

# Pelican Watch

PELICAN PARK



Recreation District #1 of St. Tammany Parish

VOL. 6 NO. 5

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SEPTEMBER 2006

### *From the Director*



It's hard to believe that it's been a year since Hurricane Katrina changed all of our lives. The Park had over \$500,000.00 worth of damage to the facilities and fields.

We are still making some of the repairs and are still working with FEMA and our insurance companies for reimbursement.

I am so proud of a wonderful and dedicated staff that came back to work less than two weeks after the storm and have worked so hard this past year to help the Park and the children rebound.

The Mandeville community and the Park owe great thanks to Cleco and to Texas Utilities (TXU) for their efforts and hard work given to restore the complete electrical distribution system in the Mandeville/Lacombe area. The Park served as the home base for these 400 electrical workers for 21 days, as they worked in the community. Without TXU at the Park, it would have taken weeks longer to restore power to the Mandeville area.

Katrina taught all of us a lot of lessons. We learned that family and friends were the most important thing. We learned that the many acts of kindness by strangers far outweighed the horror stories. We learned that giving and helping others less fortunate really made a difference for them as well as for ourselves. We learned to talk with our neighbors. We learned a sense of community. We learned that children just wanted to play sports. High stress and competition is not that important to the children. May we never forget the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.

The Park reopened in early October 2005 giving the children a place to be a child again amidst an uncertain world. The Park gave the children a sense of normalcy by allowing them to have fun, play sports and be a part of team. I am so proud that the Park and the Castine Center played such a vital role in the recovery of this community.

*Ms. Kathy Foley  
Director*

### **PHASE 3 EXPANSION TO BEGIN WORK**

Public bids were opened on August 15, 2006 for the Phase 3 expansion of Pelican Park. The low bid for the base bid was \$6.6 million dollars submitted by Great Southern Dredging of Mandeville.

The base bid included construction of a three-field softball/baseball game complex, two-field soccer/football game complex, skate park and all of the necessary infrastructure such as roads, parking lots, drainage, roadway lights, sewer lines, water lines and electrical lines.

The softball/baseball game complex will be similar to the existing Blue complex. The complex will have a main pavilion with bleachers, shade, bathrooms, vending and a basic concession. The fields will be dirt infields with 300 foot fencing. The turf will be sodded tifway 419 bermuda grass with irrigation and the infield will have subsurface drainage. The complex will have 30/20 level sports lighting with complete fencing.

The football/soccer game complex will have two game fields and a pavilion. The complex pavilion building will be similar to the Yellow field pavilion with shade, bathrooms, vending and a place for a concession trailer. The fields will be sodded tifway 419 bermuda grass with an irrigation system. The complex will be fenced and have 20 level sports lighting.

Phase 3 will include a new skatepark for the community. The skate-park will be a 100 x 100 foot slab with above ground ramps and jumps. The complex will feature a pavilion for shade with bathrooms, vending area and a small office. The skate complex will be fenced for security and controlled access.

Alternate 1, 2 and 3 were six multi-use practice fields, lights, pavilion and parking lot.

The complete package including all three alternates was estimated at \$5.3 million dollars. The bids received were about 60% overprojected budget costs. Base bid alone was \$6,630,000.00. Unfortunately, this appears to be the cost of doing business in a post-Katrina world.

The funding from the bond issue approved by the voters for Phase 3 has \$5,898,000 available for construction costs. After much discussion, the Recreation District #1 Board of Commissioners voted to accept the \$6,630,000.00 from Great Southern Dredging. They authorize a deduct change order to eliminate the raised bleachers in the football/soccer game complex for \$146,000 for a net construction cost of \$6,484,000. The Board voted to use 2/3 of their reserve funding from the past 5 years to makeup the \$591,387.00 difference so the project could be built.

At this time, the six multi-use practice fields are not funded. The Board of Commissioners and staff are investigating alternate sources of funding, grants, etc. to complete the project for the public.

