



Holiday Registration

November/December 2023

Holiday Newsletter—November and December

Holiday events are being scheduled for November and December and everyone will want to catch the holiday spirit. With early registration needed for most events, this Holiday edition newsletter will cover November and December events. A newsletter will not be mailed out in December but a reminder will be emailed. All holiday events fill up quickly. You will want to get your registration in as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that registrations cannot be guaranteed without the registration fee for a special event. Due to the expense that goes out for these events, full refunds are not guaranteed if you are unable to attend unless another individual is pulled from a wait list. So the key is to sign up early and enjoy the activity. And don't forget to call JC Transit when available.



**Holiday Dance
Coming Soon!!**



CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Line:	636-282-1414
	636-933-3764
Direct Lines	
Terri Dallas	636-282-1419
Donna Cooper	636-282-1411
Information Line	636-282-1422
After Hours	314-210-8760

**Kathy Harris
1972-2023**



Heaven has gained another angel from the Leisure Services family. Kathy Harris has passed away in September. Kathy was another one of our Leisure Services participants who enjoyed our activities from the start in 1979. She will be remembered for her smile and giggle. She loved traveling with us for Special Olympics competitions and visits to Silver Dollar City and other vacations. Her love for diamonds had our chaperons searching for the shiniest ring possible when, at the end of our search, she could not stop looking at the sparkle. Kathy loved being around her friends in Leisure Services. She will be sadly missed. Please pray for Kathy and her family.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Louis Area
Special Olympics
Bowling Tournament
November 4th / 5th

Christmas Shopping & Lunch
Nov. 11th

See page 3

Christmas Dance
December 8th

See page 3

St. Louis Symphony
HOME ALONE
Dec. 10th

Limo and Lights
Dec. 12 and 13th
See page 3

Christmas Movie Matinee
Dec. 16th
See page 3

<i>November & December</i>	2
<i>Special Events</i>	3
<i>Dinner / Movies/Bowling</i>	4
<i>Sports</i>	5
<i>2024 Summer Vacation</i>	6
	7
<i>Dick Bennett Scholarship</i>	8
<i>Travel Opportunities</i>	



Special Events

The fee for Special Events should accompany the registration form to guarantee reservation.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AND LUNCH

Get your list ready and save your money for a morning of shopping for Christmas. Our group leaders and volunteers will help you find the perfect gift your looking for.

After shopping, you will go to Red Robin for lunch with your friends and share what bargains you found.

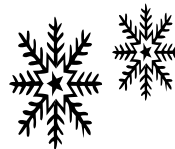
DATE : Saturday , November 11th

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Target and other shops in Gravois Bluffs

Lunch at Red Robin

FEE: \$10.00 Plus money for shopping and lunch



DINNER / LIMO & LIGHTS

We have two Limo/Dinner nights. Please choose just one night. The dinner will be at Culver's in Arnold or Culver's in Fenton. The Limo will pick you up at Culver's at 7:00 pm after dinner, and take you to Our Lady of Snows in Belleville IL and return to Culvers at 9:00pm. Bring \$15.00 for dinner.

FESTUS / Arnold

DATE: Dec. 12th

TIME: Herky 5:15

Arnold Culvers 6:00

FEE: \$35.00 + dinner

Barnhart/High Ridge

DATE: Dec. 13th

TIME: Barnhart 5:00

High Ridge 5:30

FEE: \$35.00 + dinner

CHRISTMAS MOVIE MATINEE

Join your friends at the Arnold theatre as we will enjoy the Christmas classic, "Fred Clause". Santa's bitter older brother (Vince Vaughn) is forced to help Santa prepare for Christmas in exchange for cash. But in the end, he takes away more than what he bargained for.



DATE : December 16th

TIME : 2:30 p.m.

PLACE : Arnold Theater



*From our Leisure Services
Family to yours...*

Happy
Thanksgiving Day



**Updated
Enrollment
Forms**

Please complete our requests for updated enrollment forms. All participants have to renew important medical forms which are needed for the safety of our participants. So, if you received the request for renewal, it is important that we get those forms returned to us. We will be sending out new requests in the next couple of weeks. This information can be critical in dealing with medical emergencies. We would appreciate your cooperation in returning them as soon as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

Developmental Disability Advocates (formerly JCDDRDB) enables JC Transit services to be available for a limited number of Leisure Services activities for a minimal cost to participants. Seats are limited so call at the time of registration for activities.

JC Transit Phone Number

636-548-7290 (North Line)

636-933-9380 (South Line)

You must register separately for Leisure activities and JC Transit reservations. See instructions on the registration form.

