



HCP&R Newsletter
December 2021

Christmas Festival of Lights



Our ninth annual Christmas Festival of Lights kicked off with the Lighting Ceremony, which was held Saturday, November 27, at the amphitheater at Afton and Pauline Malick Central Hampshire Park in Augusta. We had the biggest turnout ever, and everyone seemed to have a festive time eating cookies, drinking hot chocolate, and talking to Santa.

We would like to thank the volunteers who made the Lighting Ceremony possible. Special thanks go out to Four B's Pizza and Subs, who graciously donated the hot chocolate, and to Bakery Barn, who donated donuts and other treats. Linda Corbin, Renee, and Chris weathered the crowd to serve all our goodies.



Also, Denzil and Shirley Davis made the night special with their contribution. I'd like to especially thank Donna See, who helped to plan the event and made sure everything was just right.

And we can't forget 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 Flinn, Randy Raigner, or John Flynn, be sure to tell them how much you appreciate their hard work.

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 eight years. We have grown from 24 light displays in 2013 to 230 displays this year. New features for 2021 include a huge Santa Train display in the center of the park and an animated "Merry Christmas" greeting sign over the entrance.

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. Our maintenance crew does 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 ninth 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.

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 17, 2022, which is Martin Luther King Day. The slopes are open for skiing from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Several people traveled to Canaan for tubing last year and were turned away because the times were filled. We think we have solved that problem. We have purchased 100 tubing tickets in advance, fifty for the 11:15 to 1:15 time slot and fifty for the 1:30 to 3:30 time slot. These tickets guarantee you will be able to go tubing if you drive to Canaan that day. You may purchase the tickets at the HCP&R Office at 90 North High Street in Romney any weekday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. The tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis, so when they run out, we won't be able to get any more.

The special group rate for the day is as follows: Ski Lift Ticket Only- \$25; Ski Lift Ticket Plus Ski or Snowboard Rental- \$35; Tubing- \$15. **In order to get the skiing 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.

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 parks@hampshirewv.com anytime.

Youth Basketball Leagues

Hampshire County Parks and Recreation will sponsor two youth basketball leagues for the coming winter. Bidy Buddy is for all boys and girls in grades 2, 3, and 4, and the Intermediate



Basketball League (IBL) is for all boys and girls in grades 5 through 8.

Team practices began this week, and each team will have two practices before the first game. Practices and games will alternate between Romney and Capon Bridge, with teams practicing at the location of that week's games. The first games will be played on Sunday, December 12, at the RMS and OCBMS gyms.

If you registered for one of the leagues and weren't contacted by a coach this week about

practice times, please let us know either by phone at 304-822-7300, or via email at parks@hampshirewv.com.



Hampshire Mat Club

Registrations are still being accepted for the Hampshire Mat Club, a youth wrestling organization supported by Hampshire County Parks and Recreation for boys and girls ages four-through-fifteen. The HMC teaches folkstyle wrestling, which is the same format used in high school and college wrestling. Wrestlers will be classified by both age and weight for competition. The Mat Club practices three nights per week until the matches begin and twice per week thereafter.

HMC will once again compete in the Mason Dixon League, which features teams from the surrounding West Virginia and Virginia area, and tournaments in that league will be held on weekends during December, January, and

February. The Club will also attend other tourneys around the area, including state competitions.

The registration fee for the Hampshire Mat Club is \$25. To register, log onto our website, hampshirecountyparks.com, and fill out and then send the Program Registration Form, which is located at the bottom of the home page. The registration fee may then be mailed to HCP&R at P.O. Box 213, Romney, WV 26757. You may also register in person at the HCP&R Office at 90 North High Street in Romney any weekday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

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 you can email us at parks@hampshirewv.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 days when you can get out and get some exercise, so take advantage of them.

New Conference Center at Hampshire Park



The Fire Marshall recently inspected the Conference Center at Hampshire Park, and we still have some minor issues to clear up. We are hoping to have him back for a final inspection the first of next week. After his approval, the building will get a general cleaning, and then we should be ready for the Grand Opening.

When completed, 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 parks@hampshirewv.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 10, HCP&R will begin taking pavilion and park reservations for the 2022 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 parks@hampshirewv.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

“Recreation brings quality to life.”

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