

FOLLOW THE LEADER

A Publication for the employees of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

April 2014

B

y now, I hope we have seen the last of the snow for the year. It has been a long winter but spring is coming. Summer Camp registration began March 22, and we are making plans to turn on the fountains at Bicentennial and will be mowing grass before we know it.

Over the last several months, the department has received a number of awards and recognitions.

At the Ohio Parks and Recreation Conference this year we were recognized for a number of projects and programs.

First Place, Partnership Award – Krumm Park Community Playground Award

Second Place, Health and Wellness Programs Award – COGO Bike Share

Third Place, Park Area Development Award, \$1,000,000 and Up Award – Blackburn and Indian Mound Spray Grounds

Third Place, Environmental and Interpretive Programs Award – Columbus Mobile Outdoor Education Award

In late February, the Children's Hunger Alliance recognized the Department as the 2013 Summer Feeding Program of the Year.

On March 6, the Mayor held the Annual Columbus Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to all of the staff that were recognized with a special shout out to **Greg Poston** for his 40 years of service and to **Nobie Collier** and **Eric Eiselsten** for receiving the Mayor's Award of Excellence.

Congratulations to all who contributed to the awards and recognitions over the last several months. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The department Master Plan efforts are moving forward. Some of you have seen the preliminary information. In the last couple of weeks we have seen some of the early survey results. All of this is great information and will help us set the direction for the future. I am excited about this effort and we will be getting more information out in the coming months.

Thank you for all that you do as we "Enrich the Lives of our Citizens".



Alan D. McFright
Director

Art Supplies Needed!

Art instructors in central Ohio lost a valuable resource last year when the Waste-Not Center had to close down operation.

In an attempt to acquire items that are used for CRPD & Whetstone instructors for their classes and camps I will be receiving and storing some donated items at Whetstone Community Center. Items can be dropped off at the main office marked **ATTN: CONNIE TERRY.**



These will be distributed to Whetstone and CRPD instructors at our monthly art meetings. Thanks!

This is our wish list of items:

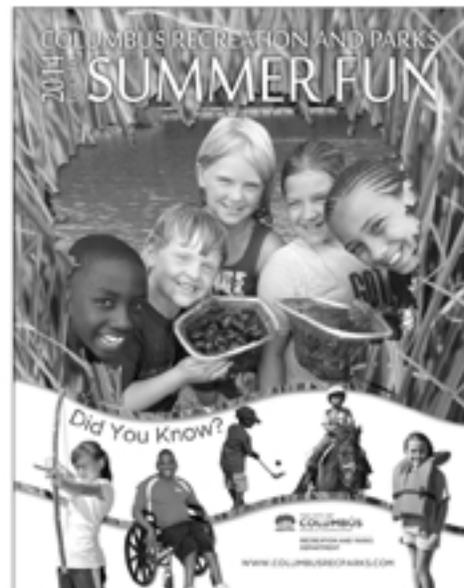
- *Paper Towel Rolls (Please, no toilet paper rolls!)
- *Buttons
- *Beads
- *Keys
- *Old Trinkets
- *Washers
- *Old Jewelry- including chains.
- *Colored Wire
- *Small Yogurt Containers (especially the square Activia kind)
- *Drawing & Painting Supplies-paint, paintbrushes, pencils, charcoal, pastels, chalk, drawing paper, construction paper, poster board, cardboard, matte board, etc.
- *Yarn
- *Embroidery Floss
- *Thread
- *Fleece Fabric
- *Felt
- *Fiberfill
- *Rubber stamps
- *Scrapbooking supplies
- *Glitter, sequins, gems
- *Jewelry gift boxes with lids
- *Printmaking supplies-brayers, etc.
- *Print drying rack
- *Small Wood Scraps

Summer Camp Registration

Going on now!

columbusrecreparks.com

Don't let your kids miss out on the fun!



Creative Arts Event Happening in May

Staff, friends and family over age 50 are invited to enter two pieces of original art or craft work in the 62nd annual Creative Arts Event. Entry dates are Wednesday, April 23, 10 – 2 or Thursday, April 24, 5 – 7 at the Martin Janis Center. There are no entry or parking fees. The event will open Wednesday, May 7, and run through Friday, May 16, at the Janis Center with entertainment or programs every day. See the 50+ newsletter or call **Doreen Gosha** at Janis, **Linda Jacobs** at Gillie or **Mike Phillips** at Marion Franklin for details.

Silent Auction items are needed by April 30, art or craft pieces, or new items. Call **David Jones** for details, 724-2017.

