

Parks Commission - Recreation Division - Report 9/13/2023

No COVID-19 cases in Recreation at this time!

Recreation Division - Position status/Vacancy

- Asst. Facility Supervisor - Tennis – selected applicant; awaiting approval to hire
- Outdoor Recreation Coordinator- pre-boarding status
- Recreation Programmer (Stephens)- on hold
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist – reviewing current applicants referred by HR
- Aquatic Specialist- waiting on applicants to be referred by HR; position close 9/6/23
- Museum Program Assistant- awaiting advertisement of this position

Community Centers:

Stephens Community Center:

- The Cooling Center had a total of 15 participants for the month of August.
- Worked in collaboration with the school for a Back to School Bash with 12+ Vendors showing up and over 150 participants came through.

Youth Sports Program:

- The Latchkey Program is growing. We are 74% complete.
- Registration for Youth Sports are ongoing (Volleyball, Football, and Cheerleading).
- Contact has been made with all previous participants and their friends to register. A 3 day Volleyball Skills and Drill was part of opening registration.

Adult Sports Activities:

- The Men's fall 40 & over League has started with 100% completion.

Staffing:

- We are in need of A Programmer, 1-Activity Assistants and 2-Part-Time Custodian.
One Activity Assistant has been hired.

Dunbar Community Center:

After School Programs

The after school program at Dunbar Community Center includes our homework and activity program, cheerleading and volleyball. Our programs have remained steady in attendance and revenue. Participants in each program have the opportunity to receive instruction from our on-hand instructors and learn the value of each recreational program. We have youth grades K-8th and an enrollment of 50 for the first semester.

Youth Sports Programs

This month we continued registration with our cheerleading and volleyball programs. The cheer program serves youth ages 5-10. The volleyball program features girls and boys, grades 4th – 8th. Volleyball starts in September. Flag football has been added to our list of programs for the youth and registration has been opened for the program.

A gaga ball pit was donated by the girl scouts. Our youth have been introduced to the game and they enjoy playing it.

Youth Volleyball Clinic

The annual volleyball clinic is a weeklong clinic for middle and high school girls. They go through a series of drills for every position and scrimmage each other. This allows youth to enhance their skills or learn skills to help them play the game of volleyball.

West Central Community Center:

- **Youth Sports Program:** We are preparing to start advertisement on volleyball. Right now our participant numbers are slowly increasing. We are doing more advertising to increase our numbers. We will start a flag football program and we are currently advertising for that as well.
- **Karate:** The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. They resumed classes on July 25th at West Central Community Center. West Central participated in Mid-night basketball with Community Programs. All dates went well not incidents to reports. We have four new programs coming to West Central. Latchkey, Planting 101, Sip & Paint and Salsa festival. We are looking forward to implementing these new programs.
- **Maintenance:** We have had all maintenance request and work orders fulfilled for the month. Air conditioning unit has been repaired and the window is currently being repaired.

Southwest Community Center:

- **Latchkey Afterschool Program:** The Southwest Community Center Latchkey Afterschool program has begun for the year with 10 youth participating daily. 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 as basketball, pickle ball, volleyball and video game tournaments.
- **Youth Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Youth Flag Football (September 26, 2023), Volleyball (September 18, 2023), Kickball September 5, 2023) registration is open for enrollment. Volleyball games will be played throughout all community centers. Football games will be played at West Central and Kickball will be played at Southwest Community Center, all games will be played Monday through Friday.
- **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. Southwest Community Center will be scheduling ACT PREP Training beginning Sunday September 24, 2023 hours of 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. The goal will be to register at least 15 participants in advance that will receive one on one tutoring sessions in all areas of the ACT. The community center held the first advisory board meeting in July in several great ideas and suggestions were received for the good of the facility and programs. Staff will begin preparing for the Lights on Afterschool event by collaborating with Dee Brown Library and other community businesses.

ELR Community Center:

- Bikes for the NWA Trailblazers program was delivered, stored and then assembled here, the next day two Parks & Recreation staff were trained on the bike program that will be offered to youth within the community centers.
- Met with the architect, for confirmation of floor measurements this month in going forward with needed renovations to the facility.
- Provided a cooling center due to high temperatures for the citizens of Little Rock, very low attendance for the month.
- Welcomed some students back to school with school items and also went to Carver STEM.
- The CHI St. Vincent East Clinic held a back to school physicals immunizations, and back pack give away, room 49 was used as an overflow area, there were over 230 participants.
- Urban forestry removed a large old tree one week and returned the next after a storm to pick up large limbs that covered west entry.
- Maintenance cut, edged, and blew grass on the entire grounds and multi-purpose fields, also horticulture weeded the flower beds.
- Located 10 tables provided for tornado distribution site, need to get those returned ASAP. Constantly no answer at the number provided.
- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association held their monthly meeting this month. Will continue meeting monthly.
- AAU Football continued their practices Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday when temperature are safe.
- The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts and other areas to do exercises and fitness. They are there 5 to 6 days per week, with about 6 - 8 participants.
- There is still some of use of the field/park...daily/weekends, celebrations, family gatherings, tennis court (hopefully to be refurbished as multi-use courts) for walking and playing matches, and other activities. Multi-purpose field Lights are working.

