

Pelican Watch



Recreation District #1 of St. Tammany Parish

VOL. 5 NO. 2

Page 1

Phone: 626-7997 Fax: 626-9028 Hotline: 626-1444

MAY 2005



From the Director

Pelican Park serves as a great asset to this community!!! Pelican Park through our adult and youth sports programs provides children and adults with opportunities to exercise, learn life skills, be part of a team and have fun. Studies show that participation in sports decreases the chances that children will be involved with alcohol, drugs or run with a rough crowd. Involvement with sports helps families spend quality time together and helps maintain a communication line between children and parents.

Many real estate agents state that once they show new buyers the facilities at Pelican Park, the buyers always choose a home in the Recreation District, even if they could get more house for the money outside of the Recreation District.

The Castine Center serves a vital need for the community as the largest public building. It is primarily used/rented by Mardi Gras Krewes, trade shows, animal shows, corporate events, and large fund raisers.

The Park and the Castine Center serve as an economic stimulus for the local businesses when they host tournaments and special events like the Junior Olympics. The thousands of people who attend these tournaments at the Park, stay in local hotels, eat at our restaurants and shop at local stores and shopping centers.

The District gives back to the community by waiving rental fees for other governmental agencies when they use the facilities. Last year the School Board, Parish and Sheriff's office together had over \$16,000 in rental and other fees waived. Pelican Park and the Castine Center are also a major sponsor of Project Graduation and Senior Olympics. This year \$15,700 of free facility use was given to these two organizations.

Recreation District #1/Pelican Park is able to be such a vital part of the Greater Mandeville area thanks in part to dedicated and hard working staff and board members but also due to the community support of millages and dedicated volunteer coaches.

Ms. Kathy Foley
Director

CONCESSIONS NOW OPERATED BY PELICAN PARK

Last fall, the Park started operations of the concession themselves versus contracting out the service. Now all proceeds from the concessions go directly back into the Park. Your support of the concessions is greatly appreciated.

RECORD ATTENDANCE SET FOR PARK

Over the weekend of April 23 and 24, 2005, the Recreation District set a new record for attendance with over 25,000 people in the Park. The weekend featured opening day for softball and baseball. In addition, we hosted a 71 team LSA Premier Soccer State Championship on the Yellow and Purple fields. In the White Pelican gym and the Brown Pelican gym were Senior Olympics volleyball competition. The Castine Center was rented that day by two groups. In half of the building during the day was an employee party for 700 for Florida Marine Transporters and in the other half that evening was Mandeville High Prom for 800 people. The Park typically has between 10,000 and 15,000 people on a sports Saturday. The Park regularly has over a million visitors each year.

BBQ GRILL ADDED

The Park has added 3 new BBQ grills and picnic tables for patron's use at the Park. The grills are located in the oak area between the Castine Center parking lot and Green 5 fields. The grills are specially designed to prevent a fire or injuries.

Next time you want a small family picnic, have a long day at the Park or want to have a team gathering after the last game...plan on using the Park's grills.

PELICAN ALERT

The Park has established a "Pelican Alert" much like "Amber Alerts" should a child be reported missing at the Park. If a child is reported missing, the Park staff will shut down the exit gates to the Park. No one would be allowed to leave the Park until the child is found or the Sheriff's office takes over the situation.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work on the expansion of the Park continues. Meyer Engineering is the lead A and E firm and will have the project ready to be put out to bid in late summer with an early fall bid date. The expansion is proposed to include a new softball/baseball game tri-plex (similar to the blue complex), two new football/soccer game fields, 5-6 multi-sport practice fields and a skate park.

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!!
INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER
REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR

BOYS AND GIRLS SUMMER BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION JUNE 6 – JUNE 18



Recreation District #1
of St. Tammany Parish
Pelican Park
63350 Pelican Dr.
Mandeville, LA 70448

Board of

Commissioners:

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Stephen R. Meyer, M.D.

Vice Chairman

Commissioners:

Joe FitzPatrick, D.D.S.

Chris Keller

Bill Matthews

Tony Oramous

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Pam Simmons

Secretary

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Concession Supervisor

Doug McLemore

Park Superintendent

Harris LaGrange

Turf Supervisor

Ron Johnson

Construction Foreman

Ann Keyes

Recreation Supt.

Jason Walker

Recreation Supervisor

Angie Walker

Recreation Supervisor

Kia Knight

Castine Center Mgr.

