



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of April 25, 2018

### *Information to Share*

#### **Temporary Closure of Main Maple Avenue Entrance to Community Center Tomorrow**

The bridge to the main entrance of the Community Center will be resurfaced tomorrow (Thursday, April 26) beginning at 7 am and continuing until Friday morning at 8 am. During this time, patrons will be directed to other entrances.

#### **Response to Recent Bullying Incidents**

In recent weeks we have been made aware of some incidents of bullying that began at school, and moved to the nearby park and the Community Center. One instance resulted in charges being pressed and two youths temporarily banned from the Community Center building. We take these issues very seriously. As the weather continues to improve, we are increasing Police patrols on Grant Ave, the Takoma Piney Branch Park and around the schools. Additionally, we are working with area principals to get messages out to parents and students about expected behaviors and the Police Chief will be sending a personal message through the Takoma Park Middle School morning TV show.

#### **TKPK5K – May 6!**

This year's TKPK5K will be held on May 6. The run will begin at 8:00 am. For more information and to sign up go to [TKPK5K.com](http://TKPK5K.com).

Road closures on race day will include Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway from 6:30am until 10:30am. Sligo Creek Parkway will close at 8:00am. There will be no parking on Maple Avenue on race day from 6:30 to 11:00 am. Participants are advised to park at either Takoma Park Elementary School or Takoma Park Middle School.

#### **Takoma Junction Signal Switchover**

At long last, traffic and pedestrian signals are being switched from Maryland State Highway Administration control to Montgomery County control. There is apparently a good amount of work and trial and error involved in the switchover process. During this time, there have been hazardous situations created with at least one pedestrian signal and the vehicular traffic signals are operating with a different timing than that to which drivers had become accustomed. Even after initial changes are made, there will be close monitoring of the signals and the flow of traffic by Montgomery County, which can change the timing remotely.

#### **Takoma Junction Pop-Up Recap**

This past Sunday, April 23, the City hosted a "pop-up" visualization of the Takoma Junction redevelopment project that is currently under review by the Council. Participants were given the opportunity to walk the site to get a sense of where the building proposed by Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) would be placed; check out the location and length of the proposed lay-by; and experience the space that would be available for public gatherings and informal interactions. City and NDC staff were on hand to answer questions and to give participants an opportunity to see the various site plans and building elevations that have been created as the project has developed and to consider what impact the project will have on the area. Roughly 100 people stopped by the site during the three hour event.

We encourage residents interested in learning more about the facts of the project to check out our website at <https://bit.ly/2mgi9Jv> and give us your comments. An online comment form, which is shared with the City Council, can be found at <https://bit.ly/2lzvAQ3>

### **Bike to Work Day is May 18**

Join thousands of regional bike commuters on Friday, May 18, with two “pit stops” in Takoma Park, one in Old Town and one on Sligo Creek at New Hampshire. Preregister for free by May 11. Visit <http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/>

### ***Kudos***

Kudos to **Sara Daines, Roz Grigsby, Jamee Ernst, Bryan Yamasaki, and Patti Mallon** of HCD; Media Specialist **Jeremy Dickey**; and **Daryl Braithwaite, Troy Fingal, William Laster, Marcini McWatt** and **Noah Watson** of Public Works, who contributed to the Takoma Junction Pop-Up, held last Sunday. The event was well-organized, and staff did a great job setting up, engaging residents and providing information about the project.

Kudos to **D/Pfc. Michal Godlewski and Ron Hardy**, Emergency Preparedness Manager, for being named the 2017 Takoma Park Police Officer and Civilian of the Year!

### ***Hiring Update***

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Police Dispatcher, Police Officer, Sanitation Driver, Recreation Program Leader, and Contract CDL Driver.