Activities with
JC Transit Service



- Christmas Shopping—Nov. 11th
- Movie Nite—Nov. 17th
- Christmas Dance—Dec. 8th
- Christmas Movie Matinee—Dec. 16th

Please note: OATS vans may be used as a back-up to the JC Transit vans

Leisure Services Transportation
Pick-Up Points in Jefferson County

High Ridge - Farm and Home

Hwy 30 & Little Brennan

Herculaneum - Pony Bird

1615 Vine School Rd

Arnold - McDonald's

Hwy 141 & I-55

Look for the van icon to indicate that JC Transit services are available or look for pick-up times at pick-up points under the description of the activity. We reserve the right to cancel or change pick-up points when necessary. A minimum of 3 riders is required to guarantee a pick-up site.



Special Events



The fee for Special Events should accompany the registration form to guarantee reservation.

CHRISTMAS DANCE

If you have not been to one of our dances, you should join us. The dances are lots of fun and it's a great place to meet a lot of people in one night. We have a DJ that will play all your favorite songs and we serve snacks. The dress is casual.

DATE: Friday, December 8th

TIME: 7:00-9:30

PLACE: Herky - NextStep building

1615 Vine School Rd.

Herculaneum, MO 63048

FEE: \$7.00



HOME ALONE WITH ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY

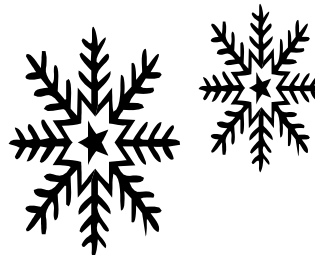
Back by popular demand, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra performs to the 1990's holiday classic, Home Alone. Hilarious and heartwarming, Home Alone in Concert is holiday fun for everyone. The movie will be played on the big screen while the orchestra plays the score live. Be sure to eat lunch before meeting our group. Light concessions are available. This is a cashless venue, so debit/credit cards are needed for purchases. Size limit for purses are 16 x 16.

DATE: Sunday, December 10th/ 2:00 p.m. showtime

TIME: Herky 12:00 Arnold 12:30

FEE: \$48.00

Remember that pre-registration is required for all events. You will want to send your registration form as soon as possible. You don't want to miss out! Sign up soon.



Monthly Social Activities

MOVIE NITE

Come see it at the movies! Enjoy a night out with our group of movie buffs. Anyone is welcome. At this time, we are limiting our numbers to 15 people so you will want to sign up soon.

DATE: Friday, November 17th

TIME: Meet at theater at 6:00

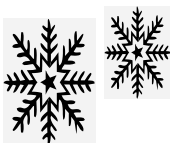
PLACE: Arnold and Festus Theaters

FEE: \$18.00

Suggested minimum of \$20 for concessions.



JC Transit available.



DINNER CLUB

Dinner out this month is at Rich and Charlie's in South County. They are known for their pasta and salads, but you will find more options to enjoy while visiting with your friends for an evening of fun, conversation and great food.

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: Nov. 14th

Time: Herculaneum 5:15

Arnold 5:45

Fee: \$10.00 + Money for Dinner

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: Nov. 21st

Time: Herculaneum 5:15

Arnold 5:45

Fee: \$10.00 + Money for Dinner

BARNHART/HIGH RIDGE

Date: Nov 28th

Time: Barnhart 5:30

High Ridge 6:00

Fee: \$10.00

+ Money for Dinner

Recommended \$25.00 for meal purchase.



Good Food, Great Friends!

SATURDAY BOWL

LEAVE NO PIN STANDING!



Imperial Bowl

6045 W Outer Road

DATE: Returning in January

\$9.00 for 2 games plus shoes

\$11.00 for 3 games plus shoes



Quonset Bowl

2004 Truman Blvd.

DATE: Returning in January

\$9.00 for 2 games and shoes

\$11.00 for 2 games and shoes

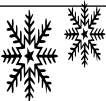
There is no Saturday bowling offered in November and December due to Holiday events and bowling venue schedules. We will resume bowling in January. Good luck to our bowlers competing in the St. Louis Area tournament the weekend of November 4th.



Sports

UNIFIED SPORTS

Unified Sports are designed to bring together equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same playing field. Special Olympics Unified® Sports could include bocce, bowling, basketball, flag football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Unified opportunities are offered through Pony Bird Leisure Services. We currently have over 20 Unified Partners in our program and growing. Contact Terri Dallas for more information. Make it fun for the whole family!



