



# PARKS AND RECREATION

Monthly Report

August 2019



## -Ups for the month

- ⇒ It might not look like it, but progress has been accomplished this month on the Middle Creek Greenway Phase III. The pedestrian bridge must be installed first before the contractor can move forward.
- ⇒ Blalocks is scheduled to begin construction of the West Prong Greenway on September 3rd.
- ⇒ Met with the Tn. Dept of Health about some possible grants for improvements to our facilities. DOH now has money for Cities for health and recreation related projects.
- ⇒ The Farmers Market moved to the Municipal Complex this month due to Streetscapes downtown. Our staff will be attempting to get some feedback from the vendors on the entire Farmers Market experience.
- ⇒ This month our department assumed the responsibility for cleaning the Community and Civic Centers, mowing and landscaping Ext 407 area and we began offering the Silver Sneakers Program at the Community Center.
- ⇒ On the last two pages of this document you will find a report on pickleball and tennis courts having joint use of the courts.

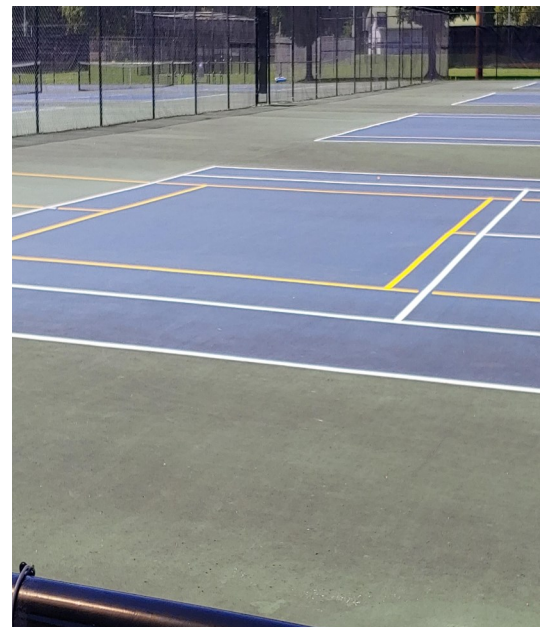
## -Not So Much an Up



- ⇒ We have begun accepting patrons for the Silver Sneakers Program which is a very good thing. However as with anything new, we need to work out the challenges with the computers talking to each other so that we will get reimbursed.
- ⇒ On the last day of the season, we had a major accident at the Family Aquatics Center. It did not involve water.. One of our Umbrella's malfunctioned and fell on the head of an eleven year old from the Water Slide. Thank goodness he is going to be ok.
- ⇒ This is both a good and not so good thing. We have lots of people that requested to play pickle ball at night. Pickle Ball is played on 1/2 of a tennis court. When we painted the pickle ball court lines on to the tennis courts; some of the tennis courts folks were not pleased. Of course our goal is to serve all.... The picture to the right is how the pickle ball and tennis courts are now multipurpose courts.
- ⇒ It has been seven years since we re-did our tennis courts. We cleaned the courts about 6 months ago, but now the surface of the courts are wearing badly and a black soot like material has formed on the courts. We will clean the courts again and look at options. The picture to the right is how a pickle ball and tennis court look together.
- ⇒ The sprinkle system at the Community Center malfunctioned this month. As is the building, the sprinkler system is almost 40 years old.....we are researching options.

## Parks and Recreation:

This division includes but is not limited to: All outdoor parks, greenways and all other city and city contracted properties. This division also includes Winterfest, Beautification and Trees with the primary goal of this division being to provide overall departmental leadership and support plus providing clean, safe and aesthetically pleasing public areas throughout the City.



Pickle Ball and Tennis Courts  
See full report at end of this report

August  
2019

Sevierville  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
*So much more than a walk in the park.*



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## Aquatic Center

*The lazy hot days at the pool came to an end this month.....we had an excellent year at the Family Aquatics Center.*

- *The Family Aquatics Center completed its 45 consecutive season this month.*
- *Staff cleaned Family Aquatics Center and put away furniture and all the equipment necessary for daily pool operations.*
- *Staff completed the School Year Swim Team Agreement, they move to Blalock Natatorium when school starts.*