**Work is set to begin in early September with a completion date of May 2007 for the baseball/softball game fields, and September of 2007 for the football/soccer game fields and skateboard complex.**

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★ IN THIS NEWSLETTER ★  
★ ATTENTION PARENTS ★ INFORMATION FOR ★  
★ BASKETBALL AGES 6-12 BOYS AND GIRLS ★ ATTENTION PARENTS ★  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Board of  
Commissioners:**

Nixon Adams  
Chairman  
Stephen R. Meyer, M.D.  
Vice Chairman  
Commissioners:  
Joe FitzPatrick, D.D.S.  
Bill Matthews  
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Kimberly Breath  
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Jacy Perea  
Secretary  
Tamara Newman  
Secretary  
Melissa Lemoine  
Administrative Asst.  
Doug McLemore  
Park Superintendent  
Harris LaGrange  
Turf Supervisor  
Ron Johnson  
Construction Foreman  
Ann Keyes  
Recreation Supt.  
Myles Brown  
Recreation Supervisor  
Jason Walker  
Recreation Supervisor  
Julie Stempel  
Recreation Supervisor  
Matt Mulkey  
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.

## VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED



Our youth programs are in desperate need of volunteer coaches. Our youth basketball programs need one adult volunteer for each 7-8 registrants. We are offering two free clinics for all basketball coaches and the basketball advisory boards are always willing to help assist you in any way possible. Please pick up a coach's application in the Castine Center office at the time of registration or register online at [www.pelicanpark.com](http://www.pelicanpark.com).

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Pelican Park invites you to make this Christmas season special for your child by participating in our Breakfast with Santa event. Each child will be served breakfast, meet Santa, and create holiday crafts. Parents are invited to take pictures or 60 Minute Photo will be taking pictures for purchase. Please call early to make your reservation.

**This program is limited to the first 100 reservations.**

**Date:** Saturday, December 9th

**Time:** 9:30 am-10:30 am

**Place:** Castine Center

**Ages:** 2-9

**Cost:** Free

Parents may purchase a breakfast for \$5.00. Please indicate the number of breakfast plates that you will be purchasing at the time you make your reservation.



## Coaches Basketball Clinic



Doug Saylor is conducting a clinic for all basketball coaches. It is mandatory that all new Pelican Park basketball coaches attend this clinic. The clinic is free and open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the aspects of coaching youth basketball. Clinic will be held Sunday, October 22nd.

## Explanation of an ability-based League

The ability-based format is designed to allow the more advanced players within an age group to participate in a Biddy league oriented to competitive play, while the Recreation league will be for less experienced players and provides emphasis on fundamentals. The objective is that there will be no major differences between the Biddy and Recreation leagues. In order for an age group to be split into two leagues there must be a minimum of 10 teams of ages 8 and above. The leagues will be split on a maximum 40-60% basis, with the players evaluating the highest in a combination of individual and game skills being placed in the Biddy league and the remainder of the players participating in the Recreation league. Players must attend evaluation to be considered for the Biddy league.



## BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL EVALUATIONS



Players must be registered in the league in order to evaluate. No registrants will be taken at evaluations. Unregistered players will not be allowed to evaluate. **Players wishing to be considered for the Biddy League must evaluate.** Any player that does not evaluate will be randomly placed on a recreational level team after all evaluated players have been assigned to a team. Coaches will not have the option of drafting players who did not evaluate.

**NO EXCEPTIONS TO ANY OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS!**

Pelican Park and the Boys and Girls Basketball Advisory Boards **strongly** encourage all players to attend evaluations. Evaluation attendance plays a very important role in team distribution. Parents need to stay at evaluation because players can leave after they have completed all stations.

**NO EVALUATIONS FOR 6 YEAR OLD BOYS AND GIRLS**

**BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 6-12 BASKETBALL  
REGISTRATION DATES:  
SEPTEMBER 18-OCTOBER 3**

To expedite the registration process please adhere to the following:

**New Players:**

- ◆ All new registrants must register in the Pelican Park Office located in the Castine Center.
- September 18 - October 3, Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm and Saturday, 9am-5pm. Closed Sunday.**
- ◆ All new registrants must bring a Birth Certificate and a current utility bill
- ◆ Pelican Park accepts cash, checks, Visa, and MasterCard. A valid Louisiana drivers license is required for checks.

