



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of July 26, 2017

### *Follow Up to Last Council Meeting*

#### **Unmaintained Vacant Property**

In response to information provided regarding Montgomery County's new legislation requiring the County Department of Housing and Community Affairs "to identify and inspect unmaintained residential dwellings and condominium units," Councilmember Schultz asked for clarification on what the inspections would entail. The new law requires properties to comply with the standards established in Montgomery County Code Chapter 26 - *Housing and Building Maintenance Standards*. These standards have been adopted by the City of Takoma Park and form the basis of our *Property Maintenance Code*. In addition to inspecting to verify compliance with the *Property Maintenance Code / Housing and Building Maintenance Standards*, the inspector also considers whether the property is a "hazard to police officers or firefighters entering the dwelling in an emergency" or a "public nuisance."

Link to section of City Code Section [6.12.020 - Property Maintenance Code](#) which adopts County Code Chapter 26:

<http://www.codepublishing.com/MD/TakomaPark/#!/TakomaPark06/TakomaPark0612.html#6.12.020>

Link to County Bill 39-16 Housing and Building Maintenance Standards Registration of Vacant Property:

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2016/20170502\\_39-16A.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2016/20170502_39-16A.pdf)

### **Information to Share**

#### **Stormwater MOU**

It took quite a long time, but I am pleased to let you know that we (as well as Rockville and Gaithersburg) finally have an MOU with Montgomery County that stipulates that the County will pay the City the stormwater utility fee for County-owned property in the City based on the same calculation formula applied to other assessable nonresidential properties. In addition to future fiscal years, it will be applied retroactively to FY 2016 and 2017. The total amount to be received from the County for the two past fiscal years is about \$2,700.

#### **Fast Charging Stations**

The pay system at the fast charging stations is now up and running. It costs \$1.50 to start, and \$0.25/minute after that. The average cost for a full charge will be about \$6.25-\$8.00. This more than covers electricity, fees, and EVI's maintenance plan, and is on par with or cheaper than other level 3 fast charger fees. For the level 2 free chargers, we are adding "no taxis" to the signage, which should be in place this week. Staff will notify the local taxi company so the drivers are aware that they can no longer charge for free at the Community Center.

## **Election Worker Recruitment**

As a follow up to last week's discussion about the City Election, an election worker recruitment flyer is being developed and the application is posted on the City website. The training for election judges lasts about two hours. Sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m. to noon. If needed, additional sessions will be added. A copy of the application has been included in your blue folders.

## **Kudos**

Kudos and a huge thank you go out to **Cesar Neyra** and **Zee Abbas** in Information Systems for their tireless work keeping the City's IT systems up and running while the IT Manager position was vacant. During this very busy and sometimes stressful time, we completed several capital projects and prepared for the upcoming transition to G-Suite and major server room renovations. Cesar and Zee really stepped up and did an incredible job. We are very fortunate to have them on the team.

Kudos also to **Alisa Trammell** for her great work in designing and preparing the FY18 Adopted Budget document. For the past several months, she meticulously crafted the detail of the Capital Improvement Program report, created a new organizational chart, added automatic links in the table of contents and created a whole new glossary section in the budget document. Alisa also helped change the final day of proposed budget document preparation from a lengthy and difficult one which flowed through very smoothly.

The FY18 Adopted Budget document will soon be available on the City's website. There are many new and improved features in the document. The introduction now identifies the City's Vision and Mission statements (adopted long ago) and includes a new section of accounting guidelines. In the Debt Service section, with the highly anticipated bond closing, we have supplemented the actual interest rates and payment schedules of the Transportation Bond and Library Bond.

## **Hiring Update**

**Lars DeSalvio** joined the team as the new IT Manager earlier this week. Immediately prior to working with the City, he served as the Director of Information Technology at the Association of Corporate Counsel for three years, and as the Director of Information Technology and Web Services with the Tax Executives Institute for 10 years before that. He is also a licensed CPA with experience as a project manager and consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers and other organizations in the greater Washington area.

We are currently advertising for the following open positions: Code Enforcement Officer, Art Coordinator, Crossing Guard, Right-of-Way Maintenance Technician. We expect to begin advertising for a new Police Chief in late July or August.

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