



BLUFFTON  
PARKS DEPT

---

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

PRESENTED BY

Brandy Fiechter  
Superintendent

# January Events

CITY GYM MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE YEAR	356
DOG PARK MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE YEAR	85
OPEN GYM	89
WEEKDAY WALKING	43
WELLS WINTER 100 CHALLENGE	185
FARM WAGON	123
FARM WAGON	113
CREATIVE PROGRAMMING PRESENTATION	38
FARM WAGON	109
FARM WAGON	70
ROCK STEADY BOXING EACH CLASS (YEAR-ROUND 3 TIMES A WEEK)	12-20





# February Events



**Farm Wagon**

**99**

**Chilly Chili Run**

**103**



**Snowman contest**

**32**

**Farm Wagon**

**109**



**Hue Can Paint**

**4**

**Valentine Fun Kits**

**110**

**Valentine Contest**

**18**

**Farm Wagon**

**122**

**Open Gym**

**83**

**Weekday Walking**

**40**

**Pavilion Rentals**

**3**



# March Events

**Spring Color Contest 97**

**Farm Wagon 127**

**Cardio Boxing 10**

**Farm Wagon 121**

**Larry Leprechaun Winners 9**

**Farm Wagon 136**

**Farm Wagon 127**

**Farm Wagon 144**

**Hue Can Paint 8**

**Weekday Walking 40**

**Pavilion Rentals 5**

**Two articles published in the spring  
Profile Magazine**

# April Events

EGG HUNT	240
DOG BONE HUNT	16 DOGS/30 PEOPLE
SENSORY SENSITIVE HUNT	30
ONLINE CAKE WARS	15 ENTRIES/1252 VOTES
FARM WAGON	139
FARM WAGON	137
FARM WAGON	135
EARTH DAY 5K	55
FARM WAGON	165
YARN BOMB	210
CARDIO BOXING	37
YOGA	57
PAVILION RENTALS	11
FARM WAGON	165



# MAY EVENTS

CLUE PARK EDITION	31
FARM WAGON	149
CARDIO BOXING	33
WOOKIE WALK	219
BRUNCH & BUBBLES	30
FARM WAGON	142
FARM WAGON	160
PLANT SWAP	6
SWIM LESSON REG	135
THE FIREFLY TOUR BALLET	275
THEATER THURSDAY	17
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE TALK	43
HUE CAN PAINT	12
ELDER LAW	33
FARM WAGON	168
PAVILION RENTALS	23
YOGA	46
SENIOR BOOK/MOVIE CLUB	10
SENIOR STEAM	11
SENIOR HEALTHY LIVING	6
SENIOR VARIETY CLASS	10
SENIOR WELLS COUNTY HISTORY	9
SENIOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES	11
SENIOR CROCHET LESSONS	5
PAVILION RENTALS	26



# June Events

<b>5 Farm Wagons</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>Matchbox Car Day</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>4 Scientific Tuesdays</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>Rock Painting</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Gaga Ball</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>Animal Explorers</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Crafting for a Cause</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Fuse Bead Magnet</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4 Craft Club</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>Loom Hot Pad</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Bowling</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Dance Class</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Tot Bubble day</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Tot Puzzle Day</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tot Lego Day</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Shaving Cream Fight</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Lego Day</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>Stuff and Fluff</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Pickleball</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Tot Messy Art</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Foam Party</b>	<b>275+</b>	<b>5k in 5 weeks</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Summer Striders</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5k in 5 weeks</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>The Insiders</b>	<b>677+</b>	<b>Cardio Boxing</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Community Worship</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>Yoga</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Chicks Run</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>Wabash River Paddle</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Alice in Wonderland Dance</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>Pool Attendance</b>	<b>4,415</b>
<b>Dog Obedience</b>	<b>3</b>		
<b>Art in the Park</b>	<b>49</b>		
<b>Tot Scavenger Hunt</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>Candle Making</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>Summer tennis lessons</b>	<b>455</b>		
<b>Egg Drop Challenge</b>	<b>50</b>		
<b>Bubble Dash</b>	<b>52</b>		
<b>Tot Chalk it up</b>	<b>7</b>		
<b>Theater Thursday</b>	<b>13</b>		
<b>10 Noon Swim</b>	<b>70</b>		
<b>June Pavilion Rentals</b>	<b>32</b>		

