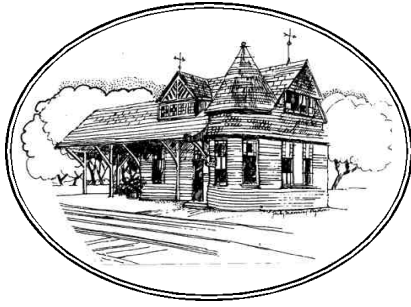


November 2003



# Historic Takoma

## NEWSLETTER

### 2003 Holiday Party/Annual Meeting – Save the Date!

**H**TI's 2003 Holiday Party/Annual Meeting will be held this year on Sunday, December 7, 2003 from 2 to 6 p.m. Once again this event will be hosted at the historic Davis-Warner Inn located at 8114 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park. The Inn will be decked out for the holidays and a light luncheon menu along with selected holiday treats will be featured. Entertainment will be provided, including live music performed by a classical pianist. Other activities are also planned including a silent auction. Members interested in making donations for the auction



should contact Robert Patenaude at the Davis-Warner Inn at (301) 408-2292. Members and their guests, along with anyone interested in becoming a member of Historic Takoma, are encouraged to attend. The afternoon will also include the annual business meeting and election of new officers and Board Directors. A slate of candidates will be mailed to members in advance. This event is a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know one another and exchange ideas about history and preservation in our wonderful historic community. See you there!

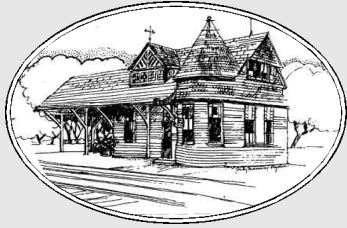
### On the Streets With HTI in DC and Maryland

**S**unday, September 7 was a glorious sunny day that found Board members and volunteers from HTI staffing tables at both the 26th Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival and Happy Birthday Montgomery. At the Happy Birthday event, sponsored annually by the Montgomery County Historical Society in Rockville, HTI set up alongside numerous other county, state, and national historic and preservation organizations. This event provided the opportunity to publicize our programs such as Oral History Projects to other organizations as well as to members of the public. At our table children could also make their very own copy of the original Takoma Park, MD town seal in foil. At the Folk Festival, we were successful in selling several copies of our book and signing up a number of new members.

Board members came out in force again on the weekend of October 4 and 5 to represent Historic Takoma at this year's Takoma DC Neighborhood Picnic and the Takoma Park Street Festival. The organization provided a basket of goodies to be raffled off at the October 4th picnic. At the Street Festival on October 5, HTI's double booth decorated with fall mums offered informative photo displays; books for sale; free literature and newsletters; and, of course, membership forms. The effort was successful in signing up several new members as well as spreading the word about Historic Takoma's many activities. This weekend also featured HTI-guided Walking Tours as part of the DC Open House cultural tourism event. On Saturday, a dozen folks participated in the Dinky Line Trolley Tour, memorializing Takoma's status as an early DC transit suburb and resort destination. Sunday's tour led a crowd of 35 through the historic heart of the original Takoma community. Both tours were organized and conducted by Diana Kohn, HTI's Director for Education, who hopes to do more tours in the near future. The following weekend, October 11, HTI sponsored a table at the Magical Montgomery festival in downtown Silver Spring.

Our thanks to all Board members and volunteers who helped staff these events, especially HTI Events Director Robert Patenaude, who in addition to designing and single-handedly setting up the Street Festival booth remained on the spot all day, answering questions and ringing up sales.

## HISTORIC TAKOMA NEWSLETTER



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

### Officers

Lorraine Pearsall, *President*  
Loretta Neumann, *Vice President*  
*for Preservation*  
Mark Freedman, *Vice President*  
*for Operations*  
Kathy Brooks-Denny, *Secretary*  
Alan Abrams, *Treasurer*

### Board of Directors

Dorothy Barnes  
Sabrina Baron  
Suzanne Copping  
Reverend Trevor Delafield  
Laura DiCurcio  
Diana Kohn  
Bonnie Moss  
Robert Patenaude

### Legal Counsel

Richard S. O'Connor

*Historic Takoma Newsletter* is a publication of Historic Takoma, Inc., and is published quarterly.