Recreation District #1 is a free standing governmental agency. The District is supported by a property tax paid by the residents and businesses of Recreation District #1.

The general boundaries of the Recreation District are Lake Pontchartrain on the south side, the Tchefuncte River on the west side, Big Branch on the east side and I-12 on the north side.

The District, which operates Pelican Park, is under the direction of a 7 member administrative board and staff.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Pelican Park introduces a new program for the summer: Co-ed Flag Football for ages 7-10. Darryl Mierl, head instructor, will teach participants the fundamentals of flag football.

The objective of this class is making sure that all students have fun, learn more about the game of flag football, and that everyone feels like they are an important part of the class. Each class will consist of an instructional period and practice of skills. Each age group will have a minimum of 16 players and a maximum of 20 players. **NO BLOCKING OR TACKLING IS ALLOWED!**

Age Groups: 7/8, 9/10 **Age as of date:** 7/1/2005

Minimum # of participants: 16 per age group **Maximum # of participants:** 20 per age group

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays (7/5, 7/7, 7/12, 7/14, 7/19, 7/21, 7/26, 7/28)

Times: Ages 7/8 – 5:30pm – 6:30pm; Ages 9/10 – 6:45pm – 7:45pm

Location: Orange 5 Field

REGISTRATION FEES FOR ALL AGES \$53

. All participants must wear a protective mouthpiece which is not provided by Pelican Park.

REGISTRATION FLAG FOOTBALL 5/31 – 6/10

LIMITED CLASS SIZE

Monday through Friday

8am-6pm

No registration on Saturday or Sunday. Sorry, no online registration.

PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN THE CASTINE CENTER OFFICE



ATTENTION SKATEBOARDERS & ROLLERBLADERS!!!



Pelican Park has been selected as a site for the 2005 **Skatewave** modular skatepark system demo tour. **Skatewave** is conducting a 20+ city tour this summer and will be stopping at the Castine Center on Saturday, July 9th from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Skatewave will set-up an interactive riding demonstration with expert amateur athletes. Instruction will also be available for inexperienced youth. Pelican Park will soon have its own Skatepark in the summer of 2006, and this will be a great opportunity for everyone to learn about one of the fastest growing recreational activities. Free Admission.

FREE

Saturday, July 9th, 1PM – 3PM

FREE

Castine Center

PELICAN PARK CONGRATULATES MHS AND FHS GRADUATES

Each year, Recreation District #1 supports our graduates by co-sponsoring Project Graduation. Project Graduation is an all-night after-graduation party held in the Castine Center at no charge. This event is put on to give our graduates a safe, drug and alcohol free party to celebrate their accomplishments. Project Graduation takes over the Castine Center for 11 days to set up and decorate, hold the events and to break down. Hundreds of volunteer and Park staff hours are put into the wonderful event.

PARK TO HOST JUNIOR OLYMPICS

Pelican Park has been chosen as the site for 5 sports for the 2005 Junior Olympic competition to be held in the New Orleans area July 27-August 3rd. Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation will host the event that has over 25 sports with an estimated 15,000 athletes competing. The Park will be the site of Table Tennis, Wrestling, Power Lifting, Weight Lifting and Flag Football. It is estimated that these 5 sports will have over 1,500 athletes. These athletes and their families will fill up the local hotels and restaurants during their 4-5 day stay. The Park is very excited about hosting this national competition and sees hosting events like this as a way to give back to the local business owners who pay taxes to support the Recreation District by bringing in tourists to the community.

FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING COACHES NEEDED!!

Pelican Park is seeking knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers to coach in our youth football & cheerleading season which is right around the corner. So if you or someone you know is interested, please log on to www.pelicanpark.com and submit a coach's application.



BOYS & GIRLS SUMMER BASKETBALL



Looking for something *fun* for your child this summer?

Consider our Summer Basketball Leagues.

The Leagues feature fun, skill development and it's in the *cool* indoors.

REG.- MONDAY, JUNE 6TH - SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH

BOYS SUMMER BASKETBALL

Limited # of participants – register early

- Ages 8-18 (high school student)
- Age as of 8/31/2005
- Games begin week of 7/5 and tentatively end the week of 8/14
- 10 games with a single elimination tournament
- Pre-season practices only
- Season practices upon coach's request – limit one per week
- No evaluations
- MAXIMUM # OF TEAMS WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO – A MINIMUM OF 4 TEAMS IS REQUIRED FOR A LEAGUE
- With the exception of the 8 yr. old age group - age groups may be combined in order to form a league.

