

THINGS TO DO

Parkland provides events for residents

EATING TO THE BEAT

Concert event 'Eats 'n' Beats' combines food trucks and musical performances



Music with a Meal. Tribute band Pure Heart performs the song "Barracuda," originally by the band Heart. Photo by Delaney Tarr

Eats 'n' Beats, which was originally called the "Concert Series," was renamed "Eats 'n' Beats" by Parks and Recreation Manager Gayle Vasile to better encompass the event's purpose.

"We changed the name of the event from Concert Series to Eats 'n' Beats because we wanted to bring some life back into the event," Vasile said.

Though it was established in 2013, the event only recently gained the popularity needed for it to become a regular occurrence in Parkland.

The early Concert Series involved only one band and a few food trucks, according to Vasile. An additional 20 food trucks and a second band were added to increase excitement over the event, ultimately resulting in the event's name change.

"By adding the additional features, we extended the event hours, and now residents can enjoy dinner and a show at the amphitheater," Vasile said.

Each event now features two bands and multiple food trucks, such as Waffle Wagon and Cheeszilla. Bands that are set to perform include the Pure Heart tribute band, Awall, Matthew Sabatella and the Rambling String Band.

Eats 'n' Beats currently has three dates planned during the 2017-2018 school year; however, the event coordinators have plans to establish an event on the second Saturday of each month year-round. The first one occurred on Nov. 11,

and the following events will be held on Dec. 9 and Jan. 13 at the Pine Trails Park Amphitheatre from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"Eats 'n' Beats hopes to create a consistent, free and family friendly event that people can look forward to the second Saturday each month," Parkland Parks and Recreation Special Events Coordinator Alexandra Valle said.

Eats 'n' Beats hopes to appeal to music and food lovers of all ages. It serves as a place for members of the community to come together in a shared space where entertainment and food is at their disposal.

"I really enjoy Eats 'n' Beats because it's a great way to eat really good food with friends while listening to good music," junior Crystal Tang said.

Eats 'n' Beats also offers various volunteer opportunities to students and members of the community.

"At the most recent Eats 'n' Beats, volunteers helped do some arts and crafts with the kids and give out glow sticks," Valle said. "By volunteering, students get hours for their required school volunteer hours."

Volunteers also helped hand out fliers and pamphlets at the Parkland tent.

Students are encouraged to sign up to volunteer at the various Parkland events through the City of Parkland Human Resources Department. On the Parkland website, there is a link where volunteers can register. Story by Taylor Morrison

EATS 'N' BEATS

SATURDAY, JAN 13TH
5:30-9:30PM

Pine Trails Park AMPHITHEATRE

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT AND A WIDE VARIETY OF **FOOD TRUCKS**

www.cityofparkland.org/eb (954) 757-4105

UPCOMING CONCERTS

March 10 Time for a Change Jason K Signal Fire	April 14 Big City Dogs Sweetwater Junction Band
February 10 Hit the Slide Maggie Bough	For information on upcoming dates and musical acts for Eats 'n' Beats visit: www.cityofparkland.org/836/Eats-n-Beats

FARM TO TABLE

Parkland Farmers' Market supports local businesses

Parkland has numerous activities to offer its residents, including the Parkland Farmers' Market which serves as a way for Parkland residents to purchase goods from local businesses.

The Parkland Farmers' Market was established in 2006 as an event for local businesses to advertise and sell products. The Parkland Farmers' Market occurs two Sundays per month from November to April at the Equestrian Center, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Parkland Farmers' Market is comprised of over 100 vendors from around Broward County. The event serves as a way for local businesses to promote their products to a new crowd of people.

"Vendors that come year after year get to know the shoppers, and it is a very friendly and close-knit environment," Parkland Parks and Recreation Special Events Coordinator Alexandra Valle said.

On top of its benefits for local businesses, the Parkland Farmers' Market also includes many volunteer opportunities for students and members of the community.

"We love to have student volunteers,"

Valle said. "We have volunteers at every Farmers' Market that help set up the Parkland tent with flyers, giveaways and information."

Volunteers also conduct surveys at the Parkland Farmers' Market. These surveys are used to find out where market goes live, how they found out about the market and what improvements Parkland can make to their farmer's market. The results of these surveys help Parkland understand what it should do to improve the market or its advertising strategies.