**Published Article in the Profile Magazine**

# ★ JULY EVENTS

July 4th Fireworks	300+
3 Farm Wagons	454
Tot Play Day	2
Paper Skyscraper	16
Bubble Dash	52
Ronald McDonald Clinic	2
Junior Veterinarian Day	39
Ax Throwing	33
Superhero Training Camp	86
Bucket Drumming	46
Theater Thursday	9
5K in 5 weeks	70
5k in 5 weeks	57
5k in 5 weeks	60
Running Rogue	48
Completely Unchained Concert	260+
Frye Family Band	187
Tumbling Class	20
Hue Can Paint	8
Fastest Kid in Town	90
July Wabash River Paddle	52
10 Noon Lap Swims	67
July Pool Attendance	3,998
July Pavilion Rentals	24
Picnic in the Park Free Lunches	1,776





# August Events

Farm Wagons	140
Toga & Big Bang Baby Concert	258
Classic Car Cruise	18 cars 38 people
Casual Friday Concert	138
Farm Wagon	138
Princess Tea Parties Elsa & Anna	150
Farm Wagon	129
Public Master Plan Meeting	18
Farm Wagon	122
Touch a Truck	700+
Nerf Wars	41
Farm Wagon	134
Theater Thursday	16
5 Noon Swim	19
August Pool Attendance	1,483
August Pavilion Rentals	17

2021 Readers Choice Awards:  
2nd Place Best Community Event  
2nd Place Best Place to Take a Visitor  
2nd Place Best Park/Playground  
3rd Place Best Fitness Facility

# SEPTEMBER EVENTS

4 Farm Wagons	504
Theater Thursday	19
Harvest Hustle	68
Smart Phone Tips	15
Senior Movie Club	15
Senior Variety Class	13
Hue Can Paint	5
Indoor Yoga	12
Cardio Toning	8
Tot Time Police Visit	40
Crochet Lessons	6
Kitchen Chemistry	6
Sept Pavilion Rentals	13

Presented at National Parks  
and Recreation Conference  
Nashville, TN.



# OCTOBER EVENTS



4 FARM WAGONS	511	
FLU SHOT CLINIC	27	
TOT FIRE DEPT VISIT	60	
SENIOR SNIPPETS K9 CLASS	8	
SMARTPHONE CLASS	13,12	
MOVIE CLUB	16,14	
SR SNIPPETS SLEEP ON IT	8	
SR SNIPPETS TEA PARTY	14	
WELLS CO HISTORY CLASS	10,7	
SCAM SAFE	4	
INDOOR YOGA	50	
CARDIO TRAINING	5	
WABASH RIVER RIDE & SEEK	21	
CROCHET LESSONS	7,5	
COSTUME CONTEST	47	2,764 VOTES
AUTUMN ADVENTURE	1500	
THEATER THURSDAY	16	
CARDIO BOXING	40	
OCTOBER PAVILION RENTALS	15	

PRESENTED AT INDIANA PARKS & RECREATION  
STATE CONFERENCE



# November Events

5 Farm Wagons	618
Tot Post Office Visit	26
Woof Trail Run	102
Yoga Brunch	15
Theater Thursday	13
Wobble before you Gobble	21
Tom the Tricky Turkey	9
Indoor Yoga	50
Hue Can Paint	8
Crochet lessons	9
Cardio Boxing	35
Open Gym	158
Tot Time Oct & Nov	56
Weekday Walking Oct & Nov	70
Cardio Toning	8
Nov Pavilion Rentals	12

