



City of Takoma Park

## City Manager Comments

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### Report of April 22, 2020

#### *Information to Share*

#### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day**

The first official Earth Day was April 22, 1970. Some of us actually remember that event (like me) and others have been celebrating it all of our lives. It is very difficult to not be able to celebrate it in traditional ways due to the pandemic, but with climate change the concern about the health of our Earth is critical. There are multiple ways to do good for the Earth and think about the ways we can help. A number of folks are participating in this [Energy Bingo game](#). Thanks to our Sustainability Manager for helping promote this!

#### **Sharing Community Sadness**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, many of our loved ones, friends and acquaintances are being affected. The passing of a community member yesterday has affected many Takoma Park residents. Members of the family are known throughout Takoma Park and a daughter in the family is a member of the City's Youth Council. Our hearts are broken for this family and for the others affected by the pandemic who we may not know as well.

As in any tragedy, people want to come together to mourn and support each other. But, in a pandemic, social gathering cannot occur safely and we need to find other ways to grieve and show that we care. I hope we can find a special, safe, Takoma Park way to show our interconnectedness and love for each other.

#### **Arts and Humanities Commission Report; Public Art Projects Postponed**

Attached please find the annual report of the Arts and Humanities Commission. They have had wonderful programs during the year, broadening the reach of the arts in Takoma Park in line with the City's Cultural Plan and race equity focus.

Arts are an important part of our community, whether they are art installations, performances or education. The arts add to our mental and economic well-being and we recognize that there are many of our residents who work in the arts and are facing financial challenges right now.

Unfortunately, three projects for which funds were available have been postponed for now, given the uncertainty brought on by the pandemic. The three projects are the Lincoln Avenue Mural, the Holton Lane Sculpture and the restoration of the BY Morrison pavilion mural. I do hope we can restart one or more of these art projects in the coming year, but wanted to make sure we have financial flexibility for the City at this time. The cost for these projects is approximately \$50,000 total.