

2014 Annual Report
BLUFFTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Presented by: Pam Vanderkolk, Superintendent

January (new program/event in bold print)

Weekday Walkers - 0	LIFT (Ladies in Fitness Together) - 44
Toddler Tuesday/Thursday - 0	Women's DIY Class – 10 (max)
Knitting Lessons - 6	Crochet Lessons - 6
Theater Thursday - 30	Racquetball Tournament – 4

January weather was not kind to attendance. The LIFT program was new and funded by a grant through the LIGHT Group. The DIY class was taught by Mick Jackson of Jackson Construction. The ladies were taught the proper and safe way to use power tools. They also learned how to do some simple home projects and repairs.

February

Stuff & Fluff – 53	LIFT – 22
Tot Block Party – 24	Chilly Chili Run – 100
Crochet Lessons – 8	Mother/Son Dance – 117
Daddy/Daughter Dance – 357	Theater Thursday – 25
Cooking Class – 12 (max)	Card Class – 7

The Tot Block Party was an event led by Molly Hoag from the Purdue Extension office. Toddlers and their caregivers had the opportunity to be creative using different types of blocks. We thank the Oubache State Park and their staff for their assistance with the Chilly Chili Run as well as the Bluffton Regional Medical Center and the Wells County Library for their partnership with the Theater Thursdays. We are also grateful for the continued cooperation of the Wells County 4-H Park for the use of their facility for the Daddy/Daughter and the Mother/Son dances.

March

LIFT – 12	Spring Coloring Contest – 64
Tot Gold Hunt/Bank Tour – 28	Badminton – 3
Cooking Class – 12 (max)	Crochet – 12
Theater Thursday – 27	Card Class – 7

Special thanks to the Wells Fargo Bank for the Tot Bank Tour and Karen Reed and Bluffton-Harrison MSD for partnering with us to offer a variety of cooking classes throughout the year.

April

SLR Camera Workshop – 8	Zumba – 55
Viking Knit Jewelry – 11	Sandy Koufax baseball – 14
Pee Wee Soccer – 76	LIFT – 8
Theater Thursday – 41	Senior Exploration – 47
Easter Egg Hunt – 600	Dog Egg Hunt – 50
MLB Pitch, Hit & Run – 40	Special Olympics – 142
Princess Tea Party – 143 (2 show times)	Sr. Exploration Carry-in – 42

Thanks to WZBD and Walgreens for sponsoring our Easter events and to the BHMSD, Bluffton HS athletes and Athletic Boosters as well as the Wells County Y for the exciting and heart-warming Special Olympics event. We had almost as many volunteers as we did athletes for this program. We cannot wait for 2015 date to host this again! This is one you should come and see as well!

May

Giggles & Games with Grandma – 33
Summer Striders – 21
LIFT – 6
Theater Thursday – 28
Women Self Defense Class – 16

Japanese Pen Pal program – 15
Swim Lessons – 225
Yoga Classes – 142 (in 8 classes)
Where Does Your \$ Go Class – 9
Spring Bike Tour of Parks – 50

The Wells County Girls Softball League utilized 25 volunteers for 5 hours cleaning and painting around the girl's diamonds at Roush Park. We appreciate their assistance preparing for the season. Craig Brown donated 8 hours teaching Yoga for free as a spin off to our LIFT program. We partnered with a friend of my daughter to reach out for pen pals to assist her Japanese students practice their English writing skills. We'd also like to thank Austin Menchaca who organized workers and spent numerous hours cleaning at the Wells Community Swimming Pool and installing playground safety surfacing under play equipment at Washington Park for his Eagle Scout Badge. Tri-Kappa also held a 5K Race, Gallop for the Greenway, to assist in raising funds for our Revitalize our RiverGreenway Project which brought in \$4,050.00!

