

CITY OFFICES & COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED
12:30 p.m. Dec. 23-
Dec. 26, and
Dec. 31-Jan. 2

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

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

TRASH HOLIDAYS

Fridays, Dec. 24 and 31 trash and recycling collection will be Thursdays, Dec. 23 and 30

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

DECEMBER 2010

Crowd Weighs in on Fate of Route 410

Administrator says state has no plans to widen road

By VIRGINIA MYERS

The Community Center Auditorium was packed Nov. 8 when some 120 people attended the City Council meeting over a proposal to transfer the ownership of portions of MD 410 and two blocks of Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park from the City of Takoma Park to the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). The proposal would also provide \$696,000 to the City in lieu of repaving MD 787, Flower Avenue, provided the City makes the needed street improvements instead. Flower Avenue would then be removed from the State Highway inventory and become a local road (see related story, this page).

Attendance at the meeting was high because many people were concerned that if SHA owned the roadway of MD 410, it

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The Foggy Bottom Morris Men, among them, Charlie Pilzner, above, will celebrate the coming Winter Solstice from 6-7 p.m. Dec. 16 with dancing at the Old Town Gazebo. There is just one of many holiday events in Old Town this year. For more music, art and shopping info see article, page 3.

Photo by Eric Bond, courtesy of Takoma Voice

Flower Avenue Considered for Annexation, "Green Street" Project

By SUZANNE LUDLOW
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

Flower Avenue might yet live up to its name, if the suggestion that it be turned into a "green street" gains momentum.

First, however, a proposal that the city annex the right-of-way along the Silver Spring side of Flower Avenue is being considered.

Annexation

On Nov. 22, the Takoma Park City Council voted to consider annexation of the right-of-way between the pavement of Flower Avenue and the Silver Spring properties on the east side of Flower Avenue between Carroll Avenue and Piney Branch Road. The annexation would facilitate street and sidewalk improvements for this road, which is currently a State Highway. No privately owned property is proposed to be annexed into Takoma Park. Still, a public hearing on the proposal will be held to solicit input from residents before the project moves forward. The hearing is set for Monday, Feb. 7, 2011.

Annexation—the addition of land into an incorporated municipality, such as the City of Takoma Park—is guided by Maryland state law, which specifies required steps

that must be taken to annex land. In the case of annexation of right-of-way, which is the land on which public streets and walkways are located, the process is relatively simple. If the right-of-way to be annexed is not in an incorporated municipality and the jurisdiction holds the public hearing and follows the annexation procedures correctly, the annexation will proceed if the City Council votes to do so. Annexation of privately owned land is a much more complex process, requiring support by a certain percentage of owners and residents, and may involve a referendum if the annexation is challenged.

What would be annexed?

The current Takoma Park City boundary runs south from Piney Branch Road along the east side of the Flower Avenue pavement past Division Street and then proceeds east through the middle of Wilkinson Hall on the Washington Adventist University campus past Garland Avenue before jogging over to Carroll Avenue. Between Piney Branch Road and Wilkinson Hall, the sidewalk on the west side of the street and the two lanes of Flower Avenue pavement are

Adventists Plan Sports and Fitness Center

Residents Invited to Contribute to Planning Process

By KEVIN ADLER

Over the next few months, Takoma Park residents will have the opportunity to provide their input on what could become a \$25 million sports and health center developed jointly by Washington Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist University. The first public meeting about the draft plan was sparsely attended, but representatives of the sports and health center say that they are committed to getting extensive public feedback on the plan.

"With each conversation we have, we learn something," said Vincent Day, a consultant who was hired more than two years ago by the hospital to help it devise a redevelopment plan. "We will be continuing to reach out in the next few months...because we believe that Takoma Park residents are an invaluable part of this process."

The sports and health center would be just one part of a more extensive Health and Wellbeing Village that the hospital intends to create in Takoma Park. The redevelopment is occurring because Washington Adventist Hospital is relocating its primary campus to a new facility in the White Oak area of Silver Spring.

At the public meeting on October 27, Day unveiled a draft design for a two-story fitness facility that would be located on the Washington Adventist University baseball field on Flower Avenue. The sports facility would have 60,000 to 70,000 square feet of space, and its centerpiece would be a full-size basketball court that meets NCAA standards and has bleacher seating for about 1,500 people. The facility also would have a lap pool and a separate small pool for physical therapy, as well as a weight room and a cardio room. Finally, the center would have classrooms and office space for the athletic department and might become the new home of the university's radio station, WGTS.

Potentially, Takoma Park residents would have access to the facility for swimming, exercise classes, basketball leagues—the possibilities are wide open. "When we interviewed people in the community, the need for more fitness facilities was the priority," said Day. "The lap pool was one specific need that came through loud and clear, and that's part of why it was added."

Few people have seen the draft design, but the reaction has been positive. "It looks like an interesting plan, with a lot to offer the community in terms of additional recreation options," said Anne Hollander, co-chair of the Washington Adventist Hospital Land

ANNEXATION
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WELLBEING VILLAGE
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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

The City Council will be on recess from Tuesday, November 30 through Sunday, January 2. Meetings will resume on January 3, 2011.

Wednesday, December 1 - Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs meeting, (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, December 8 - Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, December 8 - Takoma Park Board of Elections, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

Thursday, December 9 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, December 13 - Recreation Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, December 14 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, December 21 - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, December 21 - Takoma Junction Task Force, 7:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Thursday, December 23 - **City offices closed beginning at 12:30 p.m. for the Christmas Holiday.** The Community Center will be closed through the holiday weekend beginning at 12:30 p.m. on December 23.

Friday, December 24 - **City offices closed for the Christmas Holiday.**

Tuesday, December 28 - (tentative) Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Friday, December 31, 2010 - **City offices closed for the New Year Holiday.** The Community Center will be closed until January 3, 2011.

*For the most up to date information, check 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 City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

Visit with the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes community input and invites you to meet with him. The City Council is on recess until January 3, 2011. To schedule a meeting with the mayor during December, contact Peggy Washington at 301-891-7230 or by email at peggyew@takomagov.org.



Bruce Williams

City Council Action*

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

October 25 – Regular Meeting

First Reading Ordinance 2010-49 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code Ch. 14. 20 Morals and Conduct to Repeal Obsolete Sections (VOTING NAY: Wright)

Resolution 2010-65 was adopted, appointing Barbara Muhlbacher to the Takoma Junction Task Force

Resolution 2010-66 was adopted, supporting the request of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless to purchase a six-unit apartment building at 8316 Flower Avenue

November 1 – Special Session

First Reading Ordinance 2010-50 was accepted, approving a PILOT agreement with Montgomery Housing Partnership for the Edinburgh House (7513 Maple Avenue) (VOTING NAY: Clay, Robinson, Schultz)

November 8 – Regular Meeting

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-50 was adopted, approving a PILOT agreement with Montgomery Housing Partnership for the Edinburgh House (7513 Maple Avenue) (VOTING NAY: Clay, Robinson)



Volunteer Needed to Represent Takoma Park on the Montgomery County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee

The Committee advises the County Executive on plans for the annual Montgomery County program held in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Takoma Park has a position for one member and one alternate member on the Committee. Contact Jessie Carpenter (301-891-7267 or JessieC@takomagov.org) for information.



Holiday Schedule for Passport Services in the Community Center

Passport services will not be available the week of December 20. Regular hours will resume on December 27.

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).

Arts and Humanities Commission
(vacancies)

Takoma Park Board of Elections
(vacancies)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
(vacancies)

Personnel Appeal Board
(vacancy)

Recreation Committee
(vacancies)

Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee
(vacancies)

Ethics Commission
(vacancies)

Emergency Preparedness Committee
(vacancies)



Notice to Community Organizations Who Plan to Request Funding from the City of Takoma Park for Fiscal Year 2012 – Application Deadline: January 7, 2011

The City Council has adopted a formalized process for review of requests for funding in amounts over \$2,500. The process is intended to ensure that requests are reviewed by the Council prior to consideration of the budget for the next fiscal year. Funding decisions will not be made until the Council has discussed the budget and determined whether sufficient funds are available.

Schedule for FY 2012 requests for funding:

- Deadline for applications: January 7, 2011
- Council review of applications and potential interviews of applicants: January/February 2011
- Council selection of priorities for funding for FY 2012: January/February 2011
- City Manager's proposed budget released: April 2011
- Council discussion of budget and determination of availability of funds: April/May 2011
- Adoption of FY 2012 Budget: May 2011
- If requests for funds are granted, funds will be available after July 1, 2011

Complete information and the application materials are available at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk.



