

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

October 19, 2020

Director's Report

CAC and Simms

Fitness Center:

The Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center (CAC) and the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center (Simms) have continued limited operations. These limited operations included fitness center reservations for both facilities Monday-Friday.

◆ October 1-31

CAC – 746 reservations

Simms – 76 reservations

◆ September 1-30

CAC – 509 reservations

Simms – 43 reservations

Memberships Sold – 10 (includes pool)

Programming:

The program team has done an exhaustive review of current programs to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community. Future programming will be conducted based on this review along with new ideas constantly being explored and researched.

- A program schedule starting in January has been developed and approved– focused on fitness and dance classes. These programs will be held at the Simms Center.
- Staff have continued a new round of virtual programming along with some fun contests occurring in the fall/winter.
- Zoom class options will be started in conjunction with in-person programming in January.
- Staff created a S.P.A.C.E. (Safe Place Academy for City Employees) program to assist city employees and their childcare needs; Will launch in January

Events

- The Race to Beat Breast Cancer was held virtually in October with over 430 participants!
 - Participation came from 15 states plus Washington DC
- Staff are planning for modified events to take place in December
 - Reverse Holiday Parade – December 4, 5:30-7:30pm, Westover Park
 - Virtual Tree Lighting
 - Santa Around Town – December 12, 1-4pm
 - Calls from the North Pole – December 14

Westover Pool

During October the pool had 981 reservations from guests totaling a 86.5% fill rate for our lane space to the public with an additional 912 lane hours of swim team reservations giving us 1893 hours of lane usage. When accounting for all lane time used, we had a 92.5% booking/rental rate for the 2046 total hours of lane time available. The aquatics staff erected the tunnel for entry into the domed pool, prepared a plan for a limited reopening of the locker rooms for our

lap-lane swimmers and provided an auxiliary changing space on the pool deck for the youth swim teams.

- ◆ October 1-31
1,893 lane reservations (Individuals and Swim Teams)

Heritage Oaks Golf Course

- ◆ October 1-31
Total Rounds: 2,506
Number of Season Passholder Rounds: 801
Number of Harrisonburg residents served: 375
Number of non-residents served: 470

Heritage Oaks Golf Course Revenue & Rounds					
	FY21 <i>July 1, 2020-June 20, 2021</i>		FY20 <i>July 1, 2019-June 20, 2020</i>		NOTES:
	<i>Rounds</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Rounds</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	
July	1,694	\$ 38,860.00	3,247	\$ 66,203.00	FY21 - Spaced TT/No Leagues or Tournaments
August	1,287	\$ 40,840.00	3,501	\$ 67,492.00	FY21 - Closed 4 days/Spaced TT/No Leagues or Tournaments
September	1,322	\$ 50,322.00	2,959	\$ 58,547.00	FY21 - Spaced TT/No Leagues or Tournaments
October	2,506	\$ 67,314.00	2,935	\$ 59,902.00	FY21 - No Leagues or Tournaments
November			1,564	\$ 39,353.00	
December			1,015	\$ 102,470.00	FY20 - Memberships purchased
January			885	\$ 27,868.00	
February			689	\$ 8,950.00	FY20 - Closed 12 days
March			1,385	\$ 41,122.00	FY20 - Closed 6 days
April			0	\$ (75.00)	FY20 - Closed (Refunds issued)
May			0	\$ (8,066.00)	FY20 - Closed (Refunds issued)
June			1,006	\$ 16,216.00	FY20 - Closed 11 days/Spaced TT/No Leagues or Tournaments
Totals	6,809	\$ 197,336.00	19,186	\$ 479,982.00	

Heritage Oaks Golf Course - Maintenance

Leaf blowing and mulching has been the focus for the golf course for much of October. Once the first leaf falls, we will be dealing with leaf removal for 6-8 weeks until the last one is on the ground. It is an arduous task and takes most of our staff's day keeping the course as clean as possible for play.

We were able to complete two recent projects on the golf course. From the severe weather we dealt with in July, there was turf loss on two of the aprons/approaches on holes #12 and #14. We decided to strip those areas, level, and re-sod those areas and fertilize them afterward. We used sod from the nursery areas in the SGPA (short game practice area) and were able to keep our cost to zero outside of man-hours required to do the work. The area on #12 has already knitted and will be opened for play the first of November, and the area on #14 was just completed on October 29 and should be open for play in mid-November.

We also put down the last fertilizer application on fairways, over seeded and fertilized green banks, and over seeded tees as well. We met with Jeremy Harold and outlined tree removal this winter. We have 134 dead/dying trees on the golf course, with almost all of them ash trees. If you are unaware the emerald ash borer has been decimating ash trees all over Virginia and surrounding states. This work should start in mid-November and continue through the winter. Native trees will be replanted as funding allows.

Athletics

Field Rentals

Starting in August we began taking field reservations for practice based, non-competitive team activities at our fields at Purcell, Ralph Sampson, and Ramblewood. Teams must submit their requests, along with insurance information, and a site management plan on how they plan to follow our Resumption of Play Guidelines (attached). Below is the reservation data for October:

- Purcell Park #3: 23 dates for an estimated total of 225 individuals (Baseball Practices)
- Ramblewood Lower Field: 8 dates for an estimated total of 288 individuals (Virginia Skyline Soccer Practices)

All field rentals will conclude on November 4th when the athletic fields are closed for the season.

