Christmas Festival of Lights Fund Drive

Our Christmas Festival of Lights Fund Drive concludes on February 29. To date, twenty-five different businesses, organizations, and individuals have contributed to the Fund Drive for a grand total of $14,375.

Leading the way in contributions is the Hampshire County Parks and Recreation Board, which appropriated $7,000 toward new displays for next year.

FNB Bank and the Bank of Romney became charter members in our newest donor category, Corporate Sponsors. Both institutions contributed $2,000 to help offset the cost of our new musical display, which will be up and ready for the 2016 Festival. Our other top contributor is the Koolwink Motel, which gave $1,000 to become the newest member of the Santa Club.

Donations to the Drive are still being accepted. If you just want to send in $5 or $10, every contribution helps make the Festival that much better in 2016. And we'll list every contributor, no matter how big or how small the contribution, on our website, hampshirecountyparks.com.

Contributions may be mailed to HCP&R, P.O. Box 213, Romney, WV 26757, or delivered to the HCP&R Office at 90 North High Street in Romney any weekday between 9:00 and 1:00. If you'd like us to pick up your contribution, give us a call at (304) 822-7300, or email us at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com, and we'll make the necessary arrangements to come and get your donation at your home or place of business. Thank you for your support of this project!

Contributors to the 2016 Fund Drive

Special Corporate Sponsors ($2,000 Contribution for the Musical Display)

The Bank of Romney
FNB Bank
Santa Club ($1,000)
The Koolwink Motel
Elves Club ($250)
Omps Grocery
Giffin Funeral Home
Reindeer Club (UP TO $200)
Travis, Amy, and Deacon Delaplain
Dave Willis
Lambert’s Pharmacy
Lord of the Rings Wrestling Tournament

The Hampshire Mat Club’s Lord of the Rings Open Tournament, which was held on Saturday, February 13, at Hampshire High School, was a rousing success. Nearly three hundred wrestlers, ages four-through-fifteen, competed in a variety of weight and age categories.

Thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped with the tourney, especially HMC Head Coach John Lambert. It really does take an army of volunteers to make the event a success. And thanks go out to all the wrestlers who competed so hard and yet showed such great sportsmanship. They were the stars of the show, and that’s the way it should be.

The money raised from the tourney goes a long way toward funding many of the activities that HCP&R sponsors during the year, and we are grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make it successful.

Youth Basketball Leagues

Biddy Buddy and the Intermediate Basketball League concluded their seasons on Sunday, February 14, when they played their championship games at Hampshire High School and Romney Middle School.

Winning teams for the 2015-16 season were:
Biddy Buddy Girls- WVSD Lions
Biddy Buddy Boys- Rockets
IBL Girls- Mystics
IBL Boys- Timberwolves

Special thanks go out to league coordinator David Richardson and his army of volunteers who organized, coached, officiated, and kept score for the games. With over 140 kids participating in four separate leagues, play would have been impossible without their help.

But the real stars of the leagues were the players. They played with great emotion and passion, yet they exhibited tremendous sportsmanship in every way.
Zumba and Kettlebell Classes

HCP&R is now offering Kettlebell and Zumba classes five nights per week. The classes are held at the Glo Tanning Salon, which is located directly across Route 50 from the Century 21 office. All classes will run from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Kettlebells are cast iron weights shaped like a ball with a handle for easy gripping. Kettlebells offer a different kind of training using dynamic moves targeting almost every aspect of fitness – endurance, strength, balance, agility and cardio endurance. People love it because it's challenging, efficient, and you only need one piece of equipment. Kettlebell classes will be taught by certified instructor Kaleena Wilfong.

Zumba is a great way to have fun while dancing your way to a healthier lifestyle. Certified instructors Amy Delaplain and Kristen Whetzel will once more serve as our Zumba instructors.

The cost for both classes is $5 per session, or for $20 you may purchase a punch card that is good for five sessions of Kettlebell and/or Zumba. Also, we are now selling a monthly card for $50. The schedule for classes is as follows: Kettlebell- Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday; Zumba- Monday and Wednesday.

Even if you’ve never tried either Kettlebell or Zumba before, come on out and see what they’re all about. Mark your calendars today so you don’t miss a chance to beat the winter blues and get some exercise while having a great time with your friends.

The Gary Crane Cup Golf Competition

Competition for the third annual Gary Crane Cup will kick off on Monday, April 11, when we travel to Cacapon State Park in Berkeley Springs for the first of our six qualifiers. The cost for 18 holes of golf with a cart will be just $25, and the first tee times begin at 1:00 p.m.

