



February 2018 Newsletter

Lord of the Rings Wrestling Tournament



Hampshire County Parks and Recreation and the Hampshire Mat Club will hold the seventh annual Lord of the Rings Open Tournament on Saturday,

February 17, at Hampshire High School. The wrestling action starts at 8:00 a.m. and continues all day, with competition on four mats simultaneously.

Teams of boys and girls ages five to fifteen from all over West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia will be featured in the tournament, with wrestlers competing in over 50 weight and age classifications. If you've never attended a youth wrestling tourney, you really should take an hour or two to check it out. I promise you'll be entertained.



Christmas Festival of Lights Fund Drive



Hampshire County Parks and Recreation concluded its fifth annual Christmas Festival of Lights at Central Hampshire Park on Monday, January 1, and response to the Festival was tremendous. A total of 4,638 vehicles toured the lights, and estimating modestly that each vehicle contained three passengers, that is tremendous. A total of 4,638 vehicles toured the lights, and estimating modestly that each vehicle contained three passengers, that means over 13,000 people attended the Festival.



The Hampshire County Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board have made both monetary contributions and both are committed to supporting it in the future. But we also want to give the individual citizens and the business community of Hampshire County the opportunity to show their support for the project so we can truly make the Festival something that we can all be proud of.

In that vein, we are kicking off our fifth annual Christmas Festival of Lights Fund Drive. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to purchase additional displays so we can light up the area above the amphitheater, buy more rope lights to decorate all the trees, and make necessary repairs to our existing displays. Contributors will be listed in the following categories:

Santa Club- This category will include all individuals and businesses that contribute \$1,000 or more. Their names will be listed on professionally prepared placards on a lighted board that will be displayed on the back of the amphitheater where everyone visiting the Festival will see it. We will also put an individual picture of each Santa Club member in the Hampshire Review.

Santa's Helpers- This category will include those who contribute \$500. Their names will be

listed on professionally prepared placards on another lighted board on the back of the amphitheater.

Elves- These will include those who contribute \$250. They will be listed on smaller placards farther down the second lighted board.

Reindeer- This category will include all those who contribute up to \$200. They will be listed on smaller placards farther down the second lighted board.

Donations of any size are appreciated. If you just want to send in \$5 or \$10, every contribution helps make the Festival that much better in 2017. And we'll list every contributor, no matter how big or how small the contribution, on our website, hampshirecountyparks.com.

We are conducting our Fund Drive during January and February so we can take advantage of the after-Christmas sales that most dealers offer. Don't miss out on your chance to help make the Christmas Festival of Lights an event that our entire county can cherish for years to come.

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 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!



Pavilion and Park Reservations



On Tuesday, January 2, HCP&R began 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 the facilities desired) or Camp Walker (\$75 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 at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com.

Get your reservations in early so you don't miss out on that special place for your picnic or outing.

Parks and Recreation



Bluegrass Festival

The tenth annual South Branch Valley Bluegrass Festival and Fireworks will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2018, at the Wapocoma Campground on South Branch River Road, south of Romney, with the first acts set to appear at 11:00 a.m.

Headlining this year's Festival will be Larry Cordle and his band Lonesome Standard Time. Joining Larry on the stage will be Lonesome River Band, Bud's Collective, Sideline, and two more local bands.

There will also be great food and crafts, a Kids' Corner for the youngsters, and one of the finest fireworks shows in the area at the conclusion of the Festival.

Admission to the Festival is free, but there is a \$10 parking fee. No pets, ATV's, golf carts, or alcohol allowed in the concert area. Also, tents and high-backed chairs are prohibited in the concert area.

Mark your calendars right now so you don't miss this great event. I know you'll be glad that you did!

Walk To Be Fit Program



With all the cold, snowy weather it's hard to think about it now, but Our Walk To Be Fit Program is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2018. Just stop by any FNB Bank Branch (Fort Ashby, Romney, Hampshire Square, or Capon Bridge) or the Hampshire Wellness and Fitness Center at

Hampshire Square to register for the program. When you register, don't forget to pick up your free pedometer and your tally sheet to log the miles that you walk.

We will recognize four milestones this year: 100, 250, 500, and 1,000 miles. When you reach one of those milestones, or when your tally sheet is filled, just return it to the location where you picked it up, and we will contact you when you are eligible for a prize. Prizes for 2018 will include cups with lids and straws, tee shirts, hot/cold mugs, and bag chairs.

Walking is great exercise on the path to a healthier lifestyle, and what could be better than

receiving some nice prizes for your efforts? That's what Walk To Be Fit is all about.

Youth Basketball Leagues



Our two youth basketball leagues (Biddy Buddy- grades 3 and 4 and the IBL- grades 5 through 8) are nearing the conclusion of their regular-season schedule, and

excitement is building toward the playoffs.

The games are played on Sunday afternoon beginning at 1:00 p.m. and alternate between Romney Middle School and Capon Bridge Middle School.

The two leagues are a real tribute to the hard work of Coordinator David Richardson and the fine staff of volunteers and coaches that he has assembled. The players compete hard and show outstanding sportsmanship in everything they do, while the fans are supportive and courteous.

If you've never attended a youth league game, or if you haven't had time to see one this year, take an hour or two out of your busy schedule and drop in one Sunday before the season ends. I know you'll be glad that you did!!

Kettlebell Fitness



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!



“Recreation brings quality to life.”

Hampshire County Parks and Recreation

P. O. Box 213

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.**

