



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of September 13, 2017

Follow Up to Last Council Meeting

Correction about Drug Testing for Employees

At last week's meeting, Councilmember Kovar expressed concerns about drug testing practices for new employees as they pertain to medical marijuana, noting that there was an "absolute restriction." I wanted to clarify that now that medical marijuana is legal in Maryland, candidates for positions who have prescriptions for medical marijuana can still be cleared to work for the City. It would be treated the same as someone who tested positive for a pain killer, but had a prescription for the pain killer. The City utilizes the services of a 3rd party to conduct pre-employment physicals and drug tests, so the information we receive is essentially whether or not the person is medically cleared to work. If someone with a prescription for marijuana provides the prescription to the medical officer performing their evaluation, they could indeed be cleared to work even if they test positive for marijuana.

Information to Share

Congratulations to Council Candidates!

Congratulations to the Mayor and Councilmembers Smith, Seamans, and Kovar for their nominations at last night's caucus, and to the other nominees: Cindy Dyballa, Joe Edgell, and Ashleigh Nugent (Ward 2); Kacy Kostiuk (Ward 3); Ameer Bearne (Ward 5); and Talisha Searcy and Jason Small (Ward 6).

For more information about the election, residents should visit our Election 2017 information page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/election-2017/>.

Police Chief Recruitment Announcement

The Police Chief recruitment announcement has been released and the application window is now open. Potential candidates are strongly encouraged to submit application materials by October 16. Additional information is available here: <https://springsted-waters.recruitmenthome.com/postings/1550>.

September 20th Council Meeting – Rosh Hashanah

I wanted to acknowledge that September 20, the date of the Council's next meeting, is Rosh Hashanah. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and encourage residents to submit any public comments they may have in advance of the meeting to ensure that Councilmembers have them for consideration prior to discussing the topics on the agenda.

Deer Management Presentation – POSTPONED TO OCTOBER 16

George Timko, Assistant Deer Project Leader for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife & Heritage Service, was scheduled to give a presentation at the Community Center on September 25 at 7:00pm regarding deer management techniques that individuals can employ to protect themselves and their property. Unfortunately, Mr.

Timko had to reschedule due to a conflict. *The presentation is now scheduled for October 16 at 7:00pm in the Community Center Auditorium.*

Sligo Creek Parkway Lane Closure – Thursday and Friday

Please be advised that Sligo Creek Parkway will be reduced to a single lane near New Hampshire Avenue Thursday and Friday of this week from 9am to 3pm in order to allow MNCPPC to replace a collapsed storm drain under the street. We put out alerts about this work via email blast, a series of social media posts, and on the website earlier this week.

Update on Priti's Fashion and Jewelry PPT

Working with an attorney and SDAT, Priti's Fashion and Jewelry was able to revise their personal property assessable base for Tax Levy Years 2013-2016, which resulted in a reduction in what the business owes from about \$300,000 to \$137,000. Staff met with representatives of the business earlier this week and we hope we can work out a mutually agreeable payment plan. We expect to receive a proposal from the business's attorney in early October.

Rabies Education

About a week ago, we were notified by a resident that her dog had killed a raccoon that was subsequently confirmed to have rabies. While Montgomery County Animal Services is ultimately responsible for handling rabies cases, residents should be advised that the Takoma Park Police Department is the appropriate entity to call in the event of a suspected case of rabies. Our officers can respond more quickly than the County in order to attempt to isolate the animal suspected of having rabies, and can directly notify the County. Residents should be sure to educate themselves on steps to prevent rabies, learn to identify signs of a rabid animal, and what to do if they or a pet come into contact with an animal suspected to have rabies. Information is available on the County's website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/asd/rabies.html>

Kudos

Kudos to **Gina Mathias** for orchestrating a wonderful unveiling of the new solar street and crosswalk lights that the City is piloting (the first of its kind in the US!). Kudos also to **John Lupari** and all the staff in the Facilities and Gardening Divisions for their tireless work prepping for the installation, to **Jeremy Dickey** and City TV for their excellent promotion and coverage of the event.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Licensing Specialist, Economic Development Specialist (limited-term position), Code Enforcement Officer, Dispatcher, Parking Enforcement Officer, Arts Coordinator, Crossing Guard, Sanitation Driver, Sanitation Tech, Right-of-Way Tech, and various Recreation Specialists, Program Leaders, and Program Assistants. As noted above, the Police Chief advertisement should be going out this week.

Upcoming Schedule of Selected Events

October 1 – Takoma Park Street Festival

October 11-14 – Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference in Rockville

October 16 – Deer Management Presentation
October 21-25 – ICMA Conference (for Suzanne and Jason) in San Antonio
October 23 – Candidate Forum (7:00 pm in the Auditorium)
October 28 – Monster Bash
November 7 – Election Day

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