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MCPARC Installs New Playground at East Marion Park

The Marion County Parks and Recreation Commission maintenance crew just finished installing a new playground system at East Marion Park. East Marion Park is home to the MCPARC Wave Pool, seven large group pavilions, two full-sized basketball courts, six tennis courts, three sand volleyball courts, one softball field, the police reserve building, a miniature golf course and the FIDO dog park. The park is also home to the Marion County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the patriot flagpole, which stands at 125 feet and is visible from Interstate 79. The MCPARC maintenance crew installed the new system from Miracle Recreation Equipment Company in three weeks. Over 55 individual posts had to be set in addition to building concrete foundations for the two rocks and ropes features that weigh more than 10,000 pounds combined.
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Jordan Pierce
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724/787-4907 (mobile)
jordan.pierce@musco.com

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A Successful Summer

The summer of 2015 is upon us, and I hope everyone is staying dry!

It’s hard to remember a summer as damp as this one, and I know that each of us has our own trials and tribulations of dealing with pool closings, game rescheduling and the like.

Our Conference Committee is hard at work planning a great educational and entertaining time in Huntington this year! Be sure and mark your calendars for this event on October 13-15!

Also enclosed in the newsletter is information on the annual awards, which will be presented at our conference. Please take the time to submit a deserving individual, program or park for consideration.

I sincerely hope that everyone has a safe, enjoyable and successful summer!

Yours for better parks and recreation,

John Cooper
President
Live from Huntington, West Virginia, it’s the 43rd Annual West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association Conference. With you in mind, the Greater Huntington Recreation and Park District and WVRPA have planned and organized a unique and diverse series of educational sessions and workshops, social activities and the exhibit hall. This year’s conference will be, quite frankly, awesome!

This year’s theme, Working and Playing Together Too Build Better Communities, highlights how all of us within a recreation and park department build better communities by working together. The Annual Conference is our one time of the year we bring everyone together (professionals, students, exhibitors and educators) in order to further and share our ideas and interests, network and energize ourselves for the best interest of the public. As recreational leaders, we all understand that any conference or event is much better and more celebratory with more participants. So I truly look forward seeing as many of you there as possible.

Registration forms and contact information (lodging, golf and more) can be found in this edition of The Review or on our webpage at wvrp.org.

Keep playing!

Bruce M. Miller
WVRPA Director

Individual Registration

PROFESSIONAL FULL PACKAGE
Includes Keynote Speaker, Welcome Dinner, Educational Sessions, Exhibitor Pass and More…

Please circle or highlight appropriate item. Prior to 10/5/15 $125 After 10/6/15 $150

STUDENT and NEW MEMBER PACKAGE
Includes Keynote Speaker, Welcome Dinner, Educational Sessions, Exhibitor Pass and More…

Please circle or highlight appropriate item. Prior to 10/5/15 $50 After 10/6/15 $75

DAILY REGISTRATION

Please circle or highlight appropriate item. Wednesday, 10/14/15 $100 Thursday, 10/15/15 $75

West Virginia Recreation and Parks Association Annual Membership expires November 1.

Please circle or highlight appropriate items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category #1</th>
<th>Category #2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student Membership:</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<td>Professional Membership:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board/Commission Membership:</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency Membership:</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category #1 Totals</td>
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Total Payment = Categories #1 and #2 = $

*Cancellation POLICY – Registration fee, minus $25 will be refunded if cancellation notice is not received after 10/6/15
### Conference & Sponsor Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Promotion = $50</th>
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<tr>
<td>For business/website members unable to attend this year's conference. Your business’s product and services (e.g. catalogs, CDs) displayed and promoted in Exhibitor Hall.</td>
<td>$__________</td>
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<tr>
<th>Conference Plus = $275 *savings of $25</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mountaineer Business/Website Membership ($100), Exhibitor booth space ($200), product and service promotional opportunities and more!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Conference Premier = $350 *savings of $25</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wild ‘n Wonderful Business/Website Membership ($175), Exhibitor booth space ($200), product and service promotional opportunities and more!</td>
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<tr>
<th>Booth Extra = $50 person</th>
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<tr>
<td>Booth space is based on two attendees. Additional fee is to off-set lunch, dinner and other costs for extra attendees.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Activity Sponsor = $100 *number choices one through five (one being first choice and five last choice)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Huntington Park &amp; City Tour</td>
<td>Tuesday Welcome Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giant Prize Duffle Bag Fun Fund Raiser</td>
<td>Banquet &amp; Awards Prize Drawings</td>
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<tr>
<th>Golf Outing = $50 *includes lunch, prizes and more!</th>
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<tr>
<th>Greater Huntington Recreation &amp; Park District Park &amp; City Tour – free <em>lunch included</em></th>
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<tr>
<th>Student Association Donation = $25</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement of your support for our student associations will be recognized during the conference and in other WVRPA media promotions.</td>
<td>$__________</td>
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### Send Payment and Registration

