GIFT STORE & BOOK STORE

It looks like after a long period of being closed that the two FOHP stores in Hart Park will be reopening on August 15th. The Gift Store has been closed for the past 19 months following the 2019 Pow Wow in the Park event in order to have some repairs done to the wood siding on the south side of the building. As is typical the job grew as the work was being done and additional damage to the structure was uncovered. In the end not only was the siding replaced on the south side but the rest of the siding was re-caulked and repaired as needed, the steps to the front entrance were totally replaced and the rear steps were repaired, and the side ramp received some minor repairs. To finish the job the entire store was repainted, new roofing was put down, and much needed rain gutter was added to both sides. The interior of the Gift Store was improved with a new A/C and heater combination unit, carpet shampooing, and the counter display cases were emptied and thoroughly cleaned and redecorated and restocked with merchandise. The wall display cases throughout the store were cleaned and improvements were made to the displaying of shelf stock. FOHP Board member Jeff Wheat donated and installed a new flat screen video monitor for the showing of Hart and other DVDs, and blinds have been added to the side windows to cut down on the heat which was coming through the windows due to the removal of the shade trees in the duck pond as part of that remodeling project. We were about ready to open in the early Spring of 2020 and then the COVID crisis hit and the Park was closed down by the County, and the duck pond remodeling project also started and blocked off the entrance location to the Gift Store. It appears that the beautiful new duck enclosure is nearly finished, and after the Stores being closed for nearly two years, we currently are waiting to hear from the County as to when we can open them up and under what conditions.

The Book Store has been closed for the same duration as the Gift Store, and during its closure we have taken the opportunity to make some nice improvements to the interior of the store. Where we had plastic milk crates and lumber shelving to display the books, new Ikea bookshelves were purchased and installed on top of the supporting display tables. The amount of stock which is now on the shelves is about 30% greater and much better displayed. Roger and Jeff Wheat worked on the remodel job for several weeks and finished it up with the addition of a stereo and DVD player and monitor for in-store entertainment for shoppers. A new “BOOK STORE” wood sign was made for hanging outside the cabin, and we plan to have the store open much more often on weekends and not just during special Park events.

The ultimate decision for the opening of the two stores will be made by the County Parks Department in the near future.