REGISTRATION FEE

Boys 8 – High School	\$56.00	District
	\$81.00	Non District

GIRLS SUMMER BASKETBALL

Limited # of participants – register early

- Ages 7-15
- Age as of 8/31/2005
- Games begin week of 7/5 and tentatively end the week of 8/14
- 10 games with a single elimination tournament
- Pre-season practices only
- Season practices upon coach's request – limit one per week
- No evaluations
- MAXIMUM # OF TEAMS WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO – A MINIMUM OF 4 TEAMS IS REQUIRED FOR A LEAGUE

REGISTRATION FEE

7/8	\$42.00	District	\$67.00	Non District
9/15	\$57.00	District	\$82.00	Non District

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR SUMMER BASKETBALL ??

RETURNING PLAYERS:

Can register on-line for basketball 24 hours a day at **PELICAN PARK.COM**

Monday, June 6th through Saturday, June 18th

NEW PLAYERS:

Must register in the Castine Center office at Pelican Park.

A BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL NEW PLAYERS.

Office hours are 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

Saturday, June 11th and Saturday, June 18th 9am – 5pm

PLAY- UP REQUESTS Play-up requests can only be done at the time of registration and it can not be done on line. You will have to come into the office and ask for a play-up request form and registration will be done at that

PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Pelican Park & The Castine Center have various weekend and night positions available. If you like people or working outdoors, call 626-7997 for more information.

NEW PROGRAMS BEING STARTED

Pelican Park, in its ongoing efforts to expand services to its patrons, is seeking individuals who would like to share their knowledge with others. We would like to offer classes for all ages and at various times of the day or evening. If you like people and enjoy helping others expand their interests, please call us at 626-7997. Just a few of the classes we would like to offer are: art appreciation, music appreciation, yoga, knitting, pottery, and book talk. We are open to your suggestions and ideas so give us a call soon.

RECREATION DIST. # 1
 63350 PELICAN DRIVE
 MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

PRSR STD
 US Postage
 PAID
 Custom Mailer



FOR FIELD CONDITIONS, CALL THE PELICAN PARK SPORTS HOTLINE 626-1444

INTERESTED IN SOCCER?
 The soccer program in Mandeville is run by a private non-profit group called **Mandeville Soccer Club**. For information about their program please call **624-8080**. Recreation District #1's Board of Commissioners has granted Mandeville Soccer Club (MSC) "exempt" status at the Park. *This "exempt" status saves MSC over \$18,000 per year.* Up until the "exempt" status was granted in 2000, MSC paid the direct cost of field lighting and field painting for game use. "Exempt" status is granted to large non-profit organizations within the District because without their existence the Recreation District would have to provide that sport.

DIRECT YOUR UNITED WAY DONATIONS TO THE PARK!
 The "Friends of Pelican Park" is a 501C3 non-profit organization that is an approved agency by the United Way. People making donations to the United Way can mark on their donation cards, FRIENDS OF PELICAN PARK, and the donation will be passed on by the United Way to the Friends organization. Please consider directing your donation to the "Friends of Pelican Park". For more information call 626-7997.


Scholarships Available
 The Park believes all District children should be able to play sports regardless of their ability to pay. If you need assistance, ask the office staff for a form to determine eligibility. Scholarships are available to district residents only and you must register in the office.

UPCOMING REGISTRATION
Football, Cheerleading, Fall Volleyball & Fall Baseball
August 1st – August 13th

Playground Accessibility
 Pelican Park has two playgrounds in the Park. The playgrounds are not destination playgrounds but serve to provide play areas for siblings at game complexes. Both of the Park's playgrounds are handicapped accessible and exceed National Playground Institutes guidelines for accessibility.

\$1,000 DONATION FOR TREES RECEIVED
 Special thanks to **Richard Weixel of Richlyn Construction** for his \$1,000 donation to the Friends of Pelican Park for trees. The District is constantly reforesting the Park and donations such as this are desperately needed. Donations to Friends of Pelican Park are tax deductible. Call the office at 626-7997 for informa-

LET'S AVOID DUPLICATE MAILINGS
 If you receive duplicates of the same newsletter with different names or addresses, please send the newsletter to us at 63350 Pelican Drive, Mandeville LA 70448 or email us at pelicansec@nternet.com. Please indicate the incorrect information and we'll change our records for the next mailing. You may receive some duplicates for a while. Thanks!


The official soft drink of Pelican Park and the Castine Center