Ward Nights to Return in January

The next round of City Council ward-focused meetings will begin on Tuesday, January 18. On that evening, Ward 5 residents are invited to join the City Council for a reception at 7 p.m. followed by a special Ward 5 public comment session during the City Council meeting. The tentative schedule for future Ward Nights is:

Ward 4 - February 22 (Tuesday)
Ward 1 - March 21 (Monday)
Ward 3 - April 11 (Monday)
Ward 6 - May 16 (Monday)
Ward 2 - June 20 (Monday)

Residents who have questions may contact their City Councilmember or Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk at 301-891-7267, jessiec@takomagov.org.

Music, Art, Shopping Events Headline Holiday Happenings

A year of change in Old Town Takoma Park has made it easier than it's ever been to shop local for the holiday season. Five new businesses have opened, one has expanded into a new location, and there is a feeling of critical mass that shopkeepers hope will sustain a robust commercial area in the city's signature district. To make shopping easier, renovations to the parking lot behind the shops on Laurel Avenue has been finished, making access smoother: vehicles will enter from Laurel/Carroll Avenue, and exit onto Eastern Avenue.

At the end of November, shops were hoping for a successful "Small Business Saturday," a national effort to encourage shoppers to patronize local businesses on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, Nov. 27, and looking forward to the holiday season in December. Other efforts to "shop local" include "Think Local First DC." Main Street Takoma, a collective of mutually supportive local business owners in the Old Town area, are promoting both, and have organized a number of holiday events to draw shoppers into the district.

There are also the new shops to sample: CD Game Exchange (7042 Carroll Ave.), Takoma Bicycle (7030 Carroll Ave.), The Green Commuter (7320 Carroll Ave.), Capital City Cheesecakes (7071 Carroll Ave.), and Old Takoma Ace Hardware (7001 Carroll Ave.). The Still Point wellness center/spa has expanded into the building at 1 Columbia Avenue, at the corner of Carroll and Columbia, but also maintains an art shop at its old location, 7009 Carroll Ave.

Here is a sampling of events to enjoy as you support the Takoma Park business community. For other activities, and for a list of shops, see www.mainstreettakoma.org.

PERFORMANCES

Young Takoma Concert Series, Holiday Brass Ensemble

Dec. 11, noon-2 p.m.

Old Town Gazebo, Westmoreland and Carroll Avenues

Nothing says Christmas music quite like the bright sounds of trumpet and trombone. This young group of musicians includes students of Brian Weber and other



local teachers.

Brass Ensemble of the Takoma Park Community Band

Dec. 12, 2-3 p.m.

Old Town Gazebo, Westmoreland and Carroll Avenues

Members of the Takoma Park Community

Band have broken out of that local institution to form an additional group of just brass. They'll play their best holiday tunes for passing neighbors.

The Jingles

Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Old Town Gazebo, Carroll and Westmoreland Avenues

The Jingles come together once a year for the sole purpose of playing Christmas music and spreading holiday cheer in the D.C. area. This year's group is a winds quintet of music enthusiasts that includes returned Peace Corps volunteers, members of D.C. Different Drummer's, students and professionals.

Foggy Bottom Morris Men

Dec. 16, 6-7 p.m.

Old Town Gazebo, Westmoreland and Carroll Avenues

Traditional dance from the British Isles, complete with twirling sticks and stomping boots, comes back to the Takoma Park Gazebo for another holiday celebration. Known for dancing up the sun on May Day (see photo), the Morris Men also celebrate the coming of the Winter Solstice. This year's performance will include the Abbotts Bromley Horn Dance and a traditional Mummers Play.



ART

29th annual Takoma Park Craftswomen's Holiday Show and Sale

Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 5, noon-4 p.m.

7208 Maple Ave.

Local artisans will display and sell their handcrafted items, including knit and crocheted pieces, ornaments, wreaths, dolls and pottery. Refreshments included. For more info, call 301-270-5367.

Cedar Avenue Artists Holiday Show

Dec. 4-5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Boathouse, 7209 Cedar Ave.

A group of neighborhood artists put their work on display – and up for sale – at this annual holiday event.

Takoma Park Community Center Holiday Art Sale

Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

7500 Maple Ave.

A four-hour art extravaganza of local artists displaying and selling jewelry, pottery, photography, wearable art, tilework, paint-

ing and prints as well as wood. Pieces will range from "funky to fine, functional to not-so-functional," according to organizers in the city's Arts and Humanities Commission. The event will also feature live music.

Kittner Studio Open House

Dec. 12, 1-5 p.m.

Kittner Design Studio, 7056 Carroll Avenue, 2nd Floor (between Salon Jam and Subway)

Sam and Bobbi Kittner have become mainstays in the Takoma Park art community. See (or purchase) Sam's panoramic photographs and Bobbi's collage and jewelry during their open house. Refreshments provided. www.kittner.com.



Takoma Metro Arts Center Open House

Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tucked away in a warehouse at 6925 Willow St. N.W. in Takoma, D.C. is a warren of artists' studios, and from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Dec. 12 they'll be open for business during the Takoma Metro Arts Center Open House. Asalondc.org.

OTHER EVENTS

12th Annual Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair

Dec. 4, noon-4 p.m.

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Ave.

Instead of giving a material gift, many people are opting for the gift of charity, donating to various causes in the name of family and friends to whom they want to give the most meaningful gifts. The receiver of the gift gets a note indicating that a donation has been made in their name; the charity gets a helping hand. The Alternative Gift Fair brings dozens of organizations to-



gether so "shoppers" can choose their favorite causes. This year's event includes supervised kids' activities, including cookie decorating; a sweet and savory bake sale; raffle; live music and free seated massage. For more information, see www.aggw.org or email aggw_inc@yahoo.com.

Pajama-Rama

Dec. 5

7-10 a.m.

Old Town Shops

The 11th Annual Pajama-Rama gives discount shopping a quirky, local twist: to get the discounts, shoppers must show up in pajamas! Nightgowns, count, too – but not sweats. Refreshments are part of the fun. Participating stores include Amano,



The Big Bad Woof, Capital City Cheesecake, CD/Game Exchange, The Covered Market, The Green Commuter, Fair Day's Play, Magic Carpet, Mayorga Coffee, Now and Then, Old Takoma Ace Hardware, Park Florist, Polly Sue's Vintage, Rerun, S & A Beads, The Stillpoint Mind and Body, The Stillpoint Too: Mind Spirit Center, Takoma Bicycle, Takoma Old Town Gallery and Video Americain.

Takoma Park Authors' Book Sale

Dec. 4, 3-5 p.m.

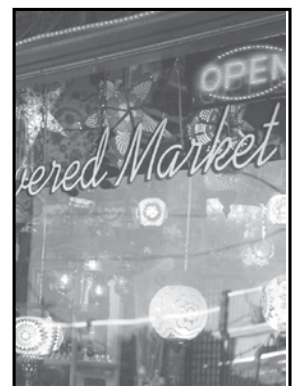
Capital City Cheesecakes
7071 Carroll Ave.

Local authors will be on hand to discuss their latest works, and to sign and sell their books.

Old Takoma Businesses Holiday Open House

Dec. 11-12,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shops will run specials and offer refreshments to shoppers on these two special promotional days for the season. This year, you can get your photo taken with Santa: on Dec. 11 from 3-5 at Summer Delights (6939 Laurel Ave.) or on Dec. 12 from 3-5 at Old Takoma Ace Hardware (7001 Carroll Ave.)



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that

may contain opinion, or letters to the editor will be considered for publication if sent to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No.

1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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

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The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.



Council Helps Facilitate Renovation of Parkview Towers

By VIRGINIA MYERS

The City Council voted unanimously Nov. 22 to waive about \$83,498 in municipal taxes for a local company that renovates buildings for affordable housing. The deal is likely to be finalized at a second Council vote on the matter, scheduled for Nov. 29.

The arrangement, called a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes), would excuse Montgomery Housing Partnership from 50 percent of its municipal taxes on Parkview Towers, a 125-unit apartment building at 7667 Maple Avenue, for two years. It would then waive 25 percent of taxes for three more years. The money would be used for initial renovations of the building, which MHP representatives say will help them secure more conventional and long-term financing to finish the project.

The agreement also requires that MHP lease a minimum of 50 percent of the units to households at 60 percent or less than the area median income (AMI). City officials hope the project will solidify and improve affordable housing alternatives in the city.

