

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of September 27, 2004**

1. **Stormdrain Installation (Ward 1):** The stormdrain installation for Maple Avenue is scheduled to begin October 18 and last 4 weeks. PW has notified Metro Bus, Ride-On, and Montgomery County Schools of the planned work as well as the Fire Department and Police Department. The road will be closed from 7:30am to 5pm each day during construction. There will be no parking or travel during that time on Maple Avenue from Tulip to Philadelphia Avenue. PW will set up a detour directing traffic to Cedar Avenue between Philadelphia and Tulip Avenue. In addition, Old Philadelphia will be closed during the construction so it can be used as a staging area for fill dirt and gravel, storm pipe, and manhole covers. The staging area will be set up to enable those homes with a driveway on Old Philadelphia to have access to Philadelphia Avenue. Prior to construction, the contractor will be digging test pits to uncover and measure the depth of each of the utility house connections that will be crossed during the construction. This work is schedule to take place October 6,7,8. During the stormline installation, our contractor will be using heavy equipment to cut through the road surface but will be hand digging around the utility lines. Each day they will lay a portion of the new stormline and cover it. Traffic will be able to resume each day after 5 pm. PW will be hand delivering letters to the residents on Maple Avenue and Old Philadelphia Ave next week to give them the details of the project. PW will install no parking signs and road closed and detour signs prior to construction. Questions about the project can be directed to Daryl Braithwaite 301-891-7615 or Ali Khalilian 301-891-7620. (*Public Works*)

2. **Crime Report - Auto Thefts (All Wards):** More than half of all cars stolen in the State of Maryland are taken in Prince George's and Montgomery County. As the kick-off for Crime Prevention Month, the COP Team will be showing the Maryland Hot Car, a theft-deterrence demonstration vehicle at the Hampshire Towers (11-1) and Crossroads Shopping Center (2-4) on Saturday; at the Old Town Festival (10-4) on Sunday; and at the Washington Adventist Hospital (3-5) and on Maple Avenue (5:30 - 8) on Monday. Residents are invited to learn from a Sector Specialist how they can protect their own vehicle and reduce auto theft. Specialist are available to speak at community meetings on the topic. Stories will air on Univision and Telemundo about the car. (*Police*)

3. **Old Town Commercial Redevelopment Project - Ward One:** The exterior design of John Urciolo's commercial project and proposed parking facility were approved by the Historic Preservation Commission at its September 22 meeting. The developer is continuing to work with M-NCPPC staff to address other property and site plan issues. Parking requirements for the project and the overall Old Town area - sited within the Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone (CROZ) - will be considered during the Council's November 1 worksession. (*Housing and Community Development*)

4. **Gift of Trees (Ward 3):** On Wednesday, October 6 the Maryland DNR "Gift of Trees" Program will plant 30 trees and shrubs in a Takoma Park natural area by the corner of Sheridan Avenue and Hancock Avenue. The Gift of Trees program is an annual State DNR program that awards trees and volunteer help to applicants from various state jurisdictions. (*City Arborist*)

5. **Cultural Plan Survey:** The Arts & Humanities Commission has begun to survey area residents as part of the City's cultural planning process. The survey can be accessed on-line at www.cityoftakomapark.org. Hard copies of the survey will be available at the Municipal Building and the Library early next week. Residents interested in participating in a group discussion about the future of arts and humanities in Takoma Park are encouraged to email the AHC at AHC@takomagov.org for more information. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. **Planning Board Public Forum - (All Wards):** For the first time, the Planning Board is holding a public forum on its operating budget and potential public/private partnerships. To comment on what the priorities should be for M-NCPPC park and planning operations, sign up to testify by calling 301-495-4600, or send written testimony to mcp-chairman@mncppc-mc.org. The forum will be held October 21 at 7:30 pm at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

