

Youth

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science camp at Mount Charleston for 8 to 12-year-olds.

Sports, recreation facilities keep youth in shape

Armchair athlete or avid fitness proponent, Las Vegas has a bevy of sports options.

The City of Las Vegas' municipal sports office coordinates league play in basketball and other sports and serves as a source of information for Little League Baseball, Bobby Sox, youth football and soccer and more. The county also manages sports leagues, including youth basketball.

Many community schools and community centers teach gymnastics, martial arts, aerobics, fitness training, dancing and swimming. With independent programming, the sites' offerings vary. Golf, tennis, yoga, soccer, cheer leading and a slew of other courses are available.

The city has an extensive swimming component. Its program includes instruction in water aerobics and lifeguard training and competitions in swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming. The pools have scheduled hours which can be reserved for special events, as with a similar county program.

General use is also available on specified schedules at various gyms, game rooms, tennis and racquetball courts, golf courses and public parks. The North Las Vegas Neighborhood Recreation Center opens its gym and game room to youth ages 6-15 on Saturdays, and its racquetball courts are available by reservation (teens under 16 must be accompanied by an adult).

West Community Center offers free-play basketball Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. The gym is open until 10 p.m. during the school year and to midnight during the summer. Coordinator Ricky Watts has created organized afternoon activities to supplement the sports and entertainment component.

Free use of facilities is available for teens at Cashman Middle School from 7:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. June 8 through Aug. 2. And the City of Las Vegas is sponsoring an open track meet for youth ages 9-14 on Wednesday, June 17, at 5 p.m. The meet will take place at Las Vegas High School, 6500 E. Sahara Ave.

Dance, music, other creative outlets abundant

To satisfy the creative fancy, classes in music, dance, visual arts, creative writing and theater are available throughout the city at the community schools and centers.

Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Charleston Heights Arts Center and the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center have a slate of summer events.

Drama classes at Reed Whipple are taught by the staff of the Rainbow Company, an outstanding children's repertory theater group. The roster at the West Las Vegas Arts Center includes ongoing performance ensembles from the Community Youth Theater, Steel Drum Orchestra, two choirs, a writers' group and a dance troupe. All three locations offer private music instruction and classes in art and dance, including African dance.

Lee Canyon Arts Camp is a one-week camp for the dedicated art student. The county-run camp delves into visual arts, music, dance, creative writing and theater.

Summer day camps cost-effective, fun-filled

If overnight camps are beyond your budget, a bevy of day camp programs are ripe for the picking. Track break programs, which are essentially day camps, are available year-round for students attending 12-month schools. Day camps and field trips are offered through city and county community schools and centers.

Mobile recreation programs travel by van offering youth in various apartment complexes fun and educational activities. The county's

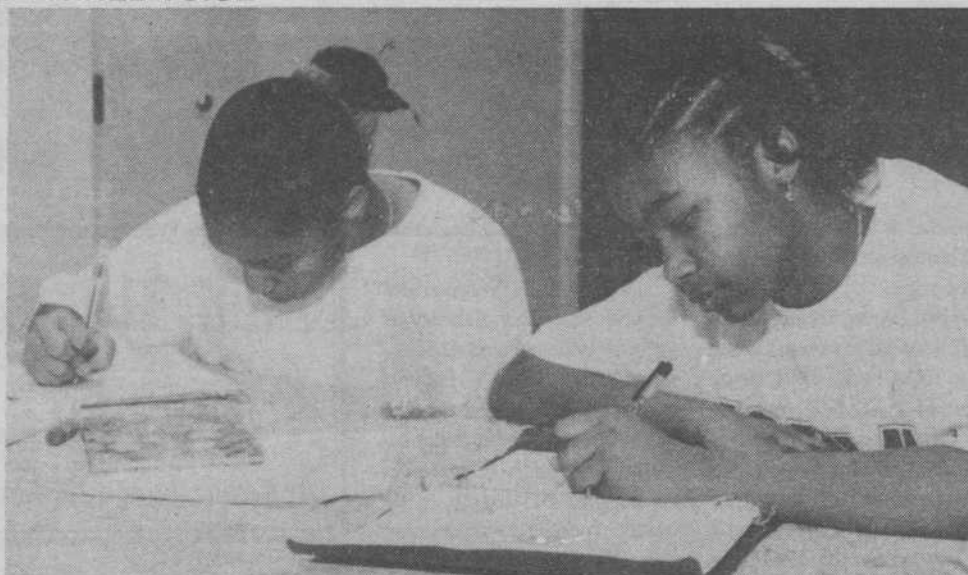
Rec Mobile targets neighborhoods bordering the intersections of Maryland & Desert Inn and Pennwood & Arville.

