

Winter 1998/1999

# Historic Takoma

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

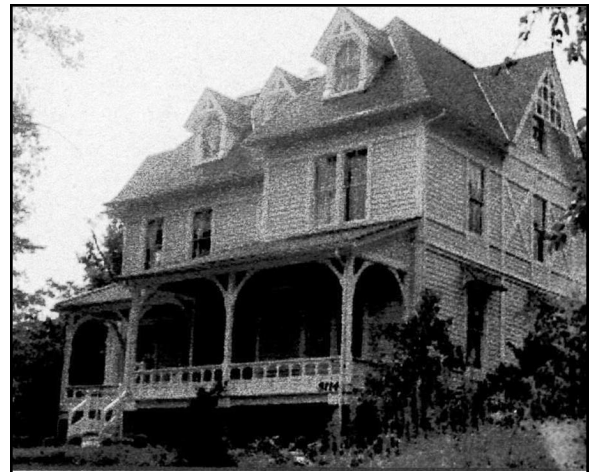
1.  
Easement Offered on Davis Warner Inn  
President's Message:  
Strength in Unity
2.  
Around Town: Friends of Old Takoma Formed  
From the Archives:  
How We Grew
3.  
HTI Business News
4.  
HTI Committee News
5.  
Resource Guide
6.  
Thank You, HTI Supporters
7.  
New and Renewed Members

## Owners to Grant Easement to HTI on Davis Warner Inn

In one of the most exciting developments ever for Historic Takoma, Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude have initiated efforts to grant an easement to HTI of their historically significant property, the Davis Warner Inn on Carroll Avenue. Familiar to many HTI members as the site of this and last year's Annual Meetings, the Inn (formerly the Cynthia Warner School) is a beautifully restored circa 1850 Victorian structure, and one of the oldest buildings in Takoma Park.

As we go to press, legal papers are being drawn up under which Doug and Robert agree to maintain the historic character of the property, and ultimately to bequeath the property to Historic Takoma.

Doug and Robert have been long-term supporters of Historic Takoma and its mission to preserve the historic character of the town. In addition to making their house available for the Annual Meeting, they are Benjamin Gilbert lifetime members and have contributed generously to the Alfred P. Vogel fund. Thank you, Doug and Robert!



The Davis Warner Inn.

## *President's Message: Takoma, MD and Takoma, DC – Strength in Unity*

Although separated by an invisible border, Takoma Park, MD and Takoma, DC were founded as one community. For many years, residents even shared some municipal services, with many Takoma Park, MD children, for example, attending DC schools right up until the time of World War II.

Today the two communities are inextricably linked by shared history, ambiance, and interests. The recent CVS controversy clearly shows that what happens on one side of the line is critically important to residents on the other.

HTI was founded by residents of both communities to serve their combined interests in preserving our neighbor-

hoods. Today, many members of HTI hail from DC.

To improve our advocacy in the District, HTI has recently applied for incorporation in DC. This will facilitate our standing with the DC government, our sister DC groups, and most importantly, our Takoma, DC resident constituency.

HTI also is working to enhance our base of support in DC, and to increase the number of our DC members. We encourage all Takoma, DC residents to join us. Our strength lies in numbers – and in unity.

Lorraine Pearsall  
President

## HISTORIC TAKOMA NEWSLETTER



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

### Officers

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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.

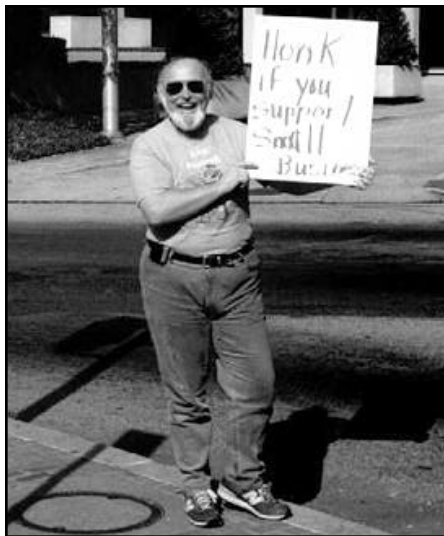
Federal ID No.: 52-114960

## AROUND TOWN

### Friends of Old Takoma Established

Yes, we all have heard the news — the Park Pharmacy has closed. Surprising many residents, long-time owner “Doc” Fishbein, decided to close his doors in October, ending more than 60 years of service to the community.

