

Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programming

PAC Update

Greenbelt:

- Staff ordered a new drone for use across Parks! We have upgraded to a drone with both a photo camera and a thermal camera. The thermal camera can be used to assist NAP with mopping up burns, optimize irrigation at golf courses, doing quick safety checks of Park buildings, and more!

Senior Center:

- New workshops include: Resources and Local Programs for Seniors presented by Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County; Cooking Tips for Plant Based Eating presented by VegMichigan; A2 Zero presents "Climate Friendly Homes".
- New programming: New Little Tiny Art Gallery Exhibit of Michael Nagara (tiny sculpture of recycled materials); Travelogues with George: Iberia and a Viking Saga; November Drive-Through: "Preparing for a Peaceful Winter"; Tech Talk: 4 Essential Computer Skills for Adults; Weekly mall walks; Live sneak-peek performance of Ballet Chelsea's "The Nutcracker"; Polling place for A2 elections on Nov. 5.

GIVE/AAP:

- The 2024 season is coming to an end this month with 15 scheduled volunteer workdays within the parks.
- Give 365 will be assisting with some holiday decorating this month at the Farmers Market and Veteran's Memorial Ice Rink
- Give 365 staff is also planning for the Pop-Up Dog Park event happening this weekend at Veteran's Memorial Baseball Field #4 and we are looking forward to hosting some activities and giveaways to celebrate the opening of this park.

Farmers Market:

- We averaged 65 vendors on Saturdays and 27 vendors on Wednesdays in November. The weather has been unseasonably warm and dry so our vendors continue to have an abundance of produce and farm products. As a result, Saturday market has still been mostly full in November.
- Two new vendors have recently joined the market, Eagle Creek Fish Farm, a trout farm in Jackson, MI, and Uncanny Canning Company, an Ann Arbor jam company that focuses on seasonal Michigan fruit. We continue to have a lot of interest from potential applicants.
- Mobile food vendors Succulent Street Food, Vegano Italiano, and Tacos El Mariachi Loco have joined Saturday Markets in November. Fork in Nigeria Food Truck has joined most Wednesdays in November.
- On Wednesday October 30, we partnered with GIVE365 and the Ann Arbor District Library to host a Halloween at the market event with candy, costumes, yard games, pumpkin decorating, and coloring.
- We are hoping to partner with GIVE365 and Kerrytown District Association volunteers to bring back Holiday lights to the market roof at some point in November.
- Our facility has been heavily impacted by the construction at the 121 Catherine Street development across the street from the market office trailer, including the initial stages of demolition of the Braun Court buildings. 4th Avenue was closed for utility work the project November 6-12

Veterans:

- Our second sessions for Skate Lessons as well as Hockey Leagues begin this month.
 - We have 360 skaters in session 2 alone
 - Our second session of our Hockey League is on pace to have as many players as the previous season. We are hopeful by the next season, we will be able to increase the number of teams, allowing for more players to join
- We are hosting a new event for children at the rink the week of Thanksgiving. We are calling it an Ice Rink Play Date where our skate instructors will have games and other events planned out on the ice.
- We had some ice compressor issues at the beginning of the month, but they have since been repaired, and we are back to operating like normal.

Fuller/Mack:

- Our first session of group swim lessons is wrapping up and we will be opening registration for the second session that runs Jan – Feb on November 21.
- Some tiles have come up on the pool bottom at Mack. We have a temporary fix but will have to evaluate and fix when we drain the pool.
- We are working to increase our adult swim lessons to offer not just beginner classes but an intermediate class.
- Our swim team wraps up their fall season this month and we have been undefeated. We have had a record 187 swimmers this session when our mid season swimmers joined us in late October.

Buhr:

- The ice rink's opening date was pushed back a few days due to the warm weather but we now have ice and will be opening Nov.14 with a full schedule for November and December
- Three of our weekly groups are returning for the 40th and 44th season at Buhr
- We've added additional weekly open skate and sticks & pucks opportunities for the season
- The hockey league at Vets will be holding weekly games at Buhr this season
- We will be holding themed skates on Fridays (Frozen Fridays) starting Nov. 29 with the first theme being Disney
- Over Thanksgiving break we will have additional open skate opportunities

Liveries:

- The Gallup Park Meeting room continues to be available for rentals.

Huron Hills:

- Staff is prepping for the winter sledding season at Huron Hills.
- Hills are cleared and checked for debris. Portable restrooms are being ordered and trash cans moved all in preparation of the hundreds of sledders who will be coming to our hills soon.

Leslie Park:

- A beautiful fall created a nice surge of play for the end of the golf season at Leslie Park.
- Leslie Park hosted an end of the year "Chili Open" on November 3rd. We had 80+ golfers come out to play in the fun last event of the season.
- Leslie Park closed for the year on Sunday November 10th. All play will be directed to Huron Hills.