



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY *Parks & Recreation*



December 2017 Newsletter

Christmas Festival of Lights



We've had several questions concerning the Christmas Festival of Lights, so I thought this would be a good time to try to provide some answers.

Why does Central Hampshire Park have to be closed so long for the Festival? If you've been to the Festival this year, you are aware that there are a lot of Christmas lights at the park. We

contacted Santa and his elves about helping with the installation, but they seem to be quite busy this time of year. Kenny McBride and his creative maintenance crew (Kevin Combs, Charlie Corbin, Jack Flynn, and Eric Sions) do a fantastic job of putting up all the displays and running electricity to each one, but they are not miracle workers. In fact, Kenny was out at the park the afternoon before the Festival opened, just checking to make sure that everything was ready to go. We are sorry for any inconvenience the closing may cause, but we feel that the results are worth the inconvenience.



Why are some lights not on when I drive through? The displays are set on timers so somebody doesn't have to go out there and turn each

display on every night. The Festival runs from 5:30 until 10:00 each night through New Year's Day, but we often go out early and open the gate. So, if you happen to drive through at 5:00, even though the gate is open, some of the displays may not have turned on yet. All are on by 5:30 and most turn off promptly at 10:00.



If you have any other questions regarding the Festival, please call us at (304) 822-7300 any weekday between 9:00 and 1:00, or you can email us at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com anytime.



Why isn't Santa there more than once? As I said before, Santa is very busy this time of year, so we could only book him for one night.



Hampshire Mat Club



Why don't you have a donation box at the Festival? We are pleased to offer this service to our community free of charge. We don't want anyone to feel obligated in any way to give a donation in order to see the lights. If you want to contribute, the Christmas Festival of Lights Fund Drive runs the entire month of January, and we will be happy to accept any donations you feel moved to contribute at that time.

Even though practice has officially begun, we are still accepting registrations for the Hampshire Mat Club, a youth wrestling organization supported by Hampshire County Parks and Recreation for boys and girls ages four-through-fifteen. The HMC teaches folkstyle wrestling, which is the same

format used in high school and college competition. Wrestlers will be classified by both age and weight for competition. The Mat Club practices on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

nights from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the old Romney Middle School gym on School Street.

The Mat Club will once again compete in the Mason Dixon League, which features teams from the surrounding West Virginia and Virginia area, and tournaments in that league will be held on weekends during December, January, and February. The Club will also attend other tourneys around the area, including state competitions.

The registration fee for the Hampshire Mat Club is \$25. To register, log onto our website, hampshirecountyparks.com, and fill out the Program Registration Form, which is located at the bottom of the home page. The registration fee may then be mailed to HCP&R at P.O. Box 213, Romney, WV 26757. You may also register in person at the HCP&R Office at 90 North High Street in Romney any weekday between 9:00 and 1:00. **Registrations will also be accepted at any of the practices.**

Walk To Be Fit



Our Walk To Be Fit Program is over for 2017. In all, we had over 100 walkers participate in the program, and 60 of them earned at least one prize for reaching one of our milestones. We wish to thank our corporate sponsors, FNB Bank and the Hampshire Wellness and Fitness Center. Without their help, Walk

To Be Fit wouldn't be possible.

Congratulations go out to our four Grand Prize winners. Jean Genua, a participant every year since the program started, won the biggest prize, a one-night stay for two at beautiful Capon Springs Resort. Karina Gray walked off with the

handcrafted wood chest that was donated by B&B Woodcraft Designs. Ann White captured the \$50 gift certificate from Main Street Grill, and Donna Brown won the \$25 gift certificate from Dairy Queen.

If you earned a prize in the program, we should have contacted you by now to find out where and when you can receive your reward. If you think you earned a prize and you haven't heard from us yet, just give us a call at (304) 822-7300 any weekday between 9:00 and 1:00 or email us at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com and let us know. It is not our intention that anyone who has earned a prize be overlooked.

