Dog park pilot moves forward

By Virginia Myers

City Council has all but finalized plans to build Takoma Park’s first dog park at Heffner Park, and expects it to be completed, as a pilot for possible additional parks, within the year.

The plans gained momentum as City Council finalized a budget that included $70,000 for the pilot. Budget approval was followed by a public hearing June 2, and lively consideration on neighborhood list serves, during public comment periods at City Council meetings and in the neighborhoods. Dozens of persistent advocates for the park have been active in the discussion, and submitted detailed proposals for a number of possible sites.

Much of the activity has been from Takoma Dogs, established to members of Takoma Dogs have been instrumental in planning for Takoma Park’s first dog park. City Council budgeted $70,000 to build a pilot at Heffner Park. Photo courtesy of Takoma Dogs

City pesticide restrictions begin to kick in

The Takoma Park City Council unanimously passed the Safe Grow Act of 2013 on July 22, 2013, restricting the use of cosmetic lawn pesticides on private and public property within the city. The regulation makes it unlawful for a commercial pesticide applicator to apply a restricted pesticide for cosmetic lawn care purposes on private property or public rights-of-way in the City of Takoma Park as of March 1, 2014. The law applies to private residents beginning on January 1, 2015.

The regulation passed after much debate, with some residents arguing that children’s health and safety was at risk from unregulated pesticides, and others arguing that the regulation infringed on their private property rights.

After a four-month grace period, during which the city issued warnings for violations, the city’s new Safe Grow pesticide ban will go into full effect for commercial pesticide applicators July 1. As of that date those who disregard the regulation will be fined $100, in keeping with a Class D municipal infraction; subsequent incidents will be fined $500.
C
Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma
able to fully participate in public meetings.
ensuring that individuals with disabilities are
The City of Takoma Park is committed to
Notice on ADA Compliance
contact the city clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@
agenda and calendar update by e-mail should
Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens'
check www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc. Most
*All meetings are open to the public unless
plan for the city's information systems. The
Takoma Park News
U & Committee
NCIL
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Y P
TAKOMA TOPICS:
City TV posts up all sorts of wonderful coverage of #TakomaPark events & news!
Another great episode of BackStage Takoma from Takoma Park City TV!

City Council IAction

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the Takoma Park City Council. Only
discussions are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review
online at www.takomaparkmd.gov. For additional information, contact the city clerk at jessie@
takomaparkmd.gov.

ORDINANCE 2014-33
Adopted May 27
Awarding a Contract for an IT Assessment and Strategic Plan
The ordinance authorizes a contract to Plante Moran, PLLC for an assessment and strategic plan for the city's information systems. The contract award amount is $40,000.

ORDINANCE 2014-34
Adopted May 27
Awarding a Contract for Furniture for the Community Center Green Roof
The ordinance authorizes a contract to Sergio Martinez Designer in an amount not to exceed $22,500 for the design, fabrication and installation of furniture for the Green Roof.

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES
Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing an application form and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications to the city clerk. View information at www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc for complete information or to apply. For questions, contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessie@takomaparkmd.gov.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Tuesday, July 8, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Monday, July 14, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 17, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 24, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Additional meetings may be scheduled after the Takoma Park Newsletter deadline. For the most up to date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens’ Center, 7500 Maple Ave. (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the city clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

Notice of Installation of a New Parking Pay Station and a Proposed Change in the Parking Hours, Time Limit and Rate
Pursuant to Chapter 13.12 “Parking Meters” of the Takoma Park Code, notice is hereby provided of the city’s intention to establish a new four-hour parking meter zone at the city-owned lot at the Takoma Junction. The zone will be in effect from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Overnight parking will not be allowed. Rates for the lot will be $1 per hour, $0.50 for 30 minutes and $0.25 for 15 minutes. This change will become effective Sept. 2, 2014. Public comments may be sent to the city clerk, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912 or by e-mail to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Monday, July 28, 2014. For additional information, contact Roz Grigsby, 301-891-7205 or rosz@takomaparkmd.gov.


COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS (three vacancies): The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) adjudicates and mediates complaints for violations of Chapter 6.16, Landlord-Tenant Relations; rules on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and decides appeals from the city manager's decision to deny, suspend or revoke a license under Chapter 6.08, Landlord-Tenant Affairs. The membership is to have collective experience in the areas of science, research, finance, law, peace and ethics. Residency is required. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/ncural-free-takoma-park-committee.

RECREATION COMMITTEE (up to five vacancies): The Recreation Committee advises the City Council on matters related to recreation programming and facilities. Residency is required.

RESIDENTIAL STREETSCAPE TASK FORCE (vacancies, preferably from Wards 2, 4, 5, or 6): The Task Force has been appointed by the council to assist the city with development and/or review of residential streetscape guidelines. The Task Force is scheduled to report to the City Council by Nov. 30, 2014.

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE (up to three vacancies): The Safe Roadways Committee advises the City Council on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues and transit services and encourages Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling and public transportation. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/safe-roadways-committee.

CITY BRIEFS

Loyal customers welcome hair salon’s return
Veteran hair stylist Julie Marcial opened a new salon, Julie’s Hair Salon 2, at Hampshire Place in June, returning from a brief retirement following the sale of her well-established salon in Hampshire-Langley Center last November. She returned to the Takoma/Langley Crossroads because of the area’s international clientele. Her new business address is 7489 New Hampshire Ave.

