EN ESPAÑOL:

Información sobre elecciones, paginas 9-12

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

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

TRASH HOLIDAY

For Veteran's Day, Wed., Nov. 11, Collection on Thursday

For Thanksgiving Thurs. and Fri., Thurs. routes collected Wed., Fri. routes collected Sat.

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New Supermarket To Open In November

By Susan Holliday

The October 10 closing of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Safeway supermarket, which had anchored the Takoma Park shopping center reportedly since 1960, worried locals who frequented the store for everyday groceries. However, a spokesperson for the market opening in its stead claims the new store will stock many American supermarket standards in addition to expanded international offerings.

The Expo Emart, slated to open in mid-November at 1101 University Boulevard at New Hampshire Avenue, "will follow in the footsteps of Safeway," but with "an international market flavor," says Suzanne De Lyon, owner and chief financial officer of Expo Emart LLC.

Expo Emart is subleasing the space from Safeway, which in turn leases the property from owner B.F. Saul Company.

De Lyon says the store is currently undergoing a "facelift" and will feature many of the standard departments supermarket shoppers expect: meat, produce, seafood, flowers, and bakery. The difference will be in its expanded multicultural product lines.

Many of the 110,000 people living within a two-mile radius of the shopping center come from diverse cultures, says De Lyon, and the store will stock products from Latino and diverse Asian cultures. Though the Crossroads area already boasts several well-established international markets, De Lyon hopes that Expo Emart will compete on quality and price.

The company is negotiating with an established bakery to operate an in-store bakery and plans to reopen the store pharmacy, says De Lyon. The Safeway pharmacy closed in late September and transferred all its pre-

EXPO MART
continues on page 5

LET'S PLAY!

About 200 people came out to play dressup, try tennis, blow bubbles, draw with sidewalk chalk and take up other games on September 26, the City's first official Play Day. Organized by the new Takoma Park Play Committee, the event is part of an effort to encourage free play for children and adults alike. Here, Pat Rumbaugh, who was instrumental in organizing the event, shares her love for tennis.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Crossroads Market Scores CDBG Funds

By Virginia Myers

In an unusual move, the City Council chose just one organization, instead of two or three, as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public service funds. This year's public service portion of the CDBG funds will go to the Crossroads Farmers Market, which requested $25,000. The capital funding portion of the CDBG goes to the Affordable Housing Initiative ($113,000).

Each year, the City of Takoma Park receives a portion of the CDBG funding passed down from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through Montgomery County, and each year an advisory committee of residents selects two or three applicants to receive the funds. This year's selection reflects the City's ongoing support of the Crossroads Farmers Market, which has struggled under an increased demand for low-cost food. The CDBG grant will be spent exclusively on the Fresh Checks program, which allows WIC, food stamp and senior assistance voucher recipients significant discounts on produce at the market. Held every Wednesday afternoon from May through October, the market also serves the general population with locally-grown produce and other locally-produced goods like bakery items, pupusas and frozen treats.

Another portion of CDBG funds, reserved for capital projects, goes to the Affordable Housing Initiative which will receive $113,000 for an as yet undetermined housing project – probably for purchase of a low- to moderate-income residential building or renovation of the same, according to Sara Daines, director of the City's Housing and Community Development department.

The total amount of the CDBG funds designated to go to Takoma Park projects has not yet been determined, but City officials have estimated that they will cover the designated recipients' requests; some adjustments may be made should the funding come in lower or higher than predicted.

The move to fund just one of the public service projects, says Daines, was the recommendation of the committee reviewing CDBG requests. "[Members] decided that the project was important and rather than under-funding multiple projects, they would fully fund their top choice." The three other applicants were Ministries United of Silver Spring for Better Financial Choices, Better Chances, a program providing emergency assistance to prevent evictions and utility disconnections and to pay for prescription drugs ($17,200 requested); Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington for scholarship memberships to the Piney Branch Pool ($8,500 requested); and Pyramid Atlantic for Youth Empowerment Skills, a job readiness program

CROSSROADS MARKET
continues on page 19

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE: City Election November 3

Residents will be gathering at the Community Center this November 3 for the biannual Mayor and City Council election. City staff are hopeful that three races will boost voter turnout: two council seats are contested, as well as the mayoral position.

Voters must choose between two candidates for mayor – incumbent Bruce Williams and Roger Schlegel; two for City Council Ward 4 – incumbent Terry Seamens and Eric Mendoza; and two for Ward 6 – Fred Schultz and Navid Nasr. The current Ward 6 councilmember took the position temporarily when Councilmember Doug Barry resigned, and will not be running. Other City Councilmembers are standing for office unopposed.

Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Any Takoma Park resident who is registered to vote may participate.

For more information and for statements from each of the candidates, see pages 9 thorugh 12.

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, November 2 - No City Council meeting due to the November 3 City Election

Tuesday, November 3 - City Election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Takoma Park Community Center)

Wednesday, November 4 - City Council meeting to receive the certification of election results, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Wednesday, November 4 - Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs hearing, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, November 5 - Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, November 10 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Room)

Tuesday, November 10 - Small Community Grant Review, 7 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, November 10 - Facade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, November 11 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY

Monday, November 16 – Inauguration meeting of City Council, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room). The inauguration meeting will be followed by a reception in the Atrium.

Tuesday, November 17 - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, November 19 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, November 23 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Tuesday, November 24 - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, November 26 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY

Friday, November 27 - CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY

Monday, November 30 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

*For the most up to date information, check http://www.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.

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 Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations is invited to contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267, at least 48 hours in advance, at the telephone number listed in the notice or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

Speak with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him during his regular office hours on Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. (by appointment only), in the third floor Council Conference Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. If a holiday falls on a Monday, office hours move to Wednesday, same time.

Bruce Williams

City Council Action*

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

September 21, 2009 – Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2009-50 was accepted, authorizing installation of New Hampshire Gardens traffic calming measures

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-46 was adopted, providing for the 2009 City Election

Resolution 2009-54 was adopted, recognizing and supporting Play Day (September 26, 2009) in Takoma Park

Resolution 2009-55 was adopted, establishing a Debt Management Policy for the City

Resolution 2009-56 was adopted, appointing Nadine Bloch, Leandra Carrasco, Joe Edgell, Alphie Fair, Timothy Fox, Shari Friedman, David Bristol Hunter, Sat Jiwan Ikle-Khalsa, Timothy Male, Elizabeth Marshall, Austin Meyermann, Terrill North, Emily Riddle, Scott Schang, Milford Sprecher, Patricia Stephenson and Catherine Tunis to the Task Force on Environmental Action

September 28, 2009 – Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-50 was adopted, authorizing installation of New Hampshire Gardens traffic calming measures

Single Reading Ordinance 2009-51 was adopted, awarding a contract for the Linden Avenue retaining wall and stormwater structure

Single Reading Ordinance 2009-52 was adopted, awarding a contract for installation of a green roof on the Community Center deck

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- Resolution 2009-57, authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with Montgomery County for rental housing inspections
- Resolution 2009-58, reappointing Emily Schabacker to the Ethics Commission

October 5, 2009 – Special Session

Resolution 2009-59 was adopted, to authorize Takoma Park to file comments on Washington Adventist Hospital's petition to relocate, pending before the Maryland Health Care Commission, and to request Interested Party status

Second Reading Ordinance 2009-47 (FY10 Budget Amendment No. 1) was tabled until October 12, 2009

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

- Resolution 2009-60, appointing Steve Davies and John Peterson to the Task Force on Environmental Action
- Resolution 2009-62, reappointing Carol Hotton and Melanie Fosnaught to the Tree Commission
- Resolution 2009-61, reappointing Aaron Lavallee to the Ethics Commission
- Resolution 2009-63, reappointing Janice Samuels and appointing Brooke Kenny and Angela Kurtz to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Volunteers Needed to Serve on Council-Appointed Boards, Committees, and Commissions

There are positions for Takoma Park residents available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Additional information can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

Takoma Park Board of Elections (vacancies)
Takoma Park Ethics Commission (one vacancy)
Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy)
Noise Control Board (vacancies)
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)
Recreation Committee (vacancies)
Safe Roadways Committee (vacancies)
Tree Commission (one vacancy)

December 1 | January 1 | February 1 | March 1 | April 1

Five Months to Census Day!

Census Day is April 1, 2010.

All U.S. residents must be counted – citizens and non-citizens. Only ten questions – no long form. Personal information is completely confidential. No identifying information can be shared with police, immigration, housing officials or anyone else. **Be Counted so your community gets the services it needs**. Census Jobs Available: Go to www.2010census.gov, click jobs tab.

2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN **OUR HANDS**

City Arborist Todd Bolton stands in a tunnel of kudzu overtaking the parkland behind the Takoma Park Middle School. Invasive plant species pose ecological problems the City is fighting to combat.

Photo by Virginia Myers

Invasion of the Tree Snatchers

City Fights to Keep Invasive Plants from Choking Out Native Flora

By Virginia Myers

Porcelain berry, cultivated for its beauty. Kudzu, propagated for erosion control and cattle feed. Multiflora rose, used as natural fencing in cattle pastures. All useful enough vegetation – until they get out of control.

Now these three species and many more are running rampant across Takoma Park. Commonly known as "invasives," what were once attractive plants are now choking out native vegetation in backyards, parks and vacant lots. These plants propagate themselves at such a rate, they can throw entire swaths of the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem out of balance, sending their prolific seeds through the waterways and across forests and developed areas for miles.

Takoma Park is addressing the issue of invasives through Public Works crews, who have worked at tearing down English ivy, ailanthus (tree of heaven), and some of the other most common culprits growing on the public right of way and in spots like Sligo Mill, the woods near the corner of Poplar Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue.

City Arborist Todd Bolton explains that, while invasives don't threaten the tree cover in a major way – though they can smother an individual tree, or weigh it down so that is more prone to collapsing in a storm -- they do change the balance of plant life so that the entire ecosystem is more prone to disease and even erosion. Exotic invasives, introduced from other regions, are free of the diseases that might keep them in check in their native lands, so they grow unencumbered by diseases native plants might encounter. When native plants disappear under the influence of these stronger invasives, wildlife can lose important natural food sources.

Plus, invasive species – whether they are exotic, naturalized (exotics that have adapted to this environment) or native plants that are simply the bullies of the ecosystem – spread prolifically, with multiple seed pods traveling for miles. By allowing exotic invasives to grow here, "We're propagating seed," says Bolton. "We're the pollutant center."

Thus, the City budget includes $10,000 for mitigation of invasives this year, and Bolton hopes to continue to address the problem, to keep the City responsibly green.

Top Two Culprits

Much of the invasive issue can be found in people's back yards. English ivy, Bolton estimates, is the worst offender. A popular groundcover, it changes when it grows vertically: its leaf shape becomes more round, and it eventually fruits and begins to multiply. Its thick cover on tree branches can be destructive, as when trees are covered in heavy ice, and branches fall under their weight. And it can choke out younger, native vegetation.

Kudzu is a close second to ivy, as one of the worst of the plant invaders. It grows astonishingly fast – it's said to grow as much as a foot a day – and is commonly seen covering entire wooded areas like a blanket, as it does behind the Takoma Park Middle School.

Sligo Creek Battle

Invasives in Sligo Creek have long been an issue, and in fact they were the inspiration for the environmental group, Friends of Sligo Creek. According to Sally Gagne, past president, and current RIP (Removing Invasive Plants) coordinator, FOSC was founded eight years ago on the principle of eradicating invasives. With grants from organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Summit Foundation, it has organized a strong effort to recruit volunteers to tear out offending species. Currently RIP maintains 12 leaders in 10 sections of Sligo Creek Park, to oversee volunteer efforts to physically pull up garlic mustard, English ivy, mile-a-minute, lesser celandine and more.

Gagne reports that the program has been most effective by showing Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which is responsible for Sligo Creek Park maintenance, that residents care about the area's health; procuring funding to coordinate park and volunteer efforts; expanding awareness of invasives through posters, speakers, and colored cards describing 13 major invasive plants found in the park; reducing the amount of garlic mustard in the park; cutting back English ivy by about 80 percent in some sections; and preventing numerous other species from covering park trees.

But it's not enough, says Gagne: "It takes more labor than volunteers can provide."

Exacerbating the problem of invasives is the deer population, which also destroys native plants. Deer destruction is so severe, says Gagne, that the RIP program will close its doors this fall. "You have to have a plan for deer removal, or don't bother doing anything with plants," says Gagne, who is frustrated with the lack of deer management, a tricky and emotional issue as it can involve the thinning of the population by killing the animals.

"Friends of Sligo Creek will continue to combat invasive plants one way or the other, even if deer are not well-controlled," says FOSC president Bruce Sidwell. "However, it does make it discouraging when plants saved from invasive vines are eaten by deer."

If you are interested in saving the native plants in your own yard, there is a plethora of information on how to eradicate invasive plants, including photos that help you identify invasives, on the FOSC web site, http://www.fosc.org. For advice on how to care for trees that may be threatened by invasives, contact the City Arborist, Todd Bolton, 301-891-7612. He recommends the Maryland Native Plant Society for further information about both native and invasive plant issues, http://www.mdflora.org/.

GUIDE TO GOOD RIDDANCE

To rid plants, uproot them if possible.

If not possible, cut the stem and return for any new growth.

