

# City of Greer Parks & Recreation Department

## Monthly Report for December 2014



*The City of Greer Parks and Recreation Department is committed to fulfilling our mission of providing quality recreational experiences while administering the values of community image, human development, preservation of environmental resources, health and wellness, economic development and cultural unity.*

### Department Projects

- ◆ During December, Ann Cunningham and Red Watson reviewed and graded proposals submitted from 7 consultants for the Downtown Bicycle and Walking Plan made possible through the Greenville Pickens Area Transportation Study Grant. Five priority corridors will be identified in downtown Greer for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The area between Highway 29, Highway 80 and S. Buncombe Road will comprise the project study area.
- ◆ The pedestrian bridge that crosses Maple Creek at Century Park was determined unsafe by the City Engineer and department staff members. The recent rains have produced large quantities of water down the creek that has caused the pier to move and the bridge to slowly lower due to erosion. This was determined by taking elevation measurements throughout the year after heavy rains caused flooding in this area at Maple Creek. The bridge was demolished and stabilization of the creek bank continues.
- ◆ Parks and Recreation staff met with David Langley of Langley & Associates, on December 10, to discuss the Century Park Concession Stand Project. Surveying of the property by Blue Ridge Land Surveying was scheduled.
- ◆ Justin Miller met with Councilman Wayne Griffin to continue planning for the 2015 MLK Day of Celebration. This year's program will be held on January 19, 2015 in the Events Halls at City Hall.

### Department Trainings

- ◆ On December 1, Justin Miller traveled to Columbia to attend training with DSS regarding after school snacks and the possibility of participating in their program for snack reimbursement.
- ◆ Ann Cunningham and Red Watson attended the Multi-Hazard Mitigation using GIS meeting at the Police Training room on December 9.
- ◆ Staff members in the Parks and Recreation Department completed quarterly MASC Online Training. The courses completed were Stress and Your Health and Volunteers Working with Children and Adolescents.

### Department Participation

- ◆ Staff members participated in the Wellness Committee's final event on December 4 at the Fire Department.

- ◆ Parks and Recreation staff assisted with the Greer Christmas Parade on December 7. The staff provided goodie bags for all City staff that worked the Christmas Parade. Items provided included cookies, pretzels, candy, etc. This is a small way to say ‘thank you’ to City staff. All 6 Upstate Jackets youth football teams represented Greer Recreation in the Greer Christmas Parade. Greer Cultural Arts Council participated with a float in the parade and the City of Greer along with Greer State Bank sponsored the Santa float.
- ◆ On December 9, Ann Cunningham, Red Watson and Robin Byouk met with David Langley and Ed Ziegler to discuss Cultural Arts input for the Greer City Master Plan.
- ◆ On December 10, the Parks and Recreation staff met to discuss planning for the International Festival to be held on April 11, 2015.
- ◆ Justin Miller and members of the Greer Development Council Committee assisted with planning the activities for the Jr. Leadership Greer Human Services Day. Justin also assisted Leadership Greer with their poverty simulation at the Davenport on Trade Street.

## Department Highlights

- ◆ On December 5, the City of Greer hosted the second annual Supper with Santa event for City of Greer employees. The event was held at the Cannon Center and the ticket proceeds totaling \$366 benefited the Police Department’s Cops for Tots program. Employee’s and their families enjoyed crafts, a cupcake walk and quality time with Santa. The Cops for Tots distribution of toys to the children was held at the Cannon Centre on December 20. The Parks and Recreation Grounds Maintenance staff helped transport materials to the Cannon Centre for the Police Department in preparation for the distribution.
- ◆ Also on December 5 and December 6, the City of Greer hosted Christmas at the City of Greer. The December 5 event, the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, took place in Greer City Park. The Greer community enjoyed inflatables, a photo booth and story time with Santa. Greer Cultural Arts Council (GCAC) provided volunteers for the craft and face painting booths and Greer Relief roasted marshmallows and collected canned goods. The Greenville Jazz Ensemble and Foothills Philharmonic performed as well. Breakfast with Santa was a great success! It was held on December 6 at the Cannon Centre and was once again sold out!



