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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: September 28, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry,  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Reopening of Pima County Community Center Programs**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of community centers operated by our Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) Department have been closed since March 2020.

Given the declining number of COVID-19 infections, particularly in outlying areas of the County, it is appropriate to begin reopening these community centers in a limited manner. A plan has been developed by NRPR Director Chris Cawein and has been approved.

Please note, the process for reopening and the limitations associated with community centers at each location have been identified in the attached September 24, 2020 memorandum from Mr. Cawein.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Chris Cawein, Director, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation



## MEMORANDUM

Date: September 24, 2020

To: CH Huckelberry, County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator

From: Chris Cawein, Director

**Subject: Limited Re-Initiation of Select Pima County Community Center Programs – Fall 2020**

As you are aware, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) suspended essentially all standard program offerings at all of our Community Centers in March 2020. That suspension has extended through the present day due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The only program that was a “standard” program that was substantively retained over the summer and continues to be executed without interruption is the congregate meals program conducted in conjunction with Catholic Social Services at the Ellie Towne Flowing Wells, Picture Rocks and Ajo Community Centers. However, that program was modified from a sit down meal program to a curbside pickup meal service or food delivery service so as to meet the meal security needs of seniors in our community, but also reduce the risk from the potential spread of COVID19 in an indoor setting.

Many of our permanent staff at our Community Centers were temporarily reassigned to serve other functions due to the suspension of their standard community center services both within the Department but also to assist other Pima County-related programs. Other intermittent staff were furloughed due to the cessation of their programs.

As stated in the May 2020 reopening plan, NRPR had originally proposed that limited Community Center programming would be considered during Stage 2 of our reopening strategy, intended to commence around July 4. However, due to the on-going pandemic, such a re-start was deemed inappropriate and program suspension has continued.

Now that the pandemic has been with us for six months and signage, physical distancing, disinfection, testing, masking protocols have been better defined and advanced, we believe that some **limited** program offerings associated with our Community Centers can be safely re-initiated. NRPR has also received recent inquiries from the Board of Supervisors as well as from constituents, relating to when such programs will be re-started.

Based on our monitoring of the COVID19 pandemic, coupled with the knowledge of the Community Centers and the associated user groups, we continue to believe it imprudent to re-commence most NRPR-sponsored indoor programs at our Community Centers this fall. Generally, the only activities being considered for Fall re-initiation at our Community Centers (as appropriate and with reasonable COVID19 protection measures) are:

- Computer Lab reopening (where available);
- Small Community Meeting Room accommodation; and,
- Outdoor Small Group Recreation, Arts & Crafts, and/or Exercise Activities

Specifically, programs proposed for re-initiation at each of our individual Community Centers have been carefully examined and are listed below:

CENTER	COMPUTER LAB	MEETING ROOM	OUTDOOR PROG	CONG. MEALS***
Ajo	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arivaca	N/A	N/A	No	N/A
Catalina	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Drexel	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A
Flowing Wells	N/A	No*	Yes**	Yes
Littleton	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A
Mt. Lemmon	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A
Picture Rocks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robles	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

\*Closed while site re-purposed for COVID testing

\*\*Modified program moved to a nearby park location

\*\*\*Continued to exclude sit-down meal program

As illustrated in the table, available small computer labs (3 or 4 workstations) at Catalina, Picture Rocks and Robles Community Centers are proposed for re-opening based on public need. Typically these sites are in remote locations with limited internet services so they provide a vital service to those communities. COVID19-related protocols being instituted for these computer lab re-openings consist of:

- Required advanced appointments for public use;
- Only making available 2 of the available workstations at each site so as to increase physical distancing between users;
- Posting signage reminding patrons and staff of measures required to reduce the spread of COVID19;
- All building entrants (staff and patrons) will be temperature screened;
- Face (nose-mouth) coverings will be required of staff and patrons at all times;
- Computer workstations will be sanitized after each use; and,
- Other frequent touch surfaces will be sanitized at least twice each day.

