

Parks Commission - Recreation Division - Report 7/12/2023

One reported COVID-19 case in Recreation at SW!

Recreation Division - Position status/Vacancy –

- Asst. Facility Supervisor - Tennis – candidate is selected; awaiting approval
- Asst. Recreation Supervisor - on hold
- Recreation Programmer (Stephens)- reviewing applicants for interviews
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist – setting up interviews at the end of summer camp
- JFDAC Fitness Specialist- select an applicant; awaiting approval
- JDFAC - Park Maintenance Worker II - position filled

Community Centers:

Stephens Community Center:

The School had a Bottle Saver Station installed on the water fountain.

The Summer Playground Program reached full capacity.

The Cooling Center has opened. Participant came in feeling really bad and very hot. Said, she had just given blood. We researched and found that fish and whole grain would be good. She said she felt better after eating and drinking.

- Registration for Youth Volleyball will begin July 3, 2023.
- Men's Fall 40 & Over League registration will begin July 7, 2023.

Dunbar Community Center:

Summer Programs

The summer playground program at Dunbar is going really well. The youth are enjoying various field trips throughout the weeks as well as the various activities on site. Field trips include swimming, skating, the movies and a trip to the zoo. Youth may attend the playground program Monday –Friday from 7:30am-6:00pm. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily and snack time is offered with youth bringing their own choice of snack, snack time is at 3:00pm.

Men's Summer League

The Dunbar Men's summer basketball league was set to begin playing on June 5th with the tournament championship game being played at LR Hall in July. However after pushing the registration date back 3 times and lowering the cost, we were unsuccessful at getting enough teams signed up to have a league this year.

Youth Sports

Volleyball training is going well and growing steady in attendance. We are open to boys and girls grades 4th-12th for the training which is held every Sunday at our gym 2:00pm-3:30pm. Registration is always on the 30th of every month for the upcoming month. Tee ball teams are playing and the youth are having fun.

West Central Community Center: Youth Sports Program:

- We have participation in all age groups of baseball/tee-ball. We have had 2 rain out days and one heat index day to cancel games. All games have been played with no problems. We are preparing to start advertisement on volleyball.
- **Karate:**
- The Karate program had 15 participants for the month. They will resume their classes at Dunbar Community Center due to the state of emergency.
- **FEMA Center:**
- FEMA left our building on June 28th. All things were great while they were here. No major incidents.

- **Rentals:**
- The center had a total of 0 rentals for the month.
- **Maintenance:**
- We have had all maintenance request and work orders fulfilled for the month. We are preparing for reopening of West Central. We have a goal of July 17th. Right now we are repainting and cleaning the building to prepare for the reopening.

Southwest Community Center:

- **Summer Laurette Program:** The Southwest Community Center Summer Laurette Summer program is in effect with approximately 100 youth participating daily. The program age group range from 6-15. All participated are offered breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. After breakfast the summer program normally begins with an educational nature walk or open discussion depending on weather. All youth are offered the opportunity to participate on weekly field trips offsite. The program will end on July 20th with an annual celebration for all participants, parents and friends. Surveys will be taken at the end of the program to assure the best quality programs are being offered.
- **Youth Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Youth Soccer, Baseball, Tee-ball has ended for the season with the last game being held on. The baseball games were played during the week Monday through Thursday at West Central Community Center and ended on July 3rd soccer clinics were held at Southwest Community Center Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The season was very exciting and fun for those that participated. Junior hoops season is still going strong at Southwest Community Center with five teams competing for that title of becoming the next Junior Hoops champions. Football skills and drills has taking place with activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays open registration for football will begin soon.
- **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 weekly pickle ball trainings on Thursday mornings for anyone that's interested in learning the game of pickle ball. The goal will be to register at least 10 participants in advance to teach the basic fundamentals of the game and educate the importance of healthy living and cardio. Southwest Community Center has also engaged in advertising and communicating all events, programs, meetings etc. Through social media Facebook

ELR Community Center:

- Had a successful first three weeks of Summer Playground Program and youth daily, they are enjoying the MacArthur and Clinton Library weekly visits and activities. Looking for the rest of the summer to be a blast.
- Youth attended the National Swim Lesson Day at Jim Dailey Pool and learned some swim skills.
- Youth did a Flag Day bracelet project and a Fourth of July Flag presentation and had good summer time watermelon and games.
- Took the youth to the Riverfront Splash Pad and Treehouse for a day of fun, when swimming outing was cancelled.
- CHI St. Vincent held an appreciation cookout for their staff and patients and the youth were invited to see the piñata burst and enjoy the treats.
- Taught the youth what to do in case of fire, tornado, and lights going out and practiced those drills two time successfully.
- Broadcasted Sulphur around the senior building, Clinic, Gym and the grounds around them.
- Located 10 tables provided for tornado distribution site, need to get those returned ASAP.
- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association held their monthly meeting this month. Will continue meeting monthly.