## Community Center:

*The Community Center is a 43,000-square foot multipurpose building that includes: 10-lane bowling center, 6-lane natatorium, children's programs, gym, two racquetball courts, weight, fitness and spinning room, locker rooms and administrative offices.*



Water Exercise uses the Family Aquatics Center during the summer months



## Maintenance

- *Assisted with the Sevierville Intermediate School landscape project*
- *Assumed the mowing and maintenance of the areas around the 407 interstate exit/interchange. Started some beautification efforts with the planting of Crape Myrtles in the median*





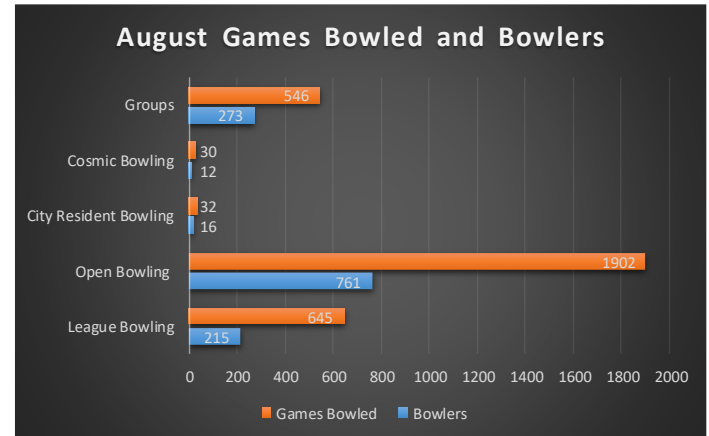
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## Bowling

- *The Bowling Staff Stripped and waxed the Bowling Center getting ready for Fall and Winter Leagues.*
- *Bowling Staff also did some touch up painting in the Bowling Center.*
- *Our Bowling Supervisor completed the Fall Bowling Leagues for the new Bowling season.*
- *Our Bowling Center got a 100% on our Re-Certification for the 2019/2020 Bowling year.*



Bowling Center Staff does 100% of the cleaning, waxing and repairs of the Equipment.

## Children's Program

- *Completed a safe and fun Summer Adventure 2019 with the end of the season Sleepover on August 1 & 2.*
- *Began Active Afternoons 2019/2020 on August 14. We are off to a great start with 47 children registered. Special events for August included Archery, Corn Hole, Swimming at FAC and the field trip to the Sevier County Fair.*
- *Completed Summer Adventure 2019 Revenue vs. Expense Report and Program Evaluation Report; the numbers are in the "Black" our Children's Program pay their way....*

## End of Summer







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## **Fitness**

- Hosted a AAAI certification on Aug. 18. Our staff took this opportunity to get their CEC.
- On August 1<sup>st</sup>, we went live with the Silver Sneakers Program. We are seeing new faces. Some of our current members who are part of Silver Sneakers are very happy that we are offering the program, they had chosen to use our facilities even though they could have somewhere.
- We average about 330 participants per week in our group fitness classes.

SSS Class



## **Athletics**

- Completed registration for Fall SMYBA season and began season on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Host Tennessee Smokies youth baseball takeover night on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Hosted 2 weekend tournaments (August 3<sup>rd</sup> ISA Men's Wood-bat World and August 17 WSL Men's Softball)
  - Recreation Coordinator Kendal Baxter completed basketball clinics. (August 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Completed registration for fall men's and coed softball league and began season on August 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Athletic Supervisor Patrick Oxley Completed Municipal Management training on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Athletic Supervisor helped with Farmer's market 5 Friday's
  - Staff Continued maintenance of soccer fields at Children's Home.
- Staff Added 2 pickleball courts to court #1 of the tennis courts.



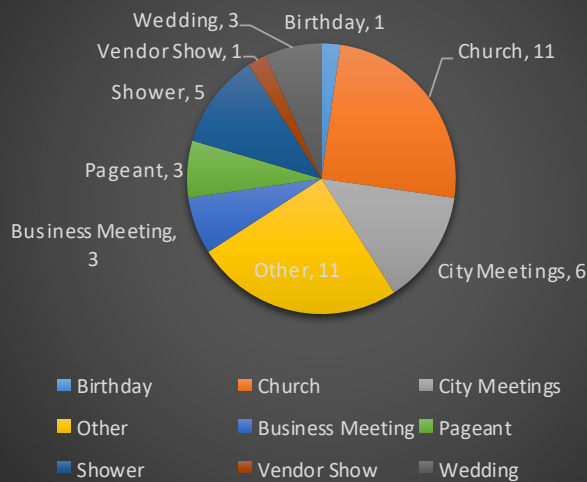


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## Civic Center Events August 2019



### Civic Center:

The Civic Center provides 11,000 square feet of multipurpose public meeting and rental areas. The Civic Center offers; Council Hall, Kitchen along with LeConte Auditorium.

