



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of April 19, 2017

### *Information to Share*

#### **Maryland Energy Administration Grant - \$90,000 for Takoma Park!**

I'm please to let you know that the City was awarded a \$90,000 grant from the Maryland Energy Administration for a new cycle of low-to-moderate income energy efficiency work. This will enable us to complete about 10 energy efficiency makeovers for qualifying low to moderate income homeowners. The energy efficiency upgrades will include insulation, draft reduction, appliances, and more. For more information about the grant and how you can apply for funds, please contact Gina Mathias, Sustainability Manager, at [ginam@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:ginam@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7623. (A media release with this information will be out this week.)

#### **Safe Grow Pesticides List**

I've received a few questions about the banned pesticides included in the Safe Grow list. The restricted pesticide list, which is updated administratively, includes all items that are (a) carcinogenic or likely to be carcinogenic to humans by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); (b) Class 9 pesticides by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment; and (c) Class 1 Endocrine Disruptors by the European Commission. The table is updated once a year on or before March 1st to reflect any changes made by the EPA, Canadian Ministry of the Environment and the European Commission. The current list, which was updated earlier this year, is available on the City's website: <http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/safegrow/list-of-restricted-pesticides/> On an exciting note, the Safe Grow bus shelter ads are up just in time for Earth Day!

#### **Community Partnership Program (CP2) RFP - Update**

In early March, the City issued RFP's as part of the new Community Partnership Program (CP2). Proposals were requested for a Teen and Young Adult Mentoring Program, a Summer Meals and Enrichment program, and two contracts for services designed to address food instability in the community, modeled upon traditional food pantry and farmers market programs. The Recreation Department received limited responses for the Mentoring program and the Summer Enrichment program. We are prepared to enter into a contract with an organization for the Summer Meals and Enrichment program, but plan to go back out to solicit additional proposals for the Mentoring program. The Housing and Community Development Department received a total of three proposals. HCD staff has requested clarification of the information provided by each of the respondents and anticipates bringing contracts for services for both the food pantry and farmers market projects to the Council for consideration in May.

#### **Lower Parking Lot Maintenance – Beginning Monday, April 24**

Portions of the lower parking lot of the Community Center are scheduled to be repaved beginning on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We expect that several parking spots used by staff and the public – about 15 – will be unavailable for at least a week, possibly longer depending on

weather and other factors. We may need to curtail passport services during this time. We will send out appropriate notices as the work takes place.

### **Upcoming County Meetings - WAH Aquatics Center Facility Study and Tax Duplication**

Thursday, April 20, at 2:30 pm. the County Council's PHED Committee will be considering adding a Facility Study regarding the possibility of having an aquatics center on the Washington Adventist Campus to the County's Budget and on Friday, April 21 at 9:30 am the GO Committee will be considering the various Tax Duplication items in the County's Budget.

### **New Webpage with Community Resources**

The City provides a wide array of services and programs to meet the needs of residents. However, we can't do it all! Fortunately, there are a number of community partners (non-profits and other service-oriented organizations) located in Takoma Park and surrounding jurisdictions that can meet a variety of needs that complement and supplement City Services. In order to assist residents in finding services providers for whatever their needs may be, we've created a new webpage on the City's site called "[Community Partners and Resources](https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/community-partners/)." The site provide links to databases with hundreds of organizations in the area that offer various social services, especially those geared toward children and youth, older adults, and people with disabilities. Services offered by the organizations include but are not limited to those related to mental, physical, and behavioral health; housing and rental assistance; legal assistance; transportation; employment; food assistance; veteran services; and immigrant services. Please take a look at the site when you get a chance and spread the word about it:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/community-partners/>.

### **Excellent New Language Learning Resource Available for Library Card Holders**

Have you always wanted to learn a foreign language? Would you like to improve your English? We have the program for you! We are excited to announce a new language learning program that is freely available to anyone with a Takoma Park Maryland Library card - [PRONUNCIATOR](#). This online program has 80 language courses from Afrikaans to Xhosa. There are also ESL courses for 50 non-English languages. The fun and interactive courses include self-directed lessons, live teacher-led conversation classes, full-length feature movies with interactive drills and quizzes, music, and more. If you register, you will also be able to track your progress and use the Pronunciator app on your smartphone or tablet. Even young kids can enjoy this program, with most languages offering courses for early learners (Ages 3-6) and young learners (Ages 7-12). These four week courses will introduce children to basic vocabulary and phrases in foreign languages.

In addition to this language resource, we also have a program available for card holders preparing the take the U.S. Citizenship test: [ProCitizen: U.S. Citizenship Preparation](#) (also available [en español](#)). The program includes informative videos, plus practice exercises and quizzes to help prep for the test.

## ***Kudos***

Kudos to **Police Department** staff for a couple of instances of going out of their way to be helpful. The first instance occurred on April 8, when **Squad 1** assisted a group of stranded Susquehanna University students in route to their lacrosse game at Catholic University when their bus broke down. The police officers moved quickly to work with **Recreation Department** staff to use several City vehicles to transport the team, who made it to the game in time. The general statement made by the women athletes was "You are all awesome!"

A second instance occurred when Acting Chief Frishkorn made the night of a middle school student who suffers from Celiac disease by making a special effort to get a gluten free pizza so that he could join others of his group in having pizza. A thank you came from a Captain in the Gloucester Township, New Jersey Police Department who was leading the group visiting the area.

On a more serious note, we appreciate the role of Detective Richard Poole in gathering information and tracking cell phone and other data to bring a conviction of two people in the Colby Avenue homicide case. His strong investigatory work was praised in the County's press conference announcing the convictions. Thank you for your service to this community.

## ***Hiring Update***

We have not yet been able to prepare the Request for Proposals for a County lobbyist.

We recently began advertising for the IT Manager position and have many other open positions, most of which are part-time Recreation positions for the summer. Other positions include a Public Works Right of Way Crew Leader, several internships, and the always-advertised position of Police Officer. An announcement for a new Police Chief is not expected for several weeks.

## ***My Schedule***

I will be out of the office and out of town May 12-14.