

June
2021

TAKOMAPARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 60, No. 6 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

Fourth of July Parade of Houses

Details, page 12

Takoma Park Reopening Schedule

Details, page 10

New City Manager Designated

Details, page 4

Holiday for City Staff

Monday, July 5

Trash/Recycling Collection

No changes this month
July 4th Holiday is observed on
Monday July 5. Yard Waste collection
is canceled for the week.



Look for this icon
throughout this
issue

See page 10

Well Wishes: A Photo Farewell for Retiring City Manager Suzanne Ludlow



All in Good Fun

As City Manager, Suzie has had no shortage of opportunities to have fun.

Editor's Note: If just one picture is in fact worth 1,000 words, it is my hope that this relatively small selection of photos in comparison to Suzie's many years of service paired with "well wishes" from current and former staff, City government leaders, past and present, will serve as fitting tribute to commemorate her retirement on these pages. With that, I will add my voice to the chorus of those thanking you for your support, steadfastness, and incredibly generous spirit and wishing you well in this next phase of your life's journey.

WISHES □ Page 6



The diagram above, depicting three hypothetical buildings of the same property type, is a visual representation of the ordinance's central innovation, its "trajectory approach," which uses a combination of long- and short-term performance standards to provide building owners with regulatory certainty and appropriate flexibility.

Proposed County Ordinance to Change Building Benchmarking Law

Editor's Note: Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection has been working with the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT). Portions of this article are excerpted from IMT's summary of the County's proposed policy.

A major change to Montgomery County's existing building benchmarking law

has been introduced to county council. The amendment is the Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS) legislation and could apply to 25 buildings in Takoma Park. Montgomery County would be the first county in the country to adopt such

ORDINANCE □ Page 3

Information and Resources: Covid19

takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions

askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK



Suzie at her desk working on the City budget



See You Around Town

Dear Takoma Park Residents:

After more than 27 years with the City of Takoma Park, I retire on July 1. There have been many changes since I started in November of 1993, but my joy of working with and for the residents, staff, and Mayors and Councilmembers of Takoma Park has not wavered.

Over this last month, there will be the sharing of memories, of photos of special events or of me as a young employee, and many laughs (and some tears) about all that we have been through together.

Transitions can be stressful, but they also bring opportunities and I have every confidence Takoma Park will be better for the changes to come. The City staff are skilled professionals and truly good people. The next City Manager has a wealth of talent on which to build to continue the provision of excellent service to the residents and businesspeople of Takoma Park.

I am not moving away, so you may see me at community events, walking through Sligo Creek Park, or picking up churros at the Brazilian Bakery, green curry with shrimp from Kin Da, deviled eggs and green beans from Roscoe's, or peanut butter chu from Mansa Kunda. So I'll be around, unless I'm at a Nats or Mystics game or visiting family or just enjoying being outside on a pretty weekday.

I wish the best for the Takoma Park community and staff, and I thank you for the honor of allowing me to work with you for all these years.

—Suzie

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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Painting
Picnic Tables
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Coming Full
Circle
Page 7



Spotlighting
Sergio Quisqinay
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Celebrating
National
Pollinator Week
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DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE

We expect that meetings will continue to take place in a remote/virtual format. For the most current information, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Information on any meetings taking place will be published there along with information on how the public can observe.

COMMENTING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Individuals interested in commenting live during City Council meetings must sign up by 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The link to sign up will be published on the calendar and on the City Council agenda page. The time limit per comment is three minutes. Requests for additional time, or requests to share slides or video at a City Council meeting, must be directed to the Mayor at least 24 hours in advance. Email: kates@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments sent by email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or by U.S. mail will be shared with the full Council.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN JUNE

- Wednesday, June 9, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, June 23, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, June 30, 7:30 p.m. – City Council Regular Meeting

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held remotely for the duration of the public health crisis.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, June 10, 7 p.m.

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 10, 7 p.m. (tentative)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 24, 7 p.m.

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, June 8, 6:30 p.m.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, June 21, 7 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 17, 7 p.m.

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Tuesday, June 1, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8, 5:30 p.m.

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, June 13, 3:30 p.m.

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here.
Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

On **May 5, 2021**, the City Council adopted **Ordinance 2021-15** to authorize \$52,965 for the purchase of a leaf vacuum for the Public Works Department. The leaf vacuum will be purchased from Old Dominion Bruch Company. **Ordinance 2021-16** authorized purchase and installation of six non-advertising bus shelters at the cost of \$59,140. Bus shelters will be purchased from Tolar and installed by InSite. **Ordinance 2021-17** authorized purchase of street furnishings for the New Hampshire Avenue corridor, including 40 trash and recycling receptacles for \$40,000 from Victor Stanley and five benches to be purchased from Urbanscape at a total cost of \$7,000.

At the City Council meeting on **May 12, 2021**, the Council approved **Ordinance 2021-21** authorizing a three-year lease of Canon photocopiers. **Ordinance 2021-22** authorized the replacement of the door access control system for City

facilities with a Verkada Inc. system at a cost of \$49,909. Also, on **May 12**, **Resolution 2021-10** was adopted to temporarily close the 1100 block of Anne Street for the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Summer Mercado on Saturday, June 26. On **May 19, 2021**, the City Council adopted the FY 2022 Budget. First reading of the budget ordinances took place on May 12. **Ordinance 2021-18** set the tax rate a for FY 2022 at \$0.5397 per \$100 of assessed valuation for real property; \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed valuation for personal property, and \$1.57 for railroads and public utilities. **Ordinance 2021-19** adopted the FY 2022 Stormwater Management Budget. (Councilmember Smith voted against.) **Ordinance 2021-20** adopted the FY 2022 Budget. Also, on **May 19**, the City Council approved **Resolution 2022-11**, to authorize the temporary closure of Laurel Avenue for a performance by the Washington National Opera on May 28.

VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the public health crisis, the City Council has been meeting remotely by video conference. This will continue as long as necessary. The meetings are available to watch live (or view afterwards) in all the usual ways:

- on the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video>)
- on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28)
- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)
- on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV>)

The public can comment live during the public comment portions of the meetings by registering and logging into the video conference. Anyone wishing to share a slide or video must make the request at least 24 hours before the meeting by contacting Mayor Kate Stewart.

The meeting link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to comment at the meeting, written comments may be sent by email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov to be circulated to the City Council.



A Note on Committees from Councilmembers Dyballa, Kostiuk, and Searcy

A City Council priority for this year is to review and improve the City's system of 17 Council-appointed standing committees. Our goal is a more diverse, engaged, productive, and rewarding committee experience for residents. We want to increase efficiency and effectiveness of committees, attract new members, and explore innovative ways to engage a much wider range of residents.

To that end, we are reviewing each committee to ensure that its purpose is still relevant, and its charge is clear. We are also considering standardized changes across many committees. One set of potential changes is in membership—a common base of 7–9 members for most committees and a limit of up to two three-year terms. Another is a common recruitment period, likely twice each year.

Very soon, the City Council will be seeking members to apply for many of our standing committees. Orientation and training for new members in the basics of city government and committee operation will follow. The recruitment will be widely publicized by the City through the Takoma Insider, social media, listservs, and of course, this newsletter. We are also seeking new methods of recruiting to reach more people from across our community. Applying is simple and online. Read about some of our current city committees here: takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees.

Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Information	301-891-7100
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267
City Manager	301-891-7229
Communications.....	301-891-7236
Finance	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development.....	301-891-7119
Library	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services.....	301-891-7113
Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental.....	301-891-7290

legislation, and the fifth jurisdiction nationwide to enact a building performance standard. Building performance standards (BPS) are laws that require existing buildings to meet energy performance targets. BEPS would offer a way to meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions while lowering costs and creating local jobs.

Like in Takoma Park, buildings in Montgomery County account for 50 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. The County's push for BEPS is part of the effort to achieve the County's goal of carbon neutrality by 2035. In autumn 2019, the County joined the City Energy Project, a joint project of IMT and the Natural Resources Defense Council, to receive technical support in developing BEPS legislation.

In February 2020, Montgomery County staff initiated a stakeholder engagement process to examine potential elements of BEPS. The stakeholder group included representatives from Takoma Park and other municipal representatives, the commercial and multifamily real estate industries, affordable housing, environmental advocacy groups, utilities, and energy contractors. The group worked together to develop recommendations for the design of an ambitious, equitable, and effective building performance standards policy.

