

# Historic Takoma

## NEWSLETTER

Historic Takoma, Inc. Celebrates 27 Years of Service to the Community 1979-2006

## Finally! A Permanent Home for HTI



7328 Carroll Avenue was home for many years to Barcelona Nuts.



Current view of Historic Takoma's newly purchased building.

On September 29, 2006, HTI took ownership of its new headquarters at 7328 Carroll Avenue, the heart of Takoma Junction. It has been a long journey over the last several years, but thanks to the hard work of HTI friends and volunteers, and state and local elected officials, Historic Takoma, Inc., raised \$50,000 from the State of Maryland in 2005, \$210,00 from the State the following year and a \$260,000 matching grant from Montgomery County in 2006. Our new home

was originally built in the 1930s as a Piggly Wiggly grocery store. In the 1940s it was converted to a roasting facility for Barcelona Nuts, still an on-going Maryland business concern headquartered in Baltimore. Packages of Barcelona Nuts are a feature of many local snack bars and convenience stores, and many Takoma Park residents still remember shopping for nuts at the Barcelona Nuts facility at the Carroll Avenue building, until the mid 1990s. Since then, the building has been intermittently

rented but mostly vacant. The challenge now for HTI is to take the building, which is currently essentially an empty shell, and decide how to turn it into useful space. We hope to have space for storing archival material, office space, meeting and classroom space as well as exhibit areas. There will be many volunteer opportunities as we go through the stages of designing, building and then making use of the new space. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this exciting project!

## Time to Renew Your HTI Membership

**Become a new Member or Renew Your Current Membership with HTI**

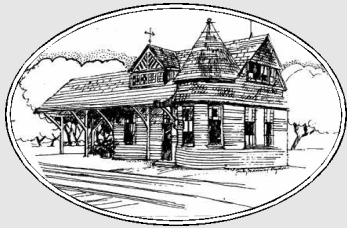
This is a critical and exciting time for HTI – we have a new building which creates lots of needs and opportunity. We need volunteers to help us plan the build out and make it happen and also to help us with the new programs that we will now be able to support, including establishing permanent files and archives, developing educational and exhibit materials, as well as newsletter publication and many other activities. Please become a member and please become an active volunteer.



What does Historic Takoma as an organization do?

- Historic Takoma plays a critical role in preserving the character and history of our community. It serves as the advocate for both the Maryland and DC National Register Historic Districts.
- Historic Takoma preserves the history of the City of Takoma Park, MD.
- Historic Takoma educates residents and the public in the history of our community.
- Historic Takoma sponsors the annual House and Garden Tour.

## HISTORIC TAKOMA NEWSLETTER



Historic Takoma, Inc.  
PO Box 5781  
Takoma, Park, MD 20913  
301-270-2831  
[www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org)

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*Historic Takoma Newsletter* is a publication of Historic Takoma, Inc.

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.: 52-1146960



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## HTI NEWS

### Huge Turnout at WMATA Compact Hearing on Proposed Metro Development

More than 150 people, from both Maryland and DC, attended the October 11 public hearing before the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), held at Trinity Episcopal Church on Piney Branch Road, regarding the proposed EYA townhouse development at the Takoma Metro Station. More than 60 individuals testified at the hearing, and many more submitted written comments during the comment period. All but a small handful of speakers had serious reservations about the proposed Metro development project. HTI officers and members testified, as did Takoma Park Mayor, Kathy Porter, and all Takoma Park City Council members and the City attorney and other city staff members. The Takoma Park City Council had previously passed a resolution stating its significant concerns with the proposed EYA development, available at: [www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro/index.html](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro/index.html).

HTI has been actively involved in this debate as part of the Friends of Takoma Transit group, including developing alternative development ideas and participating in an all day workshop on the issue held earlier this year. See: [www.geociteis.com/takomafriends/FTT.html](http://www.geociteis.com/takomafriends/FTT.html).

