

# Historic Takoma

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## Carriage House Museum to Get Horse and Carriage!

Sometime within the next few months, the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House will once again contain a turn-of-the-century carriage! Since opening the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum and Gardens in May 1996, Historic Takoma has been hoping to acquire a carriage so that the community can experience the site as it might have looked during Takoma Park's early years. Fortunately, the Thrasher Carriage Museum in Frostburg, MD, approached HTI to inquire about the possibility of loaning us one of its many carriages. The Thrasher Carriage Museum, like many small museums, has limited space to display its large and extraordinary collection of period carriages. Accordingly, they were actively searching for opportunities to loan carriages to other museums, so that they can be enjoyed by the public. A partnership between HTI and the Thrasher Carriage Museum is the perfect way to meet the needs of both organizations.

Last Spring, Anita Weber, Holly Burnham and Gemma Flamberg of the Museum Committee met with Deborah Miller of the Thrasher Carriage Museum. They stumbled through **►Continued on page 3**

**This Essex Trap will soon take up residence in the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House. See more pictures inside!**



## President's Message: Citizens Need More Clout in Development Decisions

The presence of our new neighbor, CVS, on Carroll Avenue will be a daily reminder of the critical role that small mom and pop businesses play in the preservation of our urban town centers.

Despite the active efforts of HTI and other local groups and citizens to influence the design and placement of the new store, CVS is going forward with its original plans virtually unchanged. *(See related story on page 2.)*

We are not alone; communities across the nation are facing an onslaught of development from large retail chain stores. These businesses do not seek to fit into our communities but instead impose upon us their subur-

ban, automobile-oriented "prototypes" that contribute mightily to the homogenization of our streetscapes and the creation of "Anyplace, U.S.A."

Our recent experience teaches us two things: that small businesses make Takoma Park a special place and that historic districts need buffer zones. The "gerrymandering" of undeveloped property in the designation of historic districts makes it difficult, if not impossible, for a community to have any say in a developer's vision. Development is important but not at any price.

Lorraine Pearsall  
President

# HISTORIC TAKOMA NEWSLETTER



Historic Takoma, Inc.  
PO Box 5781  
Takoma, Park, MD 20913  
(301)270-1700, ext. 662

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### Newsletter Editor/Design

Patricia Fox

*Historic Takoma Newsletter* is a publication of Historic Takoma, Inc. It is published quarterly for members and friends of the organization.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Volunteers are welcome. Please contact HTI if you want to become more involved in the preservation of your community.

HTI is a membership-based non-profit organization founded in 1979 to promote historic preservation, citizen involvement, and community development in the Takoma community.

Membership is open to the public. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Federal ID No.: 52-114960

## AROUND TOWN

### CVS Makes Minor Design Changes

**H**TI continued to work right up until the first bricks were laid to encourage CVS to make design changes. HTI also has been active in other local community projects.

#### CVS Update

CVS agreed to modify their prototype design by using brick along the Maple Street side of the building after urging from PEN and HTI. The brick wall along Maple Street is much more attractive than the cement tile wall that had been planned for this location. More design changes had been requested, however, such as the addition of a porch-like structure along the front to mitigate the large expanse of wall along Carroll Avenue.

CVS real estate officials refused to spend the \$80,000 necessary to make these facade changes, stating that "all communities believe that they are special."

#### HTI Appointed Member of MPAG

HTI was named an official member of the Master Plan Advisory Group for Takoma Park by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Master Plan affects how State and County funds are spent on development and planning issues, and charts a development course for our neighborhoods.

HTI has stressed in MPAG meetings

that the historic and small town character of our community is important to preserve, that Takoma Park could become a Maryland Heritage Area and thus receive funding from the State, and that the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House should be designated a public historic resource in Montgomery County.

#### HTI a Member of Takoma Junction Committee

HTI has participated in a committee to assist the City with the development issues on the City-owned lot in the Junction. After much work and discussion with developers who ignored the City's RFP for development, the committee recommended that the focus of concern be shifted from immediate development of the lot to the hiring of an economic development coordinator to focus on the health of all of our businesses centers.

It was learned from investors and developers that the overall attractiveness of the neighborhood is a powerful incentive in attracting business investment here. There is a particular need for a coordinator to unify and improve our urban "main street" in Old Town and the Junction.

#### Silver Spring Historical Society

A new organization is forming to preserve the heritage of Silver Spring and to educate the community on history of the local region. The **►Continued on page 8**

### Historic Takoma REAL ESTATE GUIDE

These outstanding realtors support Historic Takoma by providing a free HTI membership to every household that buys a home in the City. Our many thanks!



