

**Director's Report
For
November 20, 2013**

**Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Play. Everyday.**

The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to preserve our parks and open spaces and provide essential recreational programs and cultural services in a safe, professional and friendly manner.

Projects

1. **Laurel Clark Fountain:**
 - a. Closed & winterized.
 - b. All costs are within the limits of the 2013 budget.
2. **Parks Paving Projects for 2013**
 - a. Asphalt Entry Path – Lockwood Park: Complete.
3. **Lockwood Softball Diamond:**
 - a. The softball diamond restoration is complete & backstop replacement is scheduled for mid-November.
4. **Playground Equipment Replacement:**
 - a. West Park installation bids accepted – scheduled to be installed the week of November 11.
 - b. Hantschel & Hamilton Parks – CDBG parks and play equipment improvement designs are complete. Play equipment has been ordered. Installations will be bid out in February of 2014 for completion by May 15, 2014.
5. **Park Electrical Upgrades:**
 - a. Island Park North Softball Lights: Contracts complete, project can begin anytime.
 - b. King LED Lights: Contracts complete, project can begin anytime.
 - c. Washington Park Bowl Lighting Electric Service: Bids in – waiting for WE Energies. Expect to be complete early November.
 - d. Humble Lighting Electric Service: Bids in – waiting for WE Energies. Expect to be complete early November.
6. **Miscellaneous Projects**
 - a. Hantschel Softball Diamond Fence: Former fence was removed & new backstop and wing fences are expected to be installed by mid November.
 - b. Lockwood Road Removal: Bid accepted. Expect road to be removed, filled & seeded by Thanksgiving.
 - c. Concrete removal Brose: Bid accepted expect road to be removed, filled & seeded by Thanksgiving.
 - d. Johnson Park Shelter Concrete Replacement: Bids accepted – expect completion before end of November.
7. **Cemeteries:**
 - a. **Mound & Graceland:**
 - i. Crypt repair master plan is complete. Repairs are recommended in three phases and much can be completed in the winter. Critical required repairs are expected to cost \$120K. This project will be bid this year, if possible.

- b. Mound:
 - i. Chapel Restroom: Plans complete. The project has started, plumbing and electrical has been roughed.
 - c. Graceland:
 - i. Section 23: Final plot designs are complete and will be submitted to the Cemetery Commission to begin the formal approval process.
8. **Golf Courses**:
 - a. Johnson: Tee & Green Rehab Project: Project is complete.
 - b. Washington: No Update.
 - c. Shoop: No Update.
9. **Wustum**:
 - a. No update.
10. **Zoo**:
 - a. No update.

Recreation

1. Adult Sports Team Registration. Seasons will begin the week of October 28.
 - a. 13 basketball teams
 - b. 81 volleyball teams
2. Basketball/Volleyball Officials have been assigned along with Sports Facility Supervisors.
3. Adult Fall Softball/Kickball Leagues have come to an end. Only a few rainouts had to be rescheduled.
4. The Fast Break Basketball Camp ended on a positive note on October 9. The camp was well attended with over twenty-five (25) youth per night.
5. The Youth Hoops Basketball Program has begun. We have worked hard to recruit coaches, schedule practices, and develop competitive teams. The season began November 16th.
6. The Monument Mash event was frighteningly successful. An estimate of 200 people attended this fun, family friendly event that featured haunted hits, face painting, beading, low intensity games, a bounce house, and pumpkin/costume contests. A big thank you to the Bryant Center Girl Power group who did the face painting, Downtown Racine Corp who provided gift certificates for the pumpkin/costume contests, and the dedicated, enthusiastic staff that helped make the event great. Shout out to Woody, Buzz, and Jessie for attending the event as well.
7. Adopt-A-River groups participated in clean-ups during MADD week. They picked up litter along the banks of the Root River, returned their report cards, and made a positive impact on our community.
8. We collected over 1,500 pairs of athletic shoes on Make-A-Difference day, October 26, as part of the Reuse-A-Shoe program. This is the most we have ever collected. Citizens look forward to this popular program that allows them to clean out their closets and help the environment.
9. The Milwaukee Bucks will be donating tickets to our department during the 2013-2014 season.