Senior Programs:

The Active and Aging Seniors from Dunbar Seniors, East Little Rock Seniors, Southwest Seniors and West Central Senior each offer various arts and craft projects, exercise programs, play various games such as Skip-Bo, dominoes, phase 10, bingo, bean bag baseball, chair volleyball, pickle ball, pool, make jewelry, dance classes, etc. Baptist Health Outreach provide Free Screenings for Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and pulse reading once a month for Dunbar Seniors, Southwest Seniors and West Central Seniors.

- Dunbar Seniors: Finished their Art Project, played Bean Bag Baseball, Baptist Health Outreach provided their monthly blood pressure and sugar screenings, Vegetables donated from Crump Garden, enjoyed their Bible Study Sessions and Dominoes Challenge going strong, Guest Speaker from Oak Street Clinic and played musical chairs.

- East Little Rock Seniors: Silver Foxes Dance Class going well, garden is doing well, working on ceramic pieces, show and tell day, chair fitness, paint and think day and Funtastic Fridays, arts and craft project, a Sing-along Day and guest speaker from Humana (played BINGO).
- Southwest Seniors: Indoor bowling game, Baptist Health Outreach monthly screenings, pool challenge, played Skip-bo, art project, chair exercise, bean bag baseball, enjoyed Bible Study, Baptist Outreach Screenings along with Fruit and Veg. Outreach Program registration and birthday celebration enjoyed by all.
- West Central Seniors: Challenge games in chair volleyball against Hayes Center, Benton Center, Maumelle Center and Jacksonville Center, Bean Bag Baseball Games against the Jets, Maumelle Center, Hayes Center, Sherwood Center, Bible Study and playing pickleball.
- Attorney General Tim Griffin's Elder Abuse Conference held in Hot Springs, Arkansas was attended by Karen Johnson, Recreation Supervisor, Daisy McBeth and Benita Porter Aging and Active Senior Program Staff Members, was very informative and brought back materials to share with our participants.
- Assisted in collecting City of Little Rock Grocery Shopping Surveys from Dunbar, East Little Rock, Southwest and West Central Senior Centers, which were provided by Director Joan Adcock.
- Assisted with the Back to School Event at War Memorial Park (L R Parks and Recreation) also assisted CHI ST. Vincent East with their Free Physicals and Immunizations.

The Centre at University Park:

- The Centre had 19 Internal CLR bookings for the month of August of which 3 cancelled.
- August total revenue for the month of December \$0
- Total attendance **833**.
- **Meetings:** LR City Agenda/Board, Human Resources C.S hearings, Planning Dept., Parks Commission, Parks Work Order, Age Friendly Little Rock Commission, Parks Pioneers Interviews, NUSA, LR Marathon, Parks Stat, LR Mock Board Meeting, LR Special Board Meeting

Therapeutic:

- The TR Adult program "Branch Out" is in full swing. The group is gearing up to head back to the zoo to volunteer each month.
- We have visited numerous city facilities already to include the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History and War Memorial Splash Park.
- We are in the process of planning youth activities and restructuring our youth program. A survey will be sent out to our families so that we have an understanding of their needs and the interest of the participants.

MacArthur Military Museum:

- Museum attendance for August was 1406, which was a 14% increase over last year's attendance for the month. This total includes: (1) On-site visitation, (2) Special events, and (3) Virtual Programming through the museum's virtual mini-documentaries and interviews. Since the museum began virtual programming during the pandemic, over 11,225 persons have viewed the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews on the website and the City's You Tube channel. This year, over 3,700 persons have viewed virtual programming from the museum.
- Throughout the summer the museum has hosted two traveling exhibits. *Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy*, on loan from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, was at the museum from May 19 – September 4. It will be replaced by *Conflict and Crisis: The MacArthur-Truman Controversy*, an exhibit on loan from the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA. *The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen*, on loan from the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, VA., has been extended and will now be on display through September 11.
- Museum staff will resume Afterschool programming in September at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers on a weekly basis. The museum will also be presenting 21st Century Programming at Chicot Elementary and the J.A. Fair Preparatory Academy on a monthly basis starting in October. Staff from the Clinton Presidential Center will also assist with the off-site programming at the two 21st Century Program sites.
- Attendance for the August "Movies at MacArthur" film *The Real Inglorious Bastards* was 104. This was a record attendance for the program which began in 2015. Approximately 400 persons have attended a "Movies at MacArthur" film in 2023. The next movie is scheduled for September 19 and will be *Delay, Deny, Hope You Die*. The documentary relates the story behind the thousands of American soldiers who returned from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan with severe illnesses caused by exposure to the burn pits. Movies are shown the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of November's film. A flyer of our September film is attached.

