



HISTORIC TAKOMA NEWSLETTER

Historic Takoma, Inc. Celebrates 29 Years of Service to the Community 1979-2008

HTI Holiday Party and Annual Meeting Sunday December 14, 1-5 p.m.



Please join us on Sunday December 14, 2008, from 1-5 p.m. for the HTI Annual Meeting and Holiday party. This year's event will be held at the Cady Lee Mansion, 7064 Eastern Avenue, NW. Come to hear about the progress in renovating our building at 7328 Carroll Avenue, to hear about current HTI projects, visit with old friends, vote for new Board members and officers, and share in some holiday fare. Those attending will also get a good look at the public rooms of the Cady Lee house, a lovely example of Queen Anne style architecture built in the late 1880's.

Groundbreaking for Takoma Park Fire Station Renovation

A formal ground breaking celebration on October 23, 2008, marked the beginning of renovations on Takoma Park Fire Station No. 2. The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department was the first fire department in Montgomery County. It was founded in 1894, a few months after a disastrous fire destroyed the city's downtown district in December 1893. The fire house was constructed eighty years ago, in 1928, by volunteers using stones for the foundation from nearby Sligo Creek. The original building was a small frame building that stood on a one acre lot at 7201 Carroll Avenue.

Planning for the new station has taken several years. HTI was actively involved in ensuring that the character of the original building will be preserved, and that some of the original materials will be incorporated in the new structure. HTI also worked hard to make sure the new building will be compatible with the surrounding historic residential neighborhood. The design includes a clock tower, the reuse of stone from the original building, and a brick finish. The project is on schedule thus far and construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2010.



Groundbreaking for the renovations on Takoma Park Fire Station No. 2.



Takoma Park Fire Station No. 2., c. 1920's

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Historic Takoma, Inc.
PO Box 5781
Takoma, Park, MD 20913
301-270-2831
www.historictakoma.org

Officers

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Lorraine J. Pearsall, *Vice President*
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Nancy Abbott Young, *Member-at-
Large*
John Hume, *Member-at-Large*

Other Volunteers

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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PRESERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

Message from the President: Members and Donations Needed!

Historic Takoma Inc needs your help more than ever. Two years ago HTI purchased its new Headquarters building on Carroll Avenue at the Junction. HTI has secured additional grant money, along with revenue from the House and Garden Tours, which has enabled us to do essential work on the building. This has included cleaning and repairing the façade, repairing the storefront and windows, patching the roof and the tin ceiling, installing new HVAC systems and installing period lighting. However, much work remains to be done before our dream of a fully functional headquarters with archival storage, display, meeting and office space becomes a reality. Large corporate donors are few and far between. Montgomery County and the City have contributed generously thus far, but given the budget shortfalls being reported at all levels of government, we need support from our members now more than ever. Please renew your HTI membership using the form on the last page of the newsletter, and please consider donating at a higher dollar level this year. We are depending on your donations to help with the renovations necessary to get our building up and open and available to members and the public. Thank you for your support of HTI and our building project.

Update on HTI Building at 7328 Carroll Avenue

Just a few days ago we had the gas connected and look forward to having central heating operational in the building this winter. Marlon Pujol of MP Energy has done a wonderful job with the HVAC system. Oak Grove Restoration and J D Contracting have completed repair work on the front bay windows.

HTI has applied to the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Commission for a matching grant that would allow us to complete renovation and restoration of the interior walls, ceiling, and floor. We expect to hear the results of this application in December. The money would match \$30,000 allocated to our project by the City of Takoma Park.

We are also pursuing another MainStreet Takoma Façade Improvement Program matching grant to finish the interior of the bay windows and restore two large windows in the rear façade. Many thanks to project manager Lorraine Pearsall for spearheading this effort.

HTI Thanks Mark's Kitchen

Many thanks to Mark's Kitchen!! On Tuesday September 16, 2008, Mark's Kitchen donated a portion of the entire day's proceeds to Historic Takoma.