June

Chicks Run – 396
Art in the Park – 62, 68, 76, 47,
Tot Music Time – 15
Swim Lessons – 100
Egg Drop Challenge – 45
Friendship Bracelets – 16
Tot Parachute Day – 21
Drawing Illusions – 23
Meet the Piano – 8 (limit)
Basketball Camp – 14, 8, 8
Loom Hot Pad – 22
Meet the Piano – 4 (limit)
Tot Chalk it Up – 26
Designer Shirts – 14
Tech Take a Part Day – 29
Touch-A-Truck – 675
LIFT Canoe trip – 17 (limit)
Teen Movie – 40
Decoupage Day – 9
SLR Camera Workshop – 11
Tot Dance – 8 (limit)
Mini Dance – 12 (limit)
Fuse Bead Magnets – 18
Card Making Class – 9
Theater Thursday – 20
Jr. Police Day – 14
Design Ribbon Hair Tie – 58
Build a Straw Tower – 16
Tot Swim Lessons – 50
Culinary Kids – 18
Tie Dye – 42
Dinosaur Dig – 57
Homemade Pretzels – 30
Animal Petting Zoo – 140

KoolAid Hair Dye – 26
Grandpa & Me – 48
LIFT – 3
Tennis Lessons – avg 39 per day
Adult Tennis League – 20
Piano Play/Discovery – 8 (limit)
Youth Track Meet – 40+
Around the World – 10
Mini Basketball – 31, 20, 20
Hair Braiding – 6
Water Aerobics – 15
Bowling – 60+
3D Coloring – 15
Aerobics in the Park – 3
Finger Nail Art – 22
Kids Garage Sale – 8 families
Sunrise Yoga – 10, 7
Crochet Lessons – 2
Geodesic Dome – 39
Tot Bubble Day – 35
Pee Wee Dance – 12 (limit)
Beginner Dance – 12 (limit)
Balloon Animals – 25
Tot Balloon Day – 24
Wood Kit Crafts – 40
Funky Flip Flops – 58
Designer Envelopes – 27
Nature's Bounty Class – 22
Pee Wee Painters – 23
Culinary Kids # 2 – 17
Worry Dolls – 38
Wet Wacky Wednesday – 51
Rock Painting – 57
Jr. Police (B) – 17

June – continued

Paper Mache – 7
Soggy Jog – 208

Star Gazing – 55
Rough & Muddy – 256

Special thanks to Brandy's Dance Studio and Studio 88 for partnering with us and offering free dance and piano lessons. We also thank Nick Hale from All Things Power for his assistance with the Tech Take-a-Part Day as well as our maintenance staff. That was a really fun activity! Also, to the Bluffton Police Dept. for their cooperation in the Junior Police Day. Also to Steve Higgins for leading the group of women on a canoe trip down & up...(literally) the Wabash!

July

Tot Fire Dept. visit – 59
News Banner Tour – 10
Wet Wacky Wednesday – 53
July 4th Celebration – 800
Swim Lessons – 110
Drawing Camp – 31
Tot Lego Day – 10 (rain)
Bead Happy – 25
Summer Striders II – 15
Squish & Sculpt – 22
Monsters University movie – 170
Kehoe Concert – 193 (Blend)
Mini Cheer Camp – 23
Origami – 11
Slime Time – 39
Homemade Cards – 8
Theater Thursday – 68 (Frozen)
Despicable Me 2 movie – 175
Iron Kid Triathlon – 99
Boot Camp – 23

Fun Loom Bracelet – 14
Duct Tape Crafts – 22
Tot Nature Hunt – 14
Kehoe Concert – 202 (Marshall Law Band)
Boys Wrestling Camp – 19
Pottery Class – 21
Mosaic Sticker Art – 17
Wet Wacky Wednesday – 36
Tot Play Dough Day – 37
Finger Nail Art – 23
Sunrise Yoga – 8
Yarn Animal Sculpture – 14
Tot Food Art – 16
Slime Time Jr. – 12
Coil Wrap Coaster Class – 6
Tot Ice Excavation – 30
Reed Basket Making – 11
Lego Movie – 250
Daddy O's Concert – 78 (rainsite)
Wet Wacky Wednesday – 20

Our thanks to the Bluffton Fire Dept, Bluffton Police Dept., Bluffton HS wrestling staff and cheerleading staff and the Bluffton News Banner for their help with camps and programs during this month.