7. **Montgomery County Housing Fair - City Wide:** The Montgomery County Housing Fair will be held this Saturday, October 2nd, from 10 am - 4 pm at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. This will be a great place for Takoma Park residents, especially first time homebuyers, to access all types of information on purchasing a home. The HCD Department has been actively involved in the planning of the event and will be staffing a table in the exhibit area. The event has been publicized in the city newsletter and local media. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **Toatley Fraser Park Improvements (Ward 5):** An application was submitted to the Community Parks & Playgrounds Program for \$45,000 for improvements at Toatley Fraser Park. The requested funds are to complete park renovations that include landscaping, the installation of park furniture and a picnic pavilion. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. **Rent Stabilization Reports - City Wide:** Landlords subject to Rent Stabilization can now obtain blank rent report forms from the city's website www.cityoftakomapark.org. The report form can be printed out or, if the landlord prefers, the required rental information can be directly entered into the form from his/her computer. While the completed document must be printed out and submitted to the HCD office by mail or fax, we are developing an on-line submission process which would allow the information to be automatically be entered into the city's rents database. The current system requires staff to manually enter the information into the database. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. **Streambank Protection- (Wards 2 & 6):** Plans to do streambank protection work along the Long Branch stream east of Carroll Avenue will be postponed indefinitely. According to Park and Planning staff, erosion in the area has been monitored and does not pose a significant threat at this time. Since the area is difficult to access with heavy equipment, streambank restoration work will only be done if erosion worsens, or if

WSSC or others must also do some work in the area. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

11. **Old Town Residents Association (OTRA) - Wards 1 & 3:** City Manager Barbara Matthews, Chief Creamer and other staff spoke with about 25 residents Thursday evening on public safety issues in the Old Takoma neighborhood, providing updates on issues raised at earlier meetings. (*Police*)

12. **Safe Roadways Committee - City Wide:** The Safe Roadways Committee held this first meeting on Thursday, September 30. Future Committee meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month. Three positions on the Committee remain vacant. (*Housing and Community Development Department*).

13. **Emergency Exercise:** Capt. Ed Coursey and Denise Pullet participated in a mock drill at the Montgomery County Emergency Management Center on Monday. (*Police*)

14. **Officers in Training:** Every Maryland police officer must receive 18 hours of mandated in-service training annually. This week, half of patrol officers received one day of training on use of force issues (O.C. spray, asp baton, and new handcuffing techniques). This session will be repeated for the remaining officers next Thursday. The second session of in-service will occur next month. Two detectives also attended a one-day regional gang summit training. (*Police*)

15. **Changing Shifts:** Shift changeover occurs this weekend. Starting Monday, day shift will be Squads 2 (Sgt. Hammond) and 4 (Sgt. Skibicki) with Squads 1 (Sgt. Bowers) and 3 (Sgt. Frishkorn) on night shift. This should be taken into consideration when initiating communication through the next six weeks (until Nov. 14). (*Police*)

16. **Tennis Clinic:** The Takoma Park Tennis Clinic started last week and we have 42 kids swatting away at those fuzzy yellow balls! Kids from 1st - 8th grade learn the basics of tennis for five weeks at the Takoma Park Middle School courts every Monday, Wednesday and Friday after school. (*Recreation*)

17. **Outdoor Soccer Clinic:** Our Outdoor Soccer Clinic "kicked" off last week, too. Eighteen (18) future Mia Hamms and Freddy Adus are learning the basic fundamentals as we speak! Every Tuesday and Thursday after school for six exciting weeks! (*Recreation*)

18. **Touch a Truck Program:** The rescheduled Touch a Truck program is slated for October 2. Located at the Public Works Garage area from 10-11:30 a.m. kids of all ages (especially those age 1-6) will be able to see a bobcat, street sweeper, dump truck, trash truck and a back hoe up close. There will be a short reception following the event at Heffner Community Center at 42 Oswego Ave. for all participants. (*Recreation*)

19. **Street Restoration (Ward 2):** City contractor will begin concrete replacement work on Cherry Avenue (off Sligo Creek Parkway) in preparation for resurfacing. (*Public Works*)

20. **Recycling Event:** Computer and Electronics Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, October 2 from 10 am to 2 pm behind the City Library. (*Public Works*)