recommended to improve the transit experience for K6 Line passengers. WMATA is also working on ways to improve its existing "NextBus" system of letting passengers know when the next bus is arriving on their route; the Authority is currently addressing technical issues that detract from the system's reliability.

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS

Apart from changes to service and operations, improvements to traffic conditions on the New Hampshire Avenue corridor are also critical for making the K6 Line run more smoothly. For these recommendations, WMATA would work with the state of Maryland and local departments of transportation to coordinate changes to the roadways on which the K6 travels.

Dedicated Transit Lanes

The first recommendation is for lanes on the road that are dedicated to transit vehicles. The study team's analysis showed that conditions are right for dedicated bus lanes on New Hampshire Avenue between the Beltway and University Boulevard (except the loop into Northwest Apartments). By reserving a lane in each direction for transit vehicles in this segment, the K6 Line would be less susceptible to delays caused by congestion and traffic incidents.

Traffic Signal Priority for Buses

Another potential improvement is for "signal priority," a technology in which transit vehicles would be equipped with devices that "talk" to signals as they approach, automatically triggering longer green light time so buses can get through the intersection. For the approximately 35 signals in the K6 corridor, this technology, combined with adjustments to signal timing, would help keep buses on schedule. (Further analysis is needed to determine costs and impacts to traffic on intersecting streets, but the preliminary recommendation is included in the plan being submitted to the WMATA Board.)

Signal Timing Adjustments

The study team heard from bus drivers and members of the public that the lights at certain intersections should be re-timed to prevent long queues from forming at intersections. In particular, heavy southbound traffic from Maryland into the District often creates bottlenecks during the morning peak. But adjusting the signals for more green time at seven intersections (six of which are along North Capitol Street and Riggs Road) would allow traffic to flow better. For this recommendation, WMATA would work with District DOT traffic engineers to determine the cost and impacts of the signal adjustments.

Intersection Improvements

And finally, the recommendations suggest that improvements be made to four intersections on the K6 corridor: Riggs Road and North Capitol Street, North Capitol Street and New Hampshire Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue and Southampton Drive, and New Hampshire Avenue and Eastern Avenue. Making modifications to these intersections would give buses more room to turn, and in some cases, allow bus drivers to enter an intersection before other vehicles on special "queue jump" lanes. These and other changes to the infrastructure to improve traffic flow would need further analysis and would be implemented in later phases of the project.

Metrobus K6 Line Improvements:

How You Can Get Involved

Support Improvements

If you support the implementation of these recommendations for improving the K6 Line, please write to Catherine Hudgins, the Metro Board of Directors Chair, and request that funding for the improvements be made a priority.

Contact: boardofdirectors@wmata.com, or to Catherine Hudgins, Chair, Metro Board of Directors, WMATA, 600 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

As this will also need to be prioritized by the County, comments should be copied to Montgomery County Council President Valerie Ervin, councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov, or by mail, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 and also to MC Department of Transportation Director Art Holmes, mcdot.director@montgomerycountymd.gov or by mail, Director of Transportation, MCDOT, Director's Office, 101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850.

Comment

Although the Metrobus K6 study is now complete and the recommendations are set to be reviewed by the WMATA Board, it isn't too late to offer your views on K6 service. Read the whole study on the project website at www.metrobus-studies.com.

Contact the Metrobus K6 project team by e-mail at info@metrobus-studies.com.

You may also contact jurisdiction members of the project team directly by e-mail:

Tom Webster of Maryland DOT at twebster@mtamaryland.com;

Gary Erenrich of Montgomery County at gary.erenrich@montgomerycountymd.gov;

Ilona Blanchard of the City of Takoma Park at ilonab@takomagov.org;

Bosa Ugo of Prince George's County at bugo@co.pg.md.us

July Recreation

Camp Takoma
Ages 6 – 12 (in Grade 1 starting September 2011)
Explore a new adventure with games, crafts, activities, trips and presenters related to the theme for the week. The fee for camp includes swimming, a camp T-shirt and trips. No camp on July 4.

TP Community Center
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
July 5 – 8**, Space Week
July 11 – 15, Pirate Week
July 18 – 22, Wild, Wild West Week
July 25 – 29, Mystery and Magic Week
Aug. 1 – 5, Circus Week
Aug. 8 – 12, Wet and Wild Water Week

Weeks 1, 3-7
TP resident $130
Non-resident $150

**Week 2
TP resident $110
Non-resident $130

Before and After Care
Campers in the following camps may enroll: Camp Takoma, TP Recreation Specialty Camps, TP Babe Ruth Baseball/ Softball Camp, Basketball and Soccer Camps. Activities include games, outdoor play and sports.

