DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATION

The Community Park batting cages that were damaged last February have been repaired. For a unified look, the staff took the opportunity to have them rebuilt in the same style as the other 2 sets of cages in the park.

On March 23, the Public Works Department and the Parks Department had a meeting to discuss all mowing areas and ways that the two departments can work together to make mowing more efficient.

The Director of Parks and Recreation was invited by Munster Little League to throw out the first pitch and to play with the board in a "board vs. coaches" softball game during their opening day on April 18.

The construction at Community Park is progressing. The asphalt work will soon be starting and landscaping is taking shape. Also, minor touches such as tightening the batting cage nets, repairing concrete cracks left by construction equipment and construction clean-up will be ongoing.

The finishing touches to River's Edge Disc Golf Course are being completed at this time. Signage has been ordered, tee mats are down, the walking bridge will soon be installed and brush is being cleared. Also, staff is very pleased to present the new logo for the park:

PARKS

Park Staff has again repaired park benches in Circle Park. Three park benches have been vandalized on three separate occasions.

River's Edge Park cleaned up. Five garbage bags of debris were gathered off the grounds. 90' roll of golf matting was cut into 10 foot sections. The matting is for each hole tee-off area.

Spring cleaning has occurred in all parks. Branches, debris, planter boxes, washrooms and landscaping cleaned up in all parks including the ballfields. Garbage cans have been distributed in all parks. Mulch has been spread at Monon Trail Head.

3 benches at Community Park playground have been re-installed. Benches were removed to complete limestone and black dirt grading.

The waterline and ductwork in pool pump house has been removed. Hasse Construction will be installing the trolley beam system and the waterline and ductwork were in the way of installation.

Water is turned on in all parks. All drinking fountains, washrooms and concession stands have been turned on.

Soccer goals have been layed out and fields striped. Soccer goals are set up and fields are painted at Grove, Stewart and White Oak Park

RECREATION

Recreation Department revenue for 2015 Winter/Spring exceeds 2014 revenue by $3,500+ thus far.

Community Egg Hunts took place on Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, at Community Park. 61 children, ages 9 to 13, participated in the flashlight egg hunt Friday night and 162 children, ages 1 to 8, participated on Saturday. The CSRI egg hunt had 10 participants and Doggie egg hunt had 20.

New Collette Vacations Travel representative, Amanda Nierman, showcased 2015 travel experiences. Several travelers expressed interest. 31 travelers (36 total in 2014) have registered for multi-day trips. Upcoming day trips include: "Billy Elliot" at Drury Lane and Million Dollar Quartet.

Heritage Park Concert Series bands have been booked. The bands are as follows: June 7 - dupage, June 21 - Final Say, July 5 - Original Hazard County Band, July 19 - Classical Blast, August 2 - David Blixt and August 16 - The Hotts. First Merchants Bank is the sponsor again this year.

Pharmacy Technician course is now running. There are 2 continuing education medical classes in progress.

Parent-Tot and Preschool Gymnastics had great numbers the second session. The class maxed out at 12 students in the 9:00 a.m. Parent-Tot class and an additional class was added at 10:20 a.m. with 8 students. The Preschool class had 6 students.

Spring Soccer has begun with 363 kids and 65 head/assistant coaches. Games run Saturday, April 4-May 9 at Centennial and Grove Park. Another soccer program for the younger set, Mini Kickers, run by Challenger British Soccer, is full with 20 enrolled and begins April 15.

Within 5 hours, an Underwater Egg Hunt post on Facebook went viral with 285 shares and over 24,000 views. The event filled with 50 families. 98 kids participated in the hunt with 1,000 Easter eggs. The pool was open for swimming after the hunt ended.

Currently 336 people, aged 50+, have become new Keen-Agers or renewed their memberships. 25 participants attend the "Julia Child: My Life in France" lunch (catered by Round the Clock) and show. Re-enactment actor Lynn Rymarz, told the story of Julia Child and how she found her passion for cooking along with surprising twists and turns.

Staff is working on the 2015 Summer Recreation Guide and doing on-going date entry in ActiveNet.

8 rentals are scheduled at the Social Center the month of April. This does not include the 3 not-for-profit groups that rent the Social Center on a regular basis. There are 7 rentals scheduled at the Social Center for May so far. There are no Heritage Park rentals in April and 1 in May.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	R	NR	REVENUE	EXPENSE	VARIANCE + OR (-)
Basketball 101, Art of Shooting and Volleyball Skills/Drills	8	5	$ 231.00	$ 40.00	$ 191.00
Brains, Fun & Laughs!*	13	12	$ 250.00	$ 25.00	$ 225.00
Coding: Game Design	11	0	$ 1,540.00	$ 1,100.00	$ 440.00
CPR Certification	3	1	$ 210.00	$ 90.00	$ 120.00
Community Egg Hunts (7 groups)	115	132	$ 1,042.00	$ 582.03	$ 459.97
Julia Child: "My Life in France"	18	7	$ 820.00	$ 584.19	$ 235.81
Lego Robotics	7	0	$ 980.00	$ 700.00	$ 280.00
MSI/Flower & Garden Show	14	31	$ 1,871.25	$ 1,445.25	$ 426.00
Swim Lessons – Beginner, Preschool, Parent/Child, Private + Underwater Egg Hunt	59	35	$ 3,827.25	$ 1,356.53	$ 2,470.72
T-Ball 101	9	0	$ 315.00	$ 40.00	$ 275.00
Tumblebears Parent-Tot + PreK	25	1	$ 1,180.00	$ 1,092.00	$ 88.00
Arizona Spring Training by Rail	3	0	$ 591.90	$ 25.00	$ 566.90
Everything to Know about Trusts*	16	12	$ 250.00	$ 25.00	$ 225.00
Disc Golf Demo	5	1	$ 30.00	$ 5.00	$ 25.00
TOTAL	**306**	**237**	**$ 13,138.40**	**$ 7,110.00**	**$ 6,028.40**

*Brochure Advertising

CENTENNIAL PARK

Golf Course

Revenue was very good this month. The range and golf course opened in early March, taking advantage of the nice weather. The monthly revenue breakdown follows:

	2014	2015
January	$1,800	**$7,087**
February	$6,117	**$7,900**
March	$11,906	**$21,035**

The merchandise has been delivered; everything is on display. **The golfers really like the merchandise selected for the season**. Sales totaled $1,192.48, which is very good for March.

