June 2012

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 51, No. 6 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

Fish fry
Friday, June 15, 6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center

Ward Nights
June 4, Ward 4
June 18, Ward 6
7 p.m., TP Community Center

Trash collection
No changes this month

Capital Bikeshare stations are increasing in number, and will be coming to Takoma Park as part of the continued expansion into Montgomery County.

Photo courtesy of WJLA

Bike sharing to come to Takoma Park

By Erkin Ozberk
Planning Division

Building on the success of Capital Bikeshare in Washington, bike share stations and their iconic red bikes are coming to Takoma Park. Montgomery County's Department of Transportation has been awarded a $1 million grant by the Maryland Department of Transportation to implement bike sharing around Bethesda, Friendship Heights, Silver Spring and Takoma Park. The Maryland legislature also approved a bill providing an additional $250,000 bond for the bike share program.

Urban bike sharing networks have been a transportation mainstay in Europe for decades and are taking off with huge success in North American cities. Capital Bikeshare leads the way with the largest network in the U.S., now offering more than 1,500 bicycles at 160 stations in Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia. The system reached the milestone of 2 million rides this past May.

Bike sharing is lauded as an effective solution to what transportation planners call the "last mile problem," the distance transit users travel between a Metro station and workplaces, housing, school, parks or other destinations. But Capital Bikeshare riders have also found it a convenient and efficient way to meet business colleagues, run errands, or link up with friends. Think of it as a bike taxi for short, one-way trips instead of a rental for several hours that must be returned to the point of origin. Memberships can be purchased on an annual, monthly, or daily basis, making it accessible to both residents and visitors. The first 30 minutes of each trip are free. Each additional 30 minutes incurs an additional fee. (See www.capitalbikeshare.com for more information.)

As part of Montgomery County's application process, the City gathered public input on suggested station locations and expected use through an online questionnaire in December, hearing from over 400 respondents. Six prospective Takoma Park bike share stations were included in the County proposal: at Old Town, the Junction, Washington Adventist Hospital, near the apartments at Maple and Lincoln Avenues, the Community Center, and Montgomery College. County planners are awaiting final paperwork from the State and will finalize bike share station locations with City staff once the funding is made available.

July 4 festivities feature parade, fireworks

Friends and family will once again gather along the streets of Takoma Park for the annual Independence Day parade on July 4. The parade begins at 10 a.m. at Takoma Junction, the corner of Ethan Allen and Carroll avenues.

This 123rd event is not only a celebration of all things red, white and blue, but also a joyous send-up of the strong sense of community and quirky, small-town character of Takoma Park. It is followed by a community barbeque, wiffle ball tournament and evening program of music and fireworks.

FOURTH OF JULY ☐ Page 11

Council passes budget

Steady tax rate, additional programming included

By Virginia Myers

A last-minute change made an otherwise routine budget approval process slightly more unusual than anticipated, but in the end the City Council voted to approve City Manager Barbara Matthews' proposed budget with just a few changes.

Two days before the final budget vote, on May 17, the Montgomery County Council voted to give the City a $653,220 increase in County revenue meant to cover tax duplication of police services in Takoma Park. City officials have fought hard for this payment. The unexpected revenue, a one-time event, set in motion a discussion over whether to lower the property tax rate, thereby transferring the windfall directly to taxpayers. At that point, the Council had all but agreed to set the tax rate at 58 cents per $100 of assessed property value (the same rate as last year). Councilmember Seth Grimes (Ward 1) proposed reducing it by 3 cents, to 55 cents.

Council voted May 21, by 6 to 1, to keep the tax rate as planned, at 58 cents.

In his reasoning to reduce the tax rate, Grimes explained tax duplication, then argued for the reduction: "Takoma Park property owners pay property taxes to both the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County for services that are offered by both entities. These include police services, which is the reason we get a tax rebate and the reason for the coming tax duplication payment." He then said, "I believe that wherever possible we should recognize that this is tax duplication money, and apply that money to alleviate tax duplication." He believes that to be "the whole premise" of years-long efforts to correct the tax duplication system so that taxpayers are not burdened twice by payments –once to the City and once to the County.

Councilmember Terry Seamens (Ward 4) agreed with Grimes. "I see no logic in saying that, 'Gee, because we have more money we and the government can spend it better than the people who paid the money in," he said.

Other councilmembers and the mayor disagreed. Although he said he agrees with Grimes and Seamens on many points, Mayor Bruce Williams felt the arguments needed context. In an email to constituents, and at the City Council meeting, he explained his reasoning: the windfall came late in the budget process, and didn't allow councilmembers to consider the effects of a tax decrease. And, it would likely result in

BUDGET ☐ Page 9

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRE-SORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 4422

Inside:

HOME REPAIR *Page 4*
FILM-IN-PROGRESS- *Page 5*
GAS STATION ROBBERIES *Page 8*

DOCKET

TAKOMA TOPICS:

Over 50? Want to play some basketball? We're doing a drop in day Saturday, June 2 out at the Recreation Center on New Hampshire. 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m., 7315 New Hampshire Ave., 301-891-7289 http://www.facebook.com/#!/TakomaParkMD

City Council & Committee Calendar

CITY COUNCIL

Mondays, June 4, 11 and 18, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Auditorium

For agendas, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

NUCLEAR FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Lilac Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Monday, June 11, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Lilac Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 14, 8:30 a.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 26, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

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

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

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

MAYOR WILLIAMS welcomes comments and suggestions from the community. Residents are invited to meet with him during his office hours on Tuesdays:

2 – 5 p.m. by appointment;

5 – 6 p.m. drop-in hours (check in at the information desk and let the receptionist know you are here to see the Mayor); or

6 – 7 p.m. by appointment.

For additional information or to make an appointment, contact Executive Assistant Peggye Washington at peggyew@takomagov.org or 301-891-7230.

CityCouncilAction

RESOLUTION 2012-24

Adopted (April 23)

Establishing a date for a Ward 5 special election

The City Council set the date of July 17, 2012 for a special election to fill the vacant Ward 5 City Council seat

RESOLUTION 2012-25

Adopted (April 23)

Providing for reappointments to the Recreation Committee

The City Council reappointed Jane Hurst (Ward 1), Jay Keller (Ward 3), Howard Kohn (Ward 3), and Peter Munger (Ward 1), and appointed Jen Wofford (Ward 3) to the Recreation Committee.

RESOLUTION 2012-26

Adopted (May 14)

Recognizing National Public Works Week

National Public Works Week is May 20-26, 2012.

ORDINANCE 2012-18

Adopted (April 23)

Authorizing the purchase of a replacement police vehicle

The ordinance authorized the purchase of a Ford Interceptor police vehicle to replace a vehicle that was damaged and declared a total loss.

ORDINANCE 2012-19

Adopted (first reading May 7; second reading May 14)

Authorizing execution of a contract with the Mercer Group, Inc.

The Mercer Group, Inc. will be providing executive search services for the position of Police Chief.

ORDINANCE 2012-20

Adopted (May 14)

Single reading ordinance authorizing purchase and installation of building security upgrades

The ordinance authorized the purchase and installation of replacement video surveillance equipment and related software from MVS, Inc.

NOTICE OF WARD 5 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY AND SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE OF COUNCIL VACANCY

Ward 5 City Councilmember Reuben Snipper has resigned from the City Council effective Tuesday, May 22. Pursuant to Section 308 of the City Charter, if a vacancy on the City Council occurs more than 240 days before the next regularly scheduled City election, a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

The Ward 5 special election will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. The single polling place will be located at Washington Adventist University, Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to
8 p.m.

COUNCIL TERM

The term of office for the person elected will be from July 30, 2012 to Nov. 18, 2013. Subsequent term(s) will follow the normal two-year Council term schedule, with elections held in November of odd-numbered years.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Ward 5 City Council seat shall have resided in Ward 5 for at least six months immediately preceding the election. Candidates shall be registered voters of the City. Councilmembers shall maintain their principal residence in the City and in their ward during their term of office. Councilmembers are prohibited from holding other publicly elected offices during their term of office and are prohibited from serving on any City board, commission, or other body that has authority to adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes.

PETITIONS FOR CANDIDACY

In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the special election ballot, he or she must submit a petition at least 20 days prior to the election, on a form provided by the City Clerk, and signed by at least ten eligible voters in Ward 5. There is no nominating caucus for the special election. Petitions must be received by the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, 2012.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Only voters registered at an address in Ward 5 may vote in the special election. The voter registration cut-off date for the election will be June 18, 2012.

Additional information will be posted at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Questions may be addressed to Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267, or jessiec@takomagov.org.

A sample ballot will be mailed to all Ward 5 registered voters prior to the special election.

AVISO DE UN PUESTO VACANTE DE CONSEJAL DEL DISTRITO 5 Y DE UNA ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL

Aviso de puesto vacante de consejal

Reuben Snipper, consejal del distrito 5, ha anunciado su resignación de consejal del distrito 5, la cual se hará efectiva el martes, 22 de mayo del 2012. Conforme a la sección 308 de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad, si hay un puesto vacante en el Consejo con 240 días antes de la próxima elección ordinaria de la Ciudad, se convocará a una elección especial para cubrir dicha vacante.

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL

La elección especial del distrito 5 será el martes 17 de julio del 2012. Los puestos de votación será ubicado en la Universidad de Washington Adventist, Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Los puestos de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 8:00 p.m.

PERIODO DE MANDATO DE CONSEJAL

El periodo del mandato para la persona que resulte electa abarcará desde el 30 de julio del 2012 hasta el 18 de noviembre del 2013. El(Los) periodo(s) subsiguiente(s) seguirá(n) el programa regular de consejal de dos años, con elecciónes todos los años impares, en noviembre.

CUALIFICACIONES DE LAS CANDIDATOS

Los candidatos para cubrir la posición de consejal del distrito 5 deberán haber residido en el distrito 5 por lo menos seis meses justo antes de la elección. Los candidatos deberán estar inscritos para votar en la Ciudad. Los miembros del Consejo deberán tener su residencia principal en la Ciudad y en su distrito electoral durante su periodo de mandato. Los miembros del Consejo tienen prohibido ocupar cualquier otro puesto para el cual hayan sido elegidos públicamente, durante su periodo de mandato y tienen prohibido servir en un consejo de administración de una ciudad, comisión u otra entidad que tenga autoridad para actuar como árbitro o bien para resolver litigios.

