

FOLLOW THE LEADER

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

April 2015

T

his week I reviewed the 2014 annual report the department prepares. We are required to submit one every year to the mayor's office. Terri Leist pulls this together for us and one of the requirements is that it has to kept to 5 pages. Looking at what we do, that is no easy task. I thought it would be beneficial for everyone to see some of what you accomplish over the course of a year.

The department had a budget of \$41,606,321 in 2014 generating \$5,265,000 in revenue. We administered \$4.5 million in grant funding, \$43 million in capital improvement funds and \$3.6 million in special purpose/permanent improvement funds.

Community Recreation served 918,923 participant/visitors throughout the year, raised \$15,824 for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank through the Empty Bowls program, produced a Silver Gloves Nation Champion in the 100-lb. wt. class, added over 200 new classes and 150 special events. We reopened Westgate Community Center after extensive renovations and the Mary-

Pool at Saunders Park. **Aquatics** gave 2,624 swim lessons at the seven pools and operated 3 spray grounds. Camp registration was up and we added some new camps including horseback riding, Health, Police and Fire and Theater. **Outdoor Education** served over 2,000 children at three summer camps and took programming to 1,625 children in the community centers and raised \$266,678 in revenue.

The **Cultural Arts Center** continues to offer great programs and grow participation. The center served 4,286 students in various classes, presented 22 exhibitions and offered 42 Conversations with Coffee art talks for 1,575 participants. **Capital Kids** served 265 participants in which grades were improved by 90%. **Special Events** continues to operate the Jazz and Rib Fest. 2014 was the 35th anniversary of the event and was recognized at the OPRA Conference with an Award of Excellence. It also received an EXPY award from Experience Columbus. Rhythm on the River and the Fountain Side events continue to be a success and served 35,000 participants and raised \$716,214 in sponsorships.

The **Sports Office** continues its success this past year hosting over 50 tournaments and attracting over 250,000 participants to Berliner Park. It also held the first professional sporting event featuring USSSA Pride versus the Akron Racers. **APPS** continues to reach out to at risk youth. Through the intervention program, over 370 youth were engaged. Cap City Nights Festivals reached over 5,000 participants last year.

Therapeutic Recreation received a \$16,000 grant from the Christopher Reeves Foundation to continue programming the Paralympic Sports program and offers programs as diverse as ice skating, hockey, swimming, Quad Rugby and track and field.

Parks Maintenance continues to maintain over 240 parks and was able to reduce the mowing schedule. The Volunteer Playground Program made improvements at 19 parks with 189 volunteers who donated 567 hours of their time. **Forestry** continues to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer while planting 4,204 new trees. The city received the national Tree City USA Award for the 35th consecutive year and the CERP program continues to remove invasive species with over 1,000 hours of volunteer time. **Building Maintenance** continues to keep up all of the buildings and maintain the fountains at Bicentennial Park.

Development raised \$53,020 for the PLAY program with its annual golf outing and dispersed grants to 5,500 participants. They also tracked volunteer hours for the department totaling 94,723 hours at a value of \$2,054,000. **Golf** collected revenues in excess of \$4 million dollars and we had over 177,000 rounds of golf at our 6 courses. **Permits** generated revenue in excess of \$1,000,000 from shelter house rentals, gym rentals and boat docks. **Planning and Design** administered a capital budget of \$32,739,579 that was used to purchase new land for parks, renovate existing parks, community centers and facilities and to build trails. **COAAA** continues to provide a wide range of services to older adults in an eight couth area.

This is just scratching the surface of what you have accomplished. *Don't ever forget, the work you do changes lives in a positive way every day. Be proud of what you do! Congratulations!*



Alan D. McKnight

CRPD Staff News.....

Congratulations to **Scot Rice**, Permits, on the birth of his daughter, Ivy Elizabeth, on January 26.

Congratulations to **Josh Towns**, Warehouse, on the birth of his daughter, Nova, on February 10.

Congrats also to **Christina Snyder**, Outdoor Education, on the birth of her second son, Levi, on February 10.

Our condolences to **Robert Middendorf III**, (Turnberry Maintenance) and his family on the passing of his father in January.

Congrats to **Dana Eaton**, Sports, on the birth of her first grandchild, Kyndall, on Feb 8.

Our condolences to **Jim Long, Jr.**, Forestry, on the loss of his dad and former CRPD employee, Jim Long Sr.

Our condolences to **John Fetters**, Park Maintenance Supervisor, on the loss of his mother-in-law in mid-March.

Welcome to **Mario Dovall**, new Recreation Supervisor at Linden Recreation Center.

Sincere condolences to **Pam Peterman**, Warehouse, on the loss of her Mom on March 26.