This was the second proposal MHP offered on the Parkview Towers property. The first, a request for 100 percent relief from municipal taxes for a total of ten years, was rejected before the vote ever came up, so MHP modified its terms.

Councilmembers first debated the issue Nov. 15. In a straw vote, only one member, Terry Seamens (Ward 4) indicated full support for a 100 percent tax waiver. Reuben Snipper (Ward 5) said he would vote for a 50 percent reduction; Mayor Bruce Williams said he'd vote for 25 percent and Colleen Clay (Ward 2), Josh Wright (Ward 1) and Dan Robinson (Ward 3) said they would refuse to approve any tax break to MHP. Councilmember Fred Schultz was absent.

Council concerns included the uncertainty of continued financing, the original proposal's undefined number of low-income households, and the general lack of funds available in the city budget. "We just have to figure out where we would get \$50,000 next year within the budget," said Josh Wright of the original plan, which would have cost the city \$47,713 a year. "That's an employee here in the city." As they considered the modified proposal, Councilmembers were still concerned over these issues, but weighed them against worries over the condition of the building, which has deteriorated over the last several years.

Parkview Towers is in need of major repair. During the last code enforcement



Montgomery Housing Partnership hopes to close on the purchase Parkview Towers, at 7667 Maple Avenue, this month, and begin renovations to the 125-unit building shortly thereafter. City Council voted to waive municipal taxes on the property to assist with the cost of renovation, and as a way to promote affordable housing initiatives in Takoma Park.

Photo by Virginia Myers

inspection, Montgomery County Code Enforcement recorded 444 violations, an average of 3.5 per unit. City Housing staff say this is not as bad as it sounds, since many violations were minor. Among those listed were a poorly functioning dishwasher, a dripping sink, a need to replace a cover plate for an electrical switch, a roach infestation and several requests for fresh paint.

There have also been a number of notices that utilities like heat and water would be cut off, though the landlord has always paid the bills before the services were actually stopped.

MHP intends to address a number of major maintenance issues with the funds made available, including repair or replacement of copper water and heating pipes, boiler elements, plumbing fixtures and building exhaust fans; the resurfacing of the parking lot and driveway; and the addition of a pump to distribute hot water more evenly throughout the building.

MHP, a national leader in affordable housing, has bought and renovated a total of seven other properties in Takoma Park. Just prior to its request for assistance on Parkview Towers, it requested a tax break to renovate The Edinburgh House, at 7513 Maple Avenue. That deal was approved as

a 50 percent tax break for ten years—which works out to \$62,180 from the city's budget.

Other MHP properties in Takoma Park include 1001-05 University Blvd. (20 units), 641 Houston Ave. (28 units), 8508-10 Flower Avenue (21 units), 8524-26 Flower Ave. (27 units), Hancock Gardens, at Lee and Hancock Avenues (25 units) and 7610 Maple Avenue, which is currently being rehabbed (45-50 units). Many of these properties have also been granted PILOTs, beginning in 2005. The financial impact to the city budget of all the MHP PILOTs taken together (and not yet including Parkview Towers), from 2005-2022, is \$ 410,008.

Throughout the discussion over the specific Parkview project, it was evident that Councilmembers had the city's entire affordable housing policy in mind. The city's strategic plan includes commitments to "partner with non-profit affordable housing providers and other public entities in advocating for affordable housing [and] support public and non-profit efforts to preserve and create affordable rental housing and homeownership opportunities in the community." Also in place is the rent stabilization law, which limits the amount landlords can raise rent to an assigned percentage that varies each year.



HOUSING Mail Box

By MOSES A. WILDS, JR.
LANDLORD-TENANT
COORDINATOR

A tenant contacted the Mailbox regarding whether his lease has to indicate how his security deposit will be handled by his landlord and whether there should be language in the lease regarding the tenant's ability to terminate the lease if an involuntary change in employment occurs requiring relocation to another state.

In accordance with Section 6.16.060.D. (Lease Requirements) of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law, leases must indicate that a tenant's security deposit will be deposited and returned in accordance with Section 6.16.120 of the City's law and in accordance with the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (Sections 8-203, 8-203.1) as amended. Some of the major provisions of these sections of the law include requirements regarding security deposits being deposited in escrow accounts, the 3 percent annual interest accrual rate for security deposits and the 45-day timeframe for the deposit being returned following the end of the tenancy.

Section 6.16.060.G. requires that leases must include language permitting the termination of a lease following the tenant's providing the landlord with one month's written notice received prior to the next rent due to an involuntary change of employment requiring (1) relocation from the Washington, DC Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA); (2) death or involuntary unemployment of a major wage earner; or (3) for any other reasonable cause beyond the tenant's control. The lease may provide for, in the case of termination for reasonable cause beyond the tenant's control, that the tenant will pay a reasonable termination charge not to exceed one month's rent or the actual monetary damages incurred by the landlord from the termination, whichever is the lesser amount, in addition to rent due and owing through the termination date and during the notice period.

Tenants or landlords having questions about the City's Landlord-Tenant Law may call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at Moses W@takoma.gov.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Computer Learning Center in the Community Center is staffed and open every weekday from 2 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Computers available for Takoma Park Library card holders; wireless access throughout the building. Wireless printing in Library.

We Are Takoma

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Featuring the Takoma Park Community Band

Monday, December 20
7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

FREE EVENT

The Takoma Park Community Band, the City's official band, will be performing a variety of holiday



music. Their repertoire includes classical, popular, show tunes, marches, jazz and Latin compositions.

The all-volunteer band was founded in 1974 by Crofton (Roy) Corbin. It became Takoma Park's official band six years later by proc-

lamation of the City Council. The band, made up of a diverse group of musicians from college students to retirees, performs at a variety of locations across the region and, without fail, at the Takoma Park City Independence Day celebration.



Ester Hayes



Laura Vecchione



Victoria Vox

Trio of Singer-Songwriters Grace Takoma in December

Two concerts will be offered this month at the Takoma Park Auditorium including Berklee College of Music alumni Esther Haynes, Laura Vecchione and Victoria Vox at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4.

Wammie-award winner Esther Haynes' guitar and vocals blend vintage jazz, blues, bossa nova, folk and bluegrass. Singer-songwriter Laura Vecchione balances catchy lyrics and melodies with a depth and maturity of emotion. Wammie-winner Vic-

toria Vox is a multi-instrumentalist and singer whose ukulele playing has gained her national fame.

The Berklee alumni concert will benefit Hungry for Music and the Berklee City Music Network. Tickets are \$15 general admission, available at www.hungryformusic.org or by calling 240-582-6193.

Takoma Park-based Hungry for Music is a nonprofit charity organization that supports music education and cultural enrichment, both in the

United States and abroad, by acquiring and distributing quality musical instruments to needy children with willing instructors and a hunger to play. The Berklee City Music Network is a national network of institutions offering the Berklee Pulse music method to under-served teens at no cost to them.

For more information check out our Face Book and Twitter pages.



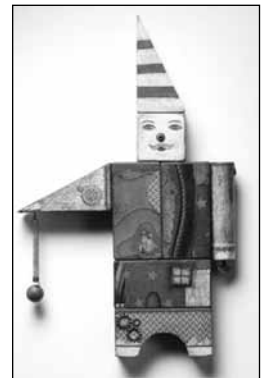
Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

celebrating the creative spirit of our community

Holiday Art Sale

The fifth annual holiday art sale is a great place to find something unique for yourself or someone on your gift list. Jewelry, pottery, photography, wearable art, tilework, painting and prints as well wood — funky and fine, functional and fun — you will be sure to find it at the Takoma Park Community Center on Saturday, December 11. Sale opens at 10 a.m. and will run until 4 p.m. There will be arts activities for the kids while you investigate the offerings of over 30 artists and crafters. Music by the Takoma Park Singers, The Love Joy Group and Classnotes.

Participating in this year's event are Takoma Park residents Jay Blake, Ken Gelding, Adam Lebow, Denise Bentley, Marcie Wolf, David Hubbard, Bobbi and Sam Kittner, Rob Rudick, Karen Kruger, Orion McCarthy, Jan Morales, Patti Mallin and Keith Patterson. To learn more about all of the participants in this year's sale (and to get a glimpse of their work), check us out on the City of Takoma Park's Facebook page!



The King by Bobbi Kittner

Courtesy photo

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

The featured poet this month? YOU! Please share your work with others this month at the open reading on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. We welcome the chance to hear your work.