Don Burton – WVRPA Treasurer 164 W. Main Street, Bridgeport, WV 26330

**Make Checks Payable: WVRPA**

**TOTAL**

$__________

### Exhibitor Schedule

**Setup**
- Tuesday, October 13, 8-10 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 14, 8-10 a.m.

**Exhibitor Tear-down**
- Wednesday, October 14, 8-10 p.m.

**Exhibit Open and Luncheon**
- Wednesday, October 14, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Exhibitor Open and Dinner**
- Wednesday, October 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### Contact Information

**Questions & Comments**
- Bruce Miller, 304-669-3181
  wvrpaorg@gmail.com

**Golf Tournament**
- John Cooper, 304-624-1655
  jcooper@cityofclarksburgwv.com

**Big Sandy Arena Conference Center**
- Next to Holiday Inn Downtown

**Lodging (ask for WVRPA rate)**
- Holiday Inn Downtown, 304-523-8880
  800 Third Street, Huntington, WV 25701
The Recreation Program Bachelor of Science Degree at Shepherd University has reached a national milestone. On October 13, 2014, the Recreation and Sport Studies Department achieved national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT — www.nrpa.org/coaprt).

COAPRT is the academic accreditation body within the National Recreation and Parks Association. COAPRT evaluates college and university programs in regards to how they meet and/or exceed stated criteria of educational quality. These criteria are within the areas of faculty, mission, vision, strategic plan, curriculum, assessment plan, program outcomes, institution organization, institution treatment of the program, student involvement, and instructional resources. A self-study of how the Recreation Program meets and/or exceeds all the criteria can be found on their accreditation webpage (www.shepherd.edu/hpersweb).

Shepherd University Reaches Milestone

The Recreation Program is part of the Recreation and Sport Studies major within the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sport at Shepherd University. Students select one of the following areas of concentration within the Recreation & Sport Degree:

- Public Recreation and Park Administration
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Athletic Coaching and Officiating
- Sport and Event Management
- Sport Marketing
- Fitness/Exercise Science
- Sport Communication

Achieving national accreditation provides the students not only with a degree from an accredited program but also the opportunity to sit for the Certified Parks and Recreation Professional exam immediately upon graduation, giving them a “leg up” on the ever-growing competitive job market. Achieving accreditation provides the hiring agency the confidence that its new employee has received the highest quality of education and has been taught all the essential core material for a recreation professional. Currently, the Recreation Program at Shepherd University is the only accredited recreation program in the state of West Virginia. Striving to lead the way!

Wurzburg Dog Park at Ambrose Park

by Traci Misiewicz, Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation

With summer in full-swing and nice weather a regular occurrence, it is a great time to get out with your four-legged friends! Since November of last year, Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks & Recreation has opened its new Wurzburg Dog Park — the first in the county and nicest in the tri-state area. The dog park, which is located within Ambrose Park, is a member-based, secured facility that provides separate spacious areas for both large and small dogs to run off-leash for exercise and interaction with other dogs.

Wurzburg Dog Park came to fruition thanks to the vision of Travis A. Hill Jr. and his wife, Scarlett James Hill, advisors of the Wurzburg/Hill Family Fund with the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation and the generosity of Mr. Hill’s aunt, Gretchen Wurzburg. Wurzburg had established the fund, and after her passing in 2008, the Hills suggested a portion of the funds be used to honor Miss Wurzburg’s memory and love of dogs by building a dog park in the county.

Ambrose Park was in need of updating and with new playground equipment and the Children’s Garden project being planned at the time, the location was perfect for the dog park to be added as well. The facility, carefully and thoughtfully designed by the Hills, with elaborate large entrances and fenced sections, also boasts multi-level water fountains for human and canine use, covered seating areas and live video streaming. As funds become available, there are plans to include lighting for safety and obstacle activities to further entertain the dogs.

The low-cost yearly membership to the Wurzburg Dog Park not only assists in the maintenance and upkeep of the dog park itself but also gives a true sense of ownership and encourages its members to keep the facility at its best. Also, by having the dogs registered with our M-BC Parks & Recreation office, we are able to ensure that all members’ pets are up-to-date on their rabies (mandatory) and recommended vaccines, as well as being registered with the county for the safety and accountability of those that use it. Additional information and details regarding registration can be found on our website at mbcparks-rec.org.

