

July 2026

Leisure Services
Community Network Program



NEW!

FRIENDS
FUN
COMMUNITY

Community Networking offers the opportunity for individuals to explore inclusion options with support from Leisure Services staff in a small group setting. The services will begin with a short meeting exploring leisure interests and help direct to what best suits the needs of the individual. The goal of the program is for participants to expand on resources that would allow them to interact in their community and form natural support, in hopes that they will develop confidence to attend activities on their own or with the support of a friend. For more information on this program, [see page 6.](#)



2026 Bocce Season

Monday Evenings
July 13th—October 12th
6:00 - 8:15 p.m.
Players are assigned a 40 minute practice session
Contact Leisure Services for assignment
Terri Dallas / 636-282-1419
tmdallas@ponybird.org
Special Olympics tournaments are optional

Pony Bird Bocce Courts

1615 Vine School Rd
Herculaneum MO
636-282-1414
leisure@ponybird.org

WHAT IS BOCCE?

- an Italian game of skill and strategy, whose modern adaptation closely resembles bowling
- a skillful game, yet can be accomplished by people of all ages and ability levels.
- positive interaction with family & friends
- enhances fine & gross motor skills
- sharpens skills to strategize & plan
- encourages conversation skills
- as an official Special Olympics sport, Pony Bird athletes have advanced to National and World competitions

Summer Sports Starting up in June

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

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Connect with Friends...
That's What We Do!



Cosmic Bowling
Friday July 10th
See page 3

Special Olympics Area Softball
July 11th
Cape Girardeau

Special Olympics Area Pickleball
July 18th
Cape Girardeau

Meramec Caverns/Lunch
Saturday July 25th
See page 3

Pony Bird Annual Picnic
Hillsboro Civic Club
September 10th



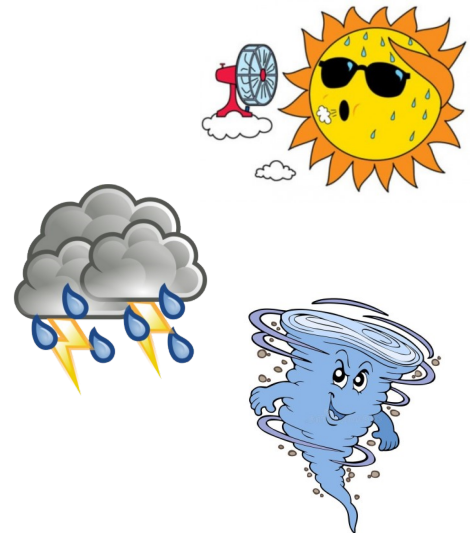
Branson Trip
October 10th—12th
See flyer attached. Register soon.

Inclement Weather Alert Procedure

Leisure activities that are scheduled when severe weather conditions are predicted may need to be cancelled or postponed. Our staff will monitor weather reports closely if serious weather conditions are likely to interfere with a scheduled activity as well as the safe travel to or from the activity. As soon as a decision can confidently be made regarding cancellation or postponement, an effort will be made to contact all enrolled participants and/or their caregiver/guardian by using the following:

- **Leisure Information Line 636-282-1422**
- **Email—check your inbox and spam/junk folder**
- **Text Messages—messages can now be sent from our new Ring Central phone server. You may received texts from 636-282-1414 or 636-282-1419. These are our Leisure Services office extensions. You may also send text messages to these contact numbers.**
- **Most importantly, check your texts and emails before heading out the door if conditions are questionable.**

Summer weather alerts to watch for...



Volunteers are what make it work. Reward Yourself!

“ I am only one, but still I can do something.” --Helen Keller

Pony Bird is continuously seeking caring individuals who are interested in working with people with developmental disabilities. The success of our services relies heavily on the dedication of our staff, as well as volunteers and community support. We invite you to be part of this success as a volunteer. Help others better their lives. Your reward is their gratitude. It's a great feeling!

Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old and have the desire to work with individuals of all abilities. Volunteers do not need to be experts or professionals in the field of developmental disabilities. Enthusiasm and the desire to work with others is all that is necessary. New volunteers must complete an application. For the safety of our participants, a criminal records check and background screening is completed on all applicants. We seek to match each volunteer with a position that meets his or her interest.

For more information on eligibility and volunteer opportunities, please contact:

**Terri Dallas
Leisure Services Program Manager
Phone: 636-282-1414
tmdallas@ponybird.org**

Volunteer Opportunities Currently Available

COACHES needed for sports listed below:
Softball June through mid-October

UNIFIED PARTNERS needed for sports below:
Pickleball June through mid-August
Softball June through mid-October
Tennis June through mid-October
Bocce July through mid- October

VOLUNTEERS to help at monthly events on a PRN basis

No experience required for any volunteer positions. Training & mentoring is provided. Coaches are required to complete online registration and training through Special Olympics Missouri with direction from Leisure Services .

CPR/First Aid & Safety training offered through Pony Bird.