10. We have reached our registration goals for the Snow Sharks Program and will be offering this family program for the 11th season. We have scaled back the program and reduced the price to attract more participants. Thanks to Alpine Valley for offering this program at a 50% savings to our participant families.

Parks

1. Winter Preparations
 - a. Snow fencing installed at North Beach.
 - b. Snow markers have been placed for plowing.
 - c. Tires have been put in place on Lockwood Snow Hill.
2. Fall tree plantings are complete
3. Closing down parks.
 - a. Final removing of leaves.
 - b. Final mulching.
 - c. Pavilions winterized for the winter.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Hosted International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 9. Julian Thomas Elementary School parents, teachers, students gathered, at the Center at 7:30 am. After a light snack we all walked to school as part of International Walk to School Day. About 75 people participated in this event.
2. Met with Jim Schatzman, of R.V.M, to discuss the possibility of R.V.M. holding group meeting and workshops at the Center. If all goes well they could start as soon as mid- November.
3. Energy Assistance will meet at the Center every other Tuesday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to register individuals for energy assistance. They have about 15 clients per day.
4. Our Halloween Party for youth K-6TH grades was held on Friday, November 1 from 3:30 to 6:30. On October 31, Julian Thomas Elementary brought students dressed in costume to tour our haunted hallway. Each child received a sucker at the end of the tour.
5. Information for Black History Youth Achievement Awards/Ceremony is out to the schools. Gateway will print the programs and provide the certificate paper/covers.

B. Humble Park

1. Yoga Class began on October 25. This will be new Friday morning program.
2. Youth Hoops practices began October 28 at Humble and remain a popular spot for youth coaches.

3. Staff had activities and treat bags for Halloween on October 31.
4. Indoor Pickleball continues to grow with participants on Tuesday – Thursday afternoons.
5. Senior Card Clubs continue to meet daily in multipurpose room.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Youth Hoop coaches' meeting was held on October 23. Over 70 were in attendance. We have over 100 teams participating in the 2013/14 season and approximately 1,000 participants. This year has been a real challenge finding volunteer coaches. As of early November, we were still seeking coaches. Practices began on October 28 and games began November 16.
2. Volleyball Official's Clinic was held on October 7.
3. Basketball Official's Clinic was held on October 12.
4. Youth Basketball Camp finished on October 9 with over twenty-five (25) participants this year.
5. Attended Harassment Training on October 15 at City Hall through the CVMIC training series.
6. Attended Gang Collaboration Meeting on October 24 at the Bray Center. Committee is looking into ways we can utilize community centers for more training opportunities and educational programs for youth and adults at risk. The group which includes many local activists praised the centers for participating and felt this will be an ideal collaboration for programming.
7. City League Basketball practices were held the weeks of October 14 and 21.
8. City League Volleyball games began on October 29 and will run through March.
9. City League Basketball games will be held each Thursday starting October 31 through March.
10. Met with Athletic Director at Park High School to go over schedules for Youth Hoops Program at Park High School. We had some last minute conflicts, but we were able to work most out.
11. Youth basketball games will start November 16 and will be played at the following locations - Chavez Center, Humble Park, Tyler Domer, Bryant Center with numerous games on select dates at King Center, Starbuck and Gilmore Middle schools.
12. New Hispanic Bible Group will meet on Thursday evenings in the senior room.
13. Senior programs have grown with the change in weather. Both gyms are being used daily for pickleball, volleyball and card clubs.

14. Working on CDBG Grant for Main Gallery Youth Employment Program. 2014 will be Main Gallery's 20th year. I am very proud of the fact we have employed over 800 youth in this program since it began in 1995. We are planning an art showing at the Racine Arts Council from past participants and instructors in July 2014. More details will follow after first of year.
15. Haunted House was held on October 25 over 200 went through the Haunted House. Duncan and staff collected nonperishable food items to be donated.