Facility Usage

Harrisonburg Tennis Patrons continued their weekly pick-up play for members and guests on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the Eastover Tennis Courts. They average 16 individuals per night. They also held their monthly Sunday Tennis Social on October 18th which also averages 16 individuals. Below is the reservation data for October:

- Eastover Tennis Courts: 10 dates for an estimated total of 160 individuals

Pickleball Harrisonburg continued their scheduled weekly play on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings at the Pickleball Complex at Morrison Park. They are actively recruiting new individuals to the sport and are offering free instruction to those who are new. They average 24-32 individuals per scheduled date. Below is the usage data for October:

- Harrisonburg Pickleball Complex: 13 dates for an estimated total of 364 individuals.

Program Information

Start Smart Football concluded on October 22nd. This program was held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the outfield at Ralph Sampson. This initial offering attracted 3 parent/child pairs who were spaced out in their physical distanced “zones”.

- Start Smart Football is a developmentally appropriate introductory football program for children 3-5 years old. The program prepares children for organized football in a fun, non-threatening environment. Start Smart Football prepares children and their parents for organized football without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. Age appropriate equipment is used in teaching throwing, catching, kicking/punting and running/agility.
- The cost for the program was \$30/pair which basically covered program expenses, and pairs were able to keep their individual equipment. This brought in a total of \$90 to the Department.

Start Smart Soccer also concluded on October 22nd. This program was held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the outfield at Ramblewood. This initial offering reached its capacity of 6 parent/child pairs, again spaced out in their physical distanced “zones”.

- Start Smart Soccer is a developmentally appropriate introductory soccer program for children 3-5 years old. The program prepares children for organized soccer in a fun, non-threatening environment. Start Smart Soccer prepares children and their parents for organized soccer without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. Age appropriate equipment is used in teaching kicking, dribbling, trapping, throw ins and agility.
- The cost of the program was \$30/pair, which basically covered program expenses, and pairs were able to keep their individual equipment. The total revenue was \$180 to the Department.

Additional information can be found at www.harrisonburgva.gov/start-smart.

Registration opened for Start Smart Basketball (ages 3-5) and our Beginner Basketball Clinic (ages 5-7) on October 5th. We are offering sessions on Saturday morning at 8:00am and 9:00am for Start Smart Basketball, and 10:00am and 11:00am for the Beginner Basketball Clinic. Each session is open to 6 participants who will be space out in the gymnasium at the Community Activities Center with their own basket, and their own individual equipment to minimize equipment sharing. Within 2 weeks, all sessions filled, and we have several on each waiting list. These programs will run for 5 weeks. We are hoping to expand offering starting again in January. Program descriptions are below:

- Start Smart Basketball is a developmentally appropriate introductory basketball program for children 3-5 years old. The program prepares children for organized basketball in a fun, non-threatening environment. Start Smart Basketball prepares children and their parents for organized basketball without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. Age appropriate equipment is used in teaching dribbling/ball handling, passing/catching, shooting and running/agility.
- The Beginner Basketball Clinic will focus on building the fundamental skills of dribbling, ball handling, passing, and shooting.
- The cost of the program was \$30 which brought in a total of \$720 to the Department.

Participants will enter through the front entrance near Westover Pool at their designated time slot. Once all participants have entered the building, the doors will be locked. Prior to participants entering the facility, they will undergo a health screening. Once they enter the gym, they will go to their designated “zones”. Upon completion of the 45-minute sessions, participants will then be dismissed in order and exit through the back of the building to minimize crossing paths with individuals in the following session. Any necessary shared equipment will be sanitized between sessions.

Maintenance Operations

Grounds Maintenance

Grounds maintenance has started working daily on leaf collection in all parks and facilities to stay ahead of this process. Grounds maintenance has one more scheduled mowing cycle and that will end that process for the year. The ash tree removal and stump grinding process has been completed at Westover Park. Staff is moving next to Hillandale Park to begin the removal process there. Split rail fence repair and replacement will continue in all parks. Staff has also completed Target Solutions training in machine guarding and defensive driving.

Facilities Maintenance

Facilities maintenance is scheduled to winterize Smithland Sport Complex irrigation system on 11/3/20 and that will complete the winterization process for the parks and facilities for the year. Facilities

maintenance has started on the assembly of hand sanitizer stations to be installed at the dog park, skateboard park, and all playgrounds. Staff has also completed Target solutions training in machine guarding, confine space, eye safety, ladder and scaffolding safety, lock out tag out and defensive driving.

Landscaping and Nights/Weekend Maintenance

Landscaping and Nights/Weekend staff continue to focus on fall cleanup of landscape beds at all parks and facilities. Staff has also been assisting in the stump grinding on the weekends and will also help with leaf collection. A new landscape planting is being installed at Ralph Sampson Park along the retaining wall at the basketball court to add color and discourage pedestrian travel. Staff has also completed Target Solutions training in eye safety, ladder and scaffolding safety and defensive driving.

Custodial Maintenance

Parks custodial has been working on maintaining park grounds, removing debris and litter. In the month of October, 1.79 net tons of litter was collected. Staff has been working on painting at the CAC in the athletics office and the new childcare area. Staff has also completed Target Solutions training in ladder and scaffolding safety, eye safety and defensive driving.

Athletic Fields

Over the last month the fields at Smithland, Purcell, and Simms have all been aerified and over seeded. The fields at Ramblewood with the above-mentioned fields all received their end of the year fertilizer application and are ready to go to bed for the winter. In the next couple of weeks, we will put one final edge on all the infields to put them to bed ready for next spring and hopefully the return of play.

The new field at Smithland (#3) has completely grown in and the bluegrass over seed has germinated and is now growing. Over the course of the next month the bluegrass will thicken up and give the field a nice green hue. It will be ready for play in 2021. The bluemuda combination (bluegrass and bermuda) will be a great playing surface for years to come.