WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING (VIRTUAL – ZOOM)
TUESDAY, JUNE 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

The Parks and Recreation Board will meet Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be conducted on Zoom.

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting URL: https://zoom.us/j/97573211340?pwd=eFNPK04zZkM1K1d2Vhd1ZVhpN3puQT09

Meeting via Zoom App: if you have the Zoom App on your smartphone, tablet, or computer, open the program, click join a meeting, and enter the Meeting ID: 975 7321 1340

Meeting dial in number (no video): +1 (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID number (to be entered when prompted): 975 7321 1340

Meeting Password: 622020

Public comment will be accepted via the Zoom chat button during the meeting. You will need to provide your name and address for the record.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

   _____CONVEY _____CRAWFORD _____FERRIS
   _____KISSSLING _____MANLEY _____O’ROURKE
   _____EPSTEIN (CSD) _____BOS LIAISON: BOYLE NESTER
   _____FOX (WAC) _____TOWNSHIP STAFF: BLOMSTROM
   _____TOWNSHIP STAFF (MEETING MINUTES): LANNUTTI

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2020 MEETING MINUTES (APRIL MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19)

4. PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD LIAISON - COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. WHITEMARSH ART CENTER REPORT

6. DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT
a. NEW BUSINESS

b. OLD BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 4th, 2020 at 7pm at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building at Koontz Park

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

1. Public meetings of the Board shall follow a prescribed agenda, which will be available to the general the Friday preceding the meeting.

2. If members of the public wish the Board to address a specific item at a public meeting, a written request to the Township Manager shall be submitted by noon on Friday of the week before the meeting. The written request shall specify the item or items the individual desires to be addressed.

3. The Board may consider other matters for the agenda as they see fit.

4. The Board will entertain Public Comment at the conclusion of the discussion of the item and prior to specific action on the item during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals must advise the Chair of their desire to offer such comment.

5. A Public Comment period will be provided at the conclusion of a meeting for input on any new subject.

6. The Board Chair shall preside over Public Comments and may within their discretion:
   a. Recognize individuals wishing to offer comment.
   b. Require identification of such persons.
   c. Allocate total available Public Comment time among all individuals wishing to comment.
   d. Allocate up to a five (5) minute maximum for each individual to offer Public Comment at a meeting. Township Staff shall time comments and shall announce, “one minute remaining” and “time expired” to the Chair.
   e. Rule out of order scandalous, impertinent and redundant comment or any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting including the questioning of, or polling of, or debating with, individual members of the Board.
Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from February 4, 2020

In attendance: James Convey, Joanne Crawford, Terry Ferris, Tom Manley, Megan O’Rourke, Chris Epstein (CSD), Laura Boyle Nester (BOS), Dan Zuena (WAC), Tom Blomstrom (P&R), Jackie Beebe (P&R – Minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building at Koontz Park.

Joanne Crawford led the pledge of allegiance.

Reorganization

- Terry Ferris made a motion to nominate Joanne Crawford as Chair, Jim Convey seconded the motion. Joanne was elected unanimously.
- Terry Ferris made a motion to nominate Tom Manley as Vice-Chair, Jim Convey seconded the motion. Tom Manley was elected unanimously.
- A member list for 2020 was passed around; Tom Blomstrom stated that he would send out an updated member list to the board.
- The 2020 meeting dates and locations were given to the board.

Approval of the December 3rd, 2019 Meeting Minutes

- Tom Manley made a motion to approve the minutes, Terry Ferris seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Liaison Committee Reports

- Whitemarsh Athletic Association
  - Tom Blomstrom announced the upcoming meeting is set for Monday, March 23rd at the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School.
  - Tom Manley will continue as the liaison and he stated anyone who is involved with youth sports leadership should attend.
- 4th of July Parade
  - Terry Ferris, Joanne Crawford, and Megan O’Rourke will be coordinating who will attend the 3 planning meetings (April, May, June). They will determine when the schedule is presented to the board in April.

Whitemarsh Art Center

- Dan Zuena read the report as submitted. He highlighted that Hadley Yates, Interim Director, has been great so far with a seamless transition. She is currently working on an
arts program for those with Special Needs and Abilities. They are hoping to have a panel discussion in the spring.

Directors Report

- Tom Blomstrom gave an overview of the report as submitted.
- Chris Epstein stated that the holiday decorations at Miles Park are a nice display in Whitemarsh. A discussion ensued about where the decorations could move for next year after the Veteran’s Monument is put in. It is yet to be determined.
- Tom Blomstrom asked the board if they knew anyone looking for a part-time or summer job to apply for the summer camp staff or park attendant positions.
- Tom Manley asked about the pathways being created at Miles Park. A discussion ensued about the locations and timeline. The Township is planning on completion in 2020.
- Jim Convoy inquired about the Veteran’s Monument and Laura Boyle Nester updated the Board saying that there would be a presentation at the upcoming BOS meeting on Feb. 6th from the committee that was working on that project.
- Tom Blomstrom gave an update regarding WGSL requests for some improvements they would implement and cover the cost at Cedar Grove park ballfields. They included a temporary and portable outfield fence on the large field, improving the home plate area with turf at Little Field, overseeing Little Field, and looking into power by the large field backstop.
- A discussion about painting the Concession Stand at Miles Park red as planned and in budget occurred. Terry Ferris made a motion to support the painting plan, Tom Manley seconded the motion, the painting was plan was supported unanimously.
- A discussion ensued about the Miles Park sign and Tom Blomstrom stated that right now there is no firm plan of where the sign will be relocated but they will be looking into options in the future.
- Terry Ferris recommended having food trucks at movies and any events with alcohol.
- Terry Ferris made a motion to accept the Director’s Report; Megan O’Rourke seconded; the report was accepted unanimously.

Public Comment Period

- There were no members of the public in attendance.

Board Member Comment Period

- Joanne Crawford passed around a thank you card for local residents who pick up trash through the park area at Cedar Grove.

Adjournment

- Terry Ferris made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Megan O’Rourke seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:01PM.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, Feb. 10, 2020

Class Program Oversight

Outline
I believe there is more regional demand to use our studio and services than we are currently
addressing. The issue will be getting the word out and creating additional classes students want
to take.

Classes People Want
Many people reach out about classes we hold for teens/tweens. Unfortunately we don’t offer any.
I’d like to look into adding an evening Thursday or 1 pm Saturday class for this age group. Please
advise about our past history of trying to reach teens/tweens. I am also looking into having a
Thursday morning ceramics or painting course for adults. Three members approached me saying
they’d love to take textile arts courses, as well.

Open Studios
At least twice a month I’d like to have a paid set open-studio time that we can advertise online to
people who take our classes and members. The current open studio system is not consistent.
People email frequently about our open studios. We could make more money by having regular
open studios.

Email Push for More Students
Good news: advertising the prorated rate to start late has added at least 6 students to our
classes.

Teachers, Students, Parents
From my perspective, the teachers and I continue to have a solid working relationship. I’m
designing a draft of a survey I’d like them to fill out so we have a metric to periodically measure
WAC’s performance and how we’re addressing the teachers’/classes’ needs. I have yet to design
the student/parent surveys but it’s on my to-do list.

Admin Work

Future Admin Assistant
I’m meeting with our finance committee this Wednesday and will get an idea of whether it’s
feasible to hire a part-time admin assistant for a few hours each week so I may have more time to
write grant applications and set up the satellite program, “Accessible Arts.”

Calendar
We need to finalize our calendar through at least June in the next two weeks. I’m working with
teachers, event committee, and township to plan art center details further in advance.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, Feb. 10, 2020

Development & Partnering Organization Correspondence

Introductions

- I have a brief meeting with Rotary on Mon., Feb 10th after my ED summary to the BOD. They graciously cleaned our space on MLK Jr. day and we gave them a class-made thank you card.

- I have a brief meeting with Mayor Yaniv on Monday, Feb 10th related to the car show, where we will have a table.

- There are banks and partnering organizations I still need to meet. I’m starting to have availability to do this.

Accessible Arts partnerships
I’ve corresponded via email with different disability organizations and I have multiple in-person meetings scheduled the next two weeks (see below). Joslyn and I outlined our “Accessible Arts” forum advertisement and will revise it as we invite artists to speak and meet people in the field:

- **Parzival:** “empowers people with disabilities to pursue meaningful, fulfilling lives of their own choosing and realize their unique gifts.” In-person meeting scheduled with CEO on Feb. 12th.

- **Inglis:** “enables people with disabilities — and those who care for them — to achieve their goals and live life to the fullest.” I am meeting on-site with staff and artist who might talk at forum, Feb. 11th.

- **Community Integrated Services:** “Empowering people with disabilities through individualized employment opportunities that foster self-sustainability, equality, and community.” Meeting with their coordinator who matches artists who are disabled to different studios, Feb. 25th

Grants, Fundraising, Donations

Fundraising
Now, after my first month, I am able to start working on fundraising. I have a tentative meeting scheduled with Dan and Dena Sher related to a scholarship fund.

Grant writing
Kate Richmond, a parent with a thorough background in academic grant writing, has offered to join our grant-writing team as a volunteer.

Our donations to 501c3s
WAC donated two gift certificates to classes to the Cooperative Nursery School fundraising gala/auction. They’re supposed to advertise our organization to people at the event.
Facility Operations, Maintenance, Aesthetics

Cleaning
Teachers seem to be pleased with bi-monthly cleanings. I hope we can continue to afford these cleanings.

Accountant Organization
The accountant and I are looking for 2 volunteers to meet with us for 2-3 hours on a Saturday afternoon to organize our files. Payment in cookies is available. Also, if anyone has an unused short filing cabinet, we are trying to acquire one to fit under our right-side office window. At this time, we will thoroughly straighten up the office as well.

Supply Organization
I've met with Kathy and Charlotte related to supply organization. We’re reorganizing the clay shelves. Kids’ teachers are going to help me organize the front room. We’re looking to purchase or acquire a donated shed for supplies to keep outside.

Gallery Room Construction
We hope to hang a curtain rod in the gallery room to hide supplies so it's more easily transformed into a gallery.

Painting
The temperature has been warmer than usual this winter. I’m buying paint materials in advance in case there is a warm Saturday and experienced volunteers want to help paint the porch. A professional painter attends our events and might be able to assist. Tom, please let me know what info the township needs in advance related to our painting the porch.

Events

Art Expo
I believe this event went well. Nonetheless, I wish we had more people from outside of WAC attend as well as more board members.

Art Around the World: Legacy of Rome
This was a very successful event. Next time, I’d like to have a more thorough set-up to solicit and receive donations. I overhead Harrison do a great job “working the crowd” to get donations.

May Gala at Hope Lodge
President Kevin Horan says that the lodge space is available both on Sat. May 16th and 30th. On May 17th, there is a tour in the morning that we’d have to clean up before. We need to get back to Kevin by Thursday to select a date. I have an on-site meeting with him tentatively set for February 22nd.
Thank you for taking the time to read my February Interim Executive Director Report! We’re headed in the right direction.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, March 9, 2020

Class Enrollment

Overview
Registration started a week ago on Monday, March 2nd

Full Classes

- Tuesday AM Adult Ceramics — Kathy
- Tuesday PM Adult Ceramics — Charlotte

Partial Enrollment

- Tuesday PM Lil’ Bit of Everything, II — Christine
- Wednesday AM Ceramics — Kathy
- Wednesday PM Lil’ Bit of Everything, I — Christine
- Thursday PM Drawing, Painting, Sculpture — Matt
- Saturday AM Children’s Art, I — Nova
- Saturday AM Children’s Art, II — Nova

No Enrollment

- Thursday PM Teen Sculpture — Matt (new class)
- Saturday PM Teen Textiles — Nova (new class)

Marketing
This week I’m visiting multiple high schools to introduce myself to art teachers and hang flyers advertising our new teen classes. I’m publicizing to parents of children who were students at WAC a few years ago; many of those kids are now teens.