The County's proposed ordinance, based on these stakeholder recommendations, applies energy use intensity standards to all County-owned, commercial, and residential buildings 25,000 square feet and larger. The ordinance would apply to 25 buildings in Takoma Park, including 16 multifamily buildings, 2 churches, schools, and several office buildings. The Takoma Park Sustainability Manager, Economic Development Manager, and the Housing Development Manager will be working with both Montgomery County and impacted building owners in the city to ensure there is ample support should BEPS be adopted by Montgomery County Council. The 25 buildings that would be covered by BEPS in Takoma Park represent some of the largest energy users in the city.

The ordinance's central innovation is its "trajectory approach," that uses a combination of long- and short-term performance standards to provide building owners with regulatory certainty and appropriate flexibility to accommodate typical capital planning cycles, while still pushing owners to improve their properties at the earliest opportunity.

In the trajectory approach, buildings are sorted by property type, and each property type is assigned a long-term final perfor-

mance standard according to a performance metric. In Montgomery County, the metric is based on a building's site energy use intensity (kBtu/sf) less any renewable electricity the building generated onsite. All buildings within a property type must meet the same final performance standard by the designated compliance deadline. In Montgomery County, the final standard's deadline will be 2034, 2036, or 2037, depending on the type and size of the building.

Buildings will also be required to meet interim standards every four years to ensure their progress toward the final standard. Each building's interim performance levels are determined by its individual performance trajectory. DEP will use a simple spreadsheet to calculate each building's trajectory by drawing a straight line from the building's baseline performance to the final standard. This approach allows better-performing buildings to improve more gradually than poorer-performing buildings, which despite being expected to improve more quickly are permitted to use more energy at every interim standard. For a visual representation of the trajectory approach, see the diagram on page 1 depicting three hypothetical buildings of the same property type.

After successful adoption of the BEPS law, the County will embark on a process to adopt regulations establishing the numerical performance standards, guidance for onsite solar generation, adjustments and assistance for under-resourced building sectors, and other administrative details.

In recognition of the financial difficulty that some building owners may face in meeting the performance standard, the County has committed to providing technical assistance, favorable financing tools and, where appropriate, financial incentives, to help building owners comply with BEPS. Additionally, if the legislation is adopted by the County Council, Montgomery County and neighboring Washington, D.C., would have an opportunity to collaborate on a regional level to support building owners and the contractors that serve them through financing programs, technical assistance, and facilitating the exchange of best practices among owners, contractors, utilities, and other stakeholders.

Montgomery County staff presented BEPS to Takoma Park City Council along with the City's Sustainability Manager on Monday, June 7. To learn more about Montgomery County's BEPS and access the full legislative packet, visit the County's BEPS website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/energy/beps.html.

Code Enforcement in Our Neighborhoods

A primer on how we keep Takoma Park safe and tidy

It is not uncommon to see Neighborhood Services staff out and about in Takoma Park neighborhoods. These individuals are on the lookout for overgrown vegetation, unregistered or derelict cars and trucks, flaking or peeling paint, broken or missing windows, and unshoveled or icy sidewalks among other potential violations of the Property Maintenance Code. It is also not unusual for property owners and neighbors to get upset about code violations. The process can be confusing and even alarming.

City staff assures residents and property owners that the code enforcement system is not about the consequences; it is about keeping homes and businesses safe and in good repair. The process is also meant to address eyesore properties that threaten to pull down property values across the City.

How it works

The Property Maintenance Code applies to the exterior of all buildings and to vacant land, even sheds and carports. It establishes basic standards for repair only – it does not address aesthetic choices like paint color. You can paint with any color you like.

Among the most common violations are grass over 12 inches high, an untagged vehicle, peeling paint, trash on ground or left out on curb, rotted wood or broken fencing. If there is a code violation, residents get a Courtesy Notice, hung on the door, with the violation(s) listed, and a deadline of 15 days for correcting it. The name of the inspector and the phone number is on the notice in case they have questions or need more time. Staff issues notices so that there will be a weekend available between the time the notice is posted and the deadline for correction.

If during the initial inspection the violation noted is a major item or a justified complaint from another person, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued. A major vio-



Rick Baravechia, Supervisor, Neighborhood Services

lation could be any life safety issue, extensive peeling paint, trash left out, structure damage or graffiti. An NOV is also issued if the items noted on the Courtesy Notice are not corrected. It comes by certified mail, involves no fines, and 20 days for compliance.

What if residents or property owners cannot make the corrections? Staff urges them to call and discuss the issue before the deadline for compliance. If there are multiple violations and one or more have been corrected, residents and property owners can request more time to take care of the rest. However, you must remember that any violation that may be considered a safety violation, should be corrected immediately. The decision to extend the deadline is made on a case-by-case basis.

Still no progress? Staff may issue a Failure to Abate letter, which allows for another extension for 20 days. If there is still no progress, the City issues a Uniform Civil Citation for each of the violations not abated and attaches fines to each. Residents have 30 days to correct the violation from the date it is issued and the option of requesting a trial. Even if residents pay the fine, the case is brought to a hearing in District Court if the violation is not abated.

And, even if residents have a court date, they should continue to work on addressing the violation. Also, be sure to attend the hearing as it is the District Court judge that makes the final decision on fines and abatement dates.

Courts typically issue an order requiring the owner to correct the violation, and the judge may also assess a fine. Once the violations have been corrected, the case is closed, and the owner is notified.

Throughout this process, the owner is encouraged to contact the inspector. The City's goal is to bring the property into compliance with the code, not to go to court.

Examples of typical property maintenance code violations can be found online at takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/property-maintenance-code.

Concerned about the condition of a property? Contact the Neighborhood Service Manager at 301- 891-7113 or submit your concerns online at takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk.

Common Property Maintenance Code Violations

- Accumulation of snow and ice on public walkways
- Accumulation or improper storage of rubbish, garbage, and bulk items
- Broken windows, missing doors, collapsed roofs, unsafe steps or rotting porches
- Chipping peeling paint and deteriorating wood
- Graffiti located on private property
- Inadequately maintained grounds (overgrown shrubbery, excessive weeds, tall grass)
- Missing or damaged fencing or other site improvements
- Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles
- Unsafe or unsecured structures
- Vehicles parked on the lawn, green space, or the sidewalk



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov

takomaparkmd.gov or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—





BUILDING COMMUNITY



Credit: Lisa Buttner

CHEER Seeks Volunteers

Communities have been shattered since COVID-19 hit our country. Many of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet. Food security has been a big issue facing many unemployed and underemployed good, hardworking people. So, CHEER decided to help. We have distributed at least 300 bags of food almost every week since June. We want to do more, but we need your help. Volunteer your time today to help our community. The person you help may be your neighbor. Contact: bruce@communitycheer.org



Mayor and City Council Designate Jamal T. Fox as Takoma Park's Next City Manager

"After conducting a thorough national search and an extensive interview process, we are pleased to welcome Jamal to the City. His experience, background and leadership will serve the residents and employees in Takoma Park and its future very well. We are looking forward to having Jamal join our team to assist our community as we look to recover from the pandemic and move forward on racial equity, housing, climate change, reimagining public safety and other initiatives," said Mayor Kate Stewart.

"I am very honored by Mayor Stewart and the City Council to be selected to serve as the City Manager for Takoma Park. I am thrilled about this opportunity to join a strong, dedicated, and talented team. I am looking forward to collaborating with the City Council, staff, residents, and the business community," said Fox.

Mr. Fox currently serves as the City Administrator in Camas, Washington. He has also served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor and was the city's Parks Property & Business Development Manager for the City of Portland, Oregon. Mr. Fox will



Jamal T. Fox

begin work at the City of Takoma Park on August 2, 2021. *Read more about him in the July Newsletter.*

Clean Energy Grants

The MEA EmPower Clean Energy repair to cooling and heating equipment (Weatherization) Grant is offered to qualifying homeowners who live in a single family, duplex, mobile home/trailer, or townhome. The grant is funded by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), in partnership with the nonprofit Building Change Inc, a 501(c)(3) formerly known as BCFF.

Once the affidavit is downloaded, filled in and signed, please submit it to Building Change by fax, email, or mail with the first 2 pages only of your federal taxes (1040). Fax (240-786-4186), email jf258@aol.com, or mail to 6852 Distribution Dr. Beltsville, MD 20705. This grant is supported by the MEA, DHCD, Municipal Collaboration, City of Rockville, Takoma Park, Howard County Public Schools, and the Howard CAC. To download an application, go to www.edge-gogreen.com/grants.

For more information, contact Lt. (Ret) James (Jim) Flynn at 240-417-9098 or jf258@aol.com, Alison Miller at 301-908-4079 or stg_am@msn.com.

