



Nevada Recreation & Park Society

*Creating Communities Through
People, Parks and Programs!*

NRPS Newsletter

JAN-MAR 2017

Access, Creativity, Selling the Benefits!

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"True to the philosophy of public parks and recreation is the idea that all people—no matter the color of their skin, age, income level or ability—has access to programs, facilities, places and spaces that make their lives and communities great."

This excerpt from the NRPA's social equity pillar best portrays the daily vision we all work toward to ensure all people in the communities we serve have equal access to the benefits of local parks and recreation in our beautiful State. The opportunities are truly endless!

As we transition seasons from a very wet & chilly Winter into what promises to be an amazing Spring (hello water sports!), may your own enthusiasm, creativity, dedication & drive to provide the best services, programs, facilities, leadership and access to the numerous opportunities in Nevada also bloom!

We look forward to seeing you in April at the annual conference in Reno. Inspiring presenters, great topics & sessions, and max-level creativity will be on display in local tours!



Here's to a great 2017,
From the NRPS Executive Board

Dream Machine Becomes a Reality

Twenty-six-foot-tall, spiraling "Dream Machine" has been assembled near McCarran International Airport, quickly becoming the latest "What is that?" object of admiration from passing motorists.

The sculptural tour de force is the creation of local artist Wayne Littlejohn, who was selected in July 2015 by a panel of five citizens from among 33 applicants who responded to a call to artists to create the work for Siegfried & Roy Park, located near the cross streets of Russell Road and Maryland Parkway at 5590 Wilbur St.

"This is a captivating work of art," said County Commissioner Mary Beth Scow, who represents the area where it is located. "We believe it is one of the most important pieces of public art in Las Vegas in years. It's the kind of work that generates buzz, given its high-profile prominence along a busy thoroughfare. A lot of tourists coming from the airport are going to drive by and see that we're a real community that appreciates public art. And I believe it'll become a source of pride to locals. It's very exciting." About 30,000 vehicles per day pass by the park.

"It is a fusion of light and movement," Littlejohn said of his work, "and is inspired by the geological and technological forces that shape the Southwest. It arises from the earth like some mysterious atomic love child of dust devils and drones."

Illusionists Siegfried & Roy Horn are highly supportive of the work, saying in a statement, "We have always had a 'larger than life' vision - whether for our show or our dreams -- and now it is beautifully represented in this stunning piece of art. We are proud to have it in our park and glad to share it with everybody, especially the people of Las Vegas. We hope it will become the most desired new 'photo op' in town. To us, it represents a new dimension of passion - it will be the symbol of our new year - happy, but aloof - floating like a feather. Can you just imagine what this will look like at sundown? One of the wonders of the world - Magic and Hallucination at the same time."

The sculpture is funded by the Clark County percent for the arts program. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released in 2014 and a review panel selected Littlejohn's proposal, which references Las Vegas's atomic history and probes the mathematic, historical and aesthetic appeal of the spiral. The artwork has been in development for two years, from structural engineering to carving to casting.



Senior Wing Added to Walnut Recreation Center

Seniors in the area of the Walnut Recreation Center will now have a dedicated space of their own at the facility that opened on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, who represents the area, and local seniors, including those who have been involved in creating the new space, took part in the celebration at the center, located at 3075 N. Walnut Rd., south of Cheyenne Avenue and east of Las Vegas Boulevard.

“The Walnut center is often very busy and now we can better accommodate the neighbors’ desire to use it, which previously was sometimes a challenge to do,” said Commissioner Weekly. “This new wing demonstrates to our seniors that they are a priority and that we want to help them live healthy, active lives.”

Included in the 3800-square-foot project are an addition to the kitchen, game room expansion, exterior patio addition and the conversion of a storage room to a pantry.

Before the senior wing was added, the Walnut Center encompassed 41,000 square feet of space. The facility started in 1998 as a three-wide trailer named the Walnut-Cecile Community Center. The community center offered free outreach recreation to more than 1000 kids from surrounding neighborhoods as well as provide recreation to about 100 kids at the trailer site daily and the County used vans to offer outreach recreation to the neighborhood children in surrounding apartment complexes. In these areas, the recreation need was tremendous, and our outreach program was very successful. In 2002, Clark County invested more than \$10 million, using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, to build the current Walnut Center.

The present Walnut Recreation Center offers a variety of free and paid programs and services to almost 10,000 patrons monthly. Walnut has grown to accommodate the 89115 community, a good portion of North Las Vegas, and the Nellis Air Force Base area. The facility, including the senior center wing (affectionately known as the “Hot Spot”), is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is closed on Sunday. The amenities include a multi-generational recreation center, fitness room, an adjacent outdoor residential park, a neighborhood water park and reserved space both inside the facility and outdoors on the sports and practice fields.



