

To: **Chair and Members**
Through: **Dave Schletty, Asst. Parks and Recreation Director**
From: **Sam Murphy, Recreation Programmer**
Date: **10/05/2021**

Recreation Updates

Light Up the Night Glow Dash 09/18/2021 - *Garlough Park*. Nearly 75 attendees routed through Garlough and Marthaler trails on a guided 1.50 mile loop. The evening was filled with neon colors, glow bracelets, yard games, and dancing to tunes played by DJ Kidsdance. This event is in partnership with Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation.

Dodge Nature Center - Fire Building Basics 9/30/2021 - *Dodge Nature Center, West St. Paul Property*. This family-friendly program teaches fire-building techniques – bow drill, flint and steel, and modern ferrous starters to build a fire. Participants will enjoy a snack cooked over their very own fires. Staff hopes to continue this partnership with quarterly program offerings. This program is in partnership with Dodge Nature Center, Inver Grove Heights, and Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation.

School Year Tour de Rec *Remaining schedule: 10/7 - Dome, 11/4 - Thompson Park Activity Center, 12/9 - Harmon Park Neighborhood Center, 1/6 - Southview Park, 2/3 - Marie Park, 3/3 - Garlough Gymnasium, 4/7 - Mendakota Park, and 5/5 - Mendota Elementary Gymnasium*. After a successful summer of Tour de Rec, the program has expanded the school year. Staff set up activities and provide equipment for youth and families to enjoy. This is a free-play environment with opportunities to participate in games, sports, crafts, and more. This program is in partnership with TriDistrict Community Education, District 197, and Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation.

Fall Sports - Gymnastics and Peewee Sports (T-Ball and Soccer) *Varying schedules. Registration full/closed*. One session of Peewee Sports is running Tuesdays and Thursdays. Two sessions of gymnastics are running on Saturday afternoons at Harmon Park. This fall was a trial for what Staff hopes is a start of more fall youth sports programming in the future.

Halloween Extravaganza 10/31/2021 - *Harmon Park - 6:00-8:00pm*. Halloween festivities are kicking off shortly with a coloring contest. Last year over 50 pages were submitted! The coloring page will be available on the City website and at City Hall in the coming weeks. Prizes will be awarded to winners of four age groups.

The community is invited to join in the fun on Halloween evening – free hot dogs, costume contest, games, photo booth, bonfires, and a Trick-or-Treat Trail. Over 50 letters were mailed to local businesses inviting them to partake in the Trick-or-Treat Trail. New this year, businesses and organizations that are interested can register their table on the City website.

Staff is seeking volunteers to help cook and serve hot dogs, run games, monitor bonfires, and more. If anyone on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee is interested, please connect with Sam Murphy at smurphy@wspmn.gov.