TP Community Center
June 27 – Aug. 12
Before Care 7 – 9 a.m.
TP resident $35/week
Non-resident $45/week

After Care 4 – 6 p.m.
TP resident $35/week
Non-resident $45/week

Visual Art Camp
Ages 11 – 14
Sharpen your drawing skills with a different theme each week by exploring new materials and exercising your imagination with inspiring art projects. Two hours of drawing in the morning using a variety of tools, followed by two hours of painting and/or collage and assemblage in the afternoon. Media such as watercolor painting, sumi-e, mixed media painting, texture and found-object assemblage. Trips to the pool, art-related movies, access to the game room and outdoor art adventures are included. All materials included. Maximum 12, minimum eight. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.

Art Room, TP Community Center
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Session 3, July 11 – 15
TP resident $280/session
Non-resident $310/session

Science Explorers
Ages 6 – 8
Examine the properties of water, find out how water pressure works, make ice cream the scientific way. The creative possibilities are endless in this camp. A swimming trip, special guest, outdoor play and game room round out this camp of exploration.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Session 1, July 18 – 22
Session 2, Aug. 1 - 5
TP resident $160/session
Non-resident $190/session

Video Producer Camp
Ages 12 - 16
Campers will produce a Public Service Announcement (PSA) from scratch, guided through each step of the process, implementing professional production techniques along the way. Imagination and creativity will be encouraged as each producer finalizes a project. Every camper will have the opportunity to work behind and in front of the camera, direct a scene, write a short script, edit video and discuss their involvement in front of a live audience at Viewing Day. Campers' final PSA videos will be broadcast on City TV. A swimming trip, special guest, outdoor play and game room round out this camp. Maximum 14, minimum six.

Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
July 25 – 29
TP resident $180
Non-resident $210

Teens On The Move
Ages 13 - 16
A balance of experiential learning, community service, fun activities and career development, Teens On The Move reinforces independence and allows teens to have a voice in the decision making process. Daily emphasis will be placed on exercising through sports, nutrition and team building while having fun in a challenging but safe environment. Includes the opportunity to earn SSL hours and take part in a variety of productive activities.
T Zone, TP Community Center
Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 pm
Week 1, July 5 - 8
Week 2, July 11 - 15
Week 3, July 18 - 22
TP resident $120/Week
Non-resident $140/Week

Summer Pre-Teen Tuesday
Ages 10 - 12
Let the adventure begin. Trips include swimming, roller skating, bowling, paddle boating, biking and more. Register for one trip or for all six. Fee includes all trips. Call Faye Wright for individual trip prices, 301-891-7283. Space is limited so register early.

T Zone, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, 12 – 4 p.m.
July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16
$60 includes all trips

Photo by Debra Haiduven.
T-ball parents stepped up to the plate to assist new players during the kick-off event at Lee Jordan Field earlier this summer.

Super Sports Camp
Ages 6 – 9 and 10 - 12
In addition to traditional sports, this camp exposes campers to new activities, helps them develop recreational skills and promotes social growth. A variety of sport, leisure and educational activities are included. Participants will be separated by age. No experience necessary to participate. Camp will conclude with sport challenges and game competitions. A swimming trip, special guest, outdoor play and game room round out this camp. All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately. Maximum 20, minimum 12.
Hodges Field (Behind TP Elementary)
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Ages 6 – 9, July 18 – 22
Ages 10 – 12, July 25 – 29
Ages 6 – 9, Aug.8 – 12
TP resident $160/session
Non-resident $190/session

Dribble, Pass and Shoot Basketball Camp
Ages 6 - 12
Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this camp. Campers will be provided with the tools that will allow each participant to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each participant. This camp will enhance the skills of your child on the hardwood.

TP Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Aug. 15 – 19
$200/week

Rookie Sports Camp
Ages 3 - 5
Have the little ones join us for a week of fun activities including T-ball, soccer, kickball, relays and more exciting daily events. Sessions take place in a safe, structured environment and sports are played through a series of games and activities. All the sports promote hand-eye coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills. Our goal is to teach boys and girls to enjoy playing for the sake of the sport itself. No experience necessary to participate. All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately. Maximum 20, minimum 12.

Hodges Field (Behind Takoma Park Elementary)
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Session 1, June 27 – July 1
Session 2, July 11 – 15
Session 3, Aug. 1 – 5
TP resident $80/session
Non-resident $100/session

Summer Dungeons and Dragons
Ages 9 - 18
A bit more fast and loose than our usual sessions. We'll try high level characters, or playing as monsters or super heroes, World War II zombie apocalypse—whatever people are most interested in. Feel free to bring a snack. Instructor Dave Burbank. Maximum 15, minimum five. Four weeks.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Session 1 July 7 – 28
Session 2 Aug. 4 – 25
TP resident $35/session

RECREATION continues on page 9

RECREATION

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Non-resident $45/session

Basic Puppy Obedience
Puppies six months and younger
Socialize your puppy and begin training basic obedience commands. You will learn how to teach your dog sit, down, come, stay and stand. Learn loose leash walking and husbandry. Problem behaviors such as nipping, barking and jumping will be addressed. Must have proof of rabies vaccine. Six weeks. Minimum five, maximum 12.

