



# Historic Takoma

## NEWSLETTER

Historic Takoma, Inc. Celebrates 28 Years of Service to the Community 1979-2007

### 2007 House & Garden Tour, Sunday, May 6th

Sunday May 6 is the date of the 34th Annual Takoma Park House and Garden Tour. The theme of this year's tour is "Carroll Connections" and it will feature homes and gardens along and near Carroll Avenue between Takoma Junction (where Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues intersect) and Lincoln Avenue. There are many Carroll Connections, including that this is the neighborhood in which the new Historic Takoma building is located. Have you ever wondered where Carroll Avenue and Manor Circle got their names? It was on Manor Circle, just off what is now Carroll Avenue, that General Samuel Sprigg Carroll, an area resident whose tenure predated the founding of the city of



*This lovely Victorian will be one of the homes included on the 2007 House and Garden "Carroll Connections" Tour.*

Takoma Park, built his home. The oldest house in Takoma Park, on what was once part of General Carroll's property, will be on this year's Tour. Today the neighborhood includes bungalows, colonials and foursquare style houses, along with more recent construction.

The Tour runs from 1-5 pm. Tickets are \$15 if purchased in advance (available at American Craft, Mark's Kitchen, Now and Then, and the Co-op), and \$20 on the date of the tour itself. Approximately a dozen homes and /or gardens are included, and are in close proximity to each other for this self-guided walking tour. The Tour brochure and map are not available until the day of the Tour. Tickets and the brochures will be available starting at noon at

Morrison Park, across from the TPSS Co-Op at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen.

For more information on the Tour, please call 301.270.1181 or visit our website at [www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org)

### Progress on Improvements to HTI's New Building

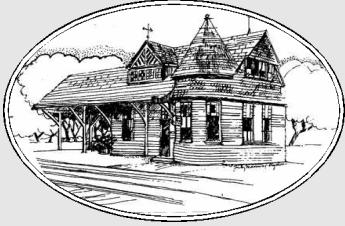
The new HTI headquarters at 7328 Carroll Avenue is still a work in progress, as anyone who has passed through the Junction can readily see, but we have plans to build out the space over the next year or so. The first step will be repairing the damaged façade. HTI has applied for a Main Street Façade Improvement Programs matching grant from MainStreet Takoma, and hopes to begin work on the front of the building as soon as possible, if that funding is obtained. In the mean time, HTI



*Architectural drawing of the exterior of HTI building on Carroll Avenue.*

continues to work with architects and contractors to determine how best to configure the interior to accommodate needs for archives, exhibits, meeting and office space. While some State and County grant funds remain available for this effort, a major fundraising effort will be necessary to ensure completion. All donations are tax deductible. Please contact HTI President Sabrina Baron at (301) 891-0626 if you would like to contribute to this effort.

## 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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Large*  
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Ralph Freedman, *Newsletter Design*

*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

### Annual Meeting a Success, Four Dynamic New Members Added to the HTI Board

The HTI Holiday Party and 2006 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday December 16, at the historic Cady-Lee House. HTI members shared a holiday feast with local officials, including Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter,



*Sabrina Baron displays a photo of the new HTI HQ site, formerly the home of the Barcelona Nuts Company.*

Bruce Williams, and Montgomery County Council member Marc Elrich. HTI officers were all re-elected during the annual business meeting, including Sabrina Baron as President; Lorraine Pearsall, Vice President; Caroline Alderson, Secretary; and Eileen Sobeck, Treasurer. HTI bid farewell to several long-serving board members, including: Susan Schreiber, Karen Fishman and Mark Freeman. Fortunately, four new members with a diverse range of credentials were elected to serve. Nancy Abbott Young is a fourth-generation Takoma resident, who has been active in a wide variety of preservation issues over the years. Jim DiLuigi is an architect. In 1991 he co-founded Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc., a consulting firm with a national reputation regarding architectural accessibility. Erik Anderson is a transplant to Takoma Park from the Chicago area. He is the Architectural Preservation Specialist in a Baltimore historic building restoration contracting company specializing in masonry and wood and particularly window restoration. Cindy Uleman is a long-time community activist and resident of Takoma, D.C. HTI is lucky to have a committed Board and roster of members during this new stage of organizational development.

### Calling All Volunteers: HTI Needs Your Help

Can you provide painting, plastering, or construction skills, or manpower? Pro bono legal services?

IF SO, CONTACT HTI AT PO BOX 5718

SO WE CAN PUT YOU TO WORK!

### Renew Your HTI Membership!

*Already a member of HTI?* Please consider making a 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).



A by invitation preview of the new HTI headquarters brought together outgoing Maryland State Senator Ida G. Ruben, HTI Historian Dorothy Barnes and Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter.

