



County of Santa Cruz

0279

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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(831) 454-7900 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

January 14, 2002

AGENDA: January 29, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: MOBILE RECREATION VAN – REPORT BACK

Dear Members of the Board,

During the 2001 budget hearings, your Board approved the Mobile Recreation Van Program as recommended by Santa Cruz County Parks and the Human Resources Agency. Additionally, both departments were directed to return to your Board in January, 2002, to present a report on the progress of the program.

The Mobile Recreation Program was designed, and has been implemented in Santa Cruz County, to offer a safe, enriching, recreational opportunity for children and families living in under-served and under-represented areas of the unincorporated sections of the county. This is extremely important for the many people who cannot enjoy the many benefits that park and recreation services offer because of a lack of parks in their community.

While it is very difficult to offer recreational programs throughout the entire county, this program affords the County the opportunity to offer positive experiences to children and families who have little or no access to recreation facilities, programs, and equipment. Given the cost of building a park, renting facilities (if they exist), or transporting people to a developed park, the Mobile Recreation Van is an extremely cost-effective program.

As you are aware, the program has been highly acclaimed by both the press (see attachment) and television. This acclaim is in addition to the compliments that the staff has received from the many people who are served by the program. This group includes parents, families, and many of the owners at the sites we visit. We are looking forward to an even more exciting Winter and Spring as the program continues to improve and expand.

During the first two months of the program, several different locations and activities were investigated and field tested. These locations included:

1. **Live Oak**

- a. Camp Santa Cruz on 26th Avenue
- b. Blue and Gold Trailer Park
- c. Jose Ave Park (morning toddler programs)
- d. Brommer Apartments
- e. Pine Knoll Trailer Park
- f. The Farm Apartments



2. **Aptos**

- a. Marmo's at Pinto Lake Trailer Park
- b. Golden Torch Trailer Park
- c. Carriage Acres Mobile Home Park
- d. Mesa Village Park
- e. Emerald Bay Mobile Homes

4. **Watsonville/South County**

- a. Jardines del Valle (Murphy's Camp)
- b. Tierra Alta/Roundtree/Buena Vista
- c. Calabasas School
- d. San Andreas Labor Camp

3. **North County**

- a. St. Vincent de Paul Church
- b. Davenport Resource Center
- c. Pacific Elementary School

5. **San Lorenzo Valley**

- a. Lompico Park
- b. Zayante Fire Station
- c. Church at Graham Hill and Zayante
- d. Felton Community Hall

While the program can operate with few amenities, there are some basic needs that must be available in order for it to operate on an annual basis. The minimum requirements are a sheltered area for inclement weather, restroom facilities, and benches or tables. Other locations will serve well when the weather permits but cannot be used during inclement weather. Because of the

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MOBILE RECREATION VAN - REPORT BACK

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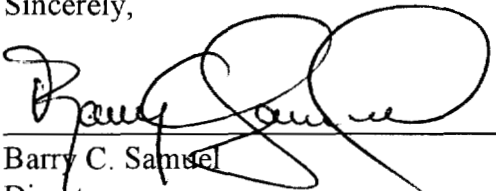
basic site requirements, during the winter season the van has been traveling to the following locations (see attached calendars):

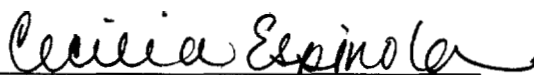
- Lompico Park
- Murphy's Camp
- Marmo's at Pinto Lake Trailer Park
- Camp Santa Cruz 26th Avenue (Live Oak)
- The Farm Apartments
- Aldridge Lane Park
- Davenport Resource Center

Staff is spending from two to three and a half hours at each site. The children attending the program range in ages from 3 to 15 years old and the average number of youngsters per program is approximately 40. At this time, staff is researching further program opportunities which could occur during school-day mornings. Given the initial goals of the Mobile Recreation Van program, staff is ahead-of-schedule and offering this service to the community that both the Parks Department and the Human Resources Agency originally anticipated when the grant was provided and the program developed.

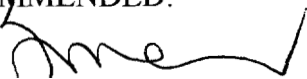
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this mobile recreation van report.

Sincerely,


Barry C. Samuel
Director
Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services


Cecilia Espinola
Administrator
Human Resources Agency

RECOMMENDED:


Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

Attachments
cc: CAO, Parks, HRA
BCS/CB/cms

Santa Cruz Sentinel

www.santacruzsentinel.com

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2001



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Participants in the county's weekly recreation program climb a fence in Davenport to watch a supervisor retrieve a wayward soccer ball Wednesday.

