



City of Takoma Park City Manager Comments

Report of December 9, 2020

COVID-19 Related Information

Please be safe and plan for a safe December!

I know it is so hard to wear a mask and keep a distance from family members and friends that don't live in your household, particularly during the holidays. Please keep doing your part. Wear your mask, keep a distance, and avoid gatherings, particularly ones that are indoors.

The impact on hospitals from community spread of the coronavirus, particularly from Thanksgiving gatherings, will continue for weeks. Unfortunately, the numbers of deaths and of persons with severe illness will increase and will devastate families, workplaces and communities.

Vaccines are on the way. It will take longer than we would like to get the vaccines to a good proportion of the public, but we as staff are working to help share information and to get the vaccines out in an organized way. I ask people to learn about the vaccines and to get vaccinated when you have the opportunity to do so.

COVID-19 testing in Takoma Park

While COVID-19 testing was canceled today from the Sligo Adventist Church parking lot on Greenwood Avenue near Flower and Carroll Avenues because of the cold weather, for the coming months there will be free testing every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm inside the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. For these and other testing options, please see the information here: [Montgomery County Testing Sites](#)

Tax Preparation Assistance

Staff has been working to help coordinate the availability of free tax preparation assistance during the pandemic for our residents. The Community Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is currently using a virtual tax preparation model during the COVID-19 emergency. Virtual VITA allows residents to use an online platform to securely upload their tax documents and have their taxes prepared for free by a certified tax preparer. No in-person contact is required, allowing for the health and safety of staff and community members to be maintained. They are now scheduling virtual appointments for the prior year (2018) amended taxes, as well as 2019 taxes. Montgomery County residents with household incomes of \$57,000 or less may call 240-777-1123 to schedule an appointment.

Other Information

My Schedule

I will be on vacation next week, December 14 through 20. Deputy City Manager Jessica Clarke will be serving as Acting City Manager during that time.

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.