



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of February 13, 2019

### *Information to Share*

#### **Takoma Junction Redevelopment Plan Accepted by County**

Late yesterday, the City was informed that the Takoma Junction redevelopment plan, submitted by Neighborhood Development Company, would be accepted by Montgomery Planning today for review. As of the time this document was prepared, however, the acceptance has not come through. Once accepted, the plans will be publicly available on the Development Activity Information Center website ([https://www.mcatlas.org/Development\\_Info/Default.aspx](https://www.mcatlas.org/Development_Info/Default.aspx)), application number 120190150. We had understood that the proposal is tentatively scheduled for the Development Review Committee agenda on March 5, 2019.

Following County staff's review of a project, the project will go to the Montgomery County Planning Board for a public hearing and decision. Prior to its submission to the Planning Board, the City Council will have an opportunity to provide further comment on the plan. Any formal action taken by the City Council will be included in the materials submitted to the Planning Board. As outlined in the City and Planning Board's Memorandum of Agreement, the Planning Board can only override an action of the City Council if four of the five members of the Board vote in opposition. Community members will have an opportunity to provide comment during the required public hearing before the Planning Board.

A fact sheet about the Montgomery County's Development Review process is available here: <https://documents-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/housing-and-community-development/Strategic%20Plan/HCD-20180509-takoma-junction-fact-sheet-development-review-process.pdf>

More information about the development review process is available on the City's website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/community-development/development-review/>

#### **Cell Tower Application for 902 Merrimac**

We learned from the Montgomery County Tower Committee that the application for a small cell tower installation at 902 Merrimac has once again been tabled to the Committee's next meeting. This tabling was at the City's request so notice may be given to nearby residents. Installation at this location was first proposed in 2017 and the City approved the replacement of the Pepco pole with a taller pole at that time. (At that time, there were many requests for taller poles by Pepco for Pepco's upgrade work.) The cell tower installation request was submitted to the Tower Committee, withdrawn by the applicant and then resubmitted once it seemed likely the Federal rule change would move forward. With this complicated history, the notice to residents needs to be drafted differently than we will use for future applications. Of pending applications for cell tower installations within right-of-way in or near Takoma Park, all but the one on Merrimac are in the State Highway Administration's right-of-way.

Regarding the City's new ordinance regarding cell towers and other work in the right-of-way, we have solicited proposals from a number of attorneys to assist with the drafting of administrative regulations and are awaiting responses.

### **Low to Moderate Income Energy Efficiency Grants Available**

City homeowners are once again eligible for the Maryland Energy Administration's Low to Moderate Income (LMI) energy efficiency grants. The program this year will be administered by BlockChain Frontiers Foundation, a non-profit working with jurisdictions in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Income qualified Takoma Park homeowners can receive for free with no co-pay or out of pocket expenses:

- insulation
- caulking and draft reduction
- some appliances (example: refrigerator, washing machine, water heater, or clothes washer)
- heating, and cooling equipment
- additional assistance may be available for solar panels for well qualified applicants.

Each applicant will receive a comprehensive energy audit to determine which items and services they will receive.

Please share this information to ensure as many homeowners as possible are aware of the program. More information is at this link:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability/energy-efficiency-rebates/>

### **National Crossing Guard Appreciation Day**

Today is National Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. I wanted to share a note that the Police Chief sent out to recognize them: "Thank you to all of our crossing guards for their hard work and dedication. Rain or shine, morning and afternoons they are on the job keeping our kids safe. We have some of the best crossing guards in the nation here in Takoma Park. One of our crossing guards, Mrs. Doris Rodgers, is in her 48th year serving the Takoma Park community. She actually helped me cross our streets on the way to school as a child growing up in Takoma Park. She still has that bright smile years later. All of our crossing guards have that same nurturing impact on our kids. Please take time today to stop and thank one of our crossing guards. We truly appreciate all they do as integral members of the Takoma Park Team!"

### ***Kudos***

Kudos to Police Officers **Butler, Mueller, and Glouchkov** who were recently commended by a representative of Troop 33 for their role in organizing and participating in a merit badge event for the Troop members. Per a message from the Troop: "I wanted to thank the TPPD for its help today with Troop 33's annual merit badge day. For the third year in a row, we've brought boy scouts in to learn about fingerprinting. And as usual, the officers were generous with their time and involvement with the boys...Particular thanks to Det. Glouchkov (who came in on his time off to participate), Cpl. Mueller (who stepped up quickly when a parent mistakenly arrived early), and Sgt. Butler (who helped organize the Department's involvement this year). Troop 33 values its relationship with the Department, and each year the scouts gain a lot from being able to interact personally with your officers. Thanks again—we look forward to coming back next year."

### ***Hiring Update***

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Records Specialist/Office Assistant, Arts & Humanities Intern, Housing & Community Services Intern, Recreation Program Leaders, Recreation Program Assistant, Contract CDL Driver, Police Officer-Lateral.