



WILDWOOD

May 18, 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 trying to provide fun and engaging programs during the pandemic, while honoring health guidelines. However, the City plans to slowly phase out virtual programs, as it begins to plan in-person activities and events.

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 was 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 Department is in discussions with Wildwood Yoga and Wellness to safely bring these classes back to

in-person, possibly starting in June 2021. This approach is premised on being able to meet all of St. Louis County's Department of Public Health's guidelines.

The book along the Storybook Walk in Community Park was changed out on May 13, 2021 and the next story will be swapped out in mid-July. 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 *Sheep Take a Hike*. This attraction is still very popular. With the book being changed every two (2) months, interest is renewed.

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 – six (6) dates completed (June 10, July 1, July 22, and September 16, 2020 and February 17 and May 12, 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)
14. Cabin Fever Hiking Challenge, February to April 2021. Three-hundred seventy-eight (378) participants completed Hike #1, three-hundred thirty-one (331) participants completed Hike #2, and two-hundred eighty-four (284) participants completed Hike #3.
15. Arbor Day Tree Seedling Giveaway, over three-hundred (300) tree seedlings were handed out.

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.