



City of Takoma Park
Acting Deputy City Manager David Eubanks

City Manager's Comments

ARPA Updates:

The City is approaching 1,300 households who have received assistance through the Direct Cash Assistance program and staff is in the process of scheduling additional in-person events in the near future. If the City continues to average around 5 applications per/day as it did in February, the City would hit its target 2,100 households by the end of the year. To be eligible you have to be a Takoma Park resident earning under \$50,000/year. You can apply by coming to the Takoma Park Community Center between 8:30am-5:00pm; M-F during the week, or use the City's Direct Cash Assistance web-page <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa/arpa-social-services-partnerships/direct-cash-assistance/>

Once on the City webpage, you can also search the phrase "Direct Cash Assistance" and the first item returned in the search will take you to the application page.

Housing & Community Development Updates:

3/29 Road Closure To Be Rescheduled: via Resolution last month, Council had approved the temporary closure of the 6900 block of Laurel Avenue for the purpose of conducting limited traffic counts. After internal conversations, staff have decided to delay this closure date until a more comprehensive count can be conducted. Further information will be provided to Council and the public when a new date is proposed.

Transformations Exhibition Opening: There will be an opening reception at 7:30 pm on March 23rd for a new exhibition titled, Transformations, which will feature work by local artists Beth Caruso, Landry Dunand, and Randall Williams. Their work explores transformations of paper-based mediums through photography, digital tools, and cut paper. The exhibition will be on view until June 7th.

Minor-Master Plan Presentations: Montgomery County's Takoma Park Minor Master Plan team is preparing to present their Preliminary Recommendations. Information about the planning process and how to register for the virtual participation in the community presentation can be found on Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment's webpage. Easily found from the City Webpage by searching for the phrase "Minor Master Plan".

- Public engagement events include:
 - April 10: City Council Presentations
 - April 13: Montgomery County Planning Board Presentation
 - April 18: Community Presentation in the Community Center Auditorium or available for online Zoom participation.



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Public Works Updates:

Montgomery Parks and the City of Takoma Park will host a celebration for the newly installed playground at Hillwood Manor Neighborhood Park, located on 13th Avenue. The event will take place Saturday, March 25 from 2:00 to 3:30pm. ***Please note that this may be pushed to the following weekend in case of inclement weather. The County will decide later in the week. ***

Recreation Updates:

In celebration of Good Sportsmanship Month, and in a partnership with Takoma Park MD Library, the Recreation Department is having a Meet the Author event at the Takoma Park Community Center this Sunday, March 26 at 3pm. Everyone is invited to meet author, former collegiate athlete, and recreation professional, Al "Hondo" Handy. He will discuss his journey from being part of integrating Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, MD, to his experiences with collegiate sports and in the recreation profession. There will be an interview with Mr. Handy followed by a book signing and copies of his book "Defying Expectations: Family, Sports & Recreation" will be available for purchase.

The event is this Sunday, March 26 starting at 3pm in the auditorium.