As a last resort, use herbicide (for information about appropriate use, contact the County Extension Agent, http://montgomery.umd.edu/)

Uproot plants like garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, wineberry, and young shrubs including rose after a soaking rain, as roots are more easily pulled then. Root fragments may re-grow but with less vigor.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

From October through March, work on shrubs and ground covers, which are easier to see when foliage drops. Rose, ush honeysuckle, wineberry, barberry, bamboo, privet and autumn olive are all invasive shrubs. Groundovers that can be removed in cooler month include Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy and wintercreeper.

Adapted from FOSC web site, http://www.fosc.org/fosc.htm.

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Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

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County Housing Fair Gives Personal Service

By Barbara Boinville
For the Montgomery County
Housing Fair Planning Committee

Each year, the Montgomery County Housing Fair and Financial Fitness Day helps residents step away from what can seem like a tangle of phone calls and forms and government offices, and invites them to interact one-on-one with experts who can answer questions about issues like foreclosure, credit and first-time home purchases. And each year, members of the Takoma Park Housing and Community Development Department help organize the fair as a valuable resource for City residents.

This year's fair, on October 3, was the 9th annual event. Held at the Bohrer Park Activity Center in Gaithersburg, it involved 20 sponsors and 80 exhibitors. Here are some up-close impressions from a member of the fair housing community:

The one-on-one counseling at the fair, organized by the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs and its community partners, was in great demand. Classrooms were packed all day and banks of computers and printers hummed. Certified housing counselors with the Housing Initiative Partnership, HomeFree USA, and the Latino Economic Development Corporation (the three agencies in Montgomery County authorized to give foreclosure intervention assistance) met, face to face, with 38 homeowners and renters facing foreclosure. Each counseled person will also receive follow-up help this month, as will 10 other people who completed intake forms at the fair. Credit counselors with the Montgomery County Coalition for Financial Literacy met individually with 100 people. Each person walked away with a free credit report and analysis.

Another popular feature of the fair was "Ask an Attorney." Lawyers with the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection, the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, and the Legal Aid Bureau conferred personally with 55 people who had legal questions. No delays. No runarounds. Just prompt, personal—not to mention free—service.

The counseling made a difference to those who came. So did the raffle. Ten persons received $500 toward their rent, mortgage or utilities. Among the lucky winners was Clystie, a single mother of three—ages 13, 14, and one year. She works full time as an activities director, teaching art therapy classes and cooking classes to seniors at an assisted living center. The prize money will go toward her rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Takoma Park, where she has lived for the past eight years. Jean, 69, also won the raffle. Her disability check ends in November. When her name was called, she burst into tears. The $500 will help her pay her mortgage on her Montgomery Village townhouse this month.

Many of the 1,000 people who attended the fair are conscientious, hard-working homeowners. Noel, born in Bolivia, is an example. Nineteen years ago he moved to Gaithersburg and bought a house on Orchard Drive. He steadily worked two jobs to be able to pay his mortgage—during the day as a pharmacy technician, compounding prescription drugs for a health-related firm, and during the night as a mainte-

HOUSING FAIR
continues on page 5

COLTA's CORNER

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

Birchwood Tenants Assoc. v. Patner Properties (09-6TA)

(Hearing Date-7/14/09)

On August 27 the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) issued a decision regarding a tenant association complaint alleging that the property owner/landlord (Patner Properties) was liable for a defective tenancy because of an inoperable elevator, missing/inoperable locks on the lobby entrance door, inoperable lights in the property parking lot, roach infestation and loose lobby stair treads.

The Takoma Park Code at Section 6.04.030 defines a defective tenancy as any condition in a rental facility that constitutes a violation of the lease term, the Landlord-Tenant Law or the Property Maintenance Code. A defective tenancy complaint in accordance with Section 6.16.170.A. of the City code may be filed with COLTA if a tenant has given the landlord written notice of the property defect and the landlord has not rectified it or made a good faith effort to do so within a week after the notice was received.

In finding that the landlord made prompt and good faith efforts to repair the elevator and was not liable for a defective tenancy the commission indicated that: (1) no evidence was presented that the landlord nor its agent Collins Elevator Service did anything to delay the completion of the elevator's modernization or the satisfaction of the ever-changing state, county and private elevator inspectors' requirements; (2) the tenant associations failed to provide any evidence to support their claim that the elevator outage time could have been reduced had the landlord replaced it with a new elevator.

In finding that the landlord was not liable for a defective tenancy because of the missing/inoperable locks on the lobby entrances the commission indicated that: (1) the Property Maintenance Code requires that landlords install and maintain locks on the individual units in the property, not the property lobby entrances; (2) the landlord's duty regarding the locks did not arise until he installed them in January 2009 and found credible the testimony of the landlord and his property manager at the hearing that their efforts to maintain the locks since then have been defeated by repeated and continuing vandalism.

In finding that the landlord was not liable for a defective tenancy because of the roach infestation the commission indicated that: (1) based on the uncontested landlord assertions, the property is treated monthly by an independent pest control company; (2) the landlord did not cause the property to become infested nor by his actions/inactions such as failing to seal the building's exterior or have the garbage remove had promoted the infestation and (3) the monthly infestation treatments are negatively affected by the failure of selected tenants to prepare their units for the pest control exterminations.

In finding that the tenant association had failed to prove a defective tenancy regarding the inoperable parking lot lights the commission indicated that (1) the March 30, 2009 letter advising the landlord of the problem was provided by the tenant association president who testified that she does not go into the parking lot and therefore did not know when the lights became inoperable or when they had been repaired (2) the landlord provided a repair invoice for the parking lot lights dated 3/13/09 and (3) the testimony of the tenant association president that the parking lot lights were working at the time of the hearing.

In finding that a defective tenancy did exist regarding the lobby stair treads, the commission indicated that (1) the landlord had violated Section 6.16.050 of the city's landlord-tenant law by failing to make timely, good faith repairs after receiving written notification on April 2, 2009; the repairs which could have been completed in a few hours (as evidenced by the property manager's repair regime) were not completed until April 24, 2009; (2) the landlord failed to present any evidence of an attempt(s) to repair the stair treads prior to 4/24/09 or explain the delay in making the repairs; (3) The commission found that the defect being located in the building's lobby affected all building tenants and ordered the landlord to pay $11 as damages for the period 4/2/09-4/24/09 to each tenant that had signed the Tenant Authorization of Representation Form.

HOUSING *Mailbox*

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

A tenant wants to know what type of notice her landlord is required to provide prior to entering her apartment and if she must be at home when the landlord and/or his agent makes entry to complete tenant requested repairs.

In accordance with Section 6.16.140 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law, a landlord must provide his/her tenant with at least 48 hours written notification of the landlord or the agent's intent to enter a rental unit. The landlord's written notice must inform the tenant of the proposed entry date, the approximate time frame of the proposed entry and include the phone number of the landlord or his/her agent. The 48 hours written notice requirement applies to upcoming code inspections by the Montgomery County Code Inspectors who may not make entry to conduct inspections if the tenant indicates they have not received the required advance written notice or otherwise request that the entry be made at a later more convenient time.

A tenant does not have to be present (except when the tenant has requested a code complaint inspection) when entry is made into the rental unit. If the tenant is not present, the landlord is required to leave a Report of Entry in plain view advising the tenant of: (1) the names of all individuals who entered the rental unit; (2) the date and time of the entry; (3) the reason for the entry and any work performed during the entry; (4) the time of departure from the rental unit; and (5) the address and phone number of the landlord.

Tenants should note that if they have requested repairs, the landlord or the landlord's agent may enter the rental unit to make the repairs without giving the tenant written notice if the repairs occur within two weeks of being requested. The other exception to the 48-hour written advance notice requirement occurs in the case of an emergency.

Finally, the advance entry written notice requirement is applicable to landlords, real estate agents and prospective purchasers of city rental properties.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.

City Celebrates Gardens Along the "New Ave"

By Paul Grenier

Two years ago, the City created a grants program to encourage community gardening along New Hampshire Avenue. To get things started, City planners turned to Judy Tiger, an area expert on community garden organizing.

Tiger's first presentation on the subject at the Takoma Park Recreation Center was especially memorable. "The first year," she said to the mixed-age crowd of some 20 attendees, "you might just plant a single tree. Then you celebrate it."

The celebration, she said, was all important. After more than two decades experience in the field, Tiger has concluded that, when it comes to building successful community gardens, the socializing is even more important than the plants.

Why start so small, though, with a single tree? Hardly seems worth the trouble. Not so, said Tiger. Plants, like people, need nurturing. You don't just stick them in the ground and walk away.

The typical mistake of the novice is taking on too much all at once. The maintenance, Tiger said, will prove overwhelming. Long story short: have a grand vision, start small, celebrate and have lots of fun.

Today, two years into the City's New Hampshire Avenue Community Gardening and Beautification grant program, how has experience born out Judy Tiger's advice?

In the case of the Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Association Garden Subcommittee, lead by Pamela Sparr, pretty darn well.

The first season, the neighborhood group—though fairly bursting at the seams with landscaping know-how—restricted itself to planting a single tree and holding a clean-up day. But members also submitted an ambitious multi-year vision to the City.

Bit by bit, the Hillwood group has added more: first a butterfly garden, then a stone retaining wall, then a gateway garden at Erskine. Impressed by all this local initiative, the M-NCPPC horticulture department decided to join in. They removed diseased trees, planted a row of redbuds, and delivered a huge load of decorative boulders—part of a "living river" landscaping concept designed by the Hillwood Manor group.

Phyllis Ryder takes a break in the garden near Hillwood Manor, along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. She joined neighbors to pitch in at one of several greening projects in the area.

Photo by Pam Sparr

Want to beautify the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor?

Contact Paul Grenier, Community Planning Specialist, for speakers to motivate your civic association, assistance in applying for grant funds, locations that may be good for gardens and information on the program at 301-891-7205 or pgrenier@takomagov.org.

The Orchard Avenue Community Garden – where a whole functioning community garden sprang up virtually overnight—might appear to contradict Tiger's "start small" principle.

And yet, even here, the process started with just a few locals meeting almost a year before anything got started, and deciding they liked the idea. In other words, the social basis for the garden preceded the thing itself.

More to the point, however, is that a great deal of the hard work here was absorbed by Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission's horticultural department, including horticulture chief David Vismara and his assistant Ursula Sukinik.

Finally, the landscaping project initiated by Zion Lutheran Church, and designed by local master gardener Wendy Bell, started off at sort of an intermediate scale. When the trees Zion ordered turned out to be about three times the size anyone had expected, only some timely rescuing from City Gardener Mike Welsh saved the day.

Bottom line: nothing accomplished thus far has contradicted Tiger's founding principles, and much has confirmed them.

Do you have an idea for a gardening or beautification project along the New Hampshire Corridor? If you do, please make use of the following simple steps:

Step one: talk your idea over with a few neighbors and come up with a plan.

Step two: give City staff a call to find out how we can help.

Step three: plant a tree.

Step four: celebrate!

HOUSING FAIR

continued from page 4

nance worker for a nonprofit. A general surgeon in South America, he was not too proud to clean toilets if it meant keeping his home. After 17 years, he lost his night job because of budget cutbacks. Noel is still looking for a second job. Enrique Castellanos, a senior housing counselor with HomeFree, met with him and will follow up in the weeks ahead as they negotiate with his lender.

At the First-Time Home Buyers class, a three-hour course, local realtors explained buyer-broker agreements, what to look for at an Open House, the listing agent's responsibilities, and the code of ethics realtors are expected to follow. The whole process of buying a home for the first time became less baffling to the prospective homeowners in attendance. The small class size—22 people—made it possible for everyone to get individual attention.

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the Housing Fair. The key to its success is no mystery: getting personal. The Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development will continue to support the Housing Fair as an effective tool to helping those who may need it most.

Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

celebrating the creative spirit of our community

Exhibits at the Community Center

"Face of Courage - Faces of Challenge - Faces of Triumph," an exhibition of union leader's portraits by Sherrell Medbury can be viewed through the end of November in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. A reception celebrating the work will be held on Friday, November 6, from 6 to 8 p.m.

"Traditions & Testimony," continues this month in the Atrium Gallery on the main level of the Takoma Park Community Center. The exhibit, which includes the prints of Luis Scotti and the masks of David Camero, celebrates the cultures and traditions of Spanish speaking residents in the United States, tracing roots from Spain to Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Please join us on Thursday, November 19 to hear the work of Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker and local poet Chris Llewellyn. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. A reception follows the reading.

Call to Artists for the Annual Holiday Art Sale

Artists interested in participating in the fourth annual Holiday Art Sale have until November 16 to register for the event. There is no cost to participate. Slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis, though there will be limits on the numbers of participants for each artistic media, to maintain a diversity of offerings. All items offered for sale must be created and produced by the artist. Past years have featured, but were not limited to painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, textiles, and glass. To register for the sale, or to receive more information, contact Rob Rudick at robrudick@yahoo.com or at 301-270-2323. The sale will he held on Saturday, December 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Takoma Park Community Center.

For more information on the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224, by email at ahc@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.org

EXPO EMART TO OPEN

continued from page 1

scriptions on file to the Shoppers Food and Pharmacy at 6881 New Hampshire Avenue. Expo Emart doesn't intend to discuss a deal with Shoppers to regain the lost prescription base and hopes that customers will return for the convenience.

The idea of an enduring full-product-line supermarket at the Crossroads relieved some community members. "We're pleased for the possibility of the continuation of the supermarket staples for the customers who've lived there for many years," says Erwin Mack, executive director of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc. "It's good for the economics of the area and the customer base. We wish them well for business."

