

Springtime in the Park Community Services



Parks Foreman, Scott Smart and the Public Works Department are beginning their spring clean-up duties in the park, which includes installing those court nets.

If you haven't yet viewed the local and military history exhibits on display at the Fort Williams Museum and Cape Elizabeth History Center, they are currently open on Thursdays from 9 am to 12 noon, or by appointment. They are located near the baseball field in the former Bachelor Officers' Quarters at the end of the Parade Ground.

Andrea Southworth, Ecology Project Manager for Friends of Fort Williams will resume weekly bird-watching walks beginning Wednesday, April 9th, at 7 am. The group meets in front of the lighthouse, and you are welcome to join them on any Wednesday through early July. If weather conditions necessitate a cancellation, updates will be posted on their social media pages.

April is National Kite Flying Month, and the Nor'Easters Kite Club will hold its Easter Fly event from 11 am to 3 pm on Sunday, April 20th. Feel free to

join them atop Battery Knoll (where the flag pole stands) and fly your kite or watch club members fly theirs.

Victory I will set sail on April 17th for its inaugural journey from Portland, Maine, to Toronto, Canada, marking the first ship in the port this season. Cruise ship passengers can sign up for The Lighthouse Excursion, which includes a visit to Fort Williams Park.

As the weather warms up, food vendors will begin returning to the park on weekends. Currently, food trucks Bite Into Maine, and Gorgeous Gelato will be back, and local favorite C-Salt will be joining them. Together, they will offer a variety of delicious options, including lobster rolls, sandwiches, salads, and gelato.

Visitor Services Supervisor Dom Walker will launch a new free walking tour in the park starting Monday, May 12th. These one-hour guided tours will run daily (weather permitting) at 3 pm. Interested visitors should gather behind the Greeter's Shed in Central Parking. A park ranger or greeter will lead the tours along the one-mile Cliff Walk Trail, which will include eight stops featuring discussions about fort structures, native plantings, shipwrecks, and lighthouses.

Before the park gets into full swing, Community Services will open the tower for Cape Elizabeth residents on Sunday, May 18th. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis starting Monday, May 12th, at 8 am. Tickets can be picked up at the Community Center and include an assigned climbing time beginning at 10 am for the 85 steps to the top. The US Coast Guard's regulations require all participants must be at least 48 inches tall.

We are preparing the museum and gift shop to open for their 43rd season starting Saturday, May 24th, with hours from 10 am to 4 pm daily through October. The museum and gift shop are staffed by over 30 volunteers whose efforts generate essential revenue to help maintain the lighthouse. We are always in need of more volunteers; if you are interested, please contact the Director at 207-799-2868 or kathleen.raftice@capeelizabeth.org.

In anticipation of opening day, Gift Shop Supervisor Rosanne Rogers is looking to recruit a couple of Cape Elizabeth High School students to fulfill their Senior Transition Project requirement and assist with unpacking

inventory and stocking shelves. Interested students can reach out to STP Coordinator Ted Jordan for more information.

As you can see, a lot is happening in the park this time of year. The seasonal staff looks forward to welcoming you back for birdwatching, kite flying, picnicking, participating in the walking tour, attending the Sounds by the Sea summer concert series starting July 7th, and supporting the gift shop and museum through volunteering or by shopping for lighthouse-inspired gifts.