- An interpretive panel has been installed for the historic brick cistern behind the museum on the parade grounds. Staff has worked for several months with Parks Design staff and others to replace the fence around the cistern and design/install an interpretive panel that explains the cistern and relates the park's history. Staff is working with museum commissioner Chip Culpepper of MHP/Team SI to coordinate getting footage of the interior of the brick cistern on September 7.
- "Love the Park?" donation signs have been installed at four locations in MacArthur Park: the Foster Pavilion, the MacArthur Unlimited Playground, the Multi-Purpose Courts, and the MacArthur Unleashed dog park. The signs have a QR code that allows supporters to make donations to the Mac Park Group to be used to improve and maintain the park.
- "On the Road with Mark Christ" bus tour returns on September 23 with a day trip to visit Cane Hill Historic Site and Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. The museum started this program in 2019 to visit four Arkansas Civil War sites. Thus far the program has offered tours of the Camden Expedition, the Battle of Helena, and the Little Rock Campaign sites. The program plans to visit Pea Ridge National Military Park next spring. The guide on these tours is Mark Christ, one of the foremost experts on Arkansas Civil War History. Tours are limited to one-day bus trips to the various sites and allow guests to experience a "sense of place" on these important Civil War battle campaigns. A flyer of the event is attached.

Upcoming Museum Events in September:

- September 16, Off-site outreach at "TinkerFest at the Museum of Discovery
- September 19, "Movies at MacArthur" documentary *Delay, Deny, Hope You Die*
- September 23, "On the Road with Mark Christ" tour of Historic Cane Hill and Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

Athletics

- **Interstate Park Program:** Field Rental reservation slow due to construction at Interstate ballpark
- **Adult Softball Program:** Registration opened up for the fall softball league on July 15, 2023 and run through September 2023. League will start in September once road construction is complete.
- **Summer Playground Program:** Closed out summer playground program needs to get transportation invoice paid.
- **Adult Fag Football League:** New Program coming back to Interstate Park in 2023

Rebsamen Tennis:

- 8/10 – 10/15 High School season has begun (courts very full early afternoon with high school play)
- 8/19 – 8/20 Razorback Jr Classic Jr tournament held (120 players)
- 8/26 – 8/27 ATA Mixed State tourney held (used as a backup facility)
- 8/26 – 8/27 Jim Cox Classic adult tournament held (35 players)
- 8/15 – 10/15 USTA combo doubles season has started and well attended
- August revenue over budgeted amount
- Assistant Facility Supervisor- awaiting approval to hire
- Looking to replace a few part time tennis aides (desk) as our current one's head off to college

JDFAC:

FITNESS

- The Midnight Basketball (Ages: 16 and up), special event activity ended on August 11th. It was open play basketball after business hours on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 pm to Midnight to give the young adults an activity during the summer months. The special activity is going well. Had over 300 + in attendance for the duration of the special activity.
- Top Gun Weight Lifting Challenge, a special activity that started on August 15th. Age groups: 18-35 / 36 – 56 / 56 and Over. The purpose of this challenge is to see who can do the most reps in certain weightlifting exercises. Whoever does the most in each age category is declared the winner. We have 6 people competing in the special activity. The activity is going well. We are in the Preliminary Round for this month and Final Round will start in the month of September.
- We hosted a special event, Fitness in the Park: Bootcamp Style on August 26th at War Memorial Park, 15 participants were in attendance, was a success and everyone enjoyed this event.
- All fitness classes are doing well with attendance.

AQUATICS

- We are continuing with swim lessons throughout the month of August. Group lessons are \$40 per session. The lessons are divided in to the following groups: Pre-School (Ages: 3-5), Youth/Teen (Ages: 6-17), and Adults (18+). We have three different swim levels: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced. We have a total of 183 sign up for the group swim lessons and 49 signed up for the private swim lesson. The swim lessons are going well.
- On July 19th, Jim Dailey hosted Movies at the Pool. It is a community family event held at the outdoor pool. The cost is \$5.00 per person. The movie shown was Top Gun: Maverick. We had 50 in attendance for this event.
- All aquatic classes are doing well with attendance.

Rebsamen Golf:

- **Pro Shop:** Order merchandise to restock pro shop. Display merchandise upon arrival.
- **Concessions:** Purge and rotate close dated and out of date items from stock. Order stock to replenish as needed.
- **Maintenance:** New MPT arrivals. Prepare and train staff on maintenance and operation of new MPTs.

First Tee: Staying up to Par, As we wind down from the summer, a lot of things has been going on here at First Tee. The greens have improved tremendously with customers noticing the changes. We have begun the process of laying turf on areas of the course where it has been bare for so many years.

One thing that is new this year is the rental of the big classroom inside our facility. We have already had a big birthday party rental which brought in extra revenue for us along with smaller rentals for meeting and gatherings of groups. This will continue to rise as word of mouth and social media post advertise about it.

One of the biggest things this month was the arrival of our new fleet of golf carts. We went from 25 to 40 carts for this fleet. This will allow us to accommodate more golfers on the course considering 90% of golfers these day usually ride. This will also result to more revenue income as the days go on.

To close we are very excited about the progress we have currently made this year and look forward to 2024 to continue to grow golf in Little Rock.