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

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.

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 an ordinance.

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.

Information and Resources: Covid19 takomaparkmd.gov

Questions, Comments and Suggestions askus@takomaparkmd.gov

#TogetherTKPK

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

June 2021

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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.

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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. 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.

FAÇADE 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.

TREES COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 10, 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 jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7287 at least 48 hours in advance.

VITAL 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/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.

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

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, list serves, 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.
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, 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 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 performance 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 level is determined by its initial 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 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 work together 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.montgomerycoun ty.md.gov/energy/energy/beps.html.

The Takoma Park Sustainability Manager, Eco-

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 delinquent 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 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 eyesores, 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 violation could be any life safety issue, excessive 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. If 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.

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-tkpl.

Rick Baravechia, Supervisor, Neighborhood Services
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

Clean Energy Grants

The MEA EmPower Clean Energy (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.

If income qualified (see chart below) this grant will utilize funds to make improvements to your home to help reduce monthly utility bills and improve home comfort and indoor air-quality, as well as to eliminate some health and safety issues.

An Energy Assessment is performed on the home to determine what upgrades can be done by the grant to lower the energy bills. Upgrades may include: attic insulation, air-sealing, duct-sealing, replacement, repair to cooling and heating equipment or water heaters, or replacement of older, non-energy star appliances.

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 sig_am@msn.com.

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) The is a maximum of $10,000 per home for a project involving an HVAC system replacement.
Arts events in the Takoma Park Arts cultural series have moved online with new film screenings, concerts, poetry readings, and more. You can find more details and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

**The Arts**

**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 7300 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 Carrol 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 artist-friendly city,” Smith said. “I am impressed by the commitment and energy of their volunteers who are filling a real need.”

**Tables Painted by Trap Bob at the Takoma Streetery**

Three picnic tables at the downtown Takoma Streetery 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 Streetery to feature more of her inspiring artwork,” Smith said. “We also wanted to send a clear message 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 Streetery, 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.
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 goodbyes for us. Whenever 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

“I was very supportive of me and the teaching of Urban History. Many people who know Suzie always know she is nearby when they hear her laughter.”

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

“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 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

“Suzanne’s leadership was a force multiplier for the City of Takoma Park. She 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 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

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

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 and Bruce with mayors from Zhengzhou, China.

“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 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

“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 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 and Bruce host mayors from Zhengzhou, China. (Apr 2013)
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/tplibprograms. 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/tplibprogramseven.

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/tplibprogramseven; 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 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: 918-3130-2937 and this Pass Code: 936990.

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!

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: 918-3130-2937 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 by 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 was in most of the children’s books, which focused heavily 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.”

 скала в горах ответила на призыв.

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 published, the second book was also completed and published.
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.

**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 choose. 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 6–9
6-Week Session
Thursdays, June 10–July 15
4–5 p.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

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 weight vest (optional). Instructor: Sergio Quiquijane
18 and older
Mondays, 10–11 a.m.
June 7–June 29
July 12–August 30
Free

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

**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 301-881-7225 or johnw@takomaparkmd.gov.

**ADULT**

**FITNESS**

ReVamp Fit Home Workout
Fitness class will entice 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 Astudillo
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 weight vest (optional). Instructor: Sergio Quiquijane
18 and older
Mondays, 10–11 a.m.
June 7–June 29
July 12–August 30
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 Lecia Monroe at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.

**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, 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

**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**

**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 choose. 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 6–9
6-Week Session
Thursdays, June 10–July 15
4–5 p.m.
Free

**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 Avenu). 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 welcome to bring with on sketch paper or on a sketchbook. Instructor: Kate 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
7600 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
7600 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: $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 7/7)
7–9 a.m.
Resident: $40 / Non-resident: $50
*Week of July 6–July 9: $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.

**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-Vallés
Spring Park
19999 Poplar Avenue
16 & Older
Saturdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
May 22–June 26
Free, but registration is required

**RECREATION** Page 9

June 2021
Spotlight on Fitness Instructor Sergio Quisquinay

This month’s spotlight features Takoma Park Recreation Department Fitness Instructor Sergio Quisquinay. Sergio grew up in Takoma Park. While attending Blair Highschool, he was named captain of the varsity soccer team. Sergio Quisquinay 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.”

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.

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, like 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 by showing up with positive energy works too.

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: 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.
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 overheating 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

Traveling in the COVID Era

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

“No 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.govde livery.com/accounts/ md/montgomery/bulletins/2dc86ca3 .
- 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.mystir.net/rof?next. Another option, check https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vac -cine under online record of your immu -nization.

Not vaccinated:

- Get tested within 3 days of travel, keep document with you and again, 5 days after return, and self-quarantine.
- Wear mask; avoid crowds.
- Clean hands with sanitizer, soap, and water.
- Avoid contact with other non-vacci -nated people.
- Check rules at intended destination.

Travel by air

- Check airline rules and check air-port 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 proce-dures, air ventilation, do staff wear masks, etc).
- 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 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 teppe@takoma -parkemd.gov or 301-891-7126. Join us on Talk of Takoma WOWDLP 94.3, for “Dear Beatrice Pre pared.”

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 icono 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:

হাওয়ায় ব্যাপারে এই চিহ্নটি চুক্তির সাথে আপনার লেখাটি পড়ার জন্য দেখুন।

Wondering what is going on with Takoma Junction?

Given the lead time needed for News-letter production, we have not provided an update in these pages recently on this development project.

But, here is where to look for up-to-date information:
- takomaparkmd.gov/ov/initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment
- takomaparkemd.gov/news
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 newest books on aging that we have directly address cognitive impairments 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 Rahims 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 dementia. 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 Kestin Blanding 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 Shell” 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.

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 kcallen80@ 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; plantation of pollinator gardens.

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 in it as possible,” said Nakamura.

Let’s Play Outside will be available June 30 and can be purchased at local booksellers.

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 lap games using 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 letsgoamerica.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 tpfnewseditor@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 takomapark-md.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/3oYELP. 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 during the June 30 Council hearing in honor of her retirement July 1, 2021. If you could 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.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Join the Solar Co-op

Save up to 20% on the cost. Get help throughout the process. Customize your system.


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

Fourth of July Parade of 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 more information about the Parade of Houses and a variety of other creative and spirited events for the whole family.

www.takomapark4th.org

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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

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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-151118552850.

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 to 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 we hope you can 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.

Stay Active

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.