

Historic Takoma

NEWSLETTER

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

2006 House & Garden Tour: A Resounding Success!

Over 500 individuals bought tickets to this year's House and Garden Tour, held on May 7, 2006. The event resulted in revenue of over \$13,000. The weather cooperated, as is traditional, and it was a beautiful day for everyone to enjoy the tour's theme "The Art of Living." A dozen homes and gardens were featured on this year's tour, including the uniquely restored home of Jackie Braitman, the 2005 winner of the HTI Art McMurdie Restoration Award. Most of the homes were located within a block or two of the Tulip Avenue/Willow Avenue intersection, giving the afternoon the flavor of a block party. Art was



House and Garden Tour homeowners enjoy a post-Tour dinner sponsored by HTI at the Cady Lee House.

everywhere on the tour, from the handmade mosaic garden walls of the Partridge/Ravitz home, to

the glass art integral to the Braitman house kitchen, to the collection of vintage dollhouses and political memorabilia featured in other homes on the tour. Refreshments were served at the historic Carriage House Garden on the grounds of the Thomas-Siegler House, where tour-goers had an opportunity to sign up for the door prize, a lovely ceramic dish donated by American Craft. This drawing was won by Laura Anthony of Boston Avenue. Sponsors of this year's tour included the City of Takoma Park, Columbia Union College, Montgomery College, and Washington Adventist Hospital.

Home Sweet Home at the Junction

Historic Takoma, Inc., is close to acquiring a permanent home, thanks to generous funding from Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. The first installment of financial good news came in the form of a \$50,000 grant from the State of Maryland in 2005, followed by an additional \$210,000 grant from the State this year. Using that money was contingent, however, on HTI obtaining matching funds. Fortunately, in May 2006, the Montgomery County Council came through with a \$260,000 matching grant as part of its arts and humanities funding for the upcoming fiscal year. Obtaining this funding would not have been possible without the support of a number of our local elected officials, including State Senator Ida Ruben, State Delegates Sheila Hixson and Peter Franchot, and County Council members

(continued on page five)



Historic Takoma, Inc., is in the process of acquiring an historic building at the Junction. Closing is expected in September.

HISTORIC TAKOMA NEWSLETTER



Historic Takoma, Inc.
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301-270-2831
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

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 D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board on Historic Area Work Permits having a major impact on the district, testifies at 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.

Carroll Avenue Metro corridor and Laurel Avenue Old Town shopping area: Two high visibility new construction projects involving commercial infill buildings were recently approved.

Carroll and Maple Avenue, D.C.: This project will replace the small, one-story (non-historic) auto repair and truck rental buildings across from the Takoma Funeral Home with a contextually designed, five-story mixed-use building with retail operations on the ground level and condominiums above. Historic Takoma worked closely with the architect, SGA Associates of Bethesda, to tailor the facade materials and detailing to the character of the historic neighborhood. The 1940's Moderne-reminiscent building will feature brick walls in articulated segments suggesting traditional row house construction, with fieldstone and metal accents. The project will include extensive landscaping, including street trees, and will re-establish a uniform urban setback to improve the site's attractiveness to pedestrians. The developers hope to break ground and begin sales in fall 2006, although they are still obtaining some permits needed before construction can begin.

Laurel Avenue, near the corner of Eastern Avenue: Developer John Urciolo's Takoma Metro Shopping Center project will fill the gap left by a long-ago fire in the row of buildings he owns along Laurel Avenue. Historic Takoma worked with the developer's architect to preserve the portion of the early-twentieth-century brick facade that survived the fire, to reduce the visual density of the two-story infill structure, and to integrate the design of the new building better with that of the adjoining historic buildings and commercial district. The new brick facade will include glazed retail storefronts corresponding to the scale and rhythm of the adjoining historic store fronts and a taller,

