

Parks Commission - Recreation Division - Report 10/18/2023

No COVID-19 cases in Recreation at this time!

Recreation Division - Position status/Vacancy

- Asst. Facility Supervisor - Tennis – will start 10/9
- Therapeutic Recreation Programmer – resignation effective 10/13; awaiting approval to hire
- Recreation Programmer (Stephens)- on hold
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist – applicant selected; awaiting approval to hire
- Aquatic Specialist- applicant selected; awaiting approval to hire
- Museum Program Assistant- applicant selected; awaiting approval to hire
- Recreation Programmer- Senior- awaiting approval to hire

Community Centers:

Stephens Community Center:

- We continue to work on our Light on Afterschool Program and also our Halloween Activities.

Youth Sports Program

- The Latchkey Program is growing. We are 78% complete.
- Registration for Youth Sports are ongoing (Basketball and Flag Football).

Adult Sports Activities:

- The Men's fall 40 & over League is going well.

Staffing:

- We are in the process of trying to get job vacancies filled (1-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 latchkey program, cheerleading, football 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.
- **Youth Sports Program:** This month we started playing volleyball and continued recruiting for cheer and football. Volleyball games are played Monday - Thursday at Dunbar and West Central Community Centers. Game times each night is 6:00 pm, 6:45pm and 7:30pm. We have a total of 24 youth signed up giving us one team in jr division and one in SR divisions. We will recognize breast cancer awareness by wearing pink socks in the games the month of October.

West Central Community Center:

- **Youth Sports Program:** We are preparing to start advertisement on basketball. Right now our participant numbers are slowly increasing. We are doing more advertising to increase our numbers. Volleyball season went well and they are entering the playoffs. WCCC had one team in each age group.
- **Karate/Dance:** The Karate program had 20 participants for the month. Dance had 15 participants. They are both set to perform at the Community Fest in October.
- **West Central CC:** West Central had two evening programs this month. Paint and Sip had 8 participants and our first planting class had 6 participants. All dates went well no incidents to reports. We are looking forward to implementing these 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.

- **Rentals:** The center had a total of 5 rentals for the month.
- **Maintenance:** We have had all maintenance request and work orders fulfilled for the month.

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 basketball, pickle ball, volleyball and video game tournaments.
- **Youth Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Youth basketball registration is open for enrollment. Cheerleading registration is open and practices are held every Thursday from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Flag registration will remain open until October 6th
- **Adult Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Men basketball league has begun, all games are played Saturday morning's beginning at 10:00am. The league has 10 teams in which the championship game will be played on November 4th TBA. We are looking to host a Women basketball league for the winter months.
- **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 did host the ACT PREP Training on Sunday September 24, 2023 from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. The goal was to register at least 15 participants that would receive one on one tutoring sessions in all areas of the ACT, in which we had 22 students participate. National Night Out will be held at the Community Center on October 3, 2023 between the hours of 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m. The Community Center will host its second health seminar on Saturday October 14, 2023 from 10:30a.m.12:00p.m. with speaker Stephanie Smith covering topics on Medicaid, health benefits and insurance. Lights on Afterschool will be held October 26, 2023 from 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m. which will feature an Art show of our youth talent. The second ACT PREP training will be held on October 29, 1:00p.m-3:00p.m. Our Annual Trunk or Treat event will be held on October 27, 2023 in the parking lot of the community center between the hours of 3:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

ELR Community Center:

- Little Rock Parks & Recreation Youth Bike Program is held here, on Tuesday & Thursday 4 - 5:30pm led by two Parks & Recreation staff that were trained on the bike program, through NWA Trailblazers.
- Met with the architect, IT, Park Staff, Engineers, and others on the upcoming renovations to the facility. Also more of floor measurements were done.
- Provided a cooling center as needed for the citizens of Little Rock, no attendance for the month.
- Monitored the LRPR information table at the Food Summit event, held at The Centre @ University Park, lots of flyers and information was given to the attendees.
- EStem Jr High girls has started their basketball practice Monday –Friday 3:45pm - 6:30pm and some Saturday as needed.
- Little Rock Police Department utilized the back area/field for their dog training weekly.
- Horticulture munched the flower bed, trimmed hedges on the entire grounds, raked and blew off the areas.
- Maintenance cut, edged, and blew grass on the entire grounds and multi-purpose fields.
- Located 10 tables provided for tornado distribution site, need to get those returned ASAP. Constantly no answer at the number provided. (Mike Garrity will get those returned).

- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association held their monthly meeting this month at the neighborhood park on 9th and Calhoun. Will continue meeting monthly.
- AAU Football continued their practices Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday as daylight permits. Multi-purpose field lights are not working.
- 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 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.

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: Enjoying fellowship with one another by playing dominoes, chair volleyball, bean bag baseball, Senior Circle (Bible Study), Baptist Health Outreach Monthly blood pressure and blood sugar screenings and shared fresh fruits and vegetables with the group.
- East Little Rock Seniors: Silver Foxes Dance Class going well and getting ready for their Showcase, garden is on the last of the tomatoes, enjoying doing ceramics, playing cards, art projects, chair fitness, nutrition education, Think Healthy Walk Strong Session and Funtastic Friday. With deep sadness Mrs. Maudie Nelson (President) passed.
- 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, shared information from Elder Scam Conference and birthday celebration enjoyed by all.
- West Central Seniors: Competing in Pickleball and Chair Volleyball with Hayes Center and with each other, both teams of Bean Bag Baseball (Badgers and Blazers) are participating in the Fall League against various site around the state, Baptist Health Outreach Monthly Screens for blood pressure and blood sugar and enjoying weekly Bible Study.
- Assisted in collecting data for CLR 2023 Bike Ped Counter.
- Drove for Mrs. Minnie Jean Brown Trickey (Little Rock 9) and family during the Central High School 66th Anniversary Celebration.
- Guest speakers from SAGE, Oak Street Clinic and Horton's Orthotic and Prosthetic visited the various sites.

The Centre at University Park:

- The Centre had 23 Internal CLR bookings for the month of August of which 3 cancelled and 3 where a no show.
- September total revenue for the month of September \$0
- Total attendance **1046**.
- **Meetings:** LR City Agenda/Board, Human Resources Civil Service 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, Director Web Food Alliance Setup/ Summit September, LR Board Special Budget Meeting, LRM Security Summit, LR Parks S. Craig Interviews, LR TV Interviews

Therapeutic:

- The Therapeutic Recreation Adult Camping event takes place October 2-4 at Camp Aldersgate. This event includes activities such as canoeing, hiking, team building activities, fishing, and more. This event targets increasing independent skills and well as socialization, peer relationships and daily living skills.

MacArthur Military Museum:

- Museum attendance for September was 5,786, which was a 37% increase over last year's attendance for the month. This total includes: (1) On-site visitation, (2) Special events, (3) Virtual Programming through the museum's mini-documentaries and interviews, and (4) the on-line children's program "The Reading Brigade." On-site visitation was up 120% over September 2022 on-site attendance.
- The traveling exhibit *Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy* returned to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans in early September. It was 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 late October. Local sponsorship for the exhibit was provided by AARP Arkansas.
- Museum staff resumed Afterschool programming in September at the Dunbar and Stephens Community Centers on a weekly basis, reaching 176 kids through the program's first three weeks. The museum will 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 assist with the off-site programming at the two 21st Century Program sites.
- The museum's "Movies at MacArthur" film series is on track to have a record-breaking year. Approximately 430 persons have attended a "Movies at MacArthur" film in 2023. The next movie is scheduled for October 17 and will be *Alive Day Memories: Home from Iraq*. The documentary features interviews by Emmy-winning actor James Gandolfini with ten Iraqi war veterans who describe their near-death experiences and the impact that has had on their lives. Movies are shown the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of November's film. A flyer of our October film is attached.
- Museum staff has worked with Commissioner Chip Culpepper to get video footage of the historic brick cistern located on the parade grounds in MacArthur Park. The footage is posted on the museum's Facebook page and can be viewed on the City's You Tube channel using the link below. New fencing and an interpretive panel were recently installed.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fg9vx5c9F8yraTbjJ8BP5MP031y0IrN/view>

- The museum participated in the Museum of Discovery's "Tinker Fest" event on September 16. More than 2,600 children and adults were reached during this outreach program.
- Over 40 persons attended the "On the Road with Mark Christ" bus tour to visit Cane Hill Historic Site and Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park on September 23. The museum started this program in 2019 to visit 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. 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.
- The museum hosted a reception for the Hall High School Class of '63 reunion on September 29. More than 80 alumni of the high school attended the event.
- The museum hosted the Quapaw Quarter Association's City Garden Beer and Ice Cream Social on the parade grounds behind the museum on October 1. More than 90 persons attended the event.
- The museum will host the 10th Annual Vintage Military Vehicle Show on October 14 on the parade grounds. The events features Jeeps and other military vehicles from the Arkansas Military Vehicle Preservation Association. Bluebell Creameries will provide ice cream and grilled hot dogs and chips will be provided by Woodmen Life. A flyer for the event is attached.