EVRC ACE Award Winners Recognized

Congratulations to our 2014/2015 EVRC ACE Award winners who will be recognized on April 7 at 1:00pm at the Martin Janis Center:

May 2014: **John Haferman**, Comm Rec, Hockey

June 2014: **Jeremy Wright**, Comm Rec, Lazelle

July 2014: **Eric Grant**, Comm Rec, Far East

July 2014: **Sheila McMillion**, COAAA

October 2014: **Terri Marshall**, Development

October 2014: **Kevin Neff**, Development

October 2014: **Lindsay Seeds**, Development

December 2014: **Doreen Gosha & Martin Janis Staff**

December 2014: **Bryana Ross**, Comm Rec, Holton

December 2014: **Jenny Horn**, Development

March 2015: **Wendy Frantz**, Community Rec

March 2015: **Antony Brodie**, Community Rec

Castle and Team Win Mayor's Service Award

Congratulations to **Jack Castle** and the Sports staff who received the Excellence in Service Award from Mayor Coleman on March 19.

His award read:

Jack Castle's sports office motto states that "we pledge to provide the finest facilities and programs for our customers." The sports office team has proudly always done "whatever it takes" to fulfill this mission.

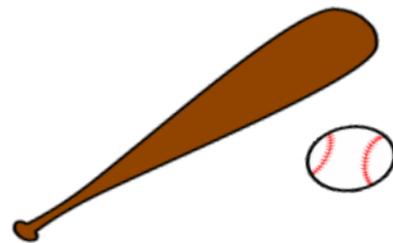
The programmers and support staff genuinely care for our customer. In return, our customers have rewarded our department with a year of tremendous growth.

The grounds crew can be proud of creating some of the finest sports facilities in Ohio. Yet, they always find ways to improve. Jack has set high standards and the crew has always risen to his vision.

What a great time to be a part of the CRPD sport office, one of the best in the country. Jack is always the first to say that our success is due to each and every one of the people who work with him.

He also says we work extremely hard so that others can play just as hard.....so jack from time to time, you need to take a break and celebrate your success and enjoy the accomplishments and the recognition you have earned today.

Thanks, Jack, for providing excellent service to our department and the city of Columbus!



News You Can Use from Development



Branding is important! Before sending that next piece out to be professionally printed, please run it by Development.

Summer in the City

Rhythm on the River

Featuring an eclectic array of touring artists, local musicians, and arts organizations, these free outdoor performances take place at the Performing Arts Pavilion in Bicentennial Park. Presenting everything from bluegrass to blues to ballet and more, attending a Rhythm on the River performance is a great way to spend summer evenings with family and friends! These outdoor performances are scheduled for select Friday evenings throughout the summer season. Admission is free. Visit www.SciotoMile.com for more details!

Fridays: June 5, 19, 26; July 10, 24, 31; August 14, 21, 28; September 4

FountainSide presented by Sunny 95 (94.7FM)

This delightful series offers water play and fountain fun at the 15,000 square-foot interactive fountain in Bicentennial Park on select Wednesdays throughout the summer from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The series offers free fun children's activities in and around the interactive Scioto Mile Fountain while enriching the lives of Columbus-area children through fun and educational programs encompassing arts, crafts, music, dance, healthy living and physical fitness. An array of themed activities, games, arts and crafts await – get ready to hop into summer with our favorite fountain frog, go on safari with furry friends, learn how to get green, eat healthy, be active and more! Attendees enjoy free frozen treats courtesy of the Sunny 95/Meijer Treat Truck. For more information about the series, visit www.SciotoMile.com.

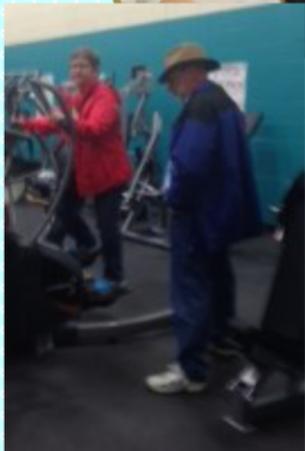
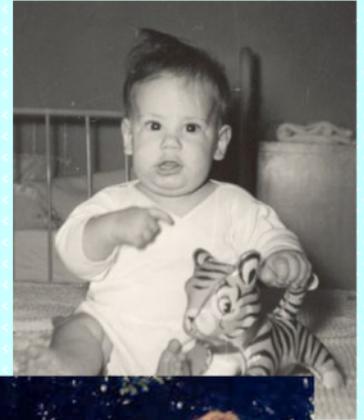
Wednesdays: June 3, 10, 17, 24; July 8, 22, 29; August 5, 12

Awards

The 35th annual Jazz & Rib Fest was honored with an EXPY Award on March 10, 2015 at Experience Columbus' annual meeting. The EXPY Awards recognize outstanding contributions by businesses, groups, organizations or individuals to the local hospitality industry and the Greater Columbus visitor experience. In its 35th year, the Columbus Recreation and Park Department's Jazz & Rib Fest featured some of the top names in both international and local jazz and showcased 23 rib teams from across the country. More than 350,000 people attended the free, three-day festival. According to Experience Columbus, the winners of these awards help the visitor industry generate \$8.7 billion in annual economic impact for the city. For more information about the festival, visit www.HotRibsCoolJazz.org.



