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## Charles library to host summer learning kickoff

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The Potomac Branch of Charles County Public Library will host a celebration on June 8 to kickoff its summer program. Courtesy of Charles County Public Library

The Charles County Public Library system is partnering with the county's recreation, parks and tourism department to kick off the 2024 Summer Learning Challenge on June 8.

The free, family-friendly event will take place at the Potomac Library branch and Ruth B. Swann Park in Bryans Road. The celebration marks the beginning of a summer filled with exploration for children.

"We are thrilled to kick off another exciting summer of learning and fun," said KennethWayne Thompson, executive director of the local library system. "This event is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, discover new parts of their community, and explore the world that reading offers."

This year, in conjunction with the National Recreation and Park Association Family Health Day, the library system is offering a variety of activities promoting education, literacy and wellness.

Attendees can look forward to activities for all ages, including interactive learning stations, educational workshops, outdoor games, fitness demonstrations and more.

The fitness demonstrations throughout the day this Saturday include activities like Zumba, a stretching class, yoga for beginners, belly dancing and a presentation on the dangers of vaping.

There will also be a science demonstration from Talewise, an organization dedicated to experiential learning.

At Ruth B. Swann Park, there will be a scavenger hunt, sports demonstrations and obstacle courses from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Families are encouraged to participate together as they embark on a journey of discovery and healthy living.

"Last year, we had over 400 of our residents attend the first Summer Learning and Family Fitness Kickoff Party at Ruth B. Swann Park and we are thrilled to be partnering with the Charles County Public Library again this summer," said Ju'Wann Jones, chief of recreation for the county. "Our team has a wonderful day of games, demonstrations and activities for our families and residents to enjoy and we are looking forward to seeing everyone out there."

Summer learning t-shirts will be given out to those who register for and complete the 2024 Summer Learning Challenge.

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