

## **August Parks and Recreation Department Updates from Staff**

**Recreation:** Report provided by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken;

- Two Thursdays on Fountain left for the season on August 22nd, PAPA Greeze, and August 29<sup>th</sup>, Patchouli.
- Albert Lea Aquatic Center closed on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> for the season.
  - There is often questions in the community why we close so early and would like to see it open until Labor Day. Unfortunately, 100% of our staff are high school and college students. Albert Lea schools begin this coming week and college students have already begun moving in to school. There was a survey sent to our staff earlier in the season to check the availability of trying to stay open a couple weeks longer for limited hours, however we would not have been able to be fully staff per the responses.
  - Here are the closings of area pools for comparison:
    - Austin – Closed August 11; splash remains open through Labor Day
    - Owatonna – Close August 18
    - Blue Earth – Close August 24
    - Faribault – Close August 18
    - Northwood – Close August 16
    - Waseca – Close August 18
- The Recreation Department started a new program, Archery Tag, on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at Eberhart Park. It is a game played like dodgeball with a bow and safety arrows. It is so much fun!! We had more than 20 participants at each event. The last night will be Wednesday, August 21.
- The Fall Fun Guide was sent out to mailboxes the week of August 12.
- The last movie in the park is August 16.

**Parks:** Report provided by Mike Westney;

- Bellview Park's new playground equipment is completed & open for use, except for seeding.
- Tree work, take downs and trimming.
- Spraying for weeds.
- Still doing a lot of mowing and rough mowing.
- Starting work on Troy Hammer Park playground. Old equipment is being removed and new equipment will be put up.
- Still a lot of rentals and clean-up maintenance.
- Starting to lose part time summer help.
- Equipment maintenance.
- EAB treatments are finishing up.

**City Arena:** Report provided by Bob Furland/Josh Heilman;

- Facility updates –

- The City Arena hosted the Freeborn County Kennel Club Show on August 9, 10, and 11. There were hundreds of dogs each day. The Arena had 1,400 visits by 846 different people. Many of the people are from the Midwest, with the furthest one recorded being from Fultondale, Alabama.
- Josh and his crew cleaned everything up and started the compressors to make ice on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The first hockey practice will be on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff has been working with APEX on the designs for the Arena lobby and Rec/Skate office areas. We hope to have items to show the board soon.
- **Events -**
  - Youth Hockey
    - Fall camp begins Sept 17
  - Waldorf
    - Scheduled to begin practices Monday, August 26
  - High School
    - none
  - Figure Skating
    - Fall season practices begin Monday, Sept 9
- **Events –**
  - Dog Show August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

**Aquatic Center:** Report provided by Bob Furland/Dani Bakken;

- The Aquatic Center closed on August 11.
  - 16,017 visitors; average of 239 people per day.
- Recreation staff has been working with APEX to design a new entry and concession area.

**Senior Center:** Report provided by Bob Furland;

- **Trips -**
  - Tuesday, August 20th, Treasure Island Casino Trip
- **Programs/Events –**
  - Crafters Group - Tuesdays at 12 p.m.
  - Bingo - Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

**Marion Ross Theater:** Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Facility Updates –
  - Thank you to Sue Runden and Kristian Dye for helping paint the green room and the hallway in the dressing room. They look so clean and bright! Granicrete of Minnesota will grind the makeup room floor, paint, and seal it.
- Upcoming events -
  - Auditions for Drinking Habits will be held August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
  - September 26<sup>th</sup> event- Peter Antoniou – Psychic Comedian

**Other:** Report provided by staff;

- **Rec Facilities referendum projects:**
  - Weekly Monday meetings are now scheduled between City staff and Apex/JLG Architects in regards to designs for the arena lobby/recreation and skate offices and the concessions and admissions design at the Aquatic Center.
- **Pickleball meeting:**
  - Staff members (Cathy, Ryan, Bob, Mike V and Afton) met with Chris Utz, the president of the pickleball club. Chris was provided the project applications from the Grizzlies/Rugby as well as the Bike Association to help provide a clearer example of what the board is requiring of pickleball for a complete application. Cathy also provided Chris with a list of grant opportunities locally that the club could pursue.
  - Staff informed Chris that the more funding the club could provide, the better the chance that this project could move forward. They also need to provide further information on the budget, especially detailed line items of the project cost.

**\*\* Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- No new updates

Develop the Union Pacific rail to trail –

- No new updates

Develop an off-season field house –

- Status of the non-city group working on this idea?

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- No new updates

Update aging facilities, including the City Arena and Aquatic Center –

- See staff reports