Julie’s Hair Salon 2 has lots of day-light, light green walls and blooming orchids. Loyal customers have flocked back to see old friends and get their hair cut, styled or highlighted, nails manicured, and bodies waxed. The friendly shop serves coffee to customers in a relaxed environment.

African boutique moves in at Takoma-Langley Crossroads
McDoris Fashion recently relocated from Washington, D.C. to 7635 New Hampshire Ave. in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads, citing the area’s international flavor and large African customer base as big attractions. Owner Doris Aghasi said, “I could have opened my store at other, less costly locations but I wanted to be near Red Apple Farmers Market,” she said, referring to the international grocery that caters to Africans with familiar fruits, vegetables, spices, personal care products, meats and fish from their home countries.

Other African businesses in the Crossroads include Patrick’s International Shoe Repair; Star Halal Meat and Grocery; Claudette’s Baiting Gallery; Eric Aighedion, MD; Sahle Araya, DDS; Akinmurele and Associates, CPAs; Fundex; Law Offices of Kevin M. Tabi, Esq., and Afro-Inl, Inc. The area is so popular among African people that the African Post is delivered there monthly.

Vegan restaurant renamed Evolve
From Cedar Crossing to Everlasting Life, and now it seems appropriate the restaurant just inside the D.C. line near Metro, at 341 Cedar Street, has been renamed Evolve. The point is more about the sort of food it serves – vegan food, perhaps for those who feel they have evolved past meat-eating. As Everlasting Life, the restaurant’s signature was a soul-food-based vibe, with meatless “chick’n” and “ribs” made from tofu. Now Evolve promises a new feel and a new flavor as well.
For these local artists, work is a mix of creating and teaching

By Kevin Adler

These two profiles are the first in a series of short sketches of Takoma Park artists.

Joan Samworth

Joan Samworth didn’t grow up knowing she would be an artist. Her schools in upstate New York didn’t have much time for art classes. “We did a few posters, and that was it,” she says.

Perhaps that’s why she’s such a popular teacher among adults. “I can relate to the emotional part. I’ve been doing this a long time, but I have doubts,” Samworth says. “That’s why critiques in my classes always start with the positive.”

Samworth began to take art classes in her 30s at Montgomery College in Rockville. She’d paint at night after her three kids went to bed, building skills and dedication that have grown for more than three decades. “I love the process,” she says. “I don’t wait for inspiration. I believe inspiration comes from working.”

Not coincidentally, each of her three children is an artist, full-time or part-time. One has produced an acclaimed illustrated children’s book, “Aviary Wonders, Inc.;” one is a potter; and one works in iron.

Today, Samworth chooses to paint early, rather than late. Typically, she’s up by 5 a.m. to get ready for a morning in her backyard studio.

Blues, greens and browns are prominent in her landscapes and her newer abstract works, as she reflects upon the open spaces, farmland and lakes of upstate New York, where she still visits. “I paint from memory, but I also paint plein air. Sometimes, I make a quick sketch before the light changes, and then in my studio I go back to the idea. That’s when I distill it to its essence,” she says.

Samworth is a big believer in entering juried shows, both for herself and her students. “I think deadlines and goals are important,” she says. “When you’ve tried to perfect a painting and then you put it in a frame, it gives you a sense of accomplishment.”

She also believes in getting regular feedback, so she meets monthly with three other Takoma Park artists to share and critique works. And with her artist neighbors on Flower Avenue, she hosts open studios in May each year.

In addition to adults, Samworth has worked on art projects with youth and teens in Anacostia and elsewhere. Living in New Orleans for a few years, she mentored five boys in an adolescent home. “These kids were drawing because it was the one thing they could control in all the chaos they lived with,” she says. “Nobody could tell them how they had to draw something. That was powerful.”

For her adult students living in comfortable circumstances, the stakes are different, but powerful in their own way. “I tell them they’re very brave to try something new at this stage in their lives that everyone can see,” she says.

Katie Dell Kaufman

Since Katie Dell Kaufman began teaching classes at the Takoma Park Municipal Building a decade ago, she has staffed generations of middle schoolers into the exclusive Einstein High School Visual Arts Center and, from there, on to college art programs.

“I teach my students to do representational drawings from life, often still life,” she says. “They want to draw anime or cartoons or draw from memory. But I tell them there’s time for that later. First, I need to train their eyes and their hands, because that’s how they will be able to channel their inspiration into their art.”

The search for inspiration is never far from the surface with Kaufman, who often closes her eyes and pauses for a few seconds before answering an open-ended question. Her warmth and intensity help students make the transition from art as a pastime to art as deep self-expression.

“Self-expression comes from hard work and a mastery of techniques,” she says. “For some of the students, this is a warts-and-all moment. Art is a lifeboat if they haven’t been fitting in.”

Kaufman has been a sculptor, painter and printmaker, as well as a collage artist. She taught for 21 years at the Corcoran College of Art and Design, and has shown locally at the Fraser Gallery in Washington, D.C. and Bethesda and the Zenith in D.C., among other galleries, as well as internationally, in London, Lithuania and South Africa. Her studio is at the Gateway CDC Art Center in Brentwood.

Kaufman’s most recent work is in assemblage: collage in three dimensions. She accumulates simple objects from around the world and puts them on display in her studio, seeking combinations that are both beautiful and symbolic.