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



A member of the  
United Way of the  
National Capital Area  
Agency Code 8361

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

## AROUND TAKOMA

### Teardowns and Mansionization

As the price of real estate skyrockets in the DC-Maryland-Virginia region, already constrained by existing development, our area is experiencing a phenomenon that is a powerful and immediate threat to preservation of the architectural heritage of historic communities such as our own. Right here in Montgomery County, we are beginning to witness a widespread occurrence of "teardowns," which frequently run hand-in-hand with "mansionization." This phenomenon has occurred to an extreme extent in the area of Bethesda known as Edgemoor, where smaller houses have been replaced within the past two years with huge complexes, totally out of scale and context with the remaining homes in the area. Development carried to such an extreme as in Edgemoor will permanently transform a neighborhood and destabilize the remaining homes, thus ensuring their loss. Unfortunately, when such a trend begins, it spreads quickly. Recently, residents in the Woodhaven section of Bethesda, an area of lovely stone and brick Tudor-revival homes from the 1930s and 1940s, have become alarmed at a developer's attempt to tear down a prominent and lovely 1938 home and replace it with two houses on the large lot. They have organized and are fighting back to save the character of their community, although this is difficult to do without the protections of an existing historic district.

In Takoma Park, MD and DC we have many homes that lie outside of the protections of an historic district, and such homes may become prey to developers wishing to capitalize on the value of our land. Our old neighborhoods, built at different times in our history, each have their own unique character. Historic Takoma encourages all property owners in our historic community, whether technically within the bounds of a designated historic district or not, to have as a first priority the preservation and maintenance of the historic fabric and ambiance of our Takoma Park neighborhoods. Preservation is not just about a single house, it is about the integrity of entire neighborhoods and communities. HTI is closely focusing on this issue and its broader implications for Takoma.

### Concern over Interior Renovation at Sligo Adventist Church

HTI President Lorraine Pearsall and Montgomery Preservation, Inc. President Wayne Goldstein have been involved in discussions relating to interior renovation of Sligo Church at Flower and Carroll Avenues. Their involvement came in response to numerous phone calls expressing concern that church officials intended to replace padded wooden benches that make up the auditorium style seating in the church. Many parishioners and others feel that these seats are unique in the character of the church because they were installed during World War II when the congregation could not afford other forms of seating. HTI and MPI are working with the minister to achieve a compromise that would save the original seating in the balcony of the church. The balcony seating is not being removed at this time, but might be changed in the future.

Thanks to HTI Members Maynard "Sandy" Mack, Loretta Neumann, & Dorothy Barnes for donation of historic materials to the Archives collection; Kevin and Suzanne Copping for the donation of a laptop computer; and Doug Harbit and Robert Patenaude for donation of a fax machine.

## WAH Expansion – Update

Several months ago, Montgomery County, MD created enterprise zones offering tax advantages to companies who build on property along specific highways. One such zone runs along University Avenue and Piney Branch Road. Such a zone may provide a way for Washington Adventist Hospital to expand its medical facilities without overwhelming the surrounding neighborhood with intolerable traffic congestion. Mayor Kathy Porter and other community leaders (including HTI Board members) began working last spring to try and head off the confrontation between neighbors opposed to the traffic consequences and the hospital insisting that it could not remain financially viable without this expansion. The enterprise zones were at the top of their list of suggestions, and although WAH's Ken Bauer was initially skeptical, he announced late in October that WAH has begun discussions on specific enterprise zone sites. Both George Leventhal and Tom Perez, County Council members from Takoma Park, have met with hospital representatives to encourage the use of enterprise advantages. Splitting the expansion between sites is a compromise that would give each side in this controversy something positive. It remains to be seen, however, whether WAH will agree to reduce the amount of square feet on campus enough to satisfy the surrounding neighbors. So far the discussion entails moving 50,000 square feet of the proposed 270,000 square foot expansion off-site. The neighborhood group Sensible Growth doesn't feel this proposal adequately addresses congestion concerns.

## Historic Takoma Joins OTBA

Historic Takoma became a member of the Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) in June. Formerly the Takoma Old Town Business Association, OTBA renamed itself recently to reflect its new focus on a broader commercial area that includes the area around the rail lines, which was the original business district of the Takoma community. OTBA has also recently incorporated as a nonprofit, with the mission of marketing local businesses and improving the business climate in the Takoma Park area through lobbying, resource sharing and outreach. Historic Takoma hopes to work with OTBA to preserve and enhance the unique character of the Old Takoma commercial area.

## Takoma Park Street Festival



*Events Chair Robert Patenaude, President Lorraine Pearsall and Education Chair Diana Kohn help staff the HTI booth.*

## Mark's Kitchen Benefit – Update

Local businessman and community booster Mark Choe held an all-day benefit for HTI at his restaurant, Mark's Kitchen, on Tuesday, October 21. Mr. Choe generously donates a percentage of the day's receipts to community organizations that participate in these benefits, and this year HTI netted \$525 from the benefit. HTI Director and Historian Dorothy L. Barnes was at the restaurant from breakfast through closing time with information about HTI and our activities, as well as notebooks with photos of historic houses and other historic information. HTI is deeply grateful to Dorothy, Mark and all his staff, and all the HTI members who ate at the restaurant on that day.

