



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Comments

Report of April 15, 2020

Information to Share

Grant Funds Awarded

We were happy to learn that today the MWCOG Transportation Planning Board approved a grant of \$60,000 for a complete streets design of Maple Avenue, prioritizing pedestrians, cyclists and transit users in order to provide safer, more convenient, and more comfortable travel for all roadway users. There will be a public process as a part of the design work.

Kudos and thank you to Planner Jamee Ernst for preparing this successful grant application! Jamee and the Planning and Public Works staff have helped the City receive millions of dollars in grant funds for a number of infrastructure improvement projects. While working remotely, staff is continuing to prepare the grant applications that help improve our City while minimizing impacts on taxpayers.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

#Together TKPK

Thank you to all Takoma Park residents and employees for making a difference by wearing masks, staying home while ill, and keeping at a distance while shopping, working and caring for others. It is making a real difference!

Speaking of masks, a number of residents, particularly seniors, need masks. If you have masks or are making masks, please consider donating some directly to Victory Tower at 7051 Carroll Avenue, or in the box in the Police lobby of the Community Center and we'll distribute them to residents in need.

Information and resources are changing daily. Please make sure to check the City's COVID-19 [Resources](#) page every few days to see the new information. If you can, please help donate to some of the efforts to help those residents and businesses having a particularly challenging time. We have been getting great media coverage focusing on our interesting small businesses and our efforts to help them.

Because of the difficult situations that we have been facing and the constraints we have on meeting in person, there have been a number of emergency actions that I have needed to take, pursuant to Ordinance #2020-4. The actions that I have taken are listed on the [City Manager](#) page on the City's website. The most recent action I am taking is the approval of planting of trees in Takoma Park in the coming weeks. Most of the trees are to be planted in Ward 6 and are street trees that are part of the sidewalk and stormwater improvements that have been otherwise completed on Glenside Drive and Erskine Street. Many trees had to be removed to do the work and tree plantings are part of the projects. There are also some plantings elsewhere in the City. Tree planting is seasonal and we were fortunate to get a very good price for the work. I have been very careful to consult with Councilmembers on the few actions I have taken and to explain the reasoning behind the actions. I very much look forward to returning to normal operations of the City when it is safe to do so.

Waiver of Option to Purchase

A waiver of the City's opportunity to purchase has been approved regarding Unit 1100N, 7333 New Hampshire Avenue. The City is declining to purchase this condominium unit under City Code Chapter 6.32 *Tenant Opportunity to Purchase*.

National Telecommunicators Week

This is the week to honor our Dispatchers! We have a total of eight Dispatch staff, working in 12-hour shifts of either one or two people in a small space. They are an integral part of our Police Department. They gather key information up front, before our officers respond to a call. This work allows our officers to be prepared in advance and is particularly important during a health emergency. Thank you for your service!