Organized by Bob Guldin and Terry Seamans, “The Friends of Park Pharmacy” community group has decided to continue with an expanded mission to support all locally owned small businesses. Now called “The Friends of Old Takoma” it plans to work for a pedestrian-friendly downtown with thriving small businesses. (Old Takoma is defined as reaching from Takoma Junction down Carroll Avenue to 4th Street in DC).



HTI member Paul Chrostowski shows his support for small business.



A kick-off for the effort was a rally held Sunday, November 1st at the corner of Willow Street, NW and Carroll Avenue, in front of the CVS. There were speakers from the local business community, as well as from Historic Takoma.

If you would like to join this effort in the future, please e-mail [tjseamens@aol.com](mailto:tjseamens@aol.com) or [guldin@gwu.edu](mailto:guldin@gwu.edu).

### HTI Beomes Member of Economic Advisory Committee

HTI is now a member of the Community Advisory Committee on Economic Development Strategies. The Committee is looking at economic revitalization issues throughout Takoma Park, MD, focusing on the business centers.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

#### How We Grew

Excerpts from “An Historical Sketch of Takoma Park” by Guy Clinton, Takoma Lodge No. 29 (from “The Takoma Park Fair,” Pioneer Press, 1923)

#### Grammar Farm

“Early in the Spring of 1884, Mr. Gilbert purchased the Grammar Farm of 100 acres. It was known as Robert’s Choice. This lay on both sides of the railroad, extending from Sixth Street on the District side to near Willow on the Maryland side; and from Takoma Avenue on the north to about Aspen Street on the south.”

#### New Takoma

“He (Mr. Gilbert) showed what a vision of

the future he had by buying a large tract in 1885, extending from Carroll Avenue over to the Big Spring (Elm and Poplar Avenues) and to Woodland, as it is now known. This became known as New Takoma.”

#### North Takoma

“Again in 1889, Mr. Gilbert extended the town’s borders by purchasing the Jones and Naughton farms in North Takoma.”

## HTI Members Contribute Generously to Phil Vogel Fund

### HTI Establishes Alfred P. Vogel Memorial Fund

As a tribute to HTI co-founder Alfred P. (Phil) Vogel, who passed away last October 1 following a fall in his home, HTI has established the Alfred P. Vogel Memorial Fund. Proceeds from the fund will be used to promote and defend historic preservation in the Takoma community, including both Takoma Park, MD and Takoma, DC. In particular, fund monies will be used to support and enforce the easements that result from HTI's new Historic Preservation Easement Program (see article on page 1).

HTI is grateful to Phil's wife, Ann, for requesting that individuals wishing to honor the memory of Phil make a donation to HTI. As the newsletter went to press, HTI had received nearly \$1,200 in memorial donations. These contributions have been used as seed money for the Fund. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Fund may send a check to HTI at P. O. Box 5781, Takoma Park, MD 20913. Include a note with your donation that you wish the money to be deposited into the Alfred P. Vogel Memorial Fund.

As a final tribute to Phil, we reprint

the following note which we received from the DiLuigi family: "In memory of Phil Vogel—a person we hold in high esteem. Phil was a man who would not compromise his principals and who strove to support his community and to improve our environment. In both obvious and subtle ways, Phil helped to make our lives a little bit better." And, indeed, he did.

### Happy Birthday, HTI!

This year marks Historic Takoma's 20th year of service to the Takoma community. We are grateful to co-founders Ellen Marsh, Roland Halstead, Phil Vogel, and Loretta Neumann for having the foresight to recognize the need for an organization to help preserve our community's heritage.

We hope that you join the board of directors in celebrating HTI's first two decades. Announcements regarding celebratory events will be forthcoming.

### HTI Launches Restoration Award

HTI awarded its first annual Restoration Award this year to local builder Art McMurdie for his sensitive restoration of 7705 Takoma Avenue, originally the home of Wilmer Platt, one the the early mayors

of Takoma Park.

Art, a resident of North Takoma, has done extensive other work in Takoma Park as well. Congratulations, Art, on a job well done!

HTI members are urged to submit nominations for future recipients of this award.

### Welcome, Shirley True!

HTI is pleased to announce that Re/Max 2000 Realtor, Shirley True, has agreed to participate in our Realtor Housewarming Program. Under this program, participating realtors donate a membership in the name of each household to whom the agent sold a house in Takoma Park, MD and Takoma, DC. The Program has been a significant source of new members for HTI over the past few years. Shirley joins Weichert Realtors, Carol Cutini and Meg Finn, in the Program. We wish them all a prosperous 1999!