## HTI Comments on Area Issues, Impact on Historic Community and Sites

HTI has recently submitted comments to the City of Takoma Park and the District of Columbia's Department of Transportation on a joint Transportation Study completed in May 2003. The study was commissioned to consider the impact on traffic from proposed new development around the Takoma Metro site, in Old Town Takoma Park, and at Washington Adventist Hospital. HTI supports maintenance of traffic levels that will not damage or detract from the historic nature of our community.

Look for the 2002  
HTI Annual Report  
on our website at  
[www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org).

Historic Takoma  
RESOURCE GUIDE

Call (301) 270-2831 for information on advertising

mark's kitchen



"a place where vegetarians and carnivores can dine together without losing respect for one another."  
-Quirks

Vegetarian, Asian & American

7006 Carroll Ave. Takoma Park, MD  
301-270-1884 • 3 blks. Takoma Metro



MOORSHADOW

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

7000-C Carroll Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
301-270-8775

Bring in this ad for 10% discount.



...where  
FUN rules!

Jude Garrett  
6917 Laurel Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20904  
301-270-2210



Heritage

Building and Renovation, Inc.

Specializing in the complexities of older homes

Design/Build Additions

Kitchens and Bathrooms

Family Rooms and Built-in Cabinetry

Porches and Decks

Structural Repairs and Basement Waterproofing

(301) 270-4799

Many Local References

SALON JAM

Haircuts Facials Waxing  
Highlights Perms Color

STYLIST

7054 Carroll Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD  
301-270-4477

Salon Hours

Tuesday to Friday 10 to 8

Saturday 9 to 5

amano

FROM PETITE TO PLUS  
FUN, FUNCTIONAL, AFFORDABLE CLOTHING  
A GREAT SELECTION OF JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES  
SHOES, SANDALS, CLOGS, & BOOTS BY  
NAOT, BIRKENSTOCK, & DANSHO



7030 Carroll Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 301-270-1140  
11-7 Mon-Fri 11-6 Sat 11-5 Sun

savory

Real Food for Real people!

Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner - Catering

Brunch on Sundays!

Tel: 301-270-2233

7071 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park

Celebrating 21 years!

Shampoo  
INC.

7009 Carroll Avenue  
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

FAMILY HAIR  
SALON

(301) 270-3551



TAKOMA BOOK  
EXCHANGE

USED BOOKS & MUSIC  
VIDEO RENTALS

7009 CARROLL AVE.  
BELOW SHAMPOO

(301)891-4656

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

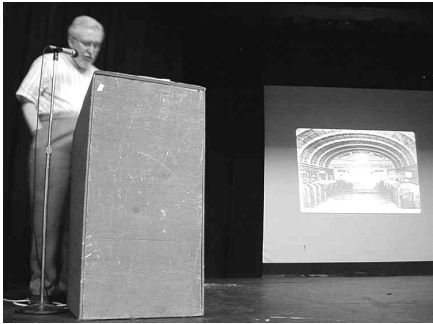
## Period Baseball Game at Rockville's Job Stuart Days

On June 14, a sunny Saturday afternoon, Historic Takoma and Takoma Park residents played a period baseball game against a sister preservation organization, Peerless Rockville and residents of Rockville, during an annual celebration that honors Jeb Stuart's historic Civil War visit to Montgomery County and Washington, DC. As luck would have it, the Takoma team lost! But the novelty of playing using the 1859 Massachusetts rules for baseball made the experience well worth while. The game uses a small, soft ball similar in feel to a "hacky sack," that players in the field can catch with their bare hands. The bases are placed only 60 or so feet apart, and the batter can keep swinging until he hits the ball. The inning ends after only one out, by way of a tag or catch; however, the game is also played using a timer instead of a fixed number of innings. Thanks to Jack Carson and Kevin and Suzanne Copping, who played on the team, and Dorothy Barnes, who cheered them on. This game is an annual event, so watch our calendar so that you can join in on the fun next year.



