



City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

To: City of College Park Council Members

From: Scott Somers, City Manager

Date: December 22, 2015

Subject: CITY OF COLLEGE PARK WEEKLY BULLETIN

Attachments: PGPD and UMPD Police Security Alert; and Christmas Tree Safety.



Holiday Hours:

City offices will be closed Friday, December 25 and Saturday, December 26, 2015, in observance of Christmas, and on Friday, January 1 and Saturday, January 2, 2016, in observance of the New Year.

Administration

- City and University staff met to continue discussions on a possible partnership to repurpose the Calvert Road school to a child care or pre-K facility from its current use as the offices for the City's Public Services Department. Considerations include equal participation in any necessary capital improvement costs, to leasing the facility outright to the University, where the lessee would potentially be responsible for any and all leasehold improvements. All options will be

explored and presented to the Council for consideration once and if the University provides a proposal to the City.

- City and University staff continue discussions on partnering to redevelop the current City Hall block to house a new City Hall and university office space. Discussions include either utilizing a fee-for-service project manager to oversee the project, which would require separate project funding, or utilization of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) to function as the project manager and funding agency. All options will be explored and presented to the Council for consideration. The privately held properties along Baltimore Ave. may need to be purchased prior to construction.
- City staff continue to explore how to best move forward with creating a communications coordinator position. Options under consideration include utilization of a graduate intern or a seasoned professional. The new position will be cost neutral since it is proposed that required funds will be reallocated from a different unfilled, but budgeted position. It's anticipated the position will oversee broad communication improvements, both internally and externally, and will be charged with media relations, branding, and marketing.
- Staff attended the College Park City-University Partnership (CPCUP) meeting. Agenda items included review of the FY 15 audit and FY 16 budget report, updates on the University District Vision initiative, a discussion and decision to post CPCUP Minutes on the CPCUP website, an update on the RISE Zone application (City staff is now reviewing and editing), and updates on the Calvert Road school and City Hall projects.
- Scott Somers, City Manager, presented at the College Park Live Smart Eat Local Tour, which occurred at Mamma Lucia's. Scott spoke about his background, his interest in College Park, and on the recently adopted 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.
- Delay in the Berwyn Pedestrian Bridge Repair. WMATA notified College Park and Berwyn on December 22nd that Skanska (the contractor repairing the bridge) has informed WMATA of a delay in the fabrication of the bridge span. The fabrication has been shifted from a facility in Roanoke, VA to a facility in Alabama, and the schedule now calls for delivery of the new span in March.

The installation of the new span will require a Green Line shutdown, and WMATA's current projection is that the span will be installed during the latter part of April. WMATA does not perform weekend rail shutdowns from late March to mid-April because of the Cherry Blossom festival and increased demand for weekend travel on the system.

Planning

- Planning and Engineering staff met with the Low Impact Development Center to discuss strategies for moving forward with planned storm water management quality improvements at Rhode Island Avenue south of Greenbelt Road and Narragansett Parkway.
- The Community Development Coordinator attended a Bicycle Infrastructure Implementation Committee (BIIC) meeting where campus pedestrian priority zones were discussed as a way to

minimize conflicts between walkers and bikers. A pilot pedestrian zone was proposed in front of Regents Drive Garage for fall 2016. As the bikeshare contract with Zagster will be signed this month, the committee discussed issues relating to pricing, marketing, launch, education and outreach.