### HTI Receives Grant Funds for Book

HTI has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and a \$1,200 grant from the [►Continued on page 4](#)



Scenes from HTI's Annual Meeting. Left: HTI President, Lorraine Pearsall, expresses the organization's appreciation to Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude for their offer to grant an easement to HTI of their property, the Davis Warner Inn. Right: Lorraine awards the first annual HTI Restoration Award (\$100) to local builder Art McMurdie.

Montgomery County Humanities Commission, to assist with the cost of reprinting our popular book, "Takoma Park: Portrait of a Victorian Suburb.." Both grants require matching funds.

HTI has been working on reprinting the book for several months, following the discovery that the original publisher discarded the camera-ready copy. Fortunately, with today's scanning technology and the high quality of the reproduction in the original book, new film can be created from an existing copy. However, this is an expensive process and, despite the recent grants, HTI is still several thousand dollars short of the amount needed to complete the prop work and print 1,000 copies. Consequently, we continue to seek funding sources. Less than two dozen copies of the book remain in HTI's inventory.

### **Annual Meeting Held and Board Members Elected**

Sweltering heat did not deter approximately 50 HTI members from attending HTI's annual meeting on Sunday, December 6 at the historic Davis Warner Inn on Carroll Avenue. The Inn (formerly the Cynthia Warner School) is a beautifully restored circa 1850 structure, and is one of the oldest buildings in the Takoma area. Guests marveled at the large rooms, high ceilings, period chandeliers and furnishings, and spectacular holiday decorations.

The meeting was highlighted by several special events. First, HTI announced its new Historic Preservation Easement Program (see related article on page 1) and introduced Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude, owners of the Inn, as the first participants. Second, an entertaining and informative talk and slide show was presented by Jerry A. McCoy, president of the newly-formed Silver Spring Historical Society. The lecture, which received excellent reviews from those in attendance, focused on old Silver Spring. Third, HTI awarded its first annual Restoration Award to local builder Art McMurdie.

Historic **►Continued on page 8**

### **ARCHIVES**

#### **Funds Needed to Complete Archives Project**

Over the past Summer and early Fall, Karen Heege worked as an HTI consultant to catalog and organize HTI's extensive archives. In November, the Archives Committee, newly organized under co-chairs Mary Singh and Sharon Cohen, toured the collection that is housed in the basement of City Hall. Ms. Heege led the tour and distributed copies of the records collection she completed.

Although the bulk of the material has been inventoried and organized, the individual collections remain to be processed. The committee is eager to get this processing finished. The goal is to make the HTI collections here in Takoma Park and in other Maryland sites available to researchers. The committee also is anxious to begin soliciting more materials from area residents but must wait until HTI has larger and more secure space that is environmentally acceptable.

The grants have ended that funded Ms. Heege's work over the past few months, so the committee is searching for additional funding of a few thousand dollars to complete the organization and processing of the remaining materials. The committee is pursuing grants from preservation and historical groups, but the turnaround time on most grants take at least six months to a year. We would prefer to retain Ms. Heege now to finish the remaining processing. Please contact Sharon Cohen (301-270-3132) or Mary Singh (301-270-0466) if you have any leads on private donations for the archives project

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Carriage Research Underway**

The Education Committee is getting ready for the arrival of our new but old carriage, a 1891 Essex Trap. On loan from the Thrasher Carriage Museum in Cumberland, MD, this beautiful, small pleasure vehicle will grace the carriage house at the Thomas-Siegler Carriage House Museum for visitors to enjoy. We are currently researching this vehicle,

specifically its origins, popularity, etc. If any of you has a special interest in this vehicle and some information to share, we would appreciate your input. You may e-mail responses to Holly Burnhan at heron25@aol.com.

In other news, we will soon print a new brochure describing our self-guided walking tours for distribution at historical institutions in the area. Interested people will be able to write us for copies of our walking tours. We hope to educate history buffs from around the country, and even the state, on the story of Takoma Park.

Another brochure, on the old President's Tree, corner of Maple and Sligo Creek Parkway, will give the history of this now-disappeared landmark. This pamphlet will be the first in a series on significant historical sites in Takoma Park. Visit the carriage house starting in the Spring to pick up your free copies.

Meanwhile, learn more about our fair city's past on the Dinky Line walking tour, led by Clair Garman on the first Sunday of every month. This tour traces the route of the Dinky Line, a 1900s trolley that ran from the Takoma Park station to the Wildwood Amusement Park and Glen Sligo Hotel. For reservations, call Clair at (301)270-1254

### **MUSEUM**

#### **Halloween Festivities**

HTI again welcomed trick-or-treaters this Halloween at the Thomas-Sielger Carriage House Museum., a site that has become a favorite with its spooky (but perfectly safe) setting and long shaded driveway.