HTI, FTT and many area residents are concerned that the proposal on the table severely limits and impedes transit access and expansion at the site, unacceptably reduces existing open green space, reduces short term parking spaces available to community members, would provide too many badly planned townhouse units (each with a two car garage) and would be a financially unsound decision for WMATA. The hearing was a critical step in the process by which the WMATA Board of Directors, and other government bodies, including the Federal Transportation Authority, the DC Office of Planning and the Board on Zoning Authority, determine whether to reject, modify or approve a proposed development project at the site of the Takoma Metro Station.

### Takoma Park Historic District Pamphlet Now Available

HTI assisted in the preparation of this handsome guide, filled with maps and photos, issued by the D.C. Historic Preservation Office. Call 202-442-8818 for more information.

### Renew Your HTI Membership!

*Already a member of HTI?*  
Please consider making an end of the year donation or making a gift of HTI membership to friends and family. Tax deductible donations to HTI can be made directly (see form on the back of this newsletter) or through the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign (HTI Agency Code 8361).

## HTI Holiday Party/Annual Meeting December 17, 1-5 p.m.

HTI Annual Meeting and Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday December 17, 2006 from 1-5 p.m., at the historic Cady-Lee House, located at 7064 Eastern Ave., NW, Washington, DC (near the corner of Eastern and Piney Branch). All members are invited and urged to attend. Get an up to the minute report on the status of the new building, and vote on this year's officers and directors.



## Ecco Park - 235 Carroll Street DC A Different Sort of Development

At least one more set of condos is moving ahead in Old Takoma. The Ecco Park project, designed by architect Sassan Gharai, and SGA Companies, Inc, will showcase green building features and



*The Ecco Park project will be a four-story glass and stone building with small shops and restaurants.*

products, such as a green roof, Zip Cars in the basement, and use of many recycled products and materials. Ecco Park strives to be a development of a different color: green. It will be a four-story glass-and-stone building in NW, DC at Carroll & Maple Avenues, between Old Town and the Metro Station (former site of Penske rentals), consisting of 85 residential condominium units and 6000 square feet of retail space for small shops and restaurants. HTI has supported this project, which has obtained all necessary permits and approvals. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2007 and to be completed in 2008.

## New Historic Preservation Website



The National Park Service has launched a new historic preservation learning portal with links to over 800 historic preservation sites. Check it out: [www.historicpreservation.gov/fpi](http://www.historicpreservation.gov/fpi). The emphasis of the portal is on federal historic preservation programs.

## Tips for Researching the History of Your House

There are many older homes in the Takoma area. Residents frequently ask Historic Takoma how to find out about the history of their home. Here are some tips on how and where to get started in your research. Please consider making a copy of your results, interesting maps and photos for Historic Takoma! Write up a description of your search or your discoveries and we may feature it in a future issue of the HTI Newsletter.

### Washington D.C.:

Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (801 K Street, NW)  
- over 4000 photos, also books helpful for research

D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana Division (Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library, 3rd Floor 901 G Street, NW)

- maps, building permits, city directories and census records
- [www.dclibrary.org/washingtoniana/gd-buildings-ptb.pdf](http://www.dclibrary.org/washingtoniana/gd-buildings-ptb.pdf) (research guide)

National Archives (700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW and 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001)

- [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)
- some building records and permits

(continued on page six)

Historic Takoma  
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Visit us at [www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org)

## What's Happening in Takoma Park's Historic Districts

Shaping change to preserve the historic character of our community is one of Historic Takoma's most important functions. HTI reviews and advises the Montgomery County Preservation Commission and DC Historic Preservation Review Board on Historic Area Work Permits having a major impact on the district, testifies in Commission and Review Board hearings, and works with developers to encourage positive change that contributes to the economic vitality of the city while preserving its unique character. HTI also holds a seat on the Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board and Montgomery Preservation, Inc. Highlights of recent cases in which HTI has been active follow.