- The 29th Annual Big Boo-seum Bash is scheduled for Thursday, October 26. This free event allows museums in the downtown area to provide candy and activities for kids on the Thursday prior to Halloween. Kids and parents learn where the downtown museums and cultural sites are located, as well as information on their programming. Last year the museum partnered with Curran Hall at their site due to construction. This year the museum will once again be a host site and partner with the Jacksonville Military Museum. Kids who visit all participating locations are eligible for a prize drawing provided by LRCVB.
- The museum will host the 11th Annual Arkansas Paranormal Expo on October 28-29. The event is a fall fundraiser and has raised over \$55,000 for the museum since it began in 2011.

Athletics

- **Interstate / All Sport Park Program:** Road closure at Interstate due to construction on the road on the west side. But can access fields and are still available for rental.
- **Adult Softball Program:** Fall softball has been postponed due to low interest for the fall.
- **Summer Playground Program:** Requisition was submitted for the final bill for transportation for summer playground program.
- **Crump Park** -Meet with representative from Arkansas Baptist about using park for Junior Varsity football games

Rebsamen Tennis:

- 8/10 – 10/15 High School season finishing up (courts very full early afternoon with high school play)
- 9/28 – 9/29 6A High School Conference Tourney
- 9/8 - 9/9 ATA Tri-level State Tournament (back up facility)
- 9/15 – 9/17 STA Mixed Sectional (back up facility)
- 9/29 – 9/30 Chenal Junior Tournament (small tourney but are the backup facility for court overrun)
- 8/15 – 10/15 USTA Combo Doubles season has started and well attended
- Most USTA combo teams we've ever had at Rebsamen
- Assistant Manager position has been offered and accepted and will start work on Oct 9
- Looking to replace a few part time tennis aides (desk) as our current ones headed off to college

JDFAC:

- Top Gun Weight Lifting Challenge, a special activity that started on August 15th and ended on September 14th. Age groups: 18-35 / 36 – 56 / 57 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 competition went well
- Jim Dailey hosted a special event, Yoga Night on September 29th. Our yoga instructors displayed different types of yoga we offer at Jim Dailey. We had 33 in attendance. It was a success. Everyone enjoyed the special event.
- Due to the increase interest in one of our yoga class, we added another time for yoga class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:00 pm due to 5:00 pm yoga filling up and participants not able to attend the class. The addition class is going well. Both classes are averaging 8 to 10 people.
- All other fitness classes are doing well with attendance.

Rebsamen Golf: We have several tournaments in the month of October.

- October 4 and 5 will be our Ladies Club Championship
- October 6 we will host the Mt. St. Mary's Golf Tournament that will generate \$5,000 in revenue

- October 12 and 13 we will host a Pro Am
- October 20 we will host a fundraiser event for the organization Raising Alexander that will generate \$6,000 in revenue
- October 21 we will host the Catholic High Class of 50 Reunion Tournament generating roughly \$3,000 in revenue
- October 27 we will host the ELA Golf Tournament generating roughly \$3,000 in revenue

First Tee: As we move into the fall season, we still are seeing a great flow of customers coming out to visit our facility. Whether they are playing a round or just hitting balls on the range, the nice weather keeps them coming. We are looking forward to continuing to run some adds through Alice 107.7 and B 98.5 in the next few weeks advertising about the golf course itself and also advertising about us hosting your child's birthday party here at First Tee which is a new revenue stream for us in 2023.

The golf course its self is in excellent shape. We have been continuing to spread grass in bare areas of the course to help fill in areas where grass has not grown in many years thanks to the fray grass donated from UALR's baseball field. This has been a huge cost savings by utilizing the grass donated along with improving the quality of the golf course itself.

In conclusion, we are continuing to monitor our spending as we get close to the end of the year, and a prepping for 2024.