

Sir Leisure A'Lot Quarterly Review

January—March 2015

Volume 1, Issue 3

The Relevance of Parks in Communities

This quarter is highlighting the relevance of parks to communities in general; but in particular focusing on to tourism and economic development. The American Planning Association (APA) through their City Parks Forum includes eleven (11) Briefing Papers “providing information on how healthy parks are fundamental to many aspects of community prosperity. These include improving economic health and vitality, reducing crime, improving public physical and mental health, creating a strong sense of community, supporting overall quality of life... the list is quite long. All these issues are important to communities across the county, and to those both in and outside the parks profession.” For more information on these briefing papers, please go to www.planning.org and look under Outreach and then click Community.

The City Parks Forum not only affirms those generalized benefits but elaborates more on them. So,

how are parks used for economic development and tourism? In economic development, the APA summarizes that parks are an investment in the community. Five (5) key points cited are: real property values are positively affected; municipal revenues are increased; affluent retirees are attracted and retained; knowledge workers and talent are attracted to live and work; and homebuyers are attracted to purchase homes.

With regards to tourism, APA states that “public parks are often the ‘engine’ that drives tourism.” What do parks offer that attract people to them? Key points addressed by APA include: parks provide sites for special events and festivals that attract tourist; parks provide sites for sports tournaments which can be major sources of tourism and economic benefits, especially for smaller cities; large urban parks with zoos, memorials, museums, cultural and heritage artifacts, and

historical sites can attract tourists; parks with landscape planting and design that are recognized as ‘living works of art’ can be tourist attractions.

King George County is blessed to have four County-owned parks – Sealston Sports Complex, Barnesfield Park, Wayside Park and newly developed Shiloh Park totaling 242 acres. Also located within the County is Caledon State Park with nearly 2600 acres. All of these facilities offer the user a variety of self-directed or programmed recreational opportunities.

Let’s not forget the social, cultural, educational and environmental benefits derived from parks. All are intertwined to help provide higher quality of life to the community.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Cover Stories | 1 |
| Athletics | 2 |
| Recreation | 2 |
| Facilities | 2 |
| By the Numbers | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 3 |
| Spotlight | 4 |
| Additional Activity | 5. |

Ralph Bunche Traveling Exhibit Opening on Tuesday, 4/21

“The Road to School Desegregation in King George County.” For two and one-half years the Ralph Bunche Advisory Committee (RBAC) has been meeting. The RBAC was charged with figuring out potential uses, funding sources/alternatives and an implementation plan for possible renovation of Ralph Bunche High School.

As the efforts are winding down, the RBAC and Ralph Bunche Alumni Association teamed up with University of Mary Washington’s Museum Exhibits class to provide a traveling exhibit. The UMW students previewed their works earlier in the month and it is very impressive. The public is invited to attend the exhibit’s opening at UMW-

Dahlgren on Tuesday, April 21 starting at 2:45p.m.. Doors open at 2:15p.m.

Partial funding of the Exhibit was made possible through funding by UMW– Department of Historic Preservation, Ralph Bunche Alumni Association and Dominion Power.

Athletics — F. Lorenzo Smith

KGPR Youth Basketball concluded in March. This year a 6 and 7 year old division was added back to our program; and our 16—18 division was canceled due to low registration. In all, 230 participated in the program. Over 165 games were played during the season. The challenge still is in the fair distribution of skilled and less skilled players per team. Sealston, Old King George Middle School, King George Middle School were the primary game sites.

Indoor Youth Soccer ended in March. 132 participants enjoyed their Friday and Saturdays playing at King George Elementary.

King George Youth Wrestling program held a tournament in January at King George High

School. Approximately 40 youth participated in the King George program with 24 involved with the Northern Virginia Wrestling Federation. Our coach has requested that we consider replacing the 30+ year old wrestling mat with a new one. This has been requested in the activities budget.

Coach Heather, **KGPR Gymnastics** instructor, had 156 participants in her Winter gymnastics programs. She offers over 13 programs to provide an age and skill appropriate learning environment. Several classes were postponed due to inclement weather.

20 individuals participated in the **Adult and Youth Karate** program held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at old King George Middle School.

Registration was held in January and February for **Youth Spring Soccer**. For the second year in a row, this program topped 400+ participants. Behind the scenes, three part-time employees greatly assisted in getting this program ready. Special thanks to Kevin, Trevor and Adrienne. Home games are scheduled to be played at Sealston Sports Complex, Shiloh Park and at the King George High School stadium.

In addition to the programs, 18 athletic fields and seven schools have been scheduled for use.

In addition to OKGES use, there were 180 other uses scheduled at the schools through KGPR.

Recreation — Janine Paulsen

January was busy planning and coordinating programs and special events. Also gearing up for the ticket sales for the Dances.