*Thomas-Seigler Carriage House.*

-- **Cady-Lee House** - The Cady-Lee is a fully restored nineteenth-century home on the National Register of Historic Places, located at 7064 Eastern Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Piney Branch Road, just blocks from the heart of the Historic Takoma. The Cady-Lee is currently the home of the Forum for Youth Investment, a nonprofit organization, but the Forum may not be able to remain in this stately home. If they leave, it is essential to find a new suitable owner who will properly appreciate and maintain this Takoma treasure.

-- **Thomas-Siegler Carriage House** - Many thanks the City Gardener and the City of Takoma Park for recently providing serious maintenance work on the Carriage House grounds. The Carriage House stands on the grounds of the Thomas-Siegler house, built in 1884, the first house to be completed in Takoma Park. In 1984 development threatened the property, but new owners purchased the main house, although they divided it into two separate living quarters. The Carriage House and surrounding garden were rescued by the Trust for Public Land, which bought the property and re-sold it in 1985 to the City of Takoma Park, which used Maryland Program Open Space funds to complete the purchase. The original house continues to be occupied by private owners, and the City retains ownership of the rest of the property. Through an agreement with the City, Historic Takoma manages the city-owned portion of the property for public use. In 1995, Historic Takoma opened the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum on the site. The Carriage House and grounds are particularly lovely in the spring. Looking for a perfect setting for a garden party or wedding reception? The site is available to be rented for such events. For additional information contact 301-270-2831. For more information on the history of the Thomas-Siegler House and grounds see: [www.historictakoma.org/programs/tsiegler/tsiegler.html](http://www.historictakoma.org/programs/tsiegler/tsiegler.html).

### Did You Know, One Hundred Years Ago in 1906 . . .

*38 people died in a train collision at the edge of Takoma Park at the Terra Cotta Station, part of the Metropolitan line which stopped at Lamond Station from 1873 to 1922. From its original situation at Brightwood (or Takoma), a three-sided shed was shifted to Lamond, and stood on the west side of the tracks close to Whittier Street where it crossed the tracks. The closest store for some early Brightwood residents was reported to have been near here on Blair Road. Angus Lamond, Sr., established a successful terra cotta tile works on land he owned near the line, giving the station its name.*

## Tips for Researching the History of Your House

(continued from page three)

### D.C. Government

- [www.cfo.dc.gov/otr/cwp/view,a,1330,q,594345.asp](http://www.cfo.dc.gov/otr/cwp/view,a,1330,q,594345.asp) (Some tax records)

### Montgomery County

Montgomery County Historical Society (103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville)

- [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org)
- handout on using public records to do research, maps, wills, street plans and photos, census data (on microfilm)

Montgomery County Archives (maintained by Montgomery County Historical Society) (Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square, Rockville)

- county records since 1948

- Judicial Center (50 Maryland Ave., Rockville)

- property records, deeds and mortgages

- Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services

- <http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/>



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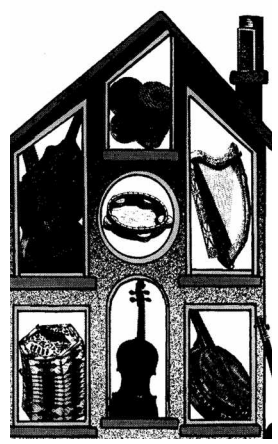
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**Calendar of  
HTI Events**

[www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org)

Sunday, December 17th, 1-5 p.m.  
HTI Annual Meeting and  
Holiday Party.  
Cady-Lee Mansion.  
Free.

Sunday, May 6th, 2007  
Historic Takoma's Annual  
House and Garden Tour.

**Renew Your HTI Membership!**

If you are a member of Historic Takoma, please fill out the form on the right to renew your membership. This is an exciting time as we settle into our permanent home. We need the help of our loyal members now, more than ever!

**Join Historic Takoma Today!**

**Help Preserve Our Community's Heritage**

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