NRPS 2017 Annual Conference: Reno!

Our conference planning committee has worked hard to put together a great conference with inspiring, motivating and thought-provoking educational sessions for you at Whitney Peak Hotel in Downtown Reno, Nevada. We are so excited to offer attendees many inspiring experiences at the conference this year.

Conference will kick off with a warm welcome from City of Reno Councilwoman, Jenny Bekhus and City of Sparks Mayor Pro Tempore, Ron Smith. Our Keynote Speaker, Sara Kooperman, JD is an internationally renowned Fitness Expert, CEO, Author and Award Winner. This is just a taste of the variety of flavors we are bringing to you at conference this year.

NRPS Conference is always a perfect place to network with Nevada's parks and recreation professionals. There will be plenty of time to enjoy colleague connections during any of our three conference luncheons and two evening socials. You will have many opportunities to hook up with exhibitors offering exceptional products and services at the exhibitor's social Tuesday night. Participate in our grand Exhibitor's Raffle Bingo (*we will have an amazing prize attached, so make sure you get involved!!!*) and take advantage of our Exhibitor's Quick Sit presentations throughout conference. NRPS Conference 2017 is not just two days long, but three with off-site tours included at some of the most attractive and state of the art projects in Northern Nevada in addition to certifications and workshops.

We intend for you to leave conference encouraged and ready to implement strategic ideas, bringing additional quality to your departments. NRPS provides Nevada's best educational opportunities and professional relationships to enhance your community members' quality of life by *Strengthening Professionals for Today & Tomorrow*.

REMINDER: Register EARLY to take advantage of room specials and discounted conference registration. We hope to see you there!



Do not to forget, we will also host a small scavenger hunt prior to the social on Wednesday for teams of 4 to have a chance to find and take photos of certain "items of interest" around downtown Reno. Your prize: the first three teams to make it to the social with the search completed get their first round bought for them. We are truly excited to have everyone up in Reno for conference this year and promise that when the work is done during the day, you will have a chance to have fun at night. Looking forward to seeing you all at conference!

NRPS 2017 Annual Conference Tours

NRPS Conference Tours will include at some of the most attractive and state of the art projects in Northern Nevada. Tours will be held on Thursday, April 20th from 10am-3pm at no additional cost, all-inclusive for NRPS conference attendees. For planning purposes; tours will end at Whitney Peak Hotel.

Tours Include:

Scott Morgan, Douglas County's Community Services, and Parks & Recreation Director as well as Project Manager for the magnanimous Douglas County Community & Senior Center will be leading a tour entailing 83,000 sq.ft. of gymnasium, fitness facilities, senior center, class rooms, kitchens, private preschool, adult daycare, and a full medical center. It's grand opening was held in December 2014 in Minden, Nevada with the help of Douglas County's Economic Vitality Program striving to "Create a Community to Match the Scenery".

Chris Cobb, Parks Development Coordinator and Tony Pehle, Recreation Supervisor for City of Sparks will be hosting an excursion of Golden Eagle Regional Park in Sparks, Nevada. The 100-acre sports complex is the largest public works project in the history of the City of Sparks. The state of the art facility features 1.4 million square feet of artificial turf, the largest single installation artificial turf project in North America. It has generated more than a million participants and spectators to ball fields, courts, playgrounds and associated structures.

Andy Bass, City of Reno's Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services will be lead a stroll along the Reno River Walk in downtown Reno. In the 1990's, the city created The Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk, which brought new attention to Reno's scenic river corridor. Today, local merchants are proud to welcome you back to celebrate the beautiful place Reno began.

Conference Networking, Socials & Fun!

The social team led by Shauna Nelson with the City of Sparks and Danny Gleich with Churchill County are looking to provide all the conference goers a chance to enjoy the networking aspect of the conference each night. As many of us know the conference is not only a chance to learn about the latest trends within the field, but to also connect with our fellow professionals and rejuvenate the excitement levels we have for our career.

This year, the socials currently planned include a early evening social at the bar within the Whitney Peak Hotel in which each registered conference attendee, (of age of course) will get one free drink to enjoy. We are also looking at a fun "unofficial social" later that night for those looking to get out on the town and enjoy Reno. Wednesday night will be the main social for the conference. This is the time in which we will not only get to meet up with our fellow recreation professionals, but also our well-respected vendors that make their way to our conference each and every year. Hosted at The Rack in downtown Reno, this underground bowling alley and bar is the perfect place to hang out during the evening. We will have competitions all night long through bowling, darts and billiards in order to show off those recreation skills we all still have. Food will be served compliments of the Society, but you will be on your own for any drinks you want that evening.