Homeowners in single family, duplexes, or townhomes MEA EmPower Clean Energy Grant Homeowner Income Qualifying Criteria	
Number of People living in the house	Owner's Gross Annual Income must be below:
1	\$57,750.00
2	\$66,000.00
3	\$74,200.00
4	\$82,500.00
5	\$89,100.00
6	\$95,700.00
7	\$102,300.00
8	\$108,900.00

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Does it cost me anything?

A: No. Both the Energy Audit and the upgrades are paid for through the grant. There are a few exceptions, but they are rare and completely voluntary.

Q: What is an Energy Audit?

A: The Energy Audit starts with a visual inspection of the home inside and out, includes health and safety tests on the HVAC and Water Heater and a blower door test to check the efficiency of air flow (draftiness) in the home performed by a BPI certified Building Analyst. It takes about 3 hours.

Q: What upgrades will be done?

A: Each house is different, so the Energy Audit is very thorough and will identify the best areas for improvement. Access is needed to all rooms, attic, basement. The house data is entered into an energy model to allow us to identify the most energy efficient upgrades to the home while meeting the parameters of the grant. Some of the measures may include sealing/insulating the attic, sealing ductwork, upgrades to the HVAC system or water heater and other health and safety upgrades.

Q: What are the parameters of the grant? Are there maximum limits that can be spent on a home?

A: (1) An energy efficiency project must realize a simple payback of 10 years or less. For example, a \$5000 cost in project upgrades must demonstrate that \$5000 in energy savings will be realized within 10 years. (2) There is a maximum of \$7000 per home for energy efficiency upgrades from the MEA. The City of Takoma Park offers a special enhancement for City residents to cover qualified additional expenses. Please email the Sustainability Manager, ginam@takomaparkmd.gov for more information once you have applied. (3) There is a maximum of \$10,000 per home for a project involving an HVAC system replacement.

Takoma ARTery Brings Window Displays and Art Fair to Takoma Park

Local artists are sharing their creative talents through the Takoma ARTery, a new arts organization that is filling vacant storefronts with a diverse range of art and crafts for sale.

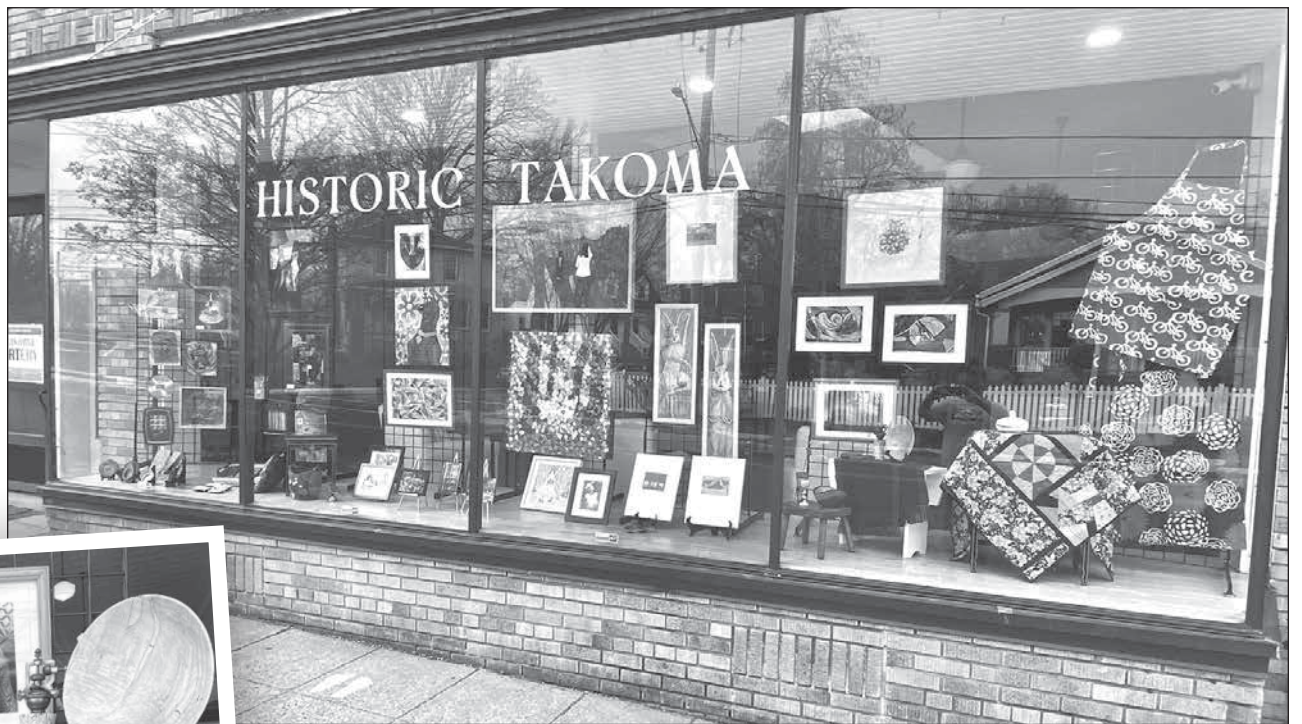
The ARTery also will hold its first outdoor art fair with 20 artists from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, in the Takoma Park Community Center parking lot at 7500 Maple Avenue.

Eleanor Landstreet founded the ARTery with Tuula Ehn Smith to provide an opportunity for artists to sell their work during the coronavirus pandemic. Landstreet owned the Things From Egypt store and Back Wall Gallery in downtown Takoma Park before it closed last year.

“Artists and artisans at our store had nowhere to show or sell their work. Other storefront windows were also shuttered, and a downtown stroll was a dreary outing,” she said. “In this environment, we organized the Takoma ARTery to use storefront windows to display art and handicrafts to support the livelihoods of local artists, including many whose businesses had suffered due to the pandemic.”

The window displays are located at the Masonic building at 115 Carroll Street in downtown and at the Historic Takoma building at 7328 Carroll Avenue at the Takoma Junction. The displays include contact information for the artists, and the ARTery does not charge a commission. The proceeds from all sales go directly to the artists.

The ARTery also has created a website at takomaartery.com, which features local artists’ work and information for other artists who may want to join the group for free. The City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Division provided a \$3,250 grant to



the ARTery to pay for its website start-up costs and half of its monthly expenses for three months. The grant has allowed the ARTery to waive window display fees, which artists used to pay to show their work, Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said.

“The City of Takoma Park is happy to support the ARTery’s important work to boost our creative community and Takoma Park’s reputation as an arts-friendly city,” Smith said. “I am impressed by the commitment and energy of their volunteers who are filling a real need.”

Landstreet said the city funding has allowed more artists to show their work in the window displays, and the ARTery is “appreciative and honored to be awarded the funds.” The Masonic building display will end soon, and the ARTery is searching for additional locations for more storefront displays.

The ARTery’s first outdoor art fair will feature 20 artists who will be selling their work in the Takoma Park Community Center parking lot on June 5. “We hope local residents will visit the art fair and buy some unique art and crafts,” Smith said. “The arts help define the character of Takoma Park, and the arts won’t survive without support for our artists.”

Tables Painted by Trap Bob at the Takoma Streeterly

Three picnic tables at the downtown Takoma Streeterly have been painted by artist Trap Bob with her original designs celebrating the power and resilience of Black women.

The City of Takoma Park hired Trap Bob (www.trapbob.com) to paint the tables as part of the City’s commitment to public art and racial equity, Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. Another table painted by Trap Bob was vandalized by a white woman who scraped the portrait of a Black woman’s face and the word “Justice” off the table in a separate project by Main Street Takoma.

“The Arts and Humanities Division paid Trap Bob to repaint that table and then commissioned her to paint three more tables at the Takoma Streeterly to feature more of her inspiring artwork,” Smith said. “We also wanted to send a clear mes-



sage that racism won’t be tolerated here.”

The three tables feature Black women wearing goggles surrounded by colorful rays of light. “The characters I use in my work, I refer to them as my ‘girls’ because they are representative of myself and every Black woman. They are proud, powerful, and resilient,” Trap Bob said. “The goggles represent their superpowers because they are everyday superheroes.”

Trap Bob said residents were excited to see her painting the picnic tables at the Takoma Streeterly, a pedestrian area at the intersection of Laurel Avenue and Carroll Avenue. “It’s important to show the community that change can’t be stopped and to further emphasize Black people’s resilience,” she said.