**Best Agency of the Year Award**

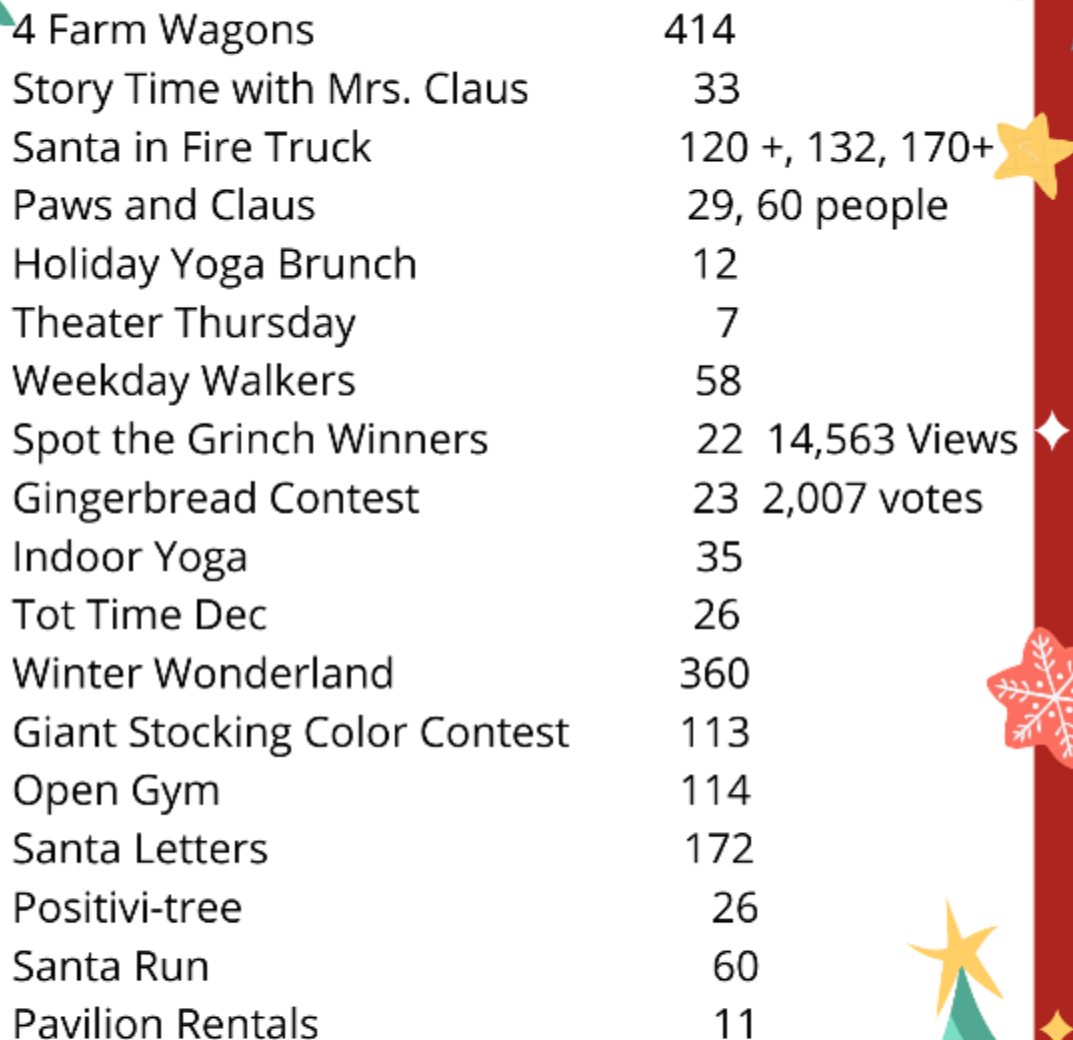
**Best Creative Event Award**

**Distinguished Citizen of the Year - Rick McEvoy**





# December Events



4 Farm Wagons	414
Story Time with Mrs. Claus	33
Santa in Fire Truck	120 +, 132, 170+
Paws and Claus	29, 60 people
Holiday Yoga Brunch	12
Theater Thursday	7
Weekday Walkers	58
Spot the Grinch Winners	22 14,563 Views
Gingerbread Contest	23 2,007 votes
Indoor Yoga	35
Tot Time Dec	26
Winter Wonderland	360
Giant Stocking Color Contest	113
Open Gym	114
Santa Letters	172
Positivi-tree	26
Santa Run	60
Pavilion Rentals	11

