

Weekly Status & Information Report: July 26 - July 30, 2010

1. **New Sidewalk Construction:** Beginning August 2 and extending over the next three or four weeks, a new sidewalk will be constructed behind the Library and Community Center. The sidewalk will provide a safe and ADA accessible pathway from Philadelphia Avenue to Grant Avenue. Additionally, the sidewalk along Grant Avenue will be repaired and some additional sidewalk will be added. Repairs will also be made to existing sidewalk around the Community Center and Library on Maple and Philadelphia Avenues and to the curb ramps. The project is paid for through the Speed Camera Fund. Parking in the back of the Library and Community Center will be restricted during construction. *(Public Works)*

2. **Request for Demolition Bids:** The City of Takoma Park has issued an amended Request for Bids for the demolition of a 2½-story, stick-built single family house that was condemned following a structural fire. Bids are due by 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2010. Bid packets are available online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/> or by contacting the Housing and Community Development Department at 301.891.7255. *(Housing and Community Development)*

3. **Tax Preparation Assistance Offered at TESS Center:** If you need assistance with tax preparation, you may contact the TESS Center, located at 8513 Piney Branch Road, to set up an appointment. The Tax Assistance sessions take place on Tuesdays and start at 9:00 a.m., at which time a pre-screening evaluation is done. Clients having all the documentation that is required will be referred on to staff who will assist with preparation for current or past due tax years (2005-2010). As the number of clients seen at each session is limited to 10, please call early for an appointment at 301-565-7451. Interpreters will be available on a limited basis or the taxpayer is free to bring an adult to assist them. *(Housing and Community Development)*

4. **Free Financial Education Workshops:** The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Community Action Agency are co-sponsoring free financial education workshops that will take place at the Silver Spring Library located at 8901 Colesville Road in Silver Spring. The topics to be discussed are: "The Wise Use of Credit," 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on August 16; "Building a Basic Budget" from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on August 9 and 23; and "Understanding Bankruptcy" from 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. on August 7. For further information or to register, contact Elvie Lancaster at 301-565-7456 or e-mail Elvira.Lancaster@montgomerycountymd.gov. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. **Community Legacy Grant 2011 (City-Wide):** Housing and Community Development Staff attended the Community Legacy training offered by the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization to learn about the upcoming grant round. This year, only capital project funds are available. Application deadline is September 1. In addition, 50% of project funds will need to be expended within the first year of the grant. As with last year's round, a demonstration of project readiness is essential. During the next two weeks, staff will be exploring potential projects for submission, soliciting plans and letters of commitment from commercial businesses and property owners that have expressed interest in accessing beautification/facade grant funds. The feasibility of other projects will also be explored. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. **Cultural Events Coordinator - Accepting Applications:** The AHC is seeking a Cultural Events Coordinator to assist in its efforts to provide a variety of free cultural events to the community (music, dance, film, spoken word, etc.). The selected individual would serve as the key point of contact for programming, solicit and review proposals, and assist in marketing and coordinating selected events. This is not a paid position; an honorarium will be awarded. Deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 30. For more information, please check online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/auditorium/CEC%20Notice%20with%20Description%202010.pdf>. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. **"We are Takoma" - Call for Program Proposals:** Are you interested in playing before an audience? Looking for a venue to hold the premiere performance of the new play you just finished? Want to share your storytelling talents with the community? Have you just wrapped up the filming of your latest documentary or new short? If so, consider submitting a proposal to the Arts and Humanities Commission for "We are Takoma," a series of free programming to begin this fall at the Takoma Park Community Center. We want to be sure to include you in the mix. Throw caution to the wind and give it a shot! We'd love the opportunity to work with you to bring your talents to the community. Additional information can be found online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/auditorium/Program%20Proposal%20Form%202010.pdf>. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **High Seas Adventure:** Week five of camp was a great adventure on the high seas. Jolly Roger week was filled with excitement as campers swashbuckled a pirate from taking over camp, sang pirate songs, and danced on a real pirate ship with Urban Pirates in Baltimore, plus found hidden treasure following a treasure map and made their own boats and telescopes to continue the adventure. Week six is Super Hero week. Explore that super power you have to save the world! *(Recreation)*

9. **Little Rookies:** Rookie sports camp was full this week with 10 little rookies ready to learn the basics of soccer, basketball and T-ball. Not only did they learn about these sports, they also had a little fun with obstacles, parachutes, relays and skills challenges. *(Recreation)*