Summer Session
Parents are contacting me about our summer session. We need to finalize dates and class details right away.
**Interim Executive Director Report to Board**

**Monday, March 9, 2020**

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**First Friday Senior Event**

**Overview**
Kathy taught it for 2 hours on Friday the 6th. 12 enrolled, others couldn’t get in because we closed it, but only 10 showed up. I hear it went well.

**Sponsor**
I will advertise with flyers, to members, and to previous participants that I’m looking for a sponsor to make April and May First Fridays happen. We need to raise the minimum of $100 - $150 for each First Friday.

**Admin Work**

**Future Admin Assistant**
This month I’m hiring a part-time admin assistant to work $10-14 hours a week.

**Partnering Organization Correspondence**

**Month full of meetings/introductions**
In the past month, I met with Mayor Yaniv twice, briefly with the President of the Conshohocken Art League, with Lisa Clancy from the William Jeanes Library, with Inglis House, Parzival/Soltane, had phone meetings with Community Integrated Services, and with Kevin the Hope Lodge President.

**Grants, Fundraising, Donations**

**Fundraising**

- Dan and my meeting with Dena Sher was moved to March 18th. She is interested in possibly funding scholarships, and mentioned interest in the art center and the Accessible Arts forum but I am uncertain if she mentioned the last two in a donor capacity.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, March 9, 2020

- WAC painting student Shelly Johns and her husband met with a woman who raised over $100 million for a Penn Medical Center to get her insights to assist our fundraising efforts.

Grant writing
Kate Richmond and I are meeting later this March for a grant writing evening. After I hire a part-time admin assistant this month, I aim to dedicate a day each week to grant writing.

Facility Operations, Maintenance, Aesthetics

Volunteer Day #1
5 volunteers helped me for many hours on Saturday the 29th. We thoroughly cleaned through many supplies, rearranged the office, and reconfigured electronics.

Volunteer Day #2
I’m organizing an additional volunteer day to paint the porch, door, steps, and sign posts the next Saturday with a warm enough temperature. If possible, I’d like to find a volunteer qualified to install a hanging curtain support system in the mini gallery.

Accounting

Finances
The start of March I met with the Finance Committee to learn about our financial system. The accountant was sick for a week but the financial reports are close to current.

Events

Fundraising at Events (!)
We need to take many more measures to effectively fundraise at events. We need BOD reps and vols to work the crowd, set up computers to take donations, and need to widely distribute fundraising info sheets to potential donors. Our events market WAC in a good light and we need to take advantage of this momentum.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, March 9, 2020

Art of Conversation — Feb 29th
Joselyn, Dan, and Harrison did a good job. There was a lot of audience participation but a small audience. Joselyn will most likely give the presentation again at the WJM library.

Spring Art Expo - April 3rd
Preliminary things for this event are already set up because I’m copying the winter forms and format.

Accessible Arts Forum — April 29th
We have multiple interested speakers for this event. Yaniv sent me the names of 3 sites that could accommodate mechanical large wheelchairs. I am meeting with the director of Woodmere Museum next week to see if their curator or such wants to speak about their accessibility measures at the forum.

Art Around the World - March 27th
Harrison is the point person for this event. I’m looking forward to it. Ads should go up in the next week.

May Gala at Hope Lodge — May 30th
Harrison, Dan and I had a meeting with the Hope Lodge President to go through the space. I have started setting up a website specific to the event; our current website hosting program will switch in April and we need something that will consistently be available.

Library Events
We will promote our events at the library while displaying WAC artwork there. See info.

Corona Virus
Hand Washing Notices
I placed 4 flyers around the art center about hand-washing and how to avoid “the flu,” etc.

Soap / Hand Sanitizer
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, March 9, 2020

I hope students are washing hands more frequently so have kept close eye on soap levels. I tried to buy bulk sanitizer to place around center but it was sold out. Will continue to try to find available sanitizer.

Email Notices
I have collected Corona virus notices from similarly sized non-profits to model a statement about WAC’s procedures if we need to delay, reschedule, or cancel any classes.

Rescheduling
Our next term starts March 23rd. If needed, we could delay this by a few weeks if the virus hits the region. I’m most concerned about our elderly students, a group more susceptible to the virus. We also need to determine dates to reschedule our large events (Accessible Arts & Gala), if necessary.

New Building / Building Extension

Contractor
I’m looking for a trusted inexpensive regional contractor to review the current building. Let me know if you have suggestions. I’m scheduling a meeting with Woodcock Designs to see whether they evaluated the current structure’s viability before they designed a separate building.

RACP
I’m setting up a time to talk to our RACP contact to see whether the money could be used for a new building wing, if necessary. We have to break ground fairly soon on construction to use our current RACP funds.

Thank you for taking the time to read my March Interim Executive Director Report!
Financial and Admin Work

Spring 2020 Course Reimbursements
The majority of students decided to use their reimbursements towards class credits. Only 24% of the money was refunded back. I have not been able to get a hold of one student.

- **Original Registration Income:** $9,210
- **Refunded back:** $2,205 (24%)
- **Class Credits:** $5,670 (62%)
- **Donated refund:** $875 (10%)
- **Other Benefactor membership:** $250 (3%)

Other New Donations:

- **$100 from Ronaldo:** Thank you!
- Dan and I need to reschedule a time to talk to Dena Sheer

Paycheck Protection Program
I submitted our application after a complicated process. A TD bank representative emailed me on April 18th to ask a follow up question but otherwise we are not sure of the status. The government put more money into the program today and banks should start reprocessing loans. We applied for 2 months of IED salary.

COVID PHL Art Organization Application
I applied for $1,000 and have yet to hear back. I'm researching additional applications and will continue to apply for applicable grants.

Taxes
- We have compiled all the information for the tax CPA Dan Quinn to do our July 2018 - June 2019 taxes due on May 15th but need verification of the Board List from those dates.
- On 6/11/2019 we paid Dan Quinn $1,200 and should expect to pay a similar amount this year.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, April 27, 2020

Insurance Audits
Michelle and I have compiled all the information for Feb 2019 - Feb 2020’s insurance audit and tried to submit it to the insurance portal. Due to a computer glitch that won’t let us press the “submit” button, we are filling it out again manually. Next we’re completing last years audit and I just found out we’ll probably get the majority of the $800 back.

Payroll Fixes
I have researched most payroll fixes from 2019 but need to get on site to find past contracts I can’t get from the drive. Dan suspects some contracts promised teachers different things.

Accountant
The accountant Michelle Price gets paid $200 each month and has greatly surpassed her usual number of hours due to the series of complicated applications/forms we’ve had to fill out. We might consider a small but meaningful gift to express our appreciation. I’m concerned about her burnout.

Handbook / Handover Report
After outlining topics, I believe the Handbook will end up having 15 chapters. It will be a “living document” also accessible online as a PDF. The existing drive resources have been helpful but need to be updated. Please fill out suggested topic sections based on your role and experience and take a look at my outline. Teachers have given good suggestions.

Events
In consultation with Harrison, I have identified potential online events. If given the PPP I could do these. If not, a board member could take the lead. Harrison is swamped with other work.

- Art Expo Slideshow (I have the student work photos already for this)
- Art Around the World returning speaker
- Virtual Plein Air “painting with social distancing”
- Matthew Courtney exhibition
- Tutorial or Q&A
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, April 27, 2020

Website

- Dan and I have recently met to update the current website to reflect the current situation. After discussions with the board about this summer, we will further update our Covid-19 response.

- For the new website, I’m working on the artist outreach for the gallery, which could give us at least a 15% cut for each piece sold.

- After I get further with the handbook and other admin projects, Dan and I will continue to collaborate on the website and potentially marketing items, if time permits.

COVID-19 and building

- Non-essential business locations must remain closed through May 8, according to Gov. Wolf. I expect this to be extended and do not anticipate holding events or classes in May or even June.

- As I understand it, I’m the primary/sole person who can regularly be on site. If given the PPP, I might be able to complete some of the physical fixes I started. For example, I painted a portion of the interior walls and porch but didn’t finish. Also, I look forward to accessing our files again for the handbook research.

Summary:
Significant progress has been made this month. Nonetheless, there were many administrative delays. Regardless, I believe I’m on course to finish the tasks we prioritized in March. I look forward to the prospect of getting the PPP to ideally focus more on our member outreach, marketing, development, and art education programming.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board
Monday, May 11th, 2020

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Financial and Admin Work

Paycheck Protection Program
Good news! We were notified on Friday, May 1st that our loan/funding for $6,190 was approved and soon after Dan signed the documents. The PPP will pay for 2 months of the IED's salary after the date the loan was finalized; the funds were put into the TD account on May 8th. **No sooner than 7 weeks after the note (early July), I have to apply for the loan to be forgiven.**

Once the art center received notice that our funding was approved, I started shifting gears to plan for online programming (workshops, events, classes) to serve our community in addition to the previously discussed administrative tasks. Without the timeline of leaving in mid-May, the due dates and prioritization of some items have changed.

**Updated Spring 2020 Course Reimbursements**
We heard from the final student. Here are the updated figures.

- **Original Registration Income:** $9,210
- **Refunded back:** $2,415 (26%)
- **Class Credits:** $5,670 (62%)
- **Donated refund:** $875 (10%)
- **Other Benefactor memberships:** $250 (3%)
- **Noteworthy large refund donation:** $300, Sujal Shah, 4/27

**Other spring donations:**
- $100 from Ronaldo, 3/25
- $200 from Edward Blumenthal, 5/5
- $250 from Theresa Germano, 5/5
- $30 from unknown FB donor, 5/5

**COVID PHL Art Organization Application**
I still have yet to hear back about the application for $1,000. Ronaldo says we haven’t had much luck with William Penn Foundation in the past but this one might have a different result.
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, May 11th, 2020

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**Handbook / Handover Report**

Due to the successful PPP loan, I focused this past week on taking steps to set up online programming and proportionately less on finishing up the handover report as originally planned by May 15th. That said, this is an important document that I still need to complete in the next two months. With an extended timeline, the final product will be better.

**Accountant**

After consulting with Michelle’s daughter about the accountant’s preferences, I purchased a gift basket online, which will be delivered soon with a gift card from the art center. It was $89 plus $18.50 for shipping ($108 total). Dan and Joy have each offered to pay $25 and I will pay the remaining amount.

**Taxes**

The tax accountant should complete taxes by May 15th for our July 2018 -- June 2019 taxes and has been sent all files. If he doesn’t complete this week, he told me that the filing date was extended due to Covid-19 but he still believes he will finish by Friday.

**Insurance Audits**

I believe the accountant finished the final pieces this weekend but am waiting for confirmation.

