



City of Takoma Park **City Manager Comments**

Report of October 14, 2020

COVID-19 Related Information

COVID-19 Testing to be Done Every Wednesday

Montgomery County has agreed to set up a site at the Greenwood Avenue parking lot behind Sligo Adventist Church (7700 Flower Avenue, at Carroll Avenue). Washington Adventist University and Sligo Adventist Church are partnering with the County and us. This will be a weekly site, every Wednesday from 11AM to 6PM, and is expected to continue through the end of December. The site is drive up or walk up, with no appointments required. Testing is free of charge, no government ID or insurance required. The first day of testing was today!

Other Information

Census Reporting Ends Tomorrow, Thursday, October 15

If you have not yet completed your Census form, you only have one more day to do so! A decision by the U.S. Supreme Court means that the extension to October 31 has been shortened. It is easy and quick to be counted! Go to my2020Census.gov or call 844-330-2020. Remember, it's not a photograph of the community if some members aren't in the picture!

Ballot Drop Boxes

The City of Takoma Park ballots will be arriving in Takoma Park voters' mailboxes this week! Once a voter has completed their ballot, they may drop it off at one of the two orange Takoma Park Drop Boxes (at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, in the lower level parking lot; and at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue). The completed ballots may also be returned via the U.S. Postal Service (no postage needed). In-person voting will be available for those who need it - see the City's election [webpage](#) for detailed information.

If you have requested and received a Montgomery County (Presidential) ballot through the mail, please don't drop it in one of the Takoma Park orange drop boxes – use the official County drop box at the Community Center lower level parking lot or at another [County drop box location](#) or you may send via the U.S. Postal Service. For information regarding the County/Presidential election process, go to the Montgomery County Board of Elections website: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/index2.html>. If you have requested a mail-in ballot, mailed in a ballot, or dropped a ballot into a County drop box, you can check to see the status of your ballot. Go to [Check Ballot Status](#) to see if a ballot has been sent to you or to see if the Board of Elections has received your completed ballot. It is only shown as received after the elections staff run the ballot through the bar code reader in their secure location, so it may be a few days after you've submitted your ballot.

Excellence in Financial Reporting

Congratulations to Finance Director Susan Cheung for again being awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's Award of Financial Reporting Achievement for her work on the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. The City's CAFR was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and GFOA notes that its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the 14th year in a row that the City has received this award for the CAFR. We are preparing the CAFR for FY20 now and are happy to have Ms. Cheung's careful oversight to continue this legacy of excellence.

Window Safety

We are all saddened by the death of a two-year-old child in Takoma Park last weekend. He fell from a window of a third-story apartment. This is the second fall from a window that we have had in Takoma Park. While the situation regarding the fall last weekend is still being investigated, please take a few minutes to review safety issues around your own home, particularly if you live with children or other vulnerable family members. Please be aware - screens do not protect people from falling out of windows. Here is advice from the National Safety Council regarding [window safety](#). Their website also provides advice on many other household safety matters.

Thank you to all of the City staff who have been working with the family and the apartment building residents and owner. This death is very hard on our Police and Housing staff and I commend them for their professionalism and caring at this time.

Public Information Act Requests

The City receives Public Information Act requests on a regular basis. We are to respond to them within 30 days when possible. Currently we have the following open requests:

Request from The Marshall Project regarding the Police K-9 Program (Received 9/14/2020)

Request from Erika Meyer regarding Takoma Overlook Suicide (Received 8/28/2020)

Request from Jay Driskell regarding certain parking restrictions in Ward 5 (Received 2/5/2020)



New Urban Forest Manager!

We are delighted to announce that Marty Frye is the City's new Urban Forest Manager! Marty grew up in Takoma DC so is very familiar with our community. He most recently was employed by Pitchford Associates, which provides contracted tree work to the City of Takoma Park when needed. Before that, Marty was with Casey Trees in Washington, D.C. Marty has a BA in Environmental Science from the University of Vermont. Welcome, Marty!