A recent work is a large bowl, encrusted with gold leaf, with large spoons sticking out of it. “I want it to look like a drop of water just splashed into it, and it sent everything up,” says Kaufman, spreading her arms wide as she speaks.

Often, she groups objects in threes or puts them on a base with feet. “When you write or speak in metaphor, it’s usually in twos, like, ‘big as a house.’ But when you juxtapose three things visually, the metaphor gets bigger, and there’s a deeper context,” she says.

As her reputation as a teacher has grown, Kaufman has added adult college classes and both a six-week class during the school year and summer courses for elementary school kids.

These contributions led to her winning an Azalea Award in 2014. “The award was quite a shock,” she says. “Visual artists often work alone. We do what I do quietly, and I think it’s hard to be noticed in a community with so many activists and writers and musicians.”

Don’t worry, Katie, you’ve been noticed.
Bus stops made easy

Route information updated, includes online options

This month residents who use public transportation will begin to see new and improved bus route information at stops in Takoma Park. The clear blue-capped tubes—located at some of the city’s busiest stops—will be repaired and updated, with new tubes added at bus stops on Carroll, Flower and New Hampshire avenues, as well as at Montgomery College.

The informational inserts inside the tubes will be the greatest change. Where there were once bus timetables there is now specific information about the time of the first bus of the morning, the last bus at night, and how long one should wait before another bus arrives, all based on the initial bus departure station.

The inserts, in both English and Spanish, direct riders to several technology options for next-bus apps, web services (such as Google Maps where Ride On and Metro bus schedules are seamlessly integrated) and accurate call-in and text information that provides the time when the next bus is to arrive for a particular stop.

An updated map of all the bus lines that run within or adjacent to Takoma Park is also included. The map illustrates what bus lines run through particular business districts, and identifies where each Capital Bikeshare station is located to ensure easy connection between bike and bus.

These tubes, provided by the City of Takoma Park, give bus line and updated fare information for Metro and Ride On buses and the UMD shuttle. Questions or comments on bus lines should be directed to the appropriate transit operator. Damaged tubes can be reported to the city at planning@takomaparkmd.gov.

Occupied Group House Registration Required

Do you rent out a room in your home? If you do, now is the time to register your home with the city as an ‘Owner Occupied Group House.’

An Owner Occupied Group House is defined as a single family home that is occupied by the owner or a family member and by one or more non-related individuals who pay rent or share in the costs of utilities. The kitchen, bathrooms and common areas are shared by everyone living in the house. The registration process is designed to ensure that the house is safe for all of the occupants.

The registration process is quite simple. You will need to complete a short application form, pay a $50 processing fee, and schedule an inspection with the city. The house will be inspected by the city for any serious life safety hazards. The inspectors will verify, among other things, that all of the smoke detectors work, that there is a safe means of exiting the bedrooms in case of a fire, and that the house is free of other safety hazards. Once the house has passed inspection, a Certificate of Registration, valid for a period of three calendar years, will be issued.

To learn more about the registration process and to get an application form, please contact the City of Takoma Park’s Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7235.

Vehicle parking a common complaint

Complaints about abandoned or non-operational vehicles are among the most common at the code enforcement office. Problem vehicles on the street may be reported to the police, but those on private property are subject to the Takoma Park property maintenance code.

Here are the rules:

- All vehicles must be parked on a paved or surfaced area.
- Vehicles may not be parked on green space, yards or sidewalks.
- Vehicles must be operable and may not be in a state of major disassembly.
- Vehicles must display license plates and current registration stickers.
- Vehicles may be stored in an enclosed garage, but if a vehicle is covered with a tarp or car cover, it is still subject to the requirements of the code.

Home energy use meter available at library

Takoma Park residents can now check out a Belkin “Conserve Insight” energy use meter at the Takoma Park Library. The device is similar to a Kill-a-Watt, and can help identify which appliances and gadgets in the home are using the most electricity. Users simply plug the Conserve Insight into an outlet, then plug an appliance or other electronic device into the Conserve Insight, and the meter will display how much money and electricity the item uses.

This new item is being offered in conjunction with the Sustainable Energy Action Plan, a city-wide effort to reduce energy use. Understanding energy consumption is the first step toward reducing it.

Residents can check out the Conserve Insight at the library main desk. The rental period is three weeks. If you have questions about the device, contact sustainability manager Gina Mathias at ginam@takomaparkmd.gov, or 301-891-7623.

Belkin’s “Conserve Insight” energy meter

Garden grows with a little help from friends and neighbors

Adults and children worked together at the garden outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center last month, planting and beautifying the grounds outside this busy place. The center is used for multiple Recreation Department programs.

Photos by Selena Malott
Dance Exchange Advances the Avenue

The Dance Exchange recently won support from ArtPlace America for its Advancing the Avenue project, creatively engaging local residents to think about how to develop the area along New Hampshire Avenue. The idea is to integrate walking tours, movement and story workshops into the development of a vibrant pedestrian corridor along what is currently an auto-centric highway.

The $210,000 ArtPlace grant is part of $14.7 million given to just 4 percent of more than 1,000 applicants for “creative place-making projects.” Dance Exchange also won a generous “Our Town” grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the project.

In partnership with the City of Takoma Park’s The New Ave initiative, Advancing the Ave is designed to bring together community members living and working along New Hampshire Avenue who will use art in an exploration of what this corridor is, was, and could be. Among the questions that will be asked: What brings us to this place? What keeps us here? What traditions do we carry on? Which do we leave behind? How do these diverse experiences and journeys to the New Ave corridor shape the community today?

