



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Comments

Report of December 2, 2020

COVID-19 Related Information

COVID-19 Cases are Rising; Hospitalization Rates are Rising

Although the COVID-19 numbers are rising, I am glad to see most people in our area wearing masks and keeping a distance from others. Nevertheless, in the 20912 zip code alone, there have been 26 deaths due to COVID-19 and I have had requests for more public messaging about the need to wear masks and to be careful. We will expand our efforts in that and we ask that everyone helps. Even if you have had COVID-19 or are fortunate to get a vaccine in the coming months, please continue to wear a mask. We need the peer pressure, we need the normalization of these safety practices, to stave off more illness and death in our community.

COVID-19 testing in Takoma Park

It is good to get regularly tested for COVID-19, particularly about 4 days after a suspected exposure. Takoma Park has several sites for testing, two of which are free Montgomery County-run sites. In good weather, there is the drive-through or walk-up site behind Sligo Adventist Church on Greenwood Avenue near Flower and Carroll Avenues, that takes place on Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Starting this Saturday, there will be weekly testing inside the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue, from 10 am to 5 pm. There is no charge for the testing and no need for advance appointments. For these and other testing options, please see the information here: [Montgomery County Testing Sites](#)

Congratulations County Councilmembers Tom Hucker and Gabe Albornoz!

Yesterday, our District 5 County Councilmember Tom Hucker became the President of the Montgomery County Council for the upcoming year, and At-Large County Councilmember Gabe Albornoz was named Vice President. The Council President has special responsibilities, particularly during budget consideration. And, there is an expectation that the Vice President will be chosen President in the following year. Congratulations to both – we look forward to working with you!

Takoma Park Police Department Joins National ABLE Project

We are pleased to announce that the Takoma Park Police Department has been accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project at the Georgetown University Law Center. The training program provides practical active bystandership strategies and tactics

to law enforcement officers to be able to intervene in actions taken by their peers, which helps prevent misconduct, reduces officer mistakes, and promotes health and wellness.

Professor Christy Lopez, co-director of Georgetown Law's Innovative Policing Program, is also a member of the Chief's Advisory Board. We appreciate her commitment to helping the Takoma Park Police Department continue to advance in its goals of community public safety.

Thanks as well to the Montgomery County Branch of the NAACP and the Sligo Seventh Day Adventist Church for supporting the City's application for the ABLE Project.

Community Police Academy – Zoom Version

Our popular Community Police Academy is back, this time for a 14-week long virtual program! It covers many different aspects of what a police department does, and provides a real opportunity. It will be held on Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm, beginning on January 5, 2021, and is for people 16 years of age or older. If you are interested, please contact CathyP@takomaparkmd.gov.

Other Information

City of Takoma Park Holiday Schedule

The City office closures for upcoming holidays are listed below. The Police Department is always open for emergency services.

Christmas: City of Takoma Park operations are closed from Thursday, December 24 at 12:30 pm through Sunday, December 27 for the Christmas Holiday.

New Year's Day: City of Takoma Park operations are closed from Thursday, December 31 at 6:00 pm through Saturday, January 2 for the New Year's Day Holiday.