



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Comments

Report of November 5, 2020

COVID-19 Related Information

Stay Safe! COVID-19 Cases are Rising

As we get into the holiday season, the idea of not being able to gather in person with loved ones or in faith communities just doesn't seem fair. However, we need to stay safe so that we don't endanger future family gatherings! If you are with others outside of your immediate household unit, please wear a mask, particularly if you are inside. Spreading among extended family members who have gathered together is a significant reason that COVID-19 cases are increasing here and across the country.

Note that Montgomery County is watching the increase of cases carefully and is taking steps to reduce the allowable size of gatherings. The County has greatly increased the ease of getting free COVID-19 tests in and near Takoma Park so you can be tested regularly. Let's keep this under control in our area!

Leaf Collection

As has been described in the City Newsletter and through previous notices, we have a reduced Public Works staff for leaf collection this year due to the pandemic. Please compost your leaves, bag your leaves, or be patient with the much-reduced vacuum collection schedule for this year. We'll get through this year and maybe we can all develop more earth-friendly practices regarding leaves.

Election Information

The City of Takoma Park election process has been fantastic! The City's Board of Elections and City Clerk staff prepared well for holding an election during the pandemic, had very few glitches in its first ever all mail-in ballot process, and the Takoma Park community responded with nearly three times the number of ballots cast ever! I have real sympathy for the states around the country still counting ballots, because so are we. The process of receiving, opening, checking and counting mail-in ballots is time-consuming. I truly appreciate the commitment of the election workers doing the job diligently over long, long hours. They care about doing it right.

Results from the Takoma Park elections have been posted daily while the large number of ballots have been counted. Ballots postmarked as of November 3 will be counted if received by November 10. A final report on the elections will be made to the City Council on November 12.

Swearing in of the new Council must be done in person, and will be done on Monday, November 16 at 1:30 pm. It will be done outside and with a limited gathering, given the restrictions of the pandemic.

Takoma Park election results to date can be found here: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-election-information/election-day-results/>

One thing I already miss about the lead-up to the election is that the County and City ballot boxes have been removed from the lower level entrance of the Community Center. Staff who work in the building have truly enjoyed seeing the people coming to vote, taking pictures, having conversations with us and just exhibiting the best sense of community.



Other Information

Sligo Stream Valley Park- Kennebec Playground Renovation Project Virtual Community Meeting

Montgomery Parks is planning to renovate the outdated playground equipment. Staff is inviting the public to attend the online discussion to hear the project summary. The community will have an opportunity to submit comments and ideas to improve the playground during the Q&A.

WHAT: Virtual Community Meeting- Sligo Stream Valley Park- Kennebec Playground Renovation Project

WHEN: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 - 7 PM- 8:30 PM

WHERE: Online via Microsoft TEAMS

To properly practice social distancing, the public can view the community meeting live on Microsoft Teams. Watch the community meeting live online at <https://mcp-events.org/sligo-kennebec> Listen live via phone to the community meeting by calling: 443-961-1463 (Code: 404 242 724 #) Date and time subject to change. Please visit the project webpage closer to the date. <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/alert/virtual-community-meeting-sligo-stream-valley-park-kennebec-playground-renovation-project/#more-65337>

Thrive Montgomery

The Montgomery County Planning Board, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), will hold a public hearing for the update to the county's General Plan, known as Thrive Montgomery 2050, at their virtual meeting on Thursday, November 19. Residents can testify on the Public Hearing Draft of the plan live online or over the phone, but must sign up to testify by 12 p.m. on November 18, 2020. Community members can also submit written comments by email to mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org by the deadline of 12 p.m. on November 18.

Thrive Montgomery 2050 is a long-range policy framework for guiding future land use and growth. The public record will stay open until December 10, 2020. Learn more about how to testify while social distancing.

View the [Thrive Montgomery 2050 Public Hearing Draft](#).

View the [Thrive Montgomery 2050 Outreach Appendix](#).

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/montgomery-planning-board-schedules-virtual-public-hearing-for-thrive-montgomery-2050-on-november-19/>