Youth Activities

City of Las Cruces®

TO: Robert Garza, City Manager

FROM: Mark Johnston, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: June 30, 2014

SUBJECT: July 14, 2014 Work Session; Youth Activities

FILE No.: PRD-14-186

In recent weeks, a few members of City Council have requested information concerning the types of youth activities and services that are available for youth participation. At the July 14, 2014 City Council Work Session, staff will be providing Council with background information on the Parks and Recreation Department and the variety of programs, classes, athletic opportunities and special events that are offered to City as well as Dona Ana County youth participants. The information will include:

- Overview of the Parks and Recreation Department structure
- The New Youth Services Section
- Incorporation of Weed n Seed and Juvenile Citation Program
- Variety of recreational programs
- Partnerships and opportunities
- Youth employment
- How are programs started and/or discontinued
- Explanation of services provided by other departments

Staff will be prepared for discussion and Council input concerning the activities and possibilities for future programming. Attached are listings of youth activities that are offered by various City departments.

cc: Brian Denmark, Assistant City Manager/COO

Attachments

Youth Programming

Parks and Recreation Department

The Department continues to develop new programs and offerings for youth at several locations across the City. The Department is expanding with the incorporation of Weed-n-Seed and the Juvenile Citation Program (JCP). Projects are already underway to create new programs, employment and educational opportunities. The Department is proud to be recognized for the sixth year in a row resulting in a Playful City USA designation. Las Cruces is the only New Mexico City to receive the award in 2014. The Department conducted a survey soliciting input from local teens in 2013 which lead to creating new sport related teen programs. The following list encompasses a majority of the offerings staff provides to the youth of Las Cruces and the surrounding area. Programs are implemented and or discontinued based on public feedback, participation, research and the ROI for the program based on financial and staff commitment.

City Run Athletics Programs

- Youth basketball spring and fall leagues (over 1000 participants)
- Youth flag football summer league
- Youth T ball summer league
- Youth softball summer league
- Youth indoor soccer winter league
- Youth volleyball winter league
- Outdoor volley ball tournaments
- Dream league for youth with disabilities
- Therapeutic customers, volleyball and basketball program
- Youth obstacle race
- Kick Ball league
- Video game tournament (250 participants)
- Open gym at Meerschiedt 3 nights per week year round
- Meerschiedt open daily for drop in
- Basketball tournament for players that did not make their school teams

Summer Camps

- Cheer Camp, NMSU Cheerleaders assist with coaching
- Gymnastics camp
- Science and rocket camp
- Soccer
- Softball
- Baseball
- Get real fit
- Volleyball

- Youth camp for special needs at FOP

Aquatic Programs

- Youth swim lessons 2 – 3 sessions per year
- Pre lifeguard training
- Lifeguard Certification Program 30 – 50 students per year
- Open seasonal swim at outdoor pools
- Daily swim sessions at Aquatic Center (year round)
- Free youth open swim (summer) outdoor pools monthly on Mondays
- Spring Break Teen Day 600 participants over three sessions
- Glow Night Teen / youth event at Aquatic Center twice per year
- Fitness program for 15 year old plus at Aquatic Center

Recreation Programs

- Frank Obrien Papen summer recreation full day (75 youth)
- Meerschiedt summer recreation 2 half day sessions (65 youth)
- Weed n Seed summer recreation (35 youth)
- East Mesa summer recreation (75 youth)
- After School Program eight sites (280 youth throughout the school year)
- Weed-n-Seed After School Program (35 youth)
- Quarterly teen dances held at Recreation Sites
- Provide recreation and physical activities for Mev Tech students at FOP
- Teen mobile truck and equipment scheduled to begin services late summer 2014
- Therapeutic programs offered at multiple sites (daily)
- Teen lock in and mentoring program at Meerschiedt, Phi Beta Sigma, Weed n Seed, P and R staff
- Soap Box Derby Event
- Gymnastic program
- Cheer and dance program
- Gardening programs at Weed n Seed and Munson Center, mentoring youth

Partnerships / Service Providers Joint Programming

- Wild Chile BMX
- Las Cruces Youth Baseball
- Las Cruces Youth Softball
- Bantam Weight football and basketball
- Las Cruces Tennis Players Association
- Picacho Gun Club
- Remote Control Cars, Las Cruces
- Mesilla Valley Model Airplane Club