**Online Programming**

I have created a fairly thorough Online Programming Schedule draft and a Google calendar listing the tentative dates for these classes, workshops, and events. Here is a more concise summary:

**Classes:** We have outlined one 4-week trial adult course and one 4-week trial children’s course both team taught (teachers: Charlotte/Matt and Hadley/Christine). *(Fee research)*

**Workshops:** We have outlined at least 3 online workshops (teachers: Hadley/Dan and William James Memorial Library)
Interim Executive Director Report to Board

Monday, May 11th, 2020

Events: I have outlined 8 online events. This may seem like a large number, but many have pre-existing slideshows and some are with other organizations.

Social media: I plan to continue to reach and engage our community through social media. Some board members don’t use FB so he’s an example of some recent posts.

Marketing: We’re getting a late start setting up online programming. I see many posts for online art classes already. We have to get our students’ attention; transportation time is no longer a factor and they can go to any art center. I made a video draft to feature in a newsletter and online to let people know we’re active.

Building / Facilities:
I still hope to finish repainting the interior and the porch before July 15th. If social distancing rules make it possible, let me know if there are any volunteers who want to help me.

Summary:
Only two weeks have passed since my last IED report to the Board of Directors. I’m pleased with the progress we’ve made but recognize these next two months will involve new challenges. I’m excited to improve our online profile.
Whitemarsh Township
Director of Parks and Recreation
June 2nd, 2020 – 7pm – Virtual Format – Zoom

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT
-February-March-April-May 2020

Announcements
WJML Spring Book Sale
Plein Air & Art in the Park
Annual 4th of July Parade
Cornhole Tournament
Touch-A-Truck
Fall Shredding Day
Spooktacular Family Night
Wells Street Clean Up
Teenie Halloweenedie
Gingerbread House Decorating Party
Clothing Drive Fundraiser

WJML
WAC – Cedar Grove Park
Germantown Pike
Cedar Grove Park
Miles Park – Lower Lot
Miles Park – Lower Lot
Cedar Grove Park
Wells Street Open Space
Cedar Grove Barn
PR Miles Park Building
Cedar Grove Barn

Saturday, June 13th - TENTATIVE VIRTUAL FORMAT
Saturday, July 4th – 10am
Saturday, September 12th
Saturday, September 26th 11am-2pm
Saturday, October 10th
Friday, October 16th
Saturday, October 17th
Tuesday, October 20th
Sunday, December 20th
Thursday, January 14th – January 18th 2021

Administration
The early December registration period for the Parks and Recreation Department proved fruitful producing a record $91,678.71 in registration fees towards 2020 programs.

The Parks and Recreation Department received a donation check in the amount of $3,000 from the Colonial Soccer Club towards the annual maintenance at the Lower Miles Park Soccer Field.

The Department replaced an aging vehicle (white Ford Expedition) with a passed down vehicle from the police department – a brown Ford Explorer.

With the COVID-19 virus, the Department is in a “modified” work schedule that includes time at the office and work from home to promote safety in the workplace and social distancing. The Parks and Recreation Team is also holding a daily 10am conference call (zoom) to discuss updates/assignments/opportunities during this fluid situation. Mask, temperature (with a private station), sanitizing, washing, and distancing policies have been put in place. The Department has installed a plexi-glass window in the service window opening for employee and resident safety. In addition, two partition walls were installed to best segregate work spaces in common work areas. Furthermore, door, wall, and floor signage has been posted to assist the public and employees with the new guidelines and best safety practices. Finally, the Koontz Building is being deep cleaned weekly and the vehicles “fogger” sanitized. All Parks and Recreation programs-special events-facility rentals are cancelled through May 31st.

The Department is diligently working on recreational opportunities that will respect social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines for residents that will include on-line (website, facebook live, webinars, etc.), wellness initiatives (nutrition, mental health, nature, education, etc.), and individual recommendations for exercise (trails, hiking, tennis, golf, etc.). We are planning on having something posted by early April on our outlets. These elements developed by our creative programming team will hopefully bring some positive cheer and stress reduction to the community during this challenging time.

The Whitemarsh Athletic Association (WAA) meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23rd at the PWHS-Library was cancelled and will be rescheduled for later in the year as schedules permit.

The Department posted the fun “Can’t Touch This” video on Friday, March 20th on Facebook as the first item of our on-line engagement rollout to the community this spring.
On March 23rd, the Department launched a new on-line engagement which was posted to Whitemarsh Weekly, a PR Eblast, and Facebook, and that will link to the beginning of a comprehensive recreation resource page on the Township Website - Parks and Recreation site. It is called “In-Home Recreation”. These elements developed by our creative programming team will hopefully bring some positive cheer and stress reduction to the community during this challenging time. The link to the page is: www.whitemarshparksp.org/inHomeRec. It is broken into the following categories: Arts, Crafts & Education — Charitable Actions - Environment & Nature — Health & Wellness - Movement & Exercise - The Performing Arts - Virtual Field Trips. We tried to keep categories broad so we don’t end up with a nonuser friendly number of tabs. Our goal is to share the random and variety of items throughout the week through our media outlets......all driving the public back to our evolving “In-Home Recreation” resource list. We currently have over 100 resources for the community to access with a few clicks.

The week of March 30th, the Department launched the below list of recreational engagements, and activities.

DAILY ENGAGEMENT - (weekly schedule) - note #1 began on Monday 3/23:

1) Daily (Monday through Sunday) - NEW In-Home Recreation activity posted to Facebook, Instagram, and Eblast ---- added to resource page (https://www.whitemarshwp.org/503-In-Home-Recreation) - 8:00 AM
2) Monday - "We Are Whitemarsh" - Weekly on-line Facebook contest with different theme (home activity, pet photo, etc.) - winner selected and posted on Friday (receive 4 free movie tickets) - 12:00 PM
3) Tuesday - “Take-Out Tuesdays” - Feature on Facebook a Whitemarsh Take-Out place and the resource page which has a complete list- 9:00 AM
4) Wednesday - "Seniors Day" - Outreach for Seniors – Weekly outreach through mediums which may include on-line Games, Webinars, Calls, Pen Pal, Check-in’s, etc. - Team building outreach database with phone calls, etc. - 10:00 AM
5) Thursday - "Throwback Thursdays" - Post Old Photos on facebook of Department and Township with a description - 3:00 PM
6) Friday - PROGRAM - must register in Community Pass - FREE - "Dance Party" - Friday night community Zoom dance party hosted by our Dance Instructor Ashlyn - 6:00 PM (began on 3-27 - 65 families participated)
7) Weekend - "The Escape Virtual Trip" - Each weekend via eblast and facebook we send our residents and families on a wonderful escape virtual trip that Saturday - 11:00 AM

The Department received a nice write-up in the Montco Today media outlet on Saturday, April 4th (and republished on Monday, April 6th) highlighting the Whitemarsh Township efforts with engagement with In-Home Recreation Resources and Virtual Programming. Note the link: https://montco.today/2020/04/whitemarsh-parks-and-recreation-releases-in-home-recreation-resources-webpage/?utm_source=MONTCO-Today&utm_campaign=1ee432a899-SaturdayEmailCampaign-Montco&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_67c125e39-1ee432a899-275155537. I am happy to note that NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association), PRPS (Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society), DCNR (PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - “Good for PA” campaign), and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services all responded lauding the Township for our efforts and sharing it on Facebook, Eblasts, or on their websites. I am pleased to share that we have been contacted by Townships in PA (Lower Salford, North Huntingdon, etc.) and professionals from across the country (Tennessee, Louisiana, etc.) thanking us for our efforts and requesting to mimic and share our resources page on their outlets. You will note that many communities across the country are following in our footsteps with our virtual engagement blueprint.

The initial "We Are Whitemarsh" weekly photo contest was about a favorite activity in Whitemarsh Township that you recall during the stay-at-home order. The second weekly contest was a Pet Photo contest at home during the virus. The third weekly contest was your favorite sports-themed photo. The fourth weekly contest was a Nature Photo in honor of Earth Day on April 22nd. The week five photo contest was “Life is Good” and was a photo of something that brings you joy. The week six photo contest was “Improvement” (what project have I done over this time/things learned). Week seven was for Foodies and is a photo of “What have you been eating during COVID?” – Picture of the prepared meal. The winner each week receives 4 free movie tickets and a Tonelli’s Pizza (donated). Take-Out Tuesday has been well received supporting local small business restaurants with Tonelli’s Pizza in week one, T’Dori Restaurant in week two, and Ye Olde Ale House in week three, From the Boot in week four and week five featured Toyosu Sushi and Poke. El Limon (Flourtown) being our week six highlight for Cinco De Mayo. Week seven highlighted the Caspian Grille who sold out of food. The Senior Scoop on Wednesdays features great resource information, activities, and a virtual tour and trips for our older adults.

The PR Department noted the Website and Facebook Data below which supported the success of the “In-Home Recreation” Resources and Virtual Programming campaign.

- Jan 1st – Feb 29th, 2020 (60 Days)
  o Township Website Overall
    23,537 visits (avg. 392/day)
    38,232 unique pageviews (avg. 637/day)
  o Mar 1st – Apr 7th, 2020 (37 Days)
    16,623 visits (avg. 449/day)
    26,569 unique pageviews (avg. 718/day)
  o Mar 23rd – Apr 7, 2020 (14 days) – (March 23rd is day In-Home Rec Resources page went live)
    7,202 visits (avg. 514/day)
    10,788 unique pageviews (avg. 770/day)
  o In-Home Rec Page
    1,393 unique pageviews (99/day)
The Department created a “Stay at Home” season registration page in the Community Pass registration software system to help user ease and negate confusion with regular seasonal operations.

The Department is sending a “Birthday Gram” to all individuals 18 and under in our database to brighten their special day.

The Department sent out an educational eblast regarding the Spotted Lanternfly and best practices for homeowners on 5-12-20 and 5-20-20.

The Department did a special eblast-Facebook engagement on Friday, May 15th for National Pizza Day and promoting Tonelli’s Pizzeria with a Parks and Recreation Special.

The summer camp discount period has been extended to April 30th to assist families during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, we are offering the opportunity to extend Payment Plans for the same reason. The Miles Park Team has been planning in April camp logistics and parental handbooks. In addition, the Department has performed on-line Zoom interviews with potential candidates for remaining summer positions at Miles Park, the Cedar Grove Barn, and Teen Camp. The team is also coordinating all background clearances and DHS requirements needed for staffing (a difficult task given business shut-downs and the COVID-19). The team is examining Virtual Training for the summer seasonal staff that will take place in late May. In addition, we are examining summer parent meetings in a virtual fashion and are communicating with registrants monthly. The Department has begun sending emails to participants with summer camp updates in May. In addition, on May 14th the Department launched a Summer Camp COVID-19 Update landing page on the Township Website under Parks and Recreation to best serve and communicate with participants and their families during this fluid crisis.

Elections have been moved from the Cedar Grove Barn and Miles Park Building on Tuesday, June 2nd and are slated to take place at Whitemarsh Elementary and PWHS for the spring primary.

Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, the Department has cancelled and refunded any May usage of Township Buildings interior, Greenhouse, and the Pavilion. It is important to note that many permitted users were inquiring and also that several chose to call and cancel given the pandemic and restrictions. In addition, out of an abundance of caution and in-line with the Governor’s Orders, all field usage permits through May are being cancelled and refunded accordingly. These items will be reevaluated again in late May for June facility usage.

The PR Team sent a tribute virtual outreach (Eblast-Facebook) on Wednesday, April 22nd in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. In addition, there was an email blast in recognition of Arbor Day on Friday, April 24th.....Go Trees!