Heffner Community Center
Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Session 3, July 26 – August 30
Saturdays, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Session 2, July 16 – August 20, 2011
TP resident $85/session
Non-resident $105/session

Basic Dog Obedience
Dogs six months and older
Teach your dog basic obedience and expand on any commands they already know, cover problem behaviors such as nipping, barking, jumping, lunging and digging. Learn loose leash walking, heel, distance stop, directional commands and tricks. Must have proof of rabies vaccine. This class in not appropriate for aggressive dogs. Six weeks. Minimum five, maximum 12.

Heffner Community Center
Tuesdays, 8 – 9 p.m.
Session 3, July 26 – August 30
Saturdays, 3 – 4 p.m.
Session 2, July 16 – August 20
TP resident $85/session
Non-resident $105/session

July 4th Wiffle Ball Tournament
The Takoma Park Recreation Committee is partnering with the Fourth of July Committee to present its Second Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament, an activity the fills the time between the parade and the fireworks. All skill levels are welcome. Teams of family members and friends begin registration April 26. Modified rules. Maximum of five players on the field at the same time.

Lee Jordan Field
Monday, July 4, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
July 4
$10 per team (minimum five players)

Family Wiffle Ball League
This childhood classic is played with a 9" plastic ball and a 32" plastic bat. Teams can be made up of entire families or a mix of friends and neighbors. Organize your own team and challenge your Takoma Park neighbors. No major league skills required, just major league excitement. Teams are composed of youth and adults. Modified rules. Maximum five players on field at one time.

Lee Jordan Field
Sundays, 5 – 8 p.m.
July 10 – Aug. 7
$30 per team (minimum of five players per team)

Zumba
18 and older
The Zumba program fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a kind fitness program. The goal is simple: We want you to love working out, and to get hooked. Zumba helps you achieve long-term benefits while experiencing an absolute blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing movements. The routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Six weeks. Maximum 25, minimum five. Instructor Kimberly Pope.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Mondays, 7 – 8 p.m.
Saturdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
July 18 – Aug. 27
TP resident $60/session
Non-resident $70/session

Yoga for Beginners
Ages 18 and older
Come discover how to work with your body in a safe, gentle, non-competitive way which promotes increased flexibility, strength, balance and awareness. This class will introduce and develop the foundation of standing poses and basic actions in forward bends, back bends and twists. Each pose can be modified to accommodate all physical conditions. Please come with comfortable clothing (best to wear tights or shorts so instructor can view knees) and an empty stomach. Seven weeks. Instructor Carolyn Bluemle. Maximum 15, minimum five.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, 6 – 7:15 p.m.
July 12 – Aug. 23
TP resident $75
Non-resident $85

Yoga and Meditation
Intermediate level
Ages 18 and older
Iyengar yoga teaches stability and openness through alignment so that the flow of energy and the focus of the mind are found in each pose. This class will include inversions and more advanced poses and an understanding of basic alignment. The practice of postures in yoga is traditionally a preparation for meditation. Some time for seated meditation will be included at the end of class. (Chairs and cushions are available). Seven weeks. Instructor Carolyn Bluemle. Maximum 15, minimum five.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
July 12 – Aug. 23
TP resident $75
Non-resident $85

Photo by Debra Haiduven.
George Hawkins makes the best of a hot day on the courts, juggling oranges from a skateboard.

Silver Foxes For Active Adults Over 55

Do you remember those bowling parties you enjoyed in your youth? Let's revive those good old days and be kids again. Have fun, get a little exercise, and challenge your buddies to a friendly game of duck pin bowling. Bring spending money for the cost of game and shoe rental. Meet at the TP Community Center. Transportation is provided at no cost for seniors. Pick up at Franklin and Mapleview apartments, and Victory Tower only.

Wednesday, July 20

12 – 3 p.m.
The day and time may change; check the July Silver Foxes Newsletters.
$3 senior rate: per person/per game, and $3.50 shoe rental.
Registration required. Call 301-891-7280 to pre-register, then fill out form by 7/15 /11 or earlier.

Silver Foxes Seniors Advisory Group Meeting

Ages 55 and older

Are you interested in having a say in your recreation program? We are looking for Senior volunteers from the community to join the advisory group. Come to an open forum and get involved. For more information, call Paula Lisowski, 301-891-7280.
Senior Room, TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.
Friday, July 15
12—1 p.m.
Drop-in. Free.

