

**Manager's Updates: Recreation Division– August 2019**

**I. Sports Section (Aquatics & Athletics)**

1. Attendance at city pools for the month of August was 13,960, compared to 15,644 for the same period last year. This is our first month-over-month decrease this year compared to last year, possibly due to public schools starting so early this year. Rain could have also been a factor.
2. Staff continues to plan 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 20<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow. We have also been in contact with the Climb for Cancer Foundation, who also wants to host their annual **Halloweener Derby** on the same day as the K9 Splash Bash, immediately following.
3. Session 1 of **Fall Group Swim Lessons** will run from August 20<sup>th</sup>-September 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.
4. Session 5 of **Private Swim Lessons** took place on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 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. All 16 slots were filled. Session 6 of Private Swim Lessons will take place at Northeast Pool starting Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Mickle Pool Swim Lessons** concluded Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 for general public lessons. The swim instructors also provided swim lessons for 120 participants from Caring and Sharing School.
6. 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.
7. The **re-bid for sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine)** was approved on the consent agenda for the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the City Commission, and the contract has been sent to Hawkins, Inc. for signatures. The new contract will be in effect beginning October 1, 2019, and will continue for two years, with the option of three 1-year renewals.
8. 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.
9. **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](http://www.playtennisgainesville.com). Registration for fall programming is currently underway, so please make sure to keep checking back on the website for updated information. New programs USTA-FL has offered this year are Friday night adult mixers, and Saturday morning free family play dates.

10. **Adult Softball:** The Fall season begins play on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Divisions play on Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights. New this season, the Tuesday night co-ed league will add a third location, playing games at the newly renovated Lincoln Field, as well as ARM Park and Greentree Park.
11. **Gainesville Youth Sports:** Registration is currently underway for the fall season. Additional information can be found at [www.gainesvilleyouthsports.com](http://www.gainesvilleyouthsports.com).
12. **National Flag Football:** Registration is currently open for the fall season. Games will run October 13<sup>th</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup>, on Sunday afternoons at Possum Creek Park. City staff will begin distributing registration flyers to local schools early in September.
13. **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. A total of 16 students are currently registered for the class. Also, in partnership with the Gainesville Sports Commission, the annual Senior Games Pickleball Championships will take place at Tom Petty Park tennis courts September 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
14. **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 began August 1<sup>st</sup>, and the first games will take place September 7<sup>th</sup>.
15. The **Summer Heatwave Program** has concluded, with 588 youth and teens participating in this summer's program.
16. 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 reviewed 34 qualified applications. Of those 34 qualified candidates, 16 were chosen to move forward with video interviews. It is anticipated that the number of applicants will be further screened down to 4-5 applicants to bring in for on-site interviews.

## **II. Education Section**

1. Summer Camp concluded on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Overall, great feedback from parents and staff debriefing.
2. We still have two Recreation Aide II and one temp Rec Aide that are vacant. We hope to begin interviews in early September.
3. Final interviews occurred during the last week of August for the Recreation Supervisor.
4. 2019-20 After-school Program began on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. The program is offered 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.

5. The Skybridge Education Program kicked off at Porters Community Center with new Chromebooks provided the children access to their homework and Skyward accounts.

### **III. Facilities Section**

1. Our new program assistant Beverly Perry is transitioning very well into her role. She has been great in working with the transition from her old job as provide them with assistance and take on her new role in Recreation. As she continue to learn more in her role she remains a valuable part of our operations within PRCA
2. We are currently reviewing applicants for the Temp Facility assistant position. We received 14 applicants and look to start interviewing within the next 2 weeks to fill the position. We also have another vacancy as one of our employees moved on to a permanent full time position with Depot Park. We have begun the process preparing to fill that position as well.
3. We are still reviewing and 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:*

**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](mailto:weberjf@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 winter 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](mailto:waiteed@cityofgainesville.org).

**SW 47th Ave Trail (SW 40th Blvd to SW 34th St):** As of late August this trail project is substantially complete with minor rework taking place through September. This 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. The trail was constructed by Commercial Industrial Corp. and connects high-density residential areas to activity centers off of SW 34th Street. Click [here](#) to see photos of the new trail. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or [waiteed@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:waiteed@cityofgainesville.org).