- Youth Cross Roads Roller Derby
- Swim Team – LCAC (up to 300 participants) in a year; offer swim lessons and swim team opportunities
- Swim Team – Wild West (100 – 150 participants) in a year; offer swim team opportunities
- Las Cruces Running Club
- High noon youth soccer
- Mesilla Valley Shotgun 4-H
- Mesilla Valley Soccer
- Las Cruces Public Schools
- Mesilla Valley Christian
- NMSU athletics and marketing
- ASA baseball / softball
- USSSA baseball / softball
- Diamond Sports
- Friends of Las Cruces
- Pic Quik this year's sponsor for Movies in the Parks

Special Events / Family gatherings

- End of summer Bash! (over 300 participants)
- Summer Talent Show
- Music in the Parks
- Movies in the Parks
- Great Pumpkin Candy Drop, Harvest Festival
- Spring fest and Easter egg hunt
- National night out
- Holiday lighting celebration
- Winterfest
- Open Houses to advertise programs
- Kids Expo yearly 300 – 500 participants
- Health Fair
- Job fair held yearly at Meerschiedt

Special Programs / employment with Parks and Recreation

- Youth employment program for summer employment and year round training (20 participants)
- JCP youth mentoring program, employment opportunity for course completion (12 participants)
- Lifeguard certification
- Weed-n-Seed interview skills for new employees

JCP Programs and Support

Juvenile Citation Program – Level 1
Juvenile Citation Program – Level 2
Juvenile Citation Program – Level 3
JCP – Chronic Truancy
JCP – Post-completion Tracking

Citation Program Guest Speakers:

CLC- Council Civic Leaders Panel
CLC EAP- Joe Provencio
CLC LCPD - Chief Williams
CLC - LCPD- Victim's Assistance
Community Action Agency
Dona Ana County Health & Human Services
El Paso STOP Bullying
FYI- Tobacco Prevention
FYI- Youth Employment Services
MADD
NM National Guard
NMSU- Career Services
NMSU- WAVE Program
NMSU – Dr. Robert Duran
Vista College

Community Service Project Partners:

ACT- A Children's Theater
CLC- P&R, Downtown Cleanup
CLC- Meerscheidt (Lock-in)
CLC- Weed & Seed
CLC-Codes Enforcement
CLC- Keep Las Cruces Beautiful
KLCB Adopt-a-Spot, Main Street Downtown
West End Art Depot
KLCB – Mural Art Program
Dona Ana County Health & Human Services
Downtown Chalk Art Festival
Downtown Rehabilitation Project
Gospel Rescue Mission Thrift Store
Great American Cleanup
Habitat for Humanity
Head Start
Jardin de los Ninos
La Casa
La Pinon
Las Cruces Community Theater
Loaves & Fishes
National Night Out
Salvation Army
Toss No Mas

BRANIGAN LIBRARY
YOUTH SERVICES ACTIVITIES

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT BRANIGAN LIBRARY *WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM:*

- **Mother Goose Time** (weekly year round)
  Ages: infants
  A lap-sit storytime for infants and their parent. Promotes early literacy.
  Presenter: Sandra VanLandingham, Librarian Senior

- **Toddler Time** (twice a week year round)
  Ages: 18 months to 3 years
  Twenty minute storytime of books, songs and fingerplays. Promotes early literacy.
  Presenter: Sandra VanLandingham, Librarian Senior

- **Read To Me** (weekly year round)
  Ages: 3-5 years
  Storytime includes books, songs, fingerplays and puppets. Promotes early literacy.
  Presenter: Sandra VanLandingham, Librarian Senior

- **Rhythm Round Up** (weekly year round)
  Ages: 2-5 years
  Music and movement program promoting early literacy skills.
  Presenter: Tracee Waters, Library Assistant Senior

- **Fantastic Fridays** (weekly Sept-April)
  Ages 7-11 years
  An after school program of stories, activities and a craft.
  Presenter: Catherine Christmann, Library Manager

- **After School Program** (six times a month Aug-May)
  Grades: K-5
  In cooperation with the **City Recreation Department, we visit each recreation After School site once a month for stories and activities.**
  Presenter: Tracee Water, Library Assistant Senior

