Dear Council Members,

I hope you’ve had a great summer and are excited about autumn, which happens to be my favorite season. The cooler air, changing leaves, and increased animal activity really puts in focus the wonders of nature even more than usual. I’m especially excited this year for several events at the park that will bring lots of people together to experience this bounty.

After a hiatus of seven years, we are thrilled to once again host the Arts in the Park Festival on September 10th & 11th. Presented by the Towson Arts Collective and The Citizens of Baltimore County Commission for Arts & Sciences, this event will feature local artists, musicians, food, and drink. Art, music, and nature go well together, so this is sure to be an event you won’t want to miss.

The following weekend, on September 17th, our second annual Migration Celebration will take flight. Like last year, the focus will be on the hawk migration and birds of prey. There will be crafts, games, great food, and plenty of opportunities to learn more about nature. This year’s event will also incorporate a few “fan favorite” activities from past Fall Harvest Festivals like archery, apple butter making, and the cider press. We look forward to seeing you out at this marquee event.

We are also planning a Member Appreciation event to be held in October. Your membership in the Cromwell Valley Park Council is crucial to our success, and that deserves to be recognized. This gathering will be a fun and relaxing way to enjoy the park and spend time with other members. Stay tuned for more information.

In other news, CVPC member Stacey Cruise and her granddaughter Kimberley Lee were so inspired by their time exploring and learning at Cromwell Valley Park that they have recently written and illustrated a children’s book about nature. Naturally Smart: Even Smarter by Nature, is beautifully illustrated with hand-drawn pictures and is currently available for purchase. Stacey will be doing readings of the book leading a nature-based craft at the Migration Celebration.

Finally, we could use your help battling invasive species at our beloved park. You may not realize it, but there are invasives all over the place, and they threaten to smother native plants. Our Weed Warriors Habitat Restoration Team gets together twice a month to tackle this problem, and they could always use more help. Please visit the Volunteer section of the CVP website to learn more.

Abe Yoffe, President, Cromwell Valley Park Council
president@cromwellvalleypark.org
Migration Celebration

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022  10AM–4PM

A NEW socially-distanced outdoor celebration of our migrating raptors, ecosystem investigation and family-centered festivities! FREE! BRING YOUR OWN BINOCULARS!

• Live birds of prey demonstration by Phoenix Wildlife Center
• Guided nature walks and insect programs
• Scheduled talks on counting and identifying migrating birds
• Exhibits and displays
• Children’s games and activities
• Meet the Willow Grove Nature Center animals

For more information regarding our Migration Celebration, please contact the Park Office at 410.887.2503 or info@cromwellvalleypark.org.

Exhibitors Wanted

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022  10AM–4PM

We are looking for Vendors and Exhibitors to participate in our 2nd annual Migration Celebration event. For more information on how to participate, please contact Laura Swinson at info@cromwellvalleypark.org and Ranger Laura at lpage@baltimorecountymd.gov before July 29th.

PHOTO BY MIA WALSH
CVP VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Pat Novak

CVP Volunteers are an integral part of park programs and operations. In this issue, we highlight one of our committed and talented volunteers, Pat Novak. Pat is a long time Council member, volunteer, and former Director/Council President, as well as a retired schoolteacher and administrator. Some of Pat’s passion projects have been the Night Out With Nature (NOWN) speaker series and promoting partnerships and collaboration with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. Below, Pat reflects on her experiences at the Park. Thank you, Pat and all of our volunteers, for your commitment to CVP.

If you are interested in volunteering at Cromwell Valley Park, we have many opportunities to help with park programs and season events, trail and garden maintenance, and more. Volunteer today by contacting volunteers@cromwellvalleypark.org or sign up online at https://cromwellvalleypark.org/volunteer/

When I was a young girl, my father would take us on a Sunday drive and one of my favorite places was the drive along Cromwell Bridge Road because I could look down into the valley and see the separate farms. I never would have guessed that I would end up living in the area and volunteering at the Park. A dream come true!

When I retired from Baltimore County Public Schools, my good friend Kim Shapiro recruited me as a Cromwell Valley Park volunteer, and I began a new “career”. My work started with the Membership Committee and School Programs. I became interested in the Scrapbook Committee and helped put together articles and photographs of the Park. As time went by, I found that the Park had worked its magic and inspired me to become a Maryland Master Naturalist, and to serve as Secretary for the Park Council. I later served as Council Director, Vice President, and President. Recently, I’ve also Chaired the Volunteer Committee and Communications Committee.

Some of my favorite programs at the park are our seasonal festivals and the Night Out With Nature speaker series, which has been on hiatus during the COVID pandemic. For that program, I helped to bring experts, activists, and community members to present on their interests at the Park.

Working in the Park has been a blessing in that I was obliged to expand my world. In my professional life, I worked as a classroom teacher, mentor, and administrator in senior and middle schools. When I met my first CVP school group, I was startled by their youth and not sure I was the right person for the job. As time passed, I found much to enjoy about the youngsters, and I had to learn about the natural world in order to teach them how to appreciate it. Being in the Park monitoring the bluebird and tree swallow boxes was a joy and an adventure. It also allowed me to experience the Park in its fullest sense -using my senses of sight and sound and smell!

It is my great pleasure to work with the wonderful volunteers at the Park whose passion and commitment is inspiring.

A SELECTION OF PROGRAMS FROM OUR FALL CALENDAR
FIND THE FULL CVP EVENTS CALENDAR AT: https://cromwellvalleypark.org/event-calendar/
Register online via Camp Brain at: https://cromwellvalleypark.campbrainregistration.com

Saturday, September 3 at 10 AM to 11:30 AM – Educator’s Open House. Adults 18+. Calling all educators! Join us in the Barnatorium to learn how to get your students involved at Baltimore County’s parks. Field trip and outreach options, weekend and scout programming, and internships and volunteering will be covered as they relate to, not only Cromwell Valley Park, but other nature centers and agricultural facilities within the county. Free. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Friday, September 16 at 7:30 PM to 9 PM – Migration Moon Hike. Ages 8+. Do they use the stars, an internal GPS or recognize landmarks? All of that and more! We’ll hike, listen, and watch to learn about how birds find their way in the night sky. $2 members /$4 non-members. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Saturday, October 15 at 1 PM to 2:30 PM – Earth Oven Bread. Ages 10+. Bread is one of Mankind’s most important inventions. Discover the secret of no-knead bread that you can make at home. We will bake a loaf here in our woodfired earth oven and you can take some dough to bake at home. $4 members /$6 non-members. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Sunday, November 13 at 1 PM to 2 PM – Let’s Talk Turkey. All Ages. Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be our national symbol. Meet our live turkeys on this day and learn what makes them special. $2 members /$4 non-members. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Saturday, December 3 at 10 AM to 1 PM – Holiday Open House. All Ages. Find all of your holiday excitement on one farm. Come visit the Sherwood House for the holidays. Seasonal crafts, cookie decorating, hot cider, music, and visit with SANTA! Then stop by TALMAR to purchase your tree & poinsettia! Sherwood House $3 per person/$10 per family of 4 or more. Reservations NOT required.
Registration for fall programs begins on August 16th at 9am. Please join us!

Use this QR code to access the full events calendar:

or visit us online at:

https://cromwellvalleypark.org

Park hours:
Sunrise to sunset

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