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## Takoma Park to Welcome the Essex Trap

*Horse and Carriage*

►Continued from page 1



They only look real! The beautiful white horse will accompany the carriage to Takoma Park. He was built originally to display riding equipment.

a veritable maze of carriages and other accoutrements until they spotted a perfect carriage for the Thomas-Siegler Museum: the "Essex Trap." It is a small two-seater that would have been used around the turn of the century for short trips such as shopping or weekend outings. The style of the carriage and types of trips it likely would have been used



Built around the turn of the century, the Essex Trap was the kind of carriage likely to have been used by the early owners of the Carriage House.

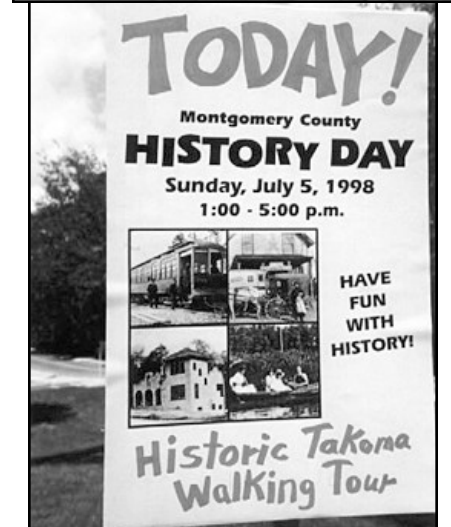
for seemed most consistent with the general lifestyle of both the Thomases and the Sieglers. In addition, the Essex Trap will fit nicely into the Carriage House space, and has been recently repainted and reupholstered. HTI sent the Thrasher Carriage Museum a proposal to acquire the Essex Trap on loan for three years. In addition, HTI requested one the Thrasher's several wooden horses, which we were told would have been used as models for saddles.

On September 9, 1998, the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners approved HTI's request, and negotiations are currently underway for acquisition of the carriage.

HTI is in the process of approving a Collections Management Policy that, together with the official loan agreement, will specify the terms and conditions of the loan. HTI is hoping to have the carriage by the end of the year. The Education and Museum Committees will be working on some exciting educational programming for the carriage. Look for more information on these activities in the next newsletter.

### History Day Celebration

July 5th marked Montgomery County's first annual History Day, and Historic Takoma was there in all its patriotic colors. The purpose of History Day was to increase appreciation of local history by spotlighting programs at 16 historical sites across the county. One of Historic Takoma's offerings was a self-guided walking tour brochure and a corresponding scavenger hunt/activity booklet for children. Using old photographs and fascinating historical and architectural facts, the brochures took walkers young and old on a one mile "before and after" adventure through the historic district. The tours ended at the Carriage House, where visitors could view an exhibit on the history of Takoma Park's long-running Independence Day celebration. On display were photos of past parades, ►Continued on page 4



Above, scenes from History Day: HTI volunteers greet visitors at the Farmer's Market; HTI developed a walking tour of the historic district; HTI Board Member Dorothy Barnes shows off the Independence Day exhibit at the Carriage House.

**History Day**

►continued from page 3

invitations to parties, and the advertisement for the city's very first Fourth of July event, which took place in 1889. Also featured at the Carriage House were the current photography exhibit on the second floor, the narrated slide show on the history of Takoma Park, and refreshments.

**Carriage House Gets Bench**

Visitors to the Carriage House now can enjoy a Victorian-style bench that was recently purchased and installed by Historic Takoma, and paid for by the City of Takoma Park.



HTI recently bought and installed this handsome bench at the Carriage House.

**Consultant Helps Get HTI's Documents Organized**

HTI's long-anticipated project to organize the Takoma community archives finally commenced in early August with the execution of a consultant agreement with Karen V. Heege. Throughout the latter part of the summer and continuing through the fall, Karen will be arranging and describing the approximately 45 cubic feet of historical records and creating finding aids for the individual collections.

The Takoma community archives have languished for many years in the basement of the Takoma Park, MD municipal building. Much of the material is in disarray and in need of re-housing in appropriate storage containers, and arrangement and description so that the documents can be accessed by the public for educational use. The material includes photographs of Takoma residents and structures, newspapers and clippings dating to the turn of the century, maps and textual material, and club activity books. There are also records from several early Takoma civic organizations, including the Washington City Mission, the Takoma

Park Citizen's Association, the Takoma Club, the Takoma Chorus, the Takoma Park, MD library, and the Horticulture Club.

Karen Heege's work is being supervised by Karen Fishman, a professional archivist and past president of HTI. This project is supported in part with funds obtained from the Takoma Foundation and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission.



Karen Heege at work on HTI's archives at the Takoma Park municipal building.

