



City of Takoma Park

## **City Manager Comments**

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### **Report of March 17, 2021**

#### **COVID-19 Related Information**

Vaccination appointments have been opening up faster than ever. Please work to get vaccinated as soon as you can! Refer to both the [Maryland Vaccine Website](#) and the [Montgomery County Vaccine Information](#) page to learn more and to pre-register if you are in a category that can do so.

You can also call 1-855-MD-GOVAX to learn more and register with the State. You can call Montgomery County at 240-777-2982.

#### **City Opening Basketball Courts**

We are opening the basketball courts at Spring Park and the Community Center for use. Residents must wear masks and gatherings must be very small! Basketball games remain a high hazard activity during the pandemic, so I strongly urge use of the courts just for shooting practice, games of HORSE and the like. If the courts become crowded or masks are not being worn, we will close the courts again until the situation is safer.

#### **COVID-19 testing in Takoma Park**

Even though all of the attention is on vaccinations right now, it is still important to have regular COVID-19 testing. Without regular testing, we won't know if there are increases in COVID-19 cases until people need to come to a doctor's office or hospital. Free, no appointment COVID-19 testing is being held on Saturdays at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue from 10 am to 5 pm. For this and other testing options, please see the information here: [Montgomery County Testing Sites](#).

#### **Update on COVID-19 Response**

Each week, the City's COVID-19 Dashboard is updated. The most recent one is here: [COVID 19 Dashboard](#). I am sad to report that two more residents of Zip Code 20912 passed away last week. May their memories be a blessing.

Please, please, please – wear a mask, avoid large gatherings, and get a vaccine as soon as you are able to do so. We need to hold on a while longer to get through the pandemic.

#### **Preparing for Before and Afterschool Care!**

Now that some students are returning to in-person schooling and our Recreation staff is getting vaccinated, we are preparing to offer Before and Afterschool Care once again. A LOT of work is

going into preparing for the care, meeting health standards, and having it be the fun and educational care Takoma Park is known for. At this time, we are aiming for a start date of April 12.

### **Tax Duplication Letter Sent to County Council**

It is Montgomery County budget time, and once again, the amount of municipal tax duplication rebate funds for Takoma Park are much less than is due to reimburse Takoma Park for property tax money paid to both Montgomery County and Takoma Park for services only Takoma Park provides. See the information included in a letter to the County Council documenting the problem and the solution at this webpage: [Tax Duplication Information](#)

### **Takoma Park to Use Space on Hospital Campus**

The City of Takoma Park has an agreement with Adventist HealthCare to use the upper level of 7901 and 7901A Maple Avenue, a small building on the grounds of the former Washington Adventist Hospital that is between the parking garage and Maplewood Avenue. The agreement is through December 2021 for now and is at no charge. The City intends to use most of the space for temporary Library services, including book storage and probably computer use by Library users. A small portion of the space would be use by Clifford Park Baptist Church to grow aeroponic produce for its food distribution activities. Once new Library Director Jessica Jones is on board on March 29, we will do more planning on how we will provide Library services to the City while the Library building is under construction.