Department Updates

Clark County Parks and Recreation welcomes two new Recreation Specialists: Enma Alfaro-Amaya at the Cambridge Recreation Center & Andrew Carrillo at the Hollywood Recreation Center.

Enma worked for the department at Paradise Recreation Center from 2008 -2011 and at Desert Breeze Community Center from 2014-2015, where she was a program assistant and instructor. She has taught classes, opened and closed facilities, provided excellent customer service, and assisted with various recreation programs and community special events. Enma has Bachelor's degree in Business Administration-Management Information Systems from UNLV.

Andrew has been working as a Clark County Safekey Site Supervisor from 2011-2016 at Cunningham Elementary School and he also worked at Safekey's Silvestri Middle School summer camp in recent years. From 2013-2016 he also worked as a long term substitute teacher for CCSD at Cunningham Elementary. While teaching for CCSD, Andrew organized and implemented multiple school events, several projects, and coordinated social media responsibilities for the school. Andrew has an Associate's degree from the College of Southern Nevada.

* Share your department updates & Staff achievements: contact Token at token.barnthouse@navy.mil to get your updates in the next newsletter



Staying active & fit in Henderson at community Jingle Bell 5K runs and Stroll & Roll events

Program Showcase: Family Fun In Henderson

Stroll N Roll

The City of Henderson held Stroll N Roll on Saturday, November 12 from 10am-2pm. Over 5,000 people came out to walk, run, bike, scooter, and rollerblade along Paseo Verde. The event encourages participants to use non-motorized transportation to travel along the street and through the event, as well as participation in healthy activities. Participants enjoyed arts and crafts, bounce houses, a bike rodeo, art demonstrations, science demonstrations, food trucks, fitness classes and more.

Winterfest

On December 9 and 10, Over 5,000 people came out on Friday and over 20,000 on Saturday to experience holiday fun at the City of Henderson's Winterfest. Event attendees enjoyed the Mayor's tree lighting and firework display, dance troupes, real snow, kid's crafts, pictures with Santa, a petting zoo, pony rides, carousel, Ferris wheel, a live ice sculpture demonstration, arts and crafts fair, food vendors, and the annual night parade.

Jingle Bell Run 5k

220 participants came out for the City of Henderson's Jingle Bell Run on Saturday, December 17th at Pecos Legacy Park. I Love Kickboxing hosted a warmup before the start and Santa Claus started the run. This 5k was a non-competitive fun run for all ages and abilities.

Winterfest highlights including fireworks, carnival fun, Santa appearance and ice sculpting



Getting Healthy in Henderson

The Healthy Henderson Fair was held at the Henderson Multigenerational Center on Saturday, January 14, 2017, from 10am-2pm. Patrons enjoyed class demonstrations, over 30 vendors, kids activities (face painting, bounce house, and arts and crafts), Rad Tad, Rock Wall climbing, and refreshments provided by the City of Henderson Heritage Café. This was also the kickoff event to the Lighten Up Henderson 90 day Weight Loss Challenge, patrons pay \$65 and receive a 3 month fitness room membership, 1 personal training session, and 2 class fitness workshops offered at the Henderson Multigenerational Center. This is our first year offering the challenge and we have 30 patrons enrolled thus far.

Contact Michelle Shaffer for more details on how you can plan a successful health fair at michelle.shaffer@cityofhenderson.com



Aquatics Committee Updates

Nevada Recreation & Park Society's Northern Nevada Aquatics Committee is working hard to prepare for the American Red Cross (ARC) changes in 2017. Monthly meetings are focused on all aquatics professionals maintaining their certifications and becoming proficient in the new skills introduced in the updated courses, making safety skills more efficient and safer to perform, resulting in better care received in an emergency.

The first ARC Lifeguard Instructor in-service, which is a new requirement this year will be held at Carson Aquatics Center on March 15th from 8am-5pm. More will be offered throughout the year in different areas throughout the state to ensure access to all current Lifeguard Instructors. Following the NRPS Conference this year the Northern Nevada Aquatics Committee will be holding the 4th Annual Lifeguard Ready Workshop on April 22nd at Northwest Pool from 9am-1pm free of charge.

NRPS encourages all lifeguards to attend this refresher in Lifeguard and Learn-to-Swim training to prepare aquatic professionals for the busy summer season. It also gives aquatic staff an opportunity to meet and be trained by other instructors and supervisors in the field. Participants receive a certificate of completion to add to their safety resume making them more attractive to employers.





Nevada Recreation and Park Society

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Please share your department's updates & staff achievements: contact Token Barnthouse at token.barnthouse@navy.mil to get your updates in the next newsletter

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Member at Large (South) - Paul Foltz

Contact the President: nrps@live.com