August

Pee Wee Basketball Camp – 36
Kehoe Concert – 215 (Abbey Road)
Wet Wacky Wednesday – 65
The Nut Job movie – 214
Women's Self Defense Class – 12
Kehoe Concert – 128 (Farmland Jazz)
Luau Beach Party – 500 (ish)
NFL Pass, Punt & Kick – 52
Homemade Card Class – 5

Cloudy w/A Chance of Meatballs 2 movie - 173
Fall Adult Tennis League – 16
Volunteer of the Year celebration – 29
Adult Triathlon – 95
Kehoe Concert – 225 (Old Crown Brass Band)
Theater Thursday – 21
Planes movie – 65
Kehoe Concert – 330 (Minister's Quartet)
K-9 Kommons ribbon cutting – 65

A shout out of thanks to the Wells County Foundation for their generous grant that funds our summer movies and to all those who served on the Kehoe Concert Committee for another great season. Special thanks also for all those who sponsored and donated for the concert series. We appreciate Lt. Detective Jim Paxton from the Wells County Sheriff's Dept. for his continued cooperation in teaching the Women's Self Defense Class. Our Volunteers of the Year were Kirk Baumgartner and Amy Johnson. They have both been instrumental in the success of our many race events, and we

thank them and all the other volunteers. Speaking of volunteers, a large “job well done” to Rachel Makowski who raised the funds to create the dog park at Indiana and Market Streets named K-9 Kommons. Rachel raised nearly \$15,000.00 to make that park a reality. For her hard work and dedication we nominated her for the “Outstanding Volunteer of the Year” through the Indiana Parks & Recreation Association, and the committee agreed. She will be honored at the state conference in January for her support of parks and recreation. This project was for her Girl Scout Gold Award.

September

Fall Coloring contest – 80
Star Gazing – 48
Fall Fit”tastic” – 6
Art Bazaar – 12 vendors
Theater Thursday – 22

Girls on the Run – 13 girls and 8 coach/mentors
National Neighborhood Day – 75
Harvest Hustle 5K – 192
Fall Senior Exploration – 46

Girls on the Run was a new program to encourage 3rd – 5th grade girls to become interested in running and physical fitness. The program also promoted life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The program culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5k running event. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness. There were 8 volunteer coaches/mentors that included teachers from both the elementary and middle schools who assisted with this event. The girls and their mentors actually competed in three 5K races!

October

Tot Fire Dept. visit – 34
Senior Carry-in Lunch – 40
Great Pumpkin Hunt – 343
Pumpkin Dunkin – 227
Hoe Down Block Party – 250
Autumn Adventure – 1,470

Outdoor Soccer – 60
Card making class – 8
Theater Thursday – 24
Badminton – 6
Go Greenway Glow 5K – 214
Adult Volleyball League – 40

The Hoe Down was our 2nd block party of the year. While the attendance was about half of what the Luau Beach Party was, we feel it was still a great event. The Go Greenway Glow 5K as a night-time run along a festively lighted Rivergreenway Trail. Both of these events we used as fund raisers for the Revitalize Our RiverGreenway project. More than \$1,100.00 was taken to the Wells County Foundation for this improvement from this one night of fun!

November

Tot Post Office tour – 32
Healthy Holiday Cooking – 3
Theater Thursday – 25

Cooking with Pumpkins Class – 5
Card making class – 12
Craft Corner - 11

We thank Karen Reed and BHMSD for their continued cooperation for the cooking classes, as well as Molly Hoag and the Wells County Extension office. Both of these instructors and entities are wonderful partners and supporters for our department and community.