For information on these and other activities sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224, or SaraD@takomagov.org or check online at www.takomaparkmd.gov

ROUTE 410

continued from page 1

would allow the State to more easily widen the road and destroy the surrounding community.

The first two hours of the meeting included presentations of background information by City staff and State Highway Administrator Neil Pedersen, who answered questions from Councilmembers. Then it was the residents' turn: 20 residents came to the microphone to ask questions or register concerns. The majority of speakers worried that MD 410 could be widened in the future and that this proposal could make it easier for SHA to do the widening. Three speakers expressed their support for the City taking over Flower Avenue and improving the streetscape. No speakers addressed the proposal to transfer the two blocks of Carroll Avenue (between Flower Avenue and the City line just north of Garland Avenue) from the City to SHA.

Some of the more significant points of the discussion included:

Just because a road has a State route number, it doesn't mean that it is a "State Highway." The land under the road with a State route number must be owned by the State of Maryland to be a "State Highway." A number of municipalities in Maryland maintain roads they own that have State route numbers.

The SHA is not allowed to maintain a road with a State route number if the land under the road is not owned by the State.

SHA has been maintaining MD 410 and MD 195 in Takoma Park since the 1960s at least, even though just over half of the length of the roadway of MD 410 in Takoma Park is owned by the City of Takoma Park, according to SHA. Only recently has SHA realized that it did not own the road, said Pedersen, who admitted SHA had made a mistake in maintaining it.

Actual proof that the City owns the road sections had not been seen by any of the parties at the City Council meeting. (City staff has requested this information from SHA at various times over the past two years.) Officials from SHA pledged to help locate this

information.

Pedersen stated that the State has no interest in widening MD 410 through Takoma Park and that it is the policy of SHA to encourage public transit, rather than road widening, inside the Beltway. He added that the procedures in place to widen the roadway would make widening MD 410 virtually impossible. He said the following things would need to occur:

- The State Senators and Delegates of Montgomery County would need to identify widening the road as the top priority of all highway projects in Montgomery County.
- The State would need to negotiate both the federal and the state Historic Preservation Acts, proving that no possible alternative to the widening exists to justify the demolition of historic resources along MD 410.
- The County Executive and County Council would have to approve the project.

Besides these hurdles, SHA would need to pay for the property that would be taken and fight the Takoma Park community over the proposal—both significant drawbacks in their own right.

Nevertheless, many members of the audience expressed their mistrust of SHA and were upset that the City Council might consider conveying the land under the road to it.

The City Council took no action on the night of the presentation but did agree to move forward on the process to consider annexation of part of the right-of-way of Flower Avenue (see story, page one). SHA and City staff will work to obtain copies of the ownership information of the land that SHA believes the City owns on MD 410 and Carroll Avenue. Information on options to address the poor road conditions on the Ethan Allen Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue sections of MD 410 will continue to be discussed with the State. It is expected that this information will be discussed by Council when it returns from a month-long recess in January.

To watch a video of the Nov. 8 Council discussion go to www.takomaparkmd.gov. Choose Cable TV from the left menu, View City TV Online, 2010 Council Meetings, then click on Video for November 8, 2010.

December

R e c r e a t i o n

Indoor Soccer Program

Ages 7 – 10

This soccer program presents the opportunity for friends to have fun together while focusing on technical skills development in the winter months. More importantly, the local program is designed to enhance the soccer skills of each participant, keep your player in shape and sharpen those skills for the upcoming season. Last year the program was a sell-out. Please note that program registration will be first come, first served, and space will be limited to 30 participants. Parents are encouraged to participate.

TP Recreation Center
New Hampshire Ave.
Sun. 1-3 p.m.
Jan. 9- Feb. 27
\$60
No program on Jan. 16.

Winter Basketball

Winter Basketball walk-in registration is Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bring check, credit card or money orders. No cash, please. DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS DECEMBER 10, 2010. See box below for details.

Youth Ceramics

Ages 8 – 10

Learn hand-building techniques such as pinching, coil building and slab building to create one-of-a-kind projects. Correct use of tools and application of glazes will also be taught. Make sure you wear clothes you don't mind getting

dirty. Four weeks. Instructor John Baker. Maximum 10, minimum five.

Art Room
Takoma Park Community Center
Wed., 3:45-5:45 p.m.
Dec. 1-22
TP residents \$45
Non-residents \$55

Learn To DJ Workshops

Ages 12 - 18
Whatever your music genre of choice,

whatever your skill level, get hands-on experience using the latest controllers and software. Learn to execute perfect blends, clean mixes and unique sounds in any style of music. Learn the fundamental techniques and concepts of modern day DJing. Along the way, you will gain an appreciation for rhythm, timing and song structure, and thus begin to develop a DJ's ear for music. The program will leave you well-positioned for the remainder of the Recreation Department's Learn to DJ Program, taught by our very own Simon "Kilo Vibes"

Moore. Minimum four, maximum eight.

Takoma Park Community Center
Tuesdays, 5-6:30 pm
Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and 21
FREE

Teen Ski and Snowboard Night Club

Ages 13-17
The Teen Ski and Snowboard Night

RECREATION continues on page 7



Brooke Witherspoon shows off butterfly art, painted by Rain Young in the Afternoon Additional after-school program at the Rec Department.

Photo by Carey Antoszewski

Register for Youth Basketball League

The Takoma Park Winter Basketball League welcomes all kids grades K* - 8 to register for the upcoming season. Registration will run from September 1 through December 10, 2010.

**Must be 5 yrs old by January 8, 2011.*

Registration Fees

Takoma Park Residents Fee: \$60
Non-Resident Registration Fee: \$70

Scholarship Opportunity

Scholarship Registration Fee: \$10

Scholarship opportunities are available to all Takoma Park Residents in need of assistance. This benefit is available to Takoma Park residents who can provide proof of enrollment in the Free or Reduced Meals program or similar financial assistance program.

For more information about the Takoma Park Recreation Department's Winter Basketball League or if you are interested in coaching please call (301) 891-7225, or visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

2011

Takoma Park Recreation Department

**WINTER
BASKETBALL
LEAGUE**





Kameron Cunningham and Mark Overton, Jr., left, build models of H₂O (water) from clay, exploring the basic structures of snow, ice and fresh water resources during the Young Climate Explorers program in the teen lounge.

Photo by Debra Haiduven



At Afternoon Addition, right, Angela Pajic, Zoe Popovici and Lucia Parish-Katz strut their costumes during the fall festival.

Photo by Carey Antoszewski

RECREATION

continued from page 6

Club is a terrific way to enjoy unlimited skiing and snowboarding any night of the week! This club is for teens who would like to learn how to ski or snowboard for the first time and for experienced riders who want to discover the thrill of alpine skiing or snowboarding at night. Club card members are entitled to unlimited use of lift access, skiing or snowboard lessons during each visit, equipment rental and nine escorted visits to one of the three mountains (Roundtop, Whitetail, Lib-

erty). Pay as little as \$205 if you have your own equipment. But the best part of the Night Club is that members can use their cards ANY night of the week beginning January 2, 2011. Early bird registration ends December 7. Contact Faye Wright for more information, 301-891-7283.

Takoma Park Community Center
January 20, 23, 29
Feb 5, 10, 13, 26
March 5, 12
Fee: \$285
\$205 (if you have your own equipment)

Please make checks payable to Liberty Mountain.

Teen Open Gym

Ages 13 - 17

Not just for basketball! Double Dutch ropes, flag football and other game supplies are provided. So come join us!

Piney Branch Elementary School Gym
6-9 p.m.
Dec. 1, 17, 28

Talent Showcase

Ages 12 - 18

Do you have a talent to showcase? Your talent may be just what we need. It's not too late, a quick audition or video clip may allot you a spot in the showcase. Talent near and far will be showcasing their skills by singing, dancing, performing with a band and/or other diverse talents. This event will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center on Friday, December 10 from 7 -8:30 p.m. Holiday prizes will be raffled throughout the Talent Showcase. For more information or to audition to be in the show, please contact Faye Wright, 301-891-7283 or fayew@takomagov.org.

Silver Foxes

For Active Adults Over 55

Big Birthday Bash (New)

Let's celebrate you! Bring your friends and join us for a birthday celebration with cake, ice cream, well wishes and fun! Each season we will honor the birthdays that fall into a three month period. Drop-in. No registration is required.

Senior Room
Takoma Park Community Center
Fri. 1-2 p.m.

Dec. 17 (October, November, Dec.)
No cost

Special Bingo

Come try your luck. Win a prize. Drop-in. No registration is required.

