

FOLLOW THE
LEADER

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

DECEMBER, 2013



I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Holiday Luncheon on December 6. It was a great event and enjoyed by all who attended. The EVRC Committee did a great job putting the event and program together. Thank you for all your hard work throughout the year to make this event a success. I also want to thank Geoff and Todd from the Cultural Arts Center for the great video. It was a huge hit. We are going to try and get this saved somewhere so that those that did not get to see it have a chance to enjoy it as well.



Alan D. McFright
Director

2013 has been a great year. 2014 will continue to see programs and activities grow. Our budgets continue to improve. In 2014 we will be opening Tuttle, Sullivant Gardens, Holton, Adams, Milo-Grogan and Douglas back up as full-time centers. We will expand programming in our Outdoor Education and Therapeutic sections and adding classes at the Cultural Arts Center. We are also adding staff in the maintenance areas as well. While we are making progress, there is still a lot to be done.

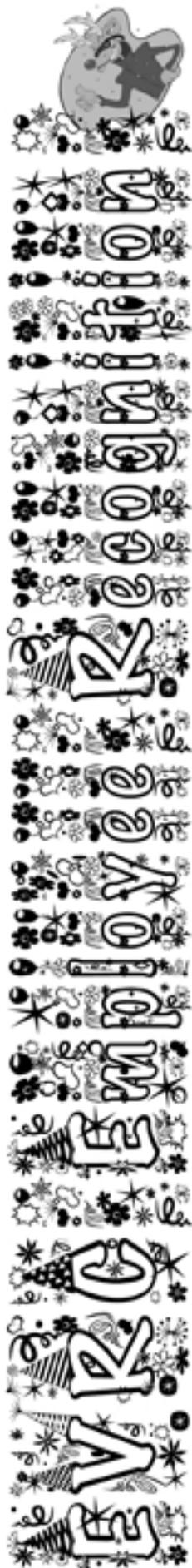
The departments master planning effort is underway. We will be looking at all areas of the department including programs, facilities and operations. I am excited that this document, when completed next year, will help set the direction for the department for the next 5-10 years. If you have the opportunity you can watch the progress on our web page.

Thank you for all that you do to support the department and provide needed services to our citizens!

Happy Holidays!



Happy Holidays & Happy New Year 2014!



5 years

Anthony Johnson
Karrol Walters
Nesa Jefferson
Katherine Schuster
Amy Stomieroski
Lance Smith
Justin Loesch
Karl Hoessle
Bill Behnke
Holly Tidwell
Jonathan Hillman

10 years

Scott Boggs
Brent Ward
William Mahaffey
Dolores Jeanne Matosky
Jill Cryder
Barbara Taylor
Delores Rinehart
Jeremy Wright
Matthew Luck
Jason Green

15 years

Lisa Smith
Morris Cooper
Eric Brandon
Sheila Kay McMillion
Sarah Bigelow
Michael Bosak
Patricia Murphy
Holly Stanley-Jacobson
Lila Bocinec
Kimberly Hylton
Elizabeth Gomia
Brad Westall
Stacey Penhorwood
Terry Cornett II
Michael Phillips
Jack Castle
Ron Keller
Wesley Hawkins
Michael Bonace
Ralph Wagenhofer
Stephanie Williams
Brenda Watkins
Warren Love
David Denney



20 years

Karen Heuser
Yolanda Hobbs
Leisa Fent
Karen Ostrowski
Amy Nill
Cathy Davis
Cindy Farson
Erika Myers
Teresa Shane
Julia Nack
James Davis
Debra Kocherigin
Tony Condo
Scott Pachi
Kevin Jordan

25 years

Michelle Marczika
Linda Gillespie
Rick Miller
Monique Mapp
Luanne Kornegay
Dana Eaton
John Heisel
Craig Scarpitti
Arin Hawkins
Charles Parker

30 years

Gradella Holliman
Karen Jeffries
Beth Hammerstein
Denise Sharps
Carlos Pace
Sherri Brogan

35 years

Ralph Guglielmi

40 years

Greg Poston

Congrats to all!