*Takoma Park and Rockville residents keep sports history alive with a period baseball game. Photo courtesy of Jack Carson.*

## "Capital Palaces" Highlighted in Takoma Theater Presentation



*Dr. Headley lectures on Washington DC movie theatre history.*

On June 30, Historic Takoma and the Takoma Theatre Arts Project (TTAP) co-sponsored a lecture at the 1923 Takoma Theatre on the history of movie theatres in the Washington, DC area. Dr. Richard Headley, emeritus professor from the University of Maryland who has documented the evolution of the movie palace for 35 years, led a humorous and insightful slide presentation, beginning with nickelodeons of the early 20th century, and ending with a description of his experience at the Muvico Egyptian 24 at Arundel Mills. About 70 people attended from all over the Washington area. After the lecture, attendees lingered in the lobby to enjoy a cake on hand to celebrate two important anniversaries: the 20th anniversary of the Takoma, DC Historic District being placed on the National Register of Historic Places, to which the theatre is a contributing resource, and the original grand opening of the Takoma Theatre itself on July 3, 1923.

The evening was especially thrilling for Dr. Headley who had long studied the Takoma Theater, but never before had the opportunity to view the interior of the building.

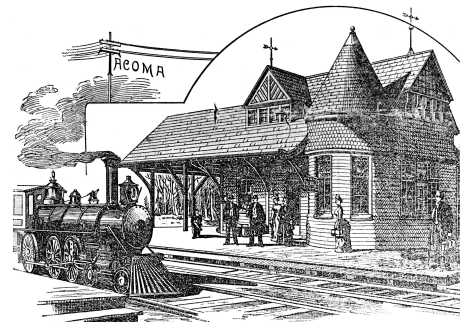
### Did You Know . . . ?

That the first Takoma Park rail station was a three-sided shelter built in 1883. . .

That the Takoma Park B & O station was erected in 1886. . .

That in 1890, fares from Takoma to Downtown Washington were 20 cents for a single trip, 30 cents round trip, and \$4.65 for a monthly pass. The trip took 18 minutes. . .

That Takoma Park's Victorian train station burned in the early morning of August 17, 1967, along with the construction materials stored inside it. The station was slated for historic preservation in the immediate future. . .





## Takoma Park's African-American Heritage Explored

Historic Takoma was one of the co-sponsors of the first annual African-American Preservation Conference held May 29 and 30 at Takoma Park Middle School. The organizing efforts turned out more than 100 participants who shared their experiences growing up black in Montgomery County. A series of workshop sessions also highlighted efforts to preserve and publicize African-American heritage sites throughout the county. Takoma Park City Council member Roland Dawes, who served as honorary chairperson, was one of those offering tales of his childhood. (HTI recorded an oral history with Mr. Dawes in 2001, available at the HTI Archives and libraries around the county.) In addition, Mr. Dawes led a walking tour of the Ritchie Avenue neighborhood. This neighborhood is one of the focuses of Historic Takoma's oral history project this year, undertaken with a grant from Montgomery County's Historic Preservation Commission.



HTI's Diana Kohn speaks to the conference walking tour.

## Happy Birthday Montgomery County!



HTI Board Members Sabrina Baron (L) and Dorothy Barnes (R) with MCHPC official Susan Soderbergh (C) at the HTI table. Photo courtesy of Jack Carson.

### Takoma Park Portrait of a Victorian Suburb



1883-1983

By Ellen R. Marsh and Mary Anne O'Boyle  
Chronology by Terry F. Dammann

Design by Linda McKnight

Historic Takoma, Inc.  
Takoma Park, Maryland

141 pages of history and  
photos of Takoma Park  
over 100 years

Available at  
Takoma Underground and  
Takoma Book Exchange

Or buy it on the web at  
[www.historictakoma.org](http://www.historictakoma.org)

## The Takoma Voice

"The truth is rarely pure and never simple." – Oscar Wilde

"Sports, politics, good wine and  
The Takoma Voice...  
...if I had to give up one, it wouldn't be the  
Voice."

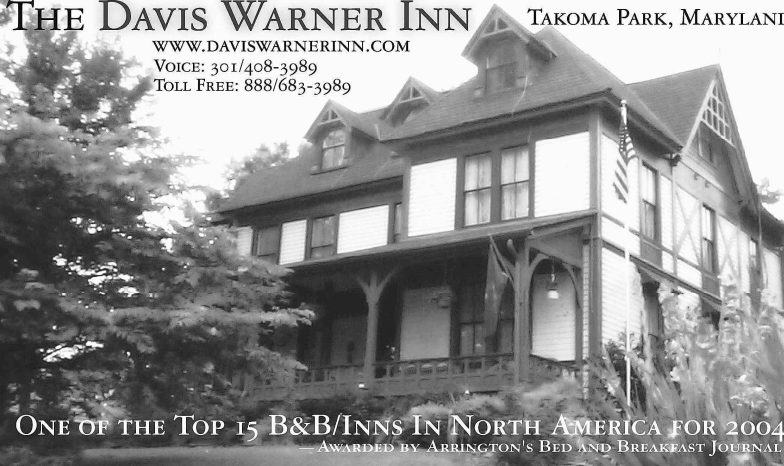
Look for Takoma Resources on the  
web! [www.takoma.com](http://www.takoma.com)

