



# WILDWOOD

May 19, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Parks Committee Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Update on Virtual Recreation Programs and Events (Wards - All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Administration and Public Works Committee Members  
Economic Development Committee Members  
Sam Anselm, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

As has been recently reported to the City Council on several occasions, since the issuance of both the State and County Stay-at-Home Orders, the Department of Planning and Parks has canceled a number of events to protect Wildwood's residents, and instead has proceeded with offering virtual programming. The Department is still trying to provide fun and engaging programs during the pandemic, while honoring health guidelines. The list below outlines events offered virtually:

### [Completed Events >>>](#)

#### **4-Week Run/Walk/Bike Challenge**

Registrants were to log their miles over a 4-week timeframe (March 23 – April 20, 2020). Any miles logged while running, hiking, walking, and biking were accepted, with them reporting to the City each week. At the end of the monthlong challenge, fifty-two (52) people participated in the event and combined for a total of over six thousand two hundred eighty-five (6,285) miles

#### **Fun Is Not Canceled Events**

Four (4) week-long activities residents could do from home and within their neighborhood. Even though lots of things in everyday life changed quickly and were canceled, the City wanted to remind everyone that Fun Is Not Canceled. These events included:

### **Week 1 - March 24, 2020 through March 29, 2020**

Chalk Your Walk: Residents were urged to draw or write encouraging messages on their driveway or sidewalk with chalk. Then take a walk in their neighborhood and look for other prints and messages. This exercise was an excuse to get outside and see their neighborhood, while keeping a safe separation to prevent the viral spread.

### **Week 2 - March 30, 2020 through April 5, 2020**

Positive Window Messages: Residents were encouraged to hang a message or art in a visible place, such as the home's window, so it could be viewed by others and then to get some fresh air and take a walk to find other messages.

### **Week 3 - April 6, 2020 through April 12, 2020**

Scavenger Hunt: Two (2) lists were provided, a Neighborhood List and an Around the House List, for residents to identify, find, and then advise the City.

### **Week 4 - April 13, 2020 through April 19, 2020**

Coloring Pages: Six (6) Wildwood coloring pages were provided for residents to download, print, and color. For a fun twist, these pages were created by the community as well!

### **Virtual Arbor Day Run**

The *Annual Arbor Day Be Brave Tree Hugger 5K Run/Walk* was switched to a virtual event. The Virtual Race allowed participants to choose their locations, i.e. trails, roads, bike paths, and even treadmills, and compete in it. They completed their own race (3.1 miles), at their own pace, and timed themselves. Results were submitted between April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> to Big River Race Management. At its conclusion, nearly forty (40) people competed in this virtual event. Finisher awards are to be mailed to winners.

### **Ongoing Events >>>**

### **Virtual Senior Yoga**

Friday Senior Yoga class continues as an online virtual class. Even though all Senior Recreation Programs have been cancelled through June, Wildwood Yoga and Wellness, the City's partner for Senior Yoga, is providing classes online. Seniors register with the City and then are provided a Zoom link to the class. They can attend the class during its regular time on Fridays or use the link within 24 hours to participate in it. The setup is going well, with over twenty (20) individuals have registered each week.

### **Virtual Community Bingo**

On Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Department held its first virtual Bingo game via Zoom. More than seventy (70) individuals played seven (7) games of Bingo over the course of the hour. There were even dance parties during the two (2) breaks. This event was very well received and a second game is scheduled for Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Food Drive**

In partnership with the St. Louis Area Foodbank, the City hosted a week-long food drive. Between Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, containers were placed in the first floor vestibule of City Hall to accept donations of non-perishable food items and cleaning supplies.

## **Weekly Activities for Kids**

Each week, in June, a new activity will be made available. These activities include:

### **Week 1 - June 1, 2020 through June 7, 2020**

Plant for Hope: Sunflower Seed Planting

### **Week 2 - June 8, 2020 through June 14, 2020**

Earth Ninja: Reuse something that would be trash and make it into something useful

### **Week 3 - June 15, 2020 through June 21, 2020**

Rec in a Bag: Hand out a bag of supplies to make a craft; how-to video will be created

### **Week 4 - June 22, 2020 through June 28, 2020**

Gold Rock Scavenger Hunt: Golden rocks will be placed in parks and on trails with clues provided by the City

## **Events In Planning >>>**

With the changes in how people recreate and gather expected to continue into the foreseeable future, the Department is working on other virtual events to launch in the upcoming weeks and months, including the following:

1. Online puzzles;
2. Virtual day(s) on the trails for all types of users, i.e. walkers, runners, hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian enthusiasts;
3. A trivia game – adult and children’s versions;
4. Virtual concerts;
5. Cooking challenge; and
6. Guided virtual hikes.

If any of the Committee Members should have any questions or comments regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on this matter at tonight’s meeting. Thank you for your review and input on this information.