City Council Declares November 24th B.F. Gilbert Day

On November 17, 2008, the Takoma Park City Council unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing the 125th anniversary of the date that Takoma Park founder, B.F. Gilbert, closed on the sale of the first parcel of land that he purchased in this area. HTI President, Sabrina Baron, provided the Council with an overview of B.F. Gilbert's life and his importance to the community. (Did you know that Gilbert's mother's maiden name was Allen? She was related to Ethan Allan, hence the source of the name of that stretch of what is now MD 410 between New Hampshire Avenue and Carroll Ave.) The full text of the resolution is as follows:

Resolution Declaring November 24, 2008, as B.F. Gilbert Day

WHEREAS, this year marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of our city; and

WHEREAS, the guiding force behind the establishment of Takoma Park was Benjamin Franklin Gilbert, a modestly successful real estate developer who devoted the last decades of his life to making Takoma Park the first railroad suburb of the Washington metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert saw the potential created by the Baltimore & Ohio's reach north and pursued a vision of offering city dwellers the healthy serenity of rural air six miles from the Capitol, accessible by the new railroad line; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert took it upon himself to purchase 90 acres of farmland and woods adjacent to the railroad tracks, taking title on November 24, 1883 to the first 14 parcels in what is now Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, he carved this land into affordable parcels, giving the families of federal employees a chance to realize the American Dream of owning their own home; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert enthusiastically promoted his vision of a sylvan suburb, paying the costs of the train ride for potential buyers and producing an elaborate brochure illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings of the homes already built as a way of gathering likeminded "settlers;" and

WHEREAS, Gilbert chose to live in Takoma Park with his own family and served as its first Mayor; and

WHEREAS, he welcomed the Seventh-day Adventists into the expanding community, beginning an ongoing open-door tradition of inviting immigrants from every continent; and

WHEREAS, with Gilbert's support, the first schools, churches, and annual events like our fourth of July celebrations grew out of community-driven efforts; and

WHEREAS, the legacy created by Benjamin Franklin Gilbert lives on a century and a quarter later - a proud independence, a sense of living in harmony with our environment and a commitment to banding together with our neighbors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK THAT every November 24, is hereby declared to be B. F. GILBERT DAY, in honor of our founder.

Adopted this 17th day of November, 2008.



Takoma Park founder B. F. Gilbert.

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Many Thanks to Copy Connection of Silver Spring

for assistance with the printing of the 2008 House & Garden Tour Brochure.

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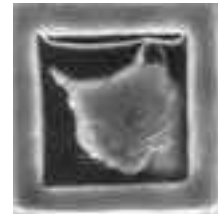
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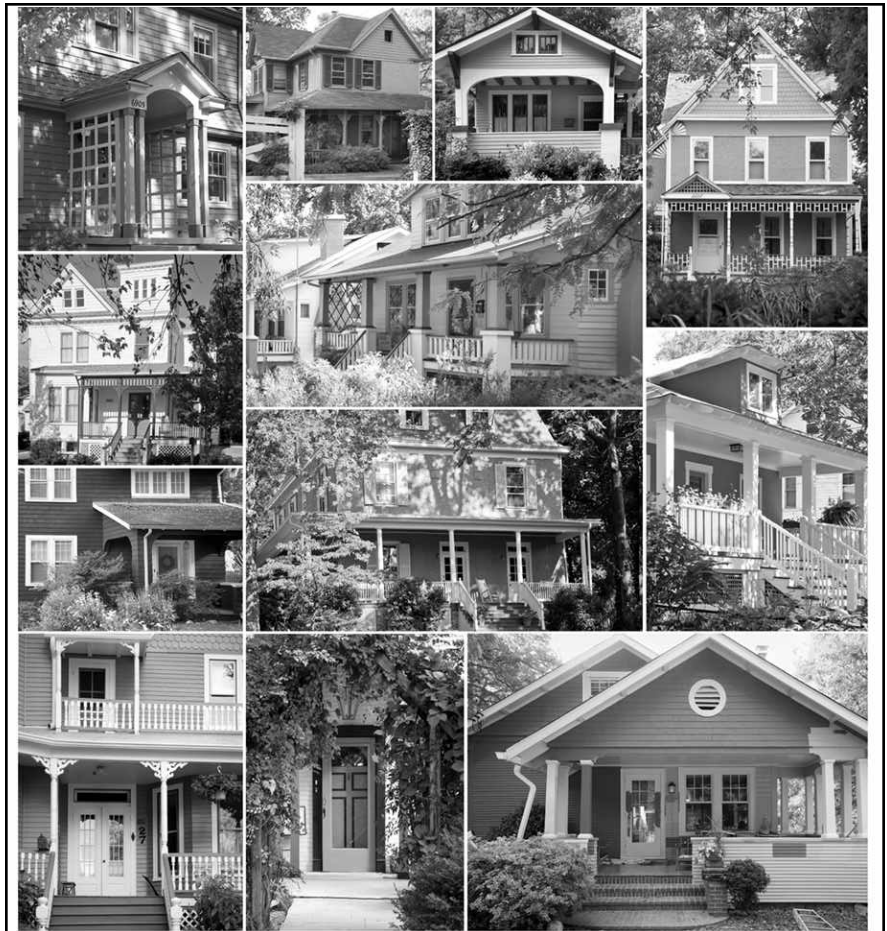
A New Poster in Town

