



PLEASANT HILL RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

SPOTLIGHT PERSPECTIVE:



Here's a Few of My Favorite Thing in 2017

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Chairman, Board of Directors

Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District

2017 represented an eventful year for the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District that saw new beginnings, new milestones and new events. And like many years (especially as you get older), the days and months flew by. During this time of reflection and gratitude, I'm especially thankful for the hard work of our district staff, my board colleagues and the participation of our residents in our programs and events. In no particular order, but in the holiday spirit, here some of my favorite things that happened within the District this past year.

Website Launch

In addition to our printed Spotlight program guide, our website is a primary communications tool for every aspect of the District. For years, the previous website had limited functionality in large part to its antiquated platform. Our new website launched this summer is visually outstanding, mobile compatible and represents a huge step forward by enabling users to get important District information easier and faster. If you haven't checked it out, go to www.pleasanthillrec.com.

Adoption of 10-year Capital Improvement Program

Deferred maintenance on facilities, parks and open space may save money in the near-term, but when pushed off for too long, the result can be even greater expenditures. One of the most important decisions we made in 2017 was to create a 10-year Capital Improvement Project to ensure the health of our facilities through 2027. This plan provides an excellent roadmap for anticipated maintenance and puts the District in a better position to take care of unexpected issues that will come up.

First Outdoor Board Meeting

For the first time in District history, the Board of Directors held an outdoor meeting in September. An ironic first since we are a recreation and park district. Staff did a great job of setting up a picturesque but very functional setting at Pleasant Oaks Park. I look forward to holding another one when the weather warms up.

New Registration System

When you offer literally thousands of classes, you better have a pretty solid system that is easy to use for both staff and customers. Even if you offer the best class or program, if you experience difficulty registering, a positive customer experience is at risk. Our new registration system offers an easy-to-use online interface that works with all devices.

New Events: Tinkers & Thinkers and Pumpkin Splash

Long-time staffers will tell you that traditional events, such as the Holiday Festival or Breakfast with Santa, are special because they get to see families come back every year. New events have their own excitement, from the anticipation of how it's going to go, to seeing how the participants will react to something new. This fall, the District added two events that ultimately proved to be highly successful. The District partnered with the Pleasant Hill Library to host the Tinkers & Thinkers Innovation Fair at Pleasant Hill Park. Over a thousand kids, parents and grandparents enjoyed many exciting S.T.E.M. -related activities. Because of all the fun and educational 'hands-on' experiences offered, and the great partnership forged with the Library, it was one of the best events I've attended in Pleasant Hill. Not to be outdone, the Pumpkin Splash was quite the success as the Pleasant Hill Park Pool was turned into an aquatic pumpkin patch. The kids were excited to jump in, pick that favorite orange squash, decorate it on the pool deck and take it home.

Five-Acre Land Acquisition

Earlier this year, after several months of negotiating with the County, the District reached an agreement to acquire a five-acre parcel on Oak Park Blvd. Currently, the library, administrative offices and a parking lot sits on the site. When the library is built across the street, it is expected that the existing buildings will be razed and replaced with much needed ball fields.

PH Park Pathway Project

The beautiful Pleasant Hill Park is the crown jewel of the District's parks. With playgrounds, ball fields and aquatic, teen and senior centers, it really has something for everyone. Over time, the pathways throughout the park got worn down. The Board of Directors authorized staff to spend \$350,000 to repair and replace the pathways throughout the park. The project was completed this year, and now walking around the park is safer and more aesthetically pleasing.

Expanded Youth Sports Leagues to Include K-2nd Grades

It's important to build a foundation of healthy habits in our kids, which includes expanding recreational opportunities for them to be active. For the first time, we expanded our flag football and basketball leagues to include kids who were starting Kindergarten. This expansion will introduce aspiring athletes to the fundamentals of the game while encouraging them to have fun and run.

As the year winds down, I would like to thank the District's compassionate, hard-working staff led by General Manager, Michelle Lacy. Their passion and skill made these and many other accomplishments possible

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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