Howard Kohn  
1996 Takoma Park Citizen of the Year

P.O. Box 11262 ♦ Takoma Park, MD 20913  
(301) 891-6744 ♦ (301) 891-6747 FAX

**Historic Takoma  
RESOURCE GUIDE**  
Call (301) 270-2831 for information on advertising

**THE DAVIS WARNER INN** TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
WWW.DAVISWARNERINN.COM  
VOICE: 301/408-3989  
TOLL FREE: 888/683-3989



ONE OF THE TOP 15 B&B/INNS IN NORTH AMERICA FOR 2004  
— AWARDED BY ARRINGTON'S BED AND BREAKFAST JOURNAL

**VERGES**  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

NEW CONSTRUCTION,  
RENOVATION & REPAIRS



STEPHEN VERGES  
301-942-6666

*Background text: PATIOS, STONE WALKS, DESIGN, WALLS, STEPS, PORCHES, FENCES, SLABS & DRAINS, CARRY, CUTTER, PRIOR, APPRO, CARPP, WAL, APPRO, CARPP, PATIO, APPRONS, EXTERIOR CARP, CARPENTRY, EXTERIOR CARP, WALKS, WALLS, STEPS, PORCHES, MASON, PAINTING, DRIVEWAYS, SLABS & DRAINS, PLASTERING, EXTERIOR CARPENTRY, CUTTER, WALKS, WALLS, STEPS, FENCES, APPRO*

**House of Musical Traditions**

- New & Used Instruments
- Lessons
- Concerts
- Expert Repairs
- Imports
- Books
- Local Recordings
- Band Instrument Rental
- Mail Order Sales Since 1967



7040 Carroll Avenue., Takoma Park, MD 20912  
(301)270-9090  
<http://www.hmtrad.com> hmtrad@hmtrad.com

**abrams  
design  
build**

alan abrams cpbd  
certified professional building designer, aibd

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN  
& CONSTRUCTION

**202.726.5894**  
[www.abramsdesignbuild.com](http://www.abramsdesignbuild.com)  
MD HIC Lic. 86613 DC Lic. 5931

**Historic Takoma  
REAL ESTATE GUIDE**

**Keep up the good work Historic Takoma!**  
Thank you for your continued support over the years!

**Carol Cutini**  
Takoma Park Specialist  
Top 2% of Agents Nationwide  
Professional Service with a Personal Touch

301-656-2500 ~ Office  
301-570-5111 ~ Home Office  
301-570-5517 ~ Fax




[www.homesdatabase.com/cutini](http://www.homesdatabase.com/cutini)




**Historic Takoma...**  
You keep  
Takoma Park  
special

*Hank Prenskey*

**Nobody knows Takoma  
Park & Silver Spring  
better than Hank!**



[www.TakomaHomes.com](http://www.TakomaHomes.com)  
Hank@TakomaHomes.com  
301.585.2255



**MEG FINN**  
*Specializing in Takoma Park, Close-in  
Silver Spring, and Takoma, DC*

Thank you to all my friends, neighbors, clients and especially Historic Takoma members for your continued support and referrals over the years. Let's all support Historic Takoma in the 21st century in its worthy efforts which benefit us all!

**Meg**  
*For Professional  
Successful Service, call Meg*



Office: 240 497-1700 x.1721  
Home Office: 301 270-6515  
Email: MegFinn@erols.com  
[www.homesdatabase.com/megfinn](http://www.homesdatabase.com/megfinn)

## Calendar of HTI Events

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

HTI's 2003 Holiday Party/Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2003 from 2 to 6 p.m., at the historic Davis-Warner Inn located at 8114 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park.

HTI celebrates 25 years of service to the community in 2004.

## Join Historic Takoma Today!

### Help Preserve Our Community's Heritage

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Household                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Business    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsor                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 B. F. Gilbert Club (lifetime) |
- (Contributions are tax deductible.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Holiday Party/Annual Meeting

HTI On The Streets

Mansionization

Renovation at Sligo Church

WAH Expansion-Update

HTI Joins OTBA

Comments on Area Issues

Mark's Kitchen-Update

Takoma Park Street Festival

Period Baseball Game

TTAP Theatres Lecture

African-American  
Heritage Explored

Happy Birthday Montgomery