



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of July 31, 2019

### ***Information to Share***

#### **Flower Avenue Green Street Project Update**

The construction team working on the Flower Avenue Green Street Project is currently working between Carroll Avenue and Division Street in front of Washington Adventist University. They are installing the new water main. The contractor is scheduled to complete this work and move to the section from Division Street to Kennebec Avenue by mid-August.

The project progress might seem slow, but there are many layers of work involved when installing a water main. It involves excavation, installation of new pipe, back fill and temporary patching the surface. Each of the above steps takes a significant amount of time and must be inspected to meet WSSC geo-technical standards.

Regarding the project work hours, we have extended the standard work hours from 9:00am to 3:00pm to 5:00pm. However, there will be some exceptions such as early starts, extended days or night-time work as required. Today, tomorrow and Friday, the construction crew will start work an hour early at 8:00am to complete the back fill work. Work related to water main shut down will be done at night to minimize impacts. For all night-time work, effected residents will be notified by WSSC and the City at least a week in advance.

#### **Public Piano Opening Concert on Aug. 18**

Staff has made a lot of progress on the public piano project. At its meeting last night, the Arts and Humanities Commission considered artist submissions for painting the piano. A Public Works crew is scheduled to move the donated piano to the Gazebo in Old Town on Aug. 1. The piano will be covered by a tarp before it's painted on site by the artist. A free grand opening concert will be held at 11:00am on Sunday, Aug. 18 at the Gazebo while the Farmer's Market is occurring. Audience members will be invited and encouraged to play the piano. The City will be promoting the concert through a [Facebook event](#), posters, and other means.

#### **Reduction in Library Programs**

The Library's Spanish Circle Time continues once a week instead of twice, due to FY20 Library budget reductions. Similarly, Community Circle Time and other programs may have to be cancelled whenever Library staff are unavailable because of scheduled or unscheduled leave (we look forward to Ms. Karen MacPherson's return to the Library the second week in August!).

### ***Kudos***

Kudos to **Sgt. Cyndy Williams** for demonstrating what community policing and relationship-building is all about! The following is an excerpt from a letter of appreciation sent to the Police Chief:

On last Sunday, my wife of 55-years...and I chose to have breakfast after church at the New Hampshire IHOP restaurant. Once we were called to be seated, we subsequently were ushered to the rear, and invited to sit next to three Takoma Park Police Officers. One of whom, Sergeant Williams, leaned over to remind me that my wife was in charge of selecting our meals from the menu. I replied by asking her how could she have

known? After all, (my wife) has only been in charge of our family affairs for every part of 55-years.

This back and forth exchange of commentary between us was quickly reduced to what could be characterized as a conversation between a couple of neighbors over the backyard fence...As a result of this neighborly interaction with Takoma's finest, (my wife) and I have come to appreciate, with renewed admiration, the commitment to protect and serve our community, as clearly exhibited by Sergeant Williams, and her fellow law enforcement public officials. For us, we were also reminded, that under those uniforms, with all the protective gear associated with them, are human beings, who also have human needs, that also must be met.

Please extend, to Sergeant Williams in particular, our kindest regards, and heartfelt thanks: for her Service; for her being a good neighbor; and for her treating us to, and exercising the kind gesture of, picking-up the check for our Sunday breakfasts.

### ***Hiring Update***

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Human Resources Director, HR Generalist, Payroll and Accounting Specialist, Parking Enforcement Officer, Photo Enforcement Specialist, Economic Development Intern, Landlord – Tenant Mediator, Victim/Witness Coordinator, Budget Specialist, Recreation Program Leader, Sr. Accounting Assistant, and Police Officer-Lateral.

### ***My Schedule***

While the Council is on recess in August, I will be on vacation August 1 through August 12. Jason Damweber will be on vacation August 14 through August 23.