The **Mother/Son Dance** had approximately 60+ couples (128 participants). The **Father/Daughter (ages 7—12)** had approximately 90 couples (186 participants) and the **Father/Daughter (ages 4—6) Princess Ball** had about 80 couples (160 participants). Staff was pleased to offer “memorable moments.” Participants love the chocolate fountain, candy shop station, dinner, music and dancing. Special moments for the Princess Ball included being introduced on the Red Carpet, trying on Cinderella’s glass slipper by a handsome prince and taking pictures with several princesses, including Elsa. There were several volunteers for the events. This program was also supported with funding by NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union.

In March, the annual **EggStrVaGanza** was held at Potomac Elementary. This popular

event attracted approximately 125 youth and an additional 175 parents, grandparents and older siblings. While weather was a factor (whole event was held in the gym and hallways), this did not stop the children from scrambling for the over 2000 eggs, many of which contained special prizes. Several Community Partners assisted. Additionally, 20+ volunteers/staff assisted with the 20 games/craft stations. A nominal fee lunch was offered for the families.

Though held in the first week of April, over 110 families (386 participants) participated in the annual **Community Egg Hunt**. Staff hid eggs in over 15 locations for participants to look for baskets, toys, eggs, special # eggs for prizes and the golden egg worth \$100 (donated by NSWC Federal Credit Union). Numbered eggs added up to approximately \$500 in gifts donated by organizations and businesses.

Staff is now prepping for the annual **“Buddy Fines Memorial” Fishing Derby** scheduled

for May 2 and the **Mother’s Day Tea** scheduled for May 9. **Summer Camps** and the **Patriotic Palooza** featuring the Navy Band’s Country Currents are being worked on as well.

This past quarter, 2 professional training opportunities were offered to staff. **STEM training** occurred in February at the Smoot Library. The Library of Virginia in partnership with the Science Museum of Virginia presented the program. It was an excellent program enjoyed by three staff members. Several of the activities will be incorporated into the Play It Smart Before and After School program and at the Summer Camps.

Parks and Recreation partnered with the Child-care Network for **Child Care training**. This program is a 5 month (held once a month) program offered to staff free of charge. Approximately 12 staff attend each session.

Facilities

Awaiting the rainy days to clear so fields may start drying out; and gearing up for the Spring! Fields are getting prepped for play. Currently, 18 athletic fields and seven schools are scheduled for use.

In March staff secured prices for a contractor to perform work on the Barnesfield Park infield. Prices were also secured for the infield-

infield mix. Construction is underway as of 4/15. Weather pending, work should be done by the latter part of April. Anticipated is a greatly improved infield and better and safer playing surface.

Shelters at Barnesfield Park and Sealston Sports Complex (SSC) are being booked for the Spring and Summer. While Barnesfield

continues to be popular, SSC’s shelter is gaining momentum and along with several nice comments about the structure and its convenience to the restrooms and fields.

Walking path use at Shiloh is doing great. Now, informally, a group meets and walks on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00am—1:00p.m. All are welcome!

By the Numbers

Last quarter, information was shared about the January announcement of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Report Card on Infrastructure which included a section about Virginia's parks and recreation. At the presentation held in Richmond, Virginia's parks and recreation received a grade of C+. This was the second highest grade in the report card. Of noted interest, the reason for the C+ was attributed to lower level of maintenance funding and backlog of projects. This seemed to resonate at all levels of parks and recreation, national, state and local. The economic times was largely cited as one of the reasons for the maintenance issues. For additional information on the ASCE's Report Card, please visit www.ascevirginia.org

Citizens Center Use

| | In 2013/14: | July—Mar14: | July—March15 | Qtr.% +/- |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Rentals total: | 72 | 53 | 74 | |
| Whole Hall: | 47 | 36 | 40 | 20 + |
| Half Hall: | 25 | 17 | 34 | 100 + |
| Kitchen: | 70 | 52 | 61 | 27 + |
| Attendees: | 9550 | 7130 | 7530 | 13 + |
| Hours Rented: | 512 | 380 | 442 | 20 + |
| ABC Permitted: | 21 | 17 | 11 | 29 - |
| Non-residents: | 19 | 15 | 11 | 0 - |

Around the County

King George Parks and Recreation Soccer—400 participants

KGPR Pee Wee Soccer—18 participating

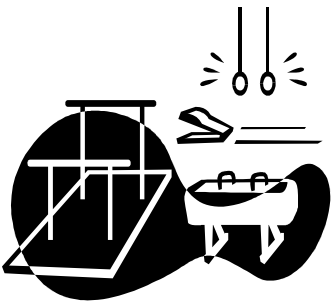
King George Little League Baseball and Softball—approximately 365

King George Adult Softball—5 teams

King George Youth Athletic Association Flag Football and Cheerleading: approximately 375

Other independent teams/leagues: approximately 130 participants using King George County facilities.

These numbers do not include scholastic participation.



Old King George Elementary School Gym Rentals

July 2013—June 2014 Rentals: 159

July 14' - March 15" Rentals: 111

July 13"- March 14" Rentals: 125

This past March King George County was not a host site for SASA's annual St. Patrick's Day Tournament. Stafford County made sure all games were held in their locality. A recent softball tournament in King George attracted 8 teams.

