



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Robert DiSpirito

Communications:

- And the Emmy goes to...Bien Martinez

Please join CityTV and our Communications Department in congratulating Bienvenido (Bien) Martinez on his **Emmy nomination** in the Category of Societal Concerns—Long-form content (longer than 15 minutes), for his camera work.

On Saturday, June 22, at the 66th Emmy Awards, Bien Martinez **was awarded the Emmy for his camera work on the documentary “Línea Directa—Danger of Fentanyl—Interview with Elena Suarez”**.

The documentary is a heartbreaking story of one family’s unwanted journey into the Fentanyl world, a teenager’s overdose, and the devastating consequences and the loss of their daughter that will impact the entire family for the rest of their lives.

We are so proud and honored to have a great talent such as Bien on our team and we can't wait to display his Emmy for everyone to see.

Background:

CityTV has partnered with the production of Linea Directa, which is one of the oldest local TV shows that deals with topics that affect the Hispanic Community. The show airs on Telemundo and our City of Takoma Park TV channels.

Housing & Community Development:

- The City was awarded a \$26,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Aging's "Aging In Place" Grant Program. Funds will be used to support the Village of Takoma's Small Home Repair Program by underwriting the cost of materials for repairs and accessibility modifications for senior homeowners in Takoma Park.

Library:

- Join us for the second annual book giveaway on July 17 (Rain Date: July 24) at the Crossroads Farmers Market, located at Anne Street and University Boulevard. We will give away over 250 books in English, Spanish, and bilingual for children and young adults. Stop by and grab a book to take home!

Police:

- **Save the Date!**- National Night Out is planned for Tuesday, August 6th from 6:00 pm- 9:00 pm at the Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave. There will be food, games, bounce houses, a dunk tank, music, Maryland National Park Police horses, and Police vehicles on display. Be sure to stop by and get to know your local Police Department!



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Public Works:

- The City received notice of a grant award of \$125,000 to install new solar panels on the Library. The grant was provided through the Maryland Energy Administration's Public Facilities Solar Grant Program. Installation of the new panels is expected to be done in the summer of 2025, with completion of the new library. The installation will include 162 panels with a projected system capacity of 64.8 KW. The new system will offset the equivalent of 32.7 metric tonnes of CO2 in its first year of operation and substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City facilities.
- The City and County leaf blower ordinance takes effect today:
 - “Effective July 1, 2024, no person shall sell or offer for sale a combustion engine-powered handheld, backpack, or walk behind leaf blower or leaf vacuum...”
 - “Effective July 1, 2025, no person shall use a combustion engine-powered handheld, 20 backpack, or walk-behind leaf blower or leaf vacuum.”

The County rebate program begins this summer. For residents it's \$100 voucher to purchase an electric blower.

Link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/leaf-blowers/electric-leaf-blower-rebate.html>

City Manager's Office:

- Staff Shout-out – From the Housing and Community Development Department:

Shout-out for Patti Mallin, our Grants Coordinator, who successfully coordinated the submission of three Department of Housing and Community Development National Capital Strategic Economic Development grants this week. The process required extensive collaboration with multiple divisions and external partners. We look forward to hearing funding decisions in the coming months, but we thank Patti for all her work!

- And one from the City Manager's Office:

A big thank you to our Staff Engagement Committee for planning our Summer Appreciation Lunch last Thursday, June 27th at the Takoma- Piney Branch Park. Representatives from many different departments came together to plan this event to show our staff how much we appreciate their hard work. This includes:

- From Housing and Community Development- Brendan Smith, Ramon Sola, and Kaysi-Ann Webley
- From HR- Juvonne Newsome
- From the Police Department- Crossing Guard Liz James
- From Public Works- Dory Estrada
- From the Library- Anne LeVeque
- From Recreation- Chelsea Nunez
- From the City Manager's Office- Christine Heidebrecht

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