



City of Takoma Park

## City Manager Comments

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### Report for City Council Meeting of March 11, 2020

#### *Information to Share*

#### **Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update**

Today, the World Health Organization characterized the outbreak of Covid-19 as a pandemic. While the risk to the general U.S. population is still deemed to be low, there are many cancelations of events and large gatherings. All area jurisdictions are exploring how to continue to provide services to the public while also taking needed precautions.

I am working with each City department on the steps they need to take to protect staff and the public while continuing to provide critical services. City committee meetings are including options for members to call into the meeting to help address safety concerns.

Please check first before attending a City event or meeting, as many are being canceled or postponed. We will endeavor to get the word out in advance, but it is wise to check before coming out to an event.

The basic public health safety rules continue to apply:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.

For more detailed and up-to-date information, check the websites of the [CDC](#) and the [Montgomery County Health Department](#).

## **Level Two Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Upgraded**

The upgrade of the Level Two charging stations at the Recreation Center and Community Center was completed over the weekend. As a reminder, the new charger will have the same plug type, a standard J1772 so that anyone currently relying on the chargers will remain able to use them. This upgrade enables users to pay for the use of the stations and the City to collect valuable data on usage of the stations. The fee to use the stations is being updated from per minute to per kilowatt hour based on feedback from city residents, the exact price has not yet been determined as the Electric Vehicle Institute is surveying the area rates. (The initial pilot program that provided electricity at no charge to the user has ended.) The parking signs for the charging station locations are also being updated. The new signs restrict usage of the parking spots to actively charging vehicles only, following Montgomery County provisions.

## **Community Grants**

The City of Takoma Park is currently accepting applications for its Community Grants Program through tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, 2020. Projects that provide greater access to the arts and sciences in Takoma Park are eligible for up to \$10,000 in financial support. Additionally, although not required, the City is encouraging applications for programming that connects arts and sciences with skills that promote job-readiness for low-and-moderate-income Takoma Park residents. To apply, visit the Community Grants page link at [TakomaParkMD.gov/Grants](http://TakomaParkMD.gov/Grants).