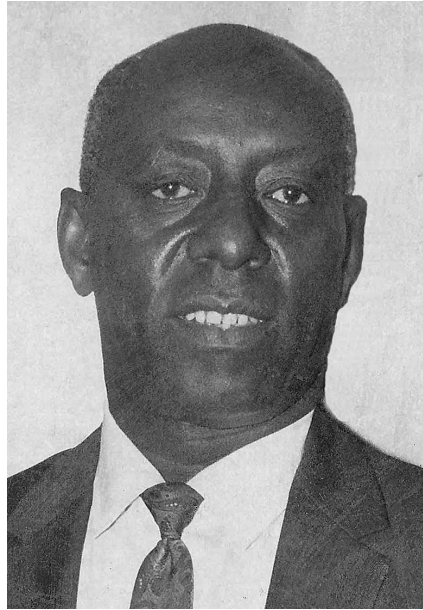
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Takoma Park Historic District Pamphlet Now Available: HTI assisted in the preparation of this handsome guide, filled with maps and photos, issued by the D.C. Historic Preservation Office. Call 202-442-8818 for more information.

Quilt Raffle: Buy a chance to win a gorgeous hand-made heritage quilted throw featuring renditions of Takoma Park's favorite architectural landmarks. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Drawing to be held when fundraising goal has been met. Call 301-270-2431 for more information.

Lee Jordan – A Hall of Famer from Takoma Park

On March 19, 2006, Lee Jordan was inducted, posthumously, into the Montgomery County Civil Rights Hall of Fame. He had been nominated for the honor by the City of Takoma Park and Historic Takoma, Inc. Mr. Lee, as he was known to all, used sports as a vehicle to bring kids of all races and genders together in constructive interaction, beginning as early as the 1930s, when schools and other activities in Montgomery County were racially segregated. Jordan played baseball for a time for the Washington, D.C., Negro Baseball League team, the Homestead Grays. He was employed as a janitor at the Takoma Park Middle School and subsequently at the then-all-white Blair High School. Beginning informally, he created, encouraged, and then organized integrated sports teams for kids in the Takoma Park area, as well as the Blair Boys and Girls Club. He was a coach, a mentor, and an extraordinary person, not limited by the boundaries

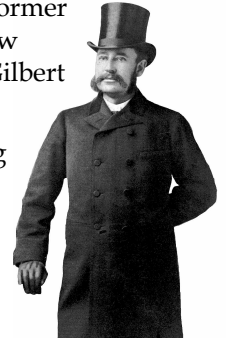


Lee Jordan, "Mr. Lee", founded the Takoma Park Boys and Girls Club in 1937. He was honored by Montgomery County as a true hero.

imposed by others. Jordan is remembered on a daily basis by those using Lee Jordan Field at Takoma Park Middle School. To learn more about this remarkable man visit: http://www.takoma.com/archives/copy/2005/12/features/_takomaarchives1205.html.

HTI Life Members News

A special thank you to Barbara Kurtz, Blair class of 1940, former resident of Willow Avenue & B. F. Gilbert member, for her donation of materials relating to the Takoma Park Girl Scout Troop and 4-H Club, and to our archives collection.



Renew Your HTI Membership!

If you are a member of Historic Takoma, please take the time to fill out the form on the back of the newsletter to renew your membership. This is an exciting time as our organization prepares to move into a permanent home. There will be lots of work to prepare the physical space and unpack existing files and archival materials, but we will then have new opportunities to sponsor educational programs, set up exhibits, and take on additional projects. We need the help of our loyal members now, more than ever!

Independence Day in Takoma Park -- An Award Winning Occasion with a Rich History

In May, the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee received the 2006 Azalea Spirit Award (sponsored by The Takoma Voice and the Takoma Foundation). The Committee and this event are highly-deserving of this award. They do a fantastic job with the parade and celebration, which has been a tradition in Takoma Park since 1889. Belle Ziegler has headed up the organization for many years and has played an important role in keeping this tradition vibrant in our community. The first fireworks were added to the program in 1895 and the parade first made an appearance in 1920.



Erwin Mack, Grand Marshall of the 2005 parade in his Model T. Erwin is the CEO of the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Authority.

