



# **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK**

## **City Manager Comments**

**Report for City Council Meeting of May 4, 2016**

### ***Information to Share***

#### **Sidewalk Construction**

New sidewalk construction is currently underway on Cherry Avenue and in the 1000 block of Elm Avenue. The work on Cherry Avenue is in response to residents' request. The design was vetted by the neighborhood, and a majority of responses were in favor of the new sidewalk construction. The work should be completed in two weeks. The Elm Avenue work is being funded through a Safe Routes To School grant, so no City funds are being expended for the construction.

#### **Election Synchronization Project Page**

The Election Synchronization Project Page is now live, and will be updated as new information becomes available: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/election-synchronization/>

#### **Volunteer Fair**

On Saturday, May 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Piney Branch Elementary School, residents of all ages and abilities can come out to learn about volunteer opportunities that are available with local nonprofits and the City. At the event, interested volunteers can connect with City programs and community nonprofits who may need their help. Registration will take place on site on the day of the event. The event and food are free. Prizes will be given to the first 50 participants to arrive.

### ***Follow Up to Questions from Last Council Meeting***

#### **Crosswalk Maintenance**

We have a Safe Routes to School project that will address three of the crosswalks on Maple Avenue - Lincoln, Ritchie and Sherman. This work should be completed this month. We do not plan to paint the crosswalks prior to that work being done, as it will include installation of raised crosswalks at those locations. In addition to the raised crosswalks, staff also plans to install thermoplastic parallel bar markings on the Maple Avenue crosswalks at Lee and Grant. We anticipate that all of this work will be completed by the end of May. Crosswalk maintenance is generally done in the late summer prior to the start of school, but additional touch up maintenance takes place year-round.

### **Conditions Ratings for Crosswalks**

We do not currently have a process for assessing roadway features, like stop bars, crosswalks, speed humps, signs, etc. The street assessment we are having done has the capacity for adding additional features, primarily identification/location of the assets in GIS, for an added fee. However, we do not believe this includes a rating of the assets, just a location. We will be exploring this option when we contract for the services. In the past we have used roadway paint for remarking crosswalks. We are transitioning to heat applied thermoplastic. While it is much more expensive, it is much longer lasting. Staff typically does a big marking push before school starts in the Fall, and then again, though less intensively, in the Spring.

### **Lighting in the Rear of Building/Around Library**

Staff was recently made aware of several lighting outages on the outside, rear of the Community Center that have been repaired. We appreciate the feedback and will remain vigilant about exterior lighting.

### ***Kudos***

Children's Services Coordinator Karen MacPherson has just been elected to a three-year term as Board Member for the American Library Association's Association for Library Service to Children (or ALSC). Her term will begin on June 28. This is quite an honor and comes on the heels of Karen's selection as a 2016 Caldecott Committee Member.

### ***My Schedule***

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

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