WISHES ■ From page 6



City leaders honored Erwin Mack for his efforts in bringing faith communities together to work with business to improve the city. (Feb. 2020)

"I have many memories of working with Suzie. What stands out most is her strong commitment to the City – its residents and staff. I remember after we learned Trump had won the Presidential election, I got an early morning text saying we needed to let everyone know our city government is here for them, and that Takoma Park will remain a sanctuary city and provide for *all* those who call it home. She always had time for staff and residents in need. Her first response to an issue or problem was always how can we help. She will be missed."

—**Kate Stewart, Mayor, City of Takoma Park**

"Sometimes small, barely noticed actions can make a difference. I was surprised to frequently see Suzanne quietly pitching in without fanfare as a volunteer at the biweekly food distributions in the Takoma Park Elementary School parking lot. Everyone wore masks, so it was not easy to determine who else was helping out. I thought Suzanne's participation — without expecting any recognition, simply because her involvement could make a difference — illustrated one of the most valuable aspects of how she approached the City Manager position: trying to have a positive impact in the City, but not caring if she got credit."

—**Peter Kovar, Takoma Park City Council, Ward 1**



Suzie, you are the nicest boss that I ever had in my career. There are no good-byes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be my mentor and my friend. Thank you for your service to the City of Takoma Park.

—**Susan Cheung, CPA, Finance Director**

"Suzie, my wish for you is that you can do all the things you ever wanted to do but weren't able to as the City Manager. Wishing you a wonderful retirement filled with peace, adventures, and much laughter. All the best!"

—**Donna M. Wright, CGDSP; Communications Specialist,**

"Congratulations on 27 years of service to the City of Takoma Park. Your hard work and dedication have made a major impact on the City and its residents that will be felt for years to come. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement."

—**Lars DeSalvio, Director, Information Technology**

"It spoke volumes to me that a City Manager was willing to navigate pandemic restrictions to show me around Takoma Park personally this past January. We were a tiny two-car caravan with an open speakerphone call, so Suzie could narrate about the places we drove by in real time. Thank you, Suzie, for your thoughtfulness and welcoming spirit. Congratulations on your retirement! You will be missed."

—**Jessica Jones, MSI, Library Director, Takoma Park Maryland Library**



Participants gather for a photo after making a Healthy Heart Challenge video.

Congratulations on your retirement, Suzie! One of my first memories of working with Suzie after being elected was dancing together with her and other City staff and Councilmembers to "Love Train" for a Healthy Heart Challenge video. It was such a light-hearted and fun collaborative moment! What I think of most when I think of Suzie is her dedication and enthusiasm for connecting with residents — whether dancing, coming to neighborhood association meetings, volunteering to take a turn in the dunk tank, or simply being in the community and sharing information about community events! Thank you and best wishes!

—**Kacy Kostiuk, Councilmember, Ward 3**

Suzie is the indefatigable Superwoman of Takoma Park. I have never seen anyone accomplish more in a day. The love and respect our staff hold for her is clear. It has been an absolute honor to work for Suzie, particularly through this period of COVID-19 crisis, as she fearlessly rolled with the punches to keep our community safe and on the road to recovery.

—**Jessica Clark, Deputy City Manager**

"Suzie spent most of her career working diligently and tirelessly to advocate for the best interests of the City of Takoma Park. Even during difficult times when the City faced numerous challenges and obstacles (which was just about always!), she remained dedicated, conscientious and, importantly, good-humored. The mark Suzie leaves on the City is indelible and should be greatly appreciated by residents, business owners, and staff alike."



—**Jason Damweber, former Deputy City Manager**

"Suzanne was the point person and resource for the unification of the City of Takoma Park into one county on July 1, 1997. She coordinated among Takoma Park, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County to



Suzie and Bruce host mayors from Zhengzhou, China. (Apr. 2013)

ensure a smooth transition for the approximately one-third of the city that changed counties on that day. There were a huge number of issues that had to be sorted through involving many agencies and institutions, and Suzie managed the whole process with professionalism. Suzanne was essentially the first lobbyist for the city. She spearheaded efforts by the City Council to work with state and county elected leaders to bring about the best outcomes for Takoma Park. Over time, others took over some of these duties, but Suzie always had a hand in shaping the outreach efforts of the city to garner the best results. People who know Suzie always know she is nearby when they hear her laughter."

—**Bruce Williams, former Mayor, Takoma Park**

Suzie was very supportive of me and the teaching of Urban History. Many times, she came to my class and had us bring students to City Hall. She is so good; this is a great loss to City Hall.

—**Joan A. Francis, Professor of History, Washington Adventist University**

LIBRARY



Coming Full Circle

By Karen MacPherson

As a kid, I always had a ready answer whenever adults asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. My response: a newspaper reporter or a children's librarian. Amazingly, I've had both of those careers. With the lure of Watergate still strong, I started as a newspaper reporter in 1978 and spent 30 years as a political and general assignment reporter, mostly in Washington. Then, 15 years ago, after completing my master's in library science, I became a children's librarian and had the incredibly good fortune to land a job as the library's coordinator of children's and teen services.

I'll tell you right now. The access of a White House press pass just doesn't compare to the joy of connecting kids with books. Over the past 15 years, I've done hundreds of Circle Times and countless kids and teen programs and school visits. I've led dozens of programs where kids met top children's authors and illustrators, and I've had innumerable one-on-one book talks with young patrons. And the joy of connecting kids and books has grown exponentially. It never fades.

Yet, there is a season for all things, and my career at the library is drawing to a close. I'll be retiring on June 30. While it is a bittersweet decision, I feel comfortable that this is right time for me to turn to a new chapter in my life and to turn over my job to someone who has innovative new ideas to connect kids with books. Before I leave, however, I need to express my deepest thanks to some folks:

First and foremost, thanks to all the kids and families I've met and worked with all of these years. The teens I got to know when I first started at the library are now adults, perhaps with kids of their own, while the kids in my first Baby Time program 14 years ago are now in high school. There's a whole new crop of little ones in our Zoom Circle Time these days,



Credit: Maurice Belanger

Karen signing a young man up for SummerQuest

and I will miss seeing them grow up! Overall, it has been a true honor, privilege, and pleasure to work with all these kids and families.

Another thank you goes to our former Library Director, Ellen Arnold-Robbins, for giving me so much freedom to do the coordinator's job the way that I thought it should be done. Ellen would often question me as to whether I had the time and energy to take on yet another program, but she never said no. Our busy pre-pandemic program line-up – we did hundreds of programs each year – is largely attributable to Ellen's decision to give me room to try all kinds of programs, from our award-winning Banned Books Club to the Caldecott Club to French Circle Time and Wonderful Ones.

Next, I need to give a huge thank you to the library's remarkable staff. I literally couldn't do my job without them! I can't name everyone, but I want to give an es-

LIBRARY □ Page 11

CALENDAR

The library building is closed, but we are continuing to offer several great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting" and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting PW, if any) listed with each program. Registration is not required for these programs, but, if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms. Please refresh your browser first to ensure you get the most updated information. Also, please make sure you register for the "Zoom" version of these programs. To keep up with all our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Zoom Circle Time: Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password is 178851.

Zoom Comics Jam: Once a month, generally on the second Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is June 9. To keep up with the schedule, please register for Zoom Comics Jam at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents; we will send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. No Meeting Password needed.

Zoom Spanish Circle Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. To participate in Zoom Spanish Circle Time, go to: <https://zoom.us>/ Then put in Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725

Zoom Scribbler's Cabal: Fridays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting Password needed.

Outdoor Yoga Storytime: Most Sundays at 10 a.m. this month outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.) The 30-minute program is for ages 3 and up, but supervised younger siblings are welcome. Face masks are required. Spaces are limited for social distancing, so registration is required. To register, go to: www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms.

Zoom SummerQuest Kick-Off

Monday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.

Join SummerQuest creator Dave Burbank as he launches this year's reading challenge! To participate in the kick-off, go to <https://zoom.us/>. Then put in this Meeting ID: 918-3130-2597 and this Pass Code: 936990.

SummerQuest 2021

Mark your calendars for the kick-off of SummerQuest 2021 on Monday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom! At the kick-off, SummerQuest creator Dave Burbank will outline this year's adventure story and give details about how to play the SummerQuest game. To participate in the kick-off, go to <https://zoom.us>. Then put in this Meeting ID: 918-3130-2597 and this Pass Code: 936990.

SummerQuest consists of both a gameboard and a story, in which 10 reading challenges are embedded. As young readers complete each challenge, they move further along the gameboard. This year, given the opening of the library building on July 6, we'll again have print copies of the story and gameboard. Prior to July 6, print copies can be requested via our Books to Go curbside service, and we'll also have them out on the purple cart from 12–6 on two Saturdays, June 26 and

July 3.