Leadership, community service can be recreational

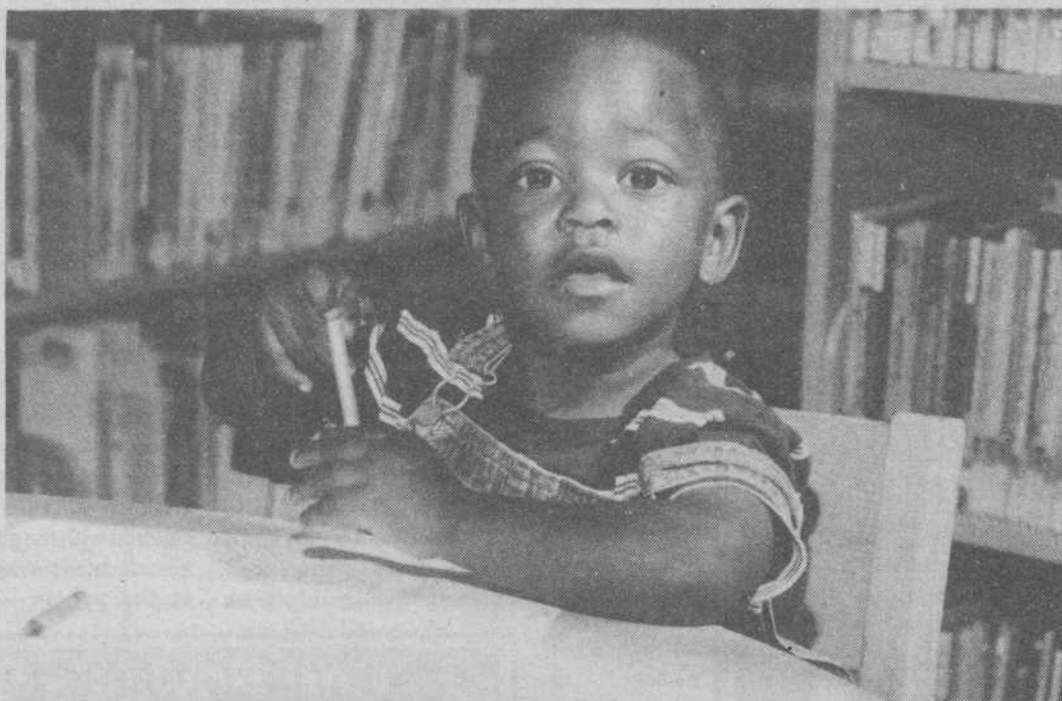
Opportunities for community service abound. So do teen-oriented civic groups.

Teen Leaders groups and Youth Councils meet weekly or bi-weekly at city and county community centers to choose and plan activities, raise money to fund events and trips, and volunteer in community service events.

Other groups are the Rec Connection at Mirabelli Center, for 9 to 13-year-olds; Entertainment Express, also through Mirabelli, for children of all ages who like to perform (no experience necessary); and Kids That Care, which meets weekly at the North Las Vegas Neighborhood Recreation Center to plan



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard
Shanell Bagley, (left) and Amanda Marshbanks found the youth writers workshops at the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center challenging.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard
Taking advantage of a creative writing class for toddlers, Vernon Moore enjoys his visits at the West Las Vegas Library where he spends hours drawing and coloring.

environmental projects and activities that help seniors, hospitalized children and the homeless.

Special events spice summer docket with flavor

The city and county also offer many free or low-cost special events. A small sampling of the wackier ones includes a smelly sneakers contest, a cockroach race and a jello fight. There are trips to recreational and cultural sites in Utah and California, family nights at public parks and pools, concerts, festivals, plays, games, free movies and more.


Information about all of these events is available in city and county brochures that can be obtained at the library, at community centers and schools or by calling the appropriate offices.

The city and county also have adult classes, with special programming for seniors and the disabled.

Resource list

The following is a short list of agencies, schools and community centers sponsoring youth activities and the title of booklets containing useful information:

- Las Vegas/Clark County Library District, 382-3493. "Kids Quarterly."
- North Las Vegas Neighborhood Recreation Center, 633-1600. "Summer Schedule of Events."
- City of Las Vegas Department of Parks & Leisure Activities, 229-6729. "Community Schools," "Leisure Time," "Summer Fun."
- Lied Discovery Children's Museum, 382-3445. "Discovery News."
- Clark County Parks & Recreation Department, 455-8200. "Summer" catalogue.
- City of Las Vegas Cultural & Community Affairs Division, 229-6511. "Summer Class Schedule" for Reed Whipple and Charleston Heights arts centers.
- West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center, 229-4800.
- North Las Vegas Library, 633-1070.
- City of Las Vegas Municipal Sports, 229-2256.
- Charles I. West Community Center, 229-5080.
- Cashman Middle School, 455-8603.
- Mirabelli Center, 229-6359.
- Rec Mobile, 455-8819.

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