**Won IPRA Christmas Photo Contest**  
**Featured on the cover of Profile Magazine**

**Grants Awarded - \$232,200**

\$100,000 for Interurban Trail  
\$117,000 for Lancaster Park  
\$1,000 for Wells Community Pool  
\$3,200 for Playground Improvements  
\$400 for Senior Programs  
\$600 for Park Improvements  
\$10,000 for Kehoe Concerts

**Donations Received - \$74,260**

\$21,590 Rock Steady Boxing & Fitness Events  
\$2,390 Memorial Donations  
\$4,900 Unrestricted Donations  
\$16,050 Kehoe Concert Donations  
\$35,950 Trail Donations

**Income - \$98,153.35**

Roush #1 Concessions - \$14,732.95  
Roush # 2 Concessions - \$2,992.70  
Pool Concessions - \$13,995.95  
Pool Admissions - \$22,469.25  
Pool rentals - \$7,863.50  
Swim Lessons - \$3,179.00  
Pavilion Rentals - \$15,905  
K-9 Kommons Memberships - \$1,275  
City Gym Memberships - \$15,740

**Serve on the Following Committees**  
**Bluffton Free Street Fair**  
**Bluffton NOW!**  
**IPRA Conference Planning Committee**  
**Kehoe Concert Committee**  
**Parlor City Christmas**  
**Parlor City Market**  
**Wells County Tourism**  
**Wells County Trails**  
**Wellness Matters**

**Estimated Volunteer Hours 1470**

**Volunteer of the year 2021- Rick King**

# **2021 Park Improvements**

## **\$219,983.61**

**Installed highspeed hand dryers for City Gym**  
**Resealed & painted 2 Basketball courts at Washington Park**  
**New sidewalks and angle parking at Washington Park**  
**Removed concrete bleachers at Jefferson Park**  
**3 New bleachers at Jefferson park**  
**Planted 4 red sunset Maple & 4 River Birch, on Greenway**  
**New bench at Pickett's Run**  
**Planted a pine tree at Pickett's Run**  
**Repaired Veteran's Park gazebo**  
**New Gazebo in Pickett's Run**  
**Lion's Park Tennis court resealed**  
**Replaced fascia at Wells Community Pool**  
**5 New plastic benches for Greenway, Pickett's Run & Roush**  
**Gravel drive for additional parking at Lion's Park**  
**Installed swing mats and slide fall mats**  
**Lion's Park tennis court drainage**  
**New basketball goal at Lion's Park**  
**Lion's Park teeter-totter repair**  
**Repainted Pavilion at Iris Garden**  
**New Little Library at Roush Park**  
**Installed tetherball and Hopscotch at Roush Park**  
**Installed new Gaga ball at Roush Park**  
**Washington Park tennis courts resealed & added pickleball**  
**Installed Pet Waste containers at all parks**  
**Added diamond dirt to all fields**  
**New Footrest for Chair 2 at Pool**  
**Updated electrical at Roush Park**



# **2021 Park Improvements**

**Updated pool concessions with stainless-steel cabinets**  
**2 New bottle filling water fountains in the City Gym**  
**New Park signs at Pool**  
**New automatic shut off sinks in parks**  
**Replaced shuttle toy at Lions Park**  
**Replaced oval playground window at Jefferson Park**  
**Purchased new Sit and Spin for Lions**  
**Installed tennis light timer switch at Lion's Park**  
**New sycamore tree on Greenway**  
**Repainted hall and stairwell at City Gym**  
**Replaced and repainted restroom on Greenway**  
**Paved 3rd base dugout at Lion's park**  
**Purchased 2 replacement tennis nets**  
**New wood sculpture of a bear for Greenway**  
**Repaired drain at Lion's Park restrooms**  
**Rebuilt team bench & painted dugout at Lion's Park**  
**Repair Riverbank near drainpipe on Greenway**  
**Replaced Maintenance Garage door springs**  
**Removed rotted parking barriers and reseeded Lions Park**  
**Painted Jefferson Concession Stand**  
**New basketball goals in City Gym**  
**New Weight room & restroom LED lights in City Gym**  
**New LED tennis court lights at Lions**  
**New toilets and urinals at Wells Community Pool**  
**New roof for Lion's 1st base dugout**  
**Removed old overhead wiring from Pickett's Run Park**  
**Purchased animal-resistant trash can for Rotary Park**  
**Installed new rowing machine & Kettle weights in City Gym**

