



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## Acting City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of May 17, 2017

### *Follow Up to Last Council Meeting*

#### **Plantings on Tulip**

Councilmember Kovar inquired about the status of the replacement of the stolen plants on Tulip. We have been waiting on the weather to warm up a bit and on availability of the replacement plants at the nursery. These planting are on the City Gardener's long "to do" list (much of our planting occurs each year in May), and is near the top. They should be replaced within the next two weeks.

#### **Tree Growth Obscuring Street Light**

Councilmember Male reported that a tree at the intersection of Carroll and Laurel was overgrown and obscuring the streetlight in front of the Sun Trust. Our Urban Forest Manager has scheduled some trimming and other maintenance in the area, which should be done this week.

### *Information to Share*

#### **Celebrate Takoma – this Saturday from 4:00-7:00pm!**

Join us as we celebrate the vibrant cultural diversity that the City of Takoma Park and its residents have to offer at the 5th Annual [Celebrate Takoma Festival](#) on Saturday, May 20 on Maple Avenue from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

This family festival block party held in front of the Community Center will feature arts, crafts, entertainment, music, games and food from all over the world. Takoma Park is the true definition of a "melting pot" with residents from all over the world now calling the city home. Celebrate Takoma fosters community pride, teaches people new things and strengthens relationships unbound by a resident's place of birth. We hope to see you there!

#### **ADA Sidewalk Repair Work**

We are starting our ADA sidewalk repair work this week and it will likely continue through most of the summer. We are starting on Poplar Avenue, near New Hampshire Avenue and working our way north. We are also planning to do Spring Avenue and Gude Avenue. This work will likely last until the end of June. At that point, Ward 3 should be completed and staff will move into Ward 1.

It should be noted that Gude Avenue will be a particularly challenging street to achieve sidewalk compliance because of the presence of retaining walls and the narrow space now available in front of them for the sidewalk. Additionally, we are planning to address the issue of drainage at the Circle Avenue paper street and pathway when we do the sidewalk work.

We will provide each house on the impacted streets with notice prior to the work. We are using our engineering firm for the on-site design and our on-call contractor for the concrete work.

### **SHA Update on Signal Work**

We received an update from SHA earlier this week in which they informed us that the pedestrian signals at Piney Branch and Philadelphia will be activated on Friday, May 19. They said their next focus would be on pedestrian signal work at the intersections of Grant and Carroll, and Tulip and Carroll.

### **Bike to Work Day**

A reminder that this Friday, May 19 is Bike to Work Day. Thousands of regional bike commuters are expected to participate in the celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun, and healthy way to get to work. There will be two "pit stops" in Takoma Park again this year. Registration is free. Visit <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/>.

### **2017 Playful City USA**

I am pleased to let you know that for the ninth year in a row Takoma Park has been named a Playful City USA Community for 2017. Playful City USA is a recognition program honoring cities and towns that ensure that kids in their communities, particularly kids from low-income families, get the balanced and active play they need to thrive. Selection criteria is based on equity, scale of effort, ease of access to programs for kids, collaboration with other agencies, and how the City uses play infrastructure as a way to attract people to the City. A special thanks to Pat Rumbaugh and Let's Play America for the work they do to help get the City recognized for being "playful!"

### **Acting Police Chief Rotation**

Just a reminder that as of last Thursday, the role of Acting Chief transitioned from Captain Frishkorn to Captain Collington. We added information to the top of the PD website about the rotation noting who is the current Acting Police Chief along with contact information.

### ***Hiring Update***

We have prepared a draft Request for Proposals for a County lobbyist and submitted it for review by the City Attorney last week. Once we received feedback from the City Attorney, we will finalize and post the RFP.

We are currently advertising for the IT Manager position and have a few 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.