De Lyon hopes to hire approximately 50 people to staff the store and expects to advertise for positions in the next few weeks. Jobs will range from checkout staff to department managers. She anticipates hiring a diverse staff and "we'll have people who can speak several languages," she adds.

The Crossroads store will be the only Maryland business for the newly incorporated local company. Expo Emart plans to open two additional supermarkets in the next few months in Falls Church and Springfield, Va. De Lyon says she "has over 10 years' experience" operating international markets in the D.C. area, but declines to name the previous stores because she says she ran those businesses with different partners.

Takoma Park Development Review Round-up

By Ilona Blanchard

This column provides updates on projects under review in the City. If you or your neighborhood organization receive a letter in the mail from a developer or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)/Montgomery County Montgomery County Planning Board, or see a sign posted on a property, this is the only notification you may receive, as the City does not duplicate these services. It is your responsibility to call to find out what is being planned at that location. We encourage your neighborhood organization to designate one or two members to track the project and to keep the neighborhood up to date on the plans.

Developers are interested in your input; only by calling the number on the letter you receive in the mail, appointing a member of your neighborhood association to serve as the primary contact with the developer, attending meetings and providing input, can you ensure that your views, concerns, support and ideas are heard.

TERMS:

SITE PLAN AND SUBDIVISION REVIEW are extensive review processes during which the City works with other agencies and the community to ensure the Montgomery County Planning Board's review includes the Takoma Park perspective.

MANDATORY REFERRAL is a similar process; however the Montgomery County Planning Board decisions are non-binding and only advisory in nature.

For more information on City review of projects during the Site Plan, Subdivision, or Mandatory Review process, please contact Ilona Blanchard at ilonab@takomagov.org or (301) 891-7205.

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) **TAKOMA ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOO**l on Holly Avenue is now under construction. The project is scheduled to be completed in August 2010. For more information, contact Ray Marhamati at 240-314-1010 or ray_marhamati@mcpsmd.org.

A first draft of the **TAKOMA/LANGLEY CROSSROADS SECTOR PLAN,** a collaborative planning effort between the Montgomery and Prince George's Counties' Planning Boards in association with the City of Takoma Park, has been largely reviewed at the Planning Board level. Developed as two complementary planning documents, one for each jurisdiction, the plans present a redevelopment framework for private and public investment in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Riggs Road transit station areas. The Plans address pedestrian safety, community resources, housing and commercial/mixed use redevelopment.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold at least one additional worksession in December of this year on the draft plan before forwarding it to the County Council for review in September of 2010. The Prince George's County Planning Board has adopted the draft plan with modifications, but will not be submitting the plan to the Prince George's County Council for roughly a year until such time as an affordable housing policy has been developed. If you are interested in learning more about the progress of the Sector Plans, contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org.

Maryland has announced a preferred alignment for the **PURPLE LINE** – the bi-county transit way that will connect the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and Long Branch neighborhoods with Silver Spring, College Park, Bethesda, New Carrollton and possibly beyond. The project will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under its "New Starts" process as the State seeks FTA approval to begin the preliminary engineering of the project and compete for federal funding. Project costs are estimated at $1.5 billion. Additional information may be found online at www.purpleline.com or by contacting Michael Madden, Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration, at MMadden@mtamaryland.com or 410-767-3694.

The Maryland Department of Transportation also has funded and is working on the acquisition of land to develop **A NEW TRANSIT CENTER** at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard (where the Taco Bell is currently located). Contact Michael Madden, Project Manager, at MMadden@mtamaryland.com, or 410-767-3694 for more information.

GILBERTS ADDITION, the development at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Laurel Avenue in Old Town has been scaled back due to costs. The developer, John Urciolo, will go forward with developing an exit to the site on Eastern Avenue and is temporarily installing a parking lot on the lower level. This construction is expected to last through January 2010.

HOLTON LANE STREETSCAPE - a pedestrian safety and landscaping project is being built this fall. The project extends from New Hampshire Avenue to the EZ Storage building and includes the installation of streetlights and banners designed to improve the safety, visibility and pedestrian experience of the commercial area. For more information, contact Carman Lam at CarmanL@takomagov.org or 301-891-7219.

In the Maryland Gateway, a **NEW CARWASH** has been proposed for 6450 New Hampshire Avenue between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Mill Road at Orchard Avenue. The project was submitted for Site Plan but M-NCPPC will not review the project until it has been granted a special exception for a car wash on that site. The local community association has issued an opinion in opposition to the establishment of a car wash at this location. The developer has not yet completed the application for a Special Exception.

The Master Plan recommends that this site be used as a connection between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Mill Road, and it is identified as a proposed roadway in the New Hampshire Avenue Concept Plan. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at Ilonab@takomagov.org or 301-891-7205.

8435 PINEY BRANCH ROAD, at the intersection of Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road in Long Branch, is planning to add a 1,000-square-foot addition to the front of the old garage building next to Beijing Delight and to rehabilitate the building for retail storefronts and upper story office or retail. The project has been submitted for subdivision but will not go through site plan due to the small scale of the proposed development. The applicant has requested a waiver of five of the 24 parking spaces required under the zoning ordinance. The Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone allows the Planning Board to grant reductions in the number of parking spaces that must be provided in exchange for related pedestrian or transit improvements.

It is expected that the City will provide comments to M-NCPPC prior to the plan being considered by the Planning Board. The City has applied for Community Legacy funds from the State of Maryland to leverage green features, pedestrian access and façade improvements in the rehabilitation of the building and the site. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or Ilonab@takomagov.org.

Kourosh Mehrabian, the owner of **8012 FLOWER AVENUE,** is proposing to open a 1,154 square foot dental office in the building, which is currently residential in use. As the property is in the R-40 zone, a special exception is required to operate a dentist office in a residential zone. The application is requesting authorization to operate the dental office from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The practice would employ one full-time dentist and two additional employees. Five parking spaces would be created where the decks are currently located. The application is also requesting a waiver of one of the parking spaces, and of required driveway setback in order to continue to use the existing driveway. A hearing of the application will be held by the Board of Appeals on Friday, December 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Second Floor Davidson Memorial Hearing Room at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.

As of press time, the applicant had requested a postponement of this hearing, so the date is likely to change. The City Council is currently scheduled to discuss this proposal during the last two weeks in November. The Planning Board will also consider the special exception request prior to the hearing. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205.

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Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs
www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service/index.html

My TKPK Online Customer Service Center

The New Ave Goes Live for Takoma Park, Area Officials

By Ilona Blanchard

Arthur Sharkarji, who owns Joe's Shoe Repair on Holton Lane with his family, listens with local officials during their tour of the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. The City hopes to win county, state and federal support for the revitalization of the area.

Photo by Alvaro Calabia

"When I'm in my 80s, like my mom," Seema Singh told a bus full of officials in early October, "I want to be coming here to Holton Lane to work in the store every day, too." Singh spoke to an attentive audience on behalf of the many independent shop owners along New Hampshire Avenue.

No slouch at setting tone and sending a message, Singh, a recent recipient of a façade grant to improve the store her parents have owned and operated for more than 20 years, was participating in a tour of the area organized by the City of Takoma Park. The idea was billed as a launch of the new web site, theNewAve.com, and designed to show how the commercial district has improved with recent attention and funding, and how plans need continued support to see the revitalization of the area succeed. Among those listening were Montgomery and Prince George's county, state, and federal officials whose support is considered essential.

Singh, whose parents built a landscaped patio in front of their two storefronts to invite customers in, lent a hand as the Mayor ceremonially laid down a sidewalk decal to launch the new website/guide to the area, theNewAve.com: where Takoma meets the World." Visitors then met her parents, Malik and Shakundla Sardana and toured their shop, Malik Grocers. Prince George's Councilmember Will Campos and Reemberto Rodríguez, the new Silver Spring Regional Director responsible for marketing and administering the New Hampshire Avenue's Enterprise Zone, bought samosas, a savory Indian snack, before they left.

Officials also admired the fresh concrete work around bolts and pipes emerging from the sidewalk nearby. This fall decorative pedestrian lights will be installed there, much to the relief of Arthur Sharkarji, the second generation owner of Joe's Shoe Repair. Like others on the street, he hates for his mother to leave the shop after dark on the dimly lit street.

It got a bit crowded when officials filled Ernesto and Nora Portillo's El Alazan Western Wear shop. With hundreds of cowboy boots on display, the family business smells sharply of leather. From the doorway of Joe's Shoe Repair, which also carries some leather goods, the official from the Department of Economic Development from Montgomery County wanted to know, "Do I have time to buy anything?"

No, it was time to hear from Jorge Sactic, owner of La Chapina Bakery and head of a 50-member La Union Merchants Association. "We are honored that you have come to see us," he said, "But we need assistance too. We are very small, but when we work together, bigger things happen." He referred to the ability of small businesses to get loans at competitive terms with larger businesses, assistance in dealing with landlords and other needs. And he asked officials to pose for a photo with other association business owners in front of the New Ave wall decal near the Post Office.

"The new website, Holton Lane Streetscape, the Purple Line, New Hampshire Avenue, Façade Grants," said Singh, her audience now back on the tour bus that had brought them to the Avenue, "All of these public investments here make this place better for our customers, and keep us going through tough times like we have now. My parents have been here for over 20 years, and I want to stay here for more than that."

Nora Portillo, who with her husband, Ernesto, runs El Alazan Western Wear shop on Holton Lane, is just one of the merchants who visited with local officials surveying improvements and assessing need along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor.

Photo by Alvaro Calabia

A Larger Context

Last month at the ULI Urban MarketPlace conference, Demographer James Chung spoke about the upcoming generation of renters and homebuyers as a generation that looks for diversity as a key characteristic for renting or buying within a neighborhood. New Hampshire Avenue is poised as one of those neighborhoods. As the tour bus drove through acres and acres of land developed for a drive-and-shop culture, the potential to rebuild into a live, walk, shop and play multistory center was made clear.

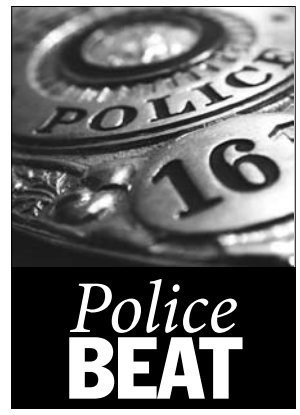
"Who knew there was so much unused parking behind the Bed and Carpet?" asked one City Councilmember. Such amenities are a definite plus, but officials heard over and over that the eventual build-out of the Purple Line, a multi-way boulevard treatment of New Hampshire Avenue, and continued investment in the economically and culturally diverse businesses that attract shoppers to the area will be key to any successful revitalization efforts. Planners told the visitors that, considering the approximately 120 acres of underutilized commercial property in Takoma Park and Prince George's County, investment here can be returned (in spades) to governments that invest in them.

Planners and City officials also said that a walkable New Hampshire Avenue needs improved bus service, façade grants, and other streetscape improvements. And they stressed the importance of City, resident and business advocacy for investment and change. Partners are crucial, as well, they added: funding partners like the State of Maryland, which provides Community Legacy grants and develops the Purple Line; development and property partners like B.F. Saul, investigating how to transform its shopping center into a mixed use multi-activity area; and neighborhood partners like Hillwood Manor, where residents created a garden park out of a scrap of grass and stream.

And, of course, local business partners who care most about the area's success. People like the merchants they met on their tour.

Life Sentence for Attempted Murder With Crucifix

By Catherine Plevy



It was cold on December 22, 2008, near Christmas time, and it was also her 23rd birthday. But, what awaited the victim on that evening was anything but celebratory for her and her two small children. When Ana Valdez arrived at her home that evening, her estranged boyfriend, and father of her two children, Carlos Ivan Ovalle, 33, was lying in wait, hiding in her closet.

Upon walking into her home, Valdez immediately sensed something was wrong and began to look around. Ovalle jumped out of the closet with a knife in his hand and told her that her birthday present was that she was going to die. He first choked her and then threw her down. He grabbed what prosecutors described as a five-pound crucifix off the wall, and beat her so savagely that doctors spent 45 minutes picking shards of ceramic out of her skull and wounds. Ovalle continued to beat her until she asked if she could turn on a DVD for her daughters, ages 4 and 5, so they would not have to see her being assaulted.

Valdez did not know it, but during the assault, and what she thought was going to be her last day alive, Takoma Park Police Officer Angela Donovan, responded to a call for a woman crying in an apartment. When Donovan arrived at the apartment, Valdez yelled through the door that everything was okay [as ordered to by Ovalle]. With her training and expertise, Donovan sensed that everything was not okay and she needed to act swiftly. She forced her way into the apartment. The officer indicated that in her many years on the police force, she had never seen so much blood. She saw Ovalle holding a knife to Valdez's throat and ordered him twice to drop his weapon. When he did not comply, Donovan shot him twice. Ovalle was arrested for, among other charges, attempted first degree murder and first degree assault.

Ovalle's trial was held on July 13, 14 and 15, 2009, at the Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville, Maryland. On July 15, Ovalle was found guilty of attempted first degree murder, burglary, stalking and two violations of a protective order. On October 6, Judge Durke Thompson of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, sentenced Ovalle to life plus seven years.

