



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Comments

Report of September 23, 2020

COVID-19 Related Information

Halloween – Planning to Have Safe Fun!

Thanks to our wonderful Recreation staff and great collaboration with other City departments and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the City of Takoma Park is looking to have a fun time this Halloween, despite the pandemic! First, this will be a “No-Knock” Halloween. Residents are strongly discouraged from going door to door trick-or-treating. Plans are still being refined, but we are looking at having great fun!

- Throughout the community, homes and apartments can be decorated up for Halloween, and we will hold a decoration contest.
- On, Friday night, October 30, our Rec Department will have an online party for families.
- During the day on Saturday, October 31, Park and Planning will likely have all of Sligo Creek Parkway closed from New Hampshire Avenue to Wayne Avenue, with lots of space for walking in costumes and maybe some fun chalk drawings.
- Mid to late afternoon, the Recreation Department will have tables set up in locations in each ward with treats set out.
- Residents and businesses that wish to distribute treats may set them out on tables in yards or other locations along sidewalks.
- Then, in the evening, the Recreation Department will have another online Halloween party.

All in all, a treat of a Halloween!

Leaf Collection a Little Different This Year

As residents will read in the next *Takoma Park Newsletter*, we will be strongly encouraging residents to mulch and compost leaves this year, rather than raking them to the curb, if possible. We will collect bagged leaves in the Monday yard waste collection if you choose to bag them. We will do vacuum leaf collection but we will have only three vacuum leaf crews this year, compared to the normal six. This is because we are limiting additional staff interactions due to our pandemic protocols. We will extend the vacuum leaf collection period, but we will not be coming by people’s properties as frequently as we normally do. Leaf collection will run from mid-November through the end of December.

Shared City Streets Program

We have revised our [street closure permit](#) process to make it easier for residents to apply. We now have an online application form and our guidelines have been updated with County COVID-19 restrictions. We no longer require an online petition. In contrast to the County Shared

Streets program, we do not allow partial street closures. Our focus is on daytime events ending before nightfall. With remote work and virtual schooling, we hope this program will provide residents with more neighborhood space for socially distanced outdoor activities.

Residents can apply to close their street here:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/permits/street-closure-permit/>

Parking Permit Extension Period Has Ended

Persons who have not yet obtained parking permits for their residence or business located in a section of the City with designated permit parking should do so promptly, as the COVID-19 related extension has ended. Although a message was sent out that residents may apply online, that is not the case at this time. Residents and businesses may print out a form that is available online and submit it by mail. We are updating our information on the website to be clear about options. If you have any questions or want to arrange to come into the office in person, please call 301-891-7112.

Other Information

Montessori School Local Map Amendment Being Considered

The Takoma Park Montessori School at 7212 Carroll Avenue is applying for a Montgomery County Local Map Amendment (LMA) for a floating zone on the rear parcel of their property, which is currently zoned residential. The section in question is the green rectangle circled in the image below. The Takoma Park Montessori School proposes a modest addition.

The addition went through the Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board and the County's Historic Preservation Commission in 2018. Information on those reviews are here:

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission approval:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-05-09MIN-Draft.pdf>

Staff report:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/I.A-7212-Carroll-Avenue-Takoma-Park.pdf>

Facade Board Review in March 2018 (FAB review is a required element of the HPC submission):

https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/facade-advisory-board/FAB20180314-7212_Carroll-HPCLtr.pdf

The LMA is scheduled for a Planning Board hearing on October 15th, with public comment. (Information on how to comment is here: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/development/get-involved/>.) The Planning Board's recommendation for a Local Map Amendment would then be forwarded to the Hearing Examiner's office, which would schedule another hearing toward the end of the year. The Hearing Examiner's office would forward their report and recommendation to the County Council. The County Council would then hold a public hearing and vote to approve or deny the LMA request. If the LMA is approved by the Council, Chapter 59 requires Site Plan approval for all LMAs, so the project would then go through the Planning Board for

Site Plan approval, with a public hearing. If the Site Plan is approved and certified, they would apply for their Historic Area Work Permit (if needed due to a revision) and building permit.

