



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of April 24, 2019

Information to Share

Staff Participates in LGBTQ Ally Training

According to a recent school climate report, 85% of LGBTQ youth felt harassed in the past year and over 50% felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation. In Takoma Park, we believe that all youth should feel secure and accepted when accessing our programs and services. With that in mind, about 20 staff members participated earlier this week in an LGBTQ Ally Workshop aimed at supporting our efforts and providing tools to be more informed and better allies to LGBTQ youth. The workshop was very informative and well received by staff.

Parking Management Listening Session

On Thursday, April 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room, staff will hold a Listening Session on the Parking Management Plan. The purpose of the session is to hear residents' suggestions and concerns regarding parking in their neighborhoods. The City's goals are to understand how to best manage the public asset of parking spaces and how we should consider parking in the context of the City's larger concerns about stormwater management, land use, economic development and addressing climate change.

Takoma Park Success Fair

The Takoma Park Success Fair is a community event that brings together resource partners to support the development and success of Takoma Park residents of all ages and stages in life. This event recognizes the unique potential that all people have to improve their lives and their communities. Through partners in education, job training, and personal development, residents will be introduced to new paths and innovative programs to build their personal plans for success.

This event is an alternative to a career fair or a college fair in that it provides non-traditional, inclusive pathways to life enhancement and success for Takoma Park residents of all ages.

Date: Saturday, May 4, 2019

Time: 10 AM – 2 PM

Place: City/TPSS Co-op Parking Lot, 201 Ethan Allen Ave

Passing of John Guernsey

John Guernsey, visual artist, musician, writer, and Takoma Park institution, died this week. His last art exhibition was held just this past February and March at the New Deal Café in Greenbelt. He had finished his novel, February Song, about life in the Maryland suburbs of the 1960s and set in world of the D.C. jazz clubs, which were John's world. Known in recent years as a jazz pianist, his musical past was eclectic. He was an original member of The Reekers, a 60's rock band, and Claude Jones, a county-rock group. You can listen to some of his music at SoundCloud, and find interviews, snippets of his musical "Love at Last Sight", and photos of exceptional art online.

Kudos

Kudos to the Takoma Park **Police Department** who, with assistance from public safety staff from the City of Laurel, Montgomery County and the FBI, very sensitively addressed a situation

of a person in distress at Takoma Overlook Condominiums over two long days last week. The care that the officers provided to the person in distress, the person's family and the residents of the complex was exemplary. While the ending was not what we worked so hard for, the safety of the community was maintained. Counseling was made available to residents, building staff and public safety staff. The coming together of the community around this incident was affirming and showed the best of Takoma Park at a difficult time.

Kudos to **Recreation staff** for their hard work in making this year's Egg Hunt another successful and well attended event, despite the last minute date adjustment. We estimate about 450 people were in attendance enjoying the entertainment and refreshments.

Kudos to the **Police Department** – and particularly **Cathy Plevy and Ron Hardy** – for developing and implementing another very well received Community Police Academy. The following is a short note from a satisfied participant: "I could not wait for every Tuesday night for the class to begin and to hear and learn more about the Police – their life, procedures, rules and regulations. The program was great and it covered all of the police departments (even ones that they are in the process of developing). We met a lot of officers, Sergeants, K-9s, etc., even the Chief of the Police and the Mayor of Takoma Park. Again, this was an amazing program and we need to continue with this class for many, many years to come."

Kudos to **all our administrative staff** on this Administrative Professionals' Day for their hard work in keeping things in the City moving along, often behind the scenes. Thanks for all you do!

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Human Resources Director, Custodial Crew Leader, Recreation Program Leader, Contract CDL Driver, Public Works Intern, Sr. Accounting Assistant, Audio-visual Technician (part time), and Police Officer-Lateral.

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