



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Robert DiSpirito

HCD:

- On Friday, February 23rd from 7:30 – 9:30 pm, please join us in the Community Center Auditorium for Takoma Arts: Soul of Langston, One Man Play. This play reveals the wit and wisdom of Langston Hughes’ poetry and the worldwide impact of his literary career.
- Only a little more than a week left for Public Art Submissions- HCD is seeking proposals for a sculptural installation outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center. The sculpture should reflect a theme of “welcome” or “crossroads”. The Call for Artists will close on March 3, 2024. A link with more information will be posted with the City Manager’s Comments tomorrow.
 - Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/public-notices/call-for-public-art-installation/>

PW:

- The City will be planting 86 trees in public right of way over the next couple of weeks. The planting is being done by Casey Trees. Information about this and past tree planting efforts can be found on the City's website which includes an interactive map of public space tree planting locations by year – a link will be included in the posted City Manager’s Comments.
 - Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/urban-forestry/city-tree-programs/public-space-tree-managment/>
- Maryland State Highway Administration completed a project on Carroll Avenue which included resurfacing and new roadway markings, replacement of curb ramps, installation of bus stop pads and new sidewalk between Merwood Drive and University Blvd. After the completion of the work, concerns were raised about the intersection of Philadelphia Avenue and Carroll Avenue. The sidewalk and curb ramp on one side of the intersection was widened to address pedestrian ADA access regulations. This caused a narrowing of the roadway at the intersection and has caused difficulty for buses traveling west on Carroll Ave and turning right onto Philadelphia Avenue. Over the past several weeks, MDOT staff have been receiving comments from residents, businesses and Councilmembers regarding this situation.

I wanted to report that City staff is in the process of engaging SHA regarding these concerns. An update will be provided once we have definitive information.

City Manager:

- Employee Highlights:
 - I would like to give a special employee shout-out to Danielle Murphy, Administrative Assistant in the Recreation Department for successfully managing summer camp registration day. The City received over 100 sign-ups within the first couple of hours and her commitment to accessibility, flexibility, thoughtful troubleshooting, and overall ease in this process for our residents exemplifies the City’s commitment to outstanding customer and community service. We congratulate and thank Danielle.
 - I also want to thank all City employees who work in extreme cold overnight or in the early hours of the morning. This is predominately Public Works employees and Police employees, on behalf of all of us, thank you for bearing these hardships on behalf of serving our community.