# Compliments

Carly - "That is so awesome! I just want to tell you that I'm so impressed by the calendar of events and how you display it online. I work for Jay County REMC, and part of my job is to put calendar events in the Indiana Connection magazine each month. It's a small section, but I like to try and put at least one event from each of our service areas (Blackford, Jay, Wells, Adams, Delaware, and Randolph). You have made it so insanely easy for me to find the activities that are happening in Wells, not to mention that the list of activities itself is incredibly impressive. It's very obvious to me that you work hard as a community to make sure Wells is a fun place to live with lots of opportunities to learn/see/do new things!" -Mother/Son Superhero Training Camp

Robert - wanted me to pass along his appreciation for the dog park. His dog loves it and uses all the equipment. He thinks the parks department has done a great job of keeping up the park and really appreciates the work you are doing and appreciates that you have the dog park.

Shelby - Seriously so glad I moved to Bluffton! So many things to do! This is awesome!

Susan- "Thank you for all you do. The parks department does an excellent program for the kids. We appreciate all everyone there does."

LouAnn- "Our daughter loved the last 2 weeks hanging out with you all! And she has improved so much in her abilities and gained so much confidence! Thank you so much for pouring into her, and encouraging her! Shout out to the lifeguards that helped with level one. And to Maci (with level 2) for taking a special interest in our daughter and making her feel like she could do anything!" - Swim Lessons

Joann - "Max and Jaden at another Park's Department activity. Get your children involved in many activities offered. The boys play tennis for Bluffton and Norwell because of playing Park's Department tennis since young."

"We are from Portland my son Arman has so much fun, thank you Bluffton Parks for having these fun events that I'm able to bring my kids to this summer. You guys are amazing and love that you have fun things for people of all ages!"

Laura - "Thank you for doing events like the virtual costume contest. More reasons why we love living in Bluffton."

**Just wanted to let you know that Braylon and I finished 300 miles on 3/19/2021! This was our first time participating in any kind of walk/run. We could not have ever imagined walking 100 miles, much less Braylon's updated goal of 300 miles. Thanks for helping us realize that anything is possible if you just try and never give up!**

**Cindy - I had 103.5 total miles, I know that I didn't get them all as a "run" on the Strava app. I'm really proud of myself as I had double knee replacement surgery on Nov 9th, 2020 thanks for a great challenge!**

**Tara - Thanks for doing these free 5Ks!**

**Linda - Yes, thank you! My daughter and I have loved this!**

**Bri - Reece and I went to the Mother-Son Superhero Training Camp put on by our amazing parks department Saturday. Reece had an amazing time!! It was even sweeter because he had a couple of friends to play with too! Mama enjoyed the mom time while the kids played after the event was over!**

**It was so much fun! I love going to Bluffton to watch the concerts I wish Portland did things like this Bluffton is awesome so much stuff for families and kids to do!**

**Just wanted to tell you that those mandalas along the River Greenway look awesome!!**

**National Park & Recreation Conference -**

**I loved the speaker's creativity with a low budget. Several of the ideas she presented I plan to utilize in our department programming.**

**Awesome job on delivering clever ideas for events.**

**Brandy had one of my favorite sessions of the conference and can show those of us in large departments a thing or two about online social media engagement. Great job!**

**This speed session was fabulous. So many amazing ideas, so well prepared, and so creative. Would love a longer session on this at the conference next year! Maybe more info on the planning and review process.**

**Took away so much great information and tips. Can't wait to try these out. this was so much fun to watch all of the wonderful and successful programs your department did. I remember seeing you on WIPAR with the clue program and when i saw this speed session, I had to see what else you all had done. Great job to you and your tiny team, these ideas were very fun and creative!**