

Department of Parks & Recreation
Directors Report
May – July 2016

ADMINISTRATION

Public Information/Marketing Update

We are excited to have Emerson Keppler as our summer graphic design intern. Emerson will be a senior at CCAD (Columbus College of Art & Design) in the fall. His internship is possible through a partner program with MORPC that has provided the City of Gahanna two other interns in Engineering and IT (GIS). We are excited to have Emerson on board. He is doing great work for us by taking our graphics to a new level.

Be sure to check out the 2016 Fall Gateway, now with a fresh new look! We are excited to have gone through a redesign process with Emerson to bring a new level of excitement to our recreation programs and events. In addition to the redesign, we are continuing our direct mailing of the Gateway to over 13,000 households in Gahanna.

PARKS DIVISION

Parks, Facilities, and Arbor Sections were heavily involved in the support of 18th Annual Jazz and Blues Festival and The Independence Day Fireworks and celebration.

Parks

- Planning and Layout of soccer fields for upcoming soccer season
- Regular mowing and turf maintenance of all parks and trails
- Broadleaf weed application to pools to improve turf quality and reduce number of bees

Arbor- 5/30 – 7/29/16

- 406 trees pruned
- 90 trees removed
- 17 trees planted
- 44 Citizens request resolved
- 18 storm clean up

Facilities

- Repaired/replaced melted soffit at Friendship Shelter
- Repaired loose handrail and replaced top rail at Rice Lake deck
- Installed new ice machine at shop
- Finished graffiti coating on remaining just finished murals
- Re-installed bike flower at High and town
- Installed lake fountains at Rice Lake

RECREATION DIVISION

Aquatics

- This year we purchased new chairs and lounge chairs for both. Members have been pleased with the availability with the number of chairs this season
- There have been three multi day swim meets at GSP
- Life Time Fitness partnership for their Poolapalooza. The event was very well attended and received. Additional Life Time memberships were sold.
- All the family events have been very well attended when the weather is nice.

Senior Center

- The new wall is installed at the Center.
- The 2016 Senior Golf League has grown to over 50 golfers.
 - The League Tournament is August 25th
 - Season Banquet is Sept. 29th.
 - Sponsors for the League are Greystone Rehabilitation and Health center of Gahanna provided food for the league luncheon and Wesley Woods of New Albany provided League polo shirts
- Senior Expo Day
 - Wednesday, Sept. 14th, 10am – 3p, at the Gahanna Senior Center
 - This is a free event open to the public and will showcase various Senior Services.
- The Senior Center now has a Facilities Committee that oversees the landscaping and planters.
- Memberships at the Center continue to grow. There are currently 440 members. Which is above all of 2015 memberships.
- The Senior Advisory Committee meeting is August 17th at 3:30pm.

Story Trail Opening

Gahanna Parks & Recreation hosted a ribbon cutting celebration on Friday, May 27 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Friendship Park, 150 Oklahoma Ave., to mark the opening of the newest story, *Going on a Nature Walk*. This is the fifth year for the popular feature at Friendship Park.

Several Gahanna Jefferson students were involved in the creation of the story, including artwork by Cera Hawkins, a senior from Gahanna Lincoln High School.

Writers include Mikayla Barbe-Cox, Chapelfield Elementary; Katherine Clifford, Gahanna Lincoln High School; Natalie Fry, Chapelfield Elementary; Javier Gonzalez-Messmer, Gahanna Middle School East; Juli Lindenmeyer, Gahanna Lincoln High School; and Frankie Nuss, Jefferson Elementary.

Library instructors for this project were Kathy Halsey, Kathe Bumbaugh and Angie Sharkey.