The Whitemarsh Art Center held an emergency meeting on Monday, March 30th to discuss future operations, programs, and events. The Board decided to continue operations with Hadley Yates, Executive Director for an additional six weeks and review the budget, crisis, and work progress in four weeks. The vote was unanimous. The Whitemarsh Art Center held “Special” Board Meetings on April 7th and 27th to discuss operations amidst the COVID-19 crisis. The Whitemarsh Art Center held a Board held a meeting on May 11th. They received the PPP money to support staff and the Interim Executive Director is slated to continue through July.

The Department has received DHS waivers for the Cedar Grove Barn Day Camp recognizing the facility as a child care facility for essential workers and also for a 45-day extension for staffing clearance requirements. Both items are due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Tom Blomstrom was on a call for the Southeastern PA Spotted Lanternfly Community Engagement Committee on Wednesday, April 1st from 10am-12pm.
The Montgomery County Senior Games scheduled for Monday, May 11th through Friday, May 15th have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Programs
On Friday, February 24th Parents Night Out ran with 41 participants at the Parks and Recreation building at Miles Park. Participants a movie, had a dance party, and made valentine cards. Officer Hannon and Officer MacMain from the Whitemarsh Police Department stopped by to play with the kids and do a mini show and tell. Afterwards participants played a mini soccer game followed by a movie. For dinner participants enjoyed heart shaped pizzas from Tonelli’s and valentine themed cupcakes and cookies for dessert. Supervisor Annie Mascio worked with Kelli Coles and Jake Hannon, Jackie Beebe stopped by in the beginning to help with check in for the large number of participants. The Parents Night Out scheduled for Saturday, March 14th, Saturday, April 18th, and Saturday, May 16th were cancelled in accordance with the CDC guidelines for the coronavirus.

On Tuesday March 3rd the Connecting Exceptional People Junior program held is monthly social at the William Jeanes Library.
Participants enjoyed activities such as playing the Wii, magna-tiles, and board games while working on their social skills. Before the social started, the staff wrote new activity ideas on the whiteboard and asked participants which ones they were interested in. The participants also gave suggestions for new activities at future programs. One idea was to do Karaoke, which the staff is planning to have at the next event in April. Other ideas included cupcake decorating, making ice cream sundaes, and sand art. There were 8 participants, 6 caregivers, 2 volunteers, 2 WJML Staff, and 2 Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Staff (Jackie Beebe and Ryan Lundy).

On Friday, February 21st the Connecting Exceptional People program held its monthly social at the William Jeanes Library with the theme “Glow Party”. The DJ Group: The Dream Team, former CEP participants who started their own DJ’ing business after CEP Has Talent. Participants enjoyed a fun night of dancing with plenty of glow sticks and other glow accessories. Other games such as Apples to Apples, Nintendo Wii, and coloring were set up in the children’s area for participants to use if the room was too loud. There were a total of 22 participants, 17 parents /caregivers, 1 volunteer, 3 William Jeanes Memorial Library staff, and 5 Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Staff. The next CEP is scheduled for Friday, March 27th where we will be exploring space with Dwight Duslky from the Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association. Participants will make planets of their own and weather permitting we will be able to go outside and use a telescope.

The Connecting Exceptional People programs scheduled for March and April have been cancelled (or virtually formatted) in accordance with CDC guidelines for the coronavirus.

On Tuesday, April 7th the Connecting Exceptional People Junior program held its monthly social via Zoom for its first virtual program. Participants and staff participated in Chair Yoga lead by the Yoga instructor at the William Jeanes Library, Jen. There was 1 participant and their parent, 1 William Jeanes Memorial Library staff, 1 volunteer, and 2 Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Staff (Jackie Beebe and Ryan Lundy). Although there was only 1 participant, they were very excited to do yoga and to talk to everyone. We heard from another family that their child was struggling with using Zoom and seeing themselves on the computer. After hearing this we decided for the next CEP on April 17th that we would offer ‘practice zooms’ for participants to familiarize themselves with Zoom and seeing themselves and others on the screen. The virtual social overall went very well and this laid the ground work for future virtual CEP and CEP Junior. The next Jr. CEP was scheduled to take place Tues. May 5th at 6:30pm, with Community Arts Norristown leading an art activity for the participants. However, the Jr. CEP has been cancelled because no participants RSVP’d that they would be joining us. In an effort to not waste the time of the Community Arts Norristown instructor, the program was cancelled.

On Friday, April 17th the Connecting Exceptional People Program held its very first Virtual CEP. Participants and staff were able to meet up virtually using Zoom. The social began with a 30 minute Chair Yoga session led by Janna, the William Jeanes Library yoga instructor. After the yoga session, participants started their talent show including singing, dancing, and showing off art work. There were a total of 12 participants on the call, 2 parents, 1 William Jeanes Memorial Library staff, and 1 Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation staff on the zoom call. On Friday, April 24th Connecting Exceptional People (CEP and Jr. CEP) hosted a Virtual Concert with Turtle Dance Music. The program lasted roughly an hour and was facilitated primarily by Matt Mazur. He started the event by singing a “Connecting Exceptional People” song and blew really large bubbles while harmonizing. He played some cover songs and tied in “William Jeanes Library” and “Connecting Exceptional People” into the lyrics. He showed the participants unique instruments like a thumb piano. While the program was not fully interactive where the participants could see one another, they could interact by e-mailing song requests to Sara who would then send them to Matt who had his screen open. He showed off some apps that he uses to create songs and noises for the participants to play with on their own time. He finished the program by doing ‘virtual karaoke’ where he played songs and encouraged participants to sing along. In total there were 15 participants signed into the video. After the program, a couple of parents e-mailed Sara thanking her for the program and that their children enjoyed singing and dancing along. The next CEP is scheduled on Zoom for Friday, May 15th at 6:30pm, and also has Community Arts Norristown leading an activity.

The 2nd “CEP Zoom Hang-Out” was held on Monday, May 4th. This weekly “Hang-Out” session is designed to give CEP participants, who are an underserved demographic during this pandemic, an opportunity to socialize with their peers while they’re at home. The sessions are every Monday evening at 4:00pm on Zoom. The “Hang-Out” idea was tested with 2 participants last week and all went well. This week, Sara Huff (WJML) and Ryan Lundy (WTPR) ran the “Hang-Out” and had 16 participants join them. They talked about many topics, including how they’ve been staying busy, their favorite foods, games, shows, and much more. The group looks forward to hanging out again next week.
A 2nd CEP was added in May, in order to provide additional opportunities for CEP participants. On Friday, May 29th at 6:30pm, the "Dream Team" DJ's will be hosting a Virtual Dance Party event for CEP. The "Dream Team" DJ's are past CEP participants that met at the CEP Talent Show a couple years ago and now have a DJ business together. The CEP participants love the Dream Team and will surely love the event.

The 2020 Winter-Spring "Eat and Enjoy Social Series" for the senior citizens in our community has been set. All socials are held from 12-2pm at the Miles Park Building and include lunch and entertainment for a minimal fee. On Friday, February 14th, our department hosted the 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Eat & Enjoy Social. With the success of last year's inaugural event, the 2020 Valentine's Day Social was highly anticipated. This year, we had a total of 41 individuals in attendance -- one of the largest crowds to date. To help celebrate the special holiday, the social received some extra attention & details. Program Room A of the Parks & Recreation Building was decked out in Valentine's Day decorations. The seating tables held special Valentine's Day table runners, heart-shaped candy dishes, and handmade flower arrangements generously arranged & donated by Linda Labowitz. The lunch included handmade appetizers, salad, tomato pie from the Conshohocken Bakery, potatoes, carrots, and braised short rib with au jus. For the entertainment portion of the event, love was in the air as Jeff Krick, Jr. performed as Elvis. Those in attendance absolutely raved about his performance and requested we ask him to return in the future. All-in-all, the 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Social was a success. The socials scheduled for March and May were cancelled due to COVID-19.

On Saturday, March 7th, 2020 the first lecture of the two-part Environmental Education Series was held at Koontz Park located at 2391 Harts Lane, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444. The series is presented by the Whittemarsh Township Greenhouse Program and the EAB. The lecture topic was "Why Native?" and covered general information about native plants and their ecological importance. Recommendations for planting and caring for beautiful and useful gardens was also highlighted. The lecture occurred from 10:00am-12:00pm and had 21 individuals pre-register, with 6 walk-ins.

On Saturday, April 18th, 2020 the second lecture of the two-part Environmental Education Series was held virtually through Zoom. The series is presented by the Whittemarsh Township Greenhouse Program and the EAB. The lecture topic was "Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Yard" and covered general information about hummingbirds and what plants attract the birds to the Whittemarsh area. The lecture occurred from 1:00pm-1:30pm and had 57 individuals pre-register, and 30 that actually logged in and virtually attended. Of those 57, there were 53 unique registrations. An email was sent out on Friday, April 17th and again on the morning of the lecture, with the Zoom log in information. The free lecture was presented by Penn State Master Gardeners Leslie Bass. We received multiple emails with positive feedback! We look forward to having another lecture in the near future.

Below are some new Virtual Programs that we have added to our roster. Note that we completely restructured our large Dance Program to keep that running smoothly. We are also exploring additional adult night engagement (Comedy, Trivia, etc.), Crossfit, Virtual Sing-A-Long, Engineering for Kids, DeStolfo’s Self-Defense, Theatre Horizons, and Kid Fitness. We are also exploring some sponsor opportunities by reallocating funds from spring events for the Virtual Programs. We are also examining running some of our recorded virtual programs on WTV as is possible. Through April 24th we have engaged over 276 unique participants for our in-house virtual programs. If we include the Dance Program we are well north of 500 engagements. This does not include the In-Home Recreation Resources or Daily Activities engagement.

DeStolfo’s Premier Martial Arts - Self-Defense Classes
DeStolfo’s Premier Martial Arts has teamed up with Whittemarsh Township Parks & Recreation for two free virtual programs that will begin Thursday, May 21st. The first program will be a Kid Safe Workshop for youth grades Kindergarten-3rd and will take place 1:30 pm-2:30 pm. This kid safe introductory course is an interactive workshop where kids will have a blast as they learn important safety skills. They will learn the basics to be equipped with both physical and mental self-defense! The second class is designed for children in grades 4th and above and will take place 2:15 pm-2:45 pm. The Krav Maga Self-Defense is an introduction class to the Israeli Krav Maga Self-Defense. This class will get your hearts pumping while having fun and learning some basic self-defense skills. Registration is FREE, and we will be through our Community Pass registration software. Once registered, participants will get an email with the Zoom information to connect.

Action Karate
Action Karate Plymouth Meeting is helping the community by providing Online In-Home Martial Arts training for FREE! The training is for children ages 5+ and is designed to keep them healthy and active while they have a TOH of fun burning off their excess energy. This program will take place on the following Tuesdays; May 19th, and May 26th 1:00 pm- 1:30 pm. Register for each date separately. Please make sure you have an open space and are wearing comfortable clothes and shoes. Once you are registered you will receive an email with confirmation and the Zoom link to connect online!

The first offering of a virtual karate class by Action Karate took place through Zoom on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 1:00 pm- 1:30 pm. There were 22 individuals registered, and 17 total ended up logging on. Participants registered for free through Community Pass via Whittemarsh Township Parks & Recreation registration software. Emily Labowitz introduced herself and thanked everyone for registering for the karate class. Sean Dwyer from Action Karate then introduced himself, and spent roughly 25 minutes teaching. The boys and girls were engaged the entire time and had lots of fun!