Golden Corral, Walmart, Dollar Store

Ages 55 and older

Back by popular demand, we will travel to the Golden Corral to enjoy an American food buffet. After our meal, we will visit your choice of a Walmart store or a Dollar store in Frederick for a little shopping. Bring spending money for lunch and shopping.

Meet at TP Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Friday, July 8
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$8.95 plus tax per person.
Bus pick up at Franklin and Mapleview apartments, and Victory Tower only.
Registration is required. Call 301-891-7280 to pre-register, fill out form by 7/6/11 or earlier.

Summer Game Show: The Price is Right
Ages 55 and older

Have you been watching other people win games on television over the years and wish you could play to win? Now is your chance. Paula and Faye of the Recreation Department will act as hosts for our interpretation of popular television game shows such as The Price is Right, Let's Make a Deal, Family Feud, Name That Tune and other favorites. Come and play!
Tuesday, July 12
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Free. Call-in registration only is required, call 301-891-7280.

Baltimore Museum of Art

Ages 55 and older

The Baltimore Museum of Art's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of well-known artists including Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Paul Cezanne and Vincent Van Gogh. Spend the day viewing the museum's art collection as well as the sculpture garden. Bring spending money to buy lunch at the museum's "Gertrude's" restaurant. The museum is air-conditioned. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Meet at TP Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Thursday, July 14
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Free
Bus pick up at Franklin and Mapleview apartments, and Victory Tower only.
Registration is required. Call 301-891-7280 to pre-register, and then fill out registration form by 7/8/11 or earlier.

Graphic Novels Take Reading Beyond Words

By Karen MacPherson

Want to try a different kind of reading this summer that will give your brain an entertaining workout? Pick up a graphic novel.

Many kids already are fans of this genre, reveling in the "Bone" books by Jeff Smith, the "Babymouse" series by Jennifer and Matthew Holm, and "The Simpsons" comics by Matt Groening. Some adults, particularly those who enjoy superhero epics, also know how much fun it can be to read graphic novels. But many adults have never tried reading graphic novels, and may not even understand what the form is all about. Those adults include many parents who see how much their children enjoy reading comics, but are leery of the fact that these books have so many pictures. After all, once kids have learned to read, why do they need pictures?

Well, actually, "reading" pictures is a key skill to master especially in our highly visual world. In addition, take the cliché that a picture is worth a thousand words, then think of adding text to that picture and processing it all. It's really quite a brain workout.

Allyson Lyga, a Maryland media specialist and author of "Graphic Novels in Your Media Center: A Definitive Guide," says that, "educationally-speaking, graphic novels give the brain more of a workout per sentence than any other type of media, including conventional books. That's because as the reader takes in a graphic novel's print and art through a series of panels, word balloons and captions, the reader's brain is bombarded simultaneously with the graphic novel's characters, setting, plot and action."

Here's the bottom line, as drawn by graphic novel expert Robin Brenner, creator of the "No Flying No Tights" website about graphic novels: "Graphic novels are not and were never intended to be a replacement for prose. Sequential art is just another way to tell a story, with different demands on the reader. So, yes, graphic novels don't work exactly the same way that traditional novels do, but they can be as demanding, creative, intelligent, compelling and full of story as any book."

Okay, you may be ready to try a graphic novel. But how to choose –especially if you are a parent and wanting to guide your children to make the best choices?

Enter "The Comics Stacks," an erudite and witty blog written by Dave Burbank, library assistant, graphic novel guru and Summer Quest creator. In "The Comics Stacks," you can read reviews of the latest graphic novels (Dave is focusing on kids' books right now, but will be reviewing adult graphic novels later in the summer) and also access lists of suggested graphic novels for all ages. There's even a list of links to great websites about graphic novels. Here's the link to Dave's blog: http://comixtakoma.wordpress.com/.

It's definitely worth checking out whether you're a graphic novel fan or you're just trying to figure out what's all the brouhaha about graphic novels. If you have questions about graphic novels, Dave is always happy to help. Give him a call at the library, or send him an email. And don't forget our popular "Comics Jam" programs. During the school year, we offer our "Comics Jam" on Wednesday afternoons after school. In the summer, however, we've scheduled them for Monday evenings so families can come together.

Our first summer "Comics Jam" is Monday, July 18 at 7 p.m. Come and join us, as we read comics on the big screen, courtesy of our Friends of the Library group. It's a great way to give graphic novels a try, and see why so many people love them.

LIBRARY *Briefs*

■ Because of the July 4 holiday, our "Bedtime Stories" program—normally held on the first Monday evening of each month—will be held on July 11 at 7 p.m. This program is perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups as we sing songs, do some fingerplays and movement exercises and read some stories. No registration required.

■ During the summer months, we're moving our monthly Comics Jam program to Monday evenings. Our first summer Comics Jam program will take place on Monday, July 18 at 7 p.m. This program is a fun way for families to share some entertaining reading together. Participants are welcome to bring a comic to share with everyone on our big screen. Dave Burbank, our comics guru and artist extraordinaire, will conclude the program by taking drawing requests. No registration required.

