HCD:

- Thursday, January 18th from 7:00 pm 8:30 pm at the Community Center, there will be the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project Community Workshop. This will include a presentation and group discussion concerning ways to make Maple Avenue safer and more comfortable for pedestrians, bike riders, and bus riders.
- Friday, January 19th from 7:30 pm- 9:00 pm at the Community Center, Takoma Park Arts is hosting "iMusical Improv", an event featuring an improvised musical from the Washington Improv Theater. Tickets are free.
- Thursday, January 25th from 7:00 pm- 10:00 pm at the Takoma Park Middle School, the Montgomery County Council is holding a public hearing for the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment. Residents who wish to testify either in person or on Zoom, must sign up by January 24th at 5:00 pm, either on the County website or by calling 240-777-7803.
 - o Link: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/calendar.html
- There's a call for Public Art Submissions- HCD is seeking proposals for a sculptural installation outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center. The sculpture should reflect a theme of "welcome" or "crossroads". The Call for Artists will close on March 3, 2024. A link with more information will be posted with the City Manager's Comments tomorrow.
 - o Link: https://takomaparkmd.gov/public-notices/call-for-public-art-installation/
- Two new restaurants have opened in the Old Takoma Main Street district. Muoi Tieu, a locally-owned Vietnamese food truck is expanding into their first brick-and-mortar location at 7006 Carroll Avenue, and Cielo Rojo has officially opened their expanded space at 7211 Carroll Avenue. Both businesses received Takoma Park Business Investment Grants (BIG).
- Staff have reworked the Business Investment Grant and plan to release a new grant program for small businesses (the "Open for Business" Grant) in January 2024. This new, simplified program will make it easier for any business, either moving to or expanding in Takoma Park, to receive assistance.
- Staff are preparing to launch the Multifamily Building Improvement Grant for 2024 with applications opening January 16, 2024. A webinar will be held January 22nd at 6:30 pm. Awards will be up to 70% of the project costs with a maximum award of up to \$250,000.
- The City received two FY2024 grant applications from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (or DHCD NED Fund). These include 1) \$175,000 for the Richardson School of Music rehabilitation and 2) \$250,000 for the Takoma Park Multifamily Building Improvement Fund.

Police:

- Takoma Park Police are collecting new/gently used bath towels, beach towels, bathroom rugs, hand towels, washcloths, blankets, beds, toys & unopened food to help the Montgomery County Animal Shelters. We will be collecting through Friday, February 2.
 Please bring your donations to the Takoma Park Police Department lobby, 7500 Maple Ave, Takoma Park, MD and we will get them to the animal shelters.
 NOTE: For the safety of the animals, NO fitted sheets, items with zippers or snaps, and/or other fabrics with rips or frayed edges.
 Thank you for your generosity!
- The Community Police Academy is now accepting applications for its 12-week long program geared toward helping community members better understand the work of the Police Department. Participation is free to residents but limited to 25 participants. The application is due on Friday, February 16, 2024. For more information, please access our page on the City website or use the link provided in tomorrow's posted City Manager Comments.
 - Link: https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/community-policing/community-police-academy/

Recreation:

- Registration for summer camp opens at noon online and in-person for each of the following dates:
 - o February 14th for scholarship recipients
 - o February 21st for Takoma Park Residents
 - o February 28th for non-residents
- Winter Basketball League starts on Saturday, January 20th.
 9 different divisions (Kindergarten-8th Grade)
 Games will be played on Saturdays at Highland View Elementary School, Piney
 Branch Elementary School, Rolling Terrace Elementary School & Takoma Park Middle School.
 Over 600 Participants in Winter Basketball
- FUTSAL is full with 120 participants
 The League starts on Sunday, January 21st.
 Games will be played on Sundays at Takoma Park Recreation Center.