Congratulations Outdoor Games Athletes

Special Olympics athletes from Pony Bird traveled to Jefferson City to compete in the Special Olympics Outdoor games that took place October 13th—15th. We had 33 athletes and 14 Unified Partners that competed in multiple sports, including Tennis, Bocce, and Softball, bringing home a load of medals around their necks. Congratulations all athletes who have committed to weekly practices over the summer months so they can compete at the top of their game. Thank you to our volunteer coaches and chaperons for working with our athletes and taking them to qualifying tournaments throughout the season to get them to the State Games. Everyone had a great time in the competitions and other activities offered throughout the event. Check out Special Olympics Missouri's Facebook page for more highlights from the State Outdoor Games.

Tennis - Luke Vasel in Singles—Gold Medal

Tennis— Team Vasel in Unified Double—4th Place

Hawk Coach-Pitch Softball - Bronze

Jets Unified Softball - Gold Medals

Pony Bird Bocce Team - 25 Gold, 15 Silver, 7 Bronze



Bowling Tournament Season

Congratulations to our Pony Bird bowlers who competed in the Jefferson County Bowling Tournament on October 16th. We had 60 athletes and 3 unified partners compete in singles, doubles and Unified team competitions. It was great seeing everyone on the lanes and enjoy the sport at this level. We have some great bowlers on our Pony Bird team and we are proud of each and every one of them. For some, it is now time to prepare for the St. Louis Area tournament in Valley Park the weekend of November 4th, hoping to qualify for the State games. Good Luck to all!

Registration Due December 15th

First Practice

Festus Elementary School Gym
Wednesday, January 3rd
6:30 p.m.

2024 Tournament Schedule

Area—January TBA
Regional—February TBA
State—March 15th—17th - St. Charles

If you are up for a good game of basketball join our teams. Our first practice is scheduled for January 3rd. Practices will be on-going through March 13th. We will have the opportunity to compete in Area and Regional tournaments, with Regional being the qualifying tournament for State. The State games for basketball is back in St. Charles this year and will be held March 15th—17th.

2024 Basketball Season

We will have several players returning this year but we are always looking for new ones. You will need to be enrolled with Leisure Services and have a current Special Olympics physical and release in order to compete, but competition is optional. All new and renewed physicals are due by December 15th. Contact our office if you need a form. We also welcome new coaches. General knowledge of the sport is preferred but not required. Enthusiasm is all that is needed!! You are guaranteed a great time. Please call if interested.



2024 Summer Vacation

There have been some really exciting trips suggested for Summer Vacations by our participants over the past 30 years. Due to the Covid pandemic, these trips have been on hold but we would like to bring them back. We have enjoyed trips to Chicago, Memphis, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Dells, Hershey PA, Niagara Falls and many more. Some have been Cardinal Road trips and other have been educational and fun, or just plain FUN.

We'll be crunching numbers and researching travel costs soon to determine the next vacation destination. Keep checking future mailings for details on trips being planned. If you think a trip with Leisure Services sounds like fun, start saving your money. Payment plans are available once the trip is announced. Plans for vacations must meet final approval by Pony Bird, Inc.

We always have a great time on our vacations and we have visited a lot of great places across the country. To join us on a vacation we ask that you actively participate in Leisure Services activities for a minimum of 1 year. This allows our staff and other participants to get to know you and it allows you to get to know us as well. When we travel out of town we have one chaperone for every 5 travelers. This helps everyone have a safe and enjoyable trip. Due to financial reasons, we are unable to support individuals on trips who require higher levels of support. And keep in mind that not everyone finds group travel suitable. You have to be patient with your roommates, flexible with changes, and willing to go along with a group itinerary. If you are more of an individual traveler, our trips may not work for you.

If you have an idea for a fun-filled trip, please list your suggestion on the registration form. We will take all suggestions into account with hopes to offer a trip that will guarantee a good time for all. We now begin the process for another adventure!! Look for our 2024 vacation announcement.



Thank you for a great year! We hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season!



fun

friends

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE



Below is the procedure we recommend you use to successfully register for Leisure Services activities.

1. Look over the newsletter and complete the registration form. Please avoid calling in your reservations.
 - You may print registration form and return by mail with your check to cover fees (please note in memo of check "Leisure Services Activities")
 - You may email your registration and send check by mail to cover fees (please note in memo of check "Leisure Services Activities")
2. Please make checks payable to Pony Bird, Inc. and mail to Pony Bird, P.O. Box 190, Mapaville MO 63065
3. You will need to contact JCTransit to request a ride to activities indicating this service. Contact JCTransit at 933-9380. Remember that there are limited slots for transportation so set up your ride as soon as possible. You will also have the option to meet our group at pick-up points or event locations.
4. It is important that you cancel a reservation for any activity you are unable to attend, both with Leisure Services and JCTransit. A 24 hour cancellation notice is required to be considered for a refund of your activity fee, however, refunds cannot be guaranteed upon cancellation.
5. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER, you may call our Event Information Line at 636-282-1422 or 933-3422 to check the status of an activity before heading out the door. All cancellations will be determined by 3:00 p.m. the day of the event. Sign up for Remind Text Alert for instant messages.
6. HAVE A GREAT TIME!