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

636-933-9380

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

Activities with
JC Transit Service



Cosmic Bowling—Friday July 10th
Movie Nite Events—Friday, July 17th

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

Leisure Services Transportation

Pick-Up Points

High Ridge - Farm and Home
Hwy 30 & Little Brennan

Herculaneum - Pony Bird building
1615 Vine School Rd

Arnold - Lot to the side of McDonalds
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.

COSMIC BOWLING AND DINNER

Join your friends ,old and new, for a fun night! First we will have dinner. You will have a choice between chicken strips, hamburger or hot dog. They will all come with fries and a drink. We will then have two hours of bowling with the crazy lights and music. We always have a great time with a little friendly competition.



Dinner, shoes and two hours of bowling included.



DATE: Friday July 10th
TIME: 6:00-9:15
FEE: \$35.00
WHERE: Quonset Lane
2004 N Truman Blvd Crystal City



MERAMEC CAVERNS / LUNCH

There is no better way to beat this summer heat than to go explore a nice cool cave. We will enjoy a guided tour through the cave while they tell us about the amazing formations that took thousands of years to grow. You will see the rarest and largest cave formations in the world. We will then enjoy lunch in the restaurant before heading home.



DATE : Saturday July 25th
TIME: Herky: 9:00 Arnold: 9:30
FEE: \$45.00
Plus money for lunch (\$20.00 suggested.)
More if wanting a souvenir.

2026 Special Olympics Summer Games—Congrats Swimming and Track Stars

Truman State University, Kirksville MO



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 groups to 15 people so you will want to sign up soon.

DATE: Friday, July 17th

TIME: Meet at theater at 6:00 pm

PLACE: Arnold and Festus Theaters

FEE: \$20.00 (movie pass included)

JCTransit available.



DINNER CLUB

RED ROBIN.....YUMMM!

Red Robin offers a variety of burgers and endless fries to choose from . They also have chicken strips, sandwiches, salads ,pizza and more. Join your friends for dinner and fun conversation.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS ALWAYS MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: July 14th

Time: Herky pick-up 5:15 pm

Arnold 5:45

Fee : \$12.00 +money for dinner

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: July 21st

Time: Herky pick-up 5:15 pm

Arnold 5:45

Fee : \$12.00 +money for dinner

BARNHART/HIGH RIDGE

Date: July 28th

Time: Herky 5:00 pm Barnhart. 5:15 pm

High Ridge 5:45 pm

Fee: \$12.00 plus money for dinner



Based on recent price increases, we recommend you bring \$25.00 to cover dinner/drinks and tip.

SATURDAY BOWL

Quonset Lanes
2004 Turman Blvd
Crystal City, MO 63019

We will see you back
on the lanes in
September.
Stay connected at our
Cosmic Bowl
on July 10th



Fun With Friends



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! Our current need is Unified pickleball and softball players for the 2026 season. If you are interested in joining our teams, contact us now.

2026 Special Olympics State Summer Games

Congratulations to our athletes who competed in the Special Olympics Summer Games in Kirksville MO. 7 athletes competed in swimming and 15 competed in track, with some of the athletes competing in both sports. The Summer Games was hosted by Truman State University who housed and fed us in their dorms and provided awesome entertainment throughout the weekend, in addition to the competitions. Everyone had a great time and came home with a lot of medals around their necks. Congratulations! And thank you to our volunteer coaches for 4 days of commitment to athletes, encouraging them through the competitions and being their Number 1 fans.

2026 Summer Sports Line-up

As we quickly finish up Spring sports, it's time to prepare for our summer sports seasons. At this time, we are taking registrations for our summer sports programs. All sports can be adapted to suit different levels of abilities. It's important that you pre-register for these sports. We need to know the numbers participating to work out accommodations. Keep in mind that our rosters can fill up so early registration will ensure you a spot on the team for competitions. Area tournaments for these sports begin in July, with State games set for October 16th—18th. A \$25.00 fee is charged for each sport to be paid at time of registration. All sports offer Special Olympics competitions but competing is optional. A current Special Olympics registration is required for competition. Contact our office for instructions on registration.

Pickleball

2026 Practice Schedule

High Ridge Civic Center
or
Jokerst Memorial Park in Festus
Mondays 6:00—7:30 p.m.
June 1—July 7
July 14th practice moves to
Missouri Pickleball Club at 5:30

Tournament Schedule

Area Tournament—July 18—Cape Girardeau
State Tournament—August 8—Columbia

Softball

2026 Practice Schedule

Sunset Park—Fields #2 & #3
Festus MO
Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
June 17—August 5
Reconvene in September for State
tournament preparation.

Tournament Schedule

Area Tournament—July 11—Cape Girardeau
Invitational Tournament—August 8—Affton
State Tournament—Oct 17th—Springfield

Tennis

2026 Practice Schedule

Windsor High School
Thursdays 7:00—8:15 pm
June 25 - August 27
Reconvene in September for State
tournament preparation.