Working with local residents and organizations, Advancing the Ave will surface new visions of the cityscape and new ways that community members can occupy their neighborhood spaces. Through movement, storytelling and dialogue, Dance Exchange and community participants will celebrate what is in the area at the moment, remember previous uses of the land, explore what current residents are bringing to the place, surface local knowledge and history, and collectively imagine the future.

This year, Dance Exchange is leading free art-making workshops that encourage community members to share their stories through movement and collaborative making. In September 2014, these residencies will be woven together to create a community festival that celebrates the area’s diverse residents, channels the voices of local knowledge keepers, reclaims space for pedestrian animation and imbues the streetscape with lasting imprints reflecting the lives of local citizens. As part of this festival, Dance Exchange artists and New Hampshire Avenue community members will perform Dance Exchange Founder Liz Lerman’s Still Crossing, originally created in commemoration of the 1986 centennial of the Statue of Liberty. Now a mainstay of the company's repertoire, Still Crossing will allow all those involved in Advancing the Ave to explore themes of journey, tradition and memory.

Dance Exchange is seeking organizations, businesses and individuals to partner with along New Hampshire Avenue. Dance Exchange will be facilitating workshops for all ages and abilities to reflect on their individual journeys, hear each other’s stories, and have the opportunity to connect with each other in a unique community building experience.

To participate or learn more, or to schedule a workshop for an organization, faith group or community, see www.danceexchange.org/projects/advancing-the-ave.

Sit on it!

Don’t touch? Hardly! In Takoma Park, artists are encouraging people to not only touch their art, but to sit on it.

This is the second year that the annual reCYCLE Public Art Project took up the theme, Please Sit on the Art. The result is 15 imaginative seats crafted from re-purposed or recycled materials and installed along the sidewalks and in the shops of Old Takoma. Residents have already enjoyed the pieces along their daily strolling grounds, but if you want to see them all, you can consult the map at www.recyclearttakoma.com. Sculptures are installed June-October each year and then auctioned off to the public.

Clockwise from top left, Revolving Organics by Peter Krsko, at 6930 Carroll Ave.; Why Takoma, by Marcelle Foyard and Annalisa Leonessa, at By Morrison Park; Giant Log, by Howard Connelly Design, at the Gazebo; Octopus, by Howard Connelly Design, at the Co-op; Traffic Calming by Team Takoma City Staff, at the Gazebo; Ponytail bench, in front of Souper Girl near Metro; and Banner Year, by Team Takoma City Staff.

Dance Exchange: Advancing the Avenue

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YOUTH

DROP IN

Kid's Night Out
Ages 6 – 12
Bring your children to the Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out! It will involve games, art and crafts, movies and theme nights.
TP Recreation Center
First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with membership card

ADULTS

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Jazercise
Ages 16 and older
Jazercise is the art of jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. Each class includes easy-to-follow, fun, aerobic dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises, all to the beat of music from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes.

Mondays and Wednesdays (on-going)
7 – 8 p.m.

 Saturdays (on-going), 8 – 9 a.m.
TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
$45 per month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)
$12/0/week pass

$15 drop-in

Ladies' Boot Camp I
Ages 16 and older
A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. It's a challenging workout within a quick hour.
Eight weeks. Instructor KJ Total Fitness.
TP Recreation Center
Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 29 – Aug. 21, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
$85/9 weeks

Zumba
Ages 16 and older
Are you ready to party yourself into shape?
That's exactly what the Zumba program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance party that's moving people toward joy and health. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.
TP Recreation Center front meeting room
Wednesdays, 6 – 6:55 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. (on-going)
$40/4 weeks (session)
$10 (drop-in)

New staffer welcomed to the family

Michael Kurland remembers being a kid at camp – and now, he gets to do it all over again. One of the Recreation Department's newest staff members, Kurland is in charge of summer camps and before- and after-school programs, but still finds time for a game of Uno with the campers.

Kurland has a degree in sports management from the University of Tennessee and comes to Takoma Park from his position as director of the Glenarden Community Center. He's been in recreation all his life, as a facilities director, a pool manager, a lifeguard, even a CIT. Now he's happy to be in a position where he gets to interact with the kids – "it makes me feel young at heart," he says.

Kurland is also impressed with how family-oriented Takoma Park's program is. "Everybody knows everybody," he says. Welcome to our small community!
Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation’s official Parks and Recreation Month. This year’s focus is on setting trends instead of following them, making 2014 the year people go “out”side, change their “out”look, and get “in”volved in their community through parks and recreation.

In Takoma Park, that means getting involved in Takoma Park Recreation Department activities or simply visiting the city’s parks and open spaces. It can mean a walk around the path as Lee Jordan Field with neighbors after work. It can be the sense of exhilaration for the 4-year-old who connects bat to ball for the very first time in the T-ball league. It can be the positive feeling of exhaustion that volunteers feel at the end of the Celebrate Takoma Festival. Or it might be that intangible sense of connection when people gather to enjoy the annual Monster Bash or Independence Day festivities.

Outside of organized activities, just spending time with family and friends or enjoying our Tree City are great ways to celebrate the month. Recreation professionals highlight four categories of benefit from parks and recreation: individual, community, environmental and economic. “P and R,” as the career folks call it, provides opportunities for living, learning and leading full and productive lives as well as avenues for residents to experience purpose, pleasure, health and well being, and interact with families, neighbors and the community.