PETICIONES PARA LA CANDIDATURA

Para que el nombre de un candidato aparezca en la boleta de la eleccion especial, él o ella deberá presentar una petición al menos 20 días antes de la elección, utilizando un formulario que le facilitará la Secretaria Municipal. Dicha petición deberá estar firmada por lo menos por 10 votantes aptos del distrito 5. No se formará una reunión electoral para esta elección especial. La Secretaria Municipal deberá recibir las peticiones antes del miércoles 27, a las 5:00 p.m.

INSCRIPCIÓN DE LOS VOTANTES

Solamente los votantes que estén inscritos en una dirección del distrito 5 podrán votar en esta elección especial. La fecha límite para la inscripción de los votantes para esta elección será el 18.

Se publicará información adicional en la siguiente dirección del sitio Web http://www.takomaparkmd.gov. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, llame la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal, al 301-891-7214 o a través del correo electrónico jessiec@takomagov.org

WARD NIGHTS

TWO WARD NIGHTS WITH THE CITY COUNCIL IN JUNE

MONDAY, JUNE 4 - WARD 4 NIGHT
MONDAY, JUNE 18 – WARD 6 NIGHT

The City Council will host two Ward Nights in June – Ward 4 Night on Monday, June 4 and Ward 6 Night on Monday, June 18.

On each night, the City Council will hold a reception in the Atrium Lobby for residents of the ward, from 7-7:30 p.m., to provide an opportunity to residents to chat, one on one, with members of the City Council. The first part of each City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will be dedicated to hearing from residents of the ward. For additional information, contact Jessie Carpenter (301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org).

Future Ward Nights: Monday, July 9 – Ward 1 Night; Monday, July 23 – Ward 2 Night

WARD 5 CANDIDATES FORUM

July 12 – Gather at 7 p.m., forum begins at 7:30 p.m.

Washington Adventist University

Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Avenue

All residents of Ward 5 are invited to attend the forum to hear from the candidates for the Ward 5 City Council seat. The forum is hosted by the Takoma Park Board of Elections and the *Takoma Voice*. For additional information, contact Jessie Carpenter at jessiec@takomagov.org or 301-891-7267.

VACANCIES ON COUNCIL-APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

There are numerous opportunities for Takoma Park residents to serve on City boards, commissions, and committees. If you feel you can make a positive contribution, please consider volunteering. Appointments are made by the City Council. To be considered, complete an application form and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications. 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, terms expiring June 30)
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (vacancy, terms expiring June 30)
- Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)
- Ethics Commission (vacancies)
- Façade Advisory Board (vacancy)
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancy)
- Personnel Appeal Board (vacancies)
- Recreation Committee (vacancy)
- Washington Adventist Land Use Committee (vacancies)

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Virginia Myers
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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Reports by community groups, letters to the editor, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit 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.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.

How One Takoma Park Company Protects People Worldwide

By Kevin Adler

Takoma Park residents are very familiar with the phrase, "Think globally, act locally."

For some Takoma Park businesses, the mission is to think and act globally, even while retaining their local roots. One such operation is Gryphon Scientific, a 30-person consulting firm that has enjoyed rapid growth since one of its co-founders moved to Takoma Park in 2006.

"Act globally" usually brings to mind positive building projects and hopeful young businesses designed to support small communities while still serving the needs of the world. By contrast, the work at Gryphon Scientific, a science policy consulting firm, is a little grim. It has assessed the potential economic impact of emerging nanotechnology advances—a positive advance—but it's also conducted a gene-by-gene assessment of the smallpox virus, and recommended procedures to allow for the safe use of synthetic DNA. The firm also provides technical advice and guidance to U.S. government agencies and other organizations on disaster management, crisis avoidance and response, and homeland security. In those areas, Gryphon Scientific's expertise reads like a list of society's worst nightmares: release of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents, rapidly spreading infectious disease or foodborne illnesses, and the use of high-yield explosives.

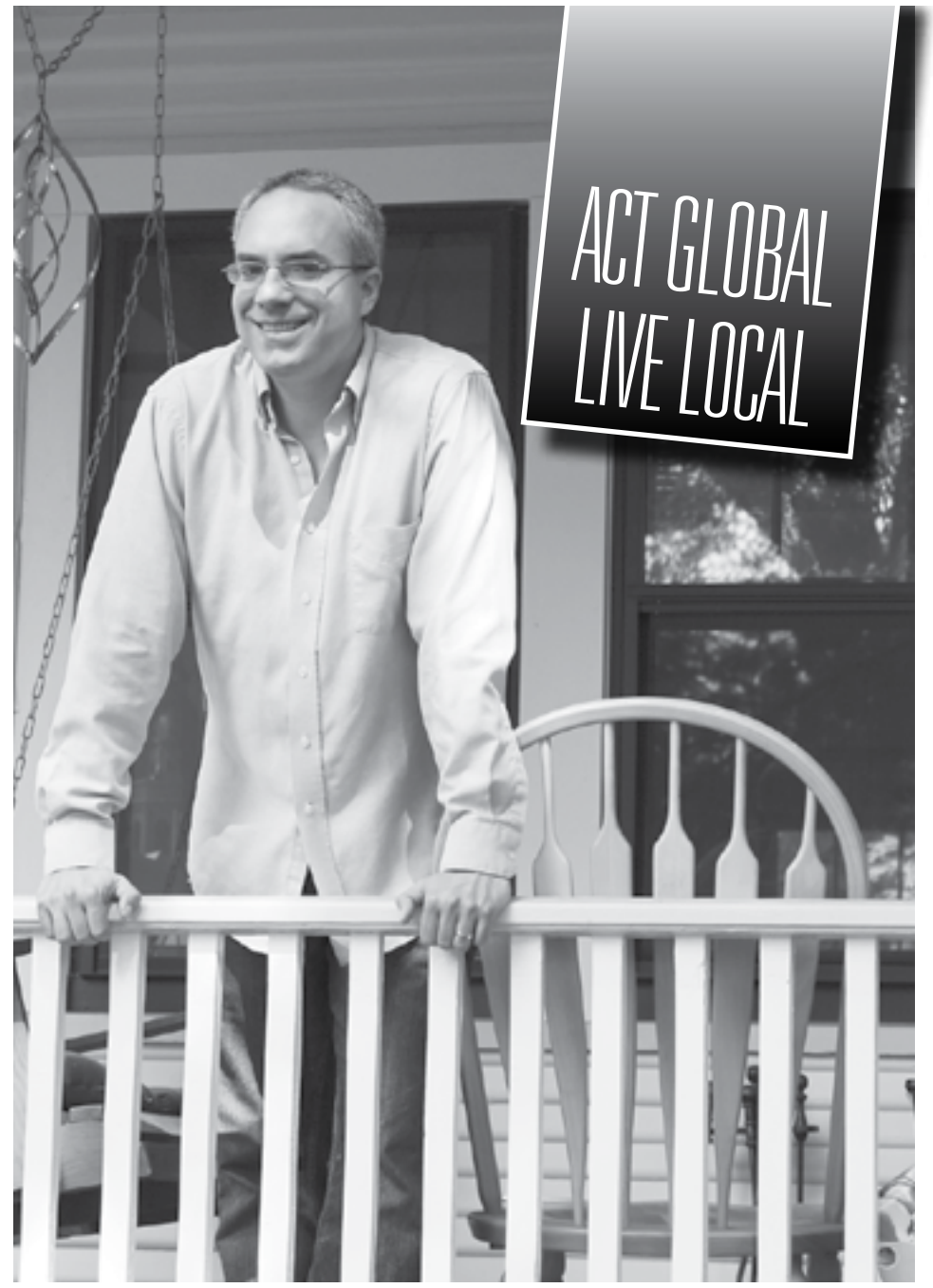
"We try to help the government control risks, be it from the accidental misapplication of science, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks," said Rocco Casagrande, Ph.D., president of Gryphon Scientific and one of its two founding partners. "We start by focusing on the most likely and most consequential incidents, and we model the impact."

Gryphon Scientific has analyzed the readiness of the U.S. public health system to respond to casualties from a weapon of mass destruction, and identified for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security the potential vulnerabilities of a major U.S. animal health lab. In recent years, Gryphon Scientific added expertise in emergency response management and sent staff members to address humanitarian crises in Haiti and Africa.

To do this type of work, Gryphon Scientific has a full staff of experts with advanced degrees in epidemiology, biology, chemistry, environmental science, public health and more. But they also have to be able to communicate their findings to scientists and policymakers. "It's a high bar to find scientists who are very quantitative, but who also are very capable writers," Casagrande said.

Of course, even a team of Ph.D.'s cannot account for every possibility or model everything perfectly. Those unknowns keep Casagrande up at night. "Some of the work we do isn't unique, and we can rely on published research, as well as on our experience," he said. "But for other questions, the really difficult ones, you don't have real-world data for qualifying the risks. You can't read a book on it."

What's the secret to Gryphon Scientific's success in peering into the unknown (and undesirable) future? Casagrande said that it's as simple as doing the job that the firm has been hired to do. "We are very customer-focused. We answer the questions that the government is asking. It might sound obvious, but you'd be surprised how often other companies drift from the purpose of the study," he said. "We've been told that we are thorough, clever, and conceptualize problems well. Sometimes, we're even brought in after another firm has failed to come up with a solution."



Rocco Casagrande, of Gryphon Scientific, at his home in Takoma Park.

Photo: By Virginia Myers

GRYPHON SCIENTIFIC

Mission: *"We try to help the government control risks, be it from the accidental misapplication of science, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks."*

Headquarters: *Takoma Park*

Employees: *25-30*

Why Takoma Park?

"We liked its progressive values, environmentalism and sense of inclusion."

Why Takoma Park?

Selecting Takoma Park as a base of operations in 2006 was no accident. Casagrande's wife, Kate Rhudy, had been accepted to several law schools, including Georgetown. Casagrande was flying to Washington regularly, sometimes twice a week, to meet with clients. Those clients wanted him to be more accessible, and they didn't like paying for his travel expenses. "If we were going to move the company, it didn't make sense not to move it to DC," he said. "We'd heard about Takoma Park, and we liked its progressive values, environmentalism and sense of inclusion. We decided it would be a good place for us."