PLAY Deadline

Spring Deadline

April 12

ARBOR DAY



APRIL 28 - DODGE PARK

Director McKnight Recognized by OPRA as Professional of the Year

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association announced the winners of the 2013 outstanding leadership awards. Parks and recreation professionals, citizens and legislators were nominated by parks and recreation professionals from around the state for these awards, and were presented at the annual OPRA Awards Celebration and Dinner on February 4, 2014 at the Kalahari Conference Center.

"These individuals really represent some of the best in parks and recreation, past, present and future," said OPRA Executive Director Woody Woodward. Each of these winners understands the vital role that parks and recreation plays in establishing and maintaining community and building quality of life.



The 2013 OPRA Professional of the Year is Alan McKnight, Director of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. Director McKnight has been a leader at the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department for nearly 40 years, investing himself in the quality of life of the people in Columbus. In 2013, Director McKnight continued his strong leadership in OPRA, serving a key role on the Conference fundraising team and leading a partnership between OPRA and the Columbus Blue Jackets which led to the creation of a beautiful playground in Krumm Park.

Congratulations Director McKnight on this well-deserved honor!



CRPD attendees to the 2014 OPRA Conference included (l-r) Dave Jones (Fitness), Malik Willoughby, Lance Barber and Maureen Murphy (Community Rec), Director McKnight, David Stearns (Park Section Manager), Connie Warner (Maintenance), Pam Schooley (Park Maintenance), Bryana Ross (Community Rec), and Jenny Horn (Development).

CRPD Takes Home Award of Excellence

CRPD was presented with the Softball Players Association (SPA) Executive Director's Award of Excellence on Feb 1. The City, along with BATS, runs the Senior Softball Heart of Ohio National Tournament and host to the SPA 75+ Men's Senior World Series.



Standing l-r Mark Fulton, Jack Castle, SPA representative Larry Milliron, Luanne Kornegay, Director McKnight and Assistant Director Aumiller.

A Poem Sent to Indian Village from a Happy Parent

I just thought I'd share this poem that my daughter Lucia just wrote for school. She is 11 and has spent every summer since she was big enough at Indian Village, and this year will be no exception! Thought you and all the folks over there would appreciate reading how much she loves it - even the bugs! :) Enjoy! ~Lynne

Camp Fever by Lucia Grunden

I must go to camp again to the beautiful river and skies.
And all I ask is a long hike and hundreds of mosquitoes and flies.
And forts to build and games play and rock climbing fun all day.

I must go to camp again where everything always feels hotter,
And all I ask are kayaks and canoes wading in the water.
And an archery range and field games that are always played fair,
And the strong smell of bug spray always hanging in the air.

I must go to camp again, to the trees that are towering high,
And all I ask is a cold creek, and birds flying in the sky.
And skipping stones, and fishing line,
And the knowledge that while I'm here, everything will always be fine.

More CRPD Staff News.....

Congrats to new Dad, **Jeff Barr** (Maintenance), on the addition of Joshua Zev to his family on February 8.

EVRC A.C.E. Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following CRPD staff members that will be receiving an A.C.E award at this year's ceremony on April 8!

Bryana Ross, Community Recreation
Jeremy Neely, Community Recreation
Lance Barber, Community Recreation
Julius Summerall, Community Recreation
Ann Zeller, Community Recreation
Bobby Witcher, Community Recreation
Bernard Smith, Community Recreation
Melissa Anderson, Community Recreation
Bonnie Ackerman, COAAA
Lynn Dobb, COAAA
Bethany Dohnal, COAAA
Max Underwood, Forestry
Doreen Gosha, Community Recreation
Nikki VanDine, Community Recreation
Casey Smith, Outdoor Education

Is there someone you would like to nominate?? Contact **Nicole Smith** (HR) or **Teresa Blackwood** (COAAA) to get the nomination form!

Congrats to all on a job well done!

CRPD Staff News...

Our deepest sympathies to:

Sheri-Lynn Wynn, Capital Kids, who lost her Mom in January;

Mike Phillips, Marion Franklin, who lost his Dad in January;

Matthew Kasper, Far East, who lost his Mom in January;

Larry Perkinson, Building Maintenance, who lost his mother-in-law in January;

Brenda Ketner, Sports, who lost her father in January;

Tommy Brown, Fedderson, who lost his Dad in March; and,



The family and friends of **Mike Watson**, Whetstone Community Center, who passed away March 18. We'll miss you Mike!

Our condolences to all on your loss.