



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of September 25, 2019

Information to Share

City Receives MD Bikeways Grant

The City received a grant of \$235,000 from the Maryland Bikeways program to continue work on the New Ave Bikeway. The grant moves forward design work for the conversion of the southbound service lane on New Hampshire Avenue into a two way separated bike lane. The City has previously received funding from both Maryland Bikeways as well as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for preliminary and semi-final designs for portions of the bikeway. The realization of the bikeway will help to support multi-modal transportation on New Hampshire Avenue and will connect to the future Purple Line station. More information on the project can be found [here](#).

Small Cell Tower Application – 902 Merrimac Drive

We received the first application for a small cell tower installation since the adoption of our new small cell tower ordinance and administrative regulations for 902 Merrimac Drive. Consistent with the regulations, we have posted the application materials online (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/small-cell-antennas-in-the-citys-rights-of-way/>) and will be holding a community meeting on September 30 at 7:30 pm in the Community Center. The applicant is required to post notice on-site and also provide notice to properties within 500 feet of the proposed installation.

Racial Equity Training

First, I wanted to let you know that four staff members will participate in a regional racial equity training cohort sponsored by the Metro Washington Council of Governments in partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity beginning this week. The training will last about a year with monthly meetings and “homework” assignments. Those participating include Kurt Gilbert, Police Lieutenant, Tracy Smith, HR Director, Rosalind Grigsby, Community Development Manager for Planning, and Samira Cook Gaines, Community Development Manager for Economic Development. We look forward to learning from their experience and how we can apply what they learn to the way we operate and policy development.

Second, at last week’s Council meeting, Councilmember Smith asked about how the funds in the budget for racial equity facilitation and training (\$10,000) would be used this year. Last year, we contracted with an organization called What’s My Bias to provide training to some Councilmembers and members of Council appointed committees. This year, we plan to issue an RFP as part of the Community Partnership Program that will outline our interests and allow organizations who are able to meet them to submit proposals. The Council will have an opportunity to review the draft RFP before it is issued. Council will need to approve the contract of the chosen organization.

Dead Tree and Limb Removal at Takoma Junction

Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) has been working with the City’s Urban Forest Manager regarding the dead trees and limbs in the wooded area of the Takoma Junction property on Columbia. NDC has scheduled the removal of dead trees and tree limbs to occur on Monday and Tuesday of next week, September 30 – October 1.

Recreation Department at National Conference

This week, many members of the City's Recreation Department are attending some or all of the National Recreation and Park Association Conference being held in Baltimore this year. This is a great opportunity for staff to learn from their peers from across the country.

Road Closures for Christalis Superhero 5K

On Sunday, September 29, 2019, the Takoma Park Police Department will be assisting with coordination of the Christalis Superhero 5K. The event will require that the following street segments be closed to vehicle traffic at approximately 8:00 am for an estimated three hour time period:

- Maplewood Avenue between Flower Avenue and Maple Avenue
- Flower Avenue from Carroll Avenue to Maplewood Avenue
- Maple Avenue from Hilltop Road to Maplewood Avenue

Residents are asked to please consider this event and the restriction of vehicle movement during the above date and times when planning for the morning. Vehicles will not be fined or towed if left on the roadway.

For more information about the 5K, please visit <https://www.christalis.org/5k-run-walk>

Upcoming Events

This Friday, we have Lunch with the Mayor at El Campeon Rotisserie Chicken and Bakery (902 Merrimac Dr.), and then a Lemonade Stand hosted by City representatives and the PTA on the playground of Takoma Park Elementary School from 3:45 to 5 pm. Next Wednesday, October 2, is Walk to School Day, followed by Coffee with a Cop at Takoma BevCo (6917 Laurel Ave) from 10-11:30 am.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including HR Coordinator, Payroll and Accounting Specialist, Parking Enforcement Officer, Photo Enforcement Specialist, Economic Development Intern, Landlord – Tenant Mediator, Budget Specialist, Mechanic, Recreation Program Leader, Sr. Accounting Assistant, Police Officer, Youth Success Program Leader (Contract position).

My Schedule

I plan to attend the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Fall Conference, October 13-15. Deputy City Manager Jason Damweber and I will attend the International City County Management Association (ICMA) National Conference in Nashville, October 19-23.