

Munster Parks and Recreation Department Report

February 17, 2015

Director of Parks and Recreation

1. Kudos to the Parks Department and to the Centennial Maintenance staff for putting in some long hours during the recent snow event. Not only did they do a great job removing snow from the bike paths and park parking lots, they also assisted with snow removal on the streets.
2. Interviews for the Administrative Secretary position will begin on February 18 with 2nd interviews scheduled for the following week. If a candidate is selected, an offer will probably be made the following week.
3. The landscaping portion of the Community Park Phase 4 project will be out for bid on February 18. The opening will be held on February 26 and a recommendation will be made to the board at the next meeting.
4. The Director of Parks and Recreation has been meeting with members from the baseball and softball groups who utilize Community Park. The purpose of the meetings is to get to know the key personnel, to discuss responsibilities and to address any concerns that they may have.
5. Budget meetings with all departmental division leaders will be starting in the next 2 weeks. This will help the Director to understand where each division stands and what their specific needs are.
6. The fate of the Community Park Batting cages that were damaged during the recent snow event is at the mercy of the insurance adjuster. The adjuster will be on hand soon to witness the damage first-hand. It is believed that the department will get the go ahead to repair immediately after the visit.

Recreation Department

1. 2 sponsorships have been received, one from Bowman Displays (Munster) and one from First Merchant's Bank (Munster). Bowman Displays has offered to print all of the department's special event banners again this year. Not only does this save on banner paper and printing costs, but the banners are professional and consistent in look. First Merchant's Bank will be sponsoring the Concert Series at Heritage Park in the amount of \$7,500.
2. This is shaping up to be a banner year in multi-day trips with 28 registrations thus far compared with a total of 36 in 2014. The January trip to Four Winds had 27 participants. Upcoming trips include the Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier, the Museum of Science & Industry, and Macy's Spring Flower & Garden Show. Both Mayflower Tours and Collette Vacations representatives will be on-hand within the next month promoting overnight travel.
1. The Annual Job Fair took place on January 21. Though there were many applicants, only 5 lifeguards were hired. More lifeguard interviews took place on February 5 with an additional 8 hired. 15-20 more guards are still needed.
2. The Winter Arts & Crafts/Business & Consumer Fairs were held on January 24. The number of vendors was down this year due to the early date. It has been requested that the high school look for a February date for next year and years

following. Due to a dance competition and a swim meet, there were plenty of shoppers and the vendors were pleased with the crowd.

3. The first session of Parent-Tot and Preschool Gymnastics was held January 13-February 17 with great numbers. The Parent-tot class was maxed with 12 and the Preschool class had 7. The second session is starting February 24, and the Parent-Tot session is already at the maximum.
4. Preschool, Beginner, Parent/Child and Private Swim Lessons are all maxed out. 9 lifeguards are teaching the winter/spring lessons. There are a total of 44 registered.
5. Daddy Daughter Date Night was held on February 7. The event had 110 daughters and 87 dads. The event was altered to include a candy bar and a sponsored photo booth. Financials will be included in the March Board Report.
6. Currently, 307 people, aged 50+, have become new Keen-Agers or renewed their memberships. There are 51 Keen-Agers registered for Valentine's Day Bingo taking place on February 12. Village Woods Retirement and Assisted Living will be sponsoring the food for this event. Financials will be included in the March Board Report.
7. The dog park memberships are up for renewal at this time. We have 91 members currently sign up.
8. 4 rentals are scheduled at the Social Center the month of February. This does not include the 3 not-for-profit groups that rent the Social Center on a regular basis. There are 9 rentals scheduled at the Social Center for March so far. The Social Center was rented 107 times in 2014; there are 34 reservations to-date.

Centennial Park

1. Due to the heavy recent snowfall, staff continues to plow and clear the parking lots, walking paths, and bike paths. Due to the volume, some snow piles needed to be relocated.
2. "No parking" signs have been ordered to help assist with parking issues along the south entrance. This was done partially for safety reasons. Sledding towards the Centennial entrance street continues to be a problem. Although staff tries their best to alleviate the issue, the sledders continue to sled towards oncoming traffic. By not allowing cars to park along the entrance, the view of the entrance will not be hindered.
3. Additional over seeding for the dog park will be completed in the spring.

Centennial Park Golf Course

1. The Golf Shop had a great January. It took in a total of \$7,087 compared to \$1,810 in 2014.
2. The Golf Shop is ready to roll into spring for the upcoming golf season. Staff has been getting everything in order for March. Aggressive promotions will begin in March for Golf Memberships, in house leagues, outings and golf clinics.
3. Centennial Park Golf Course will host the Munster High School Boys and Girls Golf Team along and the Purdue University Calumet Men's Golf Team as their home course and practice facility.
4. The Golf Shop will be receiving merchandise in March and April from golf balls, golf gloves, headwear, towels, golf bags, clothing, socks, individual clubs and

boxed set of clubs that will be checked in, inventory them, price them and start selling.

5. The Centennial Park Golf Course will be having leagues once again. One will be a private league (Purdue Calumet) and 4 will be in-house leagues. The tentative league schedule is as follows:

- * Monday evening Ladies League
- * Tuesday morning Men's Senior League
- * Wednesday morning Ladies League
- * Thursday evening Men's 2-Man Team League

Parks Department

9. A mutt-mitt dispenser and dog waste sign was recently installed at Evergreen Park. This will hopefully alleviate the dog waste problem that was occurring.
10. The Parks Department Staff recently built 30 complete sets of barricades to bring the overall total to 100. Many other barricades were repaired. The barricades are mostly used for special events.
11. The Parks Department assisted with the advertising for the Arts and Crafts/Business Fairs by placing 5 banners at highly visible parks.
12. Due to the heavy recent snow event, the staff has been busy snowplowing all park parking lots, walking paths and roadways.

Centennial Park Clubhouse

13. Banquets continue to book new events for 2015 and 2016. Almost all weekends in 2015 are full.
14. Lencioni Catering, one of Centennial's preferred caterers, hosted a food tasting in January for all 2015 and 2016 brides. Approximately 20 couples attended the program.
15. Hiring for concessions is complete for the summer season. Training will start at the beginning of March. US Foods will provide a sanitation seminar for staff.

Upcoming events:

Bridal Fair: February 25, 2015

Tomfoolery Comedy night: March 7, 2015

Breakfast with the Bunny: March 28, 2015.