During the sentencing phase, Ovalle was advised by his attorney, Samuel Delgado, not to speak. Ovalle did not heed that advice and he addressed the judge, disparaging Valdez and blaming her for his actions. He went on to tell the judge that Valdez "provoked him" and that he was drunk. "It's not Ms. Valdez's doing that brought you to this court," Judge Thompson said. "It is your own… It is only by the timeliness, the intelligence and the training of [Officer Donovan] that Ms. Valdez's life was saved."

Public CompStat Meeting Available Online

On September 30, 2009, the City held its first public CompStat presentation for the residents of the City of Takoma Park. A group of about 11 residents gathered with about a dozen officers and other City officials to hear about the latest cases confronting the Takoma Park Police Department, and to ask questions about its work. If you missed the presentation, you can still see it online at www.takomaparkmd.gov. It will be on the main page of the City website for a short period of time, then will move to http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=90.

WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE EMERGENCIES

City, County, State and Nation Coordinate Emergency Response

By Capt. Edward Coursey
Takoma Park Police

The State of Maryland has authority to facilitate the management of emergencies through its Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). This agency has designated entities within each county to be the primary Emergency Management body for the county. The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is the designated entity here in this county.

The Montgomery County OEMHS coordinates the activities of the Emergency Management Group (EMG), an organization with representatives of all major departments and emergency-related organizations within the County, including each major municipality with emergency services, such as the City of Takoma Park.

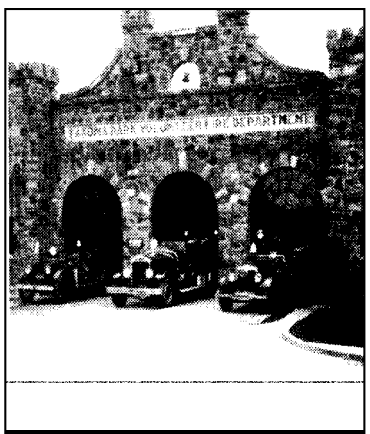
During an emergency of significant proportions, this group convenes in the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a state-of-the-art headquarters containing internal and external communications capabilities, computerized work stations, separate training and conference rooms and additional features in a secure setting. It is situated in Gaithersburg together with the Emergency Communications Center, the call taking/dispatch center for the Police and Fire/Rescue Department, and the Traffic Management Center of the County Department of Transportation and Public Works.

The Emergency Management Group also helps the County maintain the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Plan. This document lays the basic foundation of emergency response by various governmental organizations, and the coordination necessary for handling major emergencies that could face the County.

A Standard Operations Plan

The Emergency Operations Plan is based on requirements and guidance from the federal government's National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework. Their cornerstone is the Incident Command System (ICS), an incident management model mandated for use by governmental agencies

EMERGENCY PLANNING continues on page 19



Firehouse
REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

New Crop of Certified Babysitters
On October 19, the following students completed the Babysitter's Training Class sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department. From left, Jake Ryder, Binta Coulibaly, Valentina Polanco, Maddie Nephew, Martha Morganstein and Molly Kowalski. Assisting Jim Jarboe with the class were EMT Mike Livingston with the fire department and Cpl. Greg Wolf, of the Takoma Park Police Department. The next class will be in January 2010. If interested, contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290. The class is for young people ages 11 to 13.

As of September 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 570 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,141 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,711 this year. Totals for 2008 were 537 and 2,160 respectively, for a total of 2,697, representing an increase of 14 incidents.

Halloween Safety Tips

When making Halloween costumes, avoid using flimsy material, voluminous amounts of fabric (such as sheets), or paper. These materials can ignite easily. Never let children carry lit candles as part of a costume. When buying ready made Halloween costumes, make sure they are labeled "flame-retardant" or "flame-resistant." Many Halloween decorations are dry and burn easily. Keep such decorations away from fireplaces, heat sources and open flame. Use flashlights instead of candles inside jack-o-lanterns. So let's have fun out there...but be really, really careful.

A few safety tips for the cold weather.

* Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house. Make sure you wet them down if possible.

* Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

* If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load. TIP: Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord. Also remember that...Space heaters need space! At least three feet from anything that can burn, such as furniture and curtains. Never leave any heating device operating unattended.

It's that time year... Change Your Clocks and Batteries.

On Sunday, November 1, we fall back in time. At the same time you reset your clocks, please change all batteries in your smoke alarms if they haven't been changed within a few months. Also it's important that you replace any smoke alarm over 10 years old.

Fire Safety Tips for the Entire Family

* Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

* Make sure everyone knows how to escape from the house by crawling low in smoke.

* Hold regular fire drills.

* Designate two exits from each room and a safe meeting place outside your home.

* If a fire breaks out, get out fast and call the fire department (dial 9-1-1) from a neighbor's home.

It's important to us, that we keep reminding you these safety tips. It's because we care about you and your family.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK MUNCIPAL ELECTION
ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES DE LA CIUDAD DE TAKOMA PARK

Vote at the Community Center on November 3!

Takoma Park's Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2009. All voting will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Paper ballots will again be used in the 2009 City Election. Ballots for each ward will contain the names of the candidates for Mayor and the names of Council candidates for that ward. A space will be provided for write-in votes. City elections are nonpartisan and no party labels will be displayed. Ballots will be printed in English and Spanish.

ANY CITY VOTER MAY APPLY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any Takoma Park resident who is registered to vote may vote by absentee ballot.

Regular Absentee Ballot. Registered voters may request an application for a regular absentee ballot from the City Clerk or download the application from www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/election/2009. Completed applications must be filed with the Clerk not later than seven days prior to the election (4 p.m., October 27). Upon verification of a voter's eligibility, an absentee ballot will be issued—either by mail or in person. The completed ballot must be received by the Clerk prior to the closing of the polls at 8 p.m. on Election Day (November 3).

Late Absentee Ballots / "Early Voting". Beginning October 28 and continuing until November 2, voters may apply in person and vote by absentee ballot. Voters may vote at the City Clerk's Office at 7500 Maple Avenue at the following times:

Wednesday, October 28: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Thursday, October 29: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday, October 30: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday, November 2: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If an applicant cannot apply and vote in person, he or she may designate in the application a registered voter of the City to act as agent in picking up and delivering the ballot (candidates and those representing candidates, either formally or informally, may not act as agents). The application must be completed and filed with the City Clerk prior to issuance of a ballot to the agent. As with regular absentee voting, a ballot cannot be issued until the voter's eligibility has been established, and the ballot must be returned to the City Clerk prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day.

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 to adopt an instant runoff voting system for Takoma Park elections. Voters will have the opportunity to rank

ELECTIONS
continues on page 10

¡Vote en el Centro Comunitario el 3 de noviembre!

El día de las elecciones de Takoma Park es el martes 3 de noviembre de 2009. Las votaciones tendrán lugar en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park – Centro para Adultos Sam Abbott, 7500 Maple Avenue. Las urnas estarán abiertas de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Una vez más se usarán boletas de papel en las elecciones municipales de 2009. En las boletas de cada distrito electoral aparecerán los nombres de los candidatos para Alcalde y los nombres de los candidatos a Miembro del Consejo para ese distrito electoral. Se reservará un espacio para votar por los candidatos que quieran agregarse. Las elecciones municipales son no partidistas y no se mostrará la afiliación política del candidato. Las boletas se imprimirán en inglés y en español.

CUALQUIER VOTANTE DE LA CIUDAD PUEDE HACER LA SOLICITUD PARA VOTAR CON UNA BOLETA DE ELECTOR AUSENTE

Cualquier persona que resida en Takoma Park y esté inscrita para votar puede hacerlo con una boleta de elector ausente.

Boleta regular de elector ausente. Los votantes que estén inscritos pueden pedirle una solicitud de boleta regular de elector ausente al Secretario Municipal o descargar la solicitud en la siguiente dirección: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/election/2009. Las solicitudes rellenadas deben enviársele al Secretario a más tardar siete días antes de la fecha de las elecciones (4 p.m., 27 de octubre). Una vez que se verifique si el votante cumple con los requisitos, se le hará llegar una boleta de elector ausente, ya sea por correo o en persona. El secretario debe recibir la boleta rellenada antes de que cierren las urnas a las 8 p.m., el día de las elecciones (3 de noviembre).

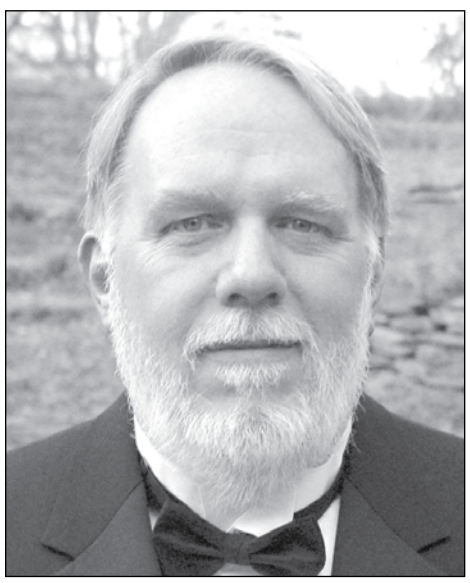
Boletas de elector ausente tardías / "Votación por adelantado". A partir del 28 de octubre y hasta el 2 de noviembre, los votantes pueden hacer la solicitud en persona y votar con boletas de elector ausente. Los votantes podrán votar en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal que se encuentra en el 7500 Maple Avenue, en los siguientes horarios:

Miércoles, 28 de octubre: De 9 a.m. a 5 p.m.
Jueves, 29 de octubre: De 9 a.m. a 5 p.m.
Viernes, 30 de octubre: De 9 a.m. a 5 p.m.
Lunes, 2 de noviembre: De 9 a.m. a 5 p.m.

Si el/la solicitante no puede hacer la solicitud y votar en persona, puede designar en su solicitud a un votante inscrito para votar en la Ciudad para que sirva como su agente y recoja y envíe su boleta (los candidatos y aquellas personas que representen a los candidatos, ya sea formal o informalmente, no pueden servir como agentes). La solicitud debe ser rellenada y enviada al Secretario

ELECCIONES
continues on page 11

✪ FOR MAYOR ✪



BRUCE WILLIAMS (INCUMBENT)

I'm Bruce Williams, and I'm running for my second term as Mayor. In my service on the City Council since 1993, I've never seen conditions as tough as our current situation. Leaders at all levels are facing difficult choices about how to deal with falling revenues. We all have to think about what our most important priorities are, what services we might do without, and how potential cuts effect those whose job it is to provide the services we might cut. I think that there are a few key areas for the Council and all of us to focus on as we go forward. We need to find new and improved opportunities for resident engagement in all aspects of our community. We need to continue to green our city. We need to continue to find grants, programs, and partners to fund ongoing needs. And, we need to protect current revenues.

Bruce Williams
301-891-0728
brucewtakoma@gmail.com

ROGER SCHLEGEL

I'm a high school teacher with training and experience in local government administration. My wife and I have two young children and live in Ward 3. As mayor, I'd bring fresh energy, vision, and focus to the Council's deliberations and actively lead all residents, including the "busy majority," in a conversation about choices we face with respect to our tax burden, new development around our borders, and the urgent need for bold action on sustainability. In my vision, our spending choices can recognize the distinction between needs and wants. Our commercial districts can provide economic stability with a small-town feel. Creative partnerships can expand recreation programs, address the needs of youth and seniors, and reduce our carbon footprint. We can leverage simple improvements to create a walkable community where more "eyes on the street" enhance public safety. I ask for your vote on November 3 to move our community forward.

Roger Schlegel
202-445-6606
roger4mayor@yahoo.com
http://www.roger4mayor.com

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES - CITY OF T

✪ WARD 1 ✪

JOSH WRIGHT (INCUMBENT)

It has been a pleasure to work with my fellow residents as a City Councilmember. Looking forward, I believe we need to focus on policies that result in: Safe Neighborhoods – reducing crime and improving roadway safety; A "Greener Takoma" – regaining the position as the environmental leader among cities that set an example for other communities to follow; Fair Taxation – resolving the unfair tax duplication issues with the county, resulting in affordable taxation for all while improving services; Community-Driven Development – encouraging development that preserves the small-town nature and history of Takoma Park and benefits the community; and Responsive and Efficient City Government – ensuring that the city government provides high quality, cost efficient services, in a timely manner.Our challenges are clear and our opportunities are great. I believe in our collective power to improve our community and look forward to continuing to lead these efforts.

Josh Wright
joshlwright@gmail.com
301-312-2717
www.josh-wright.com

✪ WARD 2 ✪

COLLEEN CLAY (INCUMBENT)

Colleen has lived in Takoma Park with her partner Karen Vernon and daughters Keegan and Piper since 2003. She is the only woman on the ballot this election and the only councilmember with children in Takoma Park public schools elected last term. Colleen holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. She has been a Girl Scout troop leader for seven years and serves on the board of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the region's Metropolitan Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board. Colleen enjoys boating, biking, camping and riding her motorcycle.

Colleen Clay
301-270-6888
Colleenclay.com
colleen@takomagov.org

✪ WARD 3 ✪

DAN ROBINSON (INCUMBENT)

Many thanks to the residents of Ward 3, the staff of the City, and my colleagues for help over the past two years on the Council. Each issue in public service is unique: a curb to be painted, a parking space placement, giving dogs a chance to run free in the morning, reducing our use of energy, making our government more streamlined and responsive, or fighting for a fairer shake from the state and county governments. Each requires an open discussion and a shared solution that draws on our common strengths. Our taxes are too high, yet options beyond property taxes as income for the City are shrinking. Our Police department is great, but there is still too much crime on our streets. There are big challenges, but Takoma Park is a fine place to live. Count on me to face these challenges with you over the next two years.