We see all this activity as well as the quiet time spent in parks and open space as an investment in our community and in the people who live here.
Library opens access to more than 500 children’s E-books

By Karen MacPherson

Over his long career, Seymour Simon has written more than 250 books — some of them award-winners — on science topics for young readers. Now, the 82-year-old Simon has decided to plunge into the e-book market, creating a company called Starwalk Kids Media that offers electronic access to more than 500 books for kids.

Impressed by the breadth and depth of the Starwalk Kids e-collection, our library recently decided to offer Starwalk Kids to our patrons. Now our young readers will be able to read fiction and nonfiction e-books by some of the best writers out there, including Jim Arnosky, Kathleen Krull, Caldecott Medalist Emily Arnold McCully, Jane Yolen, Lee Bennett Hopkins and many others.

Of course, Starwalk Kids also includes a number of books by Simon, who has received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Science Literature for Children from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, among many other honors. Simon has written about all kinds of topics, but is best known for his books about science and nature.

Simon and Liz Nealon, his business partner and spouse, recently spoke to the Children’s Book Guild of Washington, D.C., about why and how they decided to create Starwalk Kids. Simon said he got the idea a few years ago when he was mulling over the fact that a number of his books had gone out of print.

It’s a fact of life in the publishing business that books regularly go out of print. But the more he read about digital books, the more Simon realized that his out of print books could be reformatted for digital use, and in some cases updated, then brought back to life as e-books.

Excited about the idea, Simon approached some of his publishers, all major U.S. publishers, to see if they would be interested in turning his out of print books — and the out of print books of many of his author friends — into digital editions.

“[They] had no idea what I was talking about,” he said.
SAFE GROW
From page 1

Undaunted, Simon decided to create his own company, SAFE GROW, to print books and rework them for digital media. With Nealon’s help, he raised $1 million and Starwalk Kids Media was launched in 2012 with 150 books. Currently, the collection has grown to 500 books, and Simon and Nealon project that it will increase to 1,000 books in the next 18 months.

Besides offering a collection of high-quality e-books for young readers, Simon and Nealon felt it was crucial to ensure that the collection was “device neutral,” meaning that it is available to users with any type of device, from an e-reader to a computer to a tablet to a smartphone. No special software is needed.

Any number of users can be reading the same Starwalk Kids book simultaneously because the company uses “streaming” media, as opposed to books that can be downloaded to a particular user’s device.

Simon acknowledges that he has been greatly helped by the expertise of Nealon, whose background, which includes jobs as former creative director of PBS’s “Sesame Street” and a top executive at a former creative director of PBS’s “Sesame Street” and a top executive at, and Starwalk Kids, collection; kids also can have read the books to them if they want, highlight words and even do digital “sticky notes.”

In addition, there are lots of special features that parents and teachers will like, including information about reading levels, how a book fits into the new educational standards called the Common Core, and brief biographies of the authors and illustrators.

Simon said that Starwalk Kids is particularly looking to boost its collection of Spanish language books for kids, and also the number of books by diverse authors, joining a nationwide campaign called “We Need Di- verse Books.”

Interestingly, Starwalk Kids also publishes print copies of a few books, and Simon said they are looking to partner with a major publisher to have that part of the business really take off.

The company just published — in print and digitally — a new children’s biography, “Malala Yousafzai. Warrior With Words” by Karen Leggett Ahouraya and L.C. Wheelley. about the young Pakistani teen who was shot by the Taliban for promoting female education.

Overall, Simon sees a bright future for Starwalk Kids.

“We’re deeply engaged with authors and illustrators,” he said. “We’re really working with the cream of people currently writ- ing, and they are eager to work with us. Not only are we bringing back [out of print] books but we also are updating them for new generations.”

LIBRARY BRIEFS

New bedtime story

Bedtime Stories, normally offered on the first Tuesday evening of the month, will be held on the second Tuesday in August – Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. Join Ms. Kati on Saturday, July 12, from 2-4 p.m. for our “Under the Sea” program of stories and crafts focused on pirates, mermaids and sea creatures. All ages are welcome, but registration is required. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/plphlevent or call 301-891-7259.

After summer fun

Mark your calendars for this fun back-to-school event. Award-winning picture book author/illustrator Peter Brown will talk about his hilarious new book, “My Teacher Is a Monster (No, I Am Not)” on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. Brown will also discuss his other popular books, including “The Curious Garden,” “Children Make Terrible Pets;” and “Mr. Tiger Goes Wild.” Brown will be a Caldecott Honor in 2013 for his illustrations for “Creepy Car- ronts” written by Aaron Reynolds. Brown’s books will be available for purchase, courtesy of Politcs and Prose Bookstore, but the program is free and no purchase is required to attend. Registration encour- aged; to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/ plphlevent or call 301-891-7259.

SAFE GROW
From page 1

would be Class B infractions, subject to $400 fines.

Posting required notice

The new law requires that a notice be posted on any property where allowed lawn care pesticides are applied. These pesticides may fit into the exceptions to the ban – among them, minimum risk alternatives to the most objectionable pesticides, and pes- ticides applied to control invasive species and other noxious growths. The notice can be downloaded at www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow, and must be posted in a location visible to the public right of way closest to the area of applica- tion. The notice must remain in place for two days after application.

