



HCP&R Newsletter

December 2020

Christmas Festival of Lights

a special event. Foremost among them is our great maintenance crew, who works tirelessly to make sure that every display is in working order and placed in just the right spot. The next time you see Kenny McBride, Jack Flynn, or Eric Sions, be sure to tell them how much you appreciate their hard work. Also, we need to



Our eighth annual Christmas Festival of Lights kicked off with the Lighting Ceremony, which was held Saturday, November 28, at the amphitheater at Afton and Pauline Malick Central Hampshire Park in Augusta. We had one of the biggest turnouts ever, and everyone seemed to have a festive time eating cookies, drinking hot chocolate, and talking to Santa.

There are so many people involved in the Christmas Festival of Lights who make it such a





thank Four B's Pizza and Subs for donating and serving the hot chocolate and cookies.

Through the generosity of the Hampshire County Commission, the HCP&R Board, and many businesses and individuals throughout the area, the Festival has exploded over the past seven years. We have grown from 24 light displays in 2013 to 225 displays this year. New features for 2020 include a four-foot extension to our giant Christmas tree in the field above the amphitheater, making it a 22-footer this year, and several large displays to ring the interior of the park.

Also, don't forget about our great musical display. When you enter the park, simply tune your car or truck radio to 106.5 FM and then watch our musical display flash to the beat of some of your favorite Christmas tunes, which will be playing through your radio.

The Festival is open every day from 5:30 until 10:00 pm through January 1. **And the best part is that you can enjoy the lights from the warmth and comfort of your own vehicle free of charge.** Mark your calendars right now so you don't miss this special Christmas tradition.

We've had several questions concerning the Christmas Festival of Lights, so I thought this



would be a good time to try to provide some answers.

- 1. Why does Central Hampshire Park have to be closed so long for the Festival?** If you've been to the Festival this year, you are aware that there are a lot of Christmas lights at the park. We contacted Santa and his elves about helping with the installation, but they seem to be quite busy this time of year. Kenny McBride, Jack Flynn, and Eric Sions do a fantastic job of putting up all the displays and running electricity to each one, but they are not miracle workers. In fact, Kenny was out at the park the afternoon that the Festival opened, just checking to make sure that everything was ready to go. We are sorry for any inconvenience the park's closing may cause, but we feel that the results are worth the inconvenience.
- 2. Why are some lights not on when I drive through?** The displays are set on timers so somebody doesn't have to go out there and turn each display on every night. The Festival runs from 5:30 until 10:00 each night, but we often go out early and open the gate. So, if you happen to drive through at 5:15, even though the gate is open, some of the displays may not have turned on yet. All are on by 5:30, and most turn off promptly at 10:00.
- 3. Why isn't Santa there more than once?** As I said before, Santa is very busy this time of year, so we could only book him for one night.
- 4. Why are some of my favorite displays missing this year?** This is our eighth year of the Festival. Some displays,

especially those that are animated, are beginning to wear out. We have been able to fix some of them and replace others, but some of your favorites may be out of stock now. If Christmas Done Bright doesn't make them, we can't purchase replacements. We understand that you miss some of your favorites, and we do as well, so we will keep buying new displays each year, like the big ones that ring the interior of the park this year.

- 5. Why don't you have a donation box at the Festival?** We are pleased to offer this service to our community free of charge. We don't want anyone to feel obligated in any way to give a donation in order to see the lights. If you want to contribute, the Christmas Festival of Lights Fund Drive runs the entire month of January, and we will be happy to accept any donations you feel moved to contribute at that time, no matter how big or how small.

If you have any other questions regarding the Festival, please call us at (304) 822-7300 any weekday between 9:00 and 1:00, or you can email us at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com anytime.



Skiing/Tubing Trip to Canaan Valley Resort



Hampshire County Parks and Recreation will sponsor a skiing/tubing trip to Canaan Valley Resort in Davis, WV, on Monday, January 18, 2021, which is Martin Luther King Day. The slopes are open for skiing from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and tubing times are as follows: Session A is 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.; Session B is from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.; Session C is from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

The special group rate for the day is as follows: Lift Ticket Only- \$20; Lift Ticket Plus Ski Rental- \$30; Lift Ticket Plus Snowboard Rental- \$40; Tubing (All Sessions)- \$8. **In order to get the group rate, just tell the clerk at the ticket window that you are with the Hampshire County Parks and Recreation group.** Don't miss this opportunity to hit the slopes with your friends while enjoying a great rate.

Youth Basketball Leagues



Recently, the Governor directed that all interscholastic winter sports will be delayed until

January 11. Because of that order, we will have to cancel our two youth basketball leagues, Biddy Buddy and the IBL, for this year. We tried, but the current spike in Covid cases, not only in Hampshire County but throughout the state, necessitated this move. We simply would not have the time nor the facilities to run the program at such a late date.

We rely on the good graces of the Hampshire County Board of Education for the use of their gyms in Romney and Capon Bridge for practices and games. Even if interscholastic and youth sports are permitted after January 11, and that's certainly no sure thing, there's still a myriad of problems that we, in cooperation with the BOE, would have to solve in order to hold the program. We have no idea what the status of the virus will be at that point, and we have even less of an idea of what restrictions will be placed on the school facilities. Since we use school gyms, school activities have first priority when it comes to their use. Plus, the schools have the added burden of cleaning and sanitizing their buildings on a regular basis. Our presence four or five days a week would only complicate that dilemma.