Where kids are short of parks, county van brings the park to them

By JEANENE HARLICK
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

There's just no doubt about it, this is kid heaven.

Girls weave love-struck mermaids out of shiny beads or stamp homemade wrapping paper with glittery, enchanted castles.

DAVENPORT The boys call shots on the mini-pool board or trounce each other in pillow polo. Everyone engages in frenzied dog piles over counselors, and every last one is die-hard for soccer.

Marissa Perez, 11 — and-a-half — of Davenport, best explained the appeal of the county's new traveling recreation van: "People here are just too cool to hang round with Kids are having just too much fun."

"Fun" seems to be the consensus when kids talk about the Cruz Mobile van, a program started by the county parks department last month. Visiting a different site every day, the van ferries its treasures to low-income youth in underserved corners

grams.

The van parks at set locations in Watsonville, Felton, Lompico, Santa Cruz, Davenport and Soquel from 2-4:30 p.m. every day except weekends. For some kids, the van's visit is the only consistent event of the week.

Most of these kids live in mobile-home parks, subsidized housing developments or migrant camps where open space and parks are sparse.

Marc Wennberg, co-director of the Davenport Resource Service Center, where the van parks most Wednesdays, said the program helps build a sense of community where there is little. When the van visits, center staff members pick up children from schools and ranches as far away as the San Mateo County border. About 30 kids turn out every week.

"It's a very effective way of breaking down the isolation that characterizes North Coast ranches," Wennberg said.

Two recreation coordinators, Andrew Stewart and Raquel Concha, man the van.

Cruz Mobile sites

DAVENPORT: Davenport Resource Service Center, 100 Church St.

SOQUEL: The Farm, 3120 Cunnison Lane.

FELTON: Felton Bible Church, 5999 Graham Hill Road.

LOMPICO: Lompico Park, Lompico Road.

WATSONVILLE: Jardines Del Valle (Murphy's), 76 Murphy Road; and Marmo's Trailer Park, 324 Arnesti Road.

SANTA CRUZ: Multi-purpose room, Camp Santa Cruz, 631 26th Ave.

County officials are still ironing out a schedule for the mobile recreation van. Interested parents or volunteers can call 454-7900 for information.

organizations and churches in winter to provide indoor locations.

The van's wares include everything from the game Connect Four to hula hoops, and

tures to the all-time classic, capture the flag. And, of course, there's soccer.

"OK, frogs and bananas! Stand in the field, frogs and bananas!" Stewart yelled as he rounded up a soccer game Wednesday in Davenport. Kids hurried over to the field to don the green and yellow jerseys designating their team.

While Stewart tried to recruit more "bananas" — being a "frog" is preferred, Perez said, because bananas "are rotten" — the amphibians gathered for a huddle.

"One, two, three, four, c'mon frogs. Let's go!" the group chanted, hands clasped in the middle of the huddle. With Team Banana gathered, the kickoff ensued. A successful shot soon sent a sneaker flying.

"I go home every day, and I'm so happy I have this job," Concha said. "The kids say to us, 'Can't you come every day? It's not fun when you're not here.' We actually end up staying late a lot of the time — it's so hard to leave them."

Contact Jeanene Harlick at

Calendario Cruz Móvil

GRATIS

Enero 2002

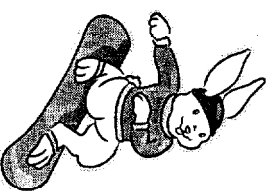
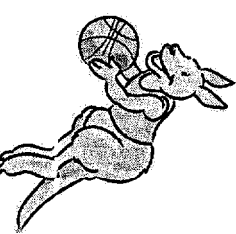


Programa de Recreación Gratis! ¡Acompaña la Diversión!

El Departamento de Parques del Condado de Santa Cruz invita a los niños de 4-14 a tomar parte en el nuevo y emocionante programa de Recreación Móvil. El Cruz Móvil, una camioneta de la recreación de móvil, visitará los vecindarios, los parques, y centros de la comunidad. El Programa del Cruz Móvil ofrece actividades enriquecedoras y dinámicas de recreación en un ambiente seguro y estructurado.