A striking lovely poster entitled "Colors of Takoma" is now available for sale for \$25 at various locations in Old Town, with five dollars from each sale being donated to Historic Takoma. It captures the sense of Takoma Park homes by featuring a montage of vivid color photos of local houses. The poster is the work of Ross Chapple and Lea Chartock who live in Takoma Park.

Ross is a photographer whose commercial career has largely centered on architectural and interior photography. His work has appeared in *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Traditional Home*, *Decorating* and many other national magazines. For twenty years he photographed the collections of the Smithsonian Institution for a series of coffee table books.

Lea is a writer whose projects have included everything from biography and environmental impact reports to Web site content, association newsletters, manuals and feature articles. She has also published fiction and worked as a scriptwriter in television and film. Since 1990, she has taught a variety of college writing courses and is currently the Director of the Professional Writing Program at the University of Maryland.

The brightly painted bungalows and Victorians in their neighborhood inspired Ross and Lea to imagine the *Colors of Takoma*. They hope the poster will be the first in a series of Takoma Park projects. Have the poster framed at Takoma Framers in the Junction and receive a 10% discount on the price of the framing.



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Colors of Takoma

A portion of the proceeds benefits Historic Takoma, Inc. www.historictakoma.org
"Preserving the Heritage of Takoma Park, Maryland and DC"

The new poster featuring Takoma Park homes makes a wonderful holiday gift. Available at various locations in Old Town.

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!

Happenings in the Historic Districts

Montgomery College is currently in the process of updating the facilities Master Plan for the Takoma Park campus. The campus is projected to undergo significant growth in the next decade, and the college is planning to add around 200,000 square feet of additional space. Unfortunately, the college has chosen to locate this huge expansion on the original core campus, immediately adjacent to the Takoma Park Historic District and some of our most important late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century homes. The college itself is located in the National Register Historic District. They also plan significant space expansion in Block 69, located between Takoma, New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia Avenues. The immediate neighbors and the community have opposed these plans. The college is being encouraged to continue expansion across the railroad tracks, on to Georgia Avenue and into Silver Spring. In fact, there is a parcel of land on Burlington Avenue, acquired for the college through eminent domain and slated for an academic building in 2004, that is now targeted for commercial development instead. This parcel would allow the college to have all of the space it needs now in a compact and convenient location. HTI, along with the City of Takoma Park, the North Takoma Citizens Association, Montgomery Preservation, Inc., and the Montgomery College Neighborhood Advisory Committee is working to convince the college to respect our neighborhoods and expand in the appropriate direction.

In Old Town, a new restaurant in the former location of House of Musical Traditions hopes to open on Carroll Avenue by the end of 2008. Interior renovations and exterior improvements continue on the former Taliano's location at 7001-7003 Carroll Avenue to accommodate another new restaurant, Avenue Over. John Urciolo's in-fill development on Laurel Avenue has begun with preparation of an expanded parking area in the rear.

Takoma Park: Now and Then



The old Ford Dealer at 7001-7003 Carroll Avenue in the 1940s.



Historic Takoma booth on Carroll Avenue at the 2008 Street Festival.

Please include Historic Takoma, Inc., as part of your end of the year charitable giving. All donations are tax deductible. Please use the form on the back of the newsletter.

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 efforts which benefit us all!

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**Calendar of
HTI Events**
www.historictakoma.org

Sunday, December 14, 2008

HTI Holiday Party and
Annual Meeting, 1-5 p.m.
at the Cady-Lee House
7064 Eastern Avenue

Join Historic Takoma Today!

Help Preserve Our Community's Heritage

- | | |
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