

Harvard Parks and Recreation Department



To: Mayor, City Council, and Lou Leone

From: Superintendent Ryan Knop

Date: November 17th, 2023

Monthly Report for Parks and Recreation

Hope everyone is enjoying our nice fall weather, but that looks to be changing in the upcoming weeks. The Parks Department has been working hard both inside and out getting ready for the upcoming winter months. Over the past month I have completed the pool winterization process. I was able to get all the water lines blown out, check valves removed, plugs installed, and the winter water added a couple of weeks ago. That process took a little longer this year than expected, but everything is done and ready for the winter. Before the water for the winter was added, I was able to inspect the pool concrete and everything looks in pretty good shape. We do have some wear in the usual spots, but nothing major that is concerning. I will need to re-caulk the expansion joints in the spring, but that was well known before. On the good news side of things, our second motor and pump that were ordered in April finally arrived last week. I am hoping to get that installed sometime in either January or February so we will be ready to go come spring. Switching over to the dog park project, that is going very well. Public Works was able to connect to the water main and run the main feed for the water fountain. In addition to that, the weather allowed for that cement pad to be poured which was a nice surprise.

In regards to the work happening on the recreation side, I have stayed extremely busy working on new ways to engage our community with recreation and programming opportunities. As a continued update from last month, we currently have 5 programs and events that are live and open for registration. Those include our 2023 Egg Nog Jog, Zumba class, Limber Life Fitness Class, Conchas and Cocoa Event, and the Gingerbread Showdown. I have some upcoming programs that are still in the works, but are very close to going live. I am just working on the small details and meeting with the last couple individuals to make those happen. I have actively been pushing to find instructors for future adult and youth programs. The response has continued to be slow, but I have received a couple additional leads for individuals who want to share their passion or skill in a program setting. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks you will see our ESL Program and Yoga Program go live, so keep your eye out for that. We currently have a couple of programs that are currently running and going very well. Our Harvard Jr. Hornets Travel basketball season is underway with 32 Harvard youth participating this year. The numbers are down from last year, but we had enough participants to have a 5th-7th grade team. Our Limber Life program is progressing well. We currently have 7 participants involved in that program, with hopes that it will continue through multiple sessions in the upcoming months. As mentioned above, our Egg Nog Jog registration is still live and we currently have 40 participants registered for that. If you have not signed up yet, December 2nd is approaching quickly so sign up today!

I have started working on the budget for the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year. There are a lot of needs that we have, so I have been working on pricing out all the upgrades that I have been directed to proceed with. Over the past several years we have focused on some large capital improvements which have been well received by the community. I have some large capital projects that I have been gathering information on, as well as some smaller

maintenance issues that need to be addressed. As we all know the Parks budget is always a tight one, and I will continue to provide the most accurate information for the parks board and city council to make the most informed decision on how to allocate those funds for the projects and improvements needed.

The Parks Department has been conducting a survey for a preliminary and potential new recreation center. I had planned on closing the survey down on October 13th, but after a discussion with the mayor, we decided to leave it running for another month. That survey has been completed, and we did have some additional engagement which was nice to see. The total responses between the English and Spanish survey totaled 442 submissions. I am working on having a full report on the responses in the upcoming weeks that will be shared.

We have continued to be active on Facebook promoting all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Department over the past month, and the analytics are showing that. Since our last Park Board meeting, we have had 14 different posts with a variety of content. In the past 30 days, our posts have reached 119,902 people, 984 page visits, 1,580 post engagements, 12 new page likes, and 41 new page followers. We will continue to post relevant Parks and Recreation content out for the community.

Thank you all for your continued support, and I look forward to another productive month in the world of parks and recreation. As always, please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Knop', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Knop

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

City of Harvard