

Manager's Updates: Recreation Division-- July 2019

I. Sports Section (Aquatics & Athletics)

1. Attendance at city pools for the month of July was 28,022, compared to 22,822 for the same period last year. For year-to-date comparative data, we have seen an increase of 20,000 patron visits this year over last year.
2. Staff is currently in the planning phase with sponsor Newberry Animal Hospital for the annual **K9 Splash Bash** at Westside Pool. This event is a pool party and costume contest for dogs, and this year's event will take place on Sunday, October 20th. More details to follow.
3. **Summer Private and Group Swimming Lessons** have concluded. There were 413 participants enrolled in summer swim lessons this summer.
4. Session 1 of **Fall Group Swim Lessons** will run from August 20th-September 12th. Lessons are held between 4:15pm-7:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three-weeks, with Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays reserved for makeup classes. Fall group lessons are held at Westside Pool.
5. Session 5 of **Private Swim Lessons** will take place on August 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th, between 10:00am-2:00pm, at Northeast Pool. There is a maximum of 16 slots for the session, and participants receive one-on-one instruction from staff.
6. **Mickle Pool Swim Lessons** began Monday, June 3rd, and concluded Friday, August 9th. These lessons were contracted out to swim instructors who used to teach for Mr. Mickle when he was alive, along with city swim instructors who assist. The Mickle lessons took place every weekday at the pool from 11am-5pm throughout the summer, with classes starting at the top of each hour. In addition, through community partnerships, several neighborhood housing groups and camps were able to participate in lessons. The lessons averaged just under 70 swimmers per day.
7. The annual **Dash & Splash Summer Race Series** has concluded for 2019. The first race took place April 27th at Depot Park/Mickle Pool, and had 21 participants. The second race took place at Northeast Pool on May 18th, and had 32 participants. The third race took place at Westside Pool on June 22nd, and had 34 participants. The fourth and final race took place at Westside Pool on Saturday, July 20th, and had 25 participants.
8. Six weekly sessions of **Aquatic Leadership Camp** took place this summer, with a total of 70 participants enrolled, averaging around 12 participants per session (max is 15). The camp was designed to expose participants to duties and responsibilities of being a lifeguard, and taught skills such as lifeguarding, first aid, CPR, AED, customer service, and facility maintenance and cleaning. Participants also engaged in fun activities throughout each week, including field trips on Fridays.
9. With school back in session, high school swim and dive season has begun. Once again, six local high schools utilize city pools for practices and meets (Eastside, Gainesville, Buchholz, PK Yonge, Oak Hall and St. Francis). In addition, we have contracted this year with Cornerstone Academy, who has started a middle school swim team.

10. The **re-bid for sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine)** is on the consent agenda for the September 5th meeting of the City Commission.
11. We recently completed the bid for **carbon dioxide (for pH control)**, and have issued a contract for the most responsive bidder, Airgas USA, LLC. Airgas has been servicing city pools for decades, and the new contract will keep Airgas on board for up to five more years.
12. **Citywide Tennis Services:** USTA-FL staff continues to set programming and add events and activities to their website. For court reservations, program information, and other general information, patrons can visit www.playtennisgainesville.com. Registration for fall programming is currently underway, so please make sure to keep checking back on the website for updated information.
13. **Adult Softball:** Registration is currently underway for the fall season. Divisions play on Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights.
14. **Gainesville Youth Sports:** Registration is currently underway for the fall season. Additional information can be found at www.gainesvilleyouthsports.com.
15. **National Flag Football:** Registration is currently open for the fall season. Games will run October 13th through November 24th, on Sunday afternoons at Possum Creek Park.
16. **Pickle Ball:** Pick-up play continues in the fall at the MLK Center, in the mornings. We are currently working with Santa Fe College to schedule a Monday morning pickleball class as an elective with the college.
17. **Pop Warner Football and Cheer** is currently underway. In football, we have three teams, one each in Junior Pee-Wee, Mighty-Mite and Tiny-Mite. In cheerleading, we have two teams, one each in Mighty-Mite and Tiny-Mite. Practices will begin August 1st.
18. The **Summer Heatwave Program** has concluded, with 588 youth and teens participating in this summer's program.
19. Sports Recreation Leader Guillermo Chacon has left the city to pursue a promotional opportunity with the City of Boca Raton. Guillermo worked in PRCA for almost 5 years. His position was advertised, and staff are currently reviewing 34 qualified applications. Interviews will be scheduled for August and September.

