



Mayoral Proclamation

Celebrating 125 Years of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department

- WHEREAS,** the Takoma Park Fire Company was established in 1894 after a devastating December 29, 1893 fire that burned the three small businesses that comprised the Town's business district; and
- WHEREAS,** the Company was the first fire service on record in Montgomery County and is the County's oldest continuously operating fire service; and
- WHEREAS,** the first hose reel, fire hose, and a hand drawn, hand operated pumping unit were purchased and housed in a log cabin behind Laurel Avenue until 1909; and
- WHEREAS,** the volunteers incorporated in 1922 as the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department; and
- WHEREAS,** the volunteers housed fire equipment in a metal clad building known as the "tin shed" until they obtained property and built the first fire station on Carroll Avenue at Philadelphia Avenue in 1931; and
- WHEREAS,** the building has changed over the years, but the Department has been housed there ever since; and
- WHEREAS,** the Fire Department is part of the identity of Takoma Park, its original building on Carroll Avenue housed a community gym and was an important gathering place for residents, and the current building houses a large community room for meetings, babysitting classes, birthday parties, and other uses; and
- WHEREAS,** today, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department has 134 members, 40 of these are actively serving alongside career fire and rescue personnel at the Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, do hereby proclaim and celebrate the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department for providing fire and rescue services to Takoma Park and surrounding areas, without interruption, for 125 years.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2019.

Kate Stewart
Mayor