- **Interactive Mary Poppins Celebration** (Oct 9)
  Ages: 7-11 years
  This year the book Mary Poppins turns 80 and the movie turns 50. We will have a sing-a-long from the movie, a reading from the book, and a craft.
  Presenters: Catherine Christmann, Library Manager and Tracee Waters, Library Assistant Senior

- **Noon Year's Eve** (Dec 31)
  Ages: 5-11 years

We will celebrate the New Year at noon (it is midnight in Asia) with stories, dancing, a craft and sparkling grape juice.
Presenter: Catherine Christmann, Library Manager

- **Investigation Mondays** (6 weeks June 2 – July 7)
  Ages: 5-8
  Part of the Summer Reading *Fizz, Boom, Read* program. The Summer Reading Program theme changes annually. Each week we explore a different science or math topic with stories and activities.
  Presenter: Catherine Christmann, Library Manger

- **Hands-On-Wednesdays** (6 weeks June 4- July 9)
  Ages: 8-11 years
  Part of the Summer Reading *Fizz, Boom, Read* program. The Summer Reading Program Each week we explore a different science or engineering topics with stories and experiments.
  Presenter: Catherine Christmann, Library Manager

- **Summer Reading Craft Program** (six weeks June 6-July11)
  Ages: 4 years and up
  Part of the Summer Reading *Fizz, Boom, Read* program. The Summer Reading Program theme changes annually. Each week we listen to a story and make a craft.
  Presenter: Sandra VanLandingham, Librarian Senior

- **Teen Movies** (June and July)
  Ages: 12-18
  Weekly movie in the afternoon
  Presenter: Chris Baumgarn, Library Assistant Senior

- **Gaming Night** (weekly)
  Ages: 12-18 years
  Board games and electronic ones are available for teens to drop by and play.
  Presenter: Chris Baumgarn, Library Assistant Senior

- **Monthly Teen Program**
  Ages: 12-18
  Topics include Potato Frankenstein (electricity from potatoes), Creating temporary tattoos, Batman Day, Manga program, making sugar skulls for Day of the Dead, Mockingjay program, recycling Christmas cards, a blind food taste test, Pokemon program.
  Presenter: Chris Baumgarn, Library Assistant Senior

- **Teen bi-monthly contests**
  Ages: 12-18 years
  Every other month the Young Adult section hold a guessing contest for teens.
  Presenter: Chris Baumgarn, Library Assistant Senior

- **Parent-Child Workshop** (five weeks long, March and Sept-Oct)
  Ages: 1-4 plus a parent

As part of the Family Place Grant, we are required to present at least two parent-child workshop sessions a year. Each session promotes the early literacy skill of play. Parent and child spend an hour moving around the room to each of the ten play stations. Each week a different expert is available to discuss any concerns parents may have with their child's development. Experts are in the fields of early literacy, child development, speech and language, nutrition, and music and play.
Presenter: Catherine Christmann, Library Manager

- **Teen Read Week** (Oct)
  Ages: 12-18
  A week celebrating teen reading. Activities are still in the planning stage.
  Presenter: Chris Baumgarn, Library Assistant Senior

- **Teen Tech Week** (March)
  Ages: 12-18 years
  A week celebrating technology and teens. Activities are in the planning stage.
  Presenter: Chris Baumgarn, Library Assistant Senior

YOUTH OUTREACH
Mark Pendleton, Outreach Librarian

- During the school year, Mark reads in ten English/Spanish bi-lingual classes per week at Valley View Elementary School. On Wednesdays, four classes; Thursdays, five classes; and Fridays, one class. He reads in both languages on all three days. Mark has been going to this school for approximately 9 years.

- Mark also goes out to local elementary and middle schools and has represented the library at PTO meetings, school book fairs, and evenings where parents come and visit the schools.

- Library tours are conducted if teachers request it.

MOVIES FOR KIDS - "Summer Screen"
Presented by Branigan Library's Media Department since 2010.

- Movies are shown every Thursday afternoon at 2 pm in June and July

Listing of youth activities in the Las Cruces Museum System

Museum of Nature and Science

Weekly

Thursday mornings, 9:00 am

Pre-K classes on a rotation: Planeteers, focusing on space (1st Thursday), Grandma Mona's Science Story time, focusing on reading & literacy (2nd Thursday), Nature Kids, focusing on nature & the Chihuahuan Desert (3rd Thursday), & Dinosaur Train ™, based on the PBS TV show of the same name (4th Thursday). Any 5th Thursdays are teacher's choice and just called "pre-K program". Ages 3-5, free.

