



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of April 27, 2016

Information to Share

Weekend Events and Street Closures

It is going to be a busy and fun weekend with GreenFest on Saturday and the Takoma Park 5K Challenge on Sunday. The events will result in road closures and parking restrictions at and around the Takoma Park Community Center. More information on how streets will be impacted is available on the City website.

Sidewalk on Sligo Creek Parkway

MNCPPC has finalized a design for the sidewalk requested by residents along Sligo Creek Parkway between Old Carroll Ave and Jackson Avenue. The City had previously agreed to construct the sidewalk using a City contractor. We anticipate that the work will commence in May so that it will be completed prior to the Carroll Ave bridge closure.

Metropolitan Branch Trail in Takoma Park

On May 19, the Montgomery County Planning Board will be reviewing plans to complete the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT) from Montgomery College to the Silver Spring Transit Center along the Red Line/CSX tracks. The City will be submitting a letter of support to the Planning Board for this project to move forward. The City constructed its 0.4-mile section of MBT in 2005 and we've been looking forward to the completion in both Montgomery County and DC. The completed trail will connect Takoma Park residents and workers with regional transit lines and supports the City Council's priorities for providing a more sustainable and livable community. Additionally, City staff will be applying for a Maryland Bikeways grant in May to install lighting along the MBT trail segment in Takoma Park, where it is very dark, to improve safety.

New Project Pages

We have added a page to the Project Directory related to the discussions about the PBES pool and possible aquatics center location on the WAH campus. A project page for information on election synchronization is also being developed.

Call-in Option for People with Disabilities

In response to a resident request, beginning next week we will amend the ADA Compliance notice on Council meeting materials and elsewhere as appropriate:

“The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who 1) wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing; or 2) cannot attend a public meeting but would like to record an audio comment to be played during the public comment period of the meeting, is invited to contact Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager, at jasond@takomaparkmd.gov or [301-891-7202](tel:301-891-7202) at least 48 hours in advance.”

Zika Update

This Friday, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett will formally announce a special website related to the Zika virus and how Montgomery County will be working with others to prevent the virus from taking hold in this area. City officials have been working with County and State officials on the plans. Primary concern is focused on women who are or may become pregnant, as the Zika virus can lead to serious birth defects. However, most adults and children who contract the Zika virus have no or only low-grade symptoms and may not realize they are sick. Mosquitoes can contract the Zika virus from biting a person who has the virus, and then can give the virus to another human. For that reason, it is in everyone's interest to take common sense measures to avoid mosquitoes and mosquito bites.

City staff have identified City-owned areas where there is a history of water becoming stagnant and are working to prevent the water from pooling. Residents and business owners should also check their gutters and areas around their property to prevent pools of water. We will have links on our website to the County's website and the excellent information provided by the Centers for Disease Control for residents to use. Because of the presence of the Zika virus in Central and South America, the County will be providing many materials and notices in Spanish.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off – May 7 from 10am-2pm

To assist residents with proper and safe disposal of hazardous waste, the Public Works Department holds an annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off day. Takoma Park residents can drop off household hazardous waste for free (non-residents will be charged a \$10 fee) at the yard at the Public Works Facility on Oswego Avenue. This year's event will be held on May 7 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Commemoration Commission

The Commemoration Commission has developed a personal recognition program to enable individuals or community organizations to: 1) purchase benches or trees with commemorative plaques for installation at specified locations; 2) adopt an existing bench or tree by installation of a commemorative plaque; or 3) have a tree planted as an honor tree but without a plaque. The commemoratives will be purchased or adopted for periods of 5, 10, or 20 years with the option to renew. Payments will be handled through the Finance Department. This is the first of three programs being developed by the Commission.

A question for Council: is this something that the Council wishes to discuss or may we simply go through the development of administrative regulations with an opportunity for Council review?

My Schedule

I will be out of the office on May 5-6 and May 12-17.

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