Dan Robinson
301-908-3504
dan.robinson@homeintakoma.com

✪ WA

TERRY SEAMENS (INCUMBENT)

This is an exciting year. For the first time since 1995 more than one person is running for Ward 4. I look forward to this campaign, and a healthy discussion of the issues. During the coming two years, I will focus on the following primary goals for Ward 4: Reduced traffic in our neighborhoods, and improved traffic calming measures; Continued expansion of recreational activities, through partnerships; Fair and equitable treatment for everyone; Inclusion and empowerment of all community members; Improved economic opportunities for young adults; Systemization of support services for our most needy residents. The bad economy makes meeting community expectations challenging. Knowledge that comes through experience makes me the best Ward 4 candidate to find budget reductions while filling community needs. Regardless of how difficult the economy becomes, I will remain focused on serving all people of Takoma Park, regardless of their issue.

Terry Seamens
301-565-0190
TerryS@takomagov.org

ELECTIONS

continued from page 9

candidates by order of choice (1, 2, and so on). The candidate receiving a majority of votes in each race shall be declared elected.

Despite the number of uncontested races, ballots have been prepared using a ranked choice format for instant runoff voting. This format is used to keep the instructions the same on ballots for all six wards, and to help voters become accustomed to the system. Voters are free to rank only one candidate in each race.

More information on instant runoff voting is available on the City of Takoma Park website at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/elections/2009.

VERIFIED VOTING

This year, the Takoma Park Board of Elections has worked with Scantegrity to provide voters the opportunity to verify online that their votes were counted. This system will only be applicable for those who vote in person.

When marking their ballot, voters will receive a confirmation code that they can write down, take home, and check online to make sure their votes were counted. The confirmation number does not say how the voter voted, and the vote remains private. What it does say, however, is that the vote is included in the final tally and that the scanner read the vote correctly. The system is paper-based and works like an optical scan voting system, making it easy to use. The only difference is that when voting, voters will see a confirmation number instead of a completely black mark. Writing down and checking the confirmation number is optional.

More information about this system can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/elections/2009 .

TAKOMA PARK: VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 3!

✪ WARD 4 ✪

No Photo Available

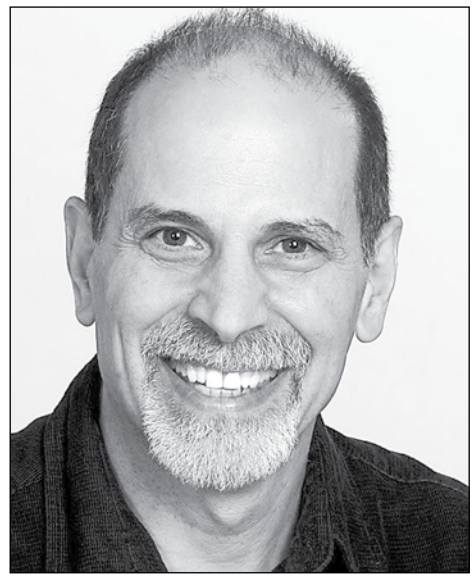
ERIC MENDOZA

Hello, my name is Eric Mendoza and I am running for Ward four Councilmember in Takoma Park. I am an active volunteer youth minister in the neighborhood and have been one for over a decade. My campaign and I are here on a mission, and one of our main ideas is to get the people in the community out to voice their opinions. As the youngest candidate, my campaign and I are focusing on the changes for the youth. We are also focusing on the concerns and well being of the citizens of Ward four. The way we look at it, since we want to build a better community, why not ask the people of the community. So I, Eric Mendoza am here for the people because it's not about me, it's about us. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my campaign manager.

Eric Mendoza
Mr.Criswell@yahoo.com.

Editor's Note: Mendoza has pre-registered as a write-in candidate

✪ WARD 5 ✪



REUBEN SNIPPER (INCUMBENT)

I am a candidate for City Council because I want to continue to work with you to protect and strengthen what makes our community special. Over the 23 years my family and I have lived in Ward 5, I have developed deep roots in our community. I have worked with many of you on local issues: appropriate development at Takoma Metro, the hospital move, affordable housing, Sligo Creek, local schools, traffic, safety, and many others. Together, we've achieved some real results. I know the big and small community issues from my own experience and from working and talking with you. You've told me to focus on concrete steps to make our neighborhood better, whether it's preserving the environment, getting a fair rebate from the county, supporting affordable housing, controlling traffic, improving bus service, ensuring safety, or supporting our youth. I have the neighborly know-how to do it and I will.

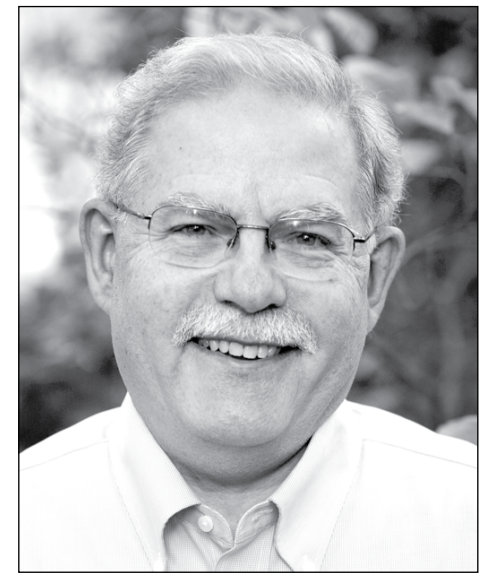
Ruben Snipper
301-974-2136
ReubenS@takomagov.org
http://reubensnipper.org/

✪ WARD 6 ✪

NAVID NASR

As a renter, a first-generation immigrant, and a resident of the east side of New Hampshire I hope to represent the interests of the people who reside not merely in the most neglected section of Ward 6, but the most neglected section of the city, period. Tenants deserve to have as much a say in what goes on in their city as homeowners, and newcomers to our city and our country deserve to have a seat at the table and to be made to feel welcome. Takoma Park is such a wonderful and unique city, unapologetically progressive in its politics, welcoming, diverse and a sanctuary for those who are made to feel hunted, unwelcome or scapegoated elsewhere. I hope I can do my part in ensuring that it stays that way.

Navid Nasr
301-233-2220
nnasr73@gmail.com



FRED SCHULTZ

Ward 6 is facing serious short and long term issues, and I have the skills, experience, time and passion to work on these issues. Many residents are concerned about unglamorous, but important, issues like better housing code enforcement and rent controls; improving pedestrian safety and getting sidewalks built; improving crime prevention and slowing cut-thru traffic. I'll help our two neighborhood associations attract more participation and provide residents with a strong, representative voice to city officials. Long range, the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan is moving forward. We must make sure affected citizens understand the impact of the proposed changes in zoning, new streets and mass transit. The proposed Purple Line, a bus transit center and rebuilt recreation center will be great additions, if done right. I've lived here 23 years. Over 40 years, I've worked in community organizing, city government, banking and owned a business. I know how to get things done.

Fred Schultz
301-434-7090
fshultz@starpower.net

ELECCIONS

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Municipal antes de que se le expida la boleta al agente. Al igual que ocurre con las votaciones regulares de elector ausente, no podrá emitirse una boleta hasta que no se determine si el votante cumple con los requisitos, y la boleta debe ser enviada de vuelta al Secretario Municipal antes de que cierren las urnas el día de las elecciones.

VOTACIÓN PREFERENCIAL

El Consejo de la Ciudad enmendó los Estatutos de la Ciudad en el 2006 para adoptar un sistema de votación preferencial en las elecciones de Takoma Park. Los votantes tendrán la oportunidad de clasificar a los candidatos por orden de preferencia (1, 2, y así sucesivamente). El candidato que reciba la mayor cantidad de votos en cada contienda deberá declararse electo.

Independientemente del número de contiendas sin oposición que haya, las boletas se han diseñado usando un formato de clasificación por preferencia para votaciones preferenciales. Se usa este formato para mantener las mismas instrucciones en las boletas de los seis distritos electorales y para ayudar a los votantes a acostumbrarse al sistema. Los votantes pueden limitarse a seleccionar solamente un candidato en cada postulación.

Hay más información disponible sobre las votaciones preferenciales en el sitio de Internet de la Ciudad de Takoma Park en: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/elections/2009.

VOTACIÓN VERIFICADA

Este año, la Junta Electoral ha colaborado con Scantegrity para brindarles a los votantes la oportunidad de verificar a través de Internet que su voto ha sido contado. Este sistema solamente estará disponible para quienes voten en persona.

Cuando marquen la boleta, los votantes recibirán un código de confirmación que pueden anotar, llevárselo para la casa y revisar por Internet para asegurarse de que su voto fue contado. El número de confirmación no dice por quién votó el elector y el voto seguirá siendo privado. Lo que sí dice, no obstante, es que el voto se incluyó en el conteo final y que el escáner leyó el voto correctamente. El sistema utiliza papel y funciona como un sistema de votación con un escáner óptico, lo cual hace que sea fácil de usar. La única diferencia es que cuando vayan a votar, los electores verán un número de confirmación en vez de una marca completamente negra. Anotar y revisar el número de confirmación es opcional.

Puede encontrarse más información sobre este sistema en la siguiente dirección de Internet: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/elections/2009 .

ELECCIONES
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SPECIMEN BALLOT — ALL WARDS

INSTRUCTIONS

Vote for candidates by indicating your first-choice candidate, your second-choice candidate, and so on. You are free to rank only a first choice if you wish.
Do not fill in more than one box per column. Do not fill in more than one box per candidate. Do not skip numbers in the ranking sequence.
Write-In Candidates: To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name in the space provided and fill in one box in the column indicating your ranking of the write-in candidate.
Do not make any identifying marks on your ballot.
When you mark a box to rank a candidate, a code will be revealed that you may later use to verify your vote online.
If you make a mistake on your ballot, return it to the judge and get another.

FOR ALL WARDS / PARA TODAS LAS AREAS
MAYOR/ALCADE

Roger B. Schlegel
Bruce Williams

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 1/ DISTRITO 1
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Josh Wright

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 2 / DISTRITO 2
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Colleen Clay

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 3 / DISTRITO 3
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Dan Robinson

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 4 / DISTRITO 4
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Terry Seamens

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 5 / DISTRITO 5
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Reuben Snipper

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 6 / DISTRITO 6
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Navid Nasr
Fred Schultz

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

To see an exact copy of the ballot in the ranked choice format, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov

Para ver un copia exacta de la boleta electoral, visite la pagina web www.takomaparkmd.gov

NEW THIS YEAR!

TRANSPORTATION TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER ON ELECTION DAY

All residents vote at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue.

The Recreation Department Bus will be available to transport residents to and from the Community Center.

Bus Schedule and Pick-Up Locations

- **Victory Tower,** 7051 Maple Avenue – pickups at 9:40 a.m.; 11:10 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.
- **Takoma Park Recreation Center,** 7315 New Hampshire Avenue – pickups at 9:55 a.m.; 11:25 a.m.; 1:15 p.m.
- **Intersection of Houston and Roanoke Avenue** – pickups at 10:10 a.m.; 11:40 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.
- **Franklin Apartments,** 7620 Maple Avenue – pickups at 10:20 a.m.; 11:50 a.m.; 1:40 p.m.

After the last group votes, the bus will transport those voters back along the same route, but there will be no more pickups. For information call 301-891-7267.

BOLETA DE MUESTRA— PARA TODOS LOS DISTRITOS ELECTORALES

INSTRUCCIONES

Vote por los candidatos indicando el candidato que sea su primera opción, el candidato que sea su segunda opción, y así sucesivamente. Si lo desea, puede limitarse a seleccionar solamente al candidato que sea su primera opción.
No rellene más de una casilla por cada columna. No rellene más de una casilla por cada candidato. No salte números en la secuencia de clasificación por orden.
Candidatos que no aparecen en la boleta: Para votar por una persona cuyo nombre no esté impreso en la boleta, escriba el nombre en el espacio previsto y rellene una casilla en la columna para indicar el orden de clasificación del candidato que se ha añadido.
No haga marcas en su boleta que puedan identificarlo.
Cuando usted marque la casilla para votar por un candidato, verá un código que podrá usar posteriormente para verificar su voto por Internet.
Si usted comete un error en su boleta, devuélvasela al juez y pida otra.

FOR ALL WARDS / PARA TODAS LAS AREAS
MAYOR/ALCADE

Roger B. Schlegel
Bruce Williams

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 1/ DISTRITO 1
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Josh Wright

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 2 / DISTRITO 2
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Colleen Clay

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 3 / DISTRITO 3
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Dan Robinson

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 4 / DISTRITO 4
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Terry Seamens

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 5 / DISTRITO 5
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Reuben Snipper

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

WARD 6 / DISTRITO 6
COUNCIL MEMBER / MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO

Navid Nasr
Fred Schultz

_____
Write-in / Candidato autonominado

To see an exact copy of the ballot in the ranked choice format, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov

Para ver un copia exacta de la boleta electoral, visite la pagina web www.takomaparkmd.gov

¡NUEVO ESTE AÑO!

TRANSPORTE AL CENTRO COMUNITARIO EL DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES

Todo el que resida en Takoma Park debe votar en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, en el 7500 Maple Avenue.

El Ómnibus del Departamento de Recreación estará disponible para llevar a los residentes de Takoma Park al Centro Comunitario y traerlos de regreso.