■ Our two Banned Books groups for kids will meet on Monday, July 25. The Junior Banned Books Club, open to kids in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades, will discuss "The Witches" by Roald Dahl at 6:30 p.m. The Banned Books Club, open to students in middle school and high school, will discuss "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain at 7:30 p.m. Our "Huck Finn" discussion will particularly focus on the recent efforts by one publisher to edit Twain's original book to eliminate references to racial epithets. Registration required for both clubs; to register, go to takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

Computer Center Welcomes Summer Visitors

When the temperature soars, the Library's Computer Center welcomes residents into the cool air-conditioning, where they do everything from polishing their resumes, learning to type and creating their own blogs and web sites. Staffer Phil Shapiro says many come to dabble in computer graphics and use free web sites for typing practice, and he says he'll pass along his own helpful tips on learning to touch type.

Parents will find educational web sites to explore with their young children; there are also photo programs and color printers. At the simpler end of the spectrum, Shapiro, and Saturday staffer Altaywork Zeleke, can help first-time computer users set up an email account, learn about twitter or solve basic computer queries. Residents with their own laptops can bring them in and use the free wifi, available throughout the Community Center.

The Computer Center is open Monday through Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m., except on three-day weekends. It is closed Sundays.

Book Sale Sets New Record

The clouds parted, and there was perfect weather for the Friends of the Library Book Sale on May 21. The event grossed a record $3,100, some of which went to pay helpers who transported books to and from the Historic Takoma facility and the Library.

Thanks to the following Library friends and staff who made the sale a success: Beth Baker, Pat MacMann, Judy Trieble, Suzanne Morgan, Lucretia Mejia, Nehemiah Malloy, Mary Rein, Anne-Marie Stroud, Walter and Rachel Mulbry, Maurice Belanger, Sam McCollin, Katherine Dixon Peugh, Nick Behe, Denko Fontem, Jake and Gene Miller, Sol Prensky, Rebekah Zanditon, Karen Boyer, Kay Daniels Cohen, Patti Ghezzi, Sylvie Shafer, Michele Morgan, Dave Burbank, Janet Jendrzejczyk, Karen MacPherson, Troy Fingal, and booksale coordinator and spiritual advisor Merrill Leffler.

Many thanks also to the members of Historic Takoma, who so generously allowed us to use their space in the months preceding the sale.

Big Book Club to Discuss John Fowles' Masterpiece

Now is the time to begin warming up for the Friends' Reading Group discussions of "Daniel Martin" by John Fowles. These will begin in late September or October, and will be led by reading enthusiast John Fowles, addicionado, and scholar Kelly Cresap. Cresap summarizes, "'Daniel Martin' concerns creativity and passion regained in mid-life. One day Daniel receives a call from a long-estranged friend from his Oxford student days, and soon finds himself face to face with people –as well as ideals and aspirations – he has spent many years actively avoiding…In the style of Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina,' 'Daniel Martin' opens with a philosophical premise: 'Whole sight; or all the rest is desolation.'"

When it was first published in 1977, W.H Pritchard wrote in "The New York Times Book Review": "This new, long, ambitious novel must be judged [Fowles's] best piece of work to date and is a masterly fictional creation, dense with fact…The themes and ideas of this new novel only emerge through the voice of a narrator of immense tact and charm."

"Time Magazine" also had fulsome praise: "…Few novels in recent years have been more thoroughly textured with contemporary history and more rigorously reluctant to offer pat solutions…Like Henry James before him, Fowles has created rarefied creatures free enough to take on the toughest question that life offers: How to live?"

Friends Reading Group discussions are open to all.

Takoma Park Library CALENDAR

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. You can register online by going to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or by calling 301-891-7259. Events take place in the Library unless otherwise noted.

Neighborhood Circle Time
Every Tuesday
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

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

Bedtime Stories
Monday, July 11, 7 p.m.
Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes in this half-hour program. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Comics Jam
Monday, July 18, 7 p.m.
Kids and grownups, come read comics on the big screen with our graphic novel guru, David Burbank.
No registration.
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 7:45 p.m.
In the Library.

Junior Banned Books Club
Monday, July 25, 6:30 p.m.
Our book is "The Witches" by Roald Dahl. Club open to kids in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Registration required.

Banned Books Club
Monday, July 25, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain.
Club open to kids in middle school and high school.
Registration required.

Friends Reading Group
Thursday, July 28, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is "Just Kids" by Patti Smith.
Hydrangea Room, Community Center. All welcome.