Kitchen Wizard's Cooking Class - Finding the Rainbow
May 15, 2020 at 10:30 AM - Zoom - sign up through Community Pass
This class is FREE for parents and children ages 3-7 TOGETHER. We will discuss the colors of the rainbow and how to make our food fun and bright - even when the weather outside is dreary and we can't play with our friends. They will make Unicorn Dip and Dinosaur Eggs.

Moore Brothers Basketball
Join the Moore Brothers for FREE ball handling skills through Zoom on Wednesday, May 13th 12:00pm-12:30pm. All you need is a basketball! This virtual program is for boys and girls ages 5-18 and all skill levels are welcome! To register for this program, please visit Community Pass. Once you are registered you will receive an email with confirmation and the Zoom link to connect online.
On-Line Guided Meditation with Jason Blau
Join Jason Blau and his on-line Meditation programs powered threw Zoom. Whitemarsh Township residents receive 50% off using coupon code “parks”. For a complete list of classes and to register: www.mymeditation.coach/online

Dog Training Q&A with The Positive Pooch
Join Loretta Cleveland, CPDT, owner & training of The Positive Pooch, for a Q&A on dog training! She will take time to answer the questions that you have about training your dog, give helpful tips & tricks for training, and will show you how to teach your dog some commands & tricks! Loretta has been training dogs for over 15 years, and is a certified dog trainer with the Council for Pet Dog Trainers and a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT). Offered in partnership with The Positive Pooch at no cost. Program will run on Tuesdays from 5pm-5:45pm beginning Tuesday, April 14th. The first class had 11 participants. Scheduled to run through April (14th, 21st, and 28th).

Little Kickers at HOME
Little Kickers program online and providing lesson plans for parents to use at home to teach their kids the skills of soccer. Each week participants will receive detailed lesson plans in their email on how to use household items to introduce your child to the game of soccer. This is a free program but does require registration. This program will start next Wednesday 4/15 and run through May 20th.

Magic Show with Ari-Paul Felber
*Pre-Registration Is Required
Fridays at 7:30pm

Zumba by Fit with Witt
*Pre-Registration Is NOT Required
Every Tuesday @ 7:00pm via Zoom

Pilates with Missy Scheer
*Pre-Registration Is NOT Required
Every Thursday @ 6:00pm via Zoom

Yoga with Kimberly Brock
*Pre-Registration Is NOT Required
Every Thursday @ 12:00pm via Zoom

Friday Night Dance Parties with Miss Ashlyn
*Pre-Registration Is Required
Fridays: 5:30-6:00pm, Ages 3-6; April 24th, 6:00-6:30pm, Ages 7-9; April 24th, 6:30-7:00pm, Ages 10+

UPDATES:

Thursday, April 1st – 6pm – Pilates with Missy Scheer: This was our first try for the virtual programs. All-in-all, everything went pretty smoothly and 16 participants joined Missy for the free class.

Thursday, April 2nd – 12pm – Yoga with Kimberly Brock: This was Kim’s first virtual class through us. Offered through our Zoom account, Kim’s mid-day yoga class had 30 participants.

Tuesday, April 7th – 7pm – Zumba by Fit with Witt: We added Zumba to the program lineup this week, after getting some experience with virtual classes last week. Our Zumba instructor, Carolyn Witt, lead the class of 38 individuals, which is an outstanding number.

Friday, April 10th – 7:30pm – Magic Show with Ari-Paul Felber: This was our first Magic Show and a big hit with 33 families and 78 participants to enjoy the illusionist.

Friday, April 17th and 24th – 7:30pm – Magic Show with Ari-Paul Felber: The 17th was our second Magic Show and a big hit with 53 participants to enjoy the illusionist. The 24th Magic Show had 35 families and 100 participants.

Programmer Report
Pilates & Functional Bootcamp
The Pilates & Functional Bootcamp programs each had their first Winter/Spring sessions come to a close in February. Both programs began their 2nd Winter/Spring sessions in late February, but have since been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will be receiving pro-rated credit for the classes that were cancelled.

Adult CoEd Volleyball
The Adult CoEd Volleyball program had been running smoothly since the start of the year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has been postponed until further notice. The program was originally scheduled to conclude in May, but due to the pandemic, the program has more-than-likely met for the last time until fall. A final decision on the last few scheduled May dates will be made in accordance with Township, CSD, State, County and CDC guidance.
Afternoon Games

Afternoon Games continued to run through the first session of the year. There are 19 people registered for Bridge and 10 people registered for Mah Jongg. On Friday, March 13th, Afternoon Games were postponed through April 30th due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Sessions will be made up once programs resume.

Cardio, Core, & Strength Programs

The Cardio, Core, & Strength with Mat and C, C, & S with Chair programs each had their first Winter/Spring sessions come to a close in February. Both programs began their 2nd Winter/Spring sessions in late February, but have since been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will be receiving pro-rated credit for the classes that were cancelled.

ABC Come Swim With Me

The winter/spring 2020 schedule for ABC Come Swim With Me was supposed to occur at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School pool on Saturdays 9:00am-9:30am and 10:30am-11:00am 3/28-5/30 with no class on 4/11, 4/25, or 5/23. There were 8 registered for the 9:00am timeslot and 2 for the 10:30am slot. At this point in time we most likely will cancel the entire session because extending the season until late June may not be work due to PWHS schedule. A final decision will be made and participants will be contacted about refunds or credits within the month.

Private Swim Lessons

Private Swim Lessons were to be held at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School pool. The winter/spring 2020 schedule was supposed to occur on Saturdays offering four timeslots 3/28-5/30 with no class on 4/11, 4/25, or 5/23. All time slots are filled and there are children on the waitlist. The 8:00am timeslot has 5, the 8:30am timeslot is full with 5, 9:00am has 5, and the 10:00am has 5. If ABC Swim With Me 10:30am does not run we will open that time up for those on the waitlist. All staff has been contacted and are aware of the programs cancellation as of now until April 30th. At this point in time we most likely will cancel the entire session because extending the season until late June may not be work due to PWHS schedule. A final decision will be made and participants will be contacted about refunds or credits within the month.

Morning Lap Swim

Morning lap swim was taking place at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School pool. The winter/spring 2020 schedule takes place on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays and was supposed to end 5/1 with no class on 3/16, 4/6, 4/8, or 4/10. There are currently 13 adults registered. Mark Daurler has been lifeguarding this program and Kayla Heincer was a substitute if Mark cannot attend. At this point in time we most likely will cancel the remaining session because extending the season until late June may not be work due to PWHS schedule. A final decision will be made and participants will be contacted about pro-rated refunds or credits within the month.

Tiny Town

Due to Messy Masters cancellations, we have went back to the drawing board and have decided to offer a program that has not been run since winter/spring of 2015, which was quite successful. This unique program called Tiny Town introduces children to the services in their community such as the fire house, the police station, the grocery store, and more through interactive play and education. The session will also feature stories, games, crafts, and lots of fun! Tiny Town was to be offered on Thursdays 10:00am-11:00am at the Cedar Grove Barn 4/16-5/21. There is currently no one registered for this program. Given the COVID-19, we have cancelled the program and plan on offering it again the fall.

Purposeful Play

Purposeful Play winter session 1 ended on Wednesdays 1/15-2/19. There were 2 registered for the Baby Bears 11:00-11:45am class and 8 for the Little Bears 10:00-10:45am class, totaling to 10 overall participants. All classes are held at the Parks & Recreation Building. Session 2 began 2/26 and will end 4/1. There are 4 in the Baby Bears class and 8 in the Little Bears, totaling 12 participants. The three remaining classes were cancelled and pro-rated with refunds to each participant due to the closing of buildings due to COVID-19. Session 3 was slated to run 4/22-6/3 (no class on 5/27). However, we will tentatively push the start date back to 5/6-6/10). Purposeful Play continues to be another excellent partnership. Purposeful Play plans on attending Mini Spring Fling on May 12th and having interactive play area and registration information at a table.

Sing, Sign, and Grow

Sing, Sign, and Grow winter/spring 2020 schedule was taking place on Thursdays 1/23-3/12 at the Parks & Recreation Building-4021 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444 but with a time change of 9:45am-10:30am. It was noted that earlier classes have less a chance in interfering with sleep schedules for the younger children. This session of SS&G is called Let's Be Friends and is now 8 classes rather than two separate sessions of 4 classes. There were two families that registered for this program and 3 classes were pro-rated for a refund due to the closing of the buildings due to COVID-19. Classes will be offered again the fall.

Little Kickers

Indoor Little Kickers completed its session on Saturday March 7th. This program was led by Kayla Heincer. This was our second successful session of this program held at St. Thomas Church in Flourtown.

Fun Club

Whitemarsh Elementary School Fun Club takes place every Wednesday 3:30-5:00pm at the school's gym. There was only one child registered for Monday's so we had to cancel. The winter/spring 2020 schedule runs 1/8-6/3 with no class on 4/8. Wednesday Fun Club has a total of 13 children enrolled, which makes up for no Monday Fun Club. Annie Mascol is the lead Supervisor and oversees Wednesday Fun Club. In addition, part-time staff Reis Wynne and Kelly Cahill also work Wednesdays. Kayla Heincer fills in when needed on Wednesdays and works with Annie. We are waiting to gather more information about closings, but most likely will refund the remaining classes of fun club to all 13 participants due to the COVID-19.
Dance Programs
The Whitemarsh Dancers program continues to grow each season and there was a record high of 36 dance classes that were offered for the fall 2019 season. The winter/spring 2020 season has the same amount of classes that was offered. Registration was held on Monday, December 16th, a separate day from other registrations. This occurred simply because the demand to register for classes is so high and special attention needed to be made to answer phone calls, walk-in registrations, and emails. In addition, it is noted that registration should be held after the recital so any questions can be answered promptly by Whitemarsh staff and dance instructors. There are 24 classes currently running and almost all are filled to their capacity. There were originally 7 classes that had a waitlist with over 40 children. We were able to move and offer other options and decrease that waitlist number to 3. This season we offered the introduction to Voice for three different age groups, however it did not run due to low registration. In addition, we offered the popular Adult Hip Hop class, which has 9 participants. There was also a new boy only class called Pre-Boys Hip Hop, which did not run due to low registration. Classes are offered evenings Monday-Thursday at the Parks & Recreation Building. There are a total of 164 total dancers and 48 dancers who are enrolled in multiple classes. We have purchased an additional portable mirror to keep in Program Room A and should be arriving in April. The carpeting in the upstairs waiting room is still in good condition, which was installed in-house during spring of 2019. We’re looking into redoing the floors in the main dance room upstairs in the near future. The dance recital was scheduled for Saturday, May 16th at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Auditorium from 3:00pm-4:30pm. The rehearsal was supposed to be the night before on, Friday, May 15th from 5:30pm-7:30pm. With the sudden changes and cancellations of classes through April 30th due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we’re working on a virtual class schedule for all dancers. With this being said the prior mentioned recital dates, will most likely be cancelled as well. Offering virtual classes will enable students to stay active and eliminate any refunds from hundreds of families. Dancers will keep their costumes and at the end of the season each class will perform under the Pavilion at Miles Park. We potentially will still sell bouquets for $5.00 and pretzels, chips, and boxed water for $1.00. Pre-sale for the bouquets will tentatively occur in May, when we have better understanding of the situation. In addition, we will skip dance photo packages due to the circumstances. Dancers will not perform at Township Day on Saturday, April 25th, 2020 12:30-2:00pm, due to the cancellation of all events.