Senior Room
Takoma Park Community Center
Thurs. 12-2 p.m.
Dec. 30
No cost

Blood Pressure Screening

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

Senior Room
Takoma Park Community Center
Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Dec. 30
No cost

Festival of Wreaths, 13th Annual

Enjoy hundreds of uniquely decorated holiday wreaths. Sponsored by Carroll County Arts Council. Bring spending money for lunch at Baugher's Family Restaurant, featuring homestyle cooking at affordable prices. They make their own homemade ice cream in over 18 varieties! Dress for comfort. Bring spending money for lunch.

Carroll Arts Center

Westminster, Md.
Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Dec. 3
Deadline to register 12/1
No cost

Wii Games

"Wii" is a video gaming system based on interactive motion sensing technology using hand-held controls that respond as if you are really bowling, playing tennis or golf. Come and play these challenging and fun games.

Teen Lounge
Takoma Park Community Center
Wed. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
December 1, 8, 15, 22
No cost.

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

Community Circle Time

Every Tuesday
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

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

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of "The Brothers Karamazov" by Fyodor Dostoevsky continues. Community Center

Holiday Gift-Making

Monday, Dec. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Kids: come make gifts for your favorite grown-ups and friends. Spaces limited; registration required.

Bedtime Stories

NOTE DIFFERENT DAY!
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs in their half-hour program. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7:45 p.m.

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of "The Brothers Karamazov" by Fyodor Dostoevsky concludes. Community Center

French Circle Time

Saturday, Dec. 11
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Registration strongly encouraged
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Holiday Sing-a-long

Saturday, Dec. 11, 11:15 a.m.
Come sing songs of the season. All ages welcome.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Dec. 13 – 7 p.m.
Come read and discuss this year's Caldecott Medal possibilities. Best for ages 5 up; adults also welcome.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
All ages; no registration required

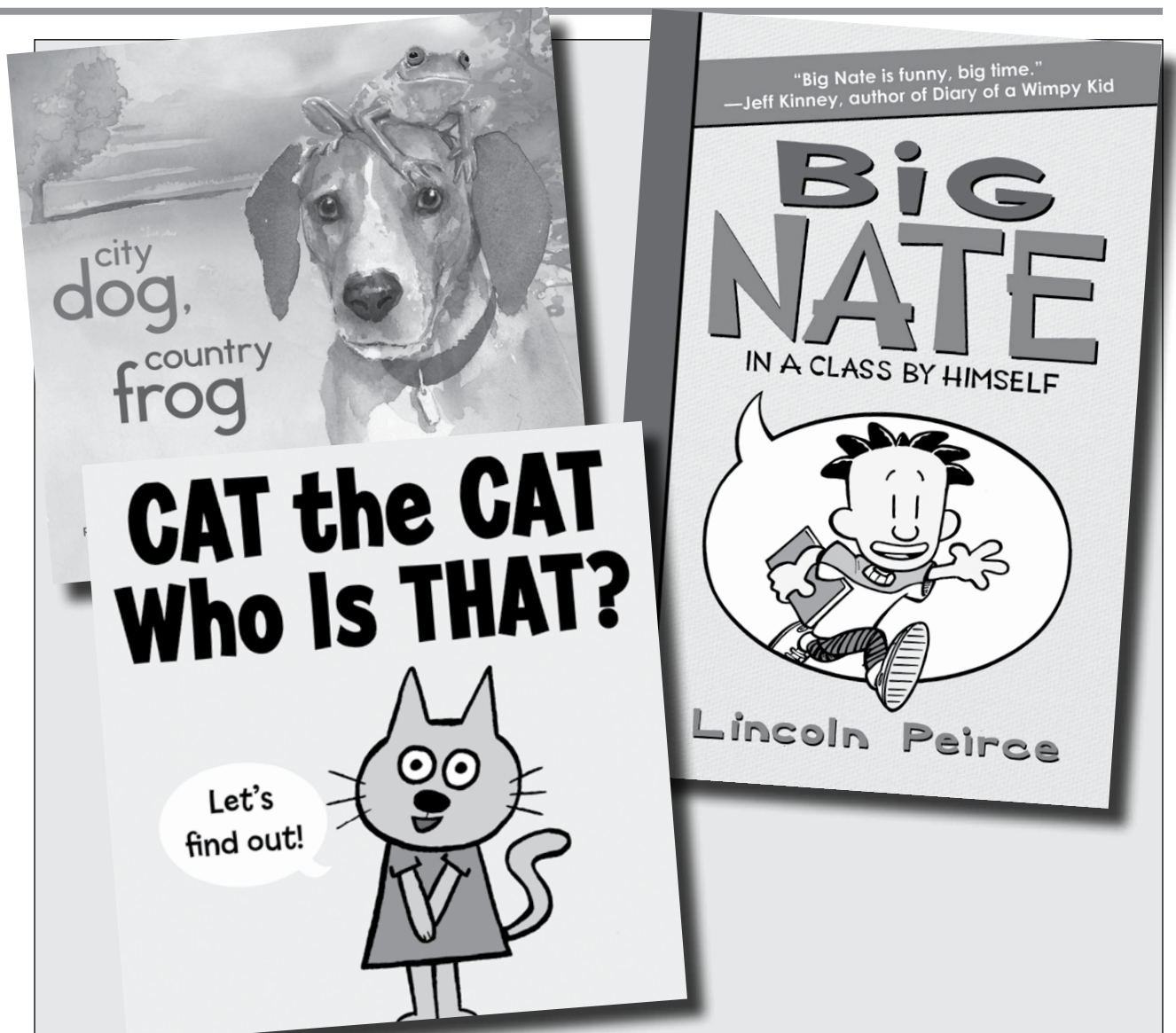
French Circle Time

Saturday, Dec. 18
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program

Junior Banned Books Club And Banned Books Club

Monday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m. Both clubs will meet together for our annual meeting focused on picture books. Kids in third grade up are welcome; registration required. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

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.



Children' Librarian Shares Favorite Reads for 2010

By KAREN MACPHERSON

It's that time of year — a time to assess the best children's and teen books of the year, as so many library patrons ask for recommendations during gift-giving season. Here are a few books on my list, drawn from the reviews I've written in 2010

in my weekly children's book column for Scripps Howard News Service. The full list is available on our Children's Room blog: <http://www.takomapark.info/library/children/index.html>. Check the blog also for updates that I'll do through the end of the year.

BOARD BOOKS

If you want a board book that's sure to be a hit with your little one, look for ones written and illustrated by Leslie Patricelli. In her latest board books, "Potty" and "Tubby," one of the best

FAVORITES FOR 2010
continues on page 9



LIBRARY Briefs

Bedtime Stories Date Change

To accommodate an early Hanukkah this year, we'll be doing our annual Holiday Gift-Making program on Monday, Dec. 6. That means that Bedtime Stories — usually the first Monday of the month — will be moved to the first Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. As usual, no registration is required. This is a temporary change: Bedtime Stories will be back at its usual spot, the first Monday of the month, in January.

Holiday Gift Making

Kids: don't worry about finding the

money to buy holiday gifts for family, friends and teachers! Instead, come on Monday Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. and make some one-of-a-kind gifts for the special people in your life. We have supplies for several gifts you can make, as well everything you need to create some special holiday cards. Space is limited, so registration is required. To register, go to: www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html.

Caldecott Club

The second meeting of our Caldecott Club will take place on Monday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. Even if you didn't come to the club's first meeting in November, please feel free to come to this meeting and enjoy reading and discussing some potential winners of the 2011 Caldecott Medal, given annually by the American Library Association to the best-illustrated children's book. Our final Caldecott Club meeting will take place on January 31, where we'll discuss the actual winner of the book, which will be announced in early January. Note: the Caldecott Club is for kids ages 5 up,

their parents and other adults who are interested in children's literature. Registration required; to register, go to: www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html.

Banned Books Clubs

We'll have a joint meeting of our Junior Banned Books Club (for kids in grades 3, 4, and 5) and Banned Books Club (for middle- and high school students) on Monday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. We'll be reading picture books that people in other parts of the country have tried to ban. The list includes classics like "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble," "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "In the Night Kitchen." All are welcome, but registration is required. To register, go to: www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Come celebrate the Winter Solstice (a few days early) on Thursday, Dec.