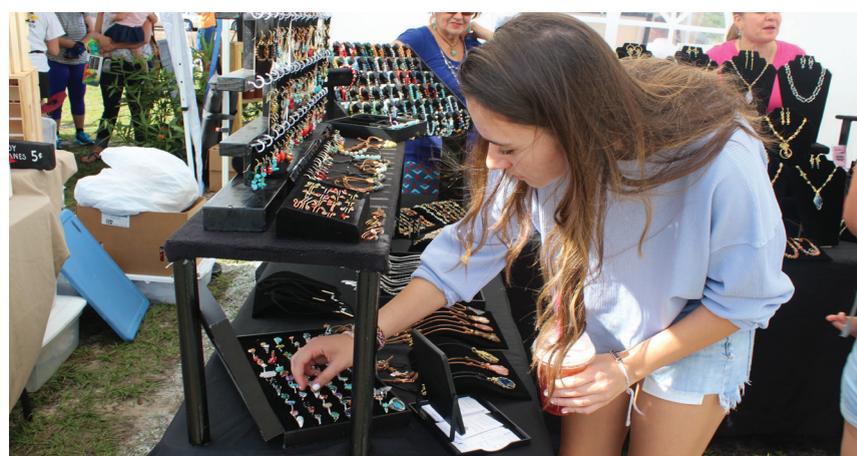
Various Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students work with vendors in the Parkland Farmers' Market.

Juniors Lauren Snow and Olivia Feller, along with the company Art Paper Scissors, work at a booth where they do face painting.

"I enjoy seeing the happiness on kids' faces," Snow said. "Even something as small as face painting can really lift these kids' spirits."

Members of the MSD JROTC direct parking for service hours at the Farmers' Market

MSD students are encouraged to attend



Local Luxuries. Sophomore Lauren Williamson picks out jewelry at the Parkland Farmer's Market. Photo by Taylor Yan

the Parkland Farmers' Market to stroll through the vendors or bring their pets, as the market is pet friendly.

"I enjoy being able to walk my dog with family and to observe all the different food items and things being sold," senior Mary Hutchinson said.

There are also pet related booths where animal lovers can purchase treats or other pet related goods.

The market has a variety of booths with interactive activities for attendees including arts and crafts and make-your-own cupcake booths.

Those who attend the Parkland

Farmers' Market have the opportunity to support local vendors. The market offers locally grown fruits and vegetables from vendors like Benny Fruit and Vegetables, sea food from Seas Seafood Market, baked goods from Benson's Bake Shop and much more.

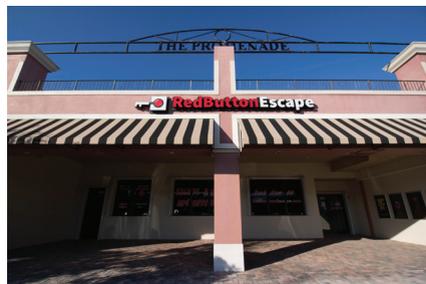
The Parkland Farmers' Market offers a great opportunity for a family outing or a chance for teenagers to hang out and volunteer. It is an excellent way for local consumers and for Parkland residents to become familiar with and purchase from Broward County businesses. Story by Taylor Morrison

THINGS TO DO

Coral Springs offers variety of activities for residents to enjoy

LOCKED IN

Local escape rooms provide entertainment for students in Parkland area



For those who enjoy thrilling challenges to test their intelligence, escape rooms are the perfect activity for a night out with friends. Every object in the room is a potential clue waiting to be uncovered. Constant puzzling obstacles, a one-hour time limit and foreboding room themes are all characteristics that add to the suspense of escape rooms.

What starts in one small, average room is soon proven to be multiple rooms branching off of each other. Clues are

revealed within everything from picture frames to the floorboards. Just when the mystery seems to be solved, another challenging dimension is revealed.

The experience begins with a staff member locking the participants in a room for an hour with a limited number of hints.

At the Red Button Escape Room located at 9705 W Sample Road in Coral Springs, the room options are “jewel heist,” “prison break,” “space station” and “Mayan temple.” The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. Each game is \$30 per person.

The “jewel heist” room is a 1960s-themed obstacle with retrolighting, furniture and decor. The “prison break” room, based off of Alcatraz and Eastern European jails, has multiple cells that each participant has to be locked in separately

as part of the challenge.

The “space station” room opens soon and will contain multiple levels, water effects and sci-fi inspiration. The “Mayan temple” room will also open soon and will be based on the movie “Indiana Jones.”