From Seasoned to Brand New!

A joyous welcome from is extended to our new employees in the Community Recreation Section: **Bobby Ballard, Kevin Darthard and Melissa Anderson.** We are happy to have them as a part of our team.

2013 Grand Illumination



Bicentennial Park, Scioto Mile Promenade and City Hall came alive on December 6 with more than 200,000 LED holiday lights sparkling in a snowy winter wonderland during the Grand Illumination presented by T-Mobile. The evening ceremony, hosted by Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Councilmember Zachary M. Klein, Director Alan McKnight and ABC 6/FOX 28 Meteorologist Phil Kelly featured carols by the Columbus Children's Choir and the magical arrival of Santa Claus, including an on-stage "breaking news" segment and video as he flew over downtown Columbus and landed in Bicentennial Park. Despite the snow, families enjoyed the spectacular music and light show, especially after they donned their T-Mobile 'holiday specs' that transformed each point of light into a fun snowman image.

The Empty Bowls tent was a popular stop for hot chicken and dumpling soup provided by Milestone 229, with more than \$1,000 raised for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Attendees also enjoyed activities provided by Franklin Park Conservatory, Local Matters, Mad River Mountain, BalletMet, COSI and the Mobile City Hall CBUS. After the ceremony everyone enjoyed cookies compliments of The Hills Market, coffee compliments of Cup O' Joe and hot cocoa, while children visited with Santa and received a special holiday ornament. Attendees who braved the wintry weather could enter to win great prizes from our partners including T-Mobile Nokia Smartphones and service, BalletMet Columbus *The Nutcracker* tickets, CATCO *A Christmas Carol* tickets, Columbus Blue Jackets team-signed jersey, team-signed hockey stick and game tickets, Franklin Park Conservatory admission tickets, Mad River Mountain tubing or skiing tickets, Hollywood Casino dining gift cards, COSI general admission and Polar Express movie tickets, and Milestone 229 gift cards.

The lights will twinkle from Bicentennial Park, along the Scioto Mile Promenade to City Hall until January 11, 2014. While touring the lights, be sure to check out the fabulous and fun projections on the Scioto Mile Fountain blossom in Bicentennial Park. Special thanks to CRPD Forestry, Parks and Building Maintenance crews; Wendy Frantz; Steve, McKenzie (a.k.a. "Rich"), and Meghan Hiland; Girl Scout Cadette Troop 622, Peter Ross (a.k.a. Santa); Sheila Loper; Chris Wiser; Aliza Spaeth-Cook and Luke Cheng.



Grand DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS
ILLUMINATION
Presented by T-Mobile
Operated by Wireless Floor, LLC



The 2013 EVRC Holiday Lunch was a great time and was especially festive with the addition of the falling snow. Thanks EVRC! Thanks to all those who contributed with the photos and the video. Great job! But, somebody please give **Kelly Hoffman** some singing lessons!



This photo shows adults making Christmas ornaments for Brentnell's Holiday Bazaar on November 2. These ornaments were sold at the bazaar with proceeds donated to the Franklin County Animal Shelter.

CRPD STAFF NEWS...

Congrats to **Jaclyn Bowman** (Human Resources) and her husband, on the birth of her daughter, Charlotte, on October 11.

Congratulations to **Jessica Gleich** (Fiscal and Permits) and her husband on the birth of their son, Lucien, on November 4.

Condolences to **Jill Bennett, Barnett**, on the loss of her Mom in October.

EVRC made a total of \$1,145 on the Fall Auction. Thanks to all who donated, bought and helped!



Pictured above are kids from Indian Mound at the United States Women's National Team game versus New Zealand at Crew Stadium on October 30. This event was sponsored by Group PLAY.

The kids loved every minute of the game and were exposed to the life of international and professional soccer, and the beautiful field at Crew stadium!

PLAY Deadlines

Winter Deadline/ Feb. 1

Spring Deadline/April 12