**Returning Players:**

**Monday, September 18th through midnight Tuesday, October 3rd. Players can register on-line 24 hours a day at [pelicanpark.com](http://pelicanpark.com).**

Reminder: Play-up requests can only be done at the time of registration. You will have to come into the office and fill out a play-up request form.

**Girls Winter Basketball  
Registration Information**



- Ages 6-12
- Age as of 8/31/06
- No evaluations for 6-year-olds. Evaluation schedule for ages 7-12 available during registration.
- Practices begin the week of October 30th.
- Games begin Saturday, November 11th
- 6-year-old girls play an eight game season with no tournament. Games will be played on weekends only with one practice during the week
- Girls 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12 play a 12 game season with a single elimination tournament. One game during the week and one game on the weekend with one practice during the week.
- 6-year-old games will be officiated by coaches.
- 7/8's will have one official, 9/10, and 11/12's will have two officials per game

**REGISTRATION FEES**

	<u>District</u>	<u>Non-District</u>
<b>Girls 6</b>	<b>\$ 31.00</b>	\$ 81.00
<b>Girls 7/8</b>	<b>\$ 62.00</b>	\$ 112.00
<b>Girls 9/10, 11/12</b>	<b>\$ 84.00</b>	\$ 134.00

**Boys Winter Basketball  
Registration Information**



- Ages 6-12, single age groups for all boys teams
- Age as of date 8/31/2006
- No evaluations for 6 year olds. Evaluation schedule for ages 7-12 available during registration.
- Practices begin week of October 30th
- Games begin Saturday, November 11th
- Boys 6 and 7 will play an eight game season with no tournament. Games on weekends only with one practice during the week.
- Boys 8 and up will play a 12 game season with a single elimination tournament. One game during the week and one game on the weekend with one practice during the week.
- 6 year old games will be officiated by coaches
- 7/8 year old games will have one official
- Ages 9 and above will use two officials

**REGISTRATION FEES**

	<u>District</u>	<u>Non-District</u>
<b>Boys 6</b>	<b>\$ 31.00</b>	\$ 81.00
<b>Boys 7</b>	<b>\$ 48.00</b>	\$ 98.00
<b>Boys 8</b>	<b>\$ 62.00</b>	\$ 112.00
<b>Boys 9-12</b>	<b>\$ 82.00</b>	\$ 132.00

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 \$58,000 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.

**THE CASTINE CENTER**

Need a place to hold your next banquet? Thinking of hosting a trade show? Holding a seminar? Getting married? Come tour The Castine Center! 28,000 sq. feet of clear-span arena that can be subdivided. Two conference rooms. Let us host your next event!

**Come by or call us at 626-7997.**

**YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT**

At Pelican Park the Fall season is our busiest season. One of our goals is that no matter how busy things are that the small details that make this park great are not overlooked. We pride ourselves on excellence and cleanliness. Each evening and each weekend, Facility Staff are on the job maintaining the details of the Park. Should you ever need assistance in the Park, look for Facility Staff wearing blue shirts. Your evaluations and suggestions about anything from our programming to our field and facility conditions are valued. Both gyms and all Field Pavilions have suggestion boxes.

**Please let us know how we are doing.  
FACILITY STAFF CELL NUMBER: 966-6645**

**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.

As part of your registration fee, Pelican Park has purchased secondary, excess, accident insurance for your child for potential injuries sustained while playing in our programs. This insurance helps pay for what your primary insurance doesn't. Please be advised that in the event of an accident/injury, you must file your accident claim within 30 days of the injury. You may contact our office manager at 985-626-7997 for further details.

**WORTHLESS CHECK POLICY**

The District has established a \$22.50 fee for worthless checks received.

**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.



The official soft drink of Pelican Park and the Castine Center