D. Bryant

1. On October 11, children were taken on a field trip to see the Black Violinist. There were twenty (20) children in attendance.
2. October 15 was the first day of programming with FCC (Fresh Cut Collective) sponsored by SC Johnson. There were fifteen (15) children in attendance.
3. October 15 was the first day of Tap Dancing. A total fifteen (15) participants took part.
4. Tae Kwon Do classes began on October 15 with thirty (30) students attending.
5. Gateway was here on October 15 to take pictures of the children using the new computers that were donated by them.
6. Gym floors were done in preparation for the Youth Hoops Basketball Program.
7. The Bryant Center children attended the Haunted House on Friday October 25. We had twenty-six (26) participate.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Narcotics Anonymous had their yearly "Dropping the Bomb" event at the center. Approximately 200 people attended. They said it was a great success and will be giving me dates for next year's event shortly.
2. Campus Life is back on Wednesday mornings. They bring students over from Park High School and have lunch, some recreation time and lessons. This brings approximately 40 kids each Wednesday.
3. Community organizations that continue to use the building on a weekly basis: Narcotics Anonymous, Park High School Transitional Program, developmentally disabled from Careers.
4. PRCS Youth Hoops practices began: Mondays 7-8pm, Tuesdays 5-8 pm, Wednesdays 7-8 pm, Thursdays 5-8 pm and Fridays 5-7 pm.

5. Halloween party was a great success. The center was full with Zumba, fitness class, narcotics anonymous, games, parents with youth in costumes, haunted house and food and beverage. Everyone had a great time and staff worked great together.
6. Started a new fitness class on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 6 pm. Tuesday is abs and arms, Wednesday is abs and legs, and Thursday is all cardio. Anywhere from ten (10) to fifteen (15) people attending. We are expecting more as word gets out.
7. Youth from the center joined us downtown for the Monument Mash Halloween event that was held on October 19. Played games, danced and one won a gift certificate for best costume.
8. The new boiler is being installed. Should be complete by November 11.
9. Communications continue with the Dean and a professor from Gateway. We are working on bringing in different free programs from Gateway to our participants. Some of the suggested ideas were GED, ESL, work training, workshops to determine the person's strengths and what direction they should be heading, and life skills for young men and women.
10. Craft classes continue to draw about fifteen (15) to twenty (20) youth doing a variety of projects to take home or hang in the center.
11. Zumba continues on Mondays and Wednesdays.
12. Quilters are continuing to meet. They now are working on a project for one of the display cases for the holidays.
13. Our numbers are also growing with the weight lifters. The new equipment and set up has drawn more participants.
14. Met with the Gang Prevention Group. They are very interested in bringing programs into our centers when we have open programming space.

F. Marketing

1. National Visit a Park Day – Pedal, Paddle & Stroll: On 10/5, City of Racine, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department with 3rd Coast Bicycles and REC (Root River Environmental Education Community Center) provided bikes and kayaks for public leisure. Over 50 people attended and took kayaks down the Root River and through our parks. Hope to generate greater success next year. At the very least, the public was encouraged to take time to visit a city park and enjoy the many benefits they provide. National Visit a Park Day provides the opportunity to take advantage of recreation offerings and education within parks.

2. Attended and distributed information regarding our recreational opportunities for health at the Racine Journal Times Health Fair. Gained twenty-five (25) new newsletter subscribers
3. 500 new “Play. Everyday.” promo cards were printed and distributed throughout the city.
4. Created & distributed October Newsletter to over 300 contacts in our database via Constant Contact.
5. Launched PRCS promo video via newsletter and all social media sites. Planning to launch on Belle TV in November.
6. Promoted and attended Monument Mash, noting that two girls that were notified via our “Play. Everyday.” promo cards placed for the costume contest.
7. Nearing 900 likes on Facebook.
8. Took fall photos of parks for marketing usage.
9. Promoted the Ghostwalk and Cemetery Walks.
10. Promoted Make a Difference Day.