



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of April 17, 2019

Information to Share

Transmission Facilities Coordination Group (Tower Commission) Update

Just this morning, the Chair of the Transmission Facilities Coordination Group contacted the City to let us know that she had received approval from the County Executive's Office to have a representative of the City appointed to the group. Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite will be our representative and Construction Manager Ian Chamberlain will be the alternate.

Takoma Children's School Wins Giant Crocheted Octopus!

As part of the City's public art initiatives, fiber artist Stacy Cantrell was commissioned to create the giant octopus called Oct O'Clock, which has been living on top of the Old Town clock tower for the last six months. City staff wanted to extend the life of this art project so created a contest – Oct O'Gone – where applicants could submit a short essay or video explaining why they wanted the octopus, where they would put it, and what its new name would be.

The Takoma Children's School submitted the winning video and will be putting the newly-named "Oct O'Shedopus" on top of the shed in their playground, which is visible to the public on Aspen Street between Willow Street and Laurel Street. (To recognize that Takoma Park is part of a larger community, the contest was open to applicants who lived or worked in Takoma Park or within three miles of the city limits.)

The school will be moving the 17-foot-tall crocheted octopus from the Old Town clock tower to their playground in a short parade that will take place on Tuesday, April 23 at 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend!

Success story from Autism Awareness Event

The City successfully partnered with Montgomery Parks and City of Rockville for the "Light It Up Blue Autism Awareness Event" at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood held on April 6. The event included hands-on activities, live music, a glow walk, and live farm animals.

A dad attended with his five year old son who has autism and rarely speaks or interacts with others; the boy's mom is deployed overseas. They were participating in the various stations and when they arrived at the petting station, the young man's eyes lit up and he repeated the names of the different animals to the staff and his father. His father broke down in happy tears explaining that his son rarely speaks that much and he knew his wife would be overjoyed when she learned about the experience and their son's reaction. The dad expressed his great appreciation for the event and participation of the various Recreation Departments.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Custodial Crew Leader, Recreation Program Leader, Contract CDL Driver, Public Works Intern for Special Projects, Communications Officer (Police Dispatcher), and Police Officer-Lateral.