Upcoming Events - Pen in our activities on your calendar!

Saturday, April 4—Annual Community Egg Hunt

Friday, April 10—Spring Break Kite Fly / Roller Skating at Sealston Sports Complex starting at 12:00p.m.

Friday, May 1—Youth Track and Field Mee at King George Middle School starting at 5:30p.m

Saturday, May 2—Buddy Fines Memorial Fishing Derby starting at 10:00a.m.

Saturday, May 9—Mother's Day Tea at the Citizens Center

Saturday, June 27—Patriotic Palooza at Barnesfield Park from 6:00p.m—9:00p.m.

Thursday, August 13—Backyard Carnival Fun at King George Elementary School

Day, times and locations are subject to change. Please call Parks and Recreation at 540-775-4386 to verify special event information or visit www.kinggeorge.recdesk.com for updated information on classes and events.

King George County Parks and Recreation

8076 Kings Highway
P.O. Box 71 (mailing address)
King George, Virginia 22485

Office phone: 540-775-4386

FAX: 540-775-5255

We're on the Web at

<https://kinggeorge.recdesk.com>

"We Create Community through People, Parks
and Programs"

"Enhancing the Quality of Life for Our Community"

"Take a Day to Play"

Our Vision: to become Virginia's premier County in bringing people together and enriching lives through recreation and community activities.

Our Mission: is to effectively deliver services by providing diverse and balanced recreation programs and facilities that incorporate the needs, interests and desires of our citizens. With citizens' support and involvement and interactive utilization of facility, community and natural resources, we contribute to maintaining community character, enhancing community spirit, developing partnerships between private enterprises, civic organizations and individuals; hence, reaching out enhancing lives and contributing to the community livability.

Spotlight

Brings to light an activity/event, volunteer, donor/donation, facility, parks/recreation service provider or employee that contributes to the vision/mission of the Department.

For years, Parks and Recreation has offered numerous special events. While they are all special and enjoyed, our Father—Daughter Dance, Mother—Son Dance and newly offered Father—Daughter Princess Ball are truly special.

Each February, the Mother—Son Dance and Father - Daughter Dance have been offered prior to Valentine's Day. On Friday, the day of the Mother—Son Dance the Citizens Center's Main Hall transitions from a basic room into a magical oasis filled with warmth and wonderment.

Kudos' to our Parks and Recreation

Advisory Committee member for bringing the idea to the table and to Janine Paulsen, Recreation Programs Supervisor for planning, implementing and adding to the idea.

Two of the events, the Mother-Son and Father-Daughter Dances' have seen growth. In fact, the Father-Daughter Dance being sold out in 2014. In 2015, Ms. Paulsen added the Princess Ball for father and daughters (ages 4—6). This first-time event turned out very successful with approximately 80 eighty couples.

Events like this are a great opportunity for parents and their children to

have one-on-one time and having their special moments.

Coming up - Mothers Day Tea. Again, this event affords Mothers and Daughters to have their special time together.

Special thanks go to NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union for their continued support and sponsorship of these special events.

Additional Quarterly Items of Interest

Staff attended Ralph Bunche Advisory Committee meetings in January, February and March.

Met with Rappahannock United Way concerning free tax preparation program. Two P & R staff attended the greeter training program held at the Citizens Center in January. The Citizens Center has been a host site for tax preparation for citizens making less than \$60,000. Through April 1 there were 5 sessions. Each session attracted between 6—8 persons keeping our volunteers busy each evening..

Attended the ASCE Meet and Greet with Virginia's lawmakers at the Hotel Jefferson in Richmond. Here, the ASCE presented Virginia's Infrastructure Report Card. Overall, Virginia was given a C-. Parks and Recreation received a grade of C+. Throughout the Infrastructure Report Card, maintenance was cited for the low grade.

Worked on quarterly newsletter/report to provide the Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and to put on the Parks and recreation website. Would be put out in October, January, April and July. July would provide year end details, including unaudited fiscal information.

Wrote quarterly article for Economic Development e-newsletter. Go to www.yeskinggeorge.com

Staff serving on the Board of Directors for the King George Chamber of Commerce. Attended January, February and March Board meetings.

Staff worked with administration on the concession operations RFP; and later, on the development of a draft policy. There were no responses to the RFP advertised in February 2015. In response to the lack of interest in the RFP, administration and staff was tasked to develop a policy. Upon presentation of the draft policy to the Board of Supervisors, it was determined to revise policy after soliciting additional input from user groups. This will be returned to the Board of Supervisors at a later date.

Staff attended Rappahanock United Way 's Day of Caring community meeting.

Staff worked with Martin Luther King Committee with their annual program.

Staff assisted the Knight of Columbus with their annual Free Throw Contest

Staff worked with the School's Head Start/Coalition program providing 6-weeks of soccer instruction.

Attended the Virginia Parks and Recreation Management Conference

Prepared CIP Requests

Working with an Eagle Scout on a connecting trail between Shiloh Park and the King George YMCA

Spoke at the Ruritan' Club's March meeting.