At the time, Gryphon Scientific was about a year old, and it had four employees, including Casagrande and co-founder Joan Mullen. The company's contracts were focused in "CBNRE," that is, releases of chemical, biological, nuclear or radiological contamination, or explosives. This built on Casagrande's Ph.D. from MIT in experimental biology and his work in 2002-2003 as a United Nations biological weapons inspector in Iraq and chief of the U.N. biological analysis laboratory.

"We assumed that we would stay small and highly focused, but the demand for our work grew faster than we expected. When we moved to Takoma Park, we worked in my finished basement, but as

GRYPHON ☐ Page 11

HOUSING

HOUSING MAILBOX

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

I am a landlord and I want to know: Now that utility costs are spiraling, can I remove window air conditioners from my rental property? Or, since I pay for all utilities, can I increase the fees I charge to my tenants for their use of the window air conditioners? I own the units myself, and rent them as part of property rental. Also, if I can increase fees for air conditioning, when must I notify my tenants about any increase?

The short answer: No, you may not take the air conditioning away if it was part of the original rental deal. City Ordinance 2004-36, which was adopted by the City Council in 2004 and is now part of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Relations law, states that landlords may not remove air conditioners or otherwise stop providing air conditioning to their tenants if it has previously been provided in the rental facility.

In addition, each individual room air conditioning unit, regardless of its current rating, must be served by not less than an individual 20-amp circuit, using Number 12 copper wire which terminates in a single receptacle. This requirement can be found in the City's property maintenance code.

All leases must include a provision that indicates the building's air conditioning policy (Section 6.16.060 (Lease Requirements). If a lease does not include information about the AC policy, the tenant has the right to install window air conditioning units and the landlord would be required to upgrade the electrical outlets to meet code.

Now, how to pay for it: If air conditioning was provided to any previous tenant and its costs were included in the rent, then that building policy may not be changed and an extra fee may not be imposed. If window air conditioning has been provided, but fees were previously charged, these are the regulations regarding AC fees:

- If the landlord pays for the building's electricity and a separate fee has been charged for increased electricity usage during the summer months (May through September), that fee must be for the actual electricity charges incurred.
- If the building's policy has allowed a landlord to charge tenants for renting window air conditioners, the rental charge may not exceed $35 per month during the summer months.
- Tenants may, if their lease permits, provide their own window air conditioner units if the unit is equivalent in size, configuration and energy efficiency standards to the one previously provided by the landlord.

A landlord seeking to increase a fee for optional services or amenities must disclose the fee at the beginning of the tenancy or by giving written notice two months prior to the date the increase is to become effective. For instance, an increase proposed to take effect on June 1, 2012 would require the tenants to have received written advisement of it no later than March 31, 2012.

Tenants or landlords with questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or at mosesw@takomagov.org.

COLTA'S CORNER

Landlord-tenant rules apply to unlicensed properties

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

Supan v. Hillary (11-14T)

On May 12, COLTA ruled in a case involving a tenant's complaint, in which she had requested the immediate termination of her lease, return of her security deposit (subsequently amended to include punitive damages), return of rent paid, moving expenses and reimbursement for lost pay.

The facts of the case revealed that the owner of the apartment did not have a license to rent the unit, but instead, had a certificate designating it as a "registered living unit." Registered living units are a classification given by the county zoning department. Registered living units cannot be used as rental units, but may be used only as a living unit where no rent is exchanged (for example, for family members).

The Commission ruled, however, that there was no defective tenancy or constructive eviction, and that the tenant had not suffered any actual damages or reduction in rental value as a result of the landlord's failure to obtain a rental license. Additionally, COLTA ruled that when the tenant moved out of the unit, she failed to provide the landlord with written notice of her intent to vacate and in fact, was found to have abandoned the rental unit.

The tenant's subsequent written demand for return of her security deposit was delivered by e-mail and not first-class mail, as required by section 8-203(h)(2) of the Real Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Finally, COLTA found that the tenant had caused damage to the rental unit in excess of ordinary wear and tear, which could be deducted from the security deposit as damages.

The COLTA Order resulted in a refund of $788.75 of the $1,468.75 security deposit to the tenant. To see the complete COLTA Opinion and Order on this case, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov Landlord-Tenant (left side of page), then to COLTA Case Summaries.

Fair Return Rent Increase approved

By Jean Kerr, Housing Specialist

Carroll Gardens (26, 28, 30 & 32 Lee Ave and 7401, 7403 & 7411 Hancock Ave) (2011-11L)

The owner of this 66-unit apartment complex filed a fair return rent increase petition on Nov. 14, 2011, seeking a rent increase above the Rent Stabilization Allowance. Landlords are entitled to a rent increase above the Rent Stabilization Allowance if they can show that their net operating income has been reduced due to escalating operating costs.

After review of the required documentation by COLTA's rents analyst, a 6 percent rent increase was approved. This calculated to rent increases ranging from $41.70 to $60.48 for the individual units at the property.

The fair return rent increase can be taken in addition to the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance. To review the full decision, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov, click on "Landlord-Tenant" and scroll down to "COLTA Case Summaries."

Mission Serve directs volunteers in local home repair

By Rick Henry

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development, the D.C. Baptist Convention, Mission Serve, a Georgia-based nonprofit group, and volunteers from around the country, the Fourth of July will be a true cause for celebration for 25 Takoma Park homeowners.

During the week of July 2, more than 350 volunteers, armed with construction equipment and materials, will descend upon the City and rehabilitate 25 homes that are in need of repair and must be brought up to code.

According to Linda Walker, affordable housing manager in the City's Department of Housing and Community Development, all of the homes that are being rehabilitated are privately owned. To qualify for the project, homeowners have to meet federal CDBG eligibility requirements.

"Many of the homes belong to seniors who are unable to handle the repairs themselves or pay someone to do them," she said.

To their rescue comes Mission Serve, a non-profit, faith-based organization that lists its mission as, "strengthening neighborhoods and improving the lives of individuals by working to eliminate sub-standard housing through volunteerism and community involvement."

Since its founding in 2003, the organization has conducted 15 to 20 community housing rehabilitation projects annually, in partnership with local governments, rehabbing more than 3,000 homes. The group draws volunteers from around the country, including experienced construction and project managers. The volunteers pay their own way to get to the host city and are generally housed dormitory-style in local schools and churches.

"They do these projects as mission trips," says Mission Serve founder and executive director Andy Morris. "They all bring their sleeping bags and sleep on the floor and we bring in shower trailers."

Though they have worked on projects in many states and the volunteers come from around the country, this will be the group's first project in the Washington, D.C. area.

The driving force behind bringing Mission Serve to Takoma Park is Ricky Creech, executive director of the D.C. Baptist Convention. Creech has a long history of working with Morris and Mission Serve, and when he moved to DC to take his current position last year, he was anxious to initiate a pilot project here.

"I sent out some grant requests to various entities in D.C., Montgomery County and Prince George's County and one day (Director of Housing and Community Development) Sara Daines contacted me by

MISSION SERVE ☐ Page 11

THE ARTS

Jenny Lim, travel photographer, is exhibiting at Gallery 3. See article, bottom right.

W E A R E T A K O M A

Music fest film, folk, Mr. Gabe headline We Are Takoma

Film in progress: music for international understanding

Essakane Unveiled
Thursday, June 7
7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

From the bustling streets of Bamako to the desolate dunes of the Sahara, Essakane Unveiled takes us to the most remote music festival in the world, Festival au Desert. Founded to foster cultural exchange and economic development, the festival has grown into a world-class event and drawn many western musicians (from Bono to Jimmy Buffet to Robert Plant) to jam with Malian, Tuareg and West African musicians. As the fate of the festival hangs in the balance amidst a violent standoff between rebel Tuaregs and the Malian government, this film, by Kiley Kraskouskas, Leola Calzolai-Stewart and Andrea Pappito, looks at the power of music for international understanding.

The work-in-progress screening provides an opportunity for local and visiting documentary filmmakers to screen their unfinished films to an audience and get valuable feedback. After the screening of the film, a facilitator from Docs-In-Progress will moderate a feedback session with the audience. This honest and constructive feedback is aimed at helping the filmmakers get to the next stage of completing and distributing the film.

Essakene Unveiled

Ayreheart Trio

Mixing Renaissance with folk, bluegrass and more

Ronn McFarlane and Ayreheart with guest vocalist Audrey Tornblom
Friday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

GRAMMY-nominated lutenist Ronn McFarlane founded Ayreheart out of the desire write new music for the lute—the most popular instrument of the Renaissance—and make it accessible to a wider audience. The music reflects elements of folk, Celtic, bluegrass, jazz and classical styles. The combination of McFarlane's lute with Willard Morris' multi-instrumental talents (bass, violin, mandolin) and a variety of percussion instruments played by Mattias Rucht blends the old and new to create the unique sound of Ayreheart. Reception following the concert. Donations welcome.

The Pied Piper of Takoma Park performs for kids

Saturday, June 23, 4 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

Mr. Gabe (aka Gabe Hutter) is a Takoma Park musician—and proud dad—who performs classic nursery rhymes, folk songs and modern favorites for children, ages zero to six. Since 2009 he has been appearing monthly at the Takoma Park Library's Community Circle Time. He's completed extended residencies at Capital City Cheesecake and Roda Movements, and has performed at cafes, libraries and schools throughout suburban D.C. In 2010, he was voted "Best Performer for Children" by readers of the *Takoma Voice* and *Silver Spring Voice*.

This June, Mr. Gabe will be releasing his first CD, Play Date, a collection of mostly original songs, from folk to a variation of hip hop.

For this CD celebration concert, Hutter will be joined by local musicians Jay Gordon (bass) and Christopher Ousley (acoustic string instruments and percussion). Suggested donation, $6. For more information, please visit www.mrgabemusic.com.

Mr. Gabe

ARTS & *Humanities*

Painting, pottery, photos show optimism, travel

Art from the Heart of an Optimist

Crystal Pittman heard her creative calling before she was a teenager. She began a self-taught journey in art, often drawing reference from the Sunday comic strips and creating detailed, pencil-drawn portraits of her siblings and friends. By the time she was 30, she began to explore color. As a single mom she had only brief exposure to painting at the School of Visual Arts in New York, but she continued creating art, learning by doing.