Failure to post and maintain the written notice is a violation and the applicator will be issued a Class G municipal infraction, subject to a $25 fine.

What are the restricted pesticides?

The list of restricted pesticides is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow/list-of-restricted-pesticides It includes those that it will no longer sell and warnings to practitioners that they will be carcinogenic to humans by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Class 9 pesticides by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment; and Class I Endocrine Disruptors by the European Commission. The City also maintains a list of mini- mum risk pesticides and other alternatives that are allowed to be used for cosmetic lawn care. The minimum risk pesticide list is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/ safegrow/educational-materials.

Exceptions to the rule

A restricted pesticide or herbicide may be applied to protect against an imminent threat to human health and safety and to control noxious growths, noxious weeds and invasive species such as poison ivy and mus- tard weed. A waiver of the law may be pro- vided if the applicant proves that he or she has exhausted all reasonable alternatives. A waiver request shall be submitted and approved before a restricted pesticide is ap- plied. Persons granted a waiver must post a written notice readable and visible from the public right of way at the point closest to the area of application. The notice shall remain posted for at least 14 days following application.

Waiver requests are available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow.

For more information on the Safe Grow Act, please contact the Takoma Park Pub- lic Works Department, 301-891-7633.
Seatbelt enforcement aims for safety

As it does each year, the statewide Chiefs’ Challenge, which emphasizes safety restraint enforcement, ran through the month of May. City of Takoma Park Police Department officers focused on enforcement of the state’s seat belt laws as part of the nationwide “Click it or Ticket” campaign. Officers stood at various places throughout the city during the campaign in order to issue tickets to any person not wearing a seatbelt or who did not have their child properly restrained.

During this year’s campaign, 252 tickets were given to individuals not wearing seat belts.

Residents are reminded that all passengers, by law, are to wear seat belts while traveling in the back seat of any vehicle. Children 16 and under are covered by existing state law, but the fine for violating that law has risen to match the fine for adults.

Drivers are no longer allowed to have more passengers than seat belts in a car.

New Increased fines

The following violations are now $83 fines:

- Failing to secure a child under the age of 8 in a child safety seat when transporting them in a motor vehicle
- Failing to transport a child under age 16 in (depending upon the child’s age and size) a child safety seat per instructions, or with a seat belt
- Using a child safety seat or seatbelt to restrain, seat or position more than one individual
- Operating a motor vehicle with the operator or any occupant under age 16 not restrained by a seatbelt or child safety seat
- Allowing passengers aged 16 or more in an outboard front seat of motor vehicle without seat belt restraint. An example of an “outboard front seat” is a front passenger seat next to a door.

New Secondary Traffic Offense

Passengers aged 16 or older in a rear seat of a motor vehicle must wear a seat belt restraint. The fine for violating this law is $83, plus any court costs.

Who is covered by the law?

The seatbelt law covers the driver and passengers in both the front and back seats. Each person who is not buckled up (driver or passenger) may receive a ticket for not wearing a seatbelt. In the case where neither the driver nor any passenger 15 years of age or younger are buckled up, the driver will receive a ticket for those individuals who are under age.

“Click it or Ticket” is one of the most successful seat belt enforcement campaigns ever, helping to increase the national seatbelt usage rate. Takoma Park Police Chief Alan Goldberg is hopeful that more individuals who do not wear their seat belts will begin to do so. It’s not only the law; it’s for safety and could save your life.

Protect pets in vehicles

Each year, thousands of beloved pet companions succumb to heatstroke and suffocation when left in parked cars. It happens most often when people make quick stops—the dry cleaners, the bank or the local market. Please be advised that it takes only minutes for your pet’s face to turn rosy—and it doesn’t have to be that hot out. On an 85-degree day, it only takes 10 minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102 degrees, even with the windows cracked.

Within 30 minutes, a car’s interior can reach 120 degrees. When the temperature outside is a pleasant 70 degrees, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter.

Shade offers little protection on a hot day and moves with the sun. All pets are at risk, but at the most risk for hyperthermia (overheating) are young animals, elderly animals, overweight animals, those with thick or dark-colored coats. You can help save pets from dying in hot cars. Simply take the following actions:

- Educate people: If you see something, say something. If you see a dog alone in a vehicle, immediately call animal control or 911. Local law officials have the ability to enter a vehicle and rescue the pet. Do not leave until help has arrived.
- No matter how much your dog loves to go along when you run errands, don’t take a chance. Leave your pet home where he/she is safe.
- If your dog is overcome by the heat, bring down the body temperature by soaking him/her in cool (not ice) water. Make sure the water does not get into the mouth or nose of an unconscious animal. Seek immediate veterinary care.
- Limit driving and combine errands.
- Refuel after dark.
- Avoid using gasoline-powered lawn equipment, including mowers.
- Wait for a cooler day to use oil-based paints or switch to non-solvent or low VOC-based paints.
- Avoid using aerosols and household products that contain solvents.
- Avoid mid-day driving.
- Conserve energy at home and work to reduce power demand.

Vehicles account for 30 to 40 percent of the pollutants that cause ozone in the Baltimore/Washington area and every summer day, gas-powered lawn and garden equipment releases more than 100 times the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) of a typical large industrial plant. For every person who postpones lawn mowing on Air Quality Action Days, potential VOC reductions equal the amount generated by a car driving from Montgomery County to Raleigh, N.C.

