PARKS & RECREATION HAS NEW PROGRAMS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Salisbury residents who have vowed to increase their exercise and learn a new craft this year are in luck. The parks and recreation department recently released its Winter Playbook, chock-full of fun programs for young and old alike. Bellydance for Beginners, Chair Volleyball, Poetry of War Hop, Splatter Art and Intro to Coding are just a few of the many new programs featured in this season’s offerings.

Classes are spread throughout the city’s five facilities – City Park Recreation Center, Hall Gym, Miller Recreation Center, Civic Center and the Park Ave. Facility.

“We have some great programs coming up this winter and spring that we are excited about,” said Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aves. “It’s helpful that the community has really stepped up to the plate in telling us what they want and providing volunteer instructors for some new and innovative programming.”

“We plan per season for recreational programming, for example we will start planning now for summer programs,” said Terri Shaw, recreation coordinator.

For a full list of winter programming, visit www.salisburync.gov/playbook or call (704) 216-PLAY.

Bellydance for Beginners - Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at City Park Center.

Watch Out for Frozen Pipes

Last month’s chilly temperatures wreaked havoc on a number of cities along the east coast as water mains broke along major and minor roadways. Salisbury wasn’t excluded from this unfortunate group. Main breaks on Fulton, Stateville and Grove were just a few of the areas that were affected.

Until a more permanent thaw makes an appearance later this year, Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) encourages customers to protect their water pipes from freezing to avoid water loss and significant property damage.

- Pipes in unheated areas of homes or buildings have the greatest chance of freezing. Therefore, it is important to seal openings and air leaks in crawlspace and basements, as well as access doors, air vents in foundations and any other cracks.
- Insulating water pipes or hoses in an unheated area (such as a crawl space, attic, basement or utility room/ shed) is important.
- Pipes inside or close to an exterior wall (such as pipes that supply water to a sink), can be kept warm by opening the door of the cabinet under the sink.
- Remove and drain hoses from outdoor spigots. If there is a shut-off valve specifically for an outdoor spigot, turn the valve to the off position, open the spigot and drain any water remaining in the spigot and pipe downstream of the shut-off valve.
- If you have a shut-off valve for pipes in an unheated area such as a shed or garage, turn off the valve and drain the water from the pipes by opening the faucets/spigots.
- The Red Cross recommends letting the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe (even at a trickle) helps prevent pipes from freezing; and FEMA states this will also reduce the buildup of pressure in the pipes. Even if the pipes freeze, the release pressure in the water system will reduce the likelihood of a rupture.
- It is also wise to plan ahead for winter storms and power outages including building emergency supply kits for your home and car.
- For more Information and helpful tips you can visit REDCROSS.org, ReadyROWAN.org, and FEMA.gov.

City Council

Mayor Al Higgins
Mayor Pro Tem David Post
Council Member Karen K. Alexander
Council Member Brian Miller
Council Member Tamara Sheffield
City Manager W. Lane Bailey

Stay Connected - City of Salisbury

City of Salisbury Communications | (704) 638-4460 | csommunications@salisburync.gov

Inside This Edition:
Project Safe Neighborhoods - P. 2
Nixle: Receive City Alerts by Text - P. 2
Get on the Bus - P. 3
#PositiveGossip - P. 3
Parks & Rec Has New Programs - P. 4
Watch Out for Frozen Pipes - P. 4

EVENT CALENDAR: MARCH

City Council Meetings

Attended public city council meetings to find out what’s happening in your city.

Tuesday, March 6 and 20 - starts at 5 p.m.
City Hall, 217 S. Main St.

School’s Out Fun Day

Enjoy free play, crafts, games and more! Limited space, register in advance at (704) 638-PLAY.
Thursday, March 29 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
City Park Center, 316 Lake Dr.

Throw Back Thursday Teen Movie Night

Grab a friend and join the fun! FREE for kids grades 6-12.
Thursday, March 15 - from 6 to 8 p.m.
City Park Teen Room, 316 Lake Dr.

Not all children who want to be a firefighter as a youngster will grow up to become one. Career aspirations change. Life happens. Circumstances require a different course. Or they don’t make the cut. But for these 10 people, the Salisbury Fire Department (SFD) Firefighter Graduation is the culmination of a lifelong dream.

SFD “Rookie School,” as it is affectionately known, is the beginning of a career of continuous learning for a fire department candidate. It begins with an orientation and indoctrination of departmental and city guidelines and policies. Then, the School evolves into learning job-related duties and tasks, leading to the successful completion of written and practical requirements for the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission’s Firefighter certification program.

More than 350 hours of firefighter and hazardous materials certification training is completed. Classes are held on firefighter safety, personal protective equipment, hoists, ventilation, fire streams and hazardous materials are just a few of the subjects the firefighter candidate must master to reach this level.

After rookie school completion, candidates are also required to compete their North Carolina Emergency Medical Training (EMT) certification, which now consists of 120 plus hours, within their first 18 months of employment.

Most recently, 10 people have completed the SFD’s latest Rookie School. Recent graduate Noah Stanley immediately wanted to be a full-time firefighter since he ran calls with the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. Unsure of his future after high school graduation, he was encouraged to volunteer with Mt. Pleasant.

“I just really fell in love with it for the two years I was there,” said Stanley. “At this time in my career, I just want to be the best firefighter I can be. As I progress, I will learn more and hopefully pass on my knowledge to those who come after me.”

Jacob Warner, who also volunteered with Mt. Pleasant for two years, shared a similar sentiment. “I enjoy being on the back of a truck, but I would like to work my way up.”