LIBRARY BRIEFS
continues on page 9

FAVORITES FOR 2010

continued from page 8

things is that adults don't mind reading them repeatedly; with her wry sense of humor, she has the "Sesame Street" knack for entertaining both kids and adults. In "Potty," for example, Patricelli portrays both the baby's exuberance and the parents' relief at a successful trip to the toilet, while in "Tubby," she concludes the bathtub scene by writing: "Mommy dries me. Daddy dries the bathroom." Don't forget to check out previously published board books by Patricelli, including "Quiet Loud," "Yummy Yucky," "Binky" and "Blankie." (Ages 6 months-3).

Check out new board-book editions of some classic children's books, all perfect for ages 1-3. There's the marvelous "Ten Black Dots" by author/illustrator Donald Crews; and the hilarious "Sheep" books written by Nancy Shaw and illustrated by Margo Apple: "Sheep in a Jeep," "Sheep Trick or Treat," "Sheep out to Eat," "Sheep in a Shop," and "Sheep on a Ship."

PICTURE BOOKS

With his brilliant new book, "Art & Max," author/illustrator David Wiesner has a chance of winning an unprecedented fourth Caldecott Medal. The annual award honors excellence in children's book illustrations. In "Art & Max," Wiesner offers a humor-infused, quirky story focused on the friendship between two lizards: a pompous painter named Art and his rowdy friend Max, who wants to try his own hand at art. Things quickly go haywire as Max takes Art's suggestion — "You could paint me" — and proceeds to put his own spin on it by literally plastering his friend with paint. When Max attempts to wash off the colors, Art becomes a mere outline — a la "Harold and the Purple Crayon" — until Max uses his creativity to bring his friend back to vibrant life. (Ages 4 up).

Combining a spare text with exquisitely evocative watercolor illustrations, "City Dog, Country Frog" offers readers a story of a friendship filled with joy, loss and change. The book blends the talents of two Caldecott Honor-winning picture-book creators: author/illustrator Mo Willems, best known for his books "Knuffle Bunny" and "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," and Jon Muth, author and illustrator of "Zen Shorts." (Ages 4-7)

BEGINNING READERS

Author/illustrator Mo Willems offers beginning readers ages 4-7 a brilliant new series featuring a cast of characters with simple and silly names: "Cat the Cat," "Hound the Hound," "Duck the Duck," etc. The books are slightly larger than traditional books for beginning readers and have bold colors and an easy-to-read font. But the best thing about this new series is how funny the stories are. Books in the series so far are: "Cat the Cat, Who Is That?," "Let's Say Hi to Friends Who Fly!," "What's Your Sound, Hound the Hound?," and "Time To Sleep, Sheep the Sheep."

FICTION

In "Countdown," author Deborah Wiles has created a fascinating new type of hybrid book — a "documentary novel." The

book is set in 1962, when the Cold War had kids learning to "duck and cover" under their desks in case of a nuclear attack. But Wiles doesn't just tell her story, she shows it, using a combination of text, photographs and documents (such as a reproduction of a brochure listing the materials needed to build a fallout shelter.) Readers will be glad to know that "Countdown" is the first in a planned "Sixties Trilogy." (Ages 9-12.)

Rita Williams-Garcia effortlessly blends history and fiction in "One Crazy Summer." Williams-Garcia, whose teen novel "Jumped" was a finalist for the 2009 National Book Award, turns her talents to middle-grade readers as she tells the tale of three young sisters who spend a summer in California in the late 1960s with the mother who abandoned them several years before. While in California, the girls attend a summer camp run by the Black Panthers, getting an inside look at a group that seems very different from what's reported in the news. (Ages 8-12.)

GRAPHIC AND HYBRID NOVELS

"Big Nate: In a Class By Himself," details a day in the life of middle-schooler Nate Wright, an 11-year-old who believes that he is "destined for greatness." Author/illustrator Lincoln Peirce has based this hybrid book (and its sequel, "Big Nate Strikes Again") on characters from his popular daily comic strip. Kids will naturally enjoy this book, but parents also will get a laugh from this humorously realistic look at the world of middle school. (Ages 8-12.)

It's June 1942 and Evelyn, a wealthy and motherless young girl, is forced by her newly remarried father to summer with her bohemian, dilettante Aunt Lia in New York City. Evelyn is desperately unhappy until she meets Tony, whose dad manages the swanky apartment building where Evelyn is staying. In "The City of Spies," authors Susan Kim and Laurence Klavan detail how Evelyn and Tony eschew class distinctions as they work together uncovering a Nazi spy ring right in their neighborhood. (Ages 9 up.)

TEENS

Perhaps only Louis Sachar, author of the Newbery Medal-winning "Holes," could construct a novel around the game of bridge and make it interesting to teens. But his new book, "The Cardturner," features such an engaging set of characters that it actually could spark more teen interest in bridge. Sachar's story revolves around the unlikely friendship that develops between a self-deprecating high-school senior named Alton Richards and his gruff great-uncle Lester, a bridge master who's blind and needs someone to be his "cardturner." As it turns out, Alton himself has a knack for playing bridge, which becomes vitally important when tragedy strikes. (Ages 12 up.)

"Will Grayson, Will Grayson," featuring alternating chapters written by two stars of the young adult lit world: John Green and David Levithan. Their book follows two main characters — each named Will Grayson and living in the Chicago area — as they try to navigate life and love during one crucial high school year. Mr. Green's Will Grayson is straight, and Mr. Levithan's is gay, but the characters' sexuality is only one of many aspects explored in this entertaining, profane and incredibly thought-provoking novel. (Ages 14 up.)



Friends of Sligo Creek gathered volunteers to weed out invasive species in Sligo Creek Park, between Piney Branch and Maple Avenues, October 16. Jim Anderson, who heads FOSC's RIP (removing invasive plants) program, joins the work group.

Photo by Cindy Mills

LIBRARY BRIEFS

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16 at 7 p.m. As usual, we'll begin with local musician and educator Bill Jenkins, who will bring his awesome collection of drums and lead us in some solstice drumming. Then the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with their sticks, stories and amazing dancing. This annual event, which we have been offering at the Library for nearly two decades, is perfect for all ages, and no registration is required.

Holiday Sing-a-Long

Come one, come all to our third annual Holiday Sing-a-Long on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 11:15 a.m. We'll sing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, with music provided by students of local music teacher Wendy Lanxner. No need to register — just come prepared to lift your voice in song!

Check our Blogs for News and Updates

In recent weeks, we've had to make last-minute changes in some of our programs for various reasons. While we avoid making these changes if at all possible, they are sometimes inevitable. That's why we ask Library patrons to regularly check our Children's Room Blog (<http://www.takomapark.info/library/children/index.html>) and our Library News Blog (<http://takomapark.info/library/mt/index.html>). We try hard to keep these blogs updated and will post any schedule changes immediately. Of course, you also are welcome to call us at 301-891-7259 when we are open, but you can check our virtual library via the blogs 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Book Sale Scores

Under a sunny sky and warming temperatures, local residents, passers by and book dealers crowded the Library lawn and discovered an abundance of bargains at the Friends of the Library Book Sale on October 23. By the sale's end at 3 p.m., a record amount of nearly \$3,000 had been raised by the Friends. All the funds go to the Takoma Park Library in the form of gifts.

The sale's success was made possible through the energetic support of a mul-

titude of volunteers. In no special order, thanks are warmly extended to the following helpers: Suzanne Morgan, AnneMarie and Ripley Stroud, Sam McCollin, Nehe-maih Malloy, Patricia McMahon, Mary Ellen Koenig, Mel and Dee Raff, Ben Frey, Silvey Shafer, Dan and Nancy Kunkel, Elaine Vaurio, Judy Trieble, Sherlyn and John Ernst, Rebekah Zanditon, Karen Boyer, Pat Hanrahan, Kay Daniels Cohen, Katherine Dixon-Peugh, Claudine Schweber, Clair Garman, Maurice Belanger, Michele Morgan Tim Rahn, Tim Hardin, Noreen Wells and the Department of Public Works. Special thanks are due to Library staffer Dave Burbank who handled book donations throughout the year with help from Janet Jendrzeczyk, and Book Sale Coordinator Merrill Leffler.

The Friends book sale will return in the Spring.

Friends Reading Group to discuss Camus

Interspersed with lengthy works such as "The Brothers Karamazov" and "Moby Dick," the Friends Reading Group schedules discussions of shorter books. On Thursday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room, they will look at "The First Man" by Nobel Prize winner Albert Camus.