- ◆ The Recreation Division finished the 2014 Campaign for the popular program Letters to Santa. This year the department had nearly 300 letters sent to Santa’s Mailbox. All letters were answered personally by Santa and mailed to each child.
- ◆ The application for Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) funding of Phase II of the Victor Gym upstairs renovation was submitted to the Legislative Delegation on December 11.
- ◆ Chuck Langston and many of his staff members at Langston Black Realty provided lunch for the Parks and Recreation and Public Services Departments on Thursday, December 11, in the OC Warehouse. The food was delicious and it was so very kind of Chuck and his staff to think of us!
- ◆ Ann Cunningham is working with Shirley Carlsson with the Azalea Garden Club on adding a fence garden at the Blue Star Marker at Century Park.
- ◆ Ann Cunningham is evaluating current conditions of facility Christmas decorations. New quotes will be solicited for replacing balls, ribbon, foliage, etc. for 2015.

- ◆ Piano Performers held their 2014 Christmas Recital at the Cannon Centre on December 14-15. Over 60 students performed and over 200 people were in attendance for both recitals.
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation and Public Services Departments held their annual Christmas luncheon in the warehouse of the Operations Center on Wednesday, December 17. Texas Roadhouse catered the meal for our employees.
- ◆ On December 17, Travis Durham, Grounds Supervisor, and his lovely wife Amanda celebrated the birth of their son, Kai Wrigley Durham!
- ◆ Ray White, the popular local storyteller, came to the Needmore Community Center, on December 18, and shared several Christmas stories with the Needmore Afterschool children.



- ◆ The Grounds Division:
  - Installed a new section of sewer line at Century Park Kids Planet.
  - Installed new brackets for wall pads at Victor Gym.
  - Installed a bulletin board at Victor Park field.
  - Removed 4 dead trees at Stevens Park.
  - Conducted inspections and audits of playgrounds.
  - Continued winter pruning of trees and shrubs at all facilities.
- ◆ Seniors Out and ARound (SOAR) participated in a lunch bunch meeting at the Italian Garden in Greer. They traveled to Fountain Inn to see the play “A Charlie Brown Christmas” and had dinner at the Cracker Barrel. The group also held a Christmas Ornament Day at the Needmore Community Center. SOAR continued to hold their monthly potluck lunch, movies and bingo days. Average attendance during the month was 11.
- ◆ The Wall Gallery was changed to showcase the work of Sonny Gray, an abstract artist, on December 9 and will be displayed through January.
- ◆ On December 30, GCAC’s student board visited the Greenville Hospital System’s Wonder Center to spend time with the children there. The students dressed as king and princesses and made crafts and handed out stickers.
- ◆ The Athletic Division facilitated wrestling practices at Victor Gym on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights. The wrestlers competed in tournaments throughout the upstate on select Saturdays. The season will conclude in February with a state tournament.
- ◆ The adult basketball league has 8 teams participating in the winter league at Victor Gym and approximately 80 players are part of the league that plays on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The league consists of 10 games and a tournament. The season will conclude in January with playoffs.
- ◆ The Athletic Division hosted “Meet and Greer” sessions, for the Greer Baseball Club (GBC) spring coaches, at the Cannon Centre to discuss the upcoming season, ways to promote the league and upcoming registration dates.

- ◆ Foothills Soccer Club of Greer (FSCG) rostered all current academy teams in the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA) database and prepared for the upcoming FSCG Academy season.
- ◆ All athletic fields and facilities were closed for the winter months.
- ◆ The Events Division hosted 29 events, at which over 6,600 guests visited the City of Greer Events Center.
- ◆ The Events Division hosted the Upper State Codes Enforcement Agency (USCEA) training for the Building and Development Standards Department in City Hall on December 3.
- ◆ On December 12, the Events Division hosted the Human Resource Departments' annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast at the Events Halls at City Hall.
- ◆ The Police Department's Interview and Interrogation training was facilitated at the City Hall Events Halls on December 15-19.
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department staff continued planning 2015 events such as: Black History Month and the International Festival.



***"Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"***