Friday afternoons, 3:00 pm

Dinosaurs A to Z. This Friday afternoon program is designed to introduce the audience to the diversity and unique character of dinosaurs and other ancient creatures. The format is a lecture/presentation followed by a craft or hands-on activity for the younger participants. All ages welcome, free.

Saturday mornings, 10:00 am

Family Science Saturdays. A fun, hands-on class for people of all ages interested in science. Two topics are explored each month (1st/3rd Saturday & 2nd/4th Saturday) and all classes feature a hands-on component. These classes are open to any age and we encourage groups to work together to learn the topic. All ages welcome, free.

Saturday mornings, 11:00 am

Fetch! ™ at the Farmer's Market. Based on the PBS TV show Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman ™, this program is a hands-on experience for all ages. Topics change weekly and the program runs until 1:00 pm. All ages welcome, free.

Saturday mornings, 11:00 am

Gallery Walk. Every Saturday at 11:00 am, museum staff/volunteers are on hand to provide a guided gallery walk to interested visitors. Sign-up is not required and the tour is tailored to the interests of those participating.

Saturday afternoons, 1:00 pm

Animal Encounters. This class cycles through six types of animals found in the Chihuahuan Desert: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and arthropods. The class consists of a discussion about the animal of the day with a close up look at an animal from our collection (if available). *Specific animal will be chosen the day of the program due to the challenges of working with living collections.

Monthly

Last Thursday, 5:30 pm

Science Café. A roundtable discussion of current science topics hosted by the museum and sponsored by Sigma Xi: the Scientific Research Society. Presentations are typically an hour, all ages welcome, free.

First Friday, 5:00 pm

The Museum is open during the First Friday Ramble every month from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Behind the scene tours of the Nature Center are offered on a first-come, first-served basis every month and other special events are scheduled throughout the year.

Tombaugh Day

Held in February every year, this event celebrates the life and accomplishments of Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh. The February date honors Clyde's birthday and the discovery date of Planet X (Pluto).

Pi Day

A collaboration of the CLC museums, we celebrate math and Einstein's birthday with a celebration on March 14.

Spring Break Camp

The CLC Yearly

museums collaborate every year on a camp spanning the spring break. This camp is unified by a theme that carries through each museum presentation and is held during the morning at a new museum site each day. Fees apply.

Nano Day

Started at the museum in 2008, Nano Days is a celebration of nanoscience through the NISE Net including hands-on activities, museum theatre and demonstrations. Typically held late March – early April.

Arbor Day

A collaborative effort between the museums, Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, CLC parks, Groundworks Dona Ana, and the Tree Stewards, this program encourages people to plant native trees through sapling giveaways, informational sessions and hands-on activities. Typically held the first Saturday in April.

Water Festival

A collaborative program with CLC Water Utilities & the CLC Museums to bring water education to the 3-4 grade students of Las Cruces. Traditionally held in late Spring (March – April).

Summer Camp

The Museum of Nature & Science provides week-long summer camp classes for a range of ages in June every year. These classes focus on science topics and are a combination of class discovery, demonstrations, crafts and field trips. Fees apply.

Summer Workshops

These workshops are single day (3 hour) exploration of science topics presented at the museum throughout the summer. Topics vary and fees apply.

Fossil Day

Hosted by the BLM, MoNaS participates in the annual Fossil Day in Las Cruces. This event is held at a different venue each year and focuses on paleontology. October.

Earth Science Day

October is Earth Science Month and the museum celebrates Earth Science with a morning of activities and classes focusing on geology and weather.

Science Extravaganza

The Science Extravaganza is held the first weekend of November to celebrate the opening of MoNaS on November 1, 2012. It is a day of demonstrations, give-aways and science fun!