A natural optimist, Pittman creates art that gives her joy and reflects her own life and memories, transcending boundaries to relate to viewers. Her paintings and portraits vibrantly dance with color and sculpt textures expressive of how the artist feels about the natural beauty of a face, landscape or memory.

"My work has never been about making a political statement, nor is it allegorical," she says. "I'm inspired by the lines of a face or place right in front of me that makes me feel like capturing my reaction to it on canvas. I believe there is art in everything; it just depends on how you see things. "

A show featuring her paintings and ceramics will be on exhibit at the Takoma Park Community Center Atrium Gallery, in the Takoma Park Community Center, June 15 through July 31. Opening reception with the artist will be held on Friday, June 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Photos portray travel and textures

Photographer Jenny Lim will be featured in an exhibition at the Takoma Park Community Center in Gallery 3 from June 1 through July 26. An artist's reception will be held on Friday, June 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is invited and admission is free.

The Silver Spring-based photographer shares images of earth textures and people she has encountered during her recent travels to China, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico, South Carolina, Maine and local Maryland.

Lim's love of photography started in high school when she won a local award for her photos taken for the school's yearbook. Now as senior photo producer for Discovery Channel, she gets to shoot, edit and experience all aspects of the photography industry. Her work as photo editor for Discovery Channel has received awards from Graphis and Communication Arts.

Hours for Gallery 3 are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information contact: Jenny Lim, jennyflim@gmail.com; or Sara Anne Daines, sarad@takomagov.org, 301-891-7224.

From left, Ramani Wilson, Alannah Oliver-Foster and Tatiana Davidson-Bajandas at a Recreation Department program.

T-Ball League

Grades K-1, must be 5 years old by June 2012

With 120 participants last spring, the T-ball program served as a popular introduction to baseball. This coed league allows girls and boys to have fun while learning the basic fundamentals of the game. Emphasis will be on fun, learning to hit, running bases and catching. All skill levels welcome. Participants must bring their own baseball glove. Volunteer coaches are a key element of this program's success.

Saturday mornings, June 9 – Aug. 4

Belle Ziegler Park, Spring Park and Lee Jordan Field

TP residents $60

Non-residents $70

Tiny Tykes Basketball Skills

Ages 3 - 5

This program will help develop your child's basketball skills in a fun and imaginative way. Basketball is used as a theme for helping boys and girls master skills like listening and learning, self-confidence, and social and emotional expression.

Saturdays, July 7 – Aug, 11, 11 a.m. – 12 noon

TP Community Center outdoor blacktop

TP residents $30

Non-residents $40

Basketball Skills Clinic

Ages 6 – 12

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this skills clinic. Coaches help each participant develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment.

Saturdays, June 2 – July 7, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

TP Recreation Center

$60 for six weeks

Chess

Ages 6-17

Chess is fun, and playing the game teaches responsibility, improves discipline and sharpens thinking skills. It also builds confidence and helps young people make new friends. This course will provide first steps: familiarizing participants with the board; identifying the chessmen, including the moves of each piece; and learning chess terminology.

Tuesdays (on-going), 6 – 7 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Smashing Smoothie and Movie Rap Night

Ages 12 – 18

Round up your friends and join us as we enjoy smoothies while watching movies. After the movie, teens will participate in a discussion that will stimulate positive, informative and respectful exchange that honors each participant's contribution to the conversation. Includes a raffle. Every first and third Thursday of the month. For more information or to register, contact Leicia Monfort, 301-891-7223.

Thursdays, June 7 and 21, 6 - 8 p.m.

TP Community Center

Free

Girls on the Rise

Ages 10-14

This self-esteem program encourages girls to develop self-respect and a healthy lifestyle. It addresses the difficulty of adolescence by guiding them to physical, emotional, mental and social well-being, helping them navigate through peer problems, explore healthy relationship development, family challenges, appearances, cyber bullying, school challenges and how their emotions play a role in all areas of their lives.

Thursdays (on-going), 7 - 8 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Tai Chi

Ages 16 and older

Tai Chi is an ancient exercise for cultivating physical and spiritual health. This class will cover the basic principles and concepts of Tai Chi. Proven effective in restoring balance and calm in our lives, the slow, gentle movements and relaxed breathing of Tai Chi harmonize energy and flow in the body. The class will follow the Yang style short form that was introduced to the West by the renowned Cheng Man Ch'ing.

Tuesdays (ongoing), 5:30 – 7 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free

Zumba

Ages 16 and older

This fusion of hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves helps achieve long-term benefits during an hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing movements. Routines feature interval training sessions and resistance training to tone and sculpt while burning fat. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Wednesdays and Saturdays (on-going), May 30 – June 23 and July 7 – Aug. 1

6 – 6:55 p.m. (Wednesday); 9:15 – 10:10 a.m. (Saturday)

TP Recreation Center

$40 for four weeks

Yoga Nidra-Meditation and Relaxation

Ages 18 and older

Yoga Nidra is a meditative yoga practice that helps reduce stress, increases general physical and mental well-being, and brings greater ease and joy into everyday life. Students are guided through the meditation while lying on a yoga mat and blankets or seated in a comfortable resting position. This systematic practice uses positive affirmations, visualization and awareness of the body and breath. No prior yoga or meditation experience is required. Each student should bring their own yoga mat, a few blankets and a pillow.

Mondays, June 18 - July 16, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

TP Community Center dance studio

TP residents $50

Non-residents $60

Ride of Your Life - Bike Commuting and Maintenance Workshop

All ages

Takoma Bicycle is partnering with the Recreation Department to hold several spring/summer biking workshop for commuters. Bruce Sawtelle will cover basic safety concerns, bicycle maintenance, how to fix a flat, and things to take on rides. Open to cyclists of varying skill levels. The workshops will conclude with a question-and-answer session.

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

TP Community Center Azalea Room

Free, but registration is required

Y.E.S. LEAGUE 2012

Divisions: Middle School, High School, Young Adult (ages 18 or older)

The summer will be here before you know it, so don't wait to register for the Takoma Park "Youth Exposed to Success" summer basketball league. The league teaches sportsmanship and team work and features positive guest speakers and encouraging growth experiences. Teams are guaranteed six games and each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. Ten-player rosters (six teams per division).

Middle School Division, grades 5 – 8

Mondays and Tuesdays, July 9 - Aug. 21
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Piney Branch Elementary School gym

TP residents $30

Non-residents $40

High School Division, Grades 9 - 12

Wednesdays, July 11 - Aug. 22, 6:30- 9:30 p.m.

Outdoor basketball courts, Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park

TP residents $5

Non-residents $15

Young Adult Division, ages 18 years and up

Thursdays, July 12 - Aug. 23, 6:30- 9:30 p.m.

Outdoor basketball courts, Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park

TP residents $5

Non-residents $15

Independence Day Celebration

All Ages

This annual family fun event is full of Takoma Park spirit! For additional information please visit: www.takomapark4th.org

Wednesday, July 4

10 a.m. - Parade begins

2:30 p.m. - Wiffle ball tournament

7:30 p.m. - Evening program followed by fireworks

Free Fried Fish Fridays

All ages

Come out and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department and Project MOVE as we celebrate community together in a night of food, fun and fellowship. This free program is offered every second Friday of the month. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort, 301-891-7223.

Friday, June 15 (an exception to second Friday)

6 - 8 p.m.

TP Community Center outdoor basketball court

Free

TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS Go to http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/index.html
For more information by phone, call 301-891-7290

SUMMER CAMPS

Tremendous Trips

Ages 6 - 12 (Beginning first grade by September 2012)

Start the summer off with cool, relaxing trips and a bunch of fun. Explore a different adventure each day with rock climbing, ice skating, golfing and swimming. Children must bring lunch.

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

June 13 - Capitol Club House (rock climbing and ice skating)

June 14 - Gaithersburg Golf/Water Park (golf and swimming)

June 15 - Volcano Island (splash park)

TP residents $40 per trip

Non-residents $50 per trip

Rookie Sports Camp (half day)

Ages 3 - 5

Have the little ones join us for a week of unique activities including T-ball, soccer, bowling, kickball, relays and more exciting daily events. Sessions take place in a safe, structured environment and sports are played through a series of games and activities. All the sports promote hand eye coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills. All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately.

Session 1: June 25 - June 29

Session 2: July 9 - July 13

Session 3: July 30 - August 3

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m – 12 noon

TP Community Center

TP Residents $80 per week

Non-Residents $90 per week

Super Sports Camp

Ages 6-9, 10-12

Looking for a great way to keep your child active during the summer? Our qualified recreation staff eagerly awaits the arrival of your children for a week of fun, fun and more fun! In addition to some of our more traditional sports, our camp seeks to expose campers to new activities, develop recreational skills and promote social growth. Camp will conclude with sport challenges and game competitions. All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately.

Session 1: July 16 - June 20 (6-9 yrs)

Session 2: July 23 - July 27 (10-12 yrs)

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m - 4 p.m.

TP Community Center

TP residents $160 per week

Non-residents $180 per week

Before care, 7 - 9 a.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

After care, 4 - 6 p.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

Dribble, Pass and Shoot Basketball Camp

Ages 6 -12

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this skills clinic. Coaches help each participant develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment, and instruction is adjusted to fit the needs of each participant. Don Bosco Athletic Director and former basketball coach Frank Simpson leads the program

Monday through Friday, Aug. 13 – 17, 9 a.m - 4 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

TP residents $200 per week

Before care, 7 - 9 a.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

After care, 4 - 6 p.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

Dance Camp

Ages 6-12

Ballet, tap and creative dance are geared to allow girls and boys to enhance talent with skill and technique. Learn basic dance skills, rhythm, musicality and improvisation. Instructors focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity. At the end of each session, campers showcase what they have learned with a performance.

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m - 3 p.m.

Session 1: July 9 - June 13

Session 2: July 30 – Aug. 3

TP Community Center

TP residents $200/session

Non-residents $230/session

Before care, 7 - 9 a.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

After care, 4 - 6 p.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

Teens on the Move

Ages 13-16

A balance of experiential learning, community service, fun activities and career development. Daily emphasis on exercise, sports, nutrition and team building while having fun in a challenging but safe atmosphere.