- Golf Balls - $213.08
- Headwear - $255.13
- Clothing - $349.51
- Miscellaneous (Tees, Bags, Gloves) - $374.76

The driving range opened on March 13th. The nice weather brought a large volume of golfers. The range took in $4,425.

- Tokens purchased in Golf Shop - $958
- Debit Key/Memberships - $2,875
- Cash Dispense (machine) - $592

The final push for golf memberships is going very well. The Golf Shop is very aggressively promoting the 4 in house leagues. The number of players is up from last year.

Golf Course Maintenance

The golf course opened the week of March 23, 2015. The weather was less than ideal. On good days business has been good.

All course accessories including ball washers, trash cans, trap rakes, and tee markers have been placed on the golf course. The maintenance department has been busy getting the course in shape from coming out of winter.

The golf course came out of winter in pretty good shape. The fairways experienced a little bit of snow mold and are growing out of it at the time of this report.

The Golf Course Superintendent attended an open house at a new John Deere Landscapes Branch in Merrillville. John Deere Landscapes is one of the vendors used to purchase anything related to the course. The close proximity will be an added benefit when something is needed.

The maintenance staff has been busy working on some drain issues that showed up after winter. The staff has unplugged several drains using a power rooter as of the time of this report. This will be an ongoing maintenance issue that will continue throughout the season.

On Friday, April 3, 2015, the grass tee for the driving range was open for use. The tee receives a lot of use and fortunately this large area that can heal in rather quickly.

The golf course maintenance staff has been adjusting its schedule based upon the weather. Staff has been trying to get a routine established. Things have been modified as the weather and amount of play has had a large impact on daily tasks.

Grounds

Below is a list of tasks that are completed every spring in preparation for the season:

- All restrooms and drinking fountains turned on throughout the park
- All concrete areas pressure washed and sanitized as needed
- Remove any litter found within turf and landscaped areas
- Check for and remove any debris in trees and shrubs
- Perform spring bed clean up in all locations prior to any required division of perennials
- Water semi-irrigated and non- irrigated landscaped areas
- Mulch planting areas
- Begin monitoring for pest and disease problems
- Begin landscaping contract
- Stripe soccer fields
- Clean out any drains throughout the park including the dog park and garden areas
- Clean out south parking lot drain to remove debris accumulated over winter.

The Cleveland Pear trees around the clubhouse contracted Fire Blight disease last year. All trees were treated professionally by injection and continuous pruning. It has been scheduled for the same treatment this year; this should help minimize further damage.

The dog park drainage line was dug up in two areas with repairs made to increase drainage efficiency in this area.

Clubhouse

Events continue to book, following dates are still open for 2015

- May: 3, 15, 22, 29
- June: 5, 26
- July: 10, 11, 31
- September: 13
- October: 4, 9, 11, 25, 30
- November: 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29

Breakfast with the Bunny had 190 attendees. Centennial Park received several compliments from attendees. Next event is VIP for July 3; people are already calling to sign up.

Community Park Concessions will open for the regular season April 18, 2015. **Several new menu items will be featured.**

CENTENNIAL PARK

	Wedding Receptions		Ceremony w/ Reception		Ceremony No Reception		Baby/Bridal Showers		Business Mtgs. w/ Rental		Business Mtgs. Waived Rental		Other Rentals	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
January	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	2	2	2	7	8
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	3	0	4	6
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	1	2	5	6	6
April	0		0		0		3		2		2		5	
May	0		3		0		5		2		6		23	
June	1		5		2		3		2		5		20	
July	3		3		2		3		2		2		23	
August	1		3				4		0		3		18	
September	1		8		1		2		1		2		17	
October	2		4				2		6		3		11	
November	4		0		0		3		4		1		6	
December	1		0		0		1		1		4		6	
	14	0	26	0	5	0	33	8	25	5	35	7	146	20
YTD Compare	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	5	5	7	7	17	20

	Banquet Resident		Banquet Non-Resident	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
January	5	8	5	4
February	4	7	4	3
March	3		3	
April	12		3	
May	17		18	
June	18		20	
July	27		12	
August	17		12	
September	16		16	
October	19		9	
November	14		4	
December	7		5	
	159	15	111	7
YTD Compare	12	15	12	7

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The View

Catering

	2014	2015
January	$ 1,908.85	$ 4,986.00
February	$ 3,648.00	$ 1,930.25
March	$ 2,408.00	$ 5,988.69
	$7,964.85	**$12,904.94**

Restaurant Sales

	2014	2015
January	$ 3,372.71	$ 5,272.53
February	$ 4,336.20	$ 1,556.32
March	$ 4,028.35	$ 6,848.81
	$11,737.26	**$13,677.66**

Banquets

	2014	2015
January	$ 5,926.48	$ 8,678.76
February	$ 8,099.32	$ 4,859.98
March	$ 6,085.99	$ 7,387.76
	$ 20,111.79	**$ 20,926.50**

Community Park

Concessions

2014	2015
$ -	
$ 273.83	
$ -	$ 95.79

Community Pool

2014	2015
To be reported next month	