- Carver Elementary used the multi-purpose field a couple of days this month for their physical education classes. School is out for the summer.
- AAU Football has started their pre-season practice Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday when it is not too HOT.
- 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 8-10 participants.
- There is still some 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.

1. Dunbar Seniors: Father's Day Celebration, Cookie Day, played dominoes, art project, and Red White and Blue Celebration.
2. East Little Rock Seniors: Still dancing up a storm, Walk Down Memory Lane Day, garden is doing well growing tomatoes and cauliflower, working on ceramic pieces and special art projects.
3. Southwest Seniors: Hosted a pool tournament, Father's Day Celebration, Birthday Celebrations, 4th of July Celebration, Skip-Bo Card Game, Bingo Fridays.
4. West Central Seniors: Challenge Hayes Center in chair volleyball weekly, participated in a bean bag baseball league final games and the Badgers went undefeated, challenged Jacksonville Seniors in chair volleyball and won, enjoying pickle ball.
5. Baptist Health Outreach provide the senior with fruits and vegetables

The Centre at University Park:

- The Centre had **15** Internal CLR bookings for the month of June of which 2 cancelled.
- June total revenue for the month **\$0**
- Total attendance **655**
- **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, Parks Summer Playground Program.

Therapeutic – The Therapeutic Recreation Division is in week 3 of Youth Summer Day Camp. Campers have visited numerous city facilities to include the MacArthur Unlimited Playground, Little Rock Zoo, and Jim Dailey Fitness and Aquatic Center. We have many new campers this year and have been receiving positive feedback from parents about the program. In the coming weeks our campers will be busy with a trip to the MacArthur Military Museum, the Arkansas Nature Center as well as many other activities to include swimming, bowling and a talent show.

MacArthur Military Museum –

1. Museum attendance for June was 3696, which was a 48% increase over last year's attendance for the month. This total includes: (1) Off-Site outreach at the Summer Playground Program, the Summer Laureate Program, and the Little Rock School District's Summer Enrichment Program, (2) On-site visitation, (3) Special events, and (4) Virtual Programming through the museum's virtual mini-documentaries and interviews.

2. The museum hosted Congressman French Hill's "Send Off to the Cadets" reception on June 10 for the Arkansas students who have been accepted into the various service academies. This annual reception was begun by Congressman Hill's predecessor in the House of Representatives, Tim Griffin.

3. The museum partnered with Little Rock Winds to host the 26th Annual Flag Day concert on June 11. More than 400 persons attended the outdoor concert on the parade grounds behind the museum. Ice cream, water, and American flags were provided by Bluebell Creameries, Central Arkansas Water, and Woodmen Life. Photos from the event are available on the museum Facebook page and through the link below.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vHQpg7YTQ41eFR3t5>

4. More than 100 persons attended the opening of the new exhibit *The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen* on June 17. The traveling exhibit from the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, VA, will be on display at the MacArthur Museum through August 26. Presenting sponsor for *The Color of Freedom* exhibit is AARP Arkansas. Special speakers at the opening reception were Phyllis Wilson, president of the Military Women's Memorial, as well as Arkansas servicewomen Lt. Col. Shareeta Glover and Elizabeth Eckford. This exhibit tells the story of women of color who have faced barriers of gender, race and traditional cultural values in their pursuit of opportunity for service in the armed forces. Coverage of the exhibit opening was included in the June 15 and June 18 issues of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Links to the coverage are provided below.

Please see: [Museum education](#)

Please see: ['Color of Freedom' exhibit honors servicewomen](#)

<https://www.kark.com/news/local-news/new-exhibit-at-north-little-rocks-macarthur-museum-shines-light-on-servicewomen-of-color/>

5. The Sunday issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on June 18 included an article by Rex Nelson on MacArthur Park. The essay included historical background on the park as well as information on the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History and its exhibits. A link to the column is provided below.

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/jun/18/macarthur-parks-moment/>

6. In conjunction with the opening of *The Color of Freedom* exhibit the museum's June "Movies at MacArthur" film program screened the documentary *The Six Triple Eight*. The film chronicled the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion which was sent to England and France in February 1945 to clear the backlog of mail in the European Theater of Operations. Movies are shown the third Tuesday of each month through November with free admission, popcorn, and beverages for all screenings.