CITY Briefs

From page 2

Take precautions during hot weather alerts

With hot weather code orange and red air quality alerts, residents can help reduce harmful air emissions by doing the following:

- Carpool, telecommute, or take mass transit to work
- Conserve energy at home and work to reduce power demand
- Vehicles account for 30 to 40 percent of the pollutants that cause ozone in the Baltimore/Washington area and every summer day, gas-powered lawn and garden equipment releases more than 100 times the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) of a typical large industrial plant. For every person who postpones lawn mowing on Air Quality Action Days, potential VOC reductions equal the amount generated by a car driving from Montgomery County to Raleigh, N.C.

Fire Safety Tips

- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Replace any of your smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- Plan and practice your home fire exit plan with your entire family at least twice a year.
- In a real fire situation, get out of the house first and then call the fire department from a neighbor’s house or cell phone.
- Go to your family’s pre-determined meeting place immediately after escaping the fire so all family members may be accounted for.
- Never re-enter a burning building. If you believe a family member is trapped, alert firefighters of their possible location.
- It’s fact... most fire deaths are the very young and the seniors. Make sure they are involved with your fire escape planning.

Maryland fire deaths update

The Maryland State Fire Marshal reported as of June 25, 2014, 35 people have died in fires this year, as compared to 41 in 2013. That’s a 15 percent drop from last year.

Important telephone numbers:

- Takoma Park Police Dispatcher 301-270-1100
- Montgomery County Crisis Center (24 hrs/7 days a week) 240-777-4000
Battle of Fort Stevens brings Civil War close to home

by Loretta Neumann
Vice President
Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington

Picture 150 years ago during the hottest days of an especially muggy July. The cities of Silver Spring and Takoma Park didn’t exist, the landscape a bucolic mix of farms dotted with houses, barns and live stock, the roads few and dusty. Picture, too, thousands of gray-coated soldiers, trudging through it in lines stretching for 10 miles back from Rockville, Md.

Leading them was Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, who – at the command of General Robert E. Lee – was set on attacking the nation’s capital. Their trek had started a month before from outside Richmond, Va. They had marched and fought their way for nearly 400 miles through the Shenandoah Valley to Harpers Ferry, Poolesville, crossing the Potomac River at White’s Ford through Leesburg, Va. to the Shenandoah Valley. After several battles in the early fall, he was finally defeated by Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan at Cedar Creek on Oct. 19, 1864.

Decades after the war was over, the federal government finally settled all claims filed for military seizures from local land owners. One of those claims, citing 200 acres of timber used at the nearby forts, was filed on behalf of Gottlieb Grammar. After several battles in the early fall, he was finally defeated by Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan at Cedar Creek on Oct. 19, 1864.

Early took as his headquarters the country manor “Silver Spring” of Francis Preston Blair, well known editor and friend of President Lincoln. Blair owned 1,000 acres, including much of present Takoma Park and Rock Creek Park. Today only the acorn-shaped gazebo that was on his estate remains in a small park near downtown Silver Spring.

Where is the president?

Meanwhile, President Lincoln had been staying with his family at a summer cottage on the grounds of the Old Soldiers Home in northwest Washington, D.C. On July 11, he was back at the White House and at 2 p.m., he went down to the Sixth Street Wharf (diagonally across from where Arena Stage is now located). There he greeted troops emerging from the steamboats sent by General Grant. The soldiers marched up Seventh Street to Fort Stevens, cheered by citizens along their route.

While there are mixed stories about when President Lincoln visited Fort Stevens, various contemporary accounts agree that he was there, that he stood up on a parapet, and that he was shot at by a sniper. While Lincoln was not harmed, a surgeon standing close by was hit. It is the only verifiable time in U.S. history that a president in office has come under direct enemy fire.

Fighting continued all day on July 12, but then enough Union troops had arrived to reinforce Fort Stevens, and Early realized he could not take the city. That night he withdrew back through Rockville (some skirmishing occurred there) to Poolesville, crossing the Potomac River at White’s Ford through Leesburg, Va. to the Shenandoah Valley. After several battles in the early fall, he was finally defeated by Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan at Cedar Creek on Oct. 19, 1864.

Noted Civil War scholars and authors discuss the significance of the Civil War and the Battle of Fort Stevens.

July 10
City of Takoma Park kicks off 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens
Takoma Park Community Center
7 – 7:30 p.m., Civil War era music from the Roustabouts
7:30 – 9 p.m., Photo/historical presentations and video clips on the Battle of Fort Stevens and Montgomery County during the Civil War
9 – 9:30 p.m., reception

July 11
Fort Stevens Civil War Historians’ Round Table
Nativity Church, 6008 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

July 12
150th Anniversary Commemorative Program
Historic Fort Stevens, between 13th Street and Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Congressional, federal, municipal and community speakers, historical lectures, music, living history demonstrations, 19th century crafts, period music, children’s activities, historic talks and walks and soldiers’ encampments

July 13
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Historic Fort Stevens, 13th Street and Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.
Civil War 150th History Mobile and Commemorative Activities
2 – 4 p.m. Memorial Service, Battleground National Cemetery, 6825 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

For a complete list of many more programs and activities see www.dc-civilwarforts.org or www.nps.org/cwdw.
JULY ‘14

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we’ll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the August issue is July 21, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Aug. 1.