Just because Walk To Be Fit is over for another year, that doesn't mean that your exercise ends with the program. There will still be many more afternoons when you can get out and take a relaxing walk in the fresh air.

Chuck Parsons Memorial Bowling Tournament



The Chuck Parsons Memorial Bowling Tournament, which was held on November 11 at Wilson Lanes, was a huge success. In all, over 100 bowlers participated, and we cleared \$3,000 for deposit in the HCP&R account to help offset the cost of our youth bowling league and many other youth sports throughout the year.

As is the case with all events and programs that HCP&R sponsors, it's the volunteers who made it possible. Special thanks go out to Bobby, Julie, and Amanda Green; Wilson Lanes; HCP&R President Greg Rinker; all those who bowled; and the army of volunteers and sponsors who worked so hard to make the tournament

successful. It was a fitting tribute to Chuck, an avid bowlers and supporter of youth sports who left us too soon.



Skiing/Tubing Trip to Canaan Valley Resort



Hampshire County Parks and Recreation will sponsor a skiing/tubing trip to Canaan Valley Resort in Davis, WV, on Monday, January 15, which

is Martin Luther King Day.

The slopes are open for skiing from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and tubing times are as follows: Session A is 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.; Session B is from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.; Session C is from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

The special group rate for the day is as follows: Lift Ticket Only- \$25; Lift Ticket Plus Ski Rental- \$35; Lift Ticket Plus Snowboard Rental- \$45; Tubing (All Sessions)- \$15.

In order to get the group rate, just tell the clerk at the ticket window that you are with the Hampshire County Parks and Recreation group.

Don't miss this opportunity to hit the slopes with your friends while enjoying a great rate.

Kettlebell Classes



HCP&R is offering Kettlebell classes four days a week, on Sunday afternoon from 3:00 until 4:00, and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from 6:00 until 7:00. All classes are now being held in the cafeteria at the Hampshire County Special Services Center, which is located in the Industrial Park north of Romney on Route 28. To find the Special Services Center, turn onto Industrial Park Road and after driving approximately 100 yards, take the first left. The Special Services Center is the first building on the right. Access to the cafeteria and parking are in the back of the building.

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 are taught by certified instructors Kaleena Wilfong and Camilla Fout.

The cost for Kettlebell classes is \$5 per session, or for \$20 you may purchase a punch card that is good for five sessions. Also, we are now selling a monthly card for \$50.

Even if you've never tried Kettlebell before, come on out and see what it's all about. Mark your calendars today so you don't miss a chance to get some exercise while having a great time with your friends.



Disc Golf Course at Camp Walker



When planning outdoor activities, don't forget about the Camp Walker Disc Golf Course. We have made several improvements to the course over the past year. We installed tee-marker posts for all the

holes to make each teeing area more visible. We are also providing scorecards and course maps, both of which can be found in the mailbox beside the first tee.

The first tee is located on the flat ground out past the pavilion, where the road turns to the left and starts down over the hill toward the exit to the park. We have also installed new tee markers with the Camp Walker logo on them for each hole.

If you're looking for a disc to play at Camp Walker, then we have several options for you. We have Skeeters, which are all-purpose discs that are suitable for every shot, for sale in the HCP&R office for just \$7.00 each. We also have commemorative glow-in-the-dark drivers and putters that have the official Camp Walker logo on them for \$15.00 each. All proceeds from the sale of these discs go for improvements to the course.

If you haven't been out to Camp Walker to play the course, you really need to take an hour or so and try it. I feel certain that you will find disc golf both physically and mentally challenging. Plus, it's a great opportunity to spend some time in one of the prettiest spots in Hampshire County. **And it's free to play.** Now that's a deal 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.

Logan Hill and Joe Clower 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 Tuesday, January 2, HCP&R will begin taking pavilion and park reservations for the 2018 season. The rental season extends from April 15 through October 15, 2018. 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.

WEBSITE: hampshirecountyparks.com
OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday--9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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. Don't forget to 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.”



**Merry
Christmas**

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