To play SummerQuest, readers choose a character, always some kind of rabbit because Dave loves their trickster nature. Readers can color in the bunny and even give it a name (we'll have bunnies to download online, plus some print bunnies to choose from). The bunny then becomes the game piece that readers can move along their gameboard as they complete the reading challenges.

Kids choose whichever book they want to complete the challenge – it's their choice!

SummerQuest is a great way to encourage kids to keep up their reading in the summer. As always, we'll have a separate list of challenges for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Grown-ups might even want to try it out as a way to vary their reading. So mark your calendars for June 21, and stay tuned for more SummerQuest details!

A World of Play in Every Page

By Sean Gossard

Pat Rumbaugh will read her new book, *Let's Play Outside*, at Zoom Circle Time on Wednesday, June 23 at 10:30 a.m. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in this Meeting ID: 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password: 178851.

When it comes to the language of Play, it seems a picture may be worth more than a thousand words. That was the hope, at least, for The Play Lady Pat Rumbaugh when she first had the idea of bringing the world of play to a children's book. Rumbaugh wanted to do something a little different than what she saw in most of the children's books, which focused heav-

ily on colorful drawings and illustrations. "I asked, 'Why aren't there books of real children playing?'" Rumbaugh said. "They were mainly illustrated."

Rumbaugh decided to team up with local photographer Daniel Nakamura to get actual shots of children playing out on their own and with their friends. "I was at Blair High School one day photographing the baseball and softball games. Pat's daughter was on the softball team, and I got some shots of her that Pat really liked and ended up purchasing," said Nakamura. "We started talking and she shared her book idea and concept with me, and I told her that I was very interested in being involved in the project."



Nakamura, who has a background and interest in action photography, was the perfect person to capture the essence of play in children. "From a young age, I always had a love and passion for photography," he said. "After graduating I really wanted to start my own business related to photography and I thought focusing on sports action photography would be a cool and different niche." Rumbaugh, who was teaching elementary school at the time, got permission from several parents to take photos of their 3- to 5-year-old children while they played.

A few years after the first book was pub-

PLAY □ Page 11

RECREATION

Virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

OUTDOOR, IN PERSON CLASSES

Registration is required via ActiveNet for all in-person classes. These classes are weather dependent. Masks will be required. There will be no restrooms available on site. Children will be allowed to return home if they need to use the facilities

YOUTH



ENVIRONMENTAL

Hands on Gardening with Carla

Students will enjoy hands on experiences gardening. Students will create their own container gardens to take home. They will learn to germinate seeds, create new plants from cuttings, care for plants and harvest flowers, herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Instructor: Carla Perlo
Takoma Park Middle School
Outdoor Garden
7611 Piney Branch Road
7-13 years
Saturdays; 12:30-1:15 p.m.
June 5-June 26
Free, but registration is required

TEENS

ART

Art In The Park

Have fun drawing with black, white, and colored drawing materials, outside in two different parks, centrally located in Takoma Park, MD (Ed Wilhelm Field and the Plaza at old Philadelphia and Maple Aves). Subjects will include deep space and closeup

landscape elements, botanical drawings, and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a sketchbook for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. A list of optional drawing materials will be sent to registered students, but students are also welcomed to draw with pencil on sketch paper or in a sketchbook. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
12-15 years
Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m.
May 18-June 22
Free, but registration is required

SPORTS

Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching and learn proper dribbling and shooting techniques. Please contact vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov for more information. All skill levels are welcome, and registration is required via ActiveNet.
Takoma Park Community Center
Outdoor Basketball Court
7500 Maple Avenue
11-17 years
Tuesdays and Thursdays, through June 24
5-6 p.m.
Free

SUMMER CAMP

Just Teens Camp

Just Teens combines a perfect balance of experiential learning, community service, fun activities, and career development. We will take some local walking trips as well as incorporate some STEAM activities/opportunities. We will be following the CDC Guidelines for COVID-19 safety procedures. These procedures

include, but are not limited to wearing a mask, social distancing, and the use of hand sanitizer.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
4, One Week Sessions
Monday-Friday, July 6-July 30
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Resident: \$135 / Non-resident: \$155
*Week of July 6-July 9: R: \$115 / NR: \$135

Just Teens AM Care

AM Care is optional for families who require/desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. There is no PM Care for Just Teens Camp.
4 One Week Sessions
Monday-Friday
July 6-July 30 (No Camp 7/5)*
7-9 a.m.
Resident: \$40 / Non-resident: \$50
*Week of July 6-July 9: R: \$32 / NR: \$40

CIT & SYEP Programs

Due to ongoing health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, Takoma Park Recreation Department has suspended our Counselor in Training Program (CIT) as well as our Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) this summer.

ADULT

FITNESS

Zumba with Griselda

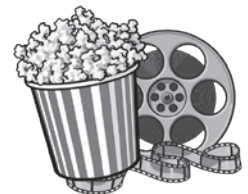
Zumba class will be 45-60 minutes (depending on the need). Participants will engage in a total body workout, combining cardio, muscle conditioning, balance, and flexibility through Latin music. Zumba class will include a mix of low-intensity and high-intensity movements, but participants can modify them as needed. This judgment-free Zumba class is designed to bring

communities together and form a support group to reach each participant's fitness goal. Instructor: Griselda Martinez-Valles
Spring Park
6999 Poplar Avenue
16 & Older
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
May 22-June 26
Free, but registration is required

SPECIAL EVENT

Family Outdoor Movie Night Returns!

Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family friendly "G" or "PG" rated hit. Bring snacks and your own water. Due to limited parking, walking is encouraged. COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Visit our website takomaparkmd.gov/recreation to vote on the movie. For additional information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7225 or johnw@takomaparkmd.gov.
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
All Ages
Saturday, June 12
Starting at dusk
Free, no registration needed

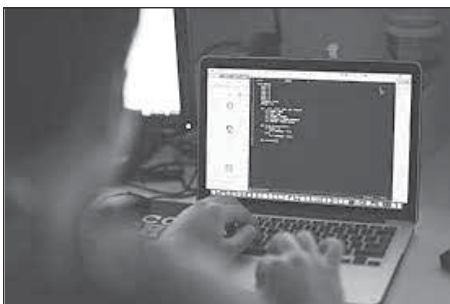


VIRTUAL CLASSES

Class links available at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

TEENS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT



Learn to Code: HTML & CSS

Participants in this virtual program will learn how to use HTML and CSS coding to create web pages. From a blank Notepad page, teens will craft web pages with content and design aspects they chose. HTML and CSS are fundamental languages that compose all webpages on the Internet and structure each page. CSS is an extension to HTML that allows the rapid styling of web pages for customization and aesthetic considerations. Students will need access to a computer to participate in this class. **Registration is required via ActiveNet for this activity.** Once registered, a link to the class link can be found on the receipt. Instructor: Jamal Butler
Grades 5-8
6 Week Session
Thursdays, June 10-July 15
4-5 p.m.
Free

SOCIAL

Friday Night Lights

Join us for a fun filled Friday Night! Each month we will host a different event to include movie watch parties, DJ dance offs, Minute to Win It games, trivia, and game nights. Prizes will be awarded, and you can enter to win a family pizza night on us! For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Grades 6-12
Ongoing
Friday, June 11
5-6:30 p.m.
Free

ADULT

FITNESS

Fitness for Life

This class is for anyone looking to reach their health, fitness, and life goals. Whether you are an athlete, novice exerciser, or looking to enhance your current workout routine, your coach will ensure you are performing the exercises in a safe and effective manner. This class is designed for you to work at your own pace. Instructor: Sergio Quisquiny
18 and older
Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Free

Foundational Fitness & Training II (FFT II)

FFT II is a fitness program for participants that have or are currently involved in a fitness regimen. The program builds on the concepts of Classic FFT, which incorporates various movements from numerous disciplines while utilizing minimal resistance and multiple repetitions. Advanced adds more resistance

and incorporates floor or mat exercises using hand weights; bands/tubes; abdominal roller and exercise balls. All equipment will need to be provided by the participants. FFT II will enhance tone/strengthen all major muscle groups while increasing stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams
18 and older
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Free



Let's Move Caribbean Dance

Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy to follow dance workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class is for all ages and will get the body moving to build cardio endurance and coordination. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness
All Ages
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.
Starting June 2
Free

New Day!