Horario del ómnibus y sitios de recogida

- **Victory Tower,** 7051 Maple Avenue – recogidas a las 9:40 a.m.; 11:10 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.
- **Centro Recreativo de Takoma Park,** 7315 New Hampshire Avenue – recogidas a las 9:55 a.m.; 11:25 a.m.; 1:15 p.m.
- **Intersección de Houston Avenue y Roanoke Avenue** – recogidas a las 10:10 a.m.; 11:40 a.m.; 1:30 p.m.
- **Franklin Apartments,** 7620 Maple Avenue: recogidas a las 10:20 a.m.; 11:50 a.m.; 1:40 p.m.

Después que termine de votar el último grupo, el ómnibus los llevará de regreso por la misma ruta, pero no habrá más recogido.

NOVEMBER RECREATION

Recreation Department kids are having a great time learning to play floor hockey, which will continue through December.

Photo by Greg Clark

FACEOFF FLOOR HOCKEY
Ages 6 - 14
Looking for a fun new sport to play during those cold winter months? Look no further than Takoma Park Faceoff Floor Hockey. The participants will be taught the rules and skills of the game and after each session there will be a scrimmage to practice these skills. Maximum 16, minimum 10. Six weeks. Instructor Carey Antoszewski.

Ages 7 - 9
When: Mondays, Nov. 9 – Dec. 14
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

Ages 10 - 12
When: Wednesdays, Nov. 11 - Dec. 23
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School Gym, 7510 Maple Avenue
Fee: T.P. City Residents $25
Non-Residents $30

No class on November 11 and 25.

FUN DAY PROGRAM
Ages 5 - 11
The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings and activities and performances on scheduled half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. On half days only, students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up from their bus stop and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the gym by a Recreation staff member. Full days pack a lunch. On half days bring a snack! Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early. **Half day program is already included in Afternoon Addition fees.

When: Mon., Nov.2
Activity: B&O Railroad and Baltimore Museum of Industry
Time: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fee: TP resident $25
Non-resident $30

When: **Wed., Nov.11
Activity: Reptile World
Time: 1 – 5:30 p.m.
Fee: TP resident $15
Non-resident $20

When: **Thu., Nov.12
Activity: Nicolo Whimsey – Learn to juggle and spin plates
Time: 1 – 5:30 p.m.
Fee: TP resident $15
Non-resident $20

ALTERNATIVE GAMES
Ages 11 and older
For D&D veterans: What if you were trapped in New York City when the zombie hordes took over the world? Or what if you were a gang of goglins playing poker on a bridge when those darned adventurers' came wandering by? Free flowing fast and furious, play a mix of different role-playing or tabletop strategy game systems, depending on player's interests. Instructor Dave Burbank. Maximum 12, minimum five. Four weeks.

When: Saturdays
Session 3: November 21 - December 5 – 19
Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Lilac Room - TP Community Center
Fee: TP residents $50
Non-residents $55
No class on November 28.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS
Ages 13 -18
Mind Your Own Business is designed to introduce teens to the world of business and entrepreneurship. Did you know that you are never too young to start a business? Our goal is to help participants develop basic skills by offering various workshops, in addition to giving participants the opportunity to enhance their current skills with confidence. Additional workshops will be provided.

Date: Wednesdays,
October 28 Barber/Hair Braiding
November 4 Event/Party Planning
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: T-Zone – T.P. Comm.. Ctr.
Fee: Free

DOG TRAINING LEVEL 1
Ages 16 and older
(Unless permission from instructor)
Clicker-training is a gentle, fun way to train your dog to have good manners, and walk on a loose lead. Learn how to teach your dog behaviors such as sit, down, come and stay, as well as "stupid pet tricks." Best of all, learn how to build a relationship with your dog that will make him an eager learner throughout his life. Must have proof of a rabies vaccine. Not appropriate for aggressive dogs. Instructor Ann Riley. Maximum eight, minimum six. Six weeks.

When: Wednesdays
Session 2: November 4 – December 16
Time: 7 – 8 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center 42 Oswego Ave.
Fee: TP residents $85/session
Non-residents $95/session
No class on November 11.

RECREATION
continues on page 14

Winter Basketball League Now Forming

The Takoma Park Winter Basketball League is for male and female participants ages 4 through 15. Each child will have the opportunity to play in a quality basketball league where emphasis is placed on teaching the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. The league is community-based, and games are played at local gyms. Modified rules and lowered baskets will be used for the younger age groups.

Workout Dates: Saturdays, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, 2009
Practices Date: December 12, 2009

Games Begin: January 9, 2010

Age Groups:
Pee Wee League Ages 4 – 5 co-ed
Jr. League Ages 6 – 7 co-ed
Inter. League Ages 8 – 9 girls and boys
Upper League Ages 10 - 12 girls and boys
Senior League Ages 13- 15 co-ed

Location: Local area gyms
Games: Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fee: TP residents $50
Non-residents $60

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

The Washington Adventist Hospital will be doing monthly blood pressure screening.

When: Thursday, Nov. 19, Dec. 17
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Senior Room
TP Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Free

RECREATION

continued from page 13

DOG TRAINING LEVEL 2

Ages 16 and older

(Unless permission from instructor)

A more advanced class for dogs that already have some obedience training. Use clicker training to build on the skills you and your dog already have whether you plan to compete in dog sports or would like your pet dog to be a more polite companion. Behaviors we focus on include the sit and down stay, sitting quietly for petting by a stranger, walking quietly on a leash around other people and dogs, working with distractions and tricks. Prerequisite: Beginning dog-training Level 1 or any basic/introductory obedience class or permission of instructor. Instructor Ann Riley. Maximum eight, minimum six. Six weeks.

When: Wednesdays,
Session 2: November 4 – December 16
Time: 8:15 – 9:15 p.m.
Location: Heffner Community Center
42 Oswego Ave.
Fee: TP residents $85/session
Non-residents $95/session

No class on November 11.

INDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

Ages 7 – 10

Soccer is your life! Can't get enough soccer? If this is how you think, then this fast-paced, high energy soccer action is for you. So when the weather outside is frightful, we'll be playing indoor soccer – oh how delightful. Bring a water bottle and indoor gym shoes. Maximum 80, minimum 10. Seven weeks.

When: Sundays, December 6 – January 31
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Time: 1 – 3 p.m.
Fee: TP residents $40
Non-residents $45

No program December 27, January 3.

A happy group of local seniors flex their smiles after a free Bone Builders class at the Community Center. The popular class is offered in partnership with Montgomery County.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

RECREATION
continues on page 15

Silver Foxes On the Go

SILVER FOXES TRIPS

Please note: All day trips require advance registration. Please call 301-891-7280 to pre-register, fill out a registration form and sign up by the registration deadline. Limited space available. Lunch not included, you pay for your meal.

MUSICALITEA

Back by popular demand! A great time for music lovers to gather and enjoy great music and meet new friends over delicious tea and light refreshments. Musical performances by Levine School of Music faculty-artists, students and guests.

When: Thursday, November 5
Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: The Music Center at
Strathmore, Bethesda, MD
Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: 11/2/09

ARUNDEL MILLS MALL AND THE NATIONAL

Cryptology Museum - The National Cryptology Museum is located in Fort Meade, Maryland next to the (NSA) National Security Agency's Headquarters. We will take a tour of the museum's historical artifacts (machines, devices, techniques) used in the secret world of code making and code breaking by people who devoted their lives to national defense. Afterwards, we will enjoy shopping at Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, Maryland. Bring your lunch or buy your lunch at the mall.

When: Tuesday, November 10
Time: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Fort Meade/Hanover, Maryland
Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: 11/5/09

RENWICK ART MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Renwick Gallery, designed by architect James Renwick Jr. in 1859, is a branch of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and features the collections of American craft and decorative arts (clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood) from the 19th century to the present. Lunch at Potbelly Sandwich Works.

When: Wednesday, December 9
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Washington, D.C.
Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: 12/4/09

SPECIAL BINGO

Come try your luck. Win a prize. Light refreshments.

When: Thursdays, November 19
December 17
Time: 12 - 2 p.m.
Location: Senior Room, TP Community Center
Fee: Free

OPEN ARTS STUDIO

Expand your art skills or learn new techniques in an open art studio with instructor Alice Sims. Classes include instruction on drawing, painting and working with clay. Be creative in a relaxed atmosphere and have fun. Call 301-891-7280 to register.

When: Mondays, October 26
November 9, December 14
Time: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Art Studio – TP Community Center
Fee: Free, but registration
is required to participate.

CREATIVE MEMORIES

Scrapbook Workshop

Learn the techniques needed to produce a personal memories scrapbook. Students need to bring in photographs (which can be cut and applied) of family, friends, vacations and special events to include in the scrapbook, provided by instructor. The final product is yours to keep. Limit eight participants. Instructor Ellen Evanoff. Call 301-891-7280 to register.

When: Saturday, November 14
Time: 2 – 4 p.m.
Location: Senior Room – T.P Community Center
Fee: $10

Senior Day Buffet

This bi-monthly event offers a good game of Bingo and a delicious American food buffet from Old Country Buffet in Gaithersburg, Md. for only $7.95 plus tax. Those who can drive, please meet in the rear parking lot of the Community Center. If you need transportation, please call 301-891-7280, two days in advance to arrange for pickup at Maple View Apts., Franklin Apts., and Victory Tower only. Call-in registration is required to participate.

When: Wednesday, November 18
Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fee: You pay for you meal.

COFFEE SOCIAL

Come to the Senior Room for coffee and conversation. The Seniors Program Manager will be on hand to share ideas and information about the program.

When: Thursdays, beginning November 12, ongoing (No meetings in the event of a planned special activity or day trip. Check the monthly newsletter.)
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Senior Room - TP Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Fee: Free

RECREATION

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CARDIO FUSION

Ages 16 and older

A complete workout for the entire body. Kick up your energy levels and decrease body fat through an infused mix of hi/lo cardiovascular conditioning and resistance training. Exercise modifications ensure effectiveness for any fitness level. Bring 3lb – 5 lb hand weights. Instructor Denise Pullet. Maximum of 20, minimum eight. Five weeks.

Days: Mondays and Wednesdays
Session 2: November 9 – December 9
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Dance Room – TP Community Center
Fee: TP residents $50/session
Non-residents $55/session

No class on November 11.

DRAWING AND WATERCOLOR

Ages 11 – 14

Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of $25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Six weeks. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.

Day: Tuesdays
Session 2: November 3 – December 15
Time: 3 – 5:15 p.m.
Location: Art Room – TP Community Center
Fee: Residents $135
Non-Residents $145

No class on November 24.

COLLAGE

Ages 18 and older

Come enjoy new ways of combining materials and media. Using a variety of collage and paper altering processes, students combine found and altered papers and lightweight three dimensional materials. Principles of color and design will be presented, such as limiting the color palette and the principles of design will be explored such as structure, balance, repetition, value and gradation. This class is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be provided. There is a $30 materials fee paid directly to the instructor, due the first day of class. Maximum 12, minimum seven. Instructor Katie Dell Kaufman.

Day: Tuesdays
Session 2: November 3 – December 15
Time: 11 a.m. 2 p.m.
Location: Art Room – TP Community Center
Fee: TP residents $205
Non-residents $225

No class on November 24.

BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH REGGIE WILLIAMS

Ages 8-15

The Takoma Park Basketball Clinic will be conducted under the watchful eyes of former NBA veteran Mr. Reggie Williams. Reggie, a star player at Dunbar High School (Baltimore) and Georgetown University, was part of the nucleus that led the Hoyas to become the National Champions in 1984. The developmental clinic, which will be held on Saturdays, is targeted to both male and female basketball players who want to improve their skills. Participants will gain a keen insight on the fundamentals of the game. Eight-week session. Instructor Reggie Williams.

When: Saturdays, Oct. 24 – Dec. 19
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Location: Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Fee: $50

A young trucker gets a feel for riding high in the big Public Works truck at the annual Touch a Truck event.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST
**** PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE**

The FREAKS come out in the afternoon. Get all decked out and strut your stuff. Categories include most original, funniest, and scariest. Ages 2 and under; 3 - 4; 5 - 7; 8 - 10; 11 - 12; teen and adult. Overall group category. Join in the fun!

When: Saturday, October 31
Time: 4 p.m.**
Location: Intersection of Carroll and Laurel Avenues, Old Town Takoma Park

HALLOWEEN PARADE
**** PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE**

All are welcome to participate in this walking parade. Follow the Takoma Park Fire Department Fire Truck as it escorts you down the parade route. Beginning at Carroll and Laurel Avenues, following Carroll Avenue to Firehouse, left onto Philadelphia Avenue and ending at Piney Branch Elementary School.

When: Saturday, October 31
Time: Approximately 4:45 p.m.
** (Immediately following the Costume Contest)

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Halloween Award Ceremony

Join us for refreshments, sponsored by the Takoma Park Lions Club, at Piney Branch Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, following the Halloween Parade for the announcement of the Contest Winners. We'd like to thank the Takoma Park Lions Club, who graciously served the Takoma Park community for several decades with its kindness and support.

When: Saturday, October 31
Time: Approximately 5:15 p.m.
(Immediately following the parade)
Location: Piney Branch Elementary School
7510 Maple Avenue

Faye Wright, Recreation Department Teen Manager, drew a big crowd when she set up a popcorn machine one day after school. Visitors not only got free popcorn, they learned about the many Rec Department programs offered by the City.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

Takoma Park Library CALENDAR

Registration required for some events, as indicated in listing. For a few events, it is encouraged, but not required, as noted.