Public requests for the use of our Centers for indoor meeting room space has been increasing recently. We believe that allowing for pre-scheduled use of these rooms for small group meetings rented out in accordance with our fee schedule is also reasonable and can be done in a safe manner. COVID19 –related protocols instituted for such meeting room use consist of:

- Required advanced reservations for use;
- Only allowing certain types of business-related or community-oriented meetings to reserve the space (no private birthday parties or similar personal uses would be allowed);
- Limiting total meeting attendees to 10 or fewer;
- Moving meetings from smaller rooms to larger rooms (at the same price as the smaller room) to allow for enhanced physical distancing between attendees;
- Posting signage reminding patrons and staff of measures required to reduce the spread of COVID19;
- Face coverings would be required at all times;
- Disinfection of touch surfaces would be completed after use;
- Food service would not be allowed.

Outdoor activities conducted by our Community Center staff will be instituted on a case-by-case basis depending on the location of the facility and the demand for such programming in the specific age group proposed for the program. These programs would include various exercise and other recreational activities, and may include one or more of the following:

- Teen outdoor life: Program is to engage teens in physical activities that can safely be conducted while social distancing in an outdoor setting including kickball, scavenger hunts, cornhole, dodgeball, etc.
- Drive-in cosmic Bingo family event: Families would participate in Bingo from their cars. Families would pre-register for the event and parking spaces would allow for social distancing between cars. Disposable bingo cards would be used and event would be limited to space available.

- Fitness classes: Certified staff would provide a variety of outdoor fitness classes for adults and seniors. Classes would be limited to 8 participants, stationed a minimum of 6 feet apart. Participants would need to pre-register and provide their own exercise mat and equipment. Several classes would require only an exercise mat. Type of classes could include stretch, yoga, HIIT, Pilates.
- Coffee and conversation: Outdoor opportunity for seniors to get together to socialize. Participation would be limited to 10 people and pre-registration would be required. Participants would bring their own lawn/camp chair and beverage. Staff would facilitate the activity.
- Bingo in the park: Seniors could bring their chair and participate in Bingo. Activity would be limited to 10 participants and pre-registration would be required.
- Youth Archery: Introductory archery in the parks. Pre-registration would be required and limited to 8 participants ages 8 -13 years old.
- Preschool story time: Story time in the park for children ages 3-5 years. Parent must attend with child; program limited to 6 children/6 parents. Pre-registration required. This activity would allow for young children to get in the habit of wearing a face mask for a short time.
- Birdwatching: Staff would provide information on birds in the area and lead a socially distanced walk in the park with knowledgeable staff pointing out bird species. Pre-registration would be required, activity limited to 8 participants; participants would be required to bring their own binoculars.
- Arts and crafts: Craft activities for school age youth. Activities will take place at socially distanced tables and materials would not be shared outside the same family cohort

Specific COVID19-related protocols instituted for such use are described above for each proposed program. As described above, the protocols rely heavily on the following precautionary elements:

- Requiring pre-registration;
- Limiting participation to 10 or less including staff;
- Mandating adequate physical distancing among participants; and,
- Requiring patrons to provide their own equipment.

Additionally required will be:

- Wellness screening, including temperature screening will be conducted for all NRPR staff involved in the programs;
- Conducting basic wellness checking with participants and rejecting participation of any patron who is sick or who has a household member that is sick; and,
- Requiring compliance with Pima County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2020-49 pertaining to the use of face coverings.

NRPR believes that it is appropriate to begin the re-initiation of some programs associated with our Community Centers this fall. Opening of our three computer labs on a select basis, the re-initiation of the use of meeting rooms at some of our Community Centers on a controlled basis, and the development and execution of select outdoor recreational activities that emphasize controlled participation by members of the public are reasonable and prudent. Additional offerings will be considered, depending on the state of the pandemic, towards the end of the calendar year.

Let me know if you have questions or concerns pertaining to NRPR reinitiating the limited programs proposed herein this fall. Otherwise we will initiate a careful rollout of these programs at our Community Centers as described herein to begin to reengage the public with select Community Center offerings.