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov. “TP Community Center” is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C. unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City Council
Monday, July 7, 7:30 p.m.*
Monday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, July 21, 7:30 p.m. (tentative meeting)
Monday, July 28, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
*When public hearings or presentations are scheduled, meetings may begin at 7 p.m. Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomapark-md.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry
First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educate_ss@yahoo.com
www.educaresupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Fruit Tree Growing and Propagation
Wednesday, July 16, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.
Lecture/demo with Mike McConkey
Free

Kid’s Night Out
First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 9:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Fun and games for kids
See page 6 for details

Teen Night
Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Games and activities just for teens
See page 6 for details

Takoma Park Farmers Market
Every Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Year-round
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town
Locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses
Crossroads Farmers Market
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
New location: Behold Expo Emart at 1021 University Blvd.
Locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs plus pupusas and other prepared food
The Essex House Saturday Farmers Market
Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.
7777 Maple Ave.
Locally and sustainably grown fruits and veggies
Food Truck Fridays
Fridays, 5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
Train, 232 Carroll Street, NW
Various food vendors

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Colorscape Art Exhibit
Opens Thursday, July 10
Reception from 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Galleries
Works by Deborah Gay, DC Arts Studio, Alicia Geller, Jackson Berger and Mei Mei Chang.

Woody Guthrie Birthday Tribute
Joe Uehlein and the U-Liners, Emma’s Revolution
Saturday, July 12, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
618 in advance, $20 at the door

Kiyun Martin House Concert
with Greta Ehrg opening
Saturday, July 12, 7:30 p.m.
Private residence near Sligo Creek
Original acoustic guitar and voice $15-25 suggested donation, BYOB
Advanced reservation required
301-495-3420

World Folk Music Association Showcase
Carey Creed with Mark Sylvester, Pam Ortiz Band, Jim Jones
Sunday, July 13, 7 p.m.
El Golfo restaurant, 8739 Flower Ave.
Long Branch neighborhood, Silver Spring $15 non-members
www.wfma.org

Music on Thursdays
Thursdays 8:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Roscoe’s Neapolitan Pizzeria, 7040 Carroll Ave.
www.roscoespizzeria.com
Danza Latina
Fridays, lesson 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. followed by dancing
El Golfo restaurant, 8739 Flower Ave.
Long Branch neighborhood, Silver Spring $10, first visit free

OVER 55

Blood Pressure Screening
Thursday, July 24, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Advantist Healthcare service
TP Community Center Senior Room
Free

The Kreeger Museum
Friday, July 11, 4:35 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Meet at the TP Community Center
Visit to Washington, D.C. art museum and sculpture garden
Registration required
See page 6 for details

Library of Congress
Friday, July 18, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Meet at the TP Community Center
See the largest library in the world
Registration required
See page 6 for details

UPCOMING

2014 Lifelong Takoma Day
Saturday, Sept. 20, 1-4pm
TP Community Center
Demonstrations, workshops, health and wellness screenings and a mini-conference
More info to come

DOG PARK

From page 1

promote the dog park; members marched with their leashed dogs in last year’s Independence Day Parade.

Proponents of the park point to the large number of dogs in the city (more than 4,250, according to Takoma Dogs founder Joe Edgell), and complain that dog owners have to drive miles to have their dogs socialize in a fenced area. Edgell adds that there are more dogs than children in Takoma Park, and while the city maintains at least nine parks for children, there are none for dogs.

Among the most frequently listed reasons for having a dog park are socializing — for people as well as for dogs; a reduction in animal aggression, since dogs frequently react negatively to one another while on leash; safety, since dogs are contained and owners do not have to navigate residential streets with no sidewalks; and community building.

“Dog parks are not a revolutionary thing,” said resident Liz Catanya at the public hearing. “They are bedrock of suburban communities. We need to move this forward quickly.”

Not everyone approves of the dog park, however. Those who live near the proposed sites, which also include the triangle-shaped park at the intersection of Prince George’s Avenue and Belford Place, worry about noise, parking and pet feces. Tree protection, litter and maintenance are also concerns.

Cost is another factor. Among the initial expenditures will be surveying and design, site preparation (possibly to include grading and retaining walls), and fencing. The $70,000 budgeted for the pilot is meant to cover those initial costs. Subsequent expenses include maintenance and could include benches, ground cover and potable water as well. Other possibilities could be agility equipment, water features and art.

As planned, the park at Heffner could be 10,000 square feet of a fenced in, shady area at the end of Darwin Avenue. The site was chosen from among several possibilities by using a metric that compared a number of factors. Among them were available parking, existing parkland, current underutilization, appropriate distance from residences (at least 200 feet), size (minimum of 10,000 square feet or 0.25 acres), ease of maintenance, compatibility with other park uses, drainage, and location in a high-density, walkable area.

Members of Takoma Dogs marched in last year’s Independence Day parade to promote the idea of building a dog park in Takoma Park.

Photo by Nicole LeBoeuf

At 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, a mixed-breed dog, Lulu, became the first to attend the new TPCC Dog Park. Lulu is owned by Long Branch residents Edith and Milt Isenberg.

The 6-by-50-foot dog park is the first in the city and is enclosed by a 6-foot chain link fence. "That's the important safety feature," said Mayor Don McTheod, who cut the ribbon and opened the park to the public.

"We've been working on this dog park for 10 years," said Joe Edgell, founder of Takoma Dogs. "We are so excited to have it."

LULU: A new member of the Takoma Park community.