ReVamp Fit Home Workout

Fitness class will entail movements to work on your total body endurance, strength, and flexibility. Move with us to get your day started on a strong note! Instructor: Abel Asafere
16 and older
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m.
Free

Rise and Move

This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy, and improve your coordination. Your coach will educate, guide, and assist you throughout the entire class to ensure you are performing movements safely and effectively. Equipment needed: Floor space, high back chair, mat, and weights (optional). Instructor: Sergio Quisquiny
18 and older
Mondays, 10-11 a.m.
June 7-June 28
July 12-August 30
Free

See article on page 9 about instructor!

Spirit Group Fitness

Classes will be geared toward supporting all members of the community as each class spotlights trainers leading versions of the exercises for those standing, seated, progressed, and exercising alongside a supporter (which is a great option for those with limited mobility or with a developmental disability). Truly, a person of any fitness and ability level can get a meaningful exercise experience from these classes. Instructor: Spirit Club
16 and older
New videos uploaded to site each Wednesday.
Free

RECREATION

Virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

VIRTUAL CLASSES Class links available at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.

RECREATION

■ From page 8

MULTIMEDIA

Digital Marketing

We are all experts of something, and someone is looking to benefit from your expertise. Learn the key digital marketing skills that can help you monetize your expertise. In this course you will learn how to navigate the digital world to sell a product or your services. This virtual class will cover:

- Ideation to Activation & Market Research
 - Which platforms are best for your business
 - Effective social media ads and how to set them up
 - How to build a website layout that converts into sales
 - Live interviews with digital consultants, hairstylists, clothing designers and organizational leaders on how they use the digital world to grow their business.
- Instructor: Vinny Mwano

16 and older
Thursdays 7–8 p.m.
Through June 24
Free

55+

Phone a Neighbor

Are you a senior who would like an occasional phone calls while staying home? To be connected with a friendly volunteer, please contact Paula Lisowski at 240-687-4132 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

Vital Living 55+ in Takoma Park

This new cable show series designed for Takoma Park residents 55+ highlights important topics, including interviews, presentations, and performances. Episode #4 introduces residents to two community-based organizations that provide important services for Takoma Park residents. Meet Andrew Penn, president, Village of Takoma Park, a nonprofit organization that provides educational and support services for seniors in our community, and Pat Rumbaugh, executive director of Let's Play America, who talks about her mission to make Takoma Park a playful city for residents of all ages. Vital Living is available Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m.; Wednesdays at 8 a.m.; Thursdays 8:30 p.m., and Fridays at 7 p.m. on Comcast & RCN: Channel 13/ Verizon Fios: Channel 28. This schedule is subject to change because of City Council activities or other live productions. Vital Living is also available on YouTube. For more information, contact Paula Lisowski at 240-687-4132 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

FITNESS

Classic Foundational Fitness and Training

The program is designed to enhance strength, decrease fall risks, increase physical fitness level, improve

cardiovascular capacity and range of motion, and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high-back chair, light hand weights, and/or a resistance tube. Equipment is not provided. Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Instructor: Michael Williams
55 and older
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.
Free

Introduction to Hula Dance

Learn about Hula history, tradition, expression, ritual and introductory choreography of steps and hand movements. No experience necessary. Instructor: Alaula - Dawn Felsen.
55 and older
Mondays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Through June 21
Free

Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact, aerobic movement and gentle resistance training, this class focuses on increasing strength, balance, and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises, including warm-up and cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist
55 and older
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
Free

New Class!

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range-of-motion; improve posture and balance, and aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis by using seated, standing, and floor poses and breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat, a straight-backed chair, access to a wall, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block, and a blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey
55 and older
Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.
Free

Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown
55 and older
Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m.
Free

"Zumba" Gold

For Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity, the design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores
55 and older
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.
Free



Spotlight on Fitness Instructor Sergio Quisqinay

This month's spotlight features Takoma Park Recreation Department Fitness Instructor Sergio Quisqinay. Sergio grew up in Takoma Park. While attending Blair Highschool, he was named captain of the varsity soccer team. Sergio Quisqinay is the founder and director of coaching at Limitless Performance. Sergio was a two-year starter for the Montgomery College Men's Soccer team and holds a U.S. Soccer Federation National D coaching license.

His passion for coaching and fitness stems from a successful soccer career and years of studying how to help athletes and general population clients improve their health and performance by exercising. Sergio believes everyone is limitless, with no bounds, and he strives to help all his athletes and adult clients realize that every day is a chance to improve in any way they choose. He believes stresses to his clients to live and train behind the motto, "The sky is not the limit."

Read on to learn more about him.

Q: Where did you get your interest in fitness?

I developed a passion for fitness as a



teenager. I always wanted to train longer and more often than most. This excitement carried over into high school at Blair, which led me to pursue my degree in exercise science from Towson University.

Go Tigers!

Q: Why do you think it is important for people to work out during this pandemic?

The pandemic has been physically and mentally draining, which caused

many people to fall into or maintain sedentary lifestyle. Staying physically active provides the body and mind with many benefits, including lower stress levels, increased heart health, improved sleep and much more.

Q: What do you hope people will take away from your class?

I want class attendees to walk away with the knowledge to create their own workouts and feel confident that they are performing them safely and effectively. I want to empower them on their

fitness journey.

Q: How do you know when you have had a successful class?

A successful class for me is one that has attendees learning something new and smiling at the end of it. I enjoy the positive feedback I get from emails, text messages and general comments from all those who attend my class.

Q: What other hobbies or interests do you have besides fitness?

Most of my hobbies are fitness related; [they include] hiking, biking, and kayaking. I enjoy going to sporting events as I am a big fan of Manchester United. I also spend time grilling on my deck.

Q: When people sign up for your class, what equipment do they need to bring?

For my online classes, attendees need a mat, their strong bodies, and the desire to improve. I would recommend or highly encourage that attendees have equipment such as dumbbells and a resistance band. However, people should still sign up if they do not have these items. You can use anything. For weights, you could use a can of beans, water bottles or anything you have around the house. A towel or a jump rope can also be used in place of a resistance band. Just showing up with positive energy works too.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland Fire Marshal Office reported as of June 1, 2021, 24 people have died in fires compared to 21 2020.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of June 1, 2021, 2 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Grand total to 884 since 1998. With the hot weather here and COVID-19 slowing down, people are getting back to traveling more. Just remember, when you leave your vehicle, everyone goes everyone goes with you, and don't forget to lock your vehicle.

Safety message

Once again, the critical days of summer are here!

Some Safety Tips

- Practice safe water activities e.g., swimming, fishing, boating, and much more.
- Protect yourself from overexposure to the sun and excessive heat.
- Include safety in your travel list... IT'S A MUST!
- Always operate your cars, SUVs, bicycles, motorcycles, and other vehicles, in a safe and friendly manner.
 - Wear your seat belts and helmets as may be appropriate.
 - Obey the rules of the road.
 - Be careful when crossing or standing near a street or intersection.
 - Finally, when driving, do not text or talk on the phone.

Enjoy the summer. Drive, work, and play safely.

—Prepared in the interest of safety awareness by the late Robert Jarboe, Takoma Park VFD

Takoma Park Reopening Schedule

I am so pleased to be able to share that, because the COVID-19 pandemic is coming under control in our region, the City of Takoma Park can begin reopening our facilities to the public!

Here are the highlights:

- On June 14. in-person City services by appointment only will begin.
- On June 14, the Public Works Lobby will be open to the public.
- On July 6, the Takoma Park Maryland Library will reopen for in-person services.
- On August 23. all City facilities will fully reopen to the public.

Mask requirements:

Mask requirements will continue through August 22, 2021.

- In City facilities, masks will be required for visitors and staff in lobby areas and in areas with children's programs or services.

- Masks are optional for City staff outdoors and in non-public areas of City facilities.
- City staff will be prepared to wear masks when entering homes and other constrained private spaces on City business and when requested to do so by a person with whom they are interacting.

See our COVID-19 page for more detailed information, which will be refined over the coming weeks: takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19. Any of these plans may change based on revised guidance from the CDC, State of Maryland, or Montgomery County, and we will let you know if they do.

Thank you to so many Takoma Park residents for taking safety precautions over many months and then getting vaccinated when you were able to do so – your actions have made a real difference in our community!

—City Manager Suzanne Ludlow

Traveling in the COVID Era



By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

"On the road again, just can't wait to get on the road again" (Willie Nelson, 1980)

At last, it's possible to get out of the house, visit family and friends, and vacation this summer. To help you travel safely, stay in safe places, and enjoy events, here are guidelines and cautions, so you can have fun and be back again in good health.

