



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Connecting People, Parks and Nature

www.thprd.org

Winter/Spring 2010

Winter/Spring 2010 events

Cedar Hills Recreation Center

Daddy-Daughter Dinner Dance • 2/12 • 6-8 p.m.
Winter Dance Recital • 3/16 • 7 p.m.
Spring Egg Hunt • 4/3 • 9:40 a.m.

Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center

Family Fun Night • 2/12 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Underwater Egg Hunt • 4/2 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Spring Dance Recital • 6/18 • 6-8:30 p.m.

Elsie Stuhr Center

Valentine's Dance/Dessert • 2/11 • 1:30-3:30 p.m.
35th Birthday Celebration • 2/17 • 1-2:30 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day Party • 3/17 • 2-3:30 p.m.
Hawaiian May Day • 5/1 • 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Garden Home Recreation Center

Cupid's Corner • 2/12 • 12:15-2:45 p.m.
Little Leprechauns • 3/12 • 12:15-2:45 p.m.
Bunny Bash • 4/2 • 12:15-2:45 p.m.
Sealed with a Kiss • 5/7 • 12:15-2:45 p.m.
Teddy Bear Picnic • 6/4 • noon-2:30 pm
Father's Day Surprise • 6/18 • 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Jenkins Estate

Chocolate Fantasy • 2/12 • 3-9 p.m.
Princess Tea Party • 3/13 • 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Rhododendron Show • 4/24 • noon-4 p.m.
Huckaba Art Show • 5/1 & 2 • 11 am - 4 p.m.
Mother's Day Barefoot Quilt Festival • 5/8-9
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Nature Park Interpretive Center

Month of Green • April 2010
Green Gardening Fair & Native Plant Sale
4/10 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tualatin Hills Athletic Center

Pretty Princess Party • 1/23 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Superhero Party • 1/23 • Noon-1 p.m.
Valentine Craft Party • 2/13 • 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.,
noon-1 p.m.
Little Pirate Party • 4/10 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Bunny's Spring Party • 4/3 • 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
noon-1 p.m.

For more THPRD event information, go to our Web site at www.thprd.org.

Need more info about THPRD?

In print: Activities Guide*

Online: www.thprd.org

By phone: 503/645-6433

In person: At any center

*Pick up at any THPRD center or the Administration Office.

Go to www.thprd.org for a complete facility list.

Inclement weather hotline

Snowing or icy outside? For the status of THPRD facilities, programs and activities, call 503/614-4018 or visit www.thprd.org.

THPRD digs in at Sunset Park, and away goes trouble down the drain

Sunset Park, located adjacent to Sunset High School on Northwest Cornell Road, is one of the busiest locations in the Park District for baseball and softball. In 2009, the facility hosted a total of 951 games and practices.

And now, thanks to a new drainage system at the park, the four baseball and softball fields will get even more use in seasons to come.

"Due to poor drainage, we have always struggled to keep those fields playable, particularly early and late in the year," said Jon Campbell, THPRD's athletic facilities coordinator. "But now, the drainage system we have in place should extend the season by at least a couple months, from early March into

November."

The project, started and completed in Fall 2009, involved five stages: design and layout, cutting trenches, installing pipe, backfilling

and grading, and testing the drain lines. The contractor, Pacific Sports Turf, dug three miles of drain line trenches as part of the \$97,400 undertaking.

THPRD Maintenance staff arranged with the contractor to inspect the work after each step.

"It was a new way of doing it and it proved to be very successful for us," said Keith Watson, athletic facilities technical supervisor, who helped oversee the work. "We were able to make sure we got what we were paying for, the inspections were quick and painless, and we met the project timelines."



Improved drainage will permit more baseball and softball to be played at Sunset Park starting this year.

...and project supports sustainability, too

More than 240 yards of dirt and clay were removed as a result of the Sunset Park drainage improvement project. But instead of going to a landfill, the material was put to good use in other THPRD parks and at Five Oaks Middle School.

The dirt and clay were redirected to Hiteon Elementary School and Hiteon Park for leveling rough construction areas around the new ball field and playground. It was also used at Mitchell Park around new ADA pathways to reduce the degree of slope from the path to the surrounding area.

The extra fill dirt was redeployed at Five Oaks Middle School to level an area with severe gopher damage; in the process, it improved mowing capability and reduced hazards for children. And other dirt was used at Bethany Meadows Park to level a low area and at Foegge Park to reduce drop-off from the sidewalk to the grass.

"We're proud of what we did at Sunset Park," said Jon Campbell of THPRD. "We think it's a good example of using our resources wisely to benefit our patrons."

An extraordinary electrician, and man

Faulkner, 79, is a wizard with wires, but that's no shock to his co-workers

THPRD's work force is filled with talented individuals who bring years of experience and skill to their positions.

No one exemplifies this more than Larry Faulkner.

Faulkner is the "wizard" of Tualatin Hills, so named by his colleagues in the Maintenance Department. His decades as a master electrician have provided a wealth of knowledge, serving the district and its patrons well during a 12-year career with THPRD.

But Faulkner's experience as an electrician goes back much further. Born in California, he began his career in the Midwest in the 1940s. After being drafted, the military uncovered his abilities with all things wired and put him to work in Korea from 1949-53.

His days in the service over, Faulkner made his way west in 1955, settling in Portland. Over the years he worked for numerous electrical

companies, but spent the bulk of his professional career with Multnomah County (23 years).

Faulkner, not willing to ride into the sunset after retirement, came to work for THPRD in 1997 on a part-time basis and continues to excel at his profession at age 79.