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m - 4 p.m.

Session 1: July 9 - June 13

Session 2: July 16 - July 20

Session 3: July 23 - July 27

TP Community Center

TP residents $110/session

Non-residents $120/session

Camp Takoma

Ages 6-12

Want your child to have the best summer ever? Let them join us for fun, education and physical enhancement through daily exercise, group games, weekly field trips, arts and crafts, swimming and much more. Through arts experiences, each participant will have the opportunity to grow academically and socially while expressing themselves in fun and creative ways. Campers will also experience literary, musical, visual, games, theater and sports.

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m - 4 p.m.

Session 1: June 18 - June 22 (Tents Up)

Session 2: June 25 - June 29 (Wonder World of Sports)

Session 3: July 2 - July 6 (Wild Wild West)

Session 4: July 9 - July 13 (Blast From The Past)

Session 5: July 16 - July 20 (Super Hero Comic Book)

Session 6: July 23 - July 27 (You're in the Band, Rock Star)

Session 7: July 30 - August 3 (Flying Dutchman Pirate Ship)

Session 8: August 6 - August 10 (Wet and Wild Safari)

TP Community Center

TP residents $120/session

Non-residents $140/session

Before care, 7 - 9 a.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

After care, 4 - 6 p.m.

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

Thunderbolts warming up for new season, camps

The Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League team is one of ten in the wooden bat league, and includes top college players recruited to the league. Many Takoma Park families host players from outside the area in their homes; if you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-270-0794.

Games are open to the community (with admission fee) and begin June 7. For a schedule, see www.tbolts.org.

The team also runs summer baseball camps in June and July. Instruction is from Thunderbolts head coach Jason Walck. Emphasis is on fundamentals, baseball values and discipline, conditioning and healthy lifestyle choices. After camp in the evenings, campers can attend T-Bolts games where they can cheer on their coaches! We provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch.

There are two camp choices:

Five week-long sessions for boys and girls ages 7-15, June 18-22: June 25-29; July 2-6 (no camp July 4); July 9-13; and July 16-20, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. Cost is $195/week except week of July 2 – 6, which is $165.

Three-day specialty camps for boys and girls ages 11-16, June 18-20; June 25-27; and July 2,3,5, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day. Day 1 focuses on batting: hitting fundamentals and batting strategy; Day 2 focuses on pitching and catching; Day 3 offers an expanded session on pitching or catching (camper's choice). Camper/counselor ratio is 3:1. Cost is $250 per 3-day session.

The location is St. Bernadette School, 80 University Blvd. East in Silver Spring, right across the street from Blair High School. Camps are held rain or shine. Go to the T-Bolts website, www.tbolts.org, for information or call 301-270-0794.

This is not a Takoma Park Recreation Department program.

Takoma Sports Camps begin planning for summer

Since 1997 Takoma SportsCamps have been providing a full-day sports camp that immerses campers in one sport per week. There's lots of practice, lots of playing time, and lots of fun.

The camps grew out of the Babe Ruth Baseball program, and carry on the tradition of a "rec" camp: any kid who likes to play is welcome, regardless of skill level.

Campers improve skills, learn the rules of the game and most importantly, have fun! Professional coaches and college and high school athletes will help develop player skills in the mornings and each player will participate in a weeklong tournament in the afternoons. Baseball sessions begin June 18, basketball July 2 and softball July 16. For more specific information or to download a registration form, see www.takomasportscamps.org or call 301-588-3724.

This is not a Takoma Park Recreation Department program.

SILVER FOXES

Computer Class*

55 and older

Learn to use the internet and e-mail, and to use a word processing program to make lists and type letters. Registration is required. For more information, please call 301-891-7280. *You need a Takoma Park Library card to participate in this class.

Wednesdays, June 6 - July 18, 11:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m.

TP Community Center

$10 per session

Silver Foxes Birthday Party

55 and older

Let's celebrate you! Bring your friends for a party with cake, ice cream, games and fun. We will celebrate April, May and June birthdays this month.

Friday, June 15, 11:30 a.m- 1 p.m.

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Free

Duck Pin Bowling, White Oak Lanes

55 and older

Have fun, get a little exercise, and play a friendly game of duck pin bowling. Maximum 10 participants. Registration required. For more information, 301-891-7280.

Tuesday, June 12, 12 - 3 p.m.

Meet at TP Community Center

$3 per game, $3.50 shoe rental

National Harbor, Maryland

55 and older

Stroll along the outdoor promenade and explore this waterfront community. Walk to a variety of shops and restaurants. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring spending money for shopping and to purchase your lunch at a restaurant of your choice. Warm weather, dress appropriately for comfort. Rain or shine.

Registration required, beginning June 1 – 6, 301-891-7280.

Thursday, June 7, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meet at TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only

Free

Ford's Theatre/Museum, Petersen House, and Education Center, Washington, D.C.

55 and older

A visit to the Ford's Theatre campus traces the story of Abraham Lincoln's presidency, assassination and legacy. Bring spending money for lunch at a local eatery.

Registration required, June 1 – 15, 301-891-7280.

Friday, June 29, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meet at TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only.

$2 per person admission fee, collected on the day of the trip

AT YOUR SERVICE

Police continue to fight gas station robberies

Since January 31, 2012, there have been 11 criminal incidents reported at two gas stations on New Hampshire Avenue, Sunoco and W Express. Eight were theft from autos, three were auto thefts and one was a commercial armed robbery. Takoma Park Police have charged four suspects involved in several of these incidents.

The Police Department has been persistently combating these crimes with plain-clothes and uniformed officer details, media coverage, community advisories and work with allied agencies. They've spoken to the gas station owners and posted signs and flyers at the pumps to remind residents to lock their vehicles, remove keys and avoid leaving items in plain view for suspects to steal.

Detectives have even created a safety video to demonstrate how easy it is for suspects to park beside the victim's car, exit their usually stolen vehicles, enter the victim's vehicle while they are pumping fuel and steal property which, in most instances, is laying out on the seat in plain view. (see www.youtube.com, key word Takoma Park Gas Station Robberies). Suspects usually flee the area before victims even notice their property is missing.

Suspects target these two gas stations because they are close to the District of Columbia and Maryland state line; police are not allowed to chase these vehicles into the District of Columbia for misdemeanor offenses (thefts from autos).

As result of the latest auto theft, the department will initiate another plain-clothes detail in the area to attempt to catch suspects committing these crimes.

Gas Station Safety Tips:

- Carefully consider where and when you buy gas. Choose a safe, familiar area during daylight hours whenever possible. Fill up when the tank is half-empty, so you are not forced to stop for fuel in an unsafe or unfamiliar area at a dangerous time.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition. Take them out of the vehicle and lock your car while you are pumping gas.
- Do not leave your valuables in plain sight when you exit your vehicle. Even with doors locked and no keys, the thief cannot resist your valuables.
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Do not let your cell phone distract you.
- If you are going to pay for your gas inside the cashier's office, do not leave your children in the vehicle, whether your doors are locked or not. Take them with you. It may seem like a hassle, but consider the alternative.
- If you are using a credit card at the gas pump, always take your receipt or hit the "clear" or "no" button when it asks before leaving. Otherwise, you leave your credit card information open for the next person.

Police personnel honored for dedication

Police Private Peter Marable may be new to the Takoma Park Police Department, but he's already made a big impact here. Recently named the 2011 Officer of the Year, Marable took the oath of office on Jan. 10, 2011, shortly after graduating from the Montgomery County Police Training Academy. Since then, says Chief Ronald Ricucci, he's shown skills, knowledge and ability that far exceed those of an average, young officer.

Marable came to Takoma Park with experience as a District Court Commissioner, and has eagerly shared his knowledge with fellow officers, police officials say. During his field training, they add, his willingness to learn, desire to perform his duties and his positive attitude have been more than impressive.

In the time he has served the Takoma Park community, Marable has logged in 1,088 calls for service, written 292 reports, conducted 255 field interview reports, written 235 state citations, 112 safety repair orders, 44 parking tickets and 98 warnings; made 33 in-view full custody arrests and eight juvenile arrests; served 29 arrest warrants, obtained nine arrest warrants, written 27 criminal citations and made two Driving Under the Influence arrests. "Marable is a tremendous asset to the Takoma Park Police Department," says Ricucci.

The Department also honored Civilians of the Year: Ana Cubillo, dispatcher, and Andrew Gucciardo, crime analyst. Cubillo, who joined the Department in 2007, was singled out for her teamwork, devotion to officer safety, willingness to take on extra responsibilities and calm demeanor in tense situations.

Officer of the Year Peter Marable, who was also honored by the Lion's Club this year.

Gucciardo, who has been with the Department since 2009, was honored for his positive attitude, his persistence in tracking crime trends, and his commitment to building the Compstat capabilities of the department.

The honorees will be recognized at the Takoma Park Police Awards Banquet June 1. Other awards include Supervisor of the Year Lt. Richard Bowers; Life Saving Medal, Sgt. Andrew John; Medal of Honor, Lt. Tyrone Collington, Cpl. Keith Largent, Cpl. Thomas Black and Pfc. David Quante; and Meritorious Service Medal, Sgt. Dan Frishkorn, Cpl. Paula Gaskin, Pfc. Carla Magnaye, Pfc. Jeffrey Demuth, Pfc. Mary Jo Walpole and Pfc. Matthew Barber.

Unit Citations, Support Services Division go to Lt. Tyrone Collington, Sgt. Dan Frishkorn, Sgt. Tina Smith, Cpl. Paula Gaskin, Cpl. Greg Wolff, Cpl. Charles Hoetzel, Pfc. Rick Cannatella, Pfc. Derek Fields, Pfc. Joseph Butler, Diana Dean, Leo Mangum and Andrew Gucciardo. First Place Shooter is Pfc. Matthew Barber. Myriad Memorandum of Commendations, Command Recognitions, Letters of Recognition and Educational Achievements will also be distributed to civilian and sworn personnel for their commendable work during 2011.