The rules for the Crane Cup will be the same as last year. Those wanting to be part of the competition must play in at least three of the six qualifiers and turn in their score cards to the pro shop after the rounds so a handicap can be tabulated.

We will use that handicap to crown both a gross and a net champion at the Final Round, which will be held in October at Capon Springs Resort. Carroll Link (gross) and Roger Locke (net) are the defending champions.

Cacapon is one of the premiere resort clubs in our area, so don’t miss this opportunity to get out and play a relaxing round of golf at a great price with some of your friends. I know you’ll be glad that you did!

Walk To Be Fit Program

It’s never too early to start thinking about spring and taking a leisurely walk in the warm sunshine. And wouldn’t it be great if you got prizes for doing that? Well, that’s what our Walk To Be Fit Program is all about.

The program runs from April 1 through October 31, and the format will be basically the same as last year. Our two corporate sponsors, FNB Bank and the Hampshire Wellness and Fitness Center, have agreed to join us again this year, so starting on April 1, just go to any FNB location (Ft. Ashby, Romney, Hampshire Square, or Capon Bridge), to the Wellness Center at Hampshire Square, or to the HCP&R Office at 90 North High Street in Romney to register for the program.

When you sign up, be sure to pick up your free pedometer and a tally sheet to record the miles that you walk. Prizes will be awarded for five milestones (100, 250, 500, 1,000, and 1,500 miles). When you have reached one of our milestones, or when your tally sheet is filled up, just return it to the location.
where you picked it up, and we will contact you when you are eligible for a prize.

Walk To Be Fit is a great way to get healthier while spending time outdoors, and you just might win some wonderful prizes as well.

**South Branch Valley Bluegrass Festival**

All you Bluegrass fans need to mark your calendars for Saturday, June 25, so you don’t miss the eighth annual South Branch Valley Bluegrass Festival and Fireworks at Wapocoma Campground.

Headlining the entertainment will be 2015 and eight-time IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year Rhonda Vincent and the Rage. Joining Rhonda on the Wapocoma stage will be the duo Adkins and Loudermilk and the group Wildfire. There will also be a special performance by the host band, Lonesome Highway. Plus, you’ll see one of the greatest fireworks displays in the area at the conclusion of the Festival.

Admission to the Festival is free, but there is an $8 parking fee. I know it’s a little hard to imagine with the cold winter winds still blowing, but you’ll need to grab your sunscreen and your bag chair or blanket and join us for one of the premiere Bluegrass festivals in the country. Now that’s a show I know you don’t want to miss!

**Adult Open Gym Basketball**

For those of you who want to show off your basketball skills, check out our Sunday night Open Gym Basketball on both ends of the county.

Shane Hawkins is in charge of the program at the old Capon Bridge Middle School gym, and they play there from 5:00 until 8:00 every Sunday evening.

Travis Delaplain, Todd Delaplain, and Roger Eversole run the program at Romney Middle School, and they go from 6:00 until 8:00 each Sunday night.

If you’re eighteen and over and out of school, drop by one of those locations this Sunday night and run with the big dogs!

**Pavilion and Park Reservations**

On Monday, January 4, HCP&R began taking pavilion and park reservations for the 2016 season. The rental season extends from April 11 through October 15, 2016. Before and after those dates, running water will not be available in any of our parks.

Pavilions for picnics, family reunions, or any other outdoor gathering may be rented at either Hampshire Park or Central Hampshire Park. Prices for the entire day run from $35 to $45, depending on the size of the pavilion rented. You may also rent the amphitheater at Central Hampshire for only $55 per day.

If you have a larger gathering, you may want to rent an entire park, either at Green Spring Park ($40 to $95, depending on facilities desired) or Camp Walker ($65 for the whole park the entire day). All our parks now have electric outlets, running water, and restroom facilities.

To rent a pavilion or park, or just to get more information, call the HCP&R office any weekday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at (304) 822-7300, or you may stop by the office at 90 North High Street in Romney during those hours. We will also accept reservations via our email address at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com. Get your reservations in early so you don’t miss out on that special place for your picnic or outing.
“Recreation brings quality to life.”
WALK-TO-BE-FIT WINNERS

Hampshire County Parks and Recreation
90 North High Street
Old Jailhouse Building
Romney, WV 26757
PHONE: (304) 822-7300 FAX: (304) 822-4460
EMAIL: hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com
WEBSITE: hampshirecountyparks.com
OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday--9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.