Engineering For Kids Classes
The Engineering For Kids program had the first Winter/Spring sessions wrap-up in February. This session was the first instance that we were able to run the EFK program for both age groups. Prior to the 2nd session starting, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel.

Jump, Jive, & Jam Music Classes
Jump, Jive, and Jam Music & Rhythmic Play and MOGA winter/spring 2020 schedule will occur on Fridays and there will be 3 sessions. The switch of Mondays to Fridays was due to feedback from participants. The first session was offered 1/10-2/28, but was cancelled due to low registration. The second session will run 3/20-5/8, and the third session 6/12-7/31. Music and Play classes will run 10:30am-11:15am and MOGA class 9:30am-10:15am at the Parks & Recreation Building. We will continue to market this youth program through various outlets such as email, social media, and websites. Currently, no one is registered for the second session and we have cancelled due to the current situation. We have continued to utilize our ongoing partnership with Jump, Jive, and Jam during tot special events. J&J plans on attending Mini Spring Fling in May and putting on another concert.

Back To Work After Having a Baby Workshop
The Back to Work after Having a Baby Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th 9:00am-11:00am at the Parks & Recreation Building. The workshop was cancelled twice already due to low registration. This will be the last time we offer the program if it does not run, simply because there has been no true interest in the workshop. Its purpose is to focus on successful ways to detail with this transition phase and step by step plans to make changes. Currently, no one is registered for the workshop, but we plan on continuing marketing the event. Currently, we have zero registrations and have decided to cancel the workshop.

Tennis Lessons
The second session of indoor tennis lessons at Magarity Tennis Club started on Saturday, February 15th. There were a total of 21 of participants. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the final class on Saturday, March 14th was cancelled and participants were refunded for the missed class. The third session of Indoor Tennis Lessons at Magarity Tennis Club was scheduled to run Saturday, March 21st through Saturday, April 25th. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the third session was cancelled. There were a total of 17 participants registered and they were issued refunds for the cancelled program. Overall the Indoor Tennis Lessons at Magarity Tennis Club was a great addition to our programs this spring. We did not have any scheduling issues due to staff availability or weather. Most participants signed up for 2 or 3 sessions which run consecutively, something we have not been able to offer until now. A survey is planned to go out to participants this spring asking for feedback about their experience with indoor lessons.

Yoga Programs (Vinyasa, Gentle Flow, & Chair)
The Yoga programs each had their first Winter/Spring sessions come to a close in February. Both programs began their 2nd Winter/Spring sessions in late February, but have since been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will be receiving pro-rated credit for the classes that were cancelled.

Zumba
The Zumba Program completed its first ever session as a part of our Department’s program lineup in February. The program began the 2nd scheduled session in Mid-February, but was ultimately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will be receiving a pro-rated credit for the classes that were cancelled.

Birthday Parties
We currently have already had two birthday parties run in January of 2020. One party was a slime party and one party was a glow in the dark. We have not run either of these themes as of yet but both parties were a success. It seems that the Birthday parties have taken off. The
participants attended other parties that we held last year. This seems to be the best form of advertising for us. We had two additional parties scheduled for March and April. The April party was already cancelled due to COVID-19 and the party in April has been notified of possible cancellation.

Teen Extreme Camp
Teen Extreme Camp registrations opened on December 9th. The new fee schedule for camp is as follows; Fee prior to April 30th: $205.00 Whitewater Residents/$223.00 Non-Residents. Fee Starting May 1st: $219.00 Whitewater Residents/$245.00 Non-Residents. In addition, the 4th of July week fee schedule is adjusted for no camp on Friday, July 3rd; Fee prior to April 30th - Week 3: $164.00 Whitewater Res / $178.00 Non-Res and starting April 30th: Week 3: $175.00 Whitewater Res / $196.00 Non-Res. Fee increases are simply because of trip, bus, and supplies costs. Camp calendar scheduling has begun and will continue through May. All trips have been booked and deposits paid. Back by popular demand and feedback from campers and staff, Wednesday will have different food themes. Also, Program Coordinator, Emily Labowitz has been in contact with 2019 Teen Camp staff to confirm whether or not they will be returning for summer 2020. New hire, Hadley Bloemeke will be leading Supervisor for Teen Camp. In addition, new hire Dennis Duett will be working with Hadley as a Supervisor as well. Casey Quinn is returning and will also be working Teen Camp as a counselor. Mark Daulelio and Phil Quinn will sometimes be available to fill in when needed if Teen Camp staff is sick or we need extra staff for a trip day. An email blast went out to 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 Teen Camp participants with registration information on February 11th and again on February 25th with trip locations and dates. Another email went out on March 10th as a reminder for the early registration cut off of on March 31st. Currently, registration is as follows; Week 1: 4, Week 2: 3, Week 3: 6, Week 4: 4, Week 5: 5, Week 6: 6, Week 7: 8, Week 8: 6, Week 9: 5, with a total of 47 teen campers for the summer so far. Registration is normal for this time of the year and will pick up closer to the discount cutoff date. In addition, it is expected that registration will spike the weeks of camp, simply because that is the past pattern of registration for teen camp parents/guardians. The Teen Camp Parent Meeting will take place at the Parks & Recreation Building on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7:00pm. In addition, we will hold a camp staff training on Sunday, June 7th at 12:00pm at the Parks & Recreation Building. A Teen Camp specific meeting will be determined soon but will most likely occur in early May.

Miles Park Camp
Miles Park Camp currently has the following registrations: Week 1: 57, Week 2: 52, Week 3: 50, Week 4: 45, Week 5: 48, Week 6: 48, Week 7: 49, Week 8: 56, Week 9: 56. The command staff for summer 2020 will be as follows. Camp Director – Mike Adornetto, Assistant Director – Annie Mascolo, Head Counselor – Kayla Heinzer, Chris Diorio, and Sydney Mellilo. All camp trips have been booked at this time. The Miles Park Parent Meeting will take place on June 3rd, at 7:00 PM. An open house will also be held prior to camp starting, date TBD.

Cedar Grove Camp
Cedar Grove Camp has enjoyed steady registration numbers again this year. Each week, outside of the shortened July 4th week, are full or nearly-full. The camp calendar, schedule of activities & events, and other planning details are currently being worked on. Many of the Cedar Grove Camp staff from 2019 will be returning in 2020, including both Camp Supervisors and the Head Counselor. The Parent Meeting is scheduled to take place on June 2nd.

Specialty Camps
Dance Camp: Emily Labowitz and Ashlyn Brady are working to create a new and appealing dance camp. Many previous summers dance camp was offered but did not run due to low registration. The camp would tentatively run the week of June 22nd-June 26th and take place at Koontz Park- Program Room A. The camp would take place 9:00am-12:00pm and would be included as a camp hopper option. Whitewater Residents fee would be $150.00 and Non-Residents fee $175.00. There are more details to come and the plan is to have the information for the supplemental brochure in spring/summer.

Gold Glove Softball Camp: Emily Labowitz has been in contact with Megan O’Rourke and organizing a softball camp to be held at Cedar Grove Park. Session 1 will run June 22nd-June 26th for girl’s ages 6-8 and Session 2 July 6th-10th for girls ages 9-12. This camp was offered last year but both weeks were cancelled due to low registration. However, Whitewater Girls Softball has recently decided that they will run this camp and will not need the Parks Department to be involved. They will use the Cedar Grove Softball field for the camps.

The first session of Cooking Camp (7/20-7/24) filled to capacity and a second session was opened for the week of 7/13-7/17. There is currently one person registered for the seconded session. We are offering 2 sessions of Theatre Horizon Camp this summer as the camp has filled with a wait list for the past couple years. The first session (7/6-7/10) has 7 participants registered, and the second session (8/10-8/14) has 11 participants registered. 19 Summer Camps are as follows: Lacrosse – 1; Baseball – 3; Cheerleading – 0; Flag Football – 4; Soccer – 5; Track & Field – 1.

Discount Tickets
AMC, Regal, and Movie Tavern tickets are in stock and are purchased ever so often. There are 50 Movie Tavern, 63 AMC, and 57 Regal tickets remaining. We constantly check the inventory and will most likely re-order in the summer. We recently found out that the Movie Tavern tickets changed their policy and their tickets do not expire anymore. In addition, we sold discount tickets to the Philadelphia Flower Show. 100 Adult Flower Show tickets sold out on March 4th. All winter discount tickets were returned the week of March 15th. Spring/Summer PRPS discount tickets are slated to arrive early May. The order has not yet been placed but information will most likely arrive in early April for summer discount adventures.

Facility Rentals
2020 Facility rentals officially opened to the public on Monday, December 16th and included both indoor facility rentals and the Miles Park Pavilion. There are currently 4 pavilion rentals booked for 2020 and 12 indoor facility rentals bringing the total to 16 rentals for the year so far. Two of the rentals for 2020 at the Cedar Grove Barn were cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak and were issued refunds.
Summer Camp Staff Applications/Interviews
Applications for available Summer Camp Staff positions were accepted through Wednesday, March 11th. The applications were reviewed by Department staff and the qualified applicants were contacted. Due to the timing of the application deadline and the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants were notified that we would not be conducting interviews immediately, as originally planned. With the timeline of the pandemic continuing to expand, we have decided that first round of interviews will be conducted over the phone. A 2nd round of interviews will be considered depending on the need & availability after the initial interviews are completed and may be done with Zoom.

Enterprise
Emily Labowitz requested the Clothing Drive recap be highlighted in the February Enterprise, along with other event news and programs. A full-page ad for the March Enterprise was requested for Township Day. Upcoming Whitemarsh Township Parks & Recreation programs and events were requested as well for March.

Montco Career Fair
On Wednesday, February 12th, 2020 Emily Labowitz and Jackie Beebe represented Whitemarsh Township Parks & Recreation at the Montgomery County Community College Career Fair. The event was held at the college’s main campus located 340 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422. The event took place from 11:00am-2:00pm in the student lobby. The new Whitemarsh Township Parks & Recreation table cover was displayed for all to see. There were the following flyers displayed; Mini Spring Fling, History Tour, Shredding Day, Parents Night Out, Discount Tickets, Purposeful Play, Township Day, Staff Hiring, Part-Time Position description, and copies of the winter/spring/summer brochure. Drawstring bags, t-shirts, pens, and WTPR magnets were giveaways. Over 30 students passed by and many took flyers and giveaways. In addition, many asked questions and showed interest in working for the township. Specifically, one of the students has been hired to supervisor Teen Camp this summer! This was a free event and worth spending a few hours searching for qualified candidates.

Facebook Events
We continue to utilize Facebook events as they have been instrumental in promoting our events and programs such as Parents Night Out, Township Day, History Tour, etc. They allow us to update the information if the programs are postponed or cancelled due to weather and to post updates to the events. Most recently, all events for 2020 were added.

Whitemarsh Elementary E-Folders
Emily Labowitz has continued to coordinate with Beatrice Deangelis and Dave Sherman, from Colonial School District, in regards to marketing Whitemarsh Township Parks & recreations upcoming programs and events. Most recently, Emily shared information about the Flower Show, Discount Ski Tickets, Schools Out Program, and Township Day.

Free Event Posting
Jackie Beebe continues to use the free event websites offered such as Patch.com, the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County, and MetroKids to promote our events. These sites provide a free and effective marketing tool for the department's special events and programs.