El Cruz Móvil esta lleno con equipo deportivo, con artículos de arte, y con juegos. ¡Diviértase con el baloncesto, el fútbol, el polo de almohada, los juegos de la tabla, la acuarela, el montaje, y otros trabajos manuales! Los profesionales de la recreación Andrew Stewart y Raquel Concha coordinan este programa. Favor de esperar el Cruz Móvil en su vecindario.

El Departamento de Parques del Condado de Santa Cruz CALENDARIO de Localidades

DO	LUN	MART	MIERC	JUEV	VIERN	SAB
		1 Happy New Year 2002! No Program	2 The Farm 10 a-12 p Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30 p	3 Marmo's 10 a-1 p Murphy's 2-5 p	4 Camp Santa Cruz 10 a-1 p Felton Bible Church 2-5 p	5
6 Murphy's 10 a-12:45p Marmo's 1:45-4:45 p	7 Camp Santa Cruz Multi-Purpose Rm 2-5 p	8 Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30 p	9 Marmo's 10 a-1 p Murphy's 2-5 p	10 Felton Bible Church 2-5 p	11	12
13 Marmo's 1:45-4:45 p	14 Camp Santa Cruz Multi-Purpose Rm 2-5 p	15 Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30 p	16 Jardines del Valle (Murphy's) 2-5 p	17 Felton Bible Church 2-5 p	18	19
20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No Program	21 Camp Santa Cruz Multi-Purpose Rm 2-5 p	22 Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30 p	23 Jardines del Valle (Murphy's) 2-5 p	24 Felton Bible Church 2-5 p	25	26
27 Marmo's 1:45-4:45 p	28 Camp Santa Cruz Multi-Purpose Rm 2-5 p	29 Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30 p	30 Jardines del Valle (Murphy's) 2-5 p	31 		

Santa Cruz County Parks Department Cruz Mobile CALENDAR of Locations



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
9 0284 Marmo's 1:45-4:45	10 Marmo's 1:45-4:45	11 Camp Santa Cruz Multi- Purpose Rm 2-5 pm	12 Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30 p	13 Lompico Park 1:30-4:30 p	14 Jardines del Valle (Murphy's) 2:30-5 pm	15
16 Marmo's 1:45-4:45	17 Camp Santa Cruz Multi- Purpose Rm 2-5 pm	18 Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30 p	19 Lompico Park 1:30-4:30 p	20 Jardines del Valle (Murphy's) 2:30-5 pm	21	22
23	24 CHRISTMAS DAY No Program	25 The Farm 1:30-4:30 p	26 Marmo's 10 a-1 p Murphy's 2-5 pm	27 Camp Santa Cruz 10 a-1 p	28	29
30	31 No Program	1 The Farm 10 a-12 p Davenport Resource Center 1:30-4:30	2 Marmo's 10 a-1 p Murphy's 2-5 pm	3 Camp Santa Cruz 10 a-1 p	4	5

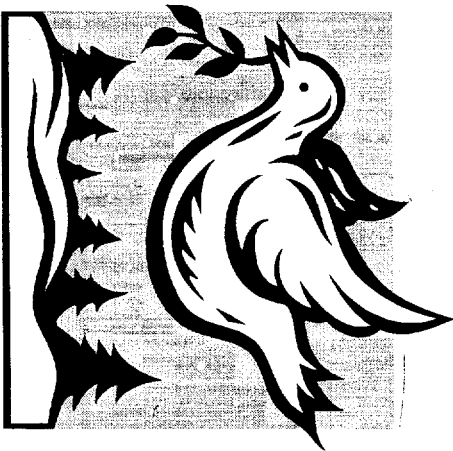
For Information Call the
Santa Cruz County Parks Dept.
(831) 454-7900

List of Cruz Mobile Sites:

Davenport Resource Center
100 Church Street, Davenport
The Farm
3120 Cunnison Lane, Soquel
Felton Bible Church
5999 Graham Hill Road, Felton
Jardines Del Valle (Murphy's)
76 Murphy Road, Watsonville
Lompico Park
Lompico Road, Felton
Marmo's Trailer Park
324 Amesti Road, Watsonville
Multi-Purpose Room, Camp Santa Cruz
631 26th Avenue, Santa Cruz

Cruz Mobile Staff:

Cruz Mobile Coordinators:
Raquel Concha and Andrew Stewart
Linda Sullivan, Recreation Supervisor
The Cruz Mobile Office is located at the
Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062



The Cruz Mobile Program is funded by a grant
from the Santa Cruz County Human Resources
Agency.