



City of Takoma Park **City Manager Comments**

Report of January 21, 2021

A Sigh of Relief

For the last couple of weeks, we have been in a particularly stressful time. The peaceful transfer of power yesterday – usually an expectation – was, this time, such a relief.

Thanks to all for staying safe at home while multiple security forces in Washington, D.C. were protecting our Capitol, national representatives and institutions. **I want to give a particularly strong THANK YOU to our Takoma Park Police Department staff.** The amount of planning, preparation and communication that went into the Police Department's work since the January 6 insurrection was extensive and comprehensive. A remarkable amount of coordination was required to protect people and locations in Takoma Park. Our officers and leadership staff put in long hours to ensure that Takoma Park remained safe. Thank you!

Thank You, Officer Christopher Woody!

A special thanks goes to one of our Takoma Park Police officers who had been called up for National Guard service this past year. In March of 2020, he was deployed as a Military Police Officer in the Army National Guard. He was activated to assist with COVID-19 pandemic response in Maryland, including assisting with testing sites and food drives. He was later placed on orders for a mission in Kosovo. He returned to Maryland at the beginning of January, only to be redeployed to the U.S. Capitol after the January 6 insurrection. He will continue to serve at the U.S. Capitol until released, hopefully very soon. We are very much looking forward to having him back to work in Takoma Park. Thank you for your service to our country, Officer Woody!



COVID-19 Related Information

With the new Administration, we hope to see movement on increased provision of and access to vaccines. Please go to [Montgomery County Vaccine Information](#) page to learn about when and how vaccines will be provided and to sign up for email or text alerts regarding vaccine

availability. Residents 75 years of age and older can pre-register for vaccines for when they are available.

COVID-19 testing in Takoma Park

Free, no appointment COVID-19 testing is being held most Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue from 10 am to 5 pm. For this and other testing options, please see the information here: [Montgomery County Testing Sites](#)

Free Flu Clinic – January 22!

The City has coordinated with CCI Health and Wellness Services to sponsor a free flu clinic on Friday, January 22 from 3 to 6 pm at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue in Takoma Park. This is a first come, first serve opportunity.

Sad News

We are sad to announce the passing of Martin Gottschalk, a long-term resident and tenant leader in the City of Takoma Park. Martin lost his battle to COVID-19 on January 11, 2021.

Martin was a fighter. His zealous advocacy as the tenant president at Mapleview Apartments resulted in improved conditions in that building. There was no housing issue that Martin shied away from. Most recently, he fought for the replacement of both elevators at Mapleview Apartments. That will be his legacy.

Outside of tenant organizing, Martin worked as a Patent Examiner with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, focusing on mechanical engineering related submissions.

He will be missed by our community. We are working with his family as they make arrangements.