"The First Man" was discovered in the wreckage of the car accident that killed Camus in 1960, and was published 25 years later. It "tells the story of Jacques Cormery, a boy who lived a life much like Camus' own. Camus summons up the sights, sounds and textures of a childhood circumscribed by poverty and a father's death yet redeemed by the austere beauty of Algeria and the boy's attachment to his nearly deaf-mute mother..." [Publisher's note]

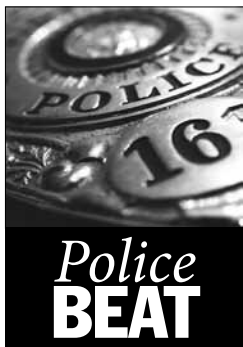
The "Boston Globe" called this book "a masterpiece...One of the most extraordinary evocations of childhood that exist in any language." The "Los Angeles Times Book Review" called it "Rending, brilliant... joyfully vivid...has an overwhelming emotional integrity...To read it is to visit a tomb and find that a spring is bubbling from it."

Copies of "The First Man" are available at the Takoma Park Library, provided by the Friends of the Library. All are invited to attend the discussion.

Takoma Park's Anti-Crime Seminar a Success

The instructor sat on the stage. In her hands were a large dog bowl and dog bone she bought from a dollar store. She said, "fill the dog bowl with fresh water, muddy up the dog bone as if 'Killer' has been gnawing on it." Get a few signs warning of a dog. Buy a bag of large kibble dog food and put some in the bowl. Throw some large chew toys around the yard – have your family's dog or a neighbor's dog have at it first. All the makings of owning a dog without actually owning one. Aha! But, the burglar does not know that. Does a burglar want to risk the fact that "Killer" may just be on the other side of that door?

This is just one trick that Janice Hart mentioned while going through her array of props meant to make your space safe.



On Oct. 26-27, Chief Ronald Ricucci of the Takoma Park Police Department introduced a new Crime Prevention and Personal Safety seminar to the City of Takoma Park: "Refuse to be a Victim." The seminar was co-hosted by Crime Prevention Specialist, Janice Hart, of the Front Royal, Virginia, Police Department.

Refuse to be a Victim is a seminar that teaches easy-to-understand methods you can use to increase awareness and prevent criminal confrontation. In just a few hours, you get the tools you need to develop your own personal safety strategy, including information about:

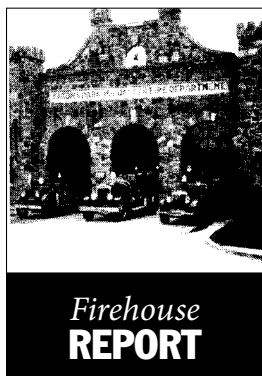
- The psychology of the criminal mind
- Personal and technological security

- Home and phone security
- Self defense tools and training options
- Automobile and travel security

There were 118 participants attending the seminar, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. One participant wrote that the instructor was "fantastic," using humor to hold the attention of the group. Another called the program "excellent" because "it showed me ways to take precautions to make it hard on the criminal," and "really drives home how vulnerable we are based on our practices." Others said they learned useful "tricks" for safety, enjoyed the common-sense tone of the course, and were impressed with handouts they plan to use for reference.

Ricucci is encouraged by the number of participants and will be holding another Refuse to be a Victim seminar in the future.

As of October 31, 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 673 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,663 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 3,336 this year. Totals for 2009 were 645 and 2,430, respectively, for a total of 3,075, representing an increase of 261 incidents.



BY JIM JARBOE

1. Cut the base of your Christmas tree at an angle one inch above the original cut.
2. Stand tree outside in a bucket of water until you are ready to trim it.
3. Keep tree in a deep pan of water for the entire period it is inside of the house and add water each day to keep the water level above the cut.

4. Locate the tree away from stoves, fireplaces, radiators and other sources of heat that will tend to dry the tree out. Above all do not place the tree near any exit way.

5. Keep light bulbs free from contact with needles.
6. Use only UL or FM approved electric lights with cords in good condition. Check the cords for defects before mounting on the tree. Always disconnect the lights before leaving home or going to bed for the night.
7. Place tree in a sturdy base which can-

not be easily tipped over and secure it against accidental tipping over.

8. Remove all gift wrapping from the house as soon as possible and never burn it in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
9. Dispose of the tree as soon after Christmas as possible, never burn it outside. The City of Takoma Park provides a special pick up of your tree. Look for the notice.

Toys for Needy Children

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department needs toys! This year marks the 30th year helping children to have a merry and happy holiday season, and we again need your help. We will start collecting toys on Dec. 1 and collect through Dec. 22. If you have new toys (unwrapped) that you would like to donate, you may drop them off at the new fire station (7201 Carroll Ave.). Families living in Takoma Park needing assistance with toys for their children (ages 9 years and under), please contact Pam Taylor or Chief Jim Jarboe at the fire station at 240-773-8954. Thank you for your support.

Holiday Safety Precautions

As we approach the holiday season, we ask that our residents take a couple of safety precautions to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

1. Park in well-lighted spaces when at the shopping centers.
2. When shopping, keep your purse attached to you or your shopping cart. Do not leave your purse unattended or unattended.
3. Keep your children in sight at all times. Don't let them wander off.
4. Make sure all credit cards are returned to you when shopping.
5. If you take purchased items to your car and want to resume shopping, put those items in your trunk. Never leave packages in open view in an unattended car.
6. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
7. During the holidays, don't drink and drive - always have a designated driver.
8. During the holiday season, the police will be conducting sobriety checkpoints. Be aware.

The holiday season is a time for family and fun. Don't become a victim. Be safe, not sorry.

*Happy Holidays from
the Takoma Park Police
Department!*

WELLBEING CENTER

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Use Committee, who was the sole public attendee at the meeting in October. "Also, I appreciate that the hospital and university are sharing information with the community at a relatively early stage."

As the next step, representatives of the project were scheduled to present the draft plan to the WAH Land Use Committee on November 16. "Our role is to get information to the community and to provide feedback to the City Council," said Hollander. She added that with more outreach from the university and the hospital, she is optimistic that public meetings planned for December and January (Dec. 8 and Jan. 5, see box) will be better-attended.

A Health and Wellbeing Village in the City

As significant as a \$25 million construction project would be, the fitness center is only the first part of a "Health and Wellbeing Village" that the hospital plans to develop in Takoma Park, said Jere Stocks, president of

Public Information Meeting

Fitness Center and Health and Wellbeing Village

On the Washington Adventist Hospital and University grounds
Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m.
Jan. 5, 7-9 p.m.
Washington Adventist University
Cafeteria
Wilkinson Hall, 2nd Floor
7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park

Washington Adventist Hospital. Because the hospital will be shifting acute-care services to White Oak, the Village will probably focus on primary care in Takoma Park, Stocks said, with doctors' offices and other related facilities.

"The Health and Wellbeing Village would be a terrific resource for Takoma Park," said Stocks. "We think that the fitness center would be a major anchor, providing Adventist Healthcare with facilities for primary care and rehabilitative care and the university with access to educational and fitness facilities."

For decades, the hospital and university have collaborated through programs such as having university nursing students do their practicum training at the hospital, Stocks said. "The university is very much focused on the future of healthcare and healthcare careers," Stock said, citing the university's creation in 2009 of the Department of Health, Wellness and Physical Education. "Bringing together health and health education is the core of our 'village' concept."

Potentially, the project can fulfill many needs simultaneously. "It all fits together," said Day. "We had a university that was thinking about replacing a gym that was built in 1929, as well as building a fitness center. We had a hospital that wanted to offer rehabilitation services, sports medicine and holistic care. Plus, we learned through interviews about the community's needs for a fitness center for adults, as well as recreational and athletic opportunities for kids."

Now, it's a matter of fine-tuning the plan. "Our firm [Dynamis] has gone through this process for reuse of hospital facilities for more than 100 projects," said Day. "We have learned that creating the public opportunity gives the most valuable information, espe-

cially through face-to-face contact of individual interviews and public meetings. We conducted more than 200 interviews in Takoma Park, among hospital and university staff, as well as city residents.... We have a draft design, and we are vetting the components with all the constituents."

Day said that the hospital and university want to finalize the design fairly rapidly, in part because some of the funding for the project comes from a grant that will expire in 2015. The Joseph A. Sellinger Grant is a set-aside for Washington Adventist University as part of the state's support for Maryland Independent Colleges and Universities. "We will have to conduct private fund-raising, too, but the state grant is a driving factor," said Day.

