



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of July 11, 2018

Information to Share

Outreach to Apartment Buildings regarding Emergency Preparedness

As part of our ongoing outreach and education efforts related to emergency preparedness, staff is in the process of visiting many of the area apartment buildings to provide in-person information on home safety, preparedness planning, what to do with unused/expired medications, etc. Below is the current schedule for the visits:

- Franklin Apartments, July 9, Community Room, Noon – 2:00pm
- Deauville Apartments, July 19, Lobby 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- Essex Apartments, July 28, Parking Lot, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Parkview Apartments, August 16, Lobby, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Park Ritchie Apartments, Lobby, 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
- Maple View Apartments, TBD
- Victory Towers, TBD

At the first meeting, held at Franklin Apartments as part of a MANNA food distribution event, staff talked with over 50 people, distributed emergency preparedness books in four languages, and took in approximately 5 pounds of expired/unused prescription drugs.

Maryland Community Legacy Grant

City staff met with representatives from the Maryland Community Legacy grant committee to discuss recent application submissions. Committee members noted the upcoming FY19 Operating Assistance Grants and encouraged applications, particularly from the TPSS Co-op, whose Community Legacy grant application would be well suited to a Technical Assistance project. City staff informed the Co-op about the grant opportunity, as well as other local groups that might benefit from the grant. The application deadline is July 12. To date, the Co-op has not submitted an application.

From the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development: *The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is committed to assisting Maryland's local governments and nonprofit organizations build capacity to achieve their community revitalization and economic development goals. The Department has consolidated three operating assistance programs into one Operating Assistance Grant application for funding: the Main Street Improvement Program, the Nonprofit Assistance Fund and the Technical Assistance Grant. These programs offer funding to support operating and technical assistance costs associated with local housing and community and economic revitalization projects and/or initiatives.*

<http://projectportal.dhcd.state.md.us/Documentation/MDDHCD/FY19OAGGuides.pdf>

Kudos

Kudos to all the staff who helped make the annual July 4th parade another great success. We received lots of kind words of appreciation from residents. And the participation of Public Works staff in the parade was also well received by many. Here's what a resident who lives on Sycamore sent to the Public Works Director:

I thought the public works entries in the Fourth of July Parade were fabulous--and a great reminder of all the good work you all do throughout the year! While I know there's a lot that goes

on that I don't see, most of what I observe is the guys doing trash/recycling pick-up, and they always look as if they're working hard even in bad weather, and they're so ready with a smile or to try to accommodate someone trying to get around them. Thank you for taking such good care of all of us in Takoma Park!



Kudos to **Karen MacPherson**, Library Children and Young Adult Manager, and other Library staff for the great job they do ensuring that the Library is a welcoming and exciting place for the youth in our community. The following is excerpted from a message received recently by a resident, directed to Karen:

My kids (one soon to be in 7th grade at TPMS, and a 5th and 3rd grader at PBES) continue to enjoy seeing you at the Library and around the community. While I've always appreciated all of your heart-felt efforts with children's programming at the Library, since I started volunteering with the Friends of the Library I've become even more amazed at the vast array, frequency, and depth of programming designed to benefit our community's children. You, Ellen, Dave, and the rest of Library team have helped make the Library feel like a multi-purpose haven for our kids and a wonderful focal point our community. Many thanks.



Photo Credits: Maurice Belanger

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Contract CDL Driver (a great opportunity for someone in the community who has a CDL and is looking to make some extra money on an as-needed basis!), Police Officer, Recreation Program Assistant, Recreation Program Leader, Senior Accounting Assistant, HR Intern, HR Coordinator, and Planning Intern.

Suzanne R. Ludlow, AICP CPM
City Manager, City of Takoma Park
SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov
301-891-7229

Information from the City Manager regarding the Takoma Junction project

July 11, 2018

Mediation Process

The mediation process between the Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) and the Takoma Park Co-op has begun. City representatives met with the mediator, Dan Dozier on Wednesday, June 27 and the mediator has also met with representatives of NDC and the Co-op separately. A combined mediation session including City observers is being scheduled for the end of next week and is likely to occur on Friday, July 20.

Legal Opinions

Legal opinions have been provided to Councilmembers regarding a number of termination and anchor tenant questions related to the Development Agreement and the question about building across lot lines. As confidential information, the opinions cannot be shared with the public. As has been stated repeatedly, the City had negotiated the Development Agreement to allow for withdrawal from the Agreement when continuing with the development is not in the best interests of the City. The deadline for identifying an anchor tenant would be today, July 11, 2018 per terms of the Development Agreement. There is, however, no need for the City Council to act on NDC's request to change the date to July 11, 2019 (after greater certainty about the site plan is obtained) nor is there a need to act on not having an anchor tenant named by today. The text of the Development Agreement is on the City's Takoma Junction project page. Regarding building across lot lines, as has previously been stated, there are mechanisms to handle the issue, including combination of the lots with legal protections for the City.

Role of Tree Commission

A previous communication about the role of the Takoma Park Tree Commission was in error. Because the only development site property that has trees on it is City-owned land, final determination on tree protection plans and tree removals

rests with the City Manager; any appeals on these would not go to the Tree Commission. (The City Code does not anticipate Ground Lease arrangements, unlike other development review processes.) The Tree Commission provides valuable insight as to tree protection and policy for the City. The Council and the City Manager want to provide a process that allows for the Tree Commission's recommendations to be made and considered. Discussions with the Tree Commission have begun to define that process. In any event, City action regarding trees does not take place until well into the County development review process, when the building footprint and utility line location options are narrowed.