December

Tot Candy Cane Hunt - 37
Winter Wonderland – 650+
December Dash 5K - 126
Special Needs Winter Wonderland - 25

Paws & Claus – 68 humans, 44 dogs
Winter Coloring contest – 103
Santa’s Mailbox – 322

Grants received: \$207,548.00

Donations received: \$177,420.27 (labor, dog park, materials, trees, items, etc)

Volunteers: 502 **Total hours:** 2,595 (approximate figures)

Improvements made: \$109,231.00

Vandalism/repairs: \$713.00 – Way down this year!

Income:

Roush #1 Concessions - \$9,552.80	-\$1,244.05
Roush # 2 Concessions - \$3,005.50	-\$4,262.60
Jefferson Concessions - \$7,592.50	-\$1,072.20
Pool Concessions - \$\$12,462.62	-\$397.94
Pool Admissions - \$16,007.03	-\$4,793.77
Pavilion Rentals - \$2,135.00	\$5.00
Gym & K-9 Kommons - \$15,526.50	-\$3,649.50

Gym memberships:

City employees:	39
Single WC residents:	65
Family WC residents:	66
Single Non-WC:	4
Family Non-WC:	1
Total:	175

1-day gym passes: **31**

K-9 Kommons Members

City residents:	33
WC residents:	1
Non WC residents:	2
Total:	36

COMPLIMENTS

Debbie Cushman: My granddaughter said, "It was the best night of my LIFE!" (Stuff & Fluff)

Arvilla Rodenbeck: REALLY enjoy the class! Mick sure has a lot of patience!! (DIY class)

Alicia Hill: (from House of Hope) Amazing job and absolutely loved partnering with Bluffton Parks. (Chilly Chili)

Jade Glover: Thank You guys for all of the fun, healthy, family-oriented classes, events and activities that you put on for our community! We are looking forward to some of the things this summer!

Holly Mishler: This is especially good for young ladies heading off to college this fall! It was an excellent, informative session! (Women's Self Defense class)

Erin Gaskill: Drama & Fred scored 1 rawhide stick & pigs ear each at their 1st Easter Bone hunt! So much fun! They even made a new friend named Sparks. Thank you Bluffton Parks!

Jamie Maller Johnson: My son helped with the event and could not stop talking about how much fun he had! He said that we need to help next year! (Special needs track meet)

Gregory Werich: Kudos to the Parks Department for another great year of summer activities. We are only into the first couple weeks and I already want to show my appreciation for the opportunities they are providing my family, and sharing the photos on FB.

Rebecca Emshwiller Grover: That's pretty awesome! What a great idea. (Tech Take a Part Day)

Stephanie M. Byrd: You are so energetic and organized! I'm in awe of you both. You have enhanced our city's fun life so much!

Lisa Giles: Turner LOVED Pet Day at the park this morning! Thank you Bluffton Parks! And back to the pups...LOL

Mollie Main Forbes: This was my kids first year doing it. We had a blast! Haven't laughed so much in quite a while! Thank you so much for all you do! (Soggy Jog/Mud Run)

Jason Lesh: Thanks Laurie Baumgartner & Bluffton Parks!!!! The mud run was the best run ever. It left me wanting more. Great job and thanks to everyone who helped put it together.

Samantha Moser: Thank you Bluffton Parks and Bluffton Fire Department! My children really enjoyed learning and exploring the engines and trucks today! He was excite to see the "we-o we-o we-o's" lol

Heather Cook Shanks: My little police officer graduated today... So proud of her for stepping out of her comfort zone!! Now for her to apply to everyday life what she learned!! (Boot Camp)

Holly Zoll: WARNING: Hula hooping for long periods of time may cause sore muscles, especially after extended periods of inactivity. Particularly in those over the age of 30. It was totally worth it! My kids are already asking if they can do it again next year. Great Block Party! Thank you Bluffton Parks! (Luau)

Aaron Garofola: The Greenway Glow 5k was so much fun! Thanks Bluffton Parks!

Danielle Schisler Reed Thank you for organizing another great event! We are so lucky to have awesome staff willing to dedicate so much time to our community!

Barbara Elliott CONGRATULATIONS. WE ALL KNOW THAT BLUFFTON IS THE BEST. (awards)