POLICE BRIEFS

Takoma Park "Most Wanted" now featured on City TV

A new Takoma Park Police Department 'Most Wanted' news broadcast is now airing on City TV (channel 13). Aired several times daily, the list will be updated every two weeks. "This new capability will help our citizens play an active role in keeping their eyes and ears open for anyone they know or who they have seen who is wanted by Takoma Park Police," said Police Chief Ronald Ricucci. If a resident wants to call in but remain anonymous, they can use a cell phone: Text to 847411, type TPPDTIP at the beginning of the message, type the message including as much detail as possible, and send.

Residents can also send tips from the Police Department's Facebook page. In the left column find, "submit a tip."

Rapist sentenced to 20 years

Luis Rivera, who was sentenced to life in prison on July 15 for a rape he committed along Sligo Creek Parkway in Prince George's County, was recently sentenced to 20 years in prison, to run consecutive to the life sentence, for a second rape he committed along the Parkway in Takoma Park.

The Takoma Park rape occurred Nov. 19 between 5 and 5:15 p.m., between Maple Avenue and the Carroll Avenue bridge. Rivera grabbed the victim as she jogged the trail, forced her into a wooded area off the trail and sexually assaulted her.

Rivera pled guilty to first degree rape on Jan. 27, and was sentenced April 27.

Junior Police Academy offers one-day workshops

The Takoma Park Police Department and the Recreation Department will host four sessions of a Junior Police Academy one-day summer camp. The sessions include information about patrol procedures, criminal investigations, and tips on how to prevent crime and bullying, Campers will also meet the canine officer Lunch will be provided and a certificate of completion will be distributed at the end of the day.

All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately. Only 10 campers will be allowed for each session, and registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

Sessions are on Mondays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on July 2, 16, and 30 and Aug. 6 in the Takoma Park Community Center Lilac Room. Register online at www.active.net.active.com/takomaparkrecreation or at the Takoma Park Community Center.

For additional information, please contact Lew McAllister at lewm@takomagov.org or 301-891-7284.

THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Apr. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 190 fire-related incidents in 2012. The department addressed or assisted with 1,002 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,192 this year. Totals for 2011 were 246 and 959, representing a decrease of 13 incidents.

Can you open your windows?

Windows normally offer the best alternate escape route in the event of a fire in your home. Make sure all windows and screens work easily to permit escape through them. There may be a porch or shed roof under the windows that can provide a pathway to safety. Special attention should be given to windows with air conditioner and security bars. Be prepared! Check your windows today, especially in the sleeping areas.

Lions Club bestows lifetime membership

At the Takoma Park Lions Club dinner meeting May 15, past president Michael Bigler was awarded a lifetime Lions Club membership by Lions Clubs International. Congratulations for his 20-plus years of outstanding service to the club and community.

Left to right, Visiting Lion Neil Davidson from Australia, President Brian Geraci and Michael Bigler.

Trees are theme for annual art of recycling exhibit

The Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) has announced reCYCLE The Art of Tree Project public art exhibit, coming to Old Takoma—from Takoma Junction to Takoma, D.C. Following the success of last year's reCYCLE The Art of Bike Project, where artists created sculptures out of recycled bicycles, this year's project will celebrate art, recycling and trees.

Whimsical, tree-like sculptures, created out of recycled materials by area artists, will be installed to create a self-guided, walking tour designed to reflect the energy and creativity of the Takoma Park community and showcase historic Old Takoma.

Through a juried process, sculptors were selected to create their imaginative designs from a portion of recycled materials. From cactus to fir trees and everything in between, the sculptors transform steel, plastic, yarn, bamboo and a variety of other re-purposed items to construct unique creations.

New this year, the OTBA also collected submissions for non-sculpture, visual arts pieces in the same tree-like theme, including drawings, paintings, mixed media, jewelry and photography from local artists. These will be on display and available for sale at ArtSpring Community Arts Gallery, 7014B Westmoreland Ave. A special display of children's tree-themed art will also be featured.

A local artist was also selected to paint a storefront installation piece at ArtSpring in the same tree theme that will be up for the duration of the exhibit.

Signs and maps will be available at each sculpture and throughout the shops of Old Takoma. The sculptures will be installed in June and remain in place until approximately Oct. 7, when they will be auctioned off to the public at the annual Takoma Park Street Festival. The non-sculpture, visual art pieces will be available for public sale while on display at ArtSpring. Proceeds from the sale of all of the art will be used by the OTBA to further promote Old Takoma through public art projects.

The project was funded through grants from the Takoma Foundation and the Takoma Park Small Community Grant Program and with support from the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, TPSS Co-op, Mark's Kitchen, Pyramid Atlantic, ArtSpring and Franca Brilliant and Seth Grimes.

2012 reCYCLE The Art of Tree Self-Guided Walking Tour

Potted Japanese Maple by Paul Steinkoenig
341 Cedar Street, NW, at Cedar Crossing Tavern and Wine Bar

Perch, by Howard Connelly
232 Carroll Street, NW, at Trohv

Rain Tree, by George Beard
6930 Carroll Ave. at the Takoma Business Center

Keys to reCYCLE, by Donna Amos
Old Takoma Clocktower, at Laurel and Carroll avenues

Art of Tree Collection, by various artists
7014B Westmoreland Ave. at ArtSpring Community Arts Store

Firnished Room for Rent, by Nancy and Andrew Gurganus
Gazebo Garden at Takoma Urban Park

Sligo Creek Trees, by Richard Lorr
Location TBD

Little Sapling, by Richard Lorr
7051 Carroll Ave. at Victory Towers

Immigrant Forest, by the Frolicking Female Fiber Fanatics of Takoma Park
201 Ethan Allen Ave. at the TPSS Coop

Swiss Trees, by Howard Connelly
B.Y. Morrison Park at Takoma Junction

Suspended Tree, by Charlotte Schoeneman
B.Y. Morrison Park at Takoma Junction

Newly renovated park celebrated with ribbon cutting

M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks and the Steve Francis Foundation will host a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony followed by a community celebration for the newly renovated Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park, Sunday, June 3 at 1 p.m.

The park now includes a refurbished basketball court featuring a color-coated surface and six new basketball goals for half-court play; two new playgrounds; a new skateboard park, a new picnic pavilion; and "Takoma Trees, sculptures at both entrances to the park, created by local artist Judy Sutton Moore, with support from the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council.

Takoma Park native and former NBA All-Star Steve Francis will join Montgomery Parks Director Mary Bradford, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and City of Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams for a ribbon cutting. Francis' Foundation, carrying out its mission to provide educational and recreational opportunities for at-risk youth, has donated $70,000 for major improvements to the park.

The new basketball courts will be dedicated to Anthony Langley, Francis' former coach and long-time president of the Takoma Park Boys and Girls Club; the new picnic pavilion will be dedicated to Brenda Wilson Bryant, in honor of Steve Francis' late mother; and in appreciation of Steve Francis' donation Montgomery Parks will paint his signature on the surface of the basketball court.

The community celebration will open with remarks from elected officials, community leaders, Francis, and several friends and family members who have played important roles in his life. The speaking portion of the event will be followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony, demos and safety tips in the new skateboard park, and basketball.

BUDGET

■ From page 1

raising the tax rate next year. He prefers not to "bounce rates around."

Also, there is continued uncertainty surrounding further discussions with the County regarding tax duplication payments. The county executive has historically been against raising tax duplication payments and there is a possibility, Williams said, that the payments to municipalities could actually go down as much as $1.5 million for Takoma Park.

In addition, state funding continues to be uncertain, and national funding is up in the air until after the November presidential election. The recession continues to weigh heavily on the Council, which had to lay off some City staff two years ago.

"The context is that there is an awful lot that is yet to be determined on this," said Williams, who proposed putting the extra funds into reserve, and discussing the matter further in January.

Councilmember Fred Schultz agreed. "There are … an awful lot of uncertainties on the horizon that I think we will get a lot of clarification on in the coming months," he said. Given the amount of time Council has already spent on budget decisions, said Councilmember Reuben Snipper (Ward 5), "There's no need to rush to figure out what to do with this money immediately. I think that January would be a great time."

Grimes proposed a compromise, which would have reduced the tax rate to 57 cents and put the remaining funds in reserve. The amendment was voted down, 6 to 2. In the end, Grimes voted to pass the original Council tax rate, at 58 cents. Seamens voted against.

Other budget changes

Besides the tax rate, City Council also made a handful of changes to the City manager's budget proposal for expenditures. Among the most significant:

An additional $8,000 recycling pilot program, with larger recycling bins for homeowners

- $45,000 for Takoma Junction for improved streetscaping and commercial development
- $10,000 more for library books
- $10,000 more for teen programming in the Recreation Department
- $10,125 more to expand hours at the Computer Learning Center
- $15,000 more for property maintenance abatement
- $25,000 more for the emergency assistance program

The final budget for fiscal year 2013, as unanimously approved on May 21, provides for total expenditures of $25,651,285. General Fund expenditures, which cover most City services, total $21,198,377. Combined expenditures for the other funds (Stormwater Management, Special Revenue, and Speed Camera) equal $4,452,908.

For more information, see the article in the May issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter. For the complete budget, see www.takomagov.org.

LIBRARY

The Friends of the Takoma Park, Maryland Library give generously of their time and resources. Many of the programs listed on these pages are made possible through their efforts, including Spanish Circle Time, Comics Jam, reading groups, crafts event and more.

For more information about supporting the Friends, see http://www.ftpml.org.

CALENDAR

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, June 4, 7 p.m.

Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read stories and sing songs and rhymes in this half-hour program

Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups

Comics Jam

Tuesday, June 5, 4 p.m.

Read comics on the big screen with our graphic novel guru, David Burbank

No registration

French Circle Time

Saturday, June 9, 10:30 a.m.

Sing songs and rhymes in French with Madame Marie

(Note: This is the last French Circle Time until the fall)

Summer Quest Kick-Off

Monday, June 11, 7 p.m.

