

City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department Newsletter ~ November 2016

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~ COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES ~

Yoga on the Beach: Nancy Myers will conduct a yoga session Saturday, **Nov. 12**, starting at **8am**, next to Horace Caldwell Pier at end of Beach St. This event is held the 2nd Saturday of each month. FREE!

Not the...Movie Under the Stars: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7:30pm. "Momma Mia" showing at Port Aransas Community Theatre, 2327 Hwy 361. Free movie & popcorn. Concessions will be sold with proceeds going to PACT. "Donna (Meryl Streep), an independent hotelier in the Greek islands, is preparing for her daughter's wedding with the help of two old friends. Meanwhile Sophie, the spirited bride, has a plan. She secretly invites three men from her mother's past in hope of meeting her real father and having him escort her down the aisle on her big day." Movie includes words on screen to 'Sing Along'.

Beach Walk: Eliesha Barr will lead the walk on Port A's beaches to hunt for treasures. Meet under the purple flag 9am, Friday, **Nov. 25** (4th Friday of each month) near Horace Caldwell Pier at end of Beach Street. FREE!

Interval Training: Offered by Parks and Recreation with certified personal trainer Karen Decker (361-903-0901) **6:30am** on **Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays**. High Intensity Training in short spurts for all ages and levels. Work at your own pace. Held in Civic Center, 710 W. Ave. A. Cost is \$3 a class or \$30 for 15 classes. Cash or check to COPA. Open to men & women. Bring mat & water.

Sit and Be Fit: Workout for men & women, any physical shape with certified trainer Karen Decker (361-903-0901). Cost is \$3 for drop-in class or \$30 for 15 classes. **Monday & Wednesday at 5:15pm** in Civic Center, 710 W. Ave. A. Join others and enjoy the benefits of play for adults: Relieve stress. Improve brain function. Stimulate the mind and boost creativity. Improve relationships and your connection to others. Keep you feeling young and energetic. Check [make out to COPA] or cash.

Port A RPG Game Night: If you are into gaming age 16 and older, here is another outlet for play. In a controlled environment, high school and college gamers play Pathfinder, Star Wars RPG and Mutants & Masterminds. Held **every Friday and Saturday, 4:30 pm to close**, in the Girl Scout hut inside Parks and Recreation building, 739 W. Ave. A. No charge to attend, but food usually is ordered if gamers want to eat while playing.

~ PORT ARANSAS NATURE PRESERVES ~

Brazilian Peppertree Work Day: 9-11:30am, Tuesday, **Nov. 8**. Help conquer invasive species in the Nature Preserve. We're targeting Brazilian Peppertree, Guineagrass and Popinac. Bring your own handsaws, loppers, pruning shears, work gloves and water. Dress for the weather. Meet at the Port Aransas Community Park, 700 Clark Pkwy, off Ross Avenue.

Winter Walking Tours – Starting Friday, Nov. 11, Mission-Aransas Reserve partners with Parks & Rec for nature walks. Tours are **Fridays at 5pm** through March. Stroll along the trails with guide Judy Perkins to see what budding, blooming or bustling in the marshes, prairie and mottes of the Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture. Bring binoculars, camera & water. Wear walking shoes, sunscreen & mosquito spray. Meet at the Preserve Pavilion at the end of Port Street.

Migration Conversation: 9am, Tuesday, **Nov. 15**. Join other bird enthusiasts for a social gathering to discuss the latest bird news, events & action in the Coastal Bend. Birding & photography are encouraged. FREE!

Pedaling in the Preserve: 3:30 - 4:30pm, Thursday, **Nov. 17**. Bring your bike to pavilion and ride through the Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture located at the end of Port Street with Community Program Coordinator Pam Greene. Bikers of all ages welcome. FREE!

Birding on the Boardwalk: 9am, Every **Wednesday**. Join birding expert, Nan Dietert, as she points out what's flying, floating or fishing at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center at the end of Ross Avenue. Birders of all ages and ability levels are encouraged to attend. Bring your own binoculars. FREE!

Spring Forest Qigong: 9am. Every **Saturday**. Relax, just do it! Suzanne McCann will be leading a weekly moving meditation in the outdoor pavilion at the Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture. Being active in cooler morning temperature is a great way to start your day! Now only \$3/person!

**All programs are outside, so please come dressed for the weather with a water bottle, sunscreen and a hat.

PRESERVE NEWS: Gardens - The Port Aransas Garden Club voted to approve a \$25,000 project to overhaul the flowerbeds, irrigation and pathways along the chain link fence to the left of the concrete sidewalk. They have hired Bloomers Nursery & Landscape to plant native species that will help attract butterflies and hummingbirds to the area. The landscape materials will resemble the Club's signature look, with river rock and mulch, similar to what is currently around the Port Aransas Community Center. Work began Nov. 1.

New Signs - The existing welcome kiosk will be removed while the Garden Club project takes place. City Council has approved funding for new signage that will have a similar style to the existing signs at the Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture. This will include a sign welcoming visitors to the Birding Center with educational information, site map and rules.

Cattail Management - Cattails are a native plant and can provide benefits like improving water quality, providing food and habitat for wildlife and preventing erosion. However, the cattails at the Birding Center have become somewhat of a nuisance. \$25,000 in funds has been designated to conduct a study to determine the most effective long-term method for management of the pond and cattails. It is a Nature Preserve priority to keep the view from the boardwalk clear so visitors can enjoy the wildlife and it is important to keep cattails from overcrowding the open water so waterfowl and other wildlife like the alligators continue to use the habitat. An aquatic safe herbicide has been applied to the cattails adjacent to the boardwalk in an attempt to help increase visibility but much more will need to be done to make a lasting impact.

Viewing Scopes - The telescopes were refurbished and returned to the overlooks at the Birding Center.

Youth Birding Course - Julie Findley is leading a Youth Birding Course from the H.G. Olsen Science Lab. The course offers an introduction to birding for 3rd-8th graders and their parents. Julie hopes all 16 students will continue their interest in the activity to complete in the Great Texas Birding Classic this coming spring.

VOLUNTEERS: With so many things on the calendar, we would like some volunteer help. Volunteer opportunities include Docents, Field Technicians and Gardeners. We need volunteers to help with group field trips, lead nature programs and remove invasive species. Our first volunteer event is Brazilian Peppertree Work Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8 (listed above).

~ POOL ~

Fall Schedule 700 Clark Pkwy 361-749-2416 Pool is closed Mondays

Pool heating begins this month **Open Swim:** Tuesday-Sunday...1-5pm.

Lap Swim & Water Exercise: Tuesday-Friday...8am to 5pm; Saturday & Sunday...12-5pm.

Total Body Aquacize: *******(Time change Nov. 8)******* Tuesday & Thursday at **8:30am**, and ******Wednesdays & Fridays at **9:30am****, also Saturday at noon with AAI Water Aerobics instructor Sally Jo Bartlett.

Deep Water Aerobics: *******(Time change starting Wednesday, Nov. 2)******* Tuesday through Friday at 11am.

Water Aerobics: Tuesday-Friday at noon.

Parents & Tots: Tuesday-Friday 11:30am-1pm & Saturday-Sunday 12-1pm.

CLOSED Thursday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving; reopening Friday, Nov. 25.

Watch the South Jetty newspaper, the Island Moon newspaper for more events & updates!