This facility houses the Administrative Offices for the Parks and Recreation Department.

## Civic Center

- Cleaning Staff deep cleaned the tile floor in lobby and bathroom and stripped and waxed the kitchen floor. The building is cleaner than it's been in a long time.
- The Farmer's Market has done really well in the new location. Vendors and Customers alike have really enjoyed the new location. Some comments have been better parking and more visibility from the road.
- Updated the Civic Center meetings manual with current pictures and updated information about setups, recording, microphones, name plates, etc. This will help any part-time staff when needed during Mike Torres our Full time Attendant absence. Mike is home now and is going through physical therapy and rehab.



Fruit of the Vine Vendor set up at new location



Farmer's Market at the Municipal Complex



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120 Gary Wade Blvd. Sevierville, TN. 37862

## Report on Tennis and Pickle Ball Joint Use of Courts at City Park-September 2019

### Tennis History:

- The tennis courts at city park were rebuilt in 2012 with funds coming from: USTA/Sevier County Schools/State of Tennessee/City of Sevierville
- Since that time tennis use has been steady with small groups playing regularly and the School System using the courts for Middle and High School Tennis for several county schools.

### Pickle Ball History:

- About a year ago a small group of citizens contacted us about the possibility of playing Pickle Ball on the tennis courts. Pickle ball is the largest growing sport for Seniors in the United States.
- Given that not all (8) eight tennis courts are used often except for school practices and matches, it seemed like a reasonable request.
- That group use remained steady; but then the group created a Facebook Page (Pickle Ball of the Smokies) and the number of players has increased to about 20+/- each week.
- In late August we were contacted by this group about the possibility of painting a Pickle Ball court on one of the Courts under the lights so they could play when it was cooler in the evenings.
- My staff contacted two different public park agencies that have Pickle Ball on Tennis Courts and requested information about joint use of pickle ball and tennis, and they shared their experiences with us.
- One recommendation was to paint the lines a bright color. So...we painted our pickle ball lines yellow.

### Tennis and Pickle Ball:

- *On Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> during the painting of the pickle ball courts a group of tennis players approached one of our Maintenance Employees and verbally expressed their displeasure with the him for painting the pickle ball courts on the tennis court. When I was notified of the incident; I went to the courts, but the tennis players had left.*
- *On Thursday morning September 5<sup>th</sup> I went back to the courts and there were 17 people playing pickle ball and about 12 people playing tennis. There were still three courts not being used by anyone.*
- *On that same day (September 5<sup>th</sup>) I spoke with both groups and listened. In summary, the Pickle Ball players were very positive and grateful. I asked them if they were residents, about half were residents and that have lived here only a few years (mostly retired) and about half were tourist. The tourist found this group via the Facebook Page. On the other hand, the tennis players were very negative and quite upset. I attempted to explain our rational, but no matter what I said, they were just not happy about not being able to play on the court of their choice.*

### Moving Forward:

- *We are currently cleaning the courts because of a major buildup of algae, dirt and grim that accumulates over time. What we have found is that the courts have worn down to the asphalt and we need to consider recoating the courts soon.*
- *My staff and I are scheduled to meet Baseline Sports; the company that completed the work on the courts in 2012. Our goal will be to get both some suggestion for future repairs as well as clarify the best paint color to use for the pickle ball courts on the tennis courts.*
- *We may be headed towards a situation that will require us to go to a scheduling/reservation system; if these two groups cannot work this out among themselves.*

On the following page please find two pictures of the people using the courts for both Tennis Courts and Pickle Ball Courts on Thursday September 5, 2019. That day I counted a total of 17 Pickle Ball Players and 12 tennis players that morning and there were still two courts not being used. Staff will continue to monitor the situation.





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**Tennis and Pickle Ball at City Park on Thursday September 5, 2019**

Report by: Bob Parker-Director of Parks and Recreation