



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of January 24, 2018

### *Information to Share*

#### **Washington Adventist Hospital Update**

Earlier this week, we were surprised to learn from Washington Adventist Hospital officials that they are seeking permission from the State to move several key facilities out of the City – when the acute care hospital moves – that they had originally pledged would remain. The City issued a media release in response to the news. The release and a link to additional information related to the hospitals move is available on the City's website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/news/hospital-considers-leaving-fewer-health-facilities-in-takoma-park/>

#### **NDC Request to Amend Schedule for Takoma Junction Redevelopment**

On January 22, I received a request from NDC to amend the redevelopment schedule which would push back submission of the draft combined site plan and the Council vote to April and May, respectively, as well as extend the time for identification of an anchor tenant. I am evaluating the request and waiting for some additional information. I expect to have the revised schedule posted next week, along with a simplified schedule that is easier to read.

#### **WSSC Information Meeting**

WSSC is hosting an information meeting on the upcoming Philadelphia Avenue Water Main Replacement Project at the Takoma Park Community Center on Tuesday, February 6 from 6:30-8:30 pm. We expect that this work will cause disruptions in and around the City when it commences later this year, and it will be good to learn more about what the project will entail.

#### **Resident Survey**

As you know, we plan to conduct a resident survey later this spring. We are currently in the process of identifying a firm to work with the City to do so. A link to the Request for Proposals, which was released on Monday, has been posted on the City website: <https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-manager/requests-for-proposals/rfp-manager-20180122-resident-survey-2018.pdf>.

#### **Information on Major Projects**

City staff maintains webpages for major projects and initiatives in the City's online [Project Directory](#). Some particularly noteworthy projects at this time include the [Washington Adventist Hospital Relocation](#), [Takoma Junction Redevelopment](#), the [Flower Avenue Green Street Project](#), the [Ethan Allen Gateway Project](#), and the [Library Renovation](#). We've tried to make the Initiatives link a little easier to use, so the Project Directory for all of the projects is now at the top of the list. In addition, the search box on the City's website can be an easy way to get to many project pages.

#### **Kudos**

Kudos to **Jeremy Dickey, Media Specialist**, for his work on continuously improving the City's social media presence and doing a great job of increasing our "likes" and "follows" in the relatively short time he has been with the City. At a meeting last week of regional communications professionals, the City was held in very high regard by professionals from much larger organizations (with much larger communications staffs) who admitted that they often look to Takoma Park's social media channels and website for ideas and examples of what and how to post. Jeremy has been asked to

share a newly created social media plan that he developed, which outlines and institutionalizes procedures, responsibilities, and best practices related to social media communications. Way to go, Jeremy!

***Hiring Update***

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Police Dispatcher, Sanitation Driver, Recreation Program Leader, Recreation Program Assistant, Planner, Economic Development Specialist, Arts and Humanities Intern, and Housing and Community Services Intern.