So Long Director McKnight! Smooth Sailing!



2013 PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

ALAN MCKNIGHT
Director, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department

A collage of small, black and white photographs showing Alan McKnight in various professional and personal settings, including him in a suit, in a hat, and in a workshop.

There are good ships, and there are wood ships,
the ships that sail the sea
But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be.



You'll be Missed!

Tom's Safety Corner by Tom Moore, Safety

Spring has Sprung. As the weather warms, many of us start to think about spring cleaning. Here are some safety tips:

Household and pool chemicals, paints, and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look bad.

When cleaning up hazardous chemicals wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the packaging.

Never mix chemicals in the same container if you don't know how to dispose of them, seek outside advice. Never put them into the trash or pour down the drain.



Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.

Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts, or floors.

Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches, or other work items away from children's reach.

Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks, and be sure to store any propane tanks away from your house and garage.

Remove all fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers, and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heaters, and dryer, as well as under the stairs.



Arbor Day

April 24



Mayme Moore Park

240 Martin Luther King Blvd

Did you know?

This summer, Driving Park Community Recreation Center is being renovated and expanded and will get a new outdoor pool!?

Did you know?

This summer, Douglas Community Recreation Center will be getting a new HVAC system that will include air conditioning?

Creative Arts Event Coming In May

The 63rd Annual Creative Arts Event will take place May 13 – 22 at the Martin Janis Center.

Staff and the general public over age 50 are invited to enter 3 original art and craft items on Wednesday, April 29, between 10 and 2 or Thursday, April 30 between 5 and 7. Just bring work to the Janis Center on either of these dates to be included in the show. Everything is displayed. Items are judged by Rec staff and area artists and ribbons are awarded.

Special events during the show are open to the public and many are free. The event makes a great outing for groups and lunch is available Monday – Friday 11:30 – 12:30. Please call Doreen at 645-5957 if bringing a group for lunch. Original artwork is needed for the Silent Auction, which benefits the event. Just drop items off at the Janis Center to contribute.

City Wide Wrestling Meet a Success!

The 2015 CRPD City Wide Wrestling Meet took place on Saturday, March 21 @ Barack Recreation Center. There were a total of 7 centers represented with over 100 wrestlers competing for the title of City Champion! In the end, the team from Brentnell took home the Team Championship! City Runner-Up belongs to Barack, with 3rd place going to Dodge, 4th place belonging to Indian Mound. We had a 3-way tie for 5th place (Far East, Westgate, & Beatty). Thanks to all the participants, coaches, and volunteers for running successful programs at their sites and for getting kids involved in the program. A big thanks to **Mark Stansbery** & the Barack staff for hosting once again and doing a superb job! Big thanks to the Wilson family, especially **George Wilson**, for coordinating the meet and making it run smooth for everyone!



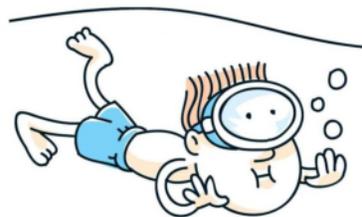
Opening Soon!

Summer Camp Registration

Going on now!

columbusrecparcs.com

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



Columbus Recreation and Parks is now on Pinterest!

We are known for keeping our community informed through both Facebook and Twitter, however now you can learn more about our wonderful, visually stunning department on Pinterest through imagery. Please visit our Pinterest page soon, and "Pin" some of your favorite photos of the department!

<https://www.pinterest.com/ColsRecParks/>



Are you a “reel” expert?

Westgate’s pond, Harder Lake, is near completion after our Planning and Design section was able to “tackle” this reconstruction project. We hope we can “lure” you out this summer to experience the new pond and consider fishing in it!



Find Me in the Park *it's tree-mendous!*

Logo by Kenny Cramer,
Special Events

Building on last year’s Tiny Door success, we are planning to do a new project this Summer. We will be having artists create up to 5 total fantastical miniature treehouses in a number of our parks throughout the city. The current plan calls for the tree houses to be in Schiller, Goodale, Westgate and Wolfe Parks and the Park of Roses.

The purpose of the tree project is to encourage exploration of our parks, increase awareness of tree canopy and the importance of trees, stimulate the imagination of kids of all ages and create outdoor activities for families. The tree houses will be put in the trees the week of June 22 and remain until September 21.

Please contact **Terri Marshall**, Development, with any questions.