We are pleased to have such a facility available to offer as an option for local and surrounding area residents and anticipate its popularity to grow. We invite you to register for the Wurzburg Dog Park and enjoy some time well spent with your furry friends!
The Awards Committee of the WVRPA is now accepting nominations for the following awards offered by our association:

**John G. Scherlacher Fellow Award**
Qualifications: Professional members of the WVRPA with at least 10 years of experience in the leisure service delivery system with at least five years of service with the WVRPA. Nominee must have demonstrated willingness to assume a leadership within our organization. This is the highest award that can be given to a professional in the state of West Virginia by the WVRPA.

**Austin C. Palmer Outstanding Facility Award**
Qualifications: Outstanding facilities serving a large segment of a geographic area that are aesthetically pleasing, evidence of sound design, programmed to maximum potential and in operation for at least one year.

**Richard P. Sebastian Leadership Award**
Qualifications: Active membership in the WVRPA, nominees must be under 30 years of age or younger by January 1, 2016, and nominees should exhibit qualities of ambition, creativity and dedication to the recreation profession and be cooperative, hardworking and loyal in nature.

**Special Citation to a Citizen/Board Member**
Qualifications: Nominee should have made significant contributions to the parks, recreation or leisure service field, exhibit a firm understanding of and commitment toward providing quality leisure services and exhibit a significant contribution to the leisure service delivery at the regional or statewide level.

**Eugene M. Fuller Program Award**
Qualifications: Nominees must provide evidence of outstanding programming of superior quality in promoting activities that are traditionally associated with park, recreation and leisure services or in developing innovative programming ideas.

**Legislative Award**
Qualifications: Any member of the Senate or House of Delegates in the state of West Virginia or from the state of West Virginia with a firm understanding of the need of, and commitment toward, providing quality leisure services.

**Presidential Citation**
Qualifications: Presented by the president of the WVRPA to anyone making an outstanding contribution to the field of parks and recreation above and beyond the normal duties of his or her profession, involvement on the national or statewide level in improving the overall park and recreation services.

**James L. McClelland Public Parks and Recreation Facility Award**
Qualifications: Exceptional park and recreation areas, spaces or facilities, with emphasis placed on design, creativity, environmental adaptability, function, usage, and community and, where applicable, inter-agency involvement in planning.

All nominations are due by September 15, 2015. For a detailed description of the awards, or to make a nomination, contact:

Donna Abbott, Awards Chair
C/O City Parks of Clarksburg
1 Clarksburg Park Way
Nutter Fort, WV 26301
Clarksburg City Park
Phone: 304.624.1655
Fax: 304.624.1684
dabbott@cityofclarksburg.gov
Early Returns on New Bridgeport Recreation Complex Playground
Show Amenity a Hit with Public
by Jeff Toquinto from Connect-Bridgeport.com on June 30, 2015

It’s barely been open for two weeks, but the newest amenity to the Bridgeport Recreation Complex is already seeing significant use. A $60,000 project that added a new playground and picnic shelter at the facility was recently completed and according to a Parks and Recreation official appears to be a hit.

“We’ve had a few tournaments since it’s been installed and it’s already a hit,” said P&R Deputy Director Joe Shuttleworth of the playground designed by Cunningham Recreation out of Charlotte, NC.

The new playground has two slides and a rock climbing wall. There are also several other climbing features, connecting tunnels, baseball-themed play panels among others. One portion of the playground is elevated and the roof of the elevation is punched metal with baseball designs.

“There was one hiccup with the project and that was the punched metal roof,” said Shuttleworth. “There was an issue with it having something formed incorrectly from the factory, but that was fixed and the contractor came back to properly install it. Since then, it’s been completely operational.”

The playground was added to help provide a much-needed addition at the complex for families that travel to Bridgeport for the tournament. P&R Director Don Burton has said it in the past it was being built to provide an outlet for children who travel with their brothers or sisters to the events. Shuttleworth said that’s certainly been the case in the early going.

“You can see that it’s providing a much-needed energy outlet for the siblings of those that are playing,” said Shuttleworth. “We’ve already received a lot of really positive comments from people that have taken advantage of it.”

Along with the playground being completed, Shuttleworth said his department worked with the Bridgeport Public Works construction crew to install a small picnic shelter adjacent to the playground. He said that in the weeks ahead picnic tables and even a grill will be added to that facility.

“We think it will be nice for teams that are visiting to have that shelter as an option to go out there and eat and have their lunch,” said Shuttleworth.

The project was funded by a $30,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was awarded after Shuttleworth successfully submitted a grant application. There was also a $30,000 grant match from the city. The Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program is under the National Park Services and the grant is administered by the Community Development Division of the West Virginia Development Office. Because of that, prevailing wage was used for the project, which added to the cost.

Of the final total, $52,000 will cover the costs for the playground. The remaining $8,000 was used for the cost of the picnic shelter/pavilion. The cost for tables, grills or other amenities that will be added will come from end-of-the-year funding, Shuttleworth said.

