

City of Greer Parks & Recreation Department

Monthly Report for December 2015



The City of Greer Parks and Recreation Department is committed to fulfilling our mission of providing quality recreational experiences while administering the values of community image, human development, preservation of environmental resources, health and wellness, economic development and cultural unity.

Department Projects

- ◆ Department staff contracted with Leathers & Associates to complete an assessment of Kids Planet playgrounds to address overall conditions and accessibility related to current standards. Assessment is scheduled to be conducted on January 19.

Bids

- ◆ The mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting for the Century Park Construction Project was held on December 2. The meeting was well attended by seventeen (17) general contractors.
- ◆ Bids were advertised for the Century Park Construction Project. Bids were opened on December 16 with the recommendation to be presented to Greer City Council at the January 12, 2016 meeting.

Department Trainings

- ◆ Red Watson and Justin Miller attended the Charity Tracker Software Training hosted by GCRA at the Greenville County Hughes Main Library in Greenville on December 9.
- ◆ On December 23, Justin Miller conducted a CPR/First Aid/AED certification class. Four (4) Grounds Division staff were certified.
- ◆ Department staff completed the MASC quarterly training.

Department Participation

- ◆ Parks and Recreation staff assisted with the Greer Christmas Parade on December 6. Upstate Jackets youth football teams and cheerleaders represented Greer Recreation in the Greer Christmas Parade. Greer Cultural Arts Council participated with a float in the parade. The Greer Children's Theatre cast of the Lion King Jr.'s float won the "Best International Theme" Award.
- ◆ On December 9, Ann Cunningham met with Reno Deaton and Mark Owens to review the results of the Economic Activity Study.
- ◆ Ann Cunningham attended the Upstate Forever – Highway 29 meeting at City Hall on December 9.

- ◆ Justin Miller attended a mock interview day with students from Greer Middle School on December 11. The event assisted in prepping students for interviewing experiences.
- ◆ Department staff attended the Employee Christmas Breakfast at City Hall on December 11.

Department Highlights

- ◆ The Events Division hosted forty-seven (47) events, at which over nine-thousand six-hundred (9,600) guests visited the City of Greer Events Center.
- ◆ On December 1, a Christmas Vacation Tacky Sweater Party was held at the Cannon Centre. Admission to the event was a toy donation to Cops for Tots. Guests were treated to a tacky sweater competition, appetizers and drinks prepared by Stomping Grounds could be purchased. There was also a photo booth with holiday props and the featured presentation of National Lampoons Christmas Vacation. Approximately fifty (50) guests enjoyed the evening.



- ◆ The City of Greer's Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 4 at Greer City Park. Hundreds of families enjoyed free entertainment, crafts and the reading of The Night Before Christmas by Santa. The annual Supper with Santa event at the Cannon Centre for City of Greer Employees was a big success as well. Employee's children made crafts, wrote letters to Santa and had their picture taken with Santa before heading to City Park for the festivities. The Greer Cultural Arts Council provided a face painting booth during the festivities. Greer Youth Cheerleaders assisted with the arrival of Santa by forming a tunnel and performing several cheers for the large crowd in attendance.



- ◆ On December 5, five-hundred (500) people attended the ever popular Breakfast with Santa at the Cannon Centre. Children participated in crafts, writing a letter to Santa and having their picture taken with Santa throughout the morning.
- ◆ The Grounds Division:
 - Removed trees and stumps along the bank behind the tennis courts at the Tryon Recreation Center.
 - Repaired main water line at South Suber Road Park.
 - Replaced wire fencing with wood fencing at Wards Creek Park.
 - Installed shelves in Summer Camp storage room at Victor Gym.
 - Installed wire mesh along soffit on both buildings at Kids Planet in an effort to stop squirrels from entering buildings.
 - Completed winterization of facilities.
 - Mowing, trimming with leaf removal and mulch mowing continues at some locations.

- ◆ The Parks and Recreation and Public Services Departments held their annual Christmas luncheon in the warehouse of the Operations Center on December 17. Texas Roadhouse catered the meal for our employees.
- ◆ Seniors Out and ARound (SOAR) attended the Holiday Fair at the TD Convention Center and the Nutcracker at the Peace Center. The Lunch Bunch meeting was held at Applesbee's in Greer. SOAR continued to hold bingo days and their monthly potluck lunch at City Hall, where a gift swap took place among the participants. Average attendance during the month was thirteen (13).
- ◆ Pickleball night on Mondays in December at Victor Gym saw an increase in participants to over twenty (20). Play also was scheduled for Wednesday mornings in December due to the increase in interest and participation.
- ◆ Piano Performers held their Christmas Recitals on December 13 and 14 at the Cannon Centre. Over one-hundred fifty (150) spectators enjoyed forty-five (45) students playing Christmas themed music.
- ◆ The Recreation Division's annual "Letters to Santa" program concluded on December 14. Two-hundred seven (207) letters were forwarded to Santa for his response.
- ◆ The Greer Cultural Arts Council hosted the International Concert Pianist, Flavio Varani at the J. Harley Bonds Career Center on December 5.
- ◆ On December 7, the Greer Baseball Club (GBC) held a pre-season coaches meeting at Greer City Hall. Over fifty (50) coaches attended the meeting where they received rules and important dates for the spring season. Opening Day will be on April 9, 2016.
- ◆ Fall Academy Soccer practices and games were held at the South Suber Road Park and the Country Club Road Park. These teams competed throughout the state. Three (3) teams finished in 1st place in their respective division and the U15 Girls Team qualified for the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA) State Cup where they finished 3rd. Academy soccer teams were registered with SCYSA for the spring season.



- ◆ A Foothills Soccer Clubs of Greer (FSCG) meeting was held on December 8 to discuss the fall season and the upcoming spring season for rule changes, spring dates and officials training.
- ◆ The Tomahawk Wrestling Club practices continued to be held at Riverside High School. Over twenty-five (25) participants will wrestle in local tournaments throughout the upstate. The club participated in two (2) local tournaments on December 12 and 18 where several wrestlers placed in their weight classifications.
- ◆ A new on-line interface (eTrak Software) was designed by the Athletic Division and St. Andrew's Parish Parks and Playground staff to allow users to view calendars and sports leagues by utilizing their phone. The new interface will be available for the spring registration on January 4, 2016.
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department continued planning for the 2016 International Festival. Meetings will be held beginning in January to further plans for Freedom Blast 2016 scheduled to be held on June 25, 2016.

"Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"