**DAYTRIPPER**

(This is the first of an occasional series on fun, offbeat, and educational day trips to museums and destinations in our area.)

Looking for some interesting and maybe a little offbeat places to visit outside the DC area? Daytripper found some fun places in Baltimore when you've already been to the Aquarium, Fells Point and Harborplace.

National Museum of Dentistry, 31S. Greene St. (at Lombard), Baltimore, MD, 410-706-8313, Wed-Sun, Hours vary.

Not surprisingly, the National Museum of Dentistry bills itself as the "only museum of its kind." The building, only a short walk from Camden Yards, dates from 1904, and was renovated and opened as a museum in 1996. Its exhibits include "32 Terrific Teeth," which features the "amazing feats of an iron jaw performer." Visitors can play a tune on the Tooth Jukebox and view George Washington's not so wooden teeth. Exhibits tell the history of the often

maligned dental profession in a lively, interactive environment.

Edgar Allen Poe House and Museum 203 N. Amity St., Baltimore, MD, 410-396-7932, Wed-Sat, noon-4pm.

Poe was born in Boston, but began his writing career in the Clemm house in Baltimore. He is popular for his darkly lyrical and alliterative poetry, and generally regarded as the father of the modern detective story. The museum is a National Historic Landmark, and houses period furniture, Poe artifacts, exhibits and a video presentation.

Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center, 34 Market Place, Baltimore, MD, 410-625-3113, Mon, Thurs, Fri 4-8pm; Sat-Sun, noon-5pm;

Ragtime composer and performer, James Hubert Blake wrote "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and "Love Will Find a Way" for the play "Shuffle Along" that was so popular in 1921 that it was simultaneously performed by three different touring companies. After a 23-year break from show business, at the age of 56 Blake toured the

world, giving lectures on ragtime music and playing piano. He was enjoying a revitalized reputation when he died at 100 in 1983. The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center showcases the accomplishments of Baltimore-born jazz greats like Blake, Billie Holiday and Cab Calloway. Instruction in music, drama, dance, arts and crafts is offered.

Evergreen House, 4545 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD, 410-516-0341, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm; Sat-Sun, 1pm-4pm

Evergreen House is a magnificent Italianate structure on 26 wooded acres, with gardens and walking paths. Bequeathed to Johns Hopkins University in 1942, the former home of Ambassador John Work Garrett features post-impressionist paintings, Japanese and Chinese porcelains and art work, 35,000 books and Baltimore's only private theater.

Lacrosse Hall of Fame Museum, 113 West University Pkwy., Baltimore, 410-235-6882, March-May, Monday-Saturday. Hours vary.

Did you know that Maryland is a major center for Lacrosse, America's oldest sport? Visit the Lacrosse Hall of Fame Museum and put yourself in the center of 350 years of lacrosse history. The museum displays a 50-foot timeline of the game's greatest moments and players, and displays rare photos, art, vintage equipment and uniforms. Learn about the Native American, collegiate, and club foundations of the game. There's a nine-minute audio-visual show, a Lacrosse Trivia Game, a Hall of Fame and Museum Gift Shop.

Babe Ruth Museum and Birthplace, 216 Emory St., Baltimore, MD 410-727-1539, 7 days, 10 am-4 pm, Nov-Mar, 10 am-5 pm, April-Oct.

Last but not least, it may not be so offbeat, but it's certainly appropriate this season. The Babe Ruth Museum and Birthplace celebrates the extraordinary career of the Bambino, as well as the Orioles and Maryland baseball. The restored house is a National Historic Landmark.

Mary Antoun

**Historic Takoma  
RESOURCE GUIDE**

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## HTI Has An Active Summer!

Throughout the past few months, HTI has been active in local and county-wide activities. We thank all the members who have helped in our activities, and especially invite you to continue your support of Historic Takoma, Inc. by designating us in the upcoming United Way Campaign. Please see below for details.

### City Approves HTI CDBG Grant

The Takoma Park, MD City Council has approved \$5,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for HTI's Living History Program. As reported in the spring issue of the Historic Takoma Newsletter, HTI applied to the City for CDBG funds to expand its program for Piney Branch Elementary School fourth grade students to learn about Takoma community history. HTI will use the funds to develop a curriculum for teachers that describes Takoma's history, its place in the history of the region and the nation, and information about architectural styles, lifestyles, transportation, and other issues associated with late 19th and early 20th century life in Takoma. If approved by Montgomery County, the grant funds would be made available to HTI after July 1, 1999.

### HTI Supports July 4 Parade

Historic Takoma was a proud co-sponsor of the 109<sup>th</sup> annual Independence Day Parade, one of the longest running such events in the country.