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

Bedtime Stories
Monday, Nov. 2, 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.

Saturday Circle Time
Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m.
Rhymes, fingerplays, songs and a story. Ages infant-5.

Eaglebear and Friends
Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.
Great for kids and adults of all ages!

Nursery Rhymes for Big Kids
A four-program workshop for kids in grades 3-5
Tuesdays, Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8
7-8:30 p.m.
Led by poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer
Registration required.

Banned Books Club
For kids grades 6 and up
Monday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Candide by Voltaire. Copies are available for check-out, thanks

LIBRARY CALENDAR
continues on page 17

Geisel Award Highlights Best Beginner Books

By Karen MacPherson

Learning to read should be fun. All too often, however, the books available for beginning readers are simple-minded and boring.

Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, sought to change all that with his brilliantly witty books for beginning readers, such as The Cat in the Hat. So several years ago, the American Library Association decided to salute Geisel's efforts to make reading fun by establishing a special award in his name.

The Geisel Award, first given in 2006, is given annually to the authors and illustrators of the most distinguished books for beginning readers. Chosen by a group of librarians, the winner of the Geisel Award is announced the same day as the Newbery and Caldecott medals.

If you're a parent whose child is just learning to read, give the Geisel winners a try. You can find out more information about the award and previous winners at this website: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/geiselaward/index.cfm .

While the winning books have so far been beginning readers, several of the Geisel Honor books have been picture books, such as *Jazz Baby* by Lisa Wheeler, or even non-fiction like *Vulture View* by April Pulley Sayre.

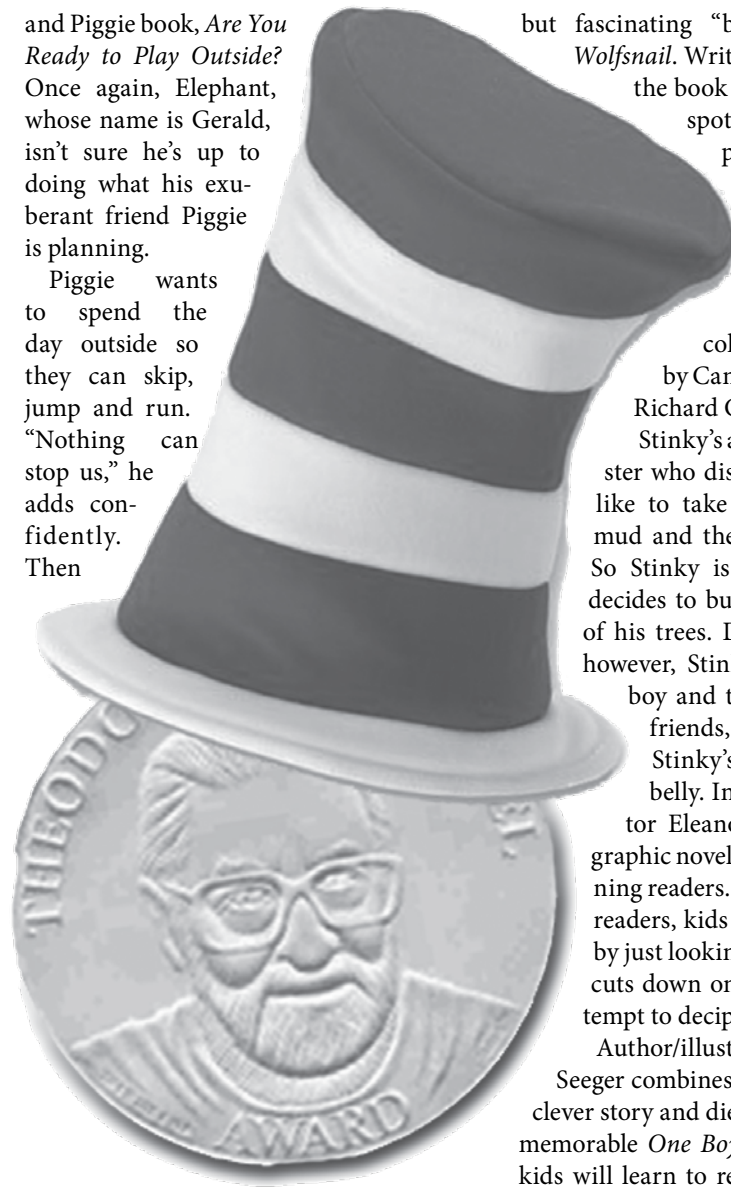
This year, the Geisel Honor books included a picture book, a non-fiction volume and even a graphic novel. Here's a closer look at the winner of the 2009 Geisel Award, as well as the four Geisel Honor books:

Mo Willems burst onto the children's book scene in 2004, when one of his first children's books, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, won a Caldecott Honor. The following year, Willems won a second Caldecott Honor for his picture book titled *Knuffle Bunny.*

In 2007, Willems expanded his repertoire to beginning readers, publishing the first four volumes in a new series focused on two unlikely friends, Elephant and Piggie. One of those books, *There Is a Bird On Your Head* won the 2008 Geisel Award.

Now, Willems has done it again, winning the 2009 Geisel Award for another Elephant and Piggie book, *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* Once again, Elephant, whose name is Gerald, isn't sure he's up to doing what his exuberant friend Piggie is planning.

Piggie wants to spend the day outside so they can skip, jump and run. "Nothing can stop us," he adds confidently. Then it begins to rain, and Piggie is furious. Fortunately, Gerald has a solution or two that makes their play time turn out perfectly.



Willems' text uses basic words but vibrates with energy, and young readers will love the way Gerald creates a happy ending for Piggie. As always, Willems' artwork is wonderful as he uses simple lines and a limited color palette to add lots of detail and emotion to his story. (Ages 4-7).

Geisel Honor books

Young readers can learn all about a tiny but fascinating "backyard predator" in *Wolfsnail*. Written by Sarah Campbell, the book follows a wolfsnail as it spots and then devours its prey – a smaller snail. Campbell's text is full of interesting facts, and readers can gather further information from the close-up color photographs taken by Campbell and her husband, Richard Campbell. (Ages 4-7).

Stinky's a swamp-dwelling monster who dislikes kids because they like to take baths, they don't like mud and they eat cake and apples. So Stinky is appalled when a boy decides to build a tree house in one of his trees. Despite his best efforts, however, Stinky can't get rid of the boy and they eventually become friends, brought together by Stinky's enormous toad Wartbelly. In *Stinky*, author/illustrator Eleanor Davis has created a graphic novel that's perfect for beginning readers. As in all the Toon Book readers, kids can get the entire story by just looking at the pictures, which cuts down on frustration as they attempt to decipher the text. (Ages 4-7).

Author/illustrator Laura Vaccaro Seeger combines vibrant artwork with a clever story and die-cut pages to create the memorable *One Boy.* In this picture book, kids will learn to read numbers and other simple words as they try to figure out just how Seeger is going to tie things up in the end. Young readers will particularly enjoy exploring Seeger's use of die-cut pages to tell her story. (Ages 3-6).

Earl and Pearl are trying to get some gardening done, and Chicken just won't stay out of their pumpkin patch. But, as author Judyanne Ackerman Grant shows in *Chicken Said, 'Cluck!*, Chicken ends up saving the pumpkin patch from hungry grasshoppers. Grant's text will entertain young readers, who will enjoy repeating "Cluck, cluck, cluck" and "Shoo, shoo, shoo." Sue Truesdell's illustrations further broaden the comedy. (Ages 4-7).

LIBRARY *Briefs*

Reading Group Discusses Cry, The Beloved Country

The next meeting of the Friends Reading Group will discuss Alan Paton's *Cry, The Beloved Country,* Thursday, Dec. 3 2009, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Community Center. Set in Johannesburg in the 1940s (and published in1948), the novel brought South Africa and its racial tensions to world awareness—it is "the most influential South African novel ever written," wrote South African writer and Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer. In following Stephen Kumalo, a Zulu priest, and the disabling troubles his family encounters, the novel dramatizes with as much objectivity as may be possible the complexities of a society that gave rise to apartheid. For more information about the book and programs that the Friends support, go to www.ftpml.org or call 301-891-7259.

Book Sale Approaches

Don't forget to attend the Friends of the Library's gala used book sale on the Library lawn on Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We have nearly new children's books, popular fiction and a variety of quality non-fiction plus some music CDs to sell at unbelievably low prices.

The Friends semi-annual book sales are a major source of revenue for the Friends. All proceeds go to the Library in the form of gifts. They help to fund many of our special programs – such as the College Bound speakers' series, Spanish and French Circle time, poetry programs with Rosanne Singer and Liz Rees, books for both the Banned Books Club and the Friends Reading Group, and crafts for our seasonal and holiday craft programs with Karen MacPherson.

Community service is available for high school students who wish to help out on the day of the sale. Those interested should contact Ellen Robbins at ellenr@takomagov.org or 301-891-7258. Adults who wish to volunteer for two hour shifts between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. are also welcome to sign up.

New Faces Join Library Staff

The Library has welcomed three new staff members in recent months – two substitute staff and a part time Library Assistant.

Jill Raymond replaced Lucia Acin on our permanent staff in June. Jill has lived in Takoma Park for more than 25 years. Since she received her Masters degree in Library Science from Catholic University, she has worked professionally for National Public Radio, NBC News, Montgomery College, Congressional Quarterly and at the Takoma Park Library in a variety of capacities. She is also a nationally certified massage therapist and a member of the outreach team for the Protect Seals Team organized by the Humane Society of America.

LIBRARY BRIEFS
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LIBRARY BRIEFS

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Patty Mallin has lived in Takoma Park since 1997. She is a free-lance web designer, and worked as Program Director for the Institute for Global Communications from 1996 to 2002. Patty has served on the Board of the Friends of the Library, and organized a mother-daughter book club in 2007. She currently works at the Takoma Park Library as a substitute shelver and library assistant.

Olga Strocovsky Sirota is also a longtime City resident. She has worked extensively with children, including at the Takoma Park Child Development Center. She has also taught Spanish at several schools in the Montgomery County public school system. As a fluent speaker of Spanish as well as French and Portuguese, Olga is a welcome addition to our substitute staff following the departure of Lucia Acin Andion.

Eaglebear Returns

It's time for our yearly visit from Eaglebear – aka Tomas Shash – and his family and friends. Join us on Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. for this harvest celebration, which is perfect for both adults and kids of all ages. During the program, Eaglebear and members of his family present songs, stories and dances of their Xicano and Apache cultures. Afterwards, participants can get a closer look at some of the drums, animal pelts and other artifacts that Eaglebear brings to teach others about his cultures. No registration necessary. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring Eaglebear's visit.

Poetry for Big Kids

So you think nursery rhymes are just for little kids? Not so, as local poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer will demonstrate during a four-program workshop for kids in grades 3-5. In the workshop, which culminates in a performance, kids will look at some of the familiar childhood nursery rhymes and investigate the history behind them. For example, did you know that Humpty Dumpty was the name of a powerful cannon during the English Civil War for 1642-1649 or that Mary, Mary Quite Contrary was a blood-thirsty queen? After looking at the history behind the rhymes, participants then will create their own poetic responses. Maybe kids will want to take on the persona of Mary's Little Lamb or the Farmer's Wife who cut off the tails of the three blind mice. What were they thinking? Why did they do what they did? Participants will perform their poems during the final evening. Dates for the programs in the workshop are all Tuesdays: Nov. 10 and 17, and Dec. 1 and 8. Spaces are limited and registration is required.

LIBRARY CALENDAR

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to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.
All welcome; registration required.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7: 45 p.m.

Comics Jam
Friday, Nov. 20, 4 p.m.
Come enjoy our "comic books book club"!

French Circle Time
Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:30 p.m.
Join Madame Marie as she does songs, rhymes and stories in French.

Friends Reading Group
Thursday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., Community Center
Our book is *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.
Books available at the Library.
All are welcome.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON RESIDENTS' REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF OFF-LEASH DOG HOURS IN SPRING PARK

The City Clerk has received a petition requesting designation of off-leash dog hours in Spring Park. The hours requested are: Monday – Friday, Dawn to 9 a.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.; 4 p.m. to dusk every day.

Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 03-05 "Dogs Off-Leash in Parks," residents may send comments to the City Manager (c/o the City Clerk's Office, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912, Fax: 301-270-8794, E-mail: Clerk@takomagov.org).

Comments will be accepted until December 21, 2009. A full copy of the administrative regulation may be viewed at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/regulations. Questions may be addressed to Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267.

Takoma Park TV Events - November 2009

City TV is pleased to announce that it won three awards this year: an Honorable Mention for its Snapshots segment entitled: "Art in the Community Center:"iWmOaRgDe - Fusion of Poetry and Art" from the Alliance for Community Media's Annual Hometown Video Festival, and two Honorable Mentions for the Jazz Band Brawl performance by Sabroso in the Government Progamming Awards in the categories of Visual Arts and Arts and Entertainment.

City TV will start November off with election results sometime on the night of November 3rd. Results will also be posted to the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

The current edition of Takoma Snapshots will feature:

- Green Takoma Park - Where does my recycling go?
- HLC Diabetes Foundation - working to make life sweeter
- Community Gardens - Building a Community
- Closet Opera by John Borstel
- Fall & Winter Sports in Takoma Park
- 32nd Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival

Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board.