Independence Day Celebration

Presented by KEMBA Financial Credit Union

Additional sponsors: Mifflin Township, Local Cantina, 7up, O'Tooles Irish Pub, Funtrail Vehicle Accessories, Shepherd Nazarene, Gahanna YMCA

2016 Highlights

Est. 5,000 ppl in attendance at the Lion's Club Parade

Est. 2000 ppl in attendance at the Creekside Family Day

Est. 6,000 ppl in attendance at the Golf Course viewing area

\$23,000 in sponsor & vendor revenue

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Creekside Live Creekside Rotary Stage

Creekside comes alive the 2nd & 4th Friday's June-August. Join us for a summer concert series featuring summer entertainment throughout the Creekside District headlined by popular bands from Central Ohio. The event brings the community together celebrating the heart of Gahanna, the Creekside District. Come early and eat at one of our many local restaurants. Onsite beverage sales available supported by the Gahanna parks & Recreation Foundation, net proceeds support the Foundation's focus on making Gahanna a great place to live, work and play.

August 12 6pm - Hebdo (Adventure Folk)
7:30pm - Reaganomics (80's Party Rock)

August 26 6pm - Fox N Hounds (Newgrass)
7:30pm - Soul Kitch'n (Funk & Soul)

Aquatics

Hunters Ridge Pool

Ice Cream Nights

Tuesdays - May 31-Aug 30

\$6/person or \$20/household

\$1 ice cream, music and games

Members are free!

Herb Center Opportunities

Herb Walks Dates: Friday, August 26 Time: 5:30-6:30p

Beneficial herbs and plants are all around us, and often overlooked as simply "weeds." Join us on a walk in and around the Parks of Gahanna. Take home the knowledge of what you may be able to discover growing in your back yard! Arrive in comfortable shoes and be prepared to venture on foot around Gahanna and Creekside. Also, discuss proper wild-crafting etiquette. Dress for the weather. Walk begins promptly at start time.

Instructor: Herb Center Staff or Special Guest

Cost: \$10 Gahanna Resident Rate: \$8

Preserving the Seasonal Harvest

Dates: Wednesday, July 6, 10a-12p (SOLD OUT) or Saturday, August 13, 10:00a-12:00p

The harvest season is upon us! Join Herb Center staff as we demonstrate harvesting and preserving techniques. Each session will also feature a specific herbal preservation technique, such as sage bundling, herbal honey or making herbal vinegar. These sessions are very hands-on. Participants spend time in the garden and in the drying shed processing freshly harvested herbs with Herb Center Staff. Arrive dressed for the weather and prepared to use your hands in the garden.

Instructor: Herb Center Staff

Cost: \$7 Gahanna Resident Rate: \$5

Herb Center Intensives Information Session Date: Tuesday, August 9 6:30pm

If you are considering one of our intensive series classes (Gahanna Herb Group and Fundamentals of Home Herbalism) but are unsure which one is the best fit for you, consider attending our free information session. We will discuss the details of each program, answer questions and meet instructors and past participants. No registration required. Begins promptly at 6:30pm at the Ohio Herb Education Center.

Geroux Garden Tour Date: Saturday, September 3 10-11am

Enjoy a guided tour through the herb garden named after Gahanna's most influential herb enthusiast. Come see the new and exciting changes to the garden. The Geroux Herb Garden features a shaded wisteria arbor surrounded by a variety of herbs in different stages of development. Learn about companion plan combinations and native herb plantings.

9/11 Walk to Remember

Join us in a special memorial as we remember the events on this day, 15 years ago. The program will begin at 8:30am and the walk will start promptly at 8:46am. The walk includes interpretive signs along the Big Walnut Trail remembering the events of the morning. Donations will be accepted and provided to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum (www.mnnational911memorial.org).

Senior Center opportunities

Program Registration Day Monday, September 12 from 8:30am-4:30pm

Location: Gahanna Senior Center

Senior Expo

September 14 from 10am – 3pm
Gahanna Senior Center

Join us for a day of everything Senior! This event will showcase guest speakers, complimentary classes, informational vendors, give-a-ways, food, music, and more? If you or a loved one are 55+ and want to learn more about services and activities that are offered in the area, please stop by the Senior Expo! All Gahanna residents & non-residents welcome?

Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation**Creekside Hops & Vines Fest**

a beer and wine tasting event

Benefitting the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation

Saturday, September 10, 6:30-10pm

Creekside Park & Plaza