An interactive presentation about this year's Summer Quest

Pick a character and register

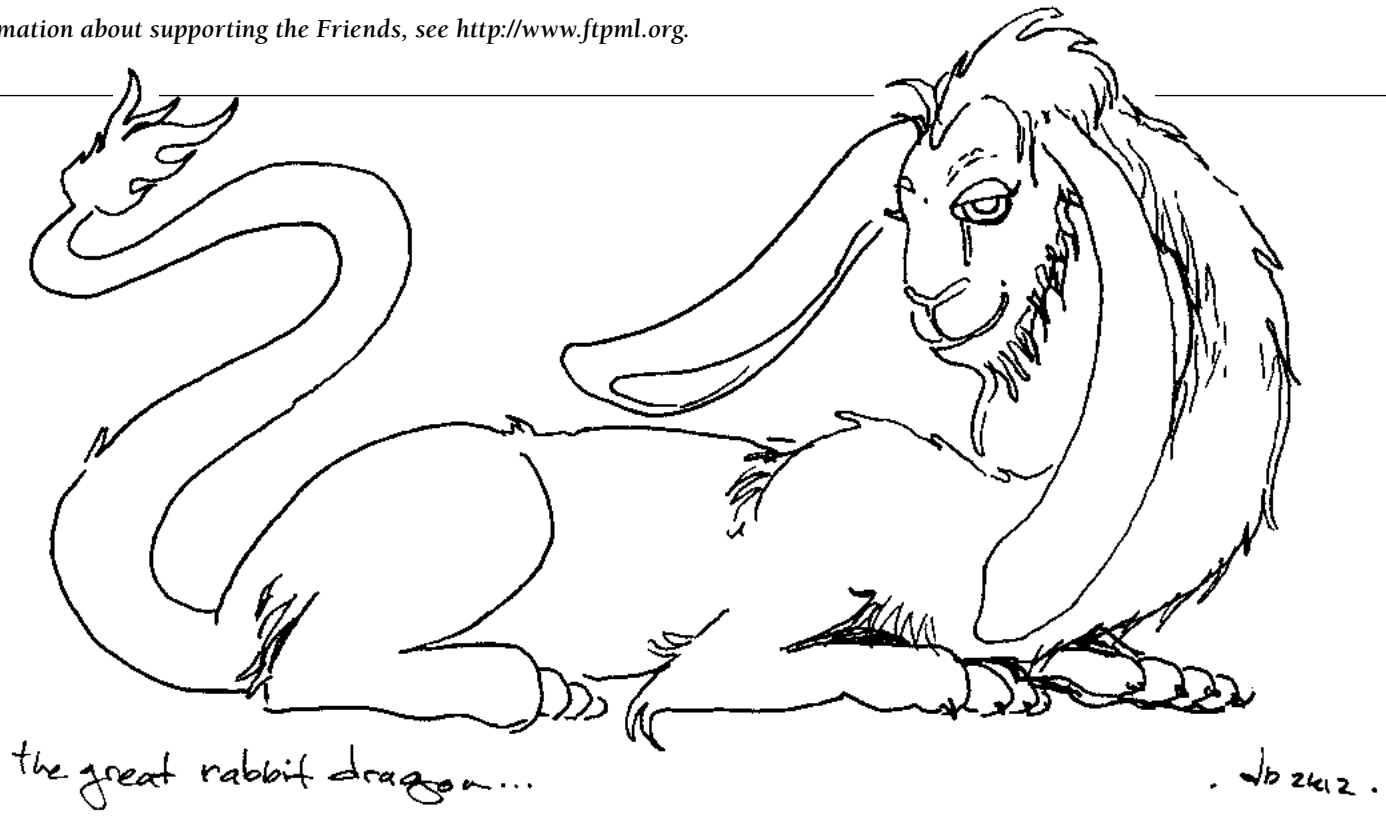
Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 19, 7:45 p.m.

Scribblers Cabal

Saturday, June 30, 2 - 4 p.m.

Library staffer and artist extraordinare Dave Burbank presents a drawing program designed to inspire creativity and fun in young artists



Summer Quest remembers its roots

By Karen MacPherson

Do you know that the Takoma Park Maryland Library is the only public library in Maryland to create its own summer reading program each year?

Started in 1999, our Summer Quest program combines an adventure story, 10 entertaining and unusual reading challenges, an interactive game, and a giant mural in our Children's Room – all designed to encourage kids to enjoy reading throughout the summer.

Dave Burbank, library assistant and artist extraordinaire, is the creative force behind our Summer Quest program. Burbank creates a new story and artwork every summer, ensuring that each year's Summer Quest is unique.

From the beginning, the program has been sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Among other things, the Friends' sponsorship allows us to give each child a packet with the Summer Quest story and a small version of the mural artwork so they can track their progress at home.

One of the program's particular delights is the fact that kids choose or create a Summer Quest character, which is then moved along the Children's Room mural as they complete the reading challenges. This allows proud young readers a visual — and public — record of their progress.

Unlike other summer reading programs, there are no prizes for completing our Summer Quest challenges. But we do conclude the Summer Quest program each fall with a party at which participants discuss what books they loved reading, and also make suggestions for the theme of the next year's program. And everyone who comes to the party also leaves with a free book or two.

The number of Summer Quest participants has grown each year, as has the number of books read each summer. Last year, more than 200 readers registered for the program, and Summer Quest participants read 1,900 books – 400 more books than 2010.

While most Summer Quest participants are kids ages 5-12, we do have some teens and even some adults who participate, reading teen or adult books for the challenges. This year, we hope to inspire parents of pre-readers – even babies – to help their little ones participate in the reading challenges and join in the Summer Quest fun. The challenges provide an engaging framework for summer reading for any age.

The beginnings

Jillian Hershberger, who served as the children's librarian for 23 years until her retirement in 2006, recalls that the Ta-

SUMMER QUEST ☐ Page 11

Participating in Summer Quest is both fun and easy

First, come to the library's circulation desk, and choose your Summer Quest character. We have several dozen choices, each of which has both a large version of the character and a smaller version. All are designed by Dave and so feature some variation on rabbits – one of his favorite animals because he loves tricksters like Brer Rabbit.

Since our program is built around creativity, however, you don't have to choose one of Dave's characters: you can always choose a blank form and create your own.

Next, color the character and give it a name. When you hand it back to us, we will register you and keep the larger version of the character so we can move it along the giant game board mural Dave creates in the Children's Room.

You keep the smaller version and use it to track your own progress on a miniature game board included in the Summer Quest packet given to each participant. The packet also includes a copy of the Summer Quest story with the reading challenges embedded in it.

Now, it's time to get reading! The first challenge is always to read an adventure book, and we let you determine what is an adventure book. We just want to get you off to a comfortable reading start. Just remember, the only books that count are those checked out from our library.

You also determine how you want to pace your Summer Quest adventure. Do you want to read a lot of books for each challenge, and take your time? Or do you want to complete the challenges as quickly as possible and be one of the first to finish? It's up to you!

Book sale a shining success

The weather was warm and sunny, and spirits were high as volunteers gathered on the Library lawn to set up for the Friends' semi-annual book sale early in the morning on May 19. By starting time at 10 am, there were tables and boxes of books as far as the eye could see, and families as well as book dealers were in line to be among the first to find bargains.

Neighbors chatted and children ran to find nearly new review copies at the children's tables. Others filled cartons with prospective purchases, and an ever-changing cadre of enthusiastic volunteers sold books as lines of eager customers snaked nearly out to the sidewalk.

By the sale's end at 3 p.m., the event netted nearly $2,700 for the Friends of the Library – all destined to go to the Library in the form of gifts during the coming year. The sale's success was ensured by the high quality of the books donated in the months preceding it, and by the commitment of many volunteers. In particular, the Friends and the Library staff wish to thank the following people who worked tirelessly on the day of the sale: Suzanne Morgan, Mary Rein, Maurice Belanger, Judy Treible, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Sylvie Shaffer, Ben Frey, Sherelyn and John Ernst, Walter Mulbry and his daughter Rachel, Wanda Hsiung, Sam McCollin, Nehamaya Malloy, Grady Page, Patti Mallin, Pat Hanrahan, Rebekah Zanditon, Diane MacEachern, Kay Daniels Cohen, Pat McMahon, Wally Malakoff, Steve Whitney, Michele Morgan, Troy Fingal of the Department of Public Works, Dave Burbank who kept us afloat amid a sea of donations, and book sale coordinator and spiritual advisor Merrill Leffler.

SUMMER QUEST

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koma Park Maryland Library once was part of a consortium of area libraries that worked together each year to craft a summer reading program that all systems could use.

"Then things started to Balkanize, and eventually many or most of the systems used the Baltimore stuff (created by the Enoch Pratt Free Library) with … a lot of corporate sponsors to save time and money," said Hershberger, who now lives and teaches in Santa Fe, N.M.

"At that point, our library decided that that sort of direction was not in line with our values…. We took the direction that we did to make life more interesting and to give kids a sense that reading was, number one, an adventure, and number two, its own reward."

A unique program

Our Summer Quest program retains some parts of summer reading programs offered by other libraries. For example, as in other programs, each Summer Quest participant is given a take-home packet.

But there are some major differences between Summer Quest and the programs offered at other libraries. For example, our Summer Quest is based on an original adventure story, a copy of which is included in the packet given to participants as they register for the program.

Our program also is interactive. Kids can pick different challenges by taking

different paths; at certain points, they also get to roll a dice (provided at the circulation desk) to discover their next reading challenge.

In addition, we offer specific and distinctive reading challenges. We try to come up with new ones each year, while keeping some of the older ones. One favorite annual challenge is to "read a book that shows you how to make or do something, then make or do it." Kids love creating crafts or trying out recipes via this challenge, and often bring the results to the Library.

We also use the challenges to highlight overlooked parts of the Library collection, such as poetry, biography, etc. Sometimes the challenges, such as "read a book with a red cover" are just designed for comic relief – and total reader choice.

Our Summer Quest program also inspires lots of interaction between staffers and young patrons searching for just the right book to complete a reading challenge.

Burbank remembers that he suggested basing the first Summer Quest program on the idea of a "hero's journey," and since then, each story has been some kind of quest. Burbank said he was influenced by the work of Joseph Campbell, especially his book "The Hero with a Thousand Faces," which shows how narratives of many different languages and cultures all are, at heart, a kind of hero's quest.

To increase the interactivity of Summer Quest, Burbank writes each story in the second person, lending a "you are there" immediacy for young readers. Burbank also tries to include story strands "with a Takoma Park slant," such as recycling, in his stories.

This year's theme will explore the idea of whether – and how—magic still exists in our everyday world, Burbank said. The full story will be unveiled at our Summer Quest kick-off on Monday, June 11 at 7 p.m.