### New Membership Premium Available!

HTI is pleased to announce that, effective immediately, new and renewing members who join HTI at the Sponsor level (\$50) and above, will receive a six-month membership to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Benefits include 🍏

- ★Three issues of *Preservation*, the

Trust's full color, award-winning magazine;

- ★Special packages and promotions at over 80 historic hotels;

- ★Free or discounted admission to the National Trust's historic house museums across the country;

- ★Discounts on books and merchandise available at Trust museum shops.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is the leader of America's historic preservation movement. The Trust's mission is to foster an appreciation of the diverse character and meaning of our heritage and to preserve and revitalize the livability of our communities by leading the nation in saving America's historic environments.

HTI is pleased to make this bonus available to our members. To take advantage of this offer, simply return your membership renewal notice with a check of \$50 or more. HTI will do the rest. If you are not currently a member of HTI, complete the membership form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to HTI with your check of \$50 or more.



Lorraine Pearsall, HTI President, and Douglas Duncan, Montgomery County Executive Director, at the Happy Birthday Montgomery County Celebration in September.

### Happy Birthday Montgomery County!

For the third consecutive year, HTI participated in the Montgomery County birthday celebration held September 13 at the Beall-Dawson Historical Park in Rockville. The annual event is a celebration of the county's history, and features speakers, archaeological digs, games, history hunts, costumes, genealogy, treasure hunts, and exhibits by County historical groups. The event is co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Historical Society and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission.

HTI was ably represented by President Lorraine Pearsall and Treasurer Jack Carson who had a very productive day networking with sister organizations and talking with event attendees. Lorraine was fortunate to be able to spend a few minutes talking to County Executive Doug Duncan about preservation issues in Takoma Park. Thanks to HTI volunteer Dorothy Barnes and others who helped prepare exhibit material, HTI had one of the most attractive displays at the event. Dorothy's notebook of old Takoma houses was especially popular among event goers.

### United Way/CFC Contributors, Please Note

Historic Takoma is a participating agency in the 1998 United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns, which run through the end of the year. If you donate to either of these campaigns, PLEASE designate Historic Takoma to receive your contribution. Our United Way/CFC code number is 8361. Please give generously. Every pledge to HTI is important! United Way/CFC contributions are a significant source of financial support for HTI.

### Maryland Increases Preservation Tax Credit to 25%

The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation which increased the State Preservation Tax Credit from 15%

to 25%, effective January 1, 1999. For more information about the program or to receive an application contact the Office of Preservation Services at 410-514-7600.

### **Sauerbrey Would Cut Historic Preservation Funding**

As reported on the front page of the September 18th issue of The Washington Post, Ellen R. Sauerbrey, Maryland's Republican nominee for governor, has stated that if elected she would trim state spending on museums, historic preservation, and other arts-related items. Specifically targeted for cuts would be "restoration of historic homes."

### **Special Recognition**

HTI extends a special message of thanks and recognition to the following individuals and organizations:

- ★Living History Tutors
- ★Larry Hodes
- ★City of Takoma Park, MD Staff
- ★VISTAManagement Co. Inc.
- ★John Maxim
- ★City of Takoma Park, MD
- ★Carol Arends
- ★Joel Solomon
- ★Sligo Computer Systems (Dan Robinson)
- ★David Lanar and Susan Tripp
- ★James Stimpert

We thank Living History tutors Holly Burnham, Diana Kohn, and Ted Kowaluk for developing and conducting a program to teach fourth graders at Piney Branch Elementary School about local history. This year, all nine classes of fourth graders participated. Thanks, tutors, for the history lesson!

We thank Larry Hodes for obtaining additional copies of Preserving Everybody's History, by former Secretary of HUD, Henry G. Cisneros. Larry's efforts will allow us to continue to make this popular essay on historic preservation available to the community. Way to go, Larry!

We thank City of Takoma Park staffers, Beverly Habada, Dave Burbank, Mark Busciano, David Miller, Mike Welsh, and Mauricio Flores, for working at the Thomas-Siegler Carriage

House Museum garden on the City's "Community Service Day," June 16. The property's grounds are much improved as a result of their efforts. Thanks, folks, for bringing out your green thumbs!

We thank VISTAManagement Co., Inc. for joining HTI with two memberships: a Sponsor membership for their corporate offices; and, a Business membership for the Deauville/Maple Lee Apts. Thanks, VISTA, for your financial support!

We thank John Maxim once again, for the use of his pick-up truck in moving HTI materials. We very much appreciate your continued generosity, John!