Branigan Cultural Center

LARGE EVENTS

For the whole family. Includes educational activities for kids. Large events typically involve BCC, MoA and MoNaS. Dates are approximate:

- February:
  - For the Love of Art Month performance arts
- March/April:
  - Pi Day (3/14)
  - Archaeology Day
  - Arbor Day
  - Water Festival
- May:
  - Street Art Infusion
- August
  - Day of Dance
- October
  - Cultural Bazaar
  - Navajo Rug Auction
  - Tree Day
  - Dia de los Muertos community altars

CLASSES

Ages: 6-12 + families

- Spring Break with all Museums
- Summer classes on a range of traditional New Mexico crafts

EXHIBIT PROGRAMMING

All exhibits are accompanied by in-gallery self-lead activities for children and families. Look for family guides, materials, and prompts in the education area of each exhibit. All exhibits are supplemented by workshops. Workshops vary in age, from all ages to 12+, depending on the topic. See attached schedules for May and June for an example of the kinds of workshops offered.

Las Cruces Railroad Museum

Monthly

Family Game Day

2nd Saturday of each month
10 am - Noon

Have you ever wondered what kinds of activities your grandparents enjoyed before electronic games were invented? Develop hand-eye coordination with Jacks and Cup and Ball Toss, stimulate your mind with puzzles, and challenge friends to a game of Dominos. Stop in anytime between 10 am and noon to try your hand at early 20th century games. Free.

Toddler Story Time

3rd Saturday of each month
11 am - Noon

The Las Cruces Railroad Museum will host Story Time on the third Saturday of each month. Join us from 11:00 am – noon. Listen to a Thomas the Tank Engine book and complete a related activity. Children of all ages welcome. Free

Classes

RR Modeling classes are held during the summer and during spring break, usually about 4 sessions per year.

Yearly

Last Saturday of April is Railroad Days, we invite BNSF to bring a train and local train historians demonstrate railroad history, also special tours by appointment for groups and activities for the kids throughout the day.

First Friday of December is our Old Fashioned Holiday Event, Santa arrives on the BNSF train at 5pm for visits with children. Throughout the evening visitors can listen to holiday music, view the model trains, take in the festive holiday decorations, and children can complete a craft project.

During the summer months local schools, churches and day care centers send children over for tours of the facility and Operation Lifesaver safety training.

Museum of Art

Monthly

Saturday Morning Family Story and Art Journey

Saturday Mornings at 11am

The Museum of Art and the Branigan Cultural Center are merging their popular Saturday morning programs with a weekly unified theme. Families will start at Branigan at 11am, where a children's book will be read; then, they will cross the courtyard to complete a related art project at the Museum of Art. Program begins promptly at 11am and ends by noon. Free.

Yearly

Studio Classes

Throughout the year, the Las Cruces Museum of Art offers art classes for children and adults. Classes cover drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, as well as other media on a rotating schedule.

Search INSTITUTE

40 Developmental Assets® for Adolescents (ages 12-18)

Search Institute® has identified the following building blocks of healthy development—known as **Developmental Assets®**—that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

External Assets

Support

1. **Family support**—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. **Positive family communication**—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. **Other adult relationships**—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. **Caring neighborhood**—Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. **Caring school climate**—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. **Parent involvement in schooling**—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

Empowerment

7. **Community values youth**—Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. **Youth as resources**—Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. **Service to others**—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. **Safety**—Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.

Boundaries & Expectations

11. **Family boundaries**—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. **School Boundaries**—School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. **Neighborhood boundaries**—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. **Adult role models**—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. **Positive peer influence**—Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. **High expectations**—Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

Constructive Use of Time

17. **Creative activities**—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. **Youth programs**—Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
19. **Religious community**—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
20. **Time at home**—Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

Internal Assets

Commitment to Learning

21. **Achievement Motivation**—Young person is motivated to do well in school.
22. **School Engagement**—Young person is actively engaged in learning.
23. **Homework**—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. **Bonding to school**—Young person cares about her or his school.
25. **Reading for Pleasure**—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

Positive Values

26. **Caring**—Young person places high value on helping other people.
27. **Equality and social justice**—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
28. **Integrity**—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
29. **Honesty**—Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy."
30. **Responsibility**—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
31. **Restraint**—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

Social Competencies

32. **Planning and decision making**—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
33. **Interpersonal Competence**—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
34. **Cultural Competence**—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
35. **Resistance skills**—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
36. **Peaceful conflict resolution**—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

Positive Identity

37. **Personal power**—Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."
38. **Self-esteem**—Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
39. **Sense of purpose**—Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."
40. **Positive view of personal future**—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

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