To begin the training, Rookie School candidates must successfully meet the qualifications derived from the application process, which include written testing, a physical ability test (PAT) and candidate interviews. Typically five to 10 candidates are taken for each School – up to two per year. While firefighting experience is helpful, it is not required.

For more information on Rookie School, please contact Battalion Chief Dave Morris at (704) 638-5360 or via email at cmorris@salisburync.gov.
Project Safe Neighborhoods

A collaborative initiative between the City of Salisbury and Rowan County has re-invigorated the Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) program in Rowan County in an effort to combat crime in the community. With the program's revival, a new PSN coordinator – Candace Edwards.

According to the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, “Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun and gang crime in America by networking existing local programs that target gun and gun crime and providing these programs with additional tools necessary to be successful.”

Success is the key word for Edwards. With more than 20 years of experience working with at-risk communities, ex-offenders and law enforcement, she continues to keep in touch with some of her success stories from her various positions with the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem and probation/parole in Forsyth County. Some of those “successes” have moved on from having fewer economic opportunities or engaging in negative behaviors and grown in to self-sufficient citizens with stable jobs, families and homes of their own.

Now, Edwards’ focus is on creating success in Rowan County by accessing and mobilizing resources to ex-offenders who are identified through data driven methods as likely to reoffend or be victims of gun violence. The program is intended to bring community resources in to play to lever the offender towards a path by opening lines of communication between service providers, and developing strong relationships with community partners.

Project Safe Neighborhoods first began in 2001 nationwide. The $2 billion that has gone in to its programming has been used to “hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, distribute gun lock safety kits, deter juvenile gun crime, and develop and promote community outreach efforts as well as to support other gun and gang violence reduction strategies.”

Her office, housed at the Salisbury Police Department, will be a central location for building a program for offenders to be able to find services like childcare, job assistance, training programs and maybe post-secondary education opportunities, if she can find the right grants.

A focus area for Edwards will be finding grant funding opportunities to support the program. “I’ve always been good at reading and interpreting federal regulations, laws and budgets,” she said. “I want to be able to identify those opportunities for our marginalized communities, some who may even not know that they need these services.”

Just a little over a month in, Edwards has already hit the ground running. She has started collaborating with all four of the Community Action Teams; meeting with partner agencies, including probation and parole; and reviewing historical data from the previous model of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Soon, she will be meeting one-on-one with ex-offenders – those currently on probation and those who have completed probation – who can benefit from support and services. “The bigger and broader the focus, the better and more impactful the program is,” she said.

“I am also able to offer a wholistic approach to support family members of those on my ‘list’ by directing them to the appropriate community resources,” she added. “I know Project Safe can make a difference,” said Edwards, a UNC-Charlotte graduate. “Sometimes people need an opportunity to provide a better quality of life for themselves and their children. Without proper parenting and/or modeling many of us could have grown down a similar path.”

For more information on the Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative, contact Edwards at (704) 638-5361 or Candace.edwards@salisburync.gov.

Receive City Alerts by Text

It’s not too late to sign up to receive Nixle alerts from the City of Salisbury! The alerts are a community-wise notification system to inform residents about emergency situations and community advisories right at their fingertips.

Nixle alerts can be received via text, email, voice, web, and social media in an instant. All alerts are targeted geographically, allowing residents to receive localized, relevant information from the city. The Nixle system, available at no cost to citizens, will be most effective when a large number of Salisbury residents subscribe. Standard messaging rates will apply.

Salisbury residents can register with any of these methods:
1. Text their Zip Code or SALISBURY to 88877
2. Visit www.nixle.com
3. Go to City of Salisbury website: www.salisburync.gov/Nixle and sign up

Get on the Bus

Salisbury Transit and Livingstone College will continue the partnership that has enhanced, weekend transportation routes for students living on the main campus and at the new hospitality management campus on Jake Alexander Blvd. to allow for greater mobility for students throughout the City. Two years ago, Salisbury Transit System presented a proposal to Livingstone College that would allow all students, faculty and staff, at no cost to the individual to use the transit system with the presentation of a Livingstone College identification card. Together, Salisbury Transit and Livingstone were able to develop a program that provides a mobility option for Livingstone College students, faculty, and staff which offered them the opportunity to utilize community resources such as retail outlets, medical facilities, downtown, etc. The Weekend Express Routes 4 and 5, which run Friday through Sunday, are free to Livingstone students and staff with valid school ID. Buses make frequent stops in downtown Salisbury, various eateries, retail stores and recreational facilities such as Woodleaf Lanes Bowling Alley, Fun-Mart, Tinseltown movie theater and Kohl’s and Belk.

The express routes are a strong example of the community and City working together to meet the needs of our college citizens,” said Rodney Harrison, director of Salisbury Transit. “We are pleased to be able to provide additional services to connect students from the culinary school and main campus.”

Major areas included in this additional service time are Livingstone College (Main Campus), Livingstone Culinary School, Walmart/Kmart, Wallace Commons, Innes Street Market, Downtown, and West Innes Street. Currently, service terminates at approximately 7:00 pm on weekdays, 3:30 on Saturdays, and with no service on Sundays. The express routes only operate during times that Livingstone College is operational during the fall and spring semesters.

After the success of the first one-year trial, the project has been evaluated and Livingstone College has agreed to continue the Weekend Express transit service routes for a second year, 2017-2018.

For more details contact Rodney Harrison at (704) 638-4498.