Many City TV programs, including Council meetings and Snapshots, are available for on-demand viewing from the City website. Much of City TV programming is streaming live on the website as well. Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for more information.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Dubs of Takoma Park City TV events may be purchased on VHS or DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.

CITY TV PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - November 2009

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	PreSchool Power!	Education TV	PreSchool Power!	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Folk Festival	
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots		Coffeehouse			Takoma Park Snapshots
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival				Road to Recovery	Takoma Park Folk Festival
NOON				Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	
1:00 PM	Education TV	Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
2:00 PM	NASA 360		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	Music da Camera
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	Music da Camera		Road to Recovery			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	Preschool Power	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Preschool Power	
5:00 PM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA 360	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Education TV	
6:00 PM		Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Special Events		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art
7:00 PM				Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Jazz Night	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (LIVE)						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	Takoma Park City Council Meeting (Replay)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events					
10:00 PM							Coffeehouse
11:00 PM		Takoma Jazz Night		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots		Takoma Park Snapshots		Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited		
1:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Deja vu: Takoma Music Revisited	

For Quick City Service Use My TKPK

Email your questions about city services or find answers on FAQs
www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service/index.html

International Walk to School Day Hits Home

By Lucy Neher

"I feel famous," one student was heard announcing as he walked to school on Wednesday, October 7, International Walk to School Day. Another student held tight to a treasure found along the way: a leaf the size of a basketball. Together students smiled and chanted as they made their way up Maple Avenue toward Piney Branch Elementary School.

As the flag was raised at school, the entire school community sang the national anthem and recited the pledge. Takoma Park Police Chief Ricucci addressed the students, empowering them to feel responsible for their safety and promising that pedestrian safety was a top priority for the Takoma Park Police Department, and City officials and event organizers were on hand to enforce the message of commitment to the safety of Takoma Park's students.

Walk to School Day is one way the City-supported Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) educates and encourages families to walk and bike safely to school and emphasizes the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

Local school children get in the spirit of International Walk to School Day. Organized locally by the City-supported Safe Routes to School program, the October 7 event drew hundreds of participants.

Photo by Lucy Neher

Now in its third year, Safe Routes to School will continue to offer a range of programs to the seven participating schools: Piney Branch, Takoma Park, Rolling Terrace and East Silver Spring Elementary Schools, Takoma Park Middle School, and John Nevins Andrews and Sligo Adventist Schools.

Each school will be offered a Bike Rodeo to reinforce pedestrian and bike safety procedures. After watching an instructional video, the students all get a chance to practice bike safety skills on an obstacle course.

The SRTS Takoma Park 5K Challenge was a tremendous success last spring. The pedestrian safety message spread across the City as more than 350 runners registered to run in the May 3 event. Plans are already underway for the second annual SRTS Takoma Park 5K Challenge to be held Sunday, May 2, 2010.

Other SRTS programs include the continued maintenance of the trail behind Takoma Park Middle School; school-based walking, running and biking clubs, sidewalk installations and intersection redesign, and speed enforcement near the schools. The Safe Routes Coordinator is available to classroom teachers for small group instruction on pedestrian safety including hands on crosswalk training.

Walking to school will not make you famous, ensure that you get along with your neighbors or promise you treasured discoveries every day. Walking to school will improve your health, help you see your world with new eyes, reduce emissions and congestion and may even surprise you with added benefits like these each day.

Fall Leaf Collection Program

Loose leaf collection will be provided by the City from November 16 through December 31. Residents can rake leaves out to the curb at their convenience. Most City streets will not have an assigned collection day. However, every street in the City will receive at least two collections. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Leaf collection is dependent on the weather. Rain and freezing conditions can slow collection.

There are five streets that will have assigned and posted collection dates, due to the heavy traffic volume on the streets. Carroll Avenue from the 7000 to 7800 block, Ethan Allen Avenue, and Flower Avenue from the 7900 to 8600 block will have collection on Monday, November 30 and Thursday, December 17. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Thursday, December 3 and Monday, December 21. On these dates, only these streets will receive collection.

There are several holidays during the collection period. Veteran's Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 11, Thanksgiving holiday is Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, and Christmas on Friday, December 25.

For the month of November, the crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. In December, when the crews are making the last collection on each street, they will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves from the gutter and grassy strip.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. Please contact Public Works by phone: 301-891-7633. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 to notify us when your leaves have been raked out. We plan to collect reported piles from the hotline calls within a week to 10 days of the call.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. Do not rake leaves into the street. Leaf piles can create traffic hazards.

2. Do not park your car in front of a leaf pile and when raking please try to avoid piling leaves where cars are likely to be parked.

3. The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. Do not include branches, brush, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.

4. Do not pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.

The City also operates the weekly Monday collection for bagged grass, leaves, branches and brush all year long. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than four feet long and less than three inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in a trash can. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled on weeks with a Monday holiday.

LEAF COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Collection will occur continuously from November 16 to December 31.
- Residents can rake leaves at their convenience, there is no assigned collection day (except for the five state highways in the City which have assigned collection days).
- Rake leaves just to the curb – not in the street.
- Do not put branches, brush, rocks or other debris in the leaf piles.
- Vacuum leaf collection will end December 31, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.
- Leaf Collection Hotline for reporting when your pile is at the curb, 301-891-7626.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

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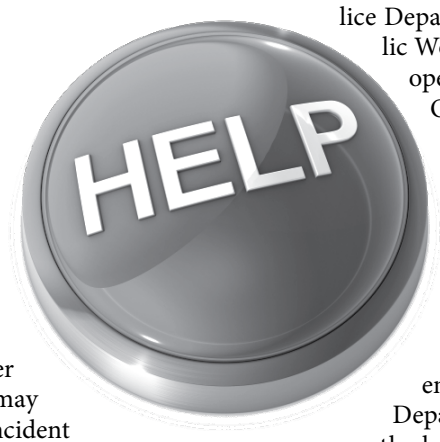

who wish to receive federal funding for emergency management activities or equipment. This system is used by all responders in the nation and works to maintain order when numerous organizations come together to manage major emergencies. This may be necessary, for example, when an incident commander in Takoma Park needs additional resources from Montgomery County, Fredericksburg, Virginia or even Fairbanks, Alaska.

Under the ICS, each individual or asset deployed has an easy-to-understand role or assignment and an entity to whom they are responsible in the chain of command. To ensure compliance with the national standards, it is important that all organizations have adopted and trained in this concept. Potential incident commanders here in Takoma Park are trained accordingly, and participate in periodic exercises to refresh and reinforce that training.

Who's in Charge?

The Incident Commander is usually the highest ranking member of the primary organization on any emergency scene, working at the Incident Command Post. This individual is ultimately in charge of overall emergency response to particular situations, but in some cases, command of the incident might move to a Unified Command, in which two or more agencies share the Incident Commander role.

The other major features of the National Incident Management System and National Response Framework are the Emergency Support Functions. These are 15 broadly-based categories of services used by government to address emergency management, including ESF 1 - Transportation, ESF 4 - Firefighting, ESF 9 - Search and Rescue, or ESF 13 - Public Safety and Security or Law Enforcement. Each ESF has a group of government or private sector organizations represented in the Emergency Management Group. Their role during an emergency is to ensure that the related basic services of government are met when addressing a crisis.

Emergency Plans in Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park has its own Emergency Operations Plan for bring together its various departments during a local emergency. The two primary agencies in the City involved in emergency management are the Police Department and the Department of Public Works. The City's plan provides for the operation of a Takoma Park Emergency Operation Center should that be necessary. Currently the Police Chief holds the position of the City's Emergency Manager, on behalf of the City Manager.

The various EOPs spell out ground rules that apply in the field regarding which agency is responsible for Incident Command. Most emergency situations designate the Department of Fire and Rescue Services as the lead agency, but in some cases, a Unified Command would bring additional agencies into the picture. The Incident Commander relies on the EOC, when activated, to support the Incident Command with additional resources.

Incidents that call for the Police Department to lead underscore another dynamic here in Takoma Park: the City's Police Department, because of its size and scope of specialization, may have to rely on additional manpower from surrounding agencies. The first stop in seeking assistance would be the Montgomery County Police. If that were to happen, in most cases the Takoma Park Police Commander would retain control incident response, but in some cases, where the deployment of County police assets might outweigh that of the City, command could be passed to the ranking Montgomery County Police official.

Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, Rockville and Takoma Park participate regularly in Emergency Management Group activities. If an incident were having a direct impact in a specific municipality, then the municipal representatives would be involved in the operations and planning efforts. City representatives would maintain contact with various departments here in the City, help arrange resource assets, and provide contact with the Takoma Park Emergency Operations Center, should that be go into action.

State and Federal Roles

There are also significant assets for emergency management that are provided by state and federal agencies. Examples include National Guard support, specialized FEMA teams, or Department of Defense units with specialized capabilities for particular types of emergencies. The call for these assets comes through the County EOC to the State of Maryland's EOC operated by MEMA. State authorities are responsible for notifying the federal government of needed assets, through either FEMA or the Department of Defense. When deployed to the scene of an incident though, these state or federal assets will usually be reporting to the Incident Commander, in order to receive situational status information about the emergency and to coordinate efforts with resources already deployed.

Most of this coordination effort appears transparent to the average community member needing government services during an emergency. Having a good understanding of these intra-governmental relationships, though, helps the informed citizen to be aware of local government's ability to provide for the safety and welfare of its residents during a crisis.

Training to help in Emergencies

Volunteers are an essential part of any emergency response plan, and training makes volunteers as effective as they can be. The Volunteer Center of Montgomery County offers training for volunteers in several categories. They are:

Emergency Action Team: The Emergency Action Team is closest to the community. The team may be assigned to help neighbors, staff an emergency hot line, work at a volunteer dispatch center, or help transport people. Obligation: Attend training sessions four times a year (not stringent).

Community Emergency Response Team (also called CERT): CERTs provide front-line assistance during large emergencies. CERTS will be able to identify and mitigate hazards at home and at work, provide assistance until professional emergency responders arrive and support an emergency response, if needed. Obligation: Attend seven classes over a three-week period as well as one all-day practical instruction on Saturday. A test will be given.

Medical Reserve Corps: The Medical Reserve Corps is for medical professionals such as doctors, technicians and nurses to help their community by responding to emergencies. Members may assist in emergencies in shelters or they may supplement the County's public health staff. Practicing or retired health professionals are welcome.

Obligation: Attend four training sessions per year (not stringent).

Other opportunities: American Red Cross, Radio Response such as Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) for FCC licensed amateurs and Radio Emergency Agency Communication (REACT), and Sky-warn and Search and Rescue.

Sign up The City of Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee will host the Volunteer Center of Montgomery County on Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m. Volunteer Center staff will discuss volunteer training in detail and sign up interested participants.

CROSSROADS MARKET

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for low-income immigrant youth ages 13-18 ($13,500 requested).

Daines points out that, besides meeting the federal criteria that CDBG projects benefit individuals and households of low and moderate income, the Market accomplishes a number of objectives in the City's strategic plan: it is environmentally sustainable, as it offers locally grown produce; economically sustainable, as it supports local merchants and suppliers and promotes the "shop local" mantra; and it creates livable community by providing a pleasant, safe outdoor space and healthy food.

Michele Levy, a Crossroads Market staff member, lists other benefits: the market educates the public about healthy eating, increases buying power among low-income people, and builds community. Many of the senior citizens who take the City's bus from the Community Center to the market each Wednesday are on a first-name basis with vendors, she notes; mothers bring children, and leave with nutrition information and activity books for the kids. "One woman who has been shopping at the market with WIC and food stamps ... is now on the market staff," says Levy.

Piles of produce attract customers at the Crossroads Farmers Market, where shoppers can use Fresh Checks in conjunction with food assistance programs like WIC and food stamps.

Photo by Michele Levy

The CDBG funds are crucial to the Market's survival. With a 300 percent increase this year in the number of Fresh Check recipients, "We exceeded our projected budget early in the season, and have been actively fundraising to continue the project," says Levy. She and the Market's other staffer, Michelle Dudley, remain optimistic about the market's continued surival, though, and recently received an additional $50,000 grant from the Kaiser Permanente Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) and $5,000 from the Wallace Genetic Foundation.

City assistance has gone beyond CDBG allocation. "When Crossroads Market founder, John Hyde, passed away last spring, it was the Department of Housing and Community Development who provided the organizational support to keep the market running," says Dudley. She praises Sara Daines in particular as "an invaluable resource," who provided meeting space, helped oversee market bus service, suggested organizational strategies, and gave budget advice; other City staffers have also pitched in.

"The Crossroads Market definitely credits the City for its survival," says Dudley, and the market will "certainly" continue next year.

Sunny Street Festival Bigger Than Ever

Takoma Park welcomed throngs of people to the Takoma Park Street Festival October 4 - organizers estimate near 15,000 attended the event to listen to music, dance in the streets, shop among vendors, learn about community issues and visit with friends. Extending farther than ever this year - all the way down to the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Station - there were an additional 40 booths since last year lining the streets, from photography, painting, and one-of-a-kind clothing to grilled chicken, Caribbean calaloo, and ice cold lemonade, plus plenty of community information tables where visitors could learn about area development, community safety, local politics and human rights. Proceeds, from sponsorships, help support Main Street Takoma, which organizes summer concerts, clean-up days and Old Takoma business promotions. To help plan next year's festival, volunteers can contact execdirector@takomaonline.com or 240-253-4229.

Photos: Lonni Moffet