General information: Travel in the USA: CDC guidelines now allow for fully vaccinated people to resume domestic travel without having to get tested before/after the trip.

- But—check with locations for specifics (whether you need to show proof of vaccination or that you are COVID free).
- Take extra masks and antibacterial wipes (at least 60% alcohol).
- Wash hands with soap frequently.
- Avoid crowds.

CDC guidelines (as of May 16): If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic. Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

Source: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html#vaccinated

Fully vaccinated:

It's still important to wash hands and social distance among crowds.

- Check ages for vaccinations at content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMONTGOMERY/bulletins/2d8ee8a
- Vaccination card - Make a copy of the card (on phone and on paper) and store it in a safe place. Lost card—and did not make a copy or can't find it—for an online record of your COVID-19 vaccination, check MyIR, Maryland's online immunization record system, <https://md.myir.net/rorl?next>. Another option, check <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine> under online record of your immunization.
- Still a problem? Call Montgomery County COVID Hotline at 240-777-1755.

Not vaccinated:

- Get tested within 3 days of travel; keep document with you and again, 3 days after return, and self-quarantine.
- Wear mask; avoid crowds,
- Clean hands with sanitizer, soap, and water.
- Avoid contact with other non-vaccinated people.
- Check rules at intended destination.

Travel by air

- Check airline rules and check airport situations.
- Take antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer, wipe armrests, tray tables, and other areas of seat.
- Masks required unless eating.
- If possible, book non-stop flights.

Travel by rental car, van, public transportation

- Use antibacterial wipes on all touched areas.
- Bus, train: Wear a mask at all times.

Accommodations:

- Check cleaning and safety protocols (cleaning and disinfecting procedures, air ventilation, do staff wear masks?).
- Be cautious re-joining group areas.
- Take wipes to clean frequently used surfaces, such as night tables, counters etc.

Outdoor fun at parks, festivals, and state fairs, etc.

- Public spaces require wearing a mask.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Be cautious.

Overseas travel

- See www.cdc.gov and search international travel.

Note: Mask wearing (cover nose, mouth) is required for buses, trains, and public transportation as well as for public hubs-airports and train and bus stations.

Are you Ready? Go! However, as more people get vaccinated and more places open, continue to be vigilant. This is a fluid situation—so keep checking [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and the news on radio and in papers as well as from your local community montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/.

It's easy to contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Join us on Talk of Takoma WOWD/LP 94.3, for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared."



Editor's note

English:

Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation feature on the City of Takoma Park's website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d'autres langues à l'aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l'aide du menu déroulant.

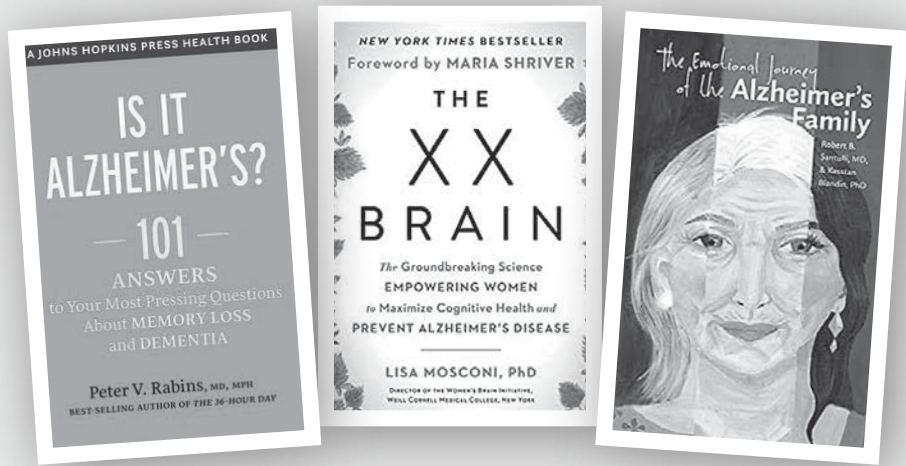
Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando

la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን ክፍል ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔት አርእስት ራስዎ ምሽት በኢንተርኔት ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታችኛው ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀስዎትኝ በሰላም ስለሆነው አገርን ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባለች የአሰላሳ ከሞላን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልጭላለች ሳጥን.



Books on Aging (Part I)

By Jill Raymond

Our library has several new and new-ish books that speak to issues of aging. There is also much being published recently about Alzheimer's and other dementias, as the numbers of the afflicted grow and useful treatments or cures have not materialized. Three of the newish books on aging that we have directly address cognitive impairment in elders in three entirely different ways.

In *Is It Alzheimer's? 101 Answers to Your Most Pressing Questions About Memory Loss and Dementia* by Dr. Peter Rabins does plow through 101 specific questions, grouped together in chapters addressing the definitions of dementia, the causes, preventive actions, possible treatments, caregiving, and decision-making. His responses are detailed but thoroughly accessible.

The XX Brain: The Groundbreaking Science Empowering Women to Maximize Cognitive Health and Prevent Alzheimer's Disease by Lisa Mosconi focuses on women and Alzheimer's. As the Director of the Women's Brain Initiative, Weill Cornell Medical College, Lisa Mosconi examines the specific dementia risks to women, and the potential for dietary, psychological and physiological interventions with which women could care for their brain health and take proactive steps in mid-life and later to help avoid de-

mentia. This book, new last year, is thoroughly referenced, but keep in mind that the science on the benefits of supplements, activity or other efforts to protect the aging brain changes rapidly.

The Emotional Journey of the Alzheimer's Family by Robert B. Santulli and Kesstin Blandin covers exactly that; it is for patients, family, friends, caregivers, and community leaders. The book climbs inside the experience of people living day to day with dementia and focuses on ways for everybody to survive. Chapter headings include "Coping with Discordant Views of the Illness;" "Common Emotions of the Family Care Partner;" "Connecting with the Alzheimer's Community." It uses specific stories to illustrate points or demonstrate techniques for addressing the kinds of interpersonal conflicts that often arise in a household living with dementia.

These are not the only recent books acquired by the library that speak to these kinds of concerns. And keep in mind, when searching our catalog for these or other books, when the link to "Browse Shelf" appears in the call number, one may click on that link and find, among non-fiction books, other books that are like the one you pulled up. *Look for Part II of this article in the July Newsletter.*

FULL CIRCLE

■ From page 7

pecially big shout-out to Library Associate Dave Burbank and Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi, who have been a dream team to work with. The kids and families of Takoma Park are in great hands with Kati and Dave.

Finally, a thank you to the children's and teen folks at Politics and Prose bookstore. Together, the library and Politics and Prose have brought dozens of famous children's authors and illustrators to the Takoma Park community – all for free. When the pandemic allows, I'm hopeful that this fabulous partnership will continue.

Looking towards the future, I'm excited

about our new Library Director, Jessica Jones, who brings key experience in library renovations and lots of good energy to the job. Both her experience and energy will be needed as the library reconstruction project begins in late fall. It will be challenging to go through the 18 months of construction but also worth it to have a beautiful new library for Takoma Park. I can't wait until it's unveiled!

Until then, I hope to see many of you at the library when we re-open, either in the current building or temporary quarters during construction. Please know that I'm always interested in talking about books, so ask me for recommendations or give me your own. And remember my mantra: Keep reading!



Climate Action Coffee Launches National Pollinator Week

National Pollinator Week is coming to Takoma Park June 21-27! Everyone is invited to join an exciting week of events designed to support the health and well-being of the birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

Did you know that pollinators perform the critical function of fertilizing flowers that grow into one out of every three bites of food we eat? Did you know that we can support them in ways that are easy and fun? Come join the festivities and the effort to help by planting the native species that co-evolved with them!

Many people in Takoma Park, and beyond, are planting more native species in our yards to support birds, bees, butterflies, and other insects. Help educate yourself and your neighbors who care about biodiversity.

WAYS TO CELEBRATE

- Celebrate by putting a Pollinator Week sign out front and labeling a few of your native plants. For more information, go www.pollinator.org.
- Take the "Native Plant Gardens Walk" all week long to see native plants labeled in your neighbors' gardens. Add your house to this list by contacting Ken Alen at kallen808@gmail.com.
- Visit SalonJAM at 7054 Carroll Ave during the month of June to check out illustrations of native plants by artist Paige Billin-Frye.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 19, 8 a.m.

Listen to WOWD FM 94.3, pollinator programming for kids on Robin's Radio Show.