- The Planning Director met with a development team interested in responding to a Request for Proposals issued by the University of Maryland Foundation for the Quality Inn/Plato's site at the southern gateway to Downtown College Park. This property is under contract by the Foundation who is seeking a developer to build a mixed-use project on the site. Responses are due January 22, 2016.
 - The Economic Development Coordinator has created a new "Facts & Figures" page on the city's website. It provides information about College Park demographics, employers, labor market and commercial real estate and can be accessed by clicking on this link: http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/programs_and_initiatives/economic_development/facts_and_data.php.
 - An updated inventory of vacant retail, office and industrial properties has also been added to the Real Estate Opportunities page of the website.
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Public Services

- CODE ENFORCEMENT
 - Code staff opened 18 cases for various code violations.
 - Clerical staff opened 20 cases relating to residential Occupancy Permit billing, and property updates. One municipal infraction was issued for failure to secure a Non-Residential Occupancy Permit.
 - One call was received on the hotline during the week; Two calls were received over the weekend for noise. One municipal infraction was issued.
 - 17 single family inspections and 4 re-inspections were conducted.
 - 20 condo units were inspected, 4 condo units were re-inspected.
 - 4 fraternity and/or sororities were re-inspected.
 - 146 apartment units were inspected; 10 were re-inspected.
 - 8 commercial establishments were inspected.
 - Code staff was in court on Wednesday, December 16th with 2 cases.
- POLICE
 - PGPD and UMPD have provided security and public safety tips for the holiday season. A flyer follows departmental news. Please share and distribute these tips.
- ANIMAL CONTROL
 - Requested the State Highway Administration for a deer carcass removal from State property.
 - Represented the City at a North County Animal Shelter Feasibility Study Stakeholder meeting.

- Represented the City at a North County Animal Shelter Feasibility Study municipal Animal Control staff stakeholders meeting.
- Removed 1 opossum carcass from private property.
- Removed 1 adult raccoon from an unfinished interior apartment in a newly constructed building.
- Represented the Animal Control program at the “3rd Thirsty Thursday” event at Ledo Pizza to assist with a shelter donation drive.
- Investigated a complaint of an injured cat on private property.
- Removed 1 squirrel carcass from public property.

Public Works

The curbside leaf collection calendar has been adjusted again for the week of December 21–24, because we are one day behind the previously projected schedule.

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE:**Friday, December 25, 2015**

All day City Holiday, all City Facilities closed

Saturday, December 26, 2015

All day City Hall Lobby closed

Friday, January 1, 2016

All day New Year’s Day, all City Facilities closed

Saturday, January 2, 2016

All day City Hall Lobby closed



Prince George's County Police Department University of Maryland Police Department



As the upcoming school breaks approach, the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) and the University of Maryland Police Department (UMPD) are reminding residents of ways to safeguard their home. We hope this information serves as a reminder of what you can do to reduce your chance of becoming a victim of a crime and to help you remain safe .

Protecting your residence while you are home or away:

- Keep windows locked, regardless if they are upper or lower level windows.
- Remember to lock your doors, even when you are home.
- If you have a home security system, engage your alarm when you are away and when you are in for the night.
- Use blinds and drapes for privacy.
- Place lights on a timer to give the appearance of someone being home.
- Ensure bushes are trimmed back to remove hiding places for potential criminals.
- Store away and secure any loose items that might be in the yard, for example, a ladder, tools, etc.
- Ensure your home has good interior & exterior lighting for safety & protection.
- Never place a key over your doorway or outside the house. Consider leaving a key with a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Ask a friend or a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your residence while you are away.
- Take valuable items such as jewelry, money, portable electronic devices, etc., with you to avoid potential theft.
- If you are leaving your vehicle for a long period of time, remove items of value, secure windows and doors, and if you have a security feature, engage it.
- Never enter your home if you see that a door or window has been forced. Go to the nearest safe place and contact police immediately.

Report any off-campus unusual or suspicious activity immediately to PGPD:

Prince George's County Police Department – Emergency Line: 911;
Non-Emergency Line: (301) 352-1200

University of Maryland Police Department – Emergency Line: (301) 405-3333 or #3333 from a cell phone; Non-Emergency Line: (301) 405-3555

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



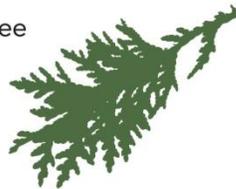
PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

City of College Park

Public Services 240-487-3570