We thank the City of Takoma Park, MD for donating a PC, furniture, and a work area in the City Hall basement, for our project to organize the City's archives. This assistance was of tremendous help in our efforts to get this project underway. Thanks to everyone involved!

We thank Carol Arends for providing us with some old photos of the City and an oral history of some of her ancestors – the Kemp family – who resided in the City for many years. The 1927 photo of the construction of the Kemp house at 7418 Cedar Ave. (which the photo reveals to be a dirt road) is especially interesting. Thanks for the stroll down memory lane, Carol!

We thank Joel Solomon for assembling and installing the spiffy new bench at the

Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum property. The bench is a fine addition to the landscape. Thanks for your handiwork, Joel!

We thank Sligo Computer Services (Dan Robinson) and David Lanar and Susan Tripp for their generous contributions of \$100, thus qualifying them as HTI Benefactors. Their generosity in support of our mission is much appreciated!

Finally, we thank James Stimpert of Johns Hopkins University for his donation of acid-free document boxes for storing HTI archival material. Thanks to his generosity, we were able to stretch our limited archives budget to cover other needed supplies.

Thanks, everyone, for helping us make our community a better place to live!

### **Welcome New and Renewed Members! (6/98-8/98)**

- Susan West Montgomery  
Hannah McCann & Jonathan Witte  
V. Carol Arends  
Mary C. Antoun  
Robin Broad & John Cavanagh  
Jordan Honeyman, Landscape Architects  
Jim & Carol Stewart  
Nancy C. Schallhorn  
Thomas W. & Gloria Kay Anderson  
VISTAManagement Co., Inc.  
Anita L. Schill  
Deauville/Maple Lee Apts.  
Ann Juneau & Paul Long  
Jacqueline Pogue Lyons & Family  
Louis Lieb  
Nancy Knight  
Theresa A. Custick  
David Lanar & Susan Tripp  
Brian & Liana Sayer  
Columbia Union College  
Ondraya P. Hall  
Peter Feiden & Mary Joel Holin  
Kathleen Long  
Gina Denny  
Daniel Aibel  
Elizabeth Bentley  
Stosh & Becky Comisiak  
Wendy R. Bell  
Paddy McGuire  
Sligo Computer Services  
Marlene G. Montilla

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**IN MEMORIUM  
PHIL VOGEL**

**It is with deep sadness that we must inform members of Historic Takoma, Inc. that Phil Vogel, a long-time resident of Takoma Park and an ardent supporter of historic preservation in the City passed away on Thursday, October 1, 1998 after a fall at his home. In 1978, Phil co-founded Historic Takoma and later served as its treasurer. His family requests that donations be made in his name to Historic Takoma, P.O. Box 5781, Takoma Park, MD 20913.**



**AROUND TOWN**

►Continued from page 2

organizers have worked together to find and restore a 1937 mural commissioned as part of FDR's New Deal program. It originally was displayed in the former Silver Spring Post Office Building from 1937 to 1981.

The group's efforts led to restoration and recent installation of the large 5' x 16' oil-on-canvas mural in the Silver Spring Library. We congratulate our new sister organization and wish them success! For information, call Jerry McCoy at 301/565-2519, e-mail address: [jmccoy@sso.org](mailto:jmccoy@sso.org).

**B&O Train Station**

The Silver Spring Historical Society is working together with Montgomery Preservation, Inc to establish a museum in the old B&O Train Station on Georgia Avenue.

The building, originally destined to be demolished, was donated to

MPI together with a \$50,000 grant toward restoration by CSX. The group is in search of artifacts connected to this station or Silver Spring history in general. Please contact Jerry McCoy with information at 301/565-2519.

**VOLUNTEER GET TOGETHER**

**Sunday, October 25  
2:00 to 4:00 PM**

If you've been thinking about volunteering with Historic Takoma, come meet other volunteers and board members and learn about some of the areas where HTI could use your help — areas like working on the museum or archives, membership development, events planning, or education.

**Where: Home of Lorraine Pearsall  
7708 Takoma Avenue  
301-585-8062**

**HTI BUSINESS NEWS**

►Continued from page 7

Virginia Jenkins  
Karl Debus & Tanner Wray  
Dean & Jo Hoge

**Please Renew Your Membership**

We urge all our members to renew! We very much need your financial support to continue the many community service projects we have underway, and to undertake new initiatives.

HTI has switched to a personalized membership renewal system. Instead of all memberships expiring once a year in December, memberships now expire 12 months following renewal or initial application. When you receive your notice, please respond quickly. We spend significant resources, both in precious volunteer time and scarce dollars to prepare follow-up mailings to lapsed members.

**Historic Takoma, Inc.**

**PO Box 5781**

**Takoma Park, MD 20913**