



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

**Report for City Council Meeting of September 21, 2016**

### ***Follow up from Last Council Meeting***

#### **Traffic Count on Tulip**

Councilmember Kovar inquired about the traffic counting device deployed on Tulip. The device was deployed in order to get a count of traffic related to the opening of the community kitchen in the adjacent church. These traffic counts are primarily to identify if police attention to an area is needed, either due to speeding or congestion.

#### **Victory Tower Bus Shelter**

Councilmember Kovar advocated for a bus shelter on Carroll Avenue opposite Victory Tower. Staff has added the location to the list of desired shelter installation locations (including the site of the shelter that was demolished last year on Piney Branch at Philadelphia). Bus shelters are paid for and maintained through a contract with an advertising vendor. In addition to questions that have been raised about shelters with advertisements in the Historic District, where the requested shelter would be located, SHA is currently revising its permit process for shelters with ads in their ROW, which has delayed installation of new and replacement shelters on busy WMATA/RideOn routes throughout Takoma Park. We've been waiting for guidance on the new permit from SHA since March, but understand that the issue is still being resolved with the State's engineers and attorneys. Staff will be inquiring if there is anything the City can do to expedite this process.

#### **Construction on Poplar and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Mayor Stewart requested that staff look into a potential safety issue at a construction site near the intersection of Poplar and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The house under construction is currently under permit by the County and is actively under construction. Per Code Enforcement staff, there were no violations other than a construction vehicle parked on the public sidewalk, which was removed at the request of City staff. City staff also requested that the contractor clean up a damaged non-structural fence and bundle of downed tree branches on the site, and to put up yellow caution tape in front of the property when they leave for the day.

#### **Commemoration Commission on Naming of Woods**

At the last Council meeting, Council requested that the Commemoration Commission consider and provide feedback about the proposal to name the City-owned Washington-McLaughlin property "Dorothy's Woods." The Commission met on Tuesday, September

20<sup>th</sup> and endorsed naming of the wooded parcel as "Dorothy's Woods." The Commission recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution and make a presentation to Dorothy Barnes at a City Council meeting in the near future. They suggested that any questions about installing a sign or identifying a specific part of the property for naming be addressed later so as not to delay honoring Dorothy.

### **Deploying Portable Cameras**

In response to recent reports of illegal dumping in a particular area off of New Hampshire Avenue, the Police Department will be deploying a portable camera in the area.

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

#### **Ride On Routing Related to Carroll Avenue Bridge Work**

Dan Hibbert, Montgomery County's new Chief of Transit Services, is stationing supervisors in Takoma Park to ensure that bus drivers follow the designated detour route, rather than going down Lincoln Avenue. Ride On will also be putting some detour information on their website.

#### **WSSC Sewer Work on Little Eastern**

We received a message from WSSC's Project Manager regarding planned sewer work on Little Eastern Avenue. The message is attached and indicates that the design team has determined that horizontal directional drilling is feasible and will be one of the options considered. A decision on options may be made in November.

#### **Takoma Park Police Department Public Appearances**

Chief Alan Goldberg and Emergency Manager Ron Hardy have recently addressed Council of Government groups on the Annual Regional Crime Report. Captain Tyrone Collington and Corporal Thomas Black joined Councilmember Jarrett Smith this week on the Real Phil Radio Show on BriteRadio.com talking about current police issues. And, many Takoma Park police officers will be participating in the Unity in the Community celebration on Sunday afternoon.

### ***My Schedule***

I will be attending the annual ICMA Conference in Kansas City from Sept. 24-28. The Deputy City Manager will also attend.

Suzanne R. Ludlow, AICP CPM  
City Manager, City of Takoma Park  
[SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov)  
301-891-7229

## Message from WSSC Project Manager Regarding Little Eastern Sewer Project

“Due to the storm water analysis, the project schedule has been pushed back. Wilson T. Ballard is currently finishing the storm water analysis and putting together a report describing the advantages and disadvantages of the following backyard construction methods: open cut, jack and bore, and horizontal directional drilling.

The design team has determined that horizontal directional drilling is a feasible construction method for the backyard gravity sewer alignment. This construction method faces challenges similar to those of the jack and bore method, as well as its own specific challenges for successfully drilling the main at 2% slope. WSSC will incorporate the costs for these challenges, as well as impacts to trees to connect service laterals and install manholes, during deliberation of the final construction method for this project.

The pro/con report will be ready for WSSC’s upper management to review in early October...From there, I anticipate one month of deliberation by management for which construction method we will use, and then an additional 3-4 weeks for Wilson T. Ballard to finalize plans – this will be a longer time period if we go with HDD because the design requires additional soil testing and WSSC may need to hire a new design consultant to finish an HDD design.”