

Board of Community Services

October 28, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 24 – **Halloween at Howarth.** A socially distanced drive-through event intended for families with young children. Event is free but requires pre-registration and is sold out (1,500 youth). 20 booths will be decorated by local sponsors and volunteers to give kids a fun Halloween experience.

October 30 – The Recreation division will offer a *Caravan to Candyland* Halloween drive-through event for seniors at the Finley Center Complex from 1-2:30pm. Good bags will be distributed, and the students from School of Rec will be dressed up and waving as they drive by.

November 14 – **Be A Hero, Thank A Hero.** 11am-1pm, In collaboration with the Redwood Empire Food Bank, we will host a food drive at the Finley Community Center parking lot along with an opportunity to thank our community heroes such as nurses, teachers, police, firefighters, etc. Write a thank you note, draw a picture, etc. and drop off at the event. Recreation staff will gather all the thank you items and deliver them to our local heroes.

December 12 – **Cruising Candy Cane Lane.** 5:30-6:00; 8:00-8:30, Participants will park at A Place to Play as a parade of decorated cars drive through. Limited parking spaces so pre-registration will be required. More info to come when registration opens.

Thursdays – In cooperation with Council on Aging, 5-day meal packs are distributed from the Steele Lane Community Center every Thursday morning. An average of 50 seniors pick up meal packs each week. In addition, the Recreation staff have been securing a variety of donations to pass out with the meals including puzzles, masks, and flowers. A little something extra to help brighten their day.

Aquatics – Planning to add safe swim lessons in the New Year. Covid-19 protocols have limited our ability to recertify our current Lifeguards and has put a stop to new lifeguard classes. We are working on a safe plan to offer classes so that we have enough lifeguards to staff all of our shifts.

ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS:

Senior *ZEST* newsletter was mailed to all seniors early August which included a pair of comfy socks.

August 17-19 Recreation operated cooling centers at Rincon Valley Library and Salvation Army.

August 19 - Recreation staff opened a temporary evacuation site at A Place to Play park for fire evacuees.

August 24 - Successfully opened School of Rec Camp & Care, accommodating 96 students (groups of 12, following County Health Order and Childcare guidelines)

September 6 & 7 - Opened Cooling Center at Steele Lane Community Center

Summer Daze Camp & Care was held at Steele Lane Community Center and Howarth Park this past summer (all following County Health Order and childcare guidelines). Over 400 youth were served in the program.

October 5 – Opened 2 more cohorts of 12 children at Steele Lane Community Center (**not** 9/28, due to Fire and opening Temporary Evacuation Point at Place to Play and Shelter at Finley)

November/December – extending sports field permits for youth sports Clubs (current health order allows for groups of 14 for practice only); and allowing some practice on softball fields under lights (with daylight savings coming). Sports Field permits for Fall have been issued to baseball & soccer clubs. Current Health Order allows for groups of 12 or less, for practice only.

Finley Shelter – Recreation opened and operated the Finley Community Center as a shelter for the Glass Complex Fire evacuations.

Some existing volunteer groups have been able to go through a special Covid training and resume some volunteer activity with modifications:

Rincon Valley Dog Park Volunteers – hosted their annual Fall work party to spread 25 yards of wood chips and prep the dog park for winter. Another workday is currently being scheduled for November to close off the grass area for the winter.

United Flyers of Sonoma Volunteer Group – Resumed ongoing maintenance of back area of Youth Park as part of the Adopt-A-Green Space program.

Redwood Empire Live Steamers – Were not allowed to operate the train in Youth Park this year but have been resuming some maintenance projects in the park to address vandalism to train tracks.

Rural Cemetery Preservation Committee – While all tours and events have been canceled, workgroups including the Tombstone Trio, Rose Brigade, Native Garden and the McDonald Entrance volunteer groups have resumed their workday schedule to provide essential maintenance in the Rural Cemetery.

Aquatics - Finley and Ridgway pools continue to be very busy with Lap Swim, Water Aerobics, Masters Swim, & Neptune Swim Team. We've added Water Polo skills & drills only, and expanded times for Lap Swim & Water Aerobics

The Howarth Park boathouse was open all summer on weekends following County Health Guidelines and was closed on October 19th.