#### **The Museum Committee Needs You!**

*The Museum Committee is looking for a few good men and women to help plan programs, exhibits, and events at the Thomas-Sielger Carriage House Museum and Gardens, and to chart the course for growth over the next few years.*

*If you are interested, please call Allison Weiss, Chair, at 301-270-3848 or e-mail her at [allison.weiss@juno.com](mailto:allison.weiss@juno.com).*

**Historic Takoma  
RESOURCE GUIDE**

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## Thanks!

**H**TI extends a special message of thanks and recognition to the following individuals and organizations:

- ★BFG Clubbers
- ★Lorraine Pearsall
- ★Benefactors
- ★Alfred P. Vogel Memorial Fund Donors
- ★Doug Harbit & Robert Patenaude
- ★City of Takoma Park, MD staff
- ★Holly Burnham
- ★Wayne Hobbs
- ★Jane Sween
- ★Takoma Park Newsletter
- ★Takoma Park Gazette
- ★Clair Garman
- ★Joan Duncan
- ★Ann Vogel
- ★Karen Fishman
- ★Paul Chrostowski
- ★Carol Cutini
- ★Meg Finn
- ★Walters Art Gallery
- ★Melissa Martens
- ★Ted Kowaluk
- ★Karen Heege
- ★Dick O'Connor
- ★Charles Dukes
- ★Jerry A. McCoy
- ★Beverly Habada

We thank Dorothy L. Barnes, Patricia Arnold and William C. Wardlaw, and Charles A. Blackburn for their donations of \$250. As a result of their generous contribution, they are inducted into the Benjamin Franklin Gilbert Club, named after the City's founder, and become life-time members of HTI.

We thank Lorraine Pearsall for her contribution of \$250. Her steadfast commitment to our organization, both financially and through her leadership as president, has transformed HTI into a meaningful and productive entity within the Takoma community.

We thank Loretta Neumann and Paul O'Brien for their generous contributions of \$100, thus qualifying them as HTI Benefactors. Their generosity in support of our mission is much appreciated!

We thank James A. and Ana Maria Durelli Di Luigi, Kathryn T. Simpson, Eileen McGuckian, Robert & Sandra Stevens, Julia E. Holloway, Dolores & Robert Mulligan, Paul & Rita Marth, Lynn S. Holloway, and Jack Carson for their generous contributions to the Alfred P. Vogel Memorial Fund. This fund will be used by HTI to support and defend historic preservation in the Takoma community. (See related story on page 3).

We thank Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude for their many generous contributions to HTI, including sharing their wonderful home (the Davis Warner Inn) for our annual meeting, choosing HTI to be the guardians of the Davis Warner Inn by becoming the inaugural participants in HTI's historic preservation easement program, bequeathing their beautiful home to HTI, and donating \$500 to the Alfred P. Vogel Memorial Fund. Their generosity and commitment to historic preservation not only will strengthen HTI, but hopefully also will encourage others to participate in our easement program. (See related story on page 1)

We thank City of Takoma Park, MD staff Abel Castillo, Bobbie Phillips, and Willis Shafer for their assistance in facilitating HTI's archives inventory project.

We thank Holly Burnham for donating a (PC) mouse and pad for HTI's computer used to inventory the archives at City Hall.

We thank Takoma Park, MD Assistant



**Lorraine Pearsall of HTI presents a poinsettia to Meg Finn at the Annual Christmas Party in thanks for her support of HTI.**

City Administrator, Wayne Hobbs, for seeing to it that HTI received a copy of the videotape documenting the July 1, 1997 City unification events. The tape has been added to HTI's permanent archives for the benefit of future residents of (unified) Takoma Park, MD.

We thank Jane Sween, head of the Montgomery County Historical Society Library, for giving HTI board members and our archives consultant a tour of the library and an explanation of how the library manages its records.

We thank the Takoma Park Newsletter and The Takoma Park Gazette for publishing HTI's 1998 United Way and Combined Federal Campaign solicitation announcements in their respective media. The UW/CFC Campaigns are a significant source of income for HTI, and we very much appreciate the support of these two publications.

We thank Clair Garman for his tireless efforts in producing and conducting the informative and entertaining Dinky Line Walking Tour. The Tour has received rave reviews from those who have participated.

We thank Joan Duncan for contacting HTI to return a box of borrowed HTI materials, which turned out to contain some of the original documentation for the Takoma Park, MD historic district application.