"I would rather wear out than rust out," said Faulkner, who likes to keep people guessing about his age. "By looking for ways to improve the job-related items around here and accomplish tasks that



Larry Faulkner

Greg Creager joins Natural Resources' ranger contingent

The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District is ramping up its popular, free Ranger Walk program, and the district has added a fourth ranger to its staff to facilitate the effort.

The Natural Resources Department has hired Greg Creager to help watch over the ever-growing population of parks and natural areas managed by THPRD.

The 29-year-old Creager, who grew up in McMinnville, is the primary ranger for Zone 1 in the northernmost section of the Park District. He assists Zone 2 ranger Kelly Perry at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park two days a week, and spends one day a month at Cooper Mountain Nature Park.

The addition of Creager, along with rangers Perry, Kyle Spinks (Zone 3) and Scott Hinderman (Zone 4), allows the district to step up its educational outreach, Natural Resources Specialist Julie Reilly said.

"It really helps us provide better coverage across the district," Reilly said. "The educational component is a huge part of what we do in Natural Resources. We put people in touch with nature through our bird



THPRD park rangers are, from left to right, Kelly Perry, Scott Hinderman, Greg Creager and Kyle Spinks

walks and ranger walks, and Greg knows his stuff. It's great to have him here."

Indeed, one of Creager's most recent jobs involved intensive bird surveys in northern Arizona, working through Northern Arizona University and the U.S. Geological Survey.

"I had science-based jobs and did a lot

enjoyed doing them and the people that come are really passionate about nature and the environment."

To learn more about the district's Ranger Walks, visit www.thprd.org/facilities/naturepark/freeprograms.cfm.

of ecology work after college," the University of California-Santa Barbara graduate said. "One thing I really liked about this Park District is that they invest in their natural resources program.

"The tasks tend to be varied, which makes the job enjoyable," Creager added. "You're always learning new things."

Creager is eager to take on his Ranger Walk duties.

"The Ranger Walks are fun," he said. "I've

Larry Faulkner

Continued from page 1

people need done just makes you feel more youthful."

THPRD Building Maintenance Supervisor Steve Ortner is one of Faulkner's greatest champions.

"I can't even begin to tell you how valuable Larry is to this Park District," Ortner said. "He has literally saved us thousands of dollars with some of the electrical engineering ideas he has come up with.

"I may be his supervisor in title, but I've learned more from Larry than anyone in my career," Ortner added. "He is truly amazing at what he does, and on top of that he is an amazing person."

Indeed, it is Faulkner's kindness and dedication to his job that has earned the respect of those he works with.

"He is an old-school professional," Ortner said. "He's very knowledgeable but very generous with his time and respectful. He gives you everything he has every day. And what he has to give is considerable."

If, by definition, part of a treasure's value is found in its rarity, than Faulkner certainly qualifies, Ortner said.

"Larry is one in a zillion ... no doubt about that."

To view a video clip of Larry Faulkner, go to www.thprd.org.

Picture perfect photo contest

We'd like to see your best winter photos taken on THPRD property (such as a park). Please e-mail your entries to jsmithers@thprd.org or bring them in to the Administration Office at 158th and Walker Road, Beaverton. We'll announce the winner and post the photograph online. A prize will be awarded.



Get your bond updates here

Neither rain, sleet nor snow can keep the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District from diving into several bond measure projects this winter.

To track those of interest to you, go to www.thprd.org/bondprojects/schedule.cfm.

Park District continues to expand communications, joins Facebook

The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District has launched into the world of Facebook.

Facebook, which became the No. 1 social networking site on the Internet in early 2009, will be used by the Park District to promote

events and programs. More importantly, however, Facebook allows the district to open a dialogue with patrons, providing a way for you to share your thoughts, applause, concerns and ideas.

The Park District currently has 13 separate Facebook pages that patrons can become "fans" of, depending on their favorite THPRD activity or facility. You can find a list of the district's Facebook fan pages on our Web site at www.thprd.org/about/facebook.cfm.

Facebook is the third new electronic communications tool launched by THPRD in 2009 as part of the

district's continuing endeavor to keep patrons better informed and more involved.

In the spring of 2009, THPRD

began using Twitter. Twitter is the popular social networking site where short

messages can be sent to "followers" with links back to the Park District Web site for more information. To learn more about THPRD's Twitter page, go to www.thprd.org and click on the Twitter link. Or you can simply go to www.twitter/thprd.

In June of 2009, the Park District began producing a free monthly e-newsletter, Tualatin Hills Today.

To subscribe to Tualatin Hills Today, go to www.thprd.org and click on the link provided in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the unsubscribe link on the newsletter.

Four tips to get more from THPRD

We love having you as a patron, and we want your experience with us to be a rewarding one. Here are some helpful hints and tips to make your time with THPRD as beneficial as possible.

1) Can't get in an aquatics class? Make sure you sign up for the wait list. If enough people show interest, we can offer additional classes. Call the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center at 503/629-6310 for more information.

2) Get to know your local trails. THPRD has published a detailed trail map of all the trails and trail connections within Park District boundaries. Plan new running or biking routes and get better acquainted with the area. Go to www.thprd.org/nature/trails.cfm and click on the trail map link in

the Document Center on the right-hand side of the page.

3) Want to know where you rank? Are you new to tennis? Just coming back after a layoff? If you're uncertain which tennis class to register for, the Tualatin Hills Tennis Center will provide free lesson evaluations. Call 503/629-6331 to schedule an evaluation, which takes only about 10 minutes.

4) Looking for lunch companions? If you're 60 or better, the Elsie Stuhr Center offers a lunch Monday through Friday at 11:45 a.m. An "early bird" lunch is available at 11:15 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Meals are provided by Beaverton Loaves and Fishes. A donation of \$2.75 is suggested.