



Presented Nov. 3, 2014

## Town Council Report for October 2014 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

### *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)*

- The ZGC had gross operating profits in October of ~\$13,360. As normal, October's numbers were considerably lower than the previous month (November will likely be even more so). This drop is normal the fall's typically wetter and colder weather takes hold and the daylight hours shorten. This past October is our 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in six years. Our lowest was at ~\$12,565 in 2009. Our best Octobers were only ~\$17,816 and ~\$17,232 in 2011 and 2010, respectively. Over these last six Octobers, our gross operating profits have fluctuated between a low of ~\$12,565 to a high of ~\$17,816. The average for that time span has been ~\$15,244.

### *Events/Activities in the Parks*

- *Zionsville Bicycle Challenge*: The Challenge's 6-week period has ended. Of the 86 participants signed up, 81 completed their respective mileage challenges. 56 of those were in the 150-Mile Challenge category, and 25 completed their 400-Mile Challenge. All told, over **23,721** miles were logged! The Zionsville Team had 13,967 miles, with 44 members to the AgroCyclists Team's 33 members. The AgroCyclists logged a total of 9,754 miles. All the riders completing their respective challenges in the allotted six-weeks receive a specially designed commemorative T-Shirts. The men's and women's leaders at each of the two challenge mileages receive a commemorative "Zionsville Street Brick" etched with their name and their miles completed. There will also be a traveling award that will be Zionsville's to proudly display for this next year (and to defend in next year's Challenge). Several of us have received many positive comments from the participants this year, all who seemed to have greatly enjoyed the Challenge, the educational and safety material presented in the Challenge Newsletter and also in the associated program's rides/workshops. The planning committee of Zionsville Park staff and AgroCyclist members from Dow are considering a survey of participants to assess more particulars and garner their feedback.
- *Zion Nature Center (ZNC)*: According to data from the Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock, there were 592 visitors to the ZNC and/or her environmental programs for the month. 534 of those 592 visitors/program-encounters occurred at the Nature Center itself. Almost all the remaining amount was from educational activities to Zionsville students as Mindy traveled to our Zionsville Schools to assist them in meeting their State educational requirements. As some may be aware, for well over a decade, the Park Department's Zion Nature Center has provided environmental education programming for 1000's Zionsville schools' students at no charge to the school system.
- *Special Thanks to*: Julie Johns-Cole, Executive Director of the Zionsville Chamber of Commerce. Julie, when asked by Fox59 for a topic for their Friday morning "Your Town Friday" segment, had suggested our Zion Nature Center as one of "Zionsville's Hidden Gems". This segment is slated to air on Friday morning the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

### *Other Highlighted Matters*

- Our Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Project is now out for contractors to provide us numbers. Our assigned LARE Grant Coordinator will be assisting in the selection process and per the DNR; contractors must be upon the DNR's list. The project will be awarded early next year after we receive input on the proposals and numbers from our Grant Coordinator. Because of the watershed permitting processes, construction will likely begin in late summer. If we would happen to get severe springtime flooding, we may have to close portions of trail in Starkey Park. It makes more sense to do this, rather than to rebuild and later abandon trails after construction is done.