



City of Takoma Park

## City Manager Robert DiSpirito

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### Housing and Community Development:

- The City's new Façade Improvement Grant is now accepting applications! Grants reimbursable up to \$10,000 are available to assist local businesses in repairing or improving their storefronts to encourage vibrant, welcoming, commercial districts. Grant funds may be used for façade improvements such as:
  - new signage,
  - awnings,
  - windows,
  - doors,
  - or repair of the street-facing portion(s) of the structure.

Awards will be approved on a rolling basis until funds are depleted. Grant agreements must be signed by Friday, December 13, 2024, and funds must be spent and submitted for reimbursement by November 1, 2026.

For full details including eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit the Façade Improvement Grant webpage.

### Police:

- Join us in making a difference! We're collecting essential items for domestic violence shelters to support survivors on their journey to safety and healing. Your contribution can change lives. Let's stand together against domestic violence! We are now collecting through Friday, November 1st.

In partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Takoma Park Police are collecting care packages and/or items to be donated to meet the immediate, critical needs that directly impact the safety, wellness, and/or healing of a victim of domestic violence and/or their children. Emergency care packages provide brand new toiletries and personal care items for each survivor of domestic violence and their children who walk through the doors of the Family Justice Center to receive services. Brand new stuffed animals, games, toys and books are also provided to every child who goes to the Family Justice Center.

A complete list of items can be found on the City website.

Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs/emergency-care-packages-for-victims-families-of-domestic-violence/>

Drop off: Until Friday November 1, at the Takoma Park City Building, 1st Floor Lobby, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

### Public Works:

- The City plans to make repairs to the concrete patio area at BY Morrison park, located at Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenue. The work is expected to begin tomorrow, October 17<sup>th</sup>, and will take about a week. The parking area, EV chargers and pavilion area will be closed to the public during the work. Signs have been posted around the area noting the planned work.



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### Recreation:

- Monster Bash is Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Our events will commence with a Bash Kick-off at 1:00 pm at the Takoma Park Middle School parking lot. The event is a great opportunity to visit with neighbors, family, and friends while having fun. Participate in our Trunk or Treat area and go table to table collecting goodies!

This will be followed by the Costume Contest and Parade, and we will end our program with an Award Ceremony and Celebration along Maple Avenue. The parade will begin at approximately 2:00 pm on Piney Branch Road, and *judging will occur during the parade itself*. We will then walk down Piney Branch Road to Philadelphia Avenue (left turn), then to Maple Avenue for the Awards Ceremony and a fabulous concert.

**Prizes awarded** for Most Original, Cutest, and Scariest costumes in the following age groups:

- 4 & Under;
- 5-8;
- 9-12;
- Teens and Adults;
- Overall Group Award

### City Manager's Office:

- This week's staff shout-out is for Donna Wright- In order to spend more time with friends and family and pursue the next chapter in her career, our Communications Director, Donna Wright, is retiring from her position with Takoma Park.

With her hallmark humility, in her notification letter to me, Donna wrote of her heartfelt gratitude to her entire team and City staff, “[t]heir support, dedication, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental to my collective success, and I deeply appreciate the opportunity to work alongside such remarkable individuals. Your collaboration and tireless effort have helped make a meaningful impact on our community, ensuring that we consistently provide trusted, high-quality information about City projects and programs. Being part of a team that exemplifies hard work and dedication has been a true honor.”

As to her next chapter, Donna wrote, “I will carry forward the invaluable lessons and experiences gained here. I wish the organization and the community all the very best.”

Pushing through her humility for a moment, I simply cannot overstate her many accomplishments during her tenure and the value she has provided to all of us personally and professionally. She is among the very best Communications professionals with whom I have had the pleasure of working during my entire city management career.

Donna's final day will be this Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Donna, Deputy City Manager Andrew Bolduc, and her team have devised a transition plan to ensure limited interruptions to the City's communications touchpoints and programs. Again, on behalf of all of us, thank you, Donna, and heartfelt best wishes for the future.

This concludes the City Manager's Report. Thank you.