



City of Takoma Park

## City Manager Robert DiSpirito

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### City Clerk's Office:

- As mentioned at the last City Council meeting, we are recruiting for the Fiscal Year 24-25 Youth Council. The Youth Council was formed by the City Council to encourage youth participation in local government. Nine members are appointed annually.

Youth Council members must be Takoma Park residents in grades 7-12. They serve for one year but are eligible to apply for reappointment. Members must attend meetings regularly, maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average, and set a positive example for youth in the community. Youth Council members are eligible for SSL hours OR stipends. The City Council will make appointments to the Youth Council in September. If interested, apply by Friday, August 16. More information can be found on the City website.

Link to application: [https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/24\\_25\\_YC\\_Application](https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/24_25_YC_Application)

### Finance:

- The Finance Department is pleased to announce that the City's annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 has met the requirements to be awarded GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (Certificate Program) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare annual comprehensive financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations, again, for having satisfied the high standards of the program.

### Housing & Community Development:

- The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded the City a Community Health and Safety Works Grant in the amount of \$92,250 under the Environmental Health and Justice Category. The funds will be used to discourage illegal dumping, activate public green space, and improve treatment of stormwater runoff in the 6500 block of Sligo Mill Road. Neighbors in the Sligo Mill area have shown their investment in the success of this project from the beginning stages. In his letter of support for the application, neighborhood resident Jeremy Schwartz said the following: This is a fixable problem, and the City of Takoma Park has developed a thoughtful and comprehensive proposal that is clearly based on community input. The proposed structural changes will significantly reduce illegal dumping and improve community health and safety. The project will improve the health of our urban forest while improving community pride and our sense of ownership of public space. Personally, this application makes me feel seen and heard, as City staff are showing that they have been listening to community input and have taken our expressed concerns about the Sligo Mill area seriously.



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### Police:

- The Back to School Backpack Donation Drive has begun! From July 15<sup>th</sup> through August 16<sup>th</sup> bring your donation of new school supplies to the donation box in the Police Department lobby at 7500 Maple Avenue. Items needed include: binders, loose-leaf paper, scissors, pencils, pens, tissues, glue sticks, and much more! Help us make the first day of school exciting for all of our students. Don't forget that Montgomery County Tax-Free week is August 11<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. A link will be available in tomorrow's posted City Manager Comments.  
Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs/back-to-school-backpack-donation-drive/>
- Only one week left to wait for National Night Out! Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm- 9:00 pm at the Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave. There will be food, games, bounce houses, a dunk tank, music, Maryland National Park Police horses, and Police vehicles on display. Be sure to stop by and get to know your local Police Department!

### Public Works:

- The City Manager has authorized the installation of stops signs at the Maple Avenue and Grant Avenue intersection. Installation is expected to be done within the next week. Stop signs were also approved for the Garland Avenue and Davis Avenue intersection and are expected to be installed in the same time frame.

### Recreation:

- Register for our traditional before care and after care for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. We have been working behind the scenes continuing to ensure the building, participants and staff are safe, while following the latest in state and local COVID guidelines (as applicable). Program emphasis is on providing leisure and recreation programs utilizing our facilities while having lots of fun! There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning October 1st. More information can be found on the City Website.

### City Manager's Office:

Staff Shout-Out from the Finance Department:

We would like to bring our Accounting Assistant, Tyler Brown, to your attention due to his exceptional performance and dedication to our city since 2021. During this time, Tyler has consistently demonstrated outstanding commitment to his work and has provided exemplary customer service to both internal and external stakeholders. His dedication to his role is evident in his willingness to always go above and beyond to assist others.

Tyler's primary responsibilities include managing accounts receivable, annual stormwater management, rental license, and refuse billing processes with meticulous attention to detail. He also proactively assists with accounts payable functions, resolving issues promptly and preventing future discrepancies. Tyler



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played a key role in transitioning to digital document filing, significantly improving departmental efficiency and accuracy.

Tyler also assists with year-end book closing and supports budget management by collecting crucial data for financial reports. In terms of educational and professional development, Tyler recently graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and attended the Finance software 2024 conference, gaining valuable insights.

In recognition of his exceptional performance, dedication, and unwavering commitment to serving the city and its residents, we commend Tyler Brown for his outstanding contributions.

That concludes my report this evening, I am happy to answer any questions. Thank You.