



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of October 26, 2016

Follow-Up from Last Council Meeting

Demolition/Construction on Lee Avenue

Mayor Stewart inquired about the status of a recently demolished house on Lee Avenue, noting that it posed a potential public safety issue. Staff has been monitoring the work since earlier this year, and actually had submitted a complaint to the County in June when a failed addition to the house was demolished without a permit. Currently, there is an active demolition permit and a valid Sediment Control Permit. A new building permit was applied for on October 19 and is awaiting approval. Staff visited the site last week and noted that there is either a sediment control fence or other fence surrounding the property except for a five foot section next to the sidewalk. A notice has been issued to the owner to have the sediment fence extended to cover the missing section.

Public Safety Alerts

Councilmember Kovar inquired about the annual notices that go out from the Police Department around this time of year when it begins to get darker earlier. A series of reminders/alerts have started to go out and will continue as we approach the end of daylight savings time, which will occur on Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 a.m.

Additional Crossing Guards?

Councilmember Smith asked about the need and what resources would be required to provide crossing guard coverage at additional crosswalks at intersections along Maple. Police Department staff regularly observe intersections and evaluate the placement of guards. Staff recently observed the intersections in question and do not believe additional crossing guards are warranted at this time. Regarding resources required if we were to increase crossing guard staffing, it would cost approximately \$20,000 for salary and benefits per crossing guard added. The City can receive tax duplication funds from Montgomery County for crossing guards that meet the criteria the County uses, provided the County agrees to increase the tax duplication payments.

Water Leak at Park and Carroll

Councilmember Kovar inquired about a water leak at Park and Carroll. WSSC has repaired the leak.

Exit Interviews/Surveys for Council Appointed Committee Members

Councilmember Male asked staff to consider developing a survey or exit interview for outgoing committee members of Council appointed committees to gather feedback about their experiences. In the past, staff has gathered feedback along these lines informally, but we agree that something more formal and standardized could yield some valuable information from which we could learn. To that end, we will be developing a means of gathering information from outgoing committee members.

Information to Share

SafeTrack Surge #10 Starts this Weekend!

A reminder that SafeTrack surge #10 begins on Saturday, October 29 and will continue through November 22. During that time, the Red Line will be shut down between Fort Totten and NoMa/Gallaudet. Key info from WMATA:

- Two stations will be closed: Brookland-CUA and Rhode Island Ave
- Shuttle buses will replace trains between NoMa and Fort Totten
- Expect crowding on all trains due to less frequent Red Line service
- Green Line provides alternate path for travel between Fort Totten and Gallery Place
- Red Line customers should consider alternate travel options and avoid traveling during rush-hour periods if possible; expect trains to be extremely crowded

More details are available on [WMATA's website](http://www.wmata.com/rider_tools/metro_service_status/advisories.cfm?AID=5590):

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Monster Bash!

Monster Bash is this Saturday, October 29 beginning at 1 pm in the parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op in Takoma Junction. The parade begins at 2 pm.

Bird Calls Art Installation

The Council and the community are invited to celebrate the “unhatching” of the City’s latest public art installation – “Bird Calls” – on Wednesday, November 2 at 5:30 pm. Located at the corner of Erie and Flower Avenues, the project involves the repurposing for ornithological purposes, a derelict local pay phone, music stands, a horse shoe or two and lightning rods. As of next week, you will be able to pick up the handset, press the dial-pad buttons, and hear audio of the different birds that make Takoma Park their home. No quarters required! Joining us at the event will be one of the actual birds featured on the phone.

Pavers in Front of Community Center

Due to settling of the recently installed pavers on Maple Avenue directly in front of the Community Center, the permeable paver area will be redone. A new concrete edge along the street will be installed to provide increased stability along the first two feet of width. The subsurface gravel will be enhanced and the pavers reset. The pavers themselves will be re-oriented to run horizontally to the area instead of vertically as they are now. We expect that this work will take about five days to complete. It is scheduled to commence on Monday, October 31.

Kudos

Lucy Neher Nominated for the Hubsmith Award

Our very own Lucy Neher, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, was recently nominated for the 2016 Hubsmith Award. The award is given to individuals who exemplify

leadership and commitment and who have positive impacts on Safe Routes to School advocacy and advancement in their community. While she didn't win the award, it is a great honor to be nominated, and Lucy's nomination received tremendous support from community members who have worked with her over the years. Congrats on your nomination Lucy!

Police Awards for Diffusing Situations

A recent Washington Post editorial recommended honoring police officers when officers diffused a potentially dangerous situation. The City of Takoma Park routinely does do that! I wanted to take a moment to highlight (and brag about) some awards our officers have received in recent years for their skillful de-escalation of potentially violent situations. In the past two years, the following Police Department staff members have received Command Recognition Awards or other commendations for diffusing dangerous situations while exercising considerable restraint. These situations frequently involved persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities and often involved weapons. What could have been situations that would have made the national news – in a bad way – instead were resolved peacefully and while showing respect for the people involved. The training the officers have received is important, but I would also like to note the bravery involved as well. Most of the commendations were recommended by fellow officers.

- Captain Dan FrishKorn
- Sergeant Jerome Erwin
- Corporal Cynthia Conrad
- Corporal David Quante
- Private First Class Jessica Garrison
- Private First Class Eric Mueller
- Private First Class Ernest Atwell
- Private First Class Jon Goldin
- Private First Class Keith Hubley
- Private Sada Merriman

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