



WILDWOOD

April 20, 2021

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
Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Bree Kelchen, Recreation Specialist

[Background Information >>>](#)

Due to the on-going nature of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Department of Planning and Parks, under the direction of the Planning and Parks Committee of City Council, has cautiously been implementing 2021 events to protect Wildwood's residents, and similar to the majority of 2020, offering virtual and contactless programming. The City is still trying to provide fun and engaging programs during the pandemic, while honoring health guidelines.

[Recent Happenings >>>](#)

Over the course of 2020, and now into 2021, Senior Yoga has continued virtually, with a steady enrollment in the twice weekly classes. The virtual format has proven a safe way to provide exercise for the City's senior population. The style of the second class each week has been elevated to a more advanced level, given many of the participants' skills are improving and interests have advanced beyond the basic Senior Yoga. This program is proving to be a great benefit to seniors in our community.

The book along the Storybook Walk in Community Park was changed out on March 10, 2021 and the next story will be swapped out in mid-May. This one-mile loop walk around the perimeter of Community

Park features seventeen (17) stations, each with two (2) pages from a book. The current book is now *Gossie*. This attraction is still very popular. With the book being changed every two (2) months, interest is renewed.

The Cabin Fever Hiking Challenge is currently underway, in lieu of the Annual Cabin Fever Hike. Over the course of three (3) months (February, March, and April), the City, via the Department of Planning and Parks, will provide a hiking route starting with easiest (February) to hardest (April). This event has encouraged residents to enjoy the great outdoors and better familiarize themselves with trails they may not be otherwise know about at this time. Participants are provided route maps, along with interesting trail facts, with signage posted along that month's hiking route. At the time of this report, three hundred forty-nine (349) participants completed Hike #1, three hundred one (301) completed Hike #2, and submitted their selfies. Hike #3, the longest of all hikes, began on April 1, 2021, and, at the time of this report, one hundred thirty-seven (137) participants completed it and submitted their selfies. This event ends on April 21, 2021.

The next Virtual Community Trivia Game is scheduled for May 12, 2021. Participants will participate via Zoom, and the online trivia platform Crowdpuurr.

The list below outlines completed events offered virtually in 2020 and 2021:

Completed Events >>>

1. 4-Week Run/Walk/Bike Challenge 2020 (over 50 residents logged over 6,000 miles in the four (4) weeks)
2. Fun Is Not Canceled Events
 - Phase 1*
 - a. Week 1 - March 24, 2020 through March 29, 2020 – *Chalk Your Walk*
 - b. Week 2 - March 30, 2020 through April 5, 2020 – *Positive Window Messages*
 - c. Week 3 - April 6, 2020 through April 12, 2020 – *Scavenger Hunt*
 - d. Week 4 - April 13, 2020 through April 19, 2020 – *Coloring Pages*
 - Phase 2*
 - e. Week 5 – June 5, 2020 – *Sunflower Seed Giveaway*
 - f. Week 6 – June 15, 2020 through June 21, 2020 – *Earth Ninja*
 - g. Week 7 – June 25, 2020 – *Recreation in a Bag*
 - h. Week 8 – July 2, 2020 through July 9, 2020 – *Golden Rock Scavenger Hunt – Community Park*
3. Virtual Arbor Day Run 2020 (forty (40) runners participated)
4. Food Drives 2020 (St. Louis Area Food Bank and Circle of Concern)
5. Virtual Community Bingo – seven (7) dates completed (May 1 and 22, June 24, July 15, August 26, November 18, 2020 and February 3, 2021)

6. Virtual Community Trivia – five (5) dates completed (June 10, July 1 and 22, September 16, 2020 and February 17, 2021)
7. Yoga in the Park 2020
8. Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt 2020 (fifty-one (51) participants)
9. Letters from Santa 2020 (three hundred thirty-seven (337) letters mailed)
10. Annual Photography Contest 2020 (one hundred one (101) photographs submitted, fifteen (15) winning photographs selected)
11. Virtual Frozen Feet Half Marathon 2021 (fifty-four (54) participants)
12. The 25th Anniversary Community Cookbook (January 25, 2021) (fifty (50) recipes submitted)
13. Spring Egg PickUp 2021 (1,040 bags of eggs handed out – over five hundred (500) cars were served over the two (2) hour event period)

Other >>>

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. Also, if Committee Members have any suggestions, please identify them at tonight's meeting. A presentation is planned on this matter at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review and input on this information.