

# **Parks Commission - Recreation Division - Report 1/10/2024**

**No COVID-19 cases in Recreation at this time!**

## **Recreation Division - Position status/Vacancy**

- Therapeutic Recreation Programmer –awaiting Orientation date/time
- Recreation Programmer (Stephens)- reviewing applicants
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist – Hired
- Aquatic Specialist- awaiting offer- Hired
- Museum Program Assistant- Hired
- Recreation Programmer- Senior- awaiting approval to hire

## **Community Centers:**

**Youth Sports:** Our youth basketball league on Monday January 8, 2024. We have 40 teams registered in our youth basketball Program.

## **Dunbar Community Center:**

- **After School Programs:** The after school program at Dunbar Community Center wrapped up this month. Youth enjoyed our annual holiday meal on December 15<sup>th</sup> and received gifts from the center. Gifts included toy prefilled stocking, paddle board with ball attached along with a small fruit basket with apples and oranges. Bounce houses were in the gym for youth to have a fun day of playing. We will start registration for the second semester on the 1st of January online.
- **Youth Basketball Program:** This month we were slated to start playing basketball but season start date was pushed back until 2024. All our teams continued practicing this month and scrimmaged each other. No practices were held during the LRSD Christmas break.
- **Free Play:** During the last two weeks of the month the center was open to all youth to attend for free play in the gym. Staff was on hand to keep the youth safe and interacted with them in pick-up basketball.

## **West Central Community Center:**

- **Youth Sports Program:** Basketball season is near. West Central has 20 teams. We have practice nightly from 5:00pm-9:00pm and Saturdays from 8:00am-1:00pm. We are preparing all coaches and players about rules and regulations. All coaches have been approved in volunteer mark.

We started flyer advertisement for spring sports.

**Karate/Dance:** The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. Dance had 15 participants. Both teams are preparing to perform at half time of the basketball games throughout the season.

**West Central CC:** There were no major events this month. We are closing out everything for the year and preparing the rental book for the 2024 dates. All dates went well no incidents to reports. We are looking forward to implementing new programs. We are still taking applications for our latchkey program. Our goal is to start with 10 participants. We have new participants joining our center daily. We have 25 participants trainer with our staff trainer and group exercise instructor.

## **Southwest Community Center:**

**Latchkey Afterschool Program:** The program age group range from 5-15. All participated are offered lunch Monday through Friday hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Afterschool program offers educational activities as well as tutorial opportunities. All youth are offered the opportunity to participate in weekly activities such basketball, pickle ball, volleyball and video game tournaments.

**Youth Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Youth basketball registration has closed with 50 plus male and female participants enrolled. Cheerleading registration has closed having 30 participants and practices are held every Thursday from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The youth basketball practice are held daily and participation numbers are doing well. Youth games will begin on January 8, 2024. All registered participants will be allowed the experience of playing in league games allowing them to show off the skills they learned during the basketball camp.

**Adult Athletics:** Southwest Community Center will be looking to host a Women basketball league in the coming months. The league will consist of 10 teams in which each team will compete for a first place championship trophy and individual gold medals. The runner up will receive a trophy. We are still advertising and looking to host beginner's pickle ball clinics.

**Special Events:** Southwest Community Center is in the process of cross training all staff to assure customer service, programs and special events are offered to the highest standards. The Annual National Judo competition was cancelled due to lack of registration, the event will look to be held again in December of 2024. The Annual Brunch with Santa event went very well with participation numbers exceeding over 30. All youth received a picture with Santa, Brunch with Santa chicken and waffles, and played several games and made Christmas buttons with staff from MacArthur Museum.

#### **ELR Community Center:**

- LR Marathon held their monthly committee meetings in preparation for the upcoming 2024 Marathon events. ELR is a Warming Center site. The ELR neighborhood Association did not meet this month. Due to the holiday season Estem practiced during the day and are playing in a holiday tournament. Attended the AFLR Commission meeting. Entergy disconnected the old trailers. The park area continues to get daily use (joggers, exercising, outings, and basketball).

#### **Senior Programs:**

- Dunbar Seniors: Enjoying fellowship with one another by playing dominoes, bean bag baseball, Senior Circle (Bible Study), Baptist Health Outreach Monthly blood pressure and blood sugar screening, Christmas Fellowship with a program with East Little Rock Seniors as their special guests, Red Cup Table Game, Bingo and Arts and Craft Christmas Projects
- East Little Rock Seniors: Baptist Health Monthly Screening, Ceramic, Christmas Projects, Mind Bending Sessions, Sing-Along, Fellowship with Dunbar Seniors and Christmas Celebration Program, Gifts of Poinsett's were given in memory of Mrs. Mays by her daughter, Fish Fry Dinner was enjoyed by all and Bingo
- Southwest Seniors: Baptist Health Outreach monthly screenings, along with the Fruit and Veg. Outreach, pool challenge, played Skip-bo, Christmas Art Project, chair exercise, Birthday/Christmas Celebration, Aerobics, walking club, card games and Fun Day Friday and Bingo.
- West Central Seniors: Pickleball, Chair Volleyball with Hayes and Jacksonville Centers, Mrs. Odie Hendrix sent members a card with love token, Bean Bag Baseball Practice, Baptist Health Screening, Bible Study, Christmas Shopping and Luncheon
- Each participant that received their screening with Baptist Health was given a \$50.00 Visa Gift Card and a nice gift bag that consisted of a blanket, gloves, socks and Kleenex. Seniors gave the three providers a love token and card.

#### **The Centre at University Park:**

- The Centre had 13 Internal CLR bookings for the month of October of which 1 cancelled.
- December total revenue for the month of December \$0
- Total attendance 493.