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Battleground National Cemetery Named to D.C. Preservation League List of Most Endangered Places

Battleground National Cemetery, located on Georgia Avenue near Van Buren Street, was created to be the final resting place of 41 Union soldiers who died during the battle of Fort Steven in the summer of 1864. It was dedicated by President Abraham Lincoln, who was present at the battle, and thus, was the only U.S. President ever in the line of hostile fire. The Cemetery, along with Fort. Stevens, is part of the National Park Services Circle Forts Park. In 2005, the Cemetery, nominated by HTI and the Brightwood Community Association, was included on the list of Most Endangered Places, compiled each year since 1996 by the D.C. Preservation League. This list was established to draw attention to Washington D.C.'s historically, culturally, and architecturally significant places that may be threatened with ill-advised alteration or with demolition through neglect or abandonment. http://www.dcpreservation.org/endangered_2005.html



Flagpole and headstones at Battleground National Cemetery.



Headstone of Union soldier who died at the Battle of Fort Stevens.

Home Sweet Home at the Junction

(continued from page one)

George Leventhal (Council President), Tom Perez, and Steven Silverman. Our efforts were also greatly helped by Theresa Cameron, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council. As County Council member Silverman said: "This will be a wonderful community resource connecting Takoma Park residents to the community's history and heritage."

HTI is currently leasing an historic building in Takoma Junction with an option to buy. The funds obtained, along with those to be raised during an upcoming capital campaign, will be used to purchase and renovate the building, to set up appropriate storage for HTI's archives and to develop exhibits and office space in the building. Watch for more news of this exciting project coming soon!



Uncle Sam at the wheel of a classic Studebaker at the 2004 4th of July Parade.



Let the parade begin - the Masons' Building on Carroll Avenue.

Visit us at www.historictakoma.org

What's Happening in Takoma Park's Historic Districts

(continued from page two)

deco-inspired "tower" section that will serve as an entrance to a glassy second story restaurant overlooking the Old Town Historic District. This development may also eventually include a public parking garage on Eastern Avenue.

7001 Carroll Development Update: The developer of this property, ITG/Takoma, has decided to sell its interest in the property to local developer Bruce Levin, who had been a minority partner in the project. ITG's most recent plans for the L-shaped Old Town site at the corner of Carroll, and involved a three-story residential/commercial

building, with six smaller residential "mews" structures, totaling 72 condos. Along with other community groups, including WACO, HTI had worked extensively to ensure that the project was compatible with the neighborhood and its historic character. Mr. Levin said his company plans to refocus use of the property exclusively on commercial rental, with some improvements planned for the facade of the building, as well as the addition of parking. Mr. Levin said his company was actively seeking new tenants or renewing leases of current tenants for varying periods, some for as long as 10 years.

7112 Chestnut Street, NW: HTI had been working with the owner of a lot where an historic house burned a few years ago to develop a design for a new house that would harmonize with the surrounding Historic District, but the owner has now decided to resell the property.

If you are interested in participating in Historic Takoma's preservation advocacy efforts, please contact us at www.historictakoma.org or contact Lorraine Pearsall, HTI Historic Preservation Committee Chairman, at info@historictakoma.org.

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The Takoma Voice

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

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 ...if I had to give up one, it wouldn't be the
 Voice."

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 web! www.takoma.com

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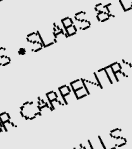
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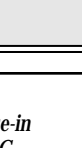
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Thank you to all my friends, neighbors, clients and especially Historic Takoma members for your continued support and referrals over the years. Let's all support Historic Takoma in the 21st century in its worthy efforts which benefit us all!

Meg

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IN THIS ISSUE:

2006 House & Garden Tour
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Historic Takoma, Inc.
Home at the Junction

What's Happening in Takoma Park's
Historic Districts

Lee Jordan – A Hall of Famer
From Takoma park

Independence Day A Rich History

HTI Life Members News

Battleground National Cemetery