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Change Is in the Air for New Martinsville Parks and Recreation

New Martinsville, a close-knit, small town located at the bottom of the Northern Panhandle, is generally quiet and reserved. However, the Parks and Recreation Department has been making some serious noise this summer. New Martinsville Parks and Recreation, known as NM Parks by their large Facebook following, has been the talk of the town lately, experiencing many changes both inside the office and outside in the parks. Back in March, NM Parks was sad to say goodbye to its assistant director, who had put in eight years of hard work, but also excited to welcome the new assistant director, Laura Kane. Kane, who has worked for NM Parks since she was 15, graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University with a degree in communication studies. She has always been active and passionate about NM Parks and is currently working on her masters degree in organizational leadership through West Liberty University in the hopes she will be able to continue advancing her career within the field of parks and recreation.

Kane’s first summer as assistant director has been a busy one! “I started the job at the beginning of a major renovation of our town’s swimming pool,” Kane stated. “With the pool renovations, I was a little worried about how my first summer at the park would go. The pool is a huge part of our town’s summer, and we are sad to see it closed for the summer to try and make up for the loss of programs this summer. As Kane stated earlier, NM Parks has been offering several new programs this summer, along with revamping old programs, in the hopes of giving citizens, especially kids, something to do in the absence of the pool. Thanks to local sponsors and community support, NM Parks has been able to offer several new programs this summer, including a three-day theater and art workshop; basketball, soccer, and track camps; face-painting, balloon animals, and magic shows for kids; and a Music Monday event, which provides live entertainment at Bruce Park on certain Monday’s throughout the summer. In addition, NM Parks has been able to revamp some of its old programs this summer, like Safety Town, Day Camp, the Ohio River Sweep and Movie in the Park. Six Movie in the Park events have been planned for the summer, thanks to sponsors by local businesses. The movies include: UP, Remember the Titans, The Lego Movie (also involving a Lego competition), Elf (also involving a visit from Santa Claus and Christmas in July Celebration), Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs and Toy Story. In addition to summer programs, NM Parks has been working hard to plan its fall programs, including Sunday Soccer, a flea market, the Alzheimer’s awareness walk and a red-eye trip to NYC in December.

Although NM Parks has been busy this summer, the staff members are enjoying every minute of the chaos. “It’s great to be able to offer so many wonderful programs to the community,” Kane said. “I am so grateful to all the fellow park workers and remind everyone to remember why we do what we do. “To all the fellow park workers out there, thank you for what you do. It can be stressful and crazy sometimes, but it is great to see the joy on people’s faces when they are enjoying themselves in your park. That truly makes everything worth it!”

Kane was referring to the Lewis Wetzel Pool, New Martinsville’s only operating pool, located at Lewis Wetzel Park. Over the years, Lewis Wetzel Pool has seen its share of wear and tear. Last year, the pool experienced its final days, more than ready for a major facelift. Gibb had been working on the Lewis Wetzel Pool project for over a year, stating, “We are so excited to get the renovations underway to better our pool and parks for the community!” The renovations at Lewis Wetzel Pool will be extensive. The existing north end of the pool, currently 3 feet deep, will be extended north approximately 12 feet, allowing for a zero-depth entry. Several water spraying/spilling features will be installed down the length of the slope. The pool walls and floor will be constructed of plaster, creating a much cleaner and smoother finish. In addition, a gutter system will be installed to replace the existing skimmers. The pool will be American with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible with a walk-in ramp and a set of transfer steps. The pool will retain its large L-shaped look with a larger water slide constructed on the west side of the pool. Additionally, a new filtration system will be constructed and the bathhouses will receive a makeover.

The renovations at Lewis Wetzel Pool are not the only changes NM Parks is doing this summer, along with revamping old programs in the hopes of giving citizens, especially kids, something to do in the absence of the pool. Thanks to local sponsors and community support, NM Parks has been able to offer several new programs this summer, including a three-day theater and art workshop; basketball, soccer, and track camps; face-painting, balloon animals, and magic shows for kids; and a Music Monday event, which provides live entertainment at Bruce Park on certain Monday’s throughout the summer. In addition, NM Parks has been able to revamp some of its old programs this summer, like Safety Town, Day Camp, the Ohio River Sweep and Movie in the Park. Six Movie in the Park events have been planned for the summer, thanks to sponsors by local businesses. The movies include: UP, Remember the Titans, The Lego Movie (also involving a Lego competition), Elf (also involving a visit from Santa Claus and Christmas in July Celebration), Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs and Toy Story. In addition to summer programs, NM Parks has been working hard to plan its fall programs, including Sunday Soccer, a flea market, the Alzheimer’s awareness walk and a red-eye trip to NYC in December.

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