Traveling Players Present Moliere in Annual Performance

On July 14 at 7 p.m., the Traveling Players Ensemble will perform at the Community Center Auditorium for the third summer in a row, in a program sponsored by the Takoma Park Library and the Friends of the Library. This year the company's Middle School Ensemble will present a 45-minute adaptation of "The Forced Marriage" by Moliere.

At first, Sganarelle is very happy with his engagement to the lovely Dorimene. But when he gets cold feet, he must contend with loony philosophers, bad advice from friends and the young lady's unnervingly polite family. Can Sganarelle weasel out of tying the knot—or is it already too late? The show is appropriate for ages 6 and up. Registration is encouraged but not required. Register at takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

Police Offer Myriad Community Outreach Programs

From Day One, Police Chief Ronald Ricucci has championed community outreach as part of the Takoma Park Police Department's identity. Now the department's Community Outreach Program, or C.O.P., has grown to encompass 21 different ways in which officers connect with residents in an effort to reduce crime risk and create a safer neighborhood.

THE C.A.R.E. PROGRAM—CARING ABOUT RESIDENTS EVERYDAY—is geared towards the elderly and those with special needs who live alone. Residents who are registered check in with the police department daily; if they do not call, police will call them. If the resident does not pick up the phone, the police department sends an officer to the resident's home to check on their welfare. This program is to protect those in need and to bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who cannot check on the registered residents on a daily basis. To participate or register someone for the CARE program, contact Cpl. Cynthia Conrad, 301-891-7140 or cconrad@takomagov.org.

THE CHILD SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM is designed for people who are unsure about whether their child's safety seat is installed properly; if you are not sure whether the seat is secured correctly, an officer at the police station will be happy to check for you and install it.

THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD is a group of City residents that meets on a regular basis to discuss community issues and how the police department can be of service. The Board is chosen by the police chief, from among volunteers.

THE CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY is a group of community members who are educated about different functions and components of the City's police department. An upcoming academy is scheduled to begin in October 2011.

THE CITIZENS ON PATROL PROGRAM involves residents who patrol a designated area of their neighborhood on a regular basis. Residents who participate in this usually participate in the Neighborhood Watch program as well.

THE "CLICK-IT OR TICKET" CAMPAIGN is held during the month of May to raise awareness of the importance of wearing a seatbelt and using the proper child safety seats while operating or riding in a motor vehicle.

Mounted Police Remember Fallen Colleagues

Several Takoma Park Police officers rode to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. to honor police officers who have died in the line of duty, as part of the Montgomery County Memorial Bike Ride in May. From left, Andrew Gucciardo (Crime Analyst), Pfc. Walter Smith, Cpl. Jerome Erwin, Roberto Rojas (Parking Enforcement Officer), and Pfc. Jeff Demuth.

THE COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION LIST is an email listserv in which citizens can enroll and receive crime alerts and events hosted by the police department through email and/or text messages. If you would like to be added to the police department's listserv, contact Cathy Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomagov.org. In addition, the Department has a Facebook and Twitter pages.

THE "CELEBRATE SAFE COMMUNITIES" AWARENESS PROGRAM is used to promote programs in which citizens can actively participate to ensure safer neighborhoods. It is usually conducted during the month of October, which is National Crime Prevention Month.

HOUSE CHECKS are a service offered to residents who will be away on vacation for a lengthy period of time (usually one week or more). A police officer responds to the residence on a daily basis to ensure no crime (such as burglary) has occurred to the residence.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM is open to anyone interested in offering their services to the department. Those who would like to complete community service/internship hours at a police department are encouraged to apply.

THE "MOVE IT!" AWARENESS PROGRAM is designed to educate residents to move their vehicles out of the roadway when there has been an accident; there they can exchange driver, vehicle and insurance information with each other in a safer place, without disrupting traffic.

THE "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" COMMUNITY EVENT, which takes place every August, is intended to bring members of the community together and to raise awareness on crime prevention. It includes food, activities and information tables.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM establishes groups of residents who work together to keep their specific neighborhoods safe. Each group acts as an extra set of eyes and ears for the police department within their neighborhood and reports all suspicious activity immediately to the police department. Most groups have informal get-togethers monthly or six times a year to strengthen the sense of community.

THE OPERATION IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM involves residents marking all their valuables with a specific ID number and writing down all serial numbers of valuables; the numbers are then kept by the police department for identification, should property be stolen. A sticker is provided to participants to display on their doors/windows to notify individuals of their participation in the program, making it less desirable for criminals to burglarize those residences. This is a proven, cost-effective way to deter criminals from burglarizing citizens' homes.

THE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM gives residents the opportunity to ride in a marked police cruiser alongside a patrol officer to observe the daily duties of an officer.

THE SAFER SENIORS PROGRAM gives the police department a way to reach out to the elderly population within the community, encouraging them to contact the police department with their concerns and request assistance when needed. It includes seminars, held by request, on being a "safer senior."