Excursions
Our Department, in conjunction with the Conshohocken Borough Parks & Recreation Dept. and the Springfield Parks & Recreation Dept. were scheduled to run a DIY NYC Trip on Saturday, May 9th. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this trip was cancelled. Participants will be receiving a full refund for the cancellation.

Special Events
On Saturday, March 7th, from 8:00am – 12:00pm in the Lower Parking Lot of Miles Park, our department hosted the 2020 Spring Shredding Day event, which promotes environmental sustainability through recycling, and helps protect against identity theft. The event was extremely busy throughout the day, with an estimated 450+ vehicles passing through. The Whitemarsh Township Parks & Recreation Department partnered with the members of the Whitemarsh Community Ambulance Association for a windy, but wonderful event. Volunteers assisted with shredding 32,100lbs (or 16.05 tons) of paper over the course of the 4-hour event. Through the recycling of the shredded paper, the Township was able to save the equivalent of 273 trees, 64,200 kilowatts of energy, 48.15 cubic yards of landfill space, and 112,350 gallons of water. In addition the residents of Whitemarsh were once again very generous with the local organizations donating $3,466.00 of in-day-of donations. We express our gratitude to Treasure Sign for being a sponsor of the event. As a “thank you” for providing volunteers for the event, Whitemarsh Township will be donating a portion of the proceeds, $990.27 in total, to the Whitemarsh Community Ambulance Association.

On Sunday, March 8th at 10am, Whitemarsh Township held their first-ever “Smash Mob” event at Miles Park to combat the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. The event was held to help to educate the community about the Spotted Lanternfly issue and teach techniques in managing their eradication. The Township had three experts in attendance including Karoline Anderson from the United States Department of Agriculture, John Hosbach from Rockwell Urban Forestry and the Certified Whitemarsh Township Arborist, and Joe Breznicky from Red Tail Restoration and Management. Karoline gave a thorough background on the Spotted Lanternfly issue and had a wealth of handouts for the 36 attendees comprised of adults and families. John Hosbach led an Interactive “how to recognize egg masses” demonstration via a ladder on a nearby tree. Next the group split into active working groups going to McCarthy Park with super volunteer and event co-coordinator Nick Bell, Miles Park with Joe Breznicky, and Leeland Park with John Hosbach. Attendees received educational handouts, an official Whitemarsh "Smash Mob" egg mass scraper, and an "Envirotee" t-shirt. All in all it was a wonderful community event and many thanks from the attendees.

The Annual Environmental Education spring clean-up day at the Wells Street Open Space scheduled for Saturday, April 4th from 8am-11am was cancelled in accordance with CDC guidelines for the coronavirus.
The Lions Club of Whitemarsh Annual Egg Hunt at the Miles Park Pavilion on Saturday, April 11th at 10am was cancelled in accordance with CDC guidelines for the coronavirus.

The Trash Mobs scheduled for April 19th and May 3rd were cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis.

It is with heavy heart and out of an abundance of caution that Township Day was cancelled in accordance with CDC guidelines for the coronavirus. The Parks and Recreation team is contacting those who have registered for these activities regarding credits or refunds.

The Bi-Annual History Tour scheduled for Sunday, May 17th was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The 2020 “Summer Movies in the Parks” Series is being reformatted and rescheduled due to the COVID-19 crisis. We are planning on having a schedule available in late May with a movie in July, August, and September. All movies are FREE and will begin at Dusk.

The annual Mini Spring Fling special event was slightly different this year. This year the youth event took place virtually! The spring time favorite took place on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 beginning at 10:00am and concluding at 10:45am. The event is usually held at Cedar Grove Barn, located at 100 Cedar Grove Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428 and is filled with parents, grandparents, and caregivers, with bright colors and spring themed decorations. This year we had 22 individual registered and all signed onto Zoom to join the fun! Whitemarsh Township Parks & Recreation teamed up with Miss Alison of Jump Jive & Jam to host a virtual dance party and sing-along about all things spring. Participants had to pre-register for this free event through Community Pass. Once registered, they were told to bring their favorite instruments and get ready to Jump Jive, & Jam into the musical fun. Lots of singing, dancing, and smiling occurred during the concert. Children ranging in 1 month-5 years played along, using egg shakers, scarves, drums, and guitars. Also, in the registration email participants were told that they could get creative and make your own instruments. Normally, Mini Spring Fling would consist of spring themed crafts, snacks, games, sensory bins, and of course a concert from Jump, Jive, and Jam. We brought the concert virtually to participant’s homes and wanted to share the other activities so that they could complete the celebration of Mini Spring Fling. Specific links and instructions were included in the registration email that included, virtual story time by our friends at the William Jeanes Memorial Library, spring themed bingo, healthy spring snacks, spring crafts, and spring sensory bins. The event was a success and received great feedback from the participants!

The Department is cautiously preparing for the 2020 Annual 4th of July Parade. All entertainment is booked. I spoke to Lions Club President Joe Zach and explained that we are being extremely cautious as we proceed given the COVID-19, watching the fluid situation for guidelines with safety and compliance in mind. I informed him that the event has not been cancelled at this point as we are allowing time and the circumstances to assist with our decision-making process. We have also submitted the PADOT Special Event road closure permit.

**Parks/Facilities/Fields – Projects/Updates**

The Miles Park Grant Project is over 90% completed. Completion of the pathways remain for 2020. The path connecting the upper and middle areas of the park has been surveyed and work is slated to begin in the next few weeks. The Township corresponded with DCNR in the end of April to update them on the project status given the COVID-19 delay and to notify that it would be completed by the end of fall 2020. – ON HOLD

The DVRPC Grant (Phase 1- $10,000) of the $40,000 feasibility study for the Miracle-Nature Trail has begun. This phase involves an engineering topographic study and determining trail opportunities given PECO parameters. The Township has received PECO approval to apply once a feasibility study is completed and the plan is formulated. The approval to move forward with a submittal is based on the concept discussions. The phase 1 report is due in December of 2020 but was submitted to the DVRPC 2020 Quarterly Report (Qtr. 1) and accepted. The Township received notification that it received a grant for $40,000 from DCNR-C2P2 which will match the funding for the feasibility study (no Township match required). The Township received and returned the agreement from DCNR and held the Introductory call in March to Initiate process. The Township staff is working with the Township engineer to provide the scope and budget for the remainder of the project to DVRPC and DCNR for approvals to proceed with funding. The Township will also be submitting an RFP budget waiver request for the project to save dollars with both entities. The Township received the initial funding payment from DCNR in the amount of $20,000 which has been deposited to Finance.

The Township has continued with environmental maintenance at Koontz Park. The area looks much improved. Gary Hill and Township Arborist John Hosbach developed a planting plan for a grove of trees in that back corner that will provide shade, screening, and privacy for park users and neighbors. Trees that have been planted include 1 Hackberry, 2 Rutgers Pink Dogwoods, and 2 Black Gum Trees. The trees were installed by the Public Works crew. The ground has received topsoil and received natural turf seed in some areas and Hard Fescue (Festuca Brevipilla) in other areas. We also created a wood chip path that wraps around from the fence side of the playground at the beginning of the wood area to the back of the park fence through that area towards the back stairs. The project is complete. It is a lovely natural path and nature play area for park users to enjoy.

The Department has ordered and received a New Befco BCA-072 Core Aerator - Ground Engage Equipment for park turf and ballfield maintenance by the Public Work Grounds Crew. The equipment will allow for safer and thick natural grass turf areas. In addition, this machine will allow the grounds crew to perform their tasks more efficiently and effectively which will save time and money. Finally, with the purchase of the core aerator, the Township will have cost savings on rentals of the equipment or having to contract the service.
The Miles Park Building had a new HVAC system (Daikin Ductless Mini-Split System Heat Pump and indoor wall mount/thermostat) installed in the large main room and also the coils cleaned in the interior units.

An energy efficient photo lens was installed at the Greenhouse.

New exterior energy efficient lighting was installed the entry way main door at the Koontz Park Building.

A bench at the Miles Park Basketball courts was fixed.

The walls in the large room and the lobby area at the Miles Park Building were painted.

The Department is having the exterior of the Concession Stand painted red once the COVID-19 crisis ends. It will be the color opposite the blue from the WLL logo (and we painted the Pavilion in the blue). We are looking to coordinate and have the first base dugout roofs in the park be blue and the third base roofs are red. The Park Board reviewed and supported the proposal on February 4th at their meeting. In addition, we purchased stainless steel letters and the Whitemarsh Logo for the backside of the building. The sign will read – "Miles Park – Whitemarsh Township" with the Township Logo above it. The letters will be installed following the painting. Finally the main counter area at the Concession Stand has had new swing doors built and installed to prevent vandalism and will have cork board on the inside for menu and price notices at games. We are looking forward to completing this project in May.

The Veteran’s Monument at Miles Park will begin construction in spring and with completion in mid-September. Staff and Township Engineers had a pre-construction meeting to coordinate logistics and limit the impact on park activity. This project is delayed due to COVID-19. — ON HOLD

The water in the parks has been turned on and the comfort stations in the parks cleaned. The bathroom areas will remain closed during the coronavirus crisis. The basketball court lights are also not being turned on until after the coronavirus crisis.

The Park Playgrounds have been closed and caution tape placed around them. The Exercise Equipment areas at Miles Park are closed and have caution tape and signage.

"Leave No Trace" signs were laminated and hung in the Parks that encourage social distancing and the removal of trash and dog waste.

Lt. Kennan is working with Public Works to install security cameras at the Miles Park Pavilion -- thanks! — ON HOLD

Moyer preformed the parks annual spring maintenance turf application on April 22nd.

The Miles Park Building 2nd Floor Dance Room is having the aged and worn (gaps and humps) floor replaced in May-June for safety reasons (trip-fall hazards).

Public Works has been busy preparing the fields and they have been dressed and groomed with soil conditioned and diamond-tex as needed. New ballfield inserts were ordered and installed as needed. They fixed the Minors baseball scoreboard and installed a new shut off switch at the back of the scoreboard and power feed wire to the shed at the batting cages. Split rail fence was installed around the dugout areas at Pony Field. The storm drain pipes have been replaced behind the ambulance building improving the stormwater flow and effect on the ballfields.

The large freezer at the Koontz Park Building motor died and it can not be fixed. The Department will look into replacing following the COVID-19 crisis.

A broken bench was fixed at Miles Park. A broken shutter was fixed at the Miles Park Building. A rotted piece of railing was replaced on the back stairwell at Koontz Park.

Jimmy McGuire repaired the broken playground equipment at the WJML.

The Miles Park Dugouts are being manufactured and will be scheduled for delivery and storage at the Public Works Facility until time and priority schedule permits for installation. The areas need footers to be installed prior to installation of the dugout shelters.

Shearon Environmental performed maintenance at the Miles Park Lower Soccer Field in the end of April. The work included aeration, overseed, tenacity weed application, and starter fertilizer to promote germination for newly planted seedlings. This program is done in partnership with the Colonial Soccer Club who provides a $3,000 donation to Whitemarsh Township.

Jimmy McGuire cleaned all air-handlers and filters at the Cedar Grove Barn, Miles Park Building, and Koontz Park, and also tested the Air Conditioner system. A new filter was purchased and installed in Koontz – Room A and Koontz – 2nd Floor Hallway Central Unit.

