



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Robert DiSpirito

HCD Department:

- The Takoma Park Tenant Survey is now live. Renters are encouraged to complete the survey, which should take 5-10 minutes to complete and will help inform City policies and programs. A link to the survey will be included in tomorrow's Comments.
 - Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/the-city-launches-a-new-tenant-survey/>
- The County Council held a work session yesterday on the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan to discuss the Planning Board draft and the recommendations of the Planning, Housing and Parks (PHP) Committee.

County staff presented the staff report, highlighting the recommendations of the Minor Master Plan report, community feedback, the County Executive's comments, and the PHP recommendations. Council members did not have any comments or objections during the presentation. Council members Jawando, Stewart, and Fani-Gonzalez made comments supportive of the plan at the end of the discussion. Council President, Andrew Friedson, concluded this agenda item by saying he looked forward to moving the Plan to a formal vote. More information including the full County staff report, is available on the City's webpage. A link will be posted tomorrow with the City Manager's Comments.

- Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/minor-master-plan/>
- Tomorrow Thursday, March 14th from 7:30 until 9:30 pm, the Takoma Park Arts Series is hosting "Takoma Arts: Interfaith Comedy Show", here in the City Auditorium. In an age of polarization and angry debate, the comedians of Interfaith Comedy are sharing laughs with a side of understanding about various religions. Five comedians from different religious backgrounds will share their talents in a free stand-up show. No tickets or reservations are required, but donations will be accepted.

Library:

- The Library was awarded a \$500 grant towards our Día de los Niños event next month that celebrates Spanish language and multilingual literacy
- Local author Molly Dresner (from Chevy Chase) will be at the March 26th session of Circle Time to present her new book "We All Fall Down," which is a short story about pasta characters who face everyday challenges like feeling stuck and making mistakes.
- Favorite Poem Night, an annual event for all ages, will be held on the evening of Wednesday, April 24th this year, so everyone has plenty of time to put it in their calendar and hopefully bring a favorite poem to read or recite.

Police Department:

- The Police Department will be holding a community meeting to discuss public safety issues in Ward 2. Police Department staff will be providing an update on recent incidents in Ward 2 and provide an overall overview of crime stats/trends and security measures put in place to address these trends.



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The meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 19th, from 7 pm - 9 pm at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. The meeting will be in-person and a Zoom Webinar will also be available to join and ask questions. A registration link will be posted in tomorrow's Comments.

- Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TZ6auRpsS9isCi3pEz4Zbg

Public Works Department:

- Last night was the Let's Go Solar TkPk event, which attracted around 60 attendees. We appreciated the excellent presentations from the various speakers and thoughtful questions from the audience. All follow-up materials, including a recording of the webinar, will be posted on the City's website under the 'Go Solar' webpage. For other questions, please reach out to our Sustainability Manager, Dory, at dorothee@takomaparkmd.gov.

Recreation Department:

- **Program Registration**

Registration for spring & summer classes opens soon:

- * March 8th for those with current scholarship.
- * March 15th for all City of TP residents.
- * March 22nd for non-residents.

- **Upcoming Teen Camps:**

This year, there are several new camp offerings for Takoma Park teens, both for Spring Break and Summer Vacation. For Spring Break, which will be March 25-29th, there are:

- Filmmakers in Action for grades 6-8. This camp focuses on the art of filmmaking and participants will have the opportunity to contribute to a docu-series about Takoma Park. Facilitated by Action Youth Media, this camp will be held in the Teen Lounge from 10am to 2pm each day. Teens will be able to express their creativity and highlight the cultural diversity of the Takoma Park community.
- Teen Playwrights Camp for grades 8-10 is centered around the creative writing process behind theater and plays. Facilitated by Young Playwrights Theater, this camp offers enriching activities and an opportunity for teens to develop their own original piece to be presented at the end of camp. Camp will be held during the same week, but from 9am-1pm each day in the Dance Studio.

Finance Department:

- We are pleased to let you know that the City of Takoma Park received another Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from GFOA. This is the sixth year that the City received the award.

This year, the City received outstanding scoring grades in two categories.

1. Revenues- The budget includes the revenue source, descriptions and analysis of major revenues. Revenues were enhanced with trend charts and the revenue discussion is very comprehensive.
2. Long Range Financial Plans- The financial forecast was presented with assumptions for the General Fund, capital and debt. The financial forecast section is detailed and informative.



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City Manager's Office:

- We have reached another milestone in the mental health counselor pilot program. Over the past two weeks, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and City staff interviewed four outstanding candidates for the two open counselor roles. Candidate hiring recommendations have been transmitted to the Montgomery County Human Resources department and we now await the County's internal hiring & vetting process. With any luck, we will be onboarding these staff and commencing the program by the end of this fiscal year, June 30th.
- Employee Highlights:
 - IT Department: A huge shout-out to **Lars DeSolvio**, our exceptional IT Project Specialist! Lars's dedication and expertise are invaluable assets to our team, and we feel truly blessed to have him onboard. Keep up the fantastic work, Lars!

That concludes my report this evening, I am happy to answer any questions. Thank You.