



City of Takoma Park

Acting Deputy City Manager David Eubanks

City Manager's Comments for May 10, 2023:

Finance Updates:

The Finance Department has completed its computations related to the amount of property tax refunds due to eligible residents under the City's program to assist recipients of the State's Homeowners Property Tax Credit and Renters Property Tax Credit.

For the Levy Year 2022 (FY23), 98 Takoma Park homeowners are receiving checks that total \$119,415.91 and 13 renters are receiving checks totaling \$2,185.59. The numbers of homeowner recipients are slightly lower (105) but the number and amount received for the renters are higher than last year. Please note that the check issuance is delayed this year due to the additional 4 eligible homeowners since the file was received in April. The updated information was received from the County on Friday, May 5th. We expect the checks to go out at the end of this week.

Budget Bite:

In an effort to continue budget transparency, we are going to include an update each week on what work is being done on the budget. Our goal is to help the Community understand the City's finances and timelines. For instance, in order to be ready for tonight, our five-person Finance Department prepared the ordinances and fund summaries, then updated our financial software for each of the decisions made by the Council last Wednesday. The Department had four days to complete this work so that it could be posted to the City website yesterday evening. This involves multiple other departments providing updated information, collating that information with the budget items approved by the Council, and then after inputting it in the software, validating and reconciling total expenditure and total revenue. Meanwhile, the department has also been working on the Homeowner's Property Tax Credit and Renter's Property Tax Credits mentioned a few moments ago, as well as all of their daily duties.

Similar to other budget work and financial activities, this requires adequate planning, sufficient preparation time, and good coordination. We would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team and their departments for prioritizing this work.

Housing & Community Development Updates:

Tonight- May 10th, beginning at 7:00 pm is the Minor-Master Plan: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission Hearing. This is a Public Hearing and Work Session for the evaluation of the Heffner Park Community Center (42 Oswego Ave), the Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church (7700 Carroll Ave), and the Krestview (7625 Carroll Ave). The agenda, designation form, staff reports, and additional materials are posted on the County Planning website. We will include the link in the posted version of the City Manager's Comments.

(link: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/historic/historic-preservation-commission/hpc-meetings-2023/>)



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- May 13th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Grant Avenue is “Takoma Flea”- this outdoor market offers a mix of vintage, collectible, antique, salvage, and repurposed goods. It even offers an outdoor dining patio.
- May 18th from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Community Center, four local poets will share their original work in a new Takoma Park Arts poetry reading.
- May 19th from 7:30 am to 9:00 am- Takoma Park is hosting two pitstops for “Bike to Work” Day. These will be at New Hampshire & Sligo Creek Parkway; and at Old Takoma at 7035 Carroll Ave. If these aren’t on your route, you don’t have to miss out. Go to www.biketoworkmetrodc.org to find a pitstop on your route.

Councilmember Seamens requested an update on the status of any Code Enforcement cases regarding the resident garden beds in the Franklin Apartments (7620 Maple). Staff confirmed that while Code Enforcement continues to work with the property and adjoining properties around rat abatement issues, the garden beds are not in violation of any City code and the City has not requested the beds be moved or removed.

Library Updates:

The Takoma Park Maryland Library and Community Center Redevelopment project was allocated \$125,000 in Maryland's State Capital Grants program for FY24. These are funds that do not require repayment and will assist in ensuring sufficient contingency funds for the project. Our thanks go to our representation in the Maryland State House and Senate, including State Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Delegate David Moon, and Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins. We especially want to thank our sponsor, Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, as well as our Mayor and City Council, for their support in this endeavor.

Police Department Update:

National Peace Officers Memorial Week will take place May 15th-22nd. Various activities will take place starting May 9th to recognize all of the men and women who serve and have served in law enforcement and to recognize those who have given their lives to protect our communities. These events include the candlelight vigil recognizing all officers lost in the line of duty in 2022 on May 13th and the Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service which will take place on May 15th on the National Mall.

Thank you to all Takoma Park Officers, current and former, who serve to keep our communities safe.