7. The museum will continue to host the traveling exhibit *Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy* through September 4. The exhibit, which is on loan from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans through September 4, showcases the role of industry and the home front in World War II. Presenting sponsor for the exhibit is Stephens, Inc.

8. The museum's off-site programming as part of the Parks Department's summer playground programs provided weekly outreach to children at the Stephens, Dunbar, East Little Rock and Southwest Community Centers and to Baseline and Washington Elementary Schools. More than 800 children were reached in June through this outreach.

9. The museum provided programming to more than 600 rising 3rd and rising 4th grade students in the Little Rock School District's Summer Enrichment Program at Fulbright, Wakefield and King Elementary Schools in June. The outreach included monthly visits to each of the three sites and field trips to the museum.

Upcoming Museum Events in July:

- July 18, "Movies at MacArthur" documentary *Medal of Honor: The History*
- July 27, Korean War Armistice Ceremony and Wreath Laying at the Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial

Athletics

- Field Rental reservation or going well. Corporate Softball league started June 5, 2023 and will end August 24, 2023.

- Registration closed for Fall ball will start July 1, 2023. League will start in September.
- Summer Playground Program will end on July 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- SPP location count as of today: Dunbar- 208; Stephens- 120; Baseline - 84; J.A. Fair - 32; Washington - 38; ELR – 40; SW Laureate - 100

Rebsamen Tennis:

- Little Rock Open at beginning of the month very successful, with the most spectators we've ever had to attend this event.
- The Southern 16's also very successful, this event brought in about 225 players with their families and coaches.
- These two tournaments create a 2-3 million economic impact for the City of Little Rock.
- The Arkansas Tennis Association (ATA) also used us as a backup facility for Adult USTA Team tennis system championships.
- Courts 5,6,9, and 10 were resurfaced and completed courts look great, was much needed and long overdue
- July is a slower month due to the heat but the USTA Adult Mixed Doubles are going on right now at night.
- Currently been busy working on hiring an Assistant Facility Supervisor Raul and Janan continue running their summer programs

JDFAC –

- Started a new class on Sunday, June 4th, Yoga for beginnings: Rhythm and Flow. The class is on Sundays at 2:00 pm. The class is going well
- Started a special activity June 14th, Late Night Open Play Basketball (Ages: 16 and up). It is open play basketball after business hours on Wednesdays and Friday from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm to give the young adult an activity during the summer months. The special activity is going well. Had over 75 in attendance for June.
- All fitness classes are doing well with attendance.

AQUATICS

- Started the first session of group swim lessons class on June 13th. There are 6 sessions that are being offered throughout the summer. The private swim lesson started on June 21st. There are 3 sessions are being offered throughout the summer. Group lessons are \$40 per session and Private swim lessons are \$80 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 had 38 sign up for the group swim lessons and 26 signed up for the private swim lesson. The swim lessons are going well.
- On June 17th, we hosted Movies at the Pool. It is a family event held at the outdoor pool. The cost is \$5.00 per person and we had 54 people in attendance. Next Summer Movie at the Pool next is Minions; July 15th – Puss in Boots and August 19th – Top Gun; Cost \$5.00 per person, gates open at 7:30 movies starts at sunset.
- On June 22nd, Jim Dailey hosted the World's Largest Swim Lesson. It is a free community global event for youths (Ages: 5-15) held on that day that talks about swim safety. The participants were given a 30 minute swim lesson. We had 194 in attendance for this event. Everyone enjoyed themselves.
- All aquatic classes are doing well with attendance.

Rebsamen Golf:

- On July 10, 2023, we have the Blaylock Outing that will produce approximately \$700 in revenue with 20 Golfers in attendance.
- On July 14, 2023, we have a Pro Am Golf Tournament that will have approximately 72 golfers in attendance and will generate approximately \$2520 in revenue.
- Our goal for the month in July is to surpass \$130,000 in revenue.

First Tee: In Full Swing,

- Staying in full swing so far this year here at First Tee with summer camp going on currently. We have started to see a decrease of play due to the high heat waves that have been moving through Arkansas. This can possibly bring a loss in attendance for rounds of golf. Also.
- The aerification process on the greens have already started to show signs of improvement as we continue to do a lite top-dress and verdicut on the greens weekly.
- We continue to monitor our spending as we get closer and closer to the end of the year, as we continue to come up with new ideas on how to make First Tee.