Optimally, Dynamis will "refine the programmatic priorities" for the sports center within two months of completion of the public meetings, said Day. In tandem, the project's architect will update the design to meet the programmatic objectives and accommodate the limitations of the proposed site. With that information, officials at the hospital and university can review the plan and decide on how to move forward.

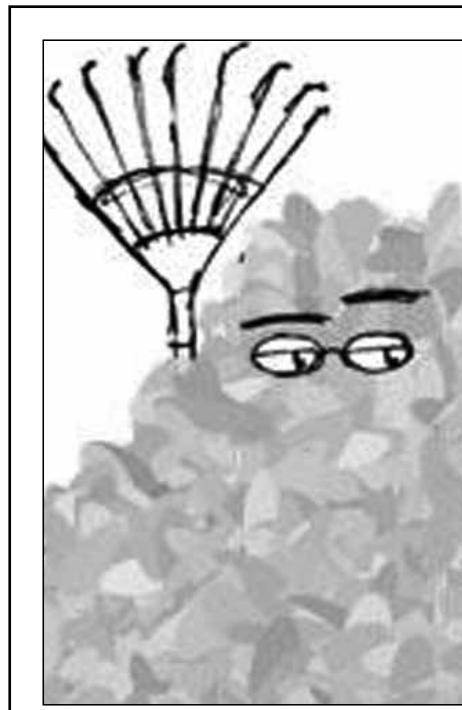
City Fall Leaf Collection Program Continues

Loose leaf collection will continue through December 22 this year. Residents can rake leaves to the curb at their convenience through that date. Most streets will not have an assigned collection day. 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, and rain and freezing conditions can slow collection. Bagged yard waste collection will continue to be offered by the City on Mondays throughout the year.

There are five streets that have an assigned collection date; they are state highways and have heavy traffic volume. 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, Dec. 20. Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Friday, Dec. 17. On these dates, only these streets will receive collection.

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.

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.



Please follow these guidelines:

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

1. 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.
2. The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. Do Not include branches, brush, vines, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.
3. Do Not pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.



IN DECEMBER, THE CITY COUNCIL TAKES A BREAK, so Monday evenings City TV will showcase the myriad of local events and festivals that take place in our City. Tune in to view the last performances from this year's Jazz, Folk and Street Festivals, as well as the We Are Takoma series.

ON SATURDAY, DEC. 4, enjoy the performance of the Berklee College of Music Alumni in a concert, sponsored by the non-profit organization Hungry For Music. The concert will be held at the City Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

ON FRIDAY, DEC. 10, take a look at the Recreation Department Talent Showcase. Also from the Auditorium, the Talent Showcase will start at 7 p.m., and will feature the youth of Takoma Park singing, dancing and modeling clothes.

ON THURSDAY, DEC. 15 at 7:30 p.m. we'll cover the Third Thursday Poetry Series, with an Open Reading featuring published poet Sonia Fides, live from Spain.

And on **MONDAY, DEC. 20** we'll celebrate the holidays with the Takoma Park Community Band concert, live at 7:30 p.m.

IF YOU ARE A NON-PROFIT OR A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION you can advertise your activities in our bulletin board. Also, if you would like City TV to cover an event or add specific programming to its line-up, call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to cabletv@takomagov.org.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PRODUCTION? Are you missing some type of programming you'd like City TV to add? Call us or send us an e-mail with your suggestions.

ANNEXATION

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within the City of Takoma Park. East of the edge of the pavement, the land is in Silver Spring, which is an unincorporated area of Montgomery County. It is this portion of land—between the roadway and the front property lines of the homes, apartments and businesses on the Silver Spring side of the street—that is proposed to be annexed.

The area is currently a mix of asphalt pathway, dirt, grass, trees and some concrete sidewalk. Pedestrians find that walking along the east side of the roadway to schools, shopping and bus stops is unsafe. The route is not usable at all by those who are handicapped.

Why is the City considering annexation?

Currently, Flower Avenue between Piney Branch Road and Carroll Avenue is MD 787, a State Highway. It does not really function as a highway and Maryland would like to remove it from their State Highway inventory. Currently, they own the right-of-way and are responsible for maintaining the roadway.

Discussions between the State Highway Administration (SHA) and the City of Takoma Park are underway concerning several State Highways in Takoma Park – in fact, these discussions were at one point linked as a “road swap” but have since been decoupled in City Council discussions.

SHA is willing to pay the City \$696,000— and allow the City to make street and sidewalk improvements as a “green street”—in lieu of SHA repaving and keeping MD 787. Since part of the right-of-way is not in Takoma Park, annexation is seen as a way to make it easier to coordinate the street improvement process and to maintain the street over time.

Although SHA maintains the roadways of State Highways, it does not maintain sidewalks. The City of Takoma Park maintains the sidewalk on the west side of Flower Avenue, and Montgomery County maintains it on the east side. Because the eastern sidewalk is in such poor shape, Takoma Park has been urging the County to improve the sidewalk for a number of years. The County has the sidewalk improvement project scheduled

for Fiscal Year 2016. The project had been scheduled for earlier, but, due to budget constraints, has been delayed several times.

A Green Street

Besides wanting to have the east sidewalk improved, Takoma Park staff has suggested that this portion of Flower Avenue would be a good “green street.” “Green streets” slow stormwater runoff by diverting it through landscaped areas, and at the same time accommodate autos, bicyclists, transit riders and pedestrians in a safe and attractive setting. Nationwide, there is a growing movement for this type of street design. (See photos.)

Since Montgomery County already has plans to improve the sidewalk, Takoma Park has been discussing ways the County could contribute to the “green street” project now. Although the County does not have funds in its current budget for the project, staff believes the County could contribute funds or services in exchange for the City agreeing to maintain the full right-of-way in the future via the annexation. Several County officials have agreed that this segment of Flower Avenue would be a good candidate for a “green street” project.

If the annexation is not approved, but SHA removes this segment of Flower Avenue from its State Highway inventory, Takoma Park will be responsible for maintaining its side of the street and the two lanes of pavement, while Montgomery County will continue to be responsible for the remaining right-of-way. SHA could choose to simply repave the roadway with the \$696,000 before removing the State Highway designation, as it had offered several months ago, but no sidewalk improvements would be made.

How annexation impacts residents

Annexation of the full width of the right-of-way by Takoma Park would mean that Takoma Park would be responsible for maintaining the road instead of SHA, filling potholes, plowing snow, taking responsibility for road signs, etc.

Residents on the Silver Spring side of Flower Avenue would still receive services like trash, recycling and leaf collection from Montgomery County; residents on the Takoma Park side of Flower Avenue will receive the same services from Takoma Park, just as

they always have.

If the City Council decides to pursue the renovation of Flower Avenue as a “green street,” the proposed street improvements will affect residents and property owners of both the Takoma Park and Silver Spring sides of the streets. All residents and property owners along the street would be strongly urged to participate in the planning process. After basic information is gathered—such as a survey that identifies the exact boundaries of the right-of-way, and the location of trees, street lights, etc.—residents and owners would need to help determine how much on-street parking is needed, where the sidewalk should be located, how to accommodate trees, access to properties, etc.

A survey of the right-of-way is required before the Council could vote on the annexation. The survey that would be done is also needed for the street improvement planning process. If the Council decides to move forward on the street improvements, community meetings would be scheduled.

When would annexation occur?

The Takoma Park City Council started the process to consider annexation at its meeting on Nov. 22. Over the month of December, the City will be advertising the public hearing and informing County and State agencies about the possible annexation. City staff will prepare a document that details the expected cost to maintain and police this added section of right-of-way and how the City would accommodate those added expenses.

The City Council will hear testimony from Takoma Park and Silver Spring residents at the Feb. 7 public hearing, consider the information on the expected costs to maintain and police the annexation area, then vote on the annexation. A vote on annexation may be held as early as Feb. 14. If the City Council decides to approve the annexation, annexation would become effective 45 days following that vote. If the Council does not approve the annexation, it may still consider trying to coordinate with the County on a green street project.

For more information on the annexation process or the possible changes to Flower Avenue contact Suzanne Ludlow at SuzanneL@takomagov.org or 301-891-7229.

SPOOKTACULAR!



Halloween, Takoma Park Style

Takoma Park's annual Halloween festivities brought out all sorts of town characters, who paraded through the streets, then followed the firetruck to Piney Branch Elementary School for refreshments. Among them were, clockwise from top right, a very young Frankenstein, a serious fire-fighter, pretty kitty, frilly princess, tiny pup, a family from Alice in Wonderland and, below, one of many canine competitors in the costume contest.

Photos by James Baxter