Sunday, June 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Come to the Takoma Park Gazebo Kick-Off

- Live performance including Takoma Park poet laureate Kathleen O'Toole (or her designee) and De Herman; free black-eyed Susan seeds; native plant giveaway; resources on native plants;

native plant mapping & pollinator highway information; walking tour maps of pollinator gardens

- Kids' art projects, native plant scavenger hunt and a free dance class
- Native plants for sale at ACE Hardware and Farmers Market
- Pollinator beverages available at local restaurants
- Pollinator attire is encouraged!

Tuesday, June 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Listen to an interview with Kathleen O'Toole, TP's poet laureate, as she reads her poem "Insects are Vanishing from our Lives," on Check in Time w/ Marika Partridge on WOWD FM 94.3.

Tuesday, June 22, 7 p.m.

Join us for a fascinating panel discussion with pollinator and native plant experts as the celebration continues with a City-sponsored virtual event: "Birds, Bees, Bugs and Butterflies: The Pollinator Highway and You." Register in advance for this meeting: [zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUode6vqz8vHddZhaEHArNe-3ritJ-qqrk](https://zoom.us/join/join?join_url=zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUode6vqz8vHddZhaEHArNe-3ritJ-qqrk).

Wednesday, June 23, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Visit Crossroads Farmers Market and stop by our pollinator table. crossroadcommunityfoodnetwork.org.

Saturday, June 26, 8 am

Check out pollinator programming for kids on Rise Up with Olivia and Becky on WOWD FM 94.3.

We thank our supporters including the City of Takoma Park, WOWD FM 94.3, Crossroads Community Food Network, SalonJAM, Park Florist, Ace Hardware, Takoma Beverage, Main Street Pearl, Roscoes, Girl and the Vine, Olive Lounge, Blue Ridge Botanicals, Audia's Farm and Nursery. This event is sponsored by The Pollinators, a working group of Climate Action Coffee/TALLE/Takoma Park Mobilization (www.tpmobilization.org/talle). For questions, contact Marguerite Cyr (mhcyr@verizon.net).

PLAY

■ From page 7

lished, Rumbaugh was in touch with another publisher, StarBright Books, to work on a follow up that is set to release this month. Again, Nakamura was on tap to shoot photos of the children.

"We had maybe seven photo shoots for this one," Rumbaugh said. "I was adamant about having proper representation. We have children from diverse backgrounds ranging in age from 1½ to 10." This time, Rumbaugh added more words to the book along with the photos. The publisher also suggested adding a section at the end of the book to discuss with parents the importance of play and making sure children had the opportunity for unstructured recreation. "Unstructured creative play is amazing and kids, and adults should partake as much as possible," said Nakamura.

Let's Play Outside will be available June 30 and can be purchased at letsplayamerica.org.

Rumbaugh is already thinking about the

next two books in the series. "I've talked to the publisher about it, and the next book would be *Let's Play With Our Families*," she said. "I also want to do *Let's Play With Our Friends*."

Nakamura has been learning more about the importance of play for children. "Growing up in Takoma Park, I have fond memories of running all around the neighborhood and playing with other kids," he said. "As I have come to have my own kids, I definitely realize now more than ever how important it is to get out and play. My 6- and 9-year-old daughters never cease to remind me of that!"

If you are looking to get into the play action yourself, Let's Play America is holding a Virtual Adult Play Day on June 5 from 7 – 10 p.m. Presenters include Congressman Jamie Raskin doing a round of Simon Says, Lyla DiPaul playing live music from New Orleans, and Dr. Winnie Wong — better known as Dr. Play — who will be hosting virtual games from Hong Kong. To sign up for one or more of the activities, visit letsplayamerica.org. For more from Nakamura, visit his photo booth website at www.booth-o-rama.com.

June 2021 Calendar

We have been using this space to feature city resources and provide important updates on City services. We will continue to do so, and we will provide updates as more in-person events become feasible. In the meantime, let us know if you have a virtual, or in-person, nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we will consider it for inclusion in the calendar.

Deadline for the July issue is June 11, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning June 25. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, please be advised that most events and meetings held in City facilities remain cancelled or postponed until further notice. Updates will be provided when events have been rescheduled.

The Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

For information on Takoma Park Arts online events, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities.



Join Us for a Retirement Celebration for Suzanne Ludlow

Friday, June 18, 12–3 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate Suzanne Ludlow's retirement. We honor and thank Suzie for her 27 years of public service to the City of Takoma Park. This outdoor tent party with a DJ will be held rain or shine on Ed Wilhelm field. Lunch is provided - Suzie's favorite down-home barbecue! - and attire is casual. **Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/3oVELj2>**. The City Council will also be honoring City Manager Suzanne Ludlow during the June 30 Council hearing in honor of her retirement July 1, 2021. If you would like to send a written message or a video message thanking the City Manager for her 27 years of service, please email it to alvaroc@takomaparkmd.gov.



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STAY ACTIVE

All virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

Rise and Move

This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy and improve your coordination. Mondays, 10–11 a.m.

Let's Move Caribbean Dance

Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy to follow dance workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class is for all ages. Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m.

Yoga for Healthy Aging

Using a series of seated, standing, and floor poses, this class helps build strength and endurance, increase flexibility and range-of-motion, improve posture and balance while aiding in the prevention bone loss related to osteoporosis. Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

Fitness for Life

Adult Fitness – Reach your fitness goals. Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Zumba Gold/Zumba Gold

55+ Fitness – Move your body to the Zumba beat. Fridays, 10–11 a.m.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

My Life on Video: Documentary Workshop

55+
June 14–18, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
8560 Second Avenue, Suite 113, Silver Spring, MD

In this week-long workshop offered by Docs In Progress for individuals aged 55+, you will learn how to share family stories through the power of video. Participating students will use photographs, interviews, music, and narration to create a 2- to 5- minute film they can share with family, friends, and their community. Thanks to the support from the City of Takoma Park, there are full and partial scholarships available. For more information and to sign up, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/my-life-on-video-documentary-workshop-for-adults-55-tickets-151118552659.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

Motown's Finest From the 60s

Thursday, June 17, 7–8:15 p.m.

The Supremes, The Temptations, Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, Marvin Gaye, and Stevie Wonder...to name just a few. For many of us, Motown is part of the soundtrack of our lives. (And not just for "Boomers" but also for other generations who love this classic sound!) Share a fun evening with D'Nicole, host of the WOWD program "The Sound of Soul with D'Nicole," as we revisit the music of these and other great artists who contributed so much to the musical life of America. This program is free and open to all; registration required. Please go our website, villageoftakomapark.com, to register and receive the Zoom link.

National Pollinator Week

June 21–27

Launched by Climate Action Coffee, National Pollinator Week is coming to Takoma Park! Did you know that pollinators perform the critical function of fertilizing flowers that grow into one out of every three bites of food we eat? Did you know that we can support them in ways that are easy and fun? Come join the festivities and the effort to help by planting the native species that co-evolved with them! Everyone is invited to join an exciting week of events designed to support the health and well-being of the birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. See page 11 for event details.

Summer Mercado

Saturday, June 26, 12–5 p.m.

Anne Street (between University Blvd. and Hammond Ave)

The Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority presents Summer Mercado, an international celebration of food, crafts, and culture! Featuring local food vendors, artisans selling handmade crafts, and tasty treats. Settle in for a day of live music on the mainstage.

Parkinson's and Movement Disorder Support Group

Do you have Parkinson's or another movement disorder? Or are you a caregiver? If so, you might be interested in our informal support group which meets monthly to share resources and experiences. Our meetings are virtual via Zoom, but soon we hope to return to in-person meetings at the Takoma Park Community Center. It is free, and you do not have to be a resident of Takoma Park. For further information, contact Tom Bigford at tebigford@gmail.com or 301-580-4056.

Fourth of July Parade of Houses

Be Patriotic! Be Creative! Be Takoma Park!

Takoma Park's Fourth of July Parade is coming home this year. Make your home or business a part of it. We couldn't plan ahead for a normal parade, but Takoma Park always has a way to celebrate Independence Day. Register and decorate your house or business to be eligible for a prize!

Prizes will be awarded for:

- Most Creative
- Most Engaging
- Most Patriotic
- Best Capturing the Spirit of Takoma Park

- Best Overall
- Best Decorated Business
- Best Decorated Street

Houses outside Takoma Park may register so people can know to visit them, but only those inside city limits can win. Registrations close July 1. Have your decorations up by July 1, so people can visit over the Independence Day Weekend. Check out the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee website for information about the Parade of Houses and a variety of other creative and spirited events for the whole family. www.takomapark4th.org