Thanks to everyone who registered for the two leagues. Ironically, our registrations were higher at this point than they have been for several years. We know you kids wanted to get out of the house and get some exercise playing a sport that you love, and we would like nothing better than to give you that opportunity, but the risks and problems are just too much to overcome. We look forward to having the two leagues again next year, and we are truly sorry that the situation worked out this way.



Walk To Be Fit



Our Walk To Be Fit Program is over for another year. Thanks go out to all our faithful participants who make this program so successful. If you haven't done it already, please turn in your tally sheets to one of our locations so we can gather them and tally your miles. If you have

earned a reward for your efforts, we should have contacted you by now.

If you think you have earned an award and you haven't received it yet, please contact us at (304) 822-7300 or via email at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com. It is not our intention that anyone who has earned a prize should be left out.

Just because Walk To Be Fit is over for the year, you don't have to stop walking. There will still be some warm fall days when you can get out and get some exercise, so take advantage of them.

New Conference Center at Hampshire Park



Work is progressing nicely on the new Conference Center at Hampshire Park. L&T Electric and D&D Plumbing have completed their preliminary work, and Blue Ridge Concrete Services poured and finished the concrete on the front porch and the interior of the building. Mark Roomsburg from Roomsburg Homes, LLC, has completed the framing, and Dave Watts has finished the preliminary work on the HVAC system.

The 6,600-square-foot Conference Center will be heated and air conditioned for year-round use and will be available for a variety of functions, including:

1. 4-H Camp
2. Weddings
3. Wedding Receptions
4. Baby Showers
5. Business Meetings
6. Business Conferences
7. Family Reunions
8. Birthday Parties
9. Retreats
10. Camps for Organizations
11. Anniversary Celebrations
12. Craft Shows
13. Class Reunions
14. Picnics

If you have questions about the project, or if you are interested in contributing to it, call HCP&R at (304) 822-7300, or email us at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com.



HCP&R is offering Kettlebell classes four days a week, on Sunday afternoon from 3:00 until 4:00, and on Tuesday,

Wednesday, and Thursday nights from 6:00 until 7:00. All classes are now being held at Warrior Fitness, which is located at 60 West Sioux Lane in Romney.

Kettlebells are cast iron weights shaped like a ball with a handle for easy gripping. Kettlebells offer a different kind of training using dynamic moves targeting almost every aspect of fitness – endurance, strength, balance, agility and cardio endurance. People love it because it's challenging, efficient, and you only need one piece of equipment. Kettlebell classes are taught by certified instructors Kaleena Wilfong and Camilla Fout.

The cost for Kettlebell classes is \$5 per session, or for \$20 you may purchase a punch card that is good for five sessions. Also, we are now selling a monthly card for \$50.

Even if you've never tried Kettlebell before, come on out and see what it's all about. Mark your calendars today so you don't miss a chance to get some exercise while having a great time with your friends.

Disc Golf Course at Camp Walker



When planning outdoor activities, don't forget about the Camp Walker Disc Golf Course. We have made several improvements to the course over the past year. We installed tee-marker posts for all the holes to make each teeing area more visible. We are also providing scorecards and course maps, both of which can be found in the mailbox beside the first tee.

The first tee is located on the flat ground out past the pavilion, where the road turns to the left and starts down over the hill toward the exit to the park. We have also installed new tee markers

with the Camp Walker logo on them for each hole.

If you're looking for a disc to play at Camp Walker, then we have several options for you. We have Skeeters, which are all-purpose discs that are suitable for every shot, for sale in the HCP&R office for just \$7.00 each. We also have commemorative glow-in-the-dark drivers and putters that have the official Camp Walker logo on them for \$15.00 each. All proceeds from the sale of these discs go for improvements to the course.

If you haven't been out to Camp Walker to play the course, you really need to take an hour or so and try it. I feel certain that you will find disc golf both physically and mentally challenging. Plus, it's a great opportunity to spend some time in one of the prettiest spots in Hampshire County. **And it's free to play.** Now that's a deal I know you don't want to miss!



Pavilion and Park Reservations

On Monday, January 4, HCP&R will begin taking pavilion and park reservations for the 2021 season. The rental season extends from April 15 through October 15. Before and after those dates, running water will not be available in any of our parks.

Pavilions for picnics, family reunions, or any other outdoor gathering may be rented at either Hampshire Park or Central Hampshire Park. Prices for the entire day run from \$35 to \$45, depending on the size of the pavilion rented. You may also rent the amphitheater at Central Hampshire for only \$55 per day.

If you have a larger gathering, you may want to rent an entire park, either at Green Spring Park (\$40 to \$95, depending on facilities desired) or Camp Walker (\$65 for the whole park the entire day). All our parks now have electric outlets, running water, and restroom facilities.

To rent a pavilion or park, or just to get more information, call the HCP&R office any weekday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at (304) 822-7300, or you may stop by the office at 90 North High Street in Romney during those hours. We will also accept reservations via our email at hampshirecoparks@hotmail.com. Don't forget to get your reservations in early so you don't miss out on that special place for your picnic or outing.

Merry Christmas

Hampshire County Parks and Recreation

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**OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday--9:00
a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



“Recreation brings quality to life.”

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