### HTI Quilt Raffle

*Congratulations to Eliot Rosen who won the HTI quilt raffle. Elliot and his wife, Sharon Cohen, (B.F. Gilbert life-time members) have lived on Poplar Avenue for more than a decade. We are glad to keep the beautiful quilted throw in the neighborhood. The throw was made and donated by Nancy Barnes Brannon, a professional quilter, who was born and raised in Takoma Park.*

## 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 MD Preservation Commission and the DC Historic Preservation Review Board on Historic Area Work Permits having a major impact on the districts; 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, Montgomery Preservation, Inc.; the board of directors of the Old Takoma Business Association; and the advisory Board of SafeTakoma. Highlights of recent matters in which HTI has been active follow.

**Preservation of Historic Windows in Four Houses on Piney Branch Road NW** - HTI joined two of its DC members in working with the Takoma Park Baptist Church to ensure the restoration, rather than replacement, of over one-third of the historic windows in four rental houses owned by the Church. Many of the homes' wood-frame windows have the original glass, including some art glass, and many have unusual configurations. HTI has donated \$5,000 to the Takoma Park Baptist Church towards the cost of window restoration and repair. The Church had been granted a permit to replace all of

(continued on page six)



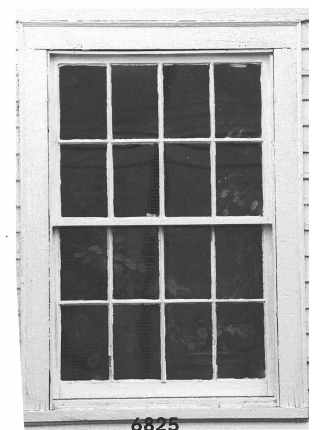
6833



6829



6811



6825

Some of the windows being preserved at four houses owned by the Takoma Park Baptist Church.

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

(continued from page three)

the windows in the four houses, but has agreed to restore a substantial number of them instead. HTI, along with national window experts, believes that it is no more costly to repair original windows than to replace them. Repair is important to preserve the rich period character of the houses. As a result of reviewing this matter, the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office has now clarified that, in the future, it will not consider fibrex (composed of 60% plastic) windows to be "wood windows" for the purposes of window replacement in DC historic districts.

**Douglas Development Project (Willow and Maple Streets, NW)** - This project includes two buildings, each containing 40 residential units, proposed for the now-vacant field between Willow and Maple Streets, NW, behind the CVS. HTI offered testimony at a public hearing before the Historic Preservation Review Board in January, generally supporting the project, while continuing to make constructive suggestions, including a request to lower the elevation of the south end of the proposed structure (several levels have already been reduced), mitigating the design of the elevator shaft and requesting as much green space be preserved as possible. The DC Historic Preservation Review Board has approved the concept design for this project, and has directed its staff to work with the community on the details.

**Urciolo Project on Laurel Avenue** - Discussions continue regarding this in-fill project proposed for Laurel Avenue near the corner of Eastern Avenue. The proposal calls for mixed use retail/restaurant, and a redesigned parking area with a driveway entrance on Laurel Avenue and an exit onto Eastern.

**Takoma Theater** - The owner of the historic Takoma Theater at 4th and Butternut Streets, NW, has filed an application with the DC Historic Preservation Office to raze (demolish) the building. The Takoma Theater is a very important building in the Takoma Park Historic District and in the Takoma community. It was designed by a prominent theater designer of the early twentieth century, John Jacob Zink. Zink was the lead architect on 23 theaters in DC, MD, and VA. Of the 23, only 7 remain as viable theaters, including the Tivoli in Frederick, MD; the Senator and the Patterson in Baltimore, MD; and the Uptown in DC. The Takoma is the only untouched, unrenovated survivor of the 23 Zink designs in the area. Its original interior and fantastic acoustics are amazing, and it is the only theater to have the roof sign with its name still intact. Theater historians have recognized its significance for some time. The Theater is an important cultural icon in this community, and lots of folks have worked over the years to revitalize the theater as an arts center for the neighborhood, for the city, and indeed for the region. A vital performance venue such as the theater would be an important spark to the community, and an important element of the MainStreet program that seeks to revitalize the Takoma commercial corridor from Takoma Junction in the MD neighborhood to the theater in the DC neighborhood. A working group of representatives from neighborhood organizations is searching for ways to make sure the theater continues to be an important historic and cultural resource for Takoma. HTI, TDCNA, former TTAP Board members, the Old Takoma Business Association, ANCs 4B01 and 4B02, and a representative of the DC Preservation League have been involved in this effort. Historic Takoma's Board voted unanimously to oppose the demolition of the theater. (Thanks to John Hume for information contained in this story).



*6825 Piney Branch Road, is having its historic windows repaired, with only a few in the rear to be replaced.*



*6833 Piney Branch Road, is having most of its historic windows replaced, with its distinctive casement windows to be preserved and repaired.*

# Save The Date!

## Annual House & Garden Tour,

### Sunday, May 6, 2007



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## Calendar of HTI Events

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

Sunday, May 6th, 1-5 p.m.

House and Garden Tour:

Self-guided tour of beautiful houses and gardens in Takoma Park. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the 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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Visit us at [www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org)

**Historic Takoma, Inc.**  
**PO Box 5781**  
**Takoma Park, MD 20913**

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