We thank Ann Vogel for requesting that individuals wishing to honor the memory of her late husband, HTI co-founder Alfred P. (Phil) Vogel, make a donation to HTI. Phil was committed to HTI and its mission and, thanks to Ann, his memory will live on, via the Alfred P. Vogel Memorial Fund.

We thank Karen Fishman for supervising our archives consultant. Under Karen's guidance, the consultant was able to produce a comprehensive inventory of HTI's extensive archives.

We thank Paul Chrostowski for representing HTI before the Takoma Park, MD City Council, in support of the Council resolution endorsing the Friends Of Old Takoma. Paul's last minute pinch hitting scored a home run for us!

We thank Carol Cutini and Meg Finn of Weichert Realtor for their very generous donation of six and ten new HTI memberships respectively, representing homes they sold in Takoma Park in 1998. We very much appreciate their support and participation in HTI's Realtor Housewarming Program, and wish them continued success in the housing market in 1999!

We thank the Walters Art Gallery of Baltimore, MD for donating two pedestal display cases, which will be put to good use at the Thomas-Seigler Carriage House Museum. We also thank Melissa Martens for alerting us to the cases' availability, and Ted Kowaluk and Karen Heege for traveling to Baltimore to retrieve the cases.

We thank HTI legal counsel Dick O'Connor for his assistance in many legal matters, most notably our historic preservation easement program. We appreciate his patience in accommodating our many (sometimes contradictory) voices, and for meeting with us during many off hours

We thank Charles Dukes for his long-standing support in helping us market our popular book, "Takoma Park: Portrait of a Victorian Suburb." Sales of the book at Chuck & Dave's have been a major source of income for HTI over the years.

We thank Jerry A. McCoy, president of the Silver Spring Historical Society, for his excellent talk and slide show on old Silver Spring, presented at HTI's annual meet-

ing.

Finally, we thank former Takoma Park, MD City Administrator, Beverly Habada, for the excellent assistance she provided to HTI during the many years she served the City. She was a good friend to HTI, and we shall miss her tremendously. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Thank you, all!

### Welcome New and Renewed Members! (9/98-12/98)

- Mark Choe — Mark's Kitchen
- Jos. Klockner & Company
- Steven Melov & James Goddard
- Mark Schechter
- Patricia Taylor & William Batko
- Charles A. (Al) Blackburn
- Scott T. Davis
- Jean & Joe Faulkner
- Anna & Yuri Zelinsky
- Kent Abraham
- Nancy Bell-Edwards
- James A. & Ana Maria Durelli Di Luigi
- Michael McGunnigle & Andra Sawyer
- Kathryn T. Simpson
- Susan Schreiber
- Shirley True
- Karen Kay Petersen
- Dr. Robert A. Lazun
- Karen Maury — MSI Realty
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- Linda Borst
- Eileen McGuckian
- Robert & Sandra Stevens
- Julia E. Holloway
- Dolores & Robert Mulligan

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- Fred & Darlene Levenson
- Andy Rosenberg & Marian Zeles
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- Mike Fisher & Christy Lopez
- Elizabeth A. Hone & Stephen A. West
- Robert E. Guldin & Susan Strasser
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- Drew & Jane Spalding
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- Ruth Leffler
- Paul & Rita Marth
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- Kate M. Perry
- Mark Stahr & Don Houck
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## 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 Takoma community. Our many thanks!




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**HTI BUSINESS NEWS**

►Continued from page 4

Takoma officers were elected for 1999: Lorraine Pearsall, president; Ted Kowaluk, vice president; Kathy Brooks-Denny, secretary; and, Jack Carson, treasurer. New board members elected are Allison Weiss, who will chair HTI's Museum Committee; Holly Burnham, who will chair HTI's Education Committee; and, Mary Singh, who will co-chair HTI's Archives Committee. Expiring board member Rev. Trevor Delafield, who co-chairs HTI's Historic Preservation Committee, was re-elected. Continuing board members are Dorothy Barnes (HTI historian); Joel Solomon (Thomas-Siegler Museum Grounds Committee co-chair); Laura DiCurcio (Grounds Committee co-chair); Gemma Flamberg; and, Pat Fox (Newsletter and Membership Committees chair). HTI officers serve one-year terms; other board members serve three-year terms.

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**Do You Know Me?**



*Pictured above are two handsome but totally unknown residents of Takoma Park from around the turn of the century. Their unidentified pictures are part of Historic Takoma's archives. If anyone knows their identity, please get in touch with Dorothy Barnes at (301)270-2431. Thanks!*

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