

To: Park Board

From: Aimee Peterson, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Date: February 10, 2023

Subject: February Newsworthy

Sports Dome – Now allowing patrons to bring in their own chairs

Staff researched operation policies from sports dome in the area. It was discovered that allowing chairs on dome turf is offered at nearly all domes. Staff reached out to the Fire Department and learned that we can allow chairs as long as they are not blocking emergency exits. As of February 9, folding sled-legged and camping/tailgating chairs are now allowed in the dome. Until this time only bucket chairs were allowed. The partner associations are in support of this policy change.

Phenow Pavilion – Rentals now available online!

We are very pleased to have Phenow Pavilion rentals available to reserve online. Staff configured the facility reservation software to now display an “at a glance” calendar on our website showing rental availability and allowing customers to directly rent the pavilion online. This is a great improvement for both staff and patrons.

Wonders of Winter

Wonders of Winter was a great success, taking place on Saturday, February 4 at Central Park of Maple Grove. The community event included a wide variety of outdoor winter activities: kick sledding, snowshoeing, crokicurl, ice skating, horse-drawn wagon rides, and smores by the fire. Event attendance is estimated at 1500 people which is over three times the attendance in 2022 and the largest attendance since the event started. The event attendance does not include participation at the skate loop.

Sweets and Treats – Sensory Aware Event (new)

Monday, February 13
Community Center, Playhouse Room
Ages 3 to 10
Free, pre-registration is required

Participants will decorate a Valentine's bag and collect Valentine's sensory-aware treats and prizes in a low-stress and calm environment. Time slots are limited to 6 participants at a time. Volunteers from the 55-forward program will be onsite to help with the event.

Rock Your Socks - for Down syndrome awareness (new)

Tuesday, March 21

Community Center – Lobby

All ages

Free, no registration necessary

The Rock Your Socks event will include carnival games and is themed entirely around fun socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Awareness Day. March 21 (3/21) is World Down Syndrome Day because those with down syndrome have 3 pairs of their 21st chromosome. Crazy fun socks are worn that day because chromosomes, under a microscope, look like a pair of socks. As the kids play games they will win socks to wear in support of down syndrome awareness.

Spring Turkey Egg Hunt (new)

Friday, April 7 (District 279 Non School Day)

Weaver Lake Park - Lower

Ages 3 to 10

Free, pre-registration is required

This new community event begins with kids watching two costumed staff dressed as turkeys hide eggs around Weaver Lake Park. When the kids hear the turkey call they begin the egg hunt. Kids will hunt until all eggs are found and go home with turkey themed prizes and treats.

Tails and Ales (new)

Saturday, June 3

2 to 6 p.m.

Central Park of Maple Grove

All ages

Free, no pre-registration required

This new event geared toward dogs and pet owners will include dog-related activities, a vendor fair, music, food trucks and beer. This event is a collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Maple Grove Lions.