The trail markers in the Wells Street Open Space were repainted.
Earlier in the spring and as planned, Jolly Green Giant Landscaping roto-tilled strip beds around the Wells Street Open Space meadow, placed mulch from township yard waste grinding on these beds, and planted 650 perennial wildflowers in these beds as per the Natural Lands Trust plan.

Jimmy McGuire installed a new double-door lock on the interior dispatch doors in the back stairwell in the Miles Park Building to allow easier access for staff and emergency personnel.

The air conditioning units were installed in the Whitemarsh Art Center.

A door sweep was installed on the exterior door of the Cedar Grove Barn. Weather stripping and a door sweep were installed at Storage C.

ADA accessible and safety standard guideline woodcarpet was installed in the Township Playground areas (Miles Park, Leeland Park, Cedar Grove Park, Valley Green Park) in mid-March.

The Koontz Park Building boiler had the nozzle replaced for the oil injector and also replaced the filter for the oil supply line.

The Miles Park fitness equipment near the playground had 4x4 edging replaced for safety.

The Whitemarsh Art Center had some bad shingles replaced.

The Whitemarsh Art Center had the windows caulked to help prevent leaks.

A bulletin board at Valley Green Park was painted.

The ballast on the first floor light at the Koontz Park Building was replaced.

The Cedar Grove Barn received spray foam and caulk to seal overhang front windows.

Jon Walker performed an updated key inventory for the park system and created a board and a master ring set for ease of access as needed.

Jimmy McGuire power washed the Pavilion at Miles Park, the Concession Stand at Miles Park, and the comfort station at Leeland Park.

The Spotted Lantern Fly is a regional concern identified by the United States Department of Agriculture, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Montgomery County Conservation District. Specifically Montgomery County has been recognized as a quarantine zone. Our Township has worked with these authorities during the past year to perform treatments (USDA – March 2019 – Koontz Park), education (newsletter, handouts, and "Smash Mob" in May 2020), and serving on the Southeastern PA SLF Task Force. Our goal is to eliminate the Spotted Lantern Fly from our community and the surrounding areas through education and treatments to better the environment and health of our trees. With this in mind, the Department in coordination with the Public Works Department has planned and budgeted for the maintenance treatment of trees for the Spotted Lanternfly on trees identified in Miles Park and the McCarthy Park Trail by John B. Ward and Company – Arborists. An ISA Certified Arborist inspected and identified the trees in both areas. All work is fully insured and the area will be left in a neat, tidy manner. All work is performed in accordance with ANSI A300 tree care standards.

Wells Street Open Space and Valley Green Park parking lots have leaf compost available to the public while supplies last.

The annual Aqua water backflow prevention tests were completed in the parks system and facility buildings.

Jimmy McGuire repaired the screens in the doors at the Miles Park Concession Stand and Koontz Park Building.

**Miscellaneous**

Tom Blomstrom was selected by the Montgomery County Conservation District to serve on the Southern PA Spotted Lanternfly Task Force Group.

Tom Blomstrom attended a free webinar entitled “Preparing Your Organization For A COVID-19 Coronavirus Outbreak” offered by CareerLearning through the Nonprofit Web Advisors on Wednesday, March 18th.

The PRPS Annual State Conference in March was cancelled.

The PA Land Preservation Conference in April was cancelled.

Emily Labowitz attended FREE Webinars on 3-17 (Community Pass Registration Software – Message Manager), 3-25 (PRPS Health and Wellness Roundtable), 3-27 (Managing Pool Operations during Closures), 3-30 (BMP’s for Working Remotely) and 3-31 (Community Pass Registration Software – Family Merge and Individual Merge).
Tom Blomstrom and Jackie Beebe attended a FREE Webinar on 4-1 titled "Coronavirus and Youth Sports: What the Future Holds" presented by The Aspen Institute – Project Play Webinar.

Tom Blomstrom attended a FREE webinar on 4-2 by the Rails to Trails Conservancy titled "Closing Streets to Create Space for Walking and Biking During COVID-19".

Emily Labowitz attended FREE Webinars on Friday, April 3rd (PRPS Programs and Events Roundtable) and (Back to Basics Zoom). In addition she attended the FREE ACA Webinar on Friday, April 10th (Rally the Troops: Relationship Based Leadership Amid the Pandemic). On Tuesday, April 14th she attended a FREE virtual roundtable discussion by PRPS (Programs and Events – Summer Plan).

Mike Lannutti and Emily Labowitz attended a FREE Webinar on Tuesday, April 7th (PRPS Summer Camp Roundtable).

Tom Blomstrom attended a Zoom FREE Instructional "How to Host a Webinar" on April 8th. Also, on April 8th he attended a Webinar from the NRPA Leadership Development Network – "How Parks are Essential During COVID-19: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly". In addition, he attended an ICAA (International Council on Active Aging) FREE Webinar on April 13th (Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Anxiety amplified by COVID-19: A call for keeping people safe and connected).

Tom Blomstrom and Emily Labowitz attended the FREE Webinar from The Aspen Institute – Project Play (Coronavirus and Youth Sports: How to Manage the Crisis) on April 15th. They also attended the FREE Webinar on the PRPS District III Leadership (Summer Camps, Special Events, and Pools) on April 16th.

Jackie Beebe attended a FREE Webinar by the City Parks Alliance – “Programming While Social Distancing: Creative Strategies to Engage Communities” on April 9th.

Kudos to Michael Lannutti for in accordance with the Whittemarsh Township DHS License – for receiving a Professional Development Certificate of Completion for “Get Started with Center-Based Care: Building Blocks for Quality” from the PennState Extension – Penn State Better Kid Care Program.

Congrats to Emily Labowitz for receiving a Certificate of Completion for the FREE Webinar Based Instruction “Effectively Working Remotely” on March 30th and April 7th.

Important note that our Dance Instructor Ashlyn Brady has gone above and beyond on her own doing “Drive-by” dance for her participants on their Birthdays if she was contacted by a parent. A great effort in a scary time for children to help them feel connected on their special day.

Emily Labowitz attended a FREE Webinar via zoom on April 22nd – NRPA Young Professional Network (Marketing – Thinking Beyond Program Guides and Flyers). She also attended a FREE Webinar by Zoom (Administrator Training) on April 21st. On April 24th she attended the City Parks Alliance FREE Webinar (Planning for Summer and Beyond in Our Parks).

Tom Blomstrom attended a FREE Webinar via zoom on April 22nd and April 29th by the Aspen Institute – Project Play (Coronavirus and Youth Sports: What Kids Need from Coaches Now; How to Play During the Crisis).

Tom Blomstrom and Emily Labowitz attended a PRPS District III Leadership Free Zoom Webinar on Summer Camps, Events, and Pools on April 30th.

Tom Blomstrom, Jon Walker, Mike Lannutti, and Emily Labowitz attended a FREE Webinar via zoom on April 22nd by the ACA (Virtual Training Activities for Camp Staff).

Jimmy McGuire attended the PA Park Maintenance Institute Talk Series – FREE Zoom Webinar on Friday, April 24th.

Mike Lannutti attended a FREE Webinar by the Office of OCDEL (Office of Childhood Development and Early Learning) on 4-29-20 titled “Guidance for Childcare Programs that Remain Open”.

On May 8th, Emily Labowitz and Jon Walker attended the FREE Webinar by the City Parks Alliance (Maintaining our Connections: Ideas to Engage Staff and Residents).

Tom Blomstrom, Jon Walker, and Emily Labowitz attended a PRPS District III Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, May 12th.

Mike Lannutti attended the FREE Webinar from PRPS (Statewide - Summer Camp Roundtable) on Tuesday, May 12th.

Tom Blomstrom and Emily Labowitz attended the FREE Webinar on May 13th by The Aspen Institute (Coronavirus and Youth Sports: How Should Youth Sports Return to Play?).

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas J. Blomstrom
Director of Parks and Recreation
JUMP, JIVE, & JAM
FREE MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT!
FRIDAY, MAY 22ND 10:00 AM-10:45 AM

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION
INVITES YOU TO JOIN A FREE CONCERT HOSTED BY
MISS ALISON OF JUMP, JIVE, & JAM! BRING YOUR
FAVORITE INSTRUMENTS & GET READY TO JUMP,
JIVE, & JAM INTO THE MUSICAL FUN! WEAR RED,
WHITE, AND BLUE AS WE HONOR THE VETERANS,
POLICE, FIRST RESPONDERS, EMS, MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS, AND EVERYONE ELSE OUT THERE
WORKING TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE!

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. VISIT
WWW.WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG/PROGRAMS
OR CALL 610-828-7276
FOR CHILDREN AGES 1 MONTH-5 YEARS.
ONCE REGISTERED YOU WILL RECEIVE AN
EMAIL WITH A ZOOM LINK TO CONNECT!
Virtual Mini Spring Fling!

Whitemarsh
Pennsylvania

Tuesday, May 12th
10:00AM-10:45AM

Whitemarsh Township Parks & Recreation invites you to join a free concert hosted by Miss Alison of Jump, Jive, & Jam! Bring your favorite instruments & get ready to jump, jive, & jam into the musical fun!

Pre-registration is required.
Visit www.whitemarshparks.org/programs or call 610-828-7276 for children ages 1 month-5 years.
Once registered you will receive an email with a Zoom link and other activities to enjoy from the comfort of your home!
Whitemarsh Parks and Recreation Releases “In-Home Recreation Resources” Webpage

Whitemarsh Township Parks & Recreation

In-Home Recreation Resources

Posted By: Ken Knickerbocker  Posted date: April 06, 2020  In: Entertainment, Whitemarsh Township

With coronavirus pandemic putting a screeching halt to the usually busy spring season for municipal parks and recreation departments in Montgomery County, many have resorted to finding new unique ways to engage residents and provide them with a way to pass some of the stay-at-home time.

To achieve this, Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation has released an “In-Home Recreation Resources” webpage. The new tool provides over 100 resources of things to do while staying at home. These are divided into tabs such as Arts, Crafts, and Education, Environment and Nature, and Movement and Exercise, among others.

The department also offers daily activity outreach each morning on Instagram. On Mondays, there is a Facebook post with the “We Are Whitemarsh” contest. The winner of the free movie tickets and a pizza donated by Tonell’s Pizzeria is announced each Sunday.

To support local small businesses, the department has coordinated “Take-Out Tuesday’s” at local restaurants which offer Parks and Recreation specials on the day. The full list is available on the website.

Some of the other activities include the Senior Scoop newsletter on Wednesday aimed at keeping older adults engaged, kids Dance Party on Zoom on Fridays, and Virtual Escape Trips at the weekends.

Tags:  Tonell’s Pizzeria  Whitemarsh Township  Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation
Environmental Education Series

**Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Yard**

*Ever Wonder what plants attract hummingbirds in the Whitemarsh area? Attend to find out!*

**Saturday, April 18th 10:00am-12:00pm**

The lecture is presented by Penn State Master Gardeners and will be accessible through the Zoom video application. Once registered you will receive an email with the website and meeting ID number.

The lecture is free but space is limited! Pre-registration is required.

Visit www.whitemarshparks.org or call 610-828-7276 for more information.
March 23, 2020

Whitemarsh Township
616 Germantown Pike
Lafayette Hill, Pa. 19444

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your most generous donation of $251.15 from Parks & Rec. as well as the wonderful clothing drive. These donations will go far to keep our programs viable in these crazy times. You're ongoing support means so much to us, we just can't thank you enough!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sandi Fryer

Executive Director