

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resource Advisory Committee

Department Division Updates: FEBRUARY 2018

CULTURAL RECREATION UPDATE

Programs/Activities

- February gallery display: Cynthia Howard's Oil Painting students will display their work for the month of February. Gallery reception is Sunday, February 10, 3:30pm-5:30pm.
- Art display at Town Hall; these installments will rotate every 60-90 days.
 - Current show: Dave Baysden art work (variety of paintings and drawings). Dave is one of the owners of Brakeman's Coffee Shop in Matthews.
 - The next installment will go in on Friday, March 1 and will be a display of artist from Raleigh named Subha Raghu.
- Public art update:
 - Ballroom building mural: Waiting on a design from the artist; will submit for approval when she has this finished.
 - Wall Poems: Sent a copy of the poem and the mural permit to Mr. Malone; waiting on a design concept from Amy Bagwell. Will submit for approval as soon as we have that.
 - Veteran sculpture is set to be installed by May. Currently researching a company to create the steel base.
- Put out a Call to Artists to recruit artists interested in displaying tactile art for a multi-sensory gallery show. Art work will be displayed for the month of June in the McDowell Arts Center gallery.
- Summer camp registration is open and going well.
- Tickets for Lunch with the Easter Bunny will open on Friday, March 1.
- Matthews Playhouse:
 - *Sweet Jenn* is a one-night production by Lakeetha Blakeney, a teacher with Matthews Playhouse, who takes us back in time to the antebellum south just after Emancipation. This show was awarded Festival Favorite at the Atlanta Black Theatre Festival. Our Department is sponsoring this performance and excited for this show to take place in the Fullwood Theater on Saturday, February 23 at 7:30pm.
 - Upcoming Mainstage Production: *The Jungle Book*

SPECIAL EVENTS

- The Valentine Dance (name change) was its usual success. ALL COMBINATIONS of significant adult/child pairs were welcome this year. Novant branding was present (since their sponsored tree lighting was cancelled). There were more diverse combinations of kids and adults, goal for this event going forward. Tickets sold out in less than 12 hours so continued to discussion about using a larger venue, or holding two dances, etc.



- Food Truck lineups have been determined. Advertising pieces are being developed. Kids' inflatables have been ordered (using a new company this year, for new variety). Seaboard will be bringing craft beer and Dover Vineyard will be providing wine. We are ready!

April 12 Catalinas
 April 26 Chicago Rewind (Chicago tribute band)
 May 24 Terrence Young Experience (jazz/r&b)
 June 14 Michael Cosner Band (country)
 June 28 DeCarlo (80s rock)
 July 12 Carolina Soul Band (beach/Motown)

July 26 KRVE (pop/current)
 Aug 9 Party Parrot Band (Jimmy Buffet)
 Aug 23 Gal Friday (country)
 Sept 13 Sonic Rewind (80s-90s rock)
 Sept 27 Band of Oz (beat)



- BeachFest craft vendor apps total approximately 15 (of 25+). Food vendors have been scheduled and are submitting paperwork for the Health Dept. Staff continues to re-sign main sponsors and exhibitors now.

Friday May 10: Hip Pocket, Chairmen of the Board
 Saturday May 11: Randy Clay Band, The Extraordinaires
 The Entertainers, Blackwater Rhythm & Blues



- The Great Easter Expedition: For three weeks in April (5th through 21st), staff will hide 1000s of toy-filled Easter eggs in Stumptown, Squirrel Lake, Windsor, and Sardis parks—as well as along the Trade Street connector of the Greenway. Families will be encouraged to get outside with their families and children, and gather eggs. Twelve GOLDEN EGGS will also be hidden throughout the 3 weeks—participants that find these eggs will bring them to the Community Center for our grand prize--\$50 VISA gift cards (one per family).

Photos with the Easter Bunny will also be offered in the Community Center on April 13th from 10am-1pm. Hopefully these two activities will be a fun, refreshed version of the elements that most attendees of our usual Easter event have enjoyed for years.



- Matthews Alive 2019 exhibitor applications continue to come in. Music is being confirmed for the main stage (Hint! National country artists “Lonestar” will be headlining country day-Sunday!) A Fleetwood Mac tribute band is being considered for Saturday’s headliner.



PARKS/OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Yoga in the Park – Returning March 29 – Stumptown Park
- General Park Improvements
 - New dispensers have been added in the public restrooms at Stumptown Park (toilet paper, seat covers, soap). Dispensers will next be updated at Squirrel Lake Park. These dispensers are from the same company that supplies Crews Recreation Center and the Matthews Community Center.
- Stumptown Park
 - The playground equipment has been repaired.
- Squirrel Lake Park
 - The pond fountain has been repaired and is in working condition. A new power cable was installed.
- Purser-Hulsey Park
 - Supplies will be purchased to construct a “boardwalk” to traverse a water-logged section of trail.
- Outen Pottery
 - All chimneys have been repaired on the kiln.
- Eagle Scout Projects
 - Country Place Park
 - Approved project: add area to the pollinator garden – to be maintained by Bee City. Work has been delayed by rain, and will be completed when there is a dry weekend.
 - Community Gardens
 - Proposed project: build corrals/receptacles to contain garden waste in a designated location while it awaits removal.