10. **Battle of the D.J.s is Right Around the Corner!:** On August 6, the Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Street Outreach Network, will host a Battle of The D.J.s showcase for teens. This will be held at Ed Wilhelm Field and will begin at 5:00 p.m., and end at dark. Youth will display their skills in the selection of music, the intended audience, the performance setting, the preferred medium, and the development of sound manipulation. Come on out and enjoy the fun! *(Recreation)*

11. **Four Days Of Fun!:** Teens and pre-teens engaged in four days of fun at the Community Center as they headed to the Crofton Go Karts, MLK Pool, Dave and Busters, and the 3D version of Despicable Me. In addition to the field trips, the request for in-house movies with popcorn and a Wii tournament was obliged in the teen lounge during the week. *(Recreation)*

12. **Summer Quest:** Two hundred forty-three kids are now enrolled in the Library's Summer Quest summer reading program. Thus far 730 books have been read by participants. Summer Quest is created by Dave Burbank and funded by the Friends of the Library. *(Library)*

13. **Comics Jam!:** On July 29, Dave Burbank visited the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center's Summer Camp participants for a special "Comics Jam" interactive program. This was the second of three programs funded by the Friends of the Library as part of a recent outreach effort. They have also given books and a special book cart to kids at the Center. Comics Jam will return to the Library on Wednesday, August 18, at 3:00 p.m. *(Library)*

14. **Traveling Players:** All are invited to a special theater performance by the Traveling Players, a Northern Virginia-based group that trains middle school students in drama, and travels through the greater Washington area during the summer. On Thursday, August 12, at 7:30 pm they will present a special comic adaptation of a play by the French dramatist Moliere in the newly renovated City auditorium. The performance is aimed at kids ages 8 and up, but can be enjoyed by adults as well. *(Library)*

15. **Spanish Circle:** This year Spanish Circle Time with Senora Geiza continues throughout the summer - every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. Thanks to the Friends of the Library. *(Library)*

16. **National Night Out:** On August 3, the City of Takoma Park Police Department will be hosting the annual National Night Out Activities from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Essex House, 7777 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. National Night Out is a nationally recognized celebration. National Night Out is a time for community members to come out of their homes, meet their neighbors, local police officials and other governmental representatives. *(Police)*

17. Officers in Training:

- On July 27 and 29, the Police Department began physical fitness testing and defensive tactics training for all sworn officers as a part of their health and wellness program to reduce injuries on the job.
- On July 30, Sgt. Andrew John graduated from the IACP/Montgomery County Leadership Training. This is the fourth supervisor in our department to graduate. Captain Coursey is one of the instructors for this intense training program. *(Police)*

18. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 91 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, three vehicle impounds and three Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests from traffic.

During July 22-28, 2010, the following details were completed:

July 22, 2010

- 1000 block of East West Highway (speeding) - conducted a 3-hour detail and issued 13 State citations for speed and seven other State citations.
- Kentland Avenue & East West Highway (no left turn) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued six State citations.

July 23, 2010

- 1000 block of University Boulevard (Safety Equipment Repair Orders) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued two State citations and two Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SEROs).

July 26, 2010

- 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue (various violations) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued four State citations and one Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO).
- Maple Avenue & Sherman Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued three Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SEROs).
- 1000 block of East West Highway (speeding) - conducted a 2½-hour detail and issued nine State citations for speed and eight other State citations.
- Kentland Avenue & East West Highway (no left turn) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued five State citations.
- East West Highway & New Hampshire Avenue (various violations) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.

July 27, 2010

- 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue (various violations) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued five State citations for speed and one Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO).
- Wildwood Drive & Anne Street (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- Hammond Avenue & Anne Street (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.

July 28, 2010

- Kentland Avenue & East West Highway (no left turn) - conducted a 2-hour detail and issued eight State citations.
- 1000 block of East West Highway (speeding) - conducted a 4-hour detail and issued 18 State citations for speed, eight other State citations and one warning.

(Police)

19. Traffic Officer Stats (Cpl. Michelle Holmes):

Week ending 7/24/10

Hours worked: 20

Calls for service: 1

State Citations issued: 48

Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SEROs) issued: 2

Warnings: 1

City tickets: 1

Reports: 2

Court: 2.5 hours

(Police)