



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Robert DiSpirito

Housing and Community Development:

- The City has been awarded a \$220,000 grant from the Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All program. This will fund the development of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the City, including two demonstration projects (hardening of left turns on New Hampshire Avenue, and implementing a mid-block crosswalk at a bus stop on East West Highway) to reduce and eliminate vehicular crashes resulting in serious injury or death. Once the Safety Action Plan is complete, we become eligible to apply for implementation funding from the same program.

DOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All program funded 354 local, regional, and tribal communities to improve roadway safety and prevent deaths and serious injuries on America's rural and urban roads.

- The City of Takoma Park will offer three "Learn to Ride" classes in September, taught by the Washington Area Bicycle Association. These classes will guide students through a three-step process: gliding, pedaling, and riding. They are designed for children aged 6-13 who have either never ridden a bike before or who have struggled to learn. The goal is for students to be able to ride with two pedals by the end of the session.

Due to high demand in the 6-8 age range, the originally planned 11-13 year-old class has been converted into a second class for 6-8 year-olds. The strong interest and positive feedback from parents underscore the value of such programs in enhancing the quality of life for all city residents.

This program is made possible through the work of the Housing and Community Development and the Recreation Departments.

- The City has a new process regarding resident input for traffic calming and sidewalk requests. At the direction of Council, staff developed two revised Administrative Regulations which took effect July 1, 2024. The regulations make it easier for residents to make requests through a simple on-line form, rather than the former petition process. The review process includes an evaluation tool and community engagement. And projects are then included in the Council budget process, where funds are allocated for projects. Projects that are submitted before December 31 will be considered for the FY26 budget.

As specified in the regulations, a Takoma Park resident may submit a request for a new sidewalk facility or a new traffic calming device located within one-quarter (1/4) of a mile from their primary residence. The request form and the full administrative regulations are available on the City's website: TakomaParkMD.gov. If you drop "traffic calming" into the search, the page will display in the options.

- On Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm, there is a ribbon cutting at Montgomery College for the Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building.



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Police:

- September is National Suicide Prevention Month- In times of darkness, it's important to remember that you are not alone. Every life is valuable, and together as a community, we can be the light for those who feel lost. Reach out, talk, and listen—because sometimes a simple conversation can save a life.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is there for you. If you or someone you know is struggling or needs support, call or text 988, or chat on <http://988lifeline.org/chat>, to be connected to a local crisis center. You are not alone!

Recreation:

- The Recreation Department office at the Community Center will shut down next week, September 16th - 20th, so that remaining staff can relocate to the temporary library location. The Recreation Department office will remain at the temporary library location during the duration of the renovations to the Community Center. Please allow additional time for staff to return emails and calls while they are relocating and establishing their new office area. We appreciate your patience with us during this transition.

City Manager's Office:

- Staff Shout-Out from the Police Department:
We are pleased to share that Sergeant Elfadl recently participated in the Tour De Force 9/11 Memorial Ride. The "Tour de Force" was started in 2002 after NYPD Det. Robert De Paolis (*ret*) decided to ride his bike to honor the fallen police officers that gave their lives in the September 11, 2001 attack. The Tour de Force has evolved into a four-day, 280-mile ride, in which 300 law enforcement officers from across the U.S. and abroad, along with some family and friends, participate to raise funds for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Each participant, support team member, and staff, raise funds and put in a lot of work throughout the year to make this event a huge success.

In Sergeant Elfadl's own words, *"The tour was amazing but more importantly, the amount raised from this year's tour was phenomenal (rough total is over \$528,100) to raise funds for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. **Our Takoma Park Police Department fund was able to raise and contribute \$2,520 with just one team member, which was amazing for my first time on the tour.**"*

Sergeant Elfadl rode 64 miles a day on average for four days. The most he rode in one day was 76.5 miles!! More than the miles, it is the purpose for which Sergeant Elfadl rode to honor our Nation's fallen officers that demonstrates his zeal, dedication, and commitment to the profession, our agency, the City, and each of you.

This concludes the City Manager's Report. Thank you.