“We pride ourselves on designing our buildings specifically for the purpose of being escape rooms,” Red Button Escape co-founder Michael Barton said. “We come up with original themes, and the main goal of our rooms is always to find and press a red button.”

If the groups participating in these escape rooms can crack the case in under an hour, they win. This challenge requires participants to think and demonstrate creativity at every corner.

“It’s great for teambuilding and is really a mind game that requires more mental skills than physical,” co-founder Travis Butler said. “Teams can work together to find clues and solve puzzles

to gain trust and faith in each other along with themselves.”

At the Parkland Escape Room located at 10880 Wiles Road in Coral Springs, customers can choose from “the emergency room” and “the vault.” This facility is open every day from 1:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The objective is to escape the room and solve the mystery using as few hints from the staff as possible. The rate for an hour is \$25 per person. Discounts are periodically offered.

“It was so interesting to see how so many clues work together and are hidden in plain sight,” sophomore Katrina White said. “I would highly recommend this activity because it kept me thinking and entertained the entire time the mystery was unsolved.”

This is an activity not only for teambuilding, but also for challenging oneself. *Story by Fallon Trachtman; photo by Delaney Tarr*

NATURE AT ITS FINEST

Local nature center provides informative experience for visitors

The Sawgrass Nature Center (SNC) and Wildlife Hospital, located just 5 miles from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals. Founded in 1995 by a group of volunteers, SNC’s mission is to educate the public about South Florida’s environment and the many species that inhabit it in order to promote healthy living and provide care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife.

At any given time, one can observe approximately 30 different animals that live there such as snakes, turtles, birds and even some rodents.

“Since its creation, the organization has worked toward their mission goals by not only providing treatment for animals in need, but also by promoting

public education about the environment, responsible pet ownership and injured wild animal rescues.

SNC has summer wildlife camps and informational programs both on and off-site. The organization is a resource for people who find injured or lost wild animals and for people who need to give up exotic pets.

A small staff and numerous volunteers provide services made possible largely by individual and corporate donations.

“The volunteer program here has taught me great leadership skills as I give tours around the facility, and I get to constantly interact with animals that most people do not see in their everyday lives,” volunteer Pavan Vutor said.

Along with rescuing animals, the center also offers a summer camp

program. At the camp, the children learn about wildlife and have encounters with interesting animals that live at the nature center.

“I’ve been going to the Sawgrass Center since I was a little girl at about 8 years old because of my love for animals,” freshman Lindsey Salamone said. “I started out as being a camper and am now proud to say that I am a counselor there and enjoy the time I spend there.”

Visitors are welcome to wander around or tour the facility on Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SNC charges a \$5 admission for adults who are 18 years or older and \$3 for children 5 to 17 years old. Children



under 5 years old and SNC members are welcome without charge. On Sundays, the center waives its admission fees, but they encourage donations from guests.

The SNC and Wildlife Hospital is located at 3000 Sportsplex Drive in Coral Springs. The park offers service hours to students willing to volunteer. *Story and photo by Samantha Goldblum*

ARTISTIC ADVENTURE

Customers enjoy guided painting classes



Painting Fiesta, located in Coral Springs, is a space designed for painters of all ages and skill sets that supplies the artists with a full set of brushes and paints. Classes are offered to give customers step-by-step instructions

to help them create a work of art.

If a private class is taking place, the instructor allows the participants to choose what their class would like to paint, but if it is public then the instructor will choose the creation ahead of time. The lesson then takes off from there.

Participants are given detailed instructions on how to create their piece. It is important to the staff that their customers have an enjoyable experience. For this reason, the classes are taught at a pace that suits the participants and there is always help offered when needed.

“We always have the instructor

paint along with the clients to make the directions easy to understand,” Painting Fiesta employee Christine Morgan said.

The prices for a class range from \$17 to \$35. For that price customers are offered canvas painting, wineglass painting and finger painting. Prices rise as the size of the canvas grows and painting on surfaces other than canvases may cause the price to increase as well.

For those interested in booking private sessions, a catalog is given to assist them in deciding what to paint.

“It was a really fun class and I painted even better than I thought I could,” sophomore Allie Lazar said.

Painting Fiesta is open for business Mondays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The company occasionally holds discount nights and fundraisers. They have previously hosted two to three-hour fundraisers where, depending on how many people attended, 20 percent to 50 percent of proceeds were given to an organization of the organizer’s choice.

“It’s a great way to bring people together and end up with something to take home and have forever,” Morgan said. *Story and photo by Fallon Trachtman*