- **Meetings:** LR City Agenda/Board, Human Resources Civil Service hearings, Planning Dept., Parks Commission, NUSA, Parks Work Order, Parks Commission, Age Friendly Little Rock Commission.

### **Therapeutic:**

- The Therapeutic Recreation Division is currently preparing for Spring session. Preparations include restocking supplies, preparing the building, programming activities, confirming community partners and volunteer options as well as researching outings and any new community resources not currently utilized in programming.
- Branch Out Adult Program will begin on January 15<sup>th</sup> with registrations starting this week.
- Planning has begun on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Therapeutic Recreation Arts Festival to be held on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hall of Industry. The TR staff is also in the beginning stages of planning for the Youth Summer Day Camp.

### **MacArthur Military Museum:**

- Museum attendance for December was 2497. This total includes: (1) On-site visitation, (2) Special events, (3) Virtual Programming through the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews, 4) the on-line children's program "The Reading Brigade" and (5) off-site programming. On-site visitation was up 14% over December 2022 attendance. Total attendance for 2023 was 43,154, which set a record for the museum.
- Museum staff presented weekly Afterschool programing at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers in December, as well as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programming at Chicot Elementary and the J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy on a monthly basis. Total outreach for these programs during the fall has been 994. Staff from the Clinton Presidential Center assisted with the off-site programming at the two 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program sites.
- "Movies at MacArthur" had a record-breaking year for attendance, reaching 517 persons through its January - November movies. Staff has completed the schedule for 2024 and look forward to another record-breaking year.
- The museum had gift shop sales in excess of \$12,191 in 2023 which beat its previous record set in 2010.
- Museum donations in December included: (1) \$1,000 annual contribution from the Carl H. Miller, Jr. Foundation, (2) \$1,640 annual contribution from the Aesthetic Club, and (3) \$10,000 donation from David F. Gruenewald. Part of the Gruenewald donation will be used for installation of a bench as well as development of a historical marker commemorating contributions of African American soldiers in the Civil War. Both the bench and the marker will be located behind the museum on the historic parade grounds.
- The museum raised a total of \$41,500 in outside funding in 2023, exceeding its goal of \$30,000 by 38%. Since 2016 the museum has raised approximately \$514,000 in outside money through grants, sponsorships, fundraisers, and corporate and private donations.
- Upcoming events for January include:
  - "Movies at MacArthur," January 16 at 6:30 p.m. A flyer of the movie, *Aftermath: The Remnants of War*, is attached.
  - Curt Fields as Ulysses S. Grant, reenactor, January 23, at 7:00 p.m.

### **Rebsamen Tennis:**

- We finished up USTA singles leagues for the year
- Trying to get a few part time employees hired over the next week
- No special events or tournaments due to holidays and weather in December
- Getting our schedule together for 2024

## **JDFAC:**

### **FITNESS**

- All other fitness classes are doing well with attendance.

### **AQUATICS**

- All aquatic classes are doing well with attendance.

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITY**

- JDFAC held a clothing drive for Jericho Way starting on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. We collected items that includes: socks, scarfs, hats, and blankets. It was a success.

## **Rebsamen Golf:**

- C & F Flooring will be coming out in January to install new flooring in the Pro Shop.
- Our new 2024 merchandise will begin to arrive on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **First Tee:**

It's been a great year at First Tee Golf Course. We've done some improvements to the greens, cleared out a lot of low limb areas. We have also cleared out some branches that overhang some of the tee boxes and greens to allow for more sun to assist with growing grass in areas where we need it to grow.

First of 2023 we went to a new point of sale system with Birrdi linked with square. This has helped tremendously for us, and keeping better accountability of our revenue, being able to show detailed reporting, and also to have an accurate customer database. Now that we're going into 2024 we will be able to do comparison reports on revenue And also be able to track what time of day and time of year that are slower months and days for both Rebsamen and First Tee to help better assist and bring more customers to City of Little Rock golf courses.

Another thing we have accomplished at First Tee is getting with the Jewish community to expose the chimney area where the first original clubhouse used to be for Cordia country club in the early 1900s. One of our customers Lynn Hamilton has been working hand-in-hand with the Jewish community getting donations to purchase a monument on that area of the golf course which we plan on turning into a sitting area for golfers during their round. This is also good because it keeps the history of golf in this area for generations to come.

Of course, we are looking forward to have a great 2024 golf season and I've already started plans on what to do this year to better our city run golf courses for the public community and guest who our city.

## **Outdoor Recreation-**

- Named Site Supervisor for the AmeriCorps team that will be working with Parks from Feb-April. The AmeriCorps team will be doing prep work for the Marathon and the eclipse. The team will also work on jobs that are TBD.
- Compiling a list of jobs for the AmeriCorps team. The jobs will focus trail maintenance, invasive plant removal and trash pick-up. We will also work with the Parks maintenance staff to help complete any backlog of jobs/DM.
- Working on 2024 Program Calendar. Currently, the Outdoor Recreation calendar has 34 separate programs. More will be added. Some programs are a one-off activities, others are multi-session programs.
- Meetings have been scheduled with local businesses and non-profit organizations to explore the possibilities of collaborating on programs.

- Working with Brittany Nichols, a series of educational PSA's focused on winter hiking/outdoor recreation are scheduled to be posted on the Parks & Rec Facebook page in January and February. Several have already been posted.
- The 6 week, Walk-in-the Park program will culminate with a "First Day Hike" on January 1<sup>st</sup> at River Mt. the hike will start at 11am at the River Mt trailhead.
- Continued familiarization with city parks and their facilities.