II. Education Section

1. Summer Camp is in full-swing and is going great! We host camp at 6 sites: TB McPherson's Teen Camp (40 campers) and Albert Ray Massey (60 campers), Clarence R. Kelly (30 campers), Eastside (60 campers), Porters (30 campers) and Phoenix (13 campers) Community Centers, we have maintained consistent enrollment throughout the summer.
2. We repeated the use of 15 passenger vans from Enterprise Rental again this summer. It was a successful trial run during the summer of 2018. We are thankful for this opportunity that continues to be an asset to our summer program in regards to travel flexibility.
3. We are partnering for the third summer with Peaceful Paths and Community Bank & Trust of Florida. This partnership meets weekly with the Teen Life campers and over the 9-week curriculum they learn about Financial Literacy and Healthy Relationships. The teens love the program and help us continue

to mold and improve this program each year.

4. We currently have 2 Recreation Aide II positions that are vacant and being filled.
5. Recreation Supervisor position remains vacant. The position is undergoing interviews and we hope to have the position filled by late August.
6. 2019-20 After-school Program will open for registration on Monday, July 22nd. We will offer the program at Albert Ray Massey, Clarence R. Kelly, Eastside, Porters and Phoenix Community Centers. We are excited to have the Phoenix Community Center on board again this year.

III. Facilities Section

1. We are pleased to welcome Beverly Perry as our new Program Assistant. Beverly was a current PRCA employee whom worked on our administration team. We are very excited to have her, and feel that her knowledge and skill will be a great addition to our team, as we continue to grow.
2. We are currently advertising for a facility assistant position. The position is currently out for advertising and we look forward to receiving a good pool of applicants.
3. We are currently in the process of renewing our long term rental contracts as well as our service contracts for Recreation, we feel confident that we will have these all completed by September 30, 2019 the start of the new fiscal year.
4. Overall facilities staff has done an excellent job so far this summer working together, communicating, and providing great customer service to the community.

IV. Wild Spaces Public Places Updates

1. The Wild Spaces and Public Places webpages are active on the City's website:
<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/WildSpacesandPublicPlaces.aspx>.
2. *This month's WSPP Project Updates:*

Duval Park Boardwalk Replacement: Work is underway in Duval Park to replace the wooden boardwalk that is part of a ½ mile walking loop within the park. Work is anticipated to complete in August of 2019 and the park is closed during construction. AKEA, Inc. is overseeing the work with construction being done by Diversified Professional Service Corporation of Dade City, FL. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.

Fred Cone Park Improvements: Currently, the City is improving drainage and turf on the field for continued use for youth league sporting events. The field was holding water after significant rain events, making it unplayable for multiple days. The field is closed while improvements take place and is anticipated to reopen in the fall. Foresight Construction Group, Inc. is overseeing the work with construction being done by ZORRN Company, Inc. For more information, please contact John Weber, project manager, at 352-393-8186 or weberjf@cityofgainesville.org

J.J. Finley Park: A new neighborhood park, this project is in partnership with the School Board of Alachua County. Renovations began June 3rd and will complete in early August. Improvements include a new playground with outdoor musical instruments and climbing features, picnic tables and benches, trash and recycling containers, striped basketball courts and goals, and painting the covered pavilion. Decorative

fencing will also be installed to prevent access to school buildings during non-school hours. [Click here](#) to see a drawing of the upcoming renovations. For more information, please contact Michelle Park, project manager, at 352-316-4532 or parkma@cityofgainesville.org.

Reserve Park: This new neighborhood park will include playground equipment, a community garden, traveling rings, an obstacle course with fitness stations, picnic areas, and a memorial to Reserve Soldiers. Work began in May and is anticipated to complete in the fall of 2019. Anglin Construction Company is facilitating the work. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.

SW 47th Ave Trail (SW 40th Blvd to SW 34th St): This Wild Spaces and Public Places project consists of the construction of a 1,619 foot paved multiuse trail on the north side of SW 47th Avenue from SW 40th Boulevard to SW 34th Street. Construction began September 2018 and is anticipated to complete in August 2019. The trail is being constructed by Commercial Industrial Corp. and will connect high-density residential areas to activity centers off of SW 34th Street. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.