SECURITY SURVEYS (residential or commercial) show the strengths and weaknesses of security measures like fences, locks and alarms at residences and retail businesses. The surveys are conducted by an officer trained in preventive security, and that officer provides information on how to reinforce safety at home and at work.

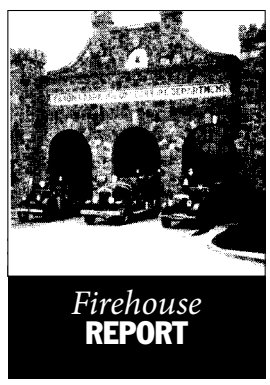
THE "TAKE 25" AWARENESS PROGRAM is celebrated each May, and nationally recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It raises awareness of child safety and encourages parents to take 25 minutes to educate their children in the importance of personal safety. Informational pamphlets about the program are available at the police department.

THE V.I.N. ETCHING PROGRAM includes an annual event during which citizens can bring their vehicles to the police station to have their Vehicle Identification Number etched on various, discreet vehicle parts. This is a cost-effective way to deter criminals from stealing citizens' vehicles.

THE WATCH YOUR CAR PROGRAM gives police officers a way to ensure your vehicle is not being driven by an unauthorized driver. Participants display a sticker in the vehicle window, so both officers and criminals know you are participating in the program.

THE YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM allows positive interaction between police officers and the youth through weekly visits to various youth programs within the City and presentations, by request, at local schools. It addresses various safety topics and is designed to help young people make smart choices.

For more information on any of these programs, contact Officer Carla Magnaye, 301-891-7121 or carlam@takomagov.org.



Firehouse **REPORT**

By Jim Jarboe

As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue assigned to the station have responded to 297 fire-related incidents. The department addressed or assisted with 1,197 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,494 this year. Totals for 2010 were 318 and 1,382, representing a decrease of 206 incidents.

It's Still the Law: All Fireworks are Illegal in Montgomery County

Every year thousands are treated in hospital emergency rooms throughout the country for injuries caused by fireworks. This holiday season, don't take the chance. Don't buy or use any type of fireworks. Let the professionals handle them. This year, enjoy them with your family at the Middle School in the 7600 Block of Piney Branch Road. They will start at sun down, around 9:30 p.m. A special note: Possession or use of any fireworks can result in a fine up to $1,000 and/or a sentence of six months in jail.

Tips for Safe Grilling

One of the great pleasures of summer is eating and cooking outdoors with family and friends. The popularity of this activity is attested to by the great number of outdoor grills sold each year. Such grills can be fun to cook on and provide delicious food, but they can also be dangerous. None of them are foolproof, and all should be handled with care.

Four important tips:

l. Never leave food cooking unattended.

2. Keep children away from all cooking equipment.

3. Soak the coals when you finish.

4. Cooking on apartment balconies is against the law.

Takoma Park Lions Club Receives Five Star Award

At the 89th Multiple District 22 Convention held in May, the Takoma Park Lions Club received the award for Publicity, Community Service, Club Bulletin, Leadership, Blood Collection, Eyeglasses Collection and Visitation.

Used Eyeglasses Needed

The Takoma Park Lions Club collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids to be recycled or sent for use by people in developing countries. Residents may donate these items at the Takoma Park Library or the Takoma Park Fire Station. Financial donation may be sent to the Takoma Park Lions Club, P.O. Box 11226, Takoma Park, MD 20913.

READY TO BABYSIT

The popular babysitting training course graduated another class May 23: seated, from left, Lilly Thompson, Lily Montgomery, Max Kittner, Kira Goo; standing, from left, Maaike Laanstra-Corn, Hadley Baker, Elizabeth Cove, Lucy Kelliher, Talia Stern. The course is sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Takoma Park Recreation Department, under the leadership of Jim Jarboe, and assisted by EMT Mike Livingston, TPVFD, and Officer Carla Magnaye, TPPD. A very special thanks to Donna Moran for filling in the place of Sandy Egan, who retired from the Baby Sitter training program after many years.

TAKOMA PARK CALENDAR - JULY 2011

Do you have an item for the City calendar? Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to most City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the May issue is April 18. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

CITY OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, July 4
City Offices Closed for the Independence Day Holiday

PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Council Meeting
July 5, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council Meeting
July 11, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council Meeting
July 18, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council Meeting
July 26, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Second Fridays Coffee House
July 8, 8 – 10 p.m.
Seeker's Church, 276 Carroll St.
Folk music series - $15

The Forced Marriage
July 14, 7 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The Traveling Players Ensemble middle school troupe will present a 45-minute adaptation of Molier's play. See page 10 for more information
Free

Comics Jam
July 18, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
See page 10 for more information

CCE-MAD Week Faculty Concert
July 20, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Irish music from the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Musical Arts and Dance Week program, with 19 Irish-music musicians and dancers
$20 adults; $15 children

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Summer Dungeons and Dragons begins
Thursdays, beginning July 7
Takoma Park Community Center
See page 8 for more information

Zumba sessions begin
Mondays and Saturdays, beginning July 18
Takoma Park Community Center

City TV Features Jazz Fest, Covers Parade

Tune to City TV this month to enjoy the guitar music of Frank Vignola, the horns of Jen Krupa and Leigh Pilzer, the percussion of Chuck Redd, the rhythm of AfroBop and many more artists, as June's Takoma Park JazzFest replays throughout the month.

