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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 253-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: October 23, 2006

SUBJECT: New Programs at the Parks & Recreation Department

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Parks & Recreation is all about fun this fall. Check out the new and exciting programs and activities that are ready to take off at a facility near you.

Arts 4 Learning: The Parks & Recreation Department continues it's commitment to providing cultural and artistic programming by beginning a series of classes in dancing, drumming, theater and visual arts taught by instructors from the Arts 4 Learning organization. Classes will be held at Flamingo Park, Scott Rakow and North Shore Park Youth Center and will run through the end of the school year in May.

North Shore Park and Youth Center:

Walking Tall Stilts Program: The North Shore Park and Youth Center is happy to announce it's partnership with the new Carnival Center with the children getting ready to begin classes in Stilt Walking. Instructors from the Carnival Center will be onsite for the 6-week course which will culminate as it did last year with the children participating in the Walking Tall Circus to be held December 16th at the Carnival Center.

Fitness and Self-Defense: As obesity amongst our younger population continues to make headlines in the news, teens at the North Shore Park and Youth Center will begin an 8 month long fitness program in cooperation with certified trainers at the Normandy Gym located in North Beach. The teens will have an opportunity to work with trainers in areas such as kick-boxing, cardio and aerobic regimens, weight training and self defense classes for our teenage girls.

Wrestling Club: Join the oldest sport in the world at the North Shore Park Youth Center. Children will learn the fundamentals of wrestling on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4-6 p.m. This class is free and is geared for boy's grades 6th – 8th.

In-house Clubs and Programs: A variety of in-house clubs and activities are being offered at the North Shore Park and Youth Center to provide children of all ages an opportunity to explore new passions or creative outlets. A few of the featured programs include:

- **Arts & Crafts Club:** Children in 4th – 6th grades enjoy classes in a variety of different artistic expressions to include: knitting, ceramics, painting, drawing and much more.
- **Nature Club:** Children in 3rd – 6th grades have an opportunity to get in touch with their wild side as they engage in learning and understanding the endless wonders of the natural world through field trips, lectures, eco-adventures and arts & crafts.

- **North Shore Players:** Youth in 4th – 12th grades find their thespian within and enjoy classes in theater, dance and new wave arts. Activities include performances in local productions put on by Recreation Staff such as the wildly popular “The Streets”.
- **R.A.T.S.:** For those children in 4th – 6th grade who have a passion for math and science, the North Shore Park and Youth Center offers the RATS (Racers, Avionics, Technology and Science) program designed to teach children skills in math, science and technology in a fun and creative way through building model cars, planes and rockets.

Flamingo Park:

Community and Family Nights: Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evening at the Flamingo Park Pool Promenade, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, the Parks and Recreation Department offers an activity for free to the community. Please come out with your family and friends and enjoy the different events with your neighbors. Some activities include:

- **Board Game Night:** Check out and play one of your favorite games.
- **Arts & Crafts Projects:** Complete a different project each week.
- **Bingo Night:** Win small prizes as you play the world’s most popular game.
- **Line Dancing:** Learn new dances to country music and today’s top hits.
- **Story Time:** A children’s story is read in efforts to promote literacy.

In-house Clubs and Programs: A variety of in-house clubs and activities are being offered at the Flamingo Park after school program to provide children of all ages an opportunity to explore new passions or creative outlets. A few of the featured programs include:

- **Creative Arts Club:** Children in the 4th – 6th grade enjoy different types of art projects including: ceramics, painting, drawing, and more.
- **Puppet Club:** Children in the 2nd – 4th grade create their own puppet show.
- **Storytime:** Children in K – 1st grade enjoy interactive storytelling once a week.
- **Dance Club:** Children of all ages enjoy learning and performing new styles of dance.
- **5 on 5 Nerf Football:** Children in 2nd – 6th grade learn football skills and teamwork.
- **4 on 4 Basketball:** Children in the 4th – 6th grade learn skills and compete.
- **Jewelry/Ceramics Club:** Children in 2nd – 6th grade create and paint their own ceramic and jewelry pieces. They learn about texture, design and working with a kiln.
- **Primer Aerobics:** Children in K- 1st grade, jump, dance and sing while getting fit.
- **Tennis Clinics:** Children in the 2nd – 6th grade receive free basic tennis lessons.
- **Track & Field:** Children in the 2nd – 6th grade learn basic track and field skills.
- **Creative Writing Club:** Children in the 4th – 6th grade create their own short stories/comic books and illustrate their own work.

Scott Rakow Youth Center:

Water Aerobics for Men and Women: In conjunction with the Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center, Water Aerobic classes are offered for FREE on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am in a 25 yard heated pool at the Scott Rakow Youth Center. Interested individuals can register at Nautilus Middle School Monday - Thursday 1:30 pm - 9:00 pm or Friday’s from 9:30-5:30 pm.

New Dance Team: The thrill and excitement of dancing has sparked an interest amongst children registered in the after school program at the Scott Rakow Youth Center. A recently formed dance team offered to members in 4th to 6th grade focuses on promoting aerobic activity while having a great deal of fun.

New addition to the After school program: Children registered in the after school program at the Scott Rakow Youth Center can now enjoy a newly renovated area known as "The Hot Spot." The area promotes recreational and educational programs, while offering a variety of children's magazines, books and stimulating activities for children in 4th to 12th grade.

New Ceramic Classes: The Scott Rakow Youth Center is offering ceramic classes that will allow you to expand your artistic talents every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. for the duration of 4 weeks. Participants registered in the program will have an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of ceramics, while creating five unique pieces of art. The cost to attend is \$30 for Miami Beach residents and \$36 for non-residents.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Kevin Smith at (305) 673-7730.

JMG/RCA/KS/JM/cc

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
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