At some point, Burbank would like to find a way to package Summer Quest so that other libraries could use it to rev up interest in summer reading among their young patrons.

"I really feel that it would be a relatively simple process to somehow get it out there," Burbank said.

Burbank added: "I really love the way Summer Quest helps us to learn kids' names and how they think. It also helps us find gaps and holes in our collection…. But what I love most is that every year, we see how Summer Quests lights the furnace of those three, four or five kids who weren't big readers. "

FOURTH OF JULY

■ From page 1

This year's theme, "Committed Citizens: The Foundation of Takoma Park," draws attention to the activist nature of the town's residents; the Takoma Foundation board is Grand Marshal.

Last year's more memorable entries included the Scottish Reels Precision Push Reel Lawn Mower Drill Team, an inflatable elephant for the 9/11 truth team, a multi-rider "conference bicycle," and a bagpipe band. These are the sorts of spectacles that draw crowds not just from the local neighborhoods, but from out of town as well. The City's parade is one of the oldest on the east coast and is known for its mix of creativity along with traditional entries, like Shriners, boy scouts and girl scouts, local school bands, veterans and local politicians; and lively bands, like the Caribbean calypso (with brilliant costumes), rock and roll, folk, Peruvian and traditional English.

After the parade, the wiffle ball tournament is a relatively new addition to the festivities. Sponsored by the Takoma Park Recreation Committee, it is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at Lee Jordan Field, behind the Takoma Park Middle School; teams of friends, family and neighbors can register up to tournament time by contacting Eric Rasch, ericr@takomagov.org or 301-891-7290. Cost is $10 per player.

At 7 p.m., evening entertainment will begin at the Takoma Park Middle School, with the Acro-Airs acrobats from Washington Adventist University, folk band ilyAIMY (known for the regular open mic sessions at Capital City Cheesecake) and the Takoma Park Community Band. Parade winners will be announced, and patriotic songs and the national anthem will precede the big event: fireworks, beginning at about 9:30 p.m. The evening will also include food vendors, and participants are encouraged to picnic.

All Independence Day festivities are organized by the all-volunteer Independence Day Committee, with help from the Mayor, Council, and Department of Public Works. They are funded through donations and raffle ticket sales as well as City contributions. To volunteer or to donate, call 301-588-1635 or e-mail m3sal@verizon.net.

MISSION SERVE

■ From page 4

email," he said.

The City was interested in exploring the project and the timing was right.

"They contacted us just when it happened to be time for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) submissions," Walker said.

A $32,000 CDBG was approved. That money will be used to purchase all of the materials for the rehabilitation of the houses. Mission Serve will provide all of the labor.

All of the parties involved are excited about the project and agree that it is an excellent way to maximize available funds.

"This is a win-win for everybody," says Creech, citing the opportunity for volunteer engagement and mission fulfillment for the D.C. Baptist Convention and Mission Serve and the return on investment for Takoma Park. "For every dollar in CDBG money, a community invests in these projects, they receive 3-4 dollars in labor."

Walker agrees, stressing the fact that the city does not have and could not afford the manpower and expertise that Mission Serve brings to the project.

"They provide trained volunteers and have a lot of experience doing this type of work," she said.

"If you see groups of young people working on houses in your neighborhood, take a moment to welcome them to Takoma Park."

GRYPHON

■ From page 3

we grew, we moved into the Takoma Business Center on Carroll Avenue. About 25 of our 30 staff members now work from that office."

As the firm has prospered, the Casagrande-Rhudy family has put down local roots and celebrated the birth of son Jack in August 2011. Casagrande became involved in civic affairs, most prominently as the chair of the Old Takoma Business Association. "The mission of OTBA is important to me personally, but also as a business owner," he said. "Being located in a place that's attractive to employees helps me recruit. Takoma Park isn't like a sterile office park in Rockville. If that difference helps me with just one really good candidate, that's great."

OTBA's impact on improving the streetscape of Old Town and hosting the Street Festival can be noticed by any resident or visitor, but Casagrande said that off-street businesses such as Gryphon also are a critical part of our community's economy. "One of the best ways that any business owner can contribute is to be successful, to bring employment and business to our city," he said.

Casagrande and Rhudy have served on boards and committees since they arrived. "I had not been very involved in our town in Boston," said Casagrande. "I don't even know if our town had a business association or a locally focused charity like the Takoma Foundation. But it's different here. You don't have to seek ways to be involved in Takoma Park. Takoma Park finds you."

JUNE '12

Do you have an item for the City calendar?

Do you have an item for the City calendar? Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the July 2012 issue is June 18; it will print June 28.

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

"TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City Council
Mondays, June 4, 11 and 18, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
For agendas, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

Ward 4 Night
Monday, June 4, 7 – 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
See page 2 for more information

Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Open House
Thursday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Share ideas and preferences on design alternatives for the streetscape concept
www.thenewave.com/development/projects/eag

Ward 6 Night
Monday, June 18, 7 – 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
See page 2 for more information

Ward 5 Candidates Forum
July 12, 7:30 p.m.
Washington Adventist University
Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Ave.
For more information, jessiec@takomagov.org or 301-891-7267.

Ward 5 Special Election
Tuesday, July 17, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Washington Adventist University
Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Ave.

Takoma Park emergency food pantry
First Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educaresupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Food Security in Maryland
Saturday, June 2, 2 – 4 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Discussion of the creation and implementation of local food production across the state
With State Senator Jamie Raskin, Del. Heather Mizeur and County Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Onsite food drive, donations welcome

Opening celebration for Takoma Piney Branch Park
Sunday, June 3, 1 – 3 p.m.
2 Darwin Ave., Takoma Park
Celebrating the renovation of the park, with refurbished basketball court, new playgrounds, skateboard park, picnic pavilion and sculptures
Rain date June 16

Independence Day July 4
Parade, 10 a.m.; Wiffleball 2:30 p.m.; music program 7 p.m.; fireworks 9:30 p.m.
Free

Fried Fish Fridays
June 15, 6 –8 p.m.
TP Community Center outdoor basketball court
Fried fish dinner and fellowship
Free

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Open Mic Sundays
With Rob Hinkel
Sundays, 6 – 9 p.m.; sign-ups, 5:30 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.
Free
www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/446

Jazz Jam
Open mic for jazz musicians
Wednesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. N.W.

Travel and Textures - Opening Reception
Friday, June 1, 6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Gallery 3
Images of the textures and people of the world by photographer Jenny Lim
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Essakane Unveiled – Works in Progress Screening and Discussion
Thursday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Documentary on the most remote music festival in the world, Festival au Desert, followed by discussion with filmakers
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Ronn McFarlane and Ayreheart with guest vocalist Audrey Tornblom
Friday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Folk, Celtic, bluegrass, jazz and classical music on the lute, harp and fretless bass
Donations welcome
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Azalea City Farewell
Through June 9
TP Community Center Atrium Gallery
Featuring the work of talented Visual Arts Center Art students from Takoma Park
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT – Brittany Haas and Lauren Rioux
Saturday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Intimate and soulful performance at the forefront of the traditional acoustic music scene
$18 advance / $22 door, students $14/$18
http://imtfolk.org/
http://www.tpjazzfest.org/

Art from the Heart of an Optimist - Opening Reception
Friday, June 15, 6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Atrium Gallery

Jazz Fest set for June 10

The streets of Old Town will resound with music at the 17th Annual Takoma Park JazzFest Sunday, June 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine. The festival features 12 jazz acts on two stages, plus crafts and food. This year the fest explores the roots of jazz, from African melodies and instruments to ragtime piano; from Delta blues to early washboard and skiffle bands, and more. Headliners include Sophisticated Ladies of Jazz, Bria Skonberg, Takoma Park resident Chuck Redd, Jeff Antoniuk and Jazz Update. Musicians Skonberg, Redd and Antoniuk will present free, instrumental workshops on sax, percussion and trumpet. See www.tpjazzfest.org or call 240-487-6400.

Paintings and ceramics by Takoma Park artist Crystal Pittman
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT Gabrielle Louise
Saturday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Poignant lyrics, astonishing vocals, one moment folkie and ethereal, the next a smoky jazz chanteuse
$15 advance / $18 door
http://imtfolk.org/

Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt, with Lisa Null opening
Saturday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll Café, 276 Carroll St. NW
CD Release Concert
www.carrollcafé.org; info@carrollcafe.org
$20

We are Takoma – The Household Muse
Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Music and conversation with pianist Carl Banner playing Milhaud, Bach, Chopin and Schumann
Suggested Donation $15
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Third Thursday – Open Poetry Reading
Thursday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
The last Third Thursday poetry reading of the 2011-2012 season will feature poets Ann Bracken, Janice Lynch Schuster, Mary Beth Hatem and Annetta Sawyer.
Here's a sample, from Schuster:
August, Tubing
After tubing we itch
With memories and dirty
River water. Our heads are full
Of good thoughts: the way rapids
Gushed across rocks and us
With it. Fried chicken on the river
Bank and coconut-scented sunblock.
A fallen tree from which we jumped
Into currents we hoped were deep
Enough for us to touch bottom
Then re-emerge, wide-eyed
And grateful for air.
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

We are Takoma – Mr. Gabe, the Pied Piper of Takoma Park
Saturday, June 23, 4 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Dexterous guitar playing and cheerful arrangements of favorite children's songs
Suggested donation, $6
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

RECREATION

Ride for Your Life biking workshops
Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Bike safety, maintenance, and general information
With Takoma Bicycle and the TP Rec Department
Free

FAMILIES AND KIDS

Takoma Attachment Parenting
Saturday, June 9
Meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., potluck 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.
Attachment Parenting and the Older Child
Free, children always welcome
www.takoma-ap.org

Camp Takoma
Begins June 18
Ages 6-12
See page 10 for more info

SENIORS

Duck Pin Bowling, White Oak Lanes
55 and older
Tuesday, June 12, 12 - 3 p.m.
Meet at TP Community Center
$3 per game, $3.50 shoe rental
See page 10 for more info

National Harbor, Maryland
55 and older
Thursday, June 7, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Meet at TP Community Center
See page 10 for more info

Ford's Theatre/Museum, Petersen House, and Education Center, Washington, D.C.
55 and older
Friday, June 29, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Meet at TP Community Center
See page 10 for more info