



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Comments

Report of June 10, 2020

Information to Share

Montgomery County May Move to Phase 2 Reopening Next Week

County Executive Marc Elrich announced that Montgomery County is likely to allow some additional reopening activities to occur in Montgomery County some time next week. Check the Montgomery County web page for more information as the situation remains fluid. Please note that City of Takoma Park governmental facilities remain closed to the public and most work will continue to be done remotely except for Public Works and Police services. The Police Department is open for emergency services and can be accessed through the Police Lobby on the lower level of Maple Avenue. Please wear a mask when entering the building.

Laurel Avenue Road Closure

Consistent with City Council Resolution 2020-13, staff is working with businesses and reviewing public and private spaces across Takoma Park to support small businesses and advance public health by allowing the use of those spaces for outdoor seating, sales and customer pickup. Tomorrow, June 11, the business side travel lane of Laurel Avenue will close to allow for foot traffic and outdoor seating at and near businesses in the area. The layout of the space here and elsewhere around the City is to be done to reinforce social distancing protocols and handicapped accessibility. I have temporarily waived all fees for outdoor seating permits during the COVID-19 restrictions. Staff will be monitoring the operations of the spaces and will make adjustments as needed to meet the safety and other goals of the Council Resolution. A link for community feedback will be in place on Friday. More information can be found here: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/outdoor-cafe-permit/>

June 11 Town Hall on Law Enforcement and Policing

There will be a virtual town hall meeting with law enforcement officials from Montgomery County on Thursday, June 11 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Chief Tony DeVaul will be one of the panelists. It will be broadcast on the Montgomery County Facebook page and on cable television. More information is here: [Virtual Town Hall with County Police Chiefs](#).

June 16 Virtual Town Hall Discussion on Policing with State District 20 Delegation

The Mayor and City Council will host State Senator Will Smith, Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Delegate David Moon, and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins for a Zoom discussion on policing reforms in Maryland. It will be held on Tuesday, June 16 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Topics covered will include the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights, officer training, use of force, and de-militarization. Information and the link to register is on the City's website: [D20 Town Hall on Policing in Maryland](#)

June 13 Hazardous Waste Pickup

The Public Works Department will hold the annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off this Saturday, June 13 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Public Works Yard at 31 Oswego Avenue. (Enter from Oswego Ave, drive through the yard, exit onto Ritchie Ave.) Takoma Park residents can drop off household hazardous waste for free (non-residents charged a \$10 fee). Public health safety protocols will be followed.

June 13 High School Graduation Congratulatory Drive

A celebration of graduating high school seniors from Takoma Park will take place this Saturday, June 13th from 3:00-4:30 pm. To help them commemorate this milestone, the City of Takoma Park will host a self-guided drive so residents along the route can show how proud they are of the graduates. If you live along the route we encourage you to make yard signs, make sidewalk chalk art and banners to celebrate the graduates. Go to our [Congratulatory Drive web page](#) for general information, the map of designated streets and more. Seniors: sign up on the page and Takoma Radio will read your information on air that day as part of the tribute! If you have any questions, contact Recreation Director Gregory Clark at gregoryc@takomaparkmd.gov.

June 13 4 pm Concert

Sarah Hughes and Bill Crandall will be playing in a driveway at Carroll and Central Avenues as part of the Roadside Attractions series cosponsored by the Viaduct Arts Salon and Takoma Park Arts. Sarah Hughes plays the saxophone, clarinet and flute and plays a wide range of improvisational music.

The most recent of these Roadside Attractions was the Arsen Sumbatyan Quartet on June 6. Affected by the Black Lives Matter movement, one of the pieces played was "I Can't Breathe." I appreciate the efforts of artists, our City librarians and others to rise to the concerns of the day and help us listen, learn, and express.

Library COVID-19 Special Services

The Library's Spanish Circle Time is returning – Online! Senora Geiza will be doing a weekly program on Zoom, beginning Thursday June 25 at 10:30 am. Kids and adults can do songs and rhymes with movement in Spanish. We will publicize the meeting ID and password as soon as it is available.

Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi created 50 craft bags for kids in the Takoma Park Community. They are for children 3 and up. Housing Development Manager Grayce Wiggins contributed a decorative child's mask to each, and they will be distributed to families in Takoma Park.

The Library will provide contactless book borrowing soon! We still need people who have not returned the library books they borrowed before the emergency declaration to put them in the book return bin outside of the Library.

Federal Communications Commission Declaratory Order

The FCC took action on small cell tower regulations yesterday and we are awaiting information on the details of their action. The preliminary indication was that the FCC was going to act to

expand flexibility for the small cell industry and reduce local governmental control. The City of Takoma Park partnered on legal action by a number of municipalities contesting that approach.

Takoma Park Youth Council

The Takoma Park Youth Council is accepting applications for new members until June 30 for rising 7th-12th grade students. The Youth Council was created three years ago as an advisory committee to the City Council, representing the interests of youth in our city government. The Council meets every two weeks to discuss issues pertaining to youth in the city and plan community events providing opportunities for youth to engage with their community. See the Youth Council page for specifics, the Charter, and all meeting agendas and minutes: takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/takoma-parkyouth-council

On Vacation

I am technically on vacation this week and will return to work on Monday, June 15. Deputy City Manager Jessica Clarke has been overseeing City activities this week. Thank you!