



City of Takoma Park

## **City Manager Comments**

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### **Report for City Council Meeting of February 19, 2020**

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

##### **Shop Purple This Saturday**

Help support our local businesses negatively affected by Purple Line construction! Join Councilmembers on Saturday, February 22 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm and see some of the great products for sale and taste good food at the local restaurants. Many of these businesses have been in Takoma Park for 15, 20 and 30 years and need new customers to help offset the losses they are facing due to Purple Line-related congestion. The group will start at JK Mart and visit McDoris Fashion and Fabrics, Silver Spring Jewelry, Ice Pole Jeans, and Patrick International Shoe Repair, ending at Pupuseria El Comalito at noon. I'm sure you will find some great surprises among the shops and restaurants that will bring you back despite the traffic.

**MDOT SHA Stakeholders Advisory Group meeting, February 25, 2020, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Middle School Cafeteria.**

MDOT SHA has scheduled a public meeting with the Stakeholders Advisory Group to present a summary of the Takoma Junction Vision Study recommendations and get feedback. The meeting is open to the public.

##### **New Traffic Signal on Tulip Avenue at Carroll Avenue**

State Highway will be activating the new traffic signal on Tulip Avenue at Carroll Avenue on Wednesday, February 26. Previously the signal only controlled traffic on Carroll Avenue. The new arrangement adds a signal facing Tulip Avenue traffic, so the intersection is now controlled on all three sides. This will make it safer for vehicles to emerge from Tulip onto Carroll, as well as for pedestrians to cross either street.

##### **Job Search and Career Planning Program**

The City has partnered with the Ethiopian Community Center to bring an 8 week Job Search & Career Planning program to Takoma Park. The program had a successful start on February 7th with 42 participants that were selected from two training tracks: Job Seekers & Skill Builders.

The Job Seekers track helps participants to:

- Identify skills and goals
- Develop resumes
- Identify and apply for jobs
- Practice interview skills

The Skill Builder track helps participants to:

- Identify skills and goals
- Explore high growth job sectors
- Develop a career plan
- Apply for training programs

The program will leverage the existing partnership that the City has with WorkSource Montgomery for the H.I.R.E Pop-up held at the Community Center monthly. The H.I.R.E pop-up provides one-on-one career counseling and support. The next H.I.R.E. Pop-up is from 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM on Tuesday, March 3rd. Please contact the Housing and Community Development Department to register.

### **ESRI Federal GIS Conference, February 11 - 12**

City Planner Jamee Ernst, and Planning Intern Alex Michael attended the ESRI Federal GIS Conference on February 11th and 12th. The conference featured numerous professional development workshops to improve their knowledge and skills in GIS (Geographic Information Systems). These skills will help to modernize City map making, data visualization, and database management. City staff has already utilized these skills in creating the online, interactive maps for bus stop amenities and property tax, among others. The conference also revealed tools specifically available to state and local governments which staff looks forward to utilizing in future work.

### **New Noise Brochure**

The Noise Control Board and City staff recently worked together to create an updated noise control page on the City website and a new brochure. The brochure is available as a link from the noise page. As we approach warmer weather and the time of year when windows are open and more people are outside, remember to be considerate of neighbors when doing yard work or entertaining. For noise complaints, call the Police Department non-emergency number at 301-270-1100.

### **Reception for Little Free Library Public Art Project**

On Wednesday, February 26, there will be a Little Free Library Public Art Project Reception before the City Council meeting. The five new Little Free Library boxes feature portraits of groundbreaking female authors and activists painted by local artists Samantha Contrino and Katie Macyshyn. The boxes will be installed in various areas of Takoma Park. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m.