



SPAR eNEWS

“Know the Happenings in Shreveport’s Public Assembly and Recreation Department” February Issue

Volume 4 Issue 2

February 2011

Recreation



In January, SPAR will start registration for a variety of classes at Betty Virginia Park located at 3901 Fairfield Avenue. Classes to be offered include Judo, Yoga, a Mommy and Me art class and a Lunch Bunch program for toddlers and their parents.

For a full list of classes, dates and times, visit SPAR’s website at www.mySPAR.org or call Catherine Kennedy at 318.673.7892. Some programs have a fee and others are free.



The 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Tournament scheduled for Feb 18-20 is rapidly approaching. The team entry deadline is Feb 11. Registration forms, official tournament hotels & more info are at www.mySPAR.org or at Wildwood. Age divisions for youth include 10 & Under, 12 & Under and Middle School. Players may play up based on skill. Birth certificates required. Age cut off is December 31, 2010.

Youth T-Ball, Machine Pitch, Baseball and Softball registration begins February 17 - March 18. The seasons begin April 18.

Adult Spring Softball organizational meeting is on February 24. Team entry deadline is on March 24 and the season begins April 4.

Shotokan Karate at SPAR



The Shreveport Karate Club (Est. 1961) offers Shotokan style karate classes at A. B. Palmer Park, 547 E. 79th Street & Line Avenue. Shotokan karate is one of the most popular martial arts practiced today. It has its roots in the ancient Chinese martial arts, and can even be traced back to the Shoalin temple. The classes are held on Monday & Wednesday 5: 30 PM for beginners and 6:00 PM for advanced students. Men, women and children 8 years of age and older may participate. The instructors are Glenn Taylor, 4th Degree Black Belt, Deb Kutz, 3rd Degree Black Belt, Rick Kutz, 3rd Degree Black Belt and Dee Peterson, 3rd Degree Black Belt. All belt testing done by Mr. Takayuki Mikami, 8th Degree Black Belt, Chief Instructor, All South Karate Federation. For more information call Glenn Taylor, 751.7992.

Youth Programs



A few openings remain for SPAR’s After-School and Teen Programs. Call or visit your neighborhood community center to check on openings and to register. SPAR offers homework assistance for program participants. The After-School and Teen Programs offer dance, fitness and art. There is also professional instruction for tennis, soccer, and weightlifting at selected sites.

The MLK, Jr. Black History essay contest started on Tuesday January 25. All applications are due February 7. The winner receives a laptop computer and will read his/her essay on a Cumulus Radio Station the week of the MLK, Jr. Tournament. The prize will be awarded during half time of the championship game at Southern University.

Upcoming Events

February 1 - 25 • SPAR Canned Food Drive for The Food Bank

February 10 • Masquerade Ball AB Palmer 5:30 - 8:00pm

February 10 • Therapeutic Mardi Gras Dance Riverview Hall 5:30 - 8:00pm

February 18 - 20 • MLK, JR. Basketball Tournament

February 19 • MLK Wheelchair Basketball Tournament Centenary Fitness Center

February 21 • Presidents Day Centers Closed

February 26 • Centaur Mardi Gras Parade 4 - 9pm



For all Shreveport/Bossier events check out:



Therapeutic

Therapeutic Division Adaptive Softball League begins March 26 - April 16 at Hyde Park. Games are held each Saturday, 11am - 1pm. Applications are available at Southern Hills Community Center from any Therapeutic staff starting February 11. Practice begins February 28 and each Monday thereafter from 4 - 5pm at Hyde Park, if weather permits.

Our Healthy Lifestyles classes are booming on the 1st Friday and 3rd Wednesday of the month at Southern Hills from 10 -11:30am. SPAR’s Adaptive Basketball Team will participate in the Special Olympics State Games in Baton Rouge on March 18 - 20. Staff members Derrell Thrash and Yolanda Bumcon travel with our team.

SPAR has two GSU students, Destiny Sanders and LaDanna Brown, that will intern with us for 13 weeks. Both students major in Leisure Studies with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation. If additional information is needed on Therapeutic programming, please contact Germaine Williams, Superintendent, at 318.673.7873 or visit www.mySPAR.org, and click on “Therapeutic Recreation”.

Senior Happenings



SPAR Seniors started the year off with a "Ball" competing in a "high-spirited" Beanbag Baseball Tournament at Lakeside Community Center. Winners were: 1st place - Lakeside; 2nd place - Airport Park and 3rd place - David Raines.

Throughout the City computer classes started, where grandparents are receiving "thank-you" emails and pictures from grandchildren, showing the wonderful Christmas presents they received.

At each of the senior centers preparations are being made for President’s Day, Black History Month and Valentines Day. Also on January 28 Bill Cockrell Community Center located at 4109 Pines Road, hosted the first Health Fair of the year, with more than 20 vendors participating.

SPAR’s Senior Programs offer daily fun and exciting activities for our seniors. For more info call Camille Webb, Senior Coordinator at 318.673.7845 or visit www.mySPAR.org and click on Senior Program.