Tournament Schedule

Area Tournament—August 29—Clayton
State Tournament—Oct 16th—Springfield

Bocce

Pony Bird Bocce Courts
Herculaneum, MO

2026 Practice Schedule

Mondays 5:30—8:00
July 13th—Oct. 12
40 minute sessions assigned

Tournament Schedule

Area Tournament—Sept. 12—Hillsboro
State Tournament—Oct. 16—Springfield



Leisure Services Community Network Program



FRIENDS
FUN
COMMUNITY



PROGRAM IMPACT

Community Networking offers the opportunity for individuals to explore inclusion options with support from Leisure Services staff. The services will begin with a short meeting exploring leisure interests and help direct to what best suits the needs of the individual. The goal of the program is for participants to expand on resources that would allow them to interact in their community and form natural support, in hopes that they will develop confidence to attend activities on their own or with the support of a friend.

PROGRAM DESIGN

The participant and family members meet to discuss interests and set goals for direction of the service. Once goals are established, a Leisure Services employee will take the individual into the community once a week and explore options, with introduction to different leisure experiences; movie theaters, libraries, local recreation venues, community recreation through YMCA/park programs, church/senior programs, and more. We will provide support in a small group setting of 4 or less to encourage socialization and develop peer connection. They will make friends, have fun and connect with their community.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THIS SERVICE?

- Individuals 16 years and older
 - Enrolled in the Leisure Services program
 - Must qualify for Medicaid waiver funding
 - Able to meet once a week for this service—transportation is provided
- Individuals in a Group Home, ISL, or Shared Living may not receive this service due to funding restriction.

IF INTERESTED...

Contact Pony Bird Leisure Services
636-282-1414
leisure@ponybird.org
Terri Dallas—Program Manager
Donna Cooper—Activity Supervisor

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 to leisure@ponybird.org 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 , 1615 Vine School Rd, Herculaneum, MO 63048.
3. You will need to contact JC *Transit* to request a ride to activities indicating this service. Contact JC Transit at 933-9380. Remember that there are limited slots for transportation so set up you 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 JC Transit. 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, instructions on page 3.

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.
 1615 Vine School Road
 Herculaneum MO 63048

TOTAL AMOUNT
ENCLOSED

\$ _____

- Annual Membership Fee** \$20.00
 Covers July 1—June 30th of the fiscal year.

A \$25.00 sports training fee covers incidental costs for training and competitions for each sport.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Advance payment for monthly activity is welcome but not required.

- Dinner Club Fest/Arn— July 14th \$12.00
 Dinner Club Fest/Arn— July 21st \$12.00
 Dinner Club Barn/H.R – July 28th \$12.00
- Movie Night- Arnold / July 17th \$20.00
 Movie Night– Festus / July 17th \$20.00

Spring Sports

- Pickleball—Begins June 1st \$25.00 sports fee
 ___ High Ridge ___ Festus
- Softball—Begins June 17th \$25.00 sports fee
- Tennis—Begins June 25th \$25.00 sports fee
- Bocce—Begins July 13th \$25.00 sports fee

SPECIAL EVENTS

Advance payment for special events is required.

- Cosmic Bowling—July 10th \$35.00
PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE:
 Cheeseburger Chicken Strips Hotdog
- Meramec Caverns/Lunch —July 25th \$45.00
 +money for lunch
- Cardinal Road Trip \$1050.00
 Taking names for wait list
- Trout Lodge Trip \$275.00
 Taking names for wait list

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 practice your sport with the guidance of our trained coaches and to compete in Special Olympics local, area, and state competitions. Athletes wishing to compete in Special Olympics at the State level will be charged an assessment fee. You may also be charged an additional transportation fee to offset the cost of rental/charters. Assessments will be collected from interested athletes once qualification is determined. Financial assistance for our sports programs is available upon request from the Dick Bennett Memorial Fund. Awards of funds are based on individual need.



Pony Bird, Inc.

1615 Vine School Rd
Herculaneum ,MO 63048

Leisure Services office location

3655 Baptist Park Rd
Festus , MO 63028

Phone: 636-282-1414

Phone: 636-933-3764

Information Line:

636-282-1422

or 933-3422

Email:

leisure@ponybird.org

emergency contact

314-210-8760

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Visit us on the web:

www.ponybird.org/leisure

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Return Service Requested

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 chaperon, 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 the amount of assistance will be based on individual needs. Funds can be used to pay activity fees, transportation fees, or both

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.



Summer Travel Opportunities



**Cardinal Road Trip &
Kentucky Horse Country
August 15th—18th**

BASEBALL & HORSE COUNTRY...

GREAT AMERICAN PASTIMES

Taking names for wait list.



**2026 Trout Lodge
Potosi, MO
August 29th & 30th**

Enjoy the outdoors with boating, zip lines, horseback riding, archery, crafts and hayride. There is so much to do in a short time but we get it all in and have a blast.

Taking names for wait list.