City TV will also cover the Independence Day Parade—look for cameras along the route, at the viewing stand, and at the fireworks show.

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

See page 8 for more information

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Independence Day Parade
July 4, 10 a.m.
Through Old Town and Historic Takoma
See page 1 for more information

Independence Day BBQ
July 4, 12 – 6 p.m.
Lincoln and Maple avenues
Hosted by Steve Francis

July 4th Wiffle Ball Tournament
July 4, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Second Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament
Teams of family, friends and neighbors
See pages 6-7 for more information

Independence Day Program and Fireworks
July 4, 7 p.m., fireworks 9:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
See page 1 for more information

Dress-Up at Spring Park
July 14, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Corner of Polar and Elm avenues
Sponsored by the Takoma Park Plays Committee
Free
Takomaplays.org

Playful Yard Sale
July 16, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
7301 Maple Ave.
Fundraiser for the Takoma Park Play Committee

Dinosaur Dig
July 23, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Heffner Park, 42 Oswego Ave.
Dinosaur Dig at Heffner Park
"Traveling play group" featuring a local paleontologist
Free

SENIORS

Duck Pin Bowling
July 20, 12 – 3 p.m.
Meet at the Takoma Park Community Center
Fee
See page 9 for more information

Golden Corral, Walmart, Dollar Store
July 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Meet at Takoma Park Community Center
Fee
See page 9 for more information

Baltimore Museum of Art
July 14, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Free
See page 9 for more information

ONGOING

Takoma Park Farmers Market
Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Laurel Ave.

Open Mic Mondays
Mondays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Everyday Gourmet, 6923 Laurel Ave.
House of Musical Traditions-sponsored showcase
Sign-ups, 6 p.m.
Free

Crossroads Farmers Market
Wednesdays, 2:30 – 6:30 p.m.
7676 New Hampshire Ave.
Near the corner at University Blvd.

All Student Art Show
Montgomery College Department of Visual Art and Design
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus - The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Fine Art Center
930 King Street
240-567-6821

UPCOMING

2011 Takoma Park Election Nominating Caucus
Oct. 4
For information about registering to vote, running for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org .

2011 Takoma Park Election Voter Registration Deadline
Oct. 11
For information about registering to vote, running for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org .

2011 Takoma Park Election Day Nov. 8
For information about registering to vote, running for office, or voting in City of Takoma Park elections, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org .

SILVER SPRING - TAKOMA THUNDERBOLTS BIG LEAGUE DREAMS SMALL TOWN CHARM

THUNDERBOLTS 2011 SEASON HOME SCHEDULE

Home games are at Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium
51 East University Blvd., Silver Spring

Admission:
Adults, $5;
Children under 18, $2
Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 get in FREE

Mon. – Sat. 7 p.m.
Sun. 6 p.m.
Sun. double headers 5 p.m.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT
Saturday	7/2	Alexandria Aces
Sunday	7/3	Baltimore Redbirds
Thursday	7/7	Vienna River Dogs
Friday	7/8	Rockville Express
Tuesday	7/12	Herndon Braves
Thursday	7/14	Youse's Orioles
Saturday	7/16	Rockville Express
Wednesday	7/20	Bethesda Big Train
Friday	7/22	Youse's Orioles
Saturday	7/23	Vienna River Dogs

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, a wooden bat league composed of nine teams in the D.C. and Baltimore areas. Top college players are recruited to play for the team. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. If you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-270-0794.

The team also runs baseball camps in June and July for boys and girls 7 to 15. Instruction is from Thunderbolts head coach Jason Walck, assisted by T-Bolts coaches and players, who emphasize baseball fundamentals, values and discipline, conditioning and healthy lifestyle choices. After camp, campers can attend evening T-Bolts games where they can cheer on their coaches. We provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch. Each camper gets a Junior T-Bolts T-Shirt. Remaining camps are July 5-8; July 11-15; and July 18-22, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The new location this year is St. Bernadette School, 80 University Blvd. East in Silver Spring, across the street from Blair High School. Cost is $195 per week. Go to the T-Bolts website, www.tbolts.org, for sibling and multi-year discount information, refund policy, and application forms, or call 301-270-0794.

For Quick City Service Use My TKPK

Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs

www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service