REGISTRATION FORM

You must register for all activities in advance. If you are not registered, you may be sent home due to staff/participant ratio.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Nearest pick-up point: _____

Register for E-News Leisure Times. E-mail 1 _____ E-mail 2 _____

PLEASE RATE OUR SERVICE (circle your score with 5 being the best)

1 2 3 4 5

Suggestions/Comments _____

Please send registration form with payment to
Pony Bird, Inc.
P.O. Box 190
Mapaville MO 63065

**TOTAL AMOUNT
ENCLOSED**

\$ _____

- Annual Membership Fee** \$20.00
 (Covers July 1—June 30th of a fiscal year)

SPORTS TRAINING

A current Special Olympics physical is needed to compete

A \$15.00 sports training fee covers incidental costs for training and competitions. This fee is charged for each sport you chose to train for competitions.

- Basketball** - \$15.00

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and in-kind donations of facilities, our sports training fee is minimal. Through our program, you have the opportunity to compete in Special Olympics local and state competitions. Athletes wishing to compete in Special Olympics at the State level will be charged an assessment fee. You will also be charged an additional transportation fee to offset the cost of rental/charters. If you attend the games, but arrange your own lodging and transportation, these fee may be reduced. Assessments will be collected from interested athletes once qualification is determined. Assistance is available upon request from the Dick Bennett Memorial Fund. Allocations are based on individual need.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Advance payment for monthly activity is welcome but not required.

- Dinner Club Festus/Arnold— November 14 \$10.00
 Dinner Club H. Ridge / November 21 \$10.00
 Dinner Club H. Ridge / November 21 \$10.00
- Movie Night- Arnold / November 18th \$18.00
 Movie Night— Festus / November 18th \$18.00

SPECIAL EVENTS

Payments in advance are required

- Christmas Shopping & Lunch / November 11th \$20.00
 Christmas Dance / December 8th \$10.00
 Home Alone in Concert / December 10th \$48.00
 Limo & Lights \$35.00
 December 12th December 13th
 Christmas Movie Matinee / December 16th \$18.00

- 2024 Summer Vacation—Where do you want to travel?

Suggestions: _____

Leisure Services

Pony Bird, Inc.

P.O. Box 190

Mapaville MO 63065

Phone: 636-282-1414

Phone: 636-933-3764

Information Line:

636-282-1422

or 933-3422

Email:

leisure@ponybird.org

Like us on Facebook



Visit us on the web:

www.nextstepforlife.org/leisure

(this website will be changing soon)

Pony Bird Board Members

Board Officers

Mr. Charles Wooten, Chairperson

Mr. John Lamping, Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Matt Ott, Treasurer

Ms. Donna Litton, Secretary

Board Members

Mr. Eric Ammons

Mrs. Susan Curfman

Mr. Kyle Drury

Ms. Ann Ferguson

Mr. Paul Flynn

Mr. Dana Hockensmith

Mrs. Sue Hockensmith

Ms. Pam LaPlant

Ms. Amanda Mange

Mr. Dennis Tesreau

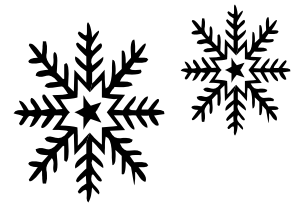
Mr. Mark Westcott

Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

This issue mailed on October 26th. Please contact us if you wish to be removed from mail list.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Mapaville, MO
Permit No. 8



Dick Bennett Memorial Fund

If you are in need of financial assistance to attend Leisure activities, scholarship money is available through the Dick Bennett Memorial Fund. Dick was a long time director for our agency and attended many of our Leisure trips as a chaperone, enjoying the events as much as our participants. Memorial funds have been set up to help others experience that same joy. Your request will be kept confidential and amount of assistance will be based on individual needs. Funds can be used to pay activity fees, transportation fees, or both depending on your need.

To keep this fund viable, continued contributions may be made, including memorials for loved ones. Please make checks to Pony Bird, Inc and note that it is for the Dick Bennett Memorial Fund. Thank you for your continued support.



Vacation Opportunities

BRANSON
VACATION

December
2nd—4th



Leisure Services is returning to Branson for the Christmas Festival at Silver Dollar City. See details on the attached flyer. We still have slots available.

DO YOU HAVE A DREAM VACATION?

Make your suggestion for the 2024 Summer Vacation on the registration form.

