



# CITY OF COLTON



## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor.....Richard A. DeLaRosa  
Council Member, District 1 ..... David J. Toro  
Council Member, District 2 .....Vacant  
Council Member, District 3 .....Frank A. Navarro  
Council Member, District 4.....Dr. Luis S. González  
Council Member, District 5.....Jack R. Woods  
Council Member, District 6.....Isaac T. Suchil  
City Treasurer.....Aurelio W. De La Torre  
City Clerk.....Carolina R. Padilla

## CITY MANAGER

City Manager.....Bill Smith

## RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

District 1..... Estell Kunter  
District 2.....Erica Hernandez  
District 3.....Vacant  
District 4..... Larry Rivas  
District 5.....Jimmy Ramirez  
District 6.....Isabel Salas  
At Large.....Mark Garcia

## COMMUNITY SERVICES - FULL TIME STAFF

Director.....Deb Farrar  
Administrative Assistant ..... Dedie Lopez  
E.C.E. Manager .....Chris Rymer  
Administrative Assistant .....Mary Alice Romo  
Site Supervisor.....Vacant  
Assistant Site Supervisor.....Rachel Escobar  
Assistant Site Supervisor.....Briana Aldeen  
Library Supervisor.....Edward Pedroza  
Recreation Manager.....Nicole Van Winkle  
Recreation Coordinator.....Heidi Strutz  
Recreation Coordinator.....Kelly Phelps  
Recreation Coordinator.....Brandon Parra  
Recreation Coordinator.....Anthony Fernandez  
Recreation Coordinator.....Felipe Vega

## A Message from the Director

It is a great pleasure to present the 2016-2017 Annual Report for the Colton Community Services Department. As representatives of the City of Colton, we strive for integrity and responsiveness in connecting our community to the finest facilities, programs, and events. The department continues to play a leading role in the quality of life of Colton residents. Our facilities and programs offer residents and visitors wide-ranging opportunities for social, cultural, educational and physical fitness activities.

It takes a great team to build a great organization and through our four divisions, (Library Services, Recreation Services, Early Care & Education, and Cemetery Services), we work together to provide the finest possible amenities, programs, resources, and services to our customers. Our well-trained, positive and caring staff members view "Community Services" as more than a name, it is our mission.

As you review this report, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions regarding the information or share direct feedback about your interaction with the department. Be sure to visit our City Website, Facebook and Instagram pages to see upcoming events and share your own photos and point-of-view. Our success is measured by the response of our community and we want to hear how we are doing.

In the meantime, enjoy this brief glimpse into our impact within Colton in 2016-2017 and thank you for the continuing responsibility and honor of serving the Colton Community.

City of Colton  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OUR BRAND 

OUR VISION *The Colton Community Services Department  
CONNECTS our community through people,  
facilities & programs.*

OUR MISSION

- ♦ We are driven by the desire to CONNECT our community, by respecting its diversity, and understanding the social, cultural, educational and recreational needs of our residents.
- ♦ We strive to improve the quality of life for Colton's residents by CONNECTING them with programs, services, and information for individual & family health and enrichment.
- ♦ Our staff is CONNECTED to the community through personal excellence, professionalism, and public service.
- ♦ The success of our Mission is CONNECTED to the response of the community to our programs, events, staff and facilities.

OUR VALUES

Our core values are:  
*Integrity • Initiative • Responsiveness • Positivity • Caring • Humor*

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**Days of Attendance**  
20,995

**State Pre-School**  
142 enrolled

**Tiny Tots**  
7,980 enrolled

## *Preschool Program*

Early Childhood Education provides free and affordable, part-day, early care and educational services to preschool-aged children (3 to 5 years old) at four locations in the City of Colton: Sierra Vista, Paul J. Rogers, Wilson, and the Gonzales Community Center. The main goal for all our sites/classrooms is to allow the children to develop naturally, learn, play, and grow so they have the necessary skill set to succeed in Kindergarten. This allows parents to have peace of mind knowing their children will be given the tools to thrive in school.

Our curriculum is considered Whole Child Development. We take the four main aspects of a child; social, emotional, cognitive, and physical, and give them equal importance. Thus when creating the lesson plan, designing the indoor and outdoor environment, or making the daily schedule, we factor in all the main aspects of children. With the research-based fact that children learn best while at play, our theory is also “play-based.” A few of the many things we do and some desired outcomes are: letter, number, shape, and name recognition, early math and counting skills, early reading skills, writing practices, physical movement and development, healthy habits, preventative screening in vision and dental, building empathy, and social skills.



## ***School Age Program***

Early Childhood Education provides care and services for school-aged children (K-6th grade), before and after school, plus during summer/winter/spring breaks at three local elementary schools: Cooley Ranch, Reche Canyon, and Paul J. Rogers.

We have a contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) to help make the program affordable for low income families, and possibly free, depending on income level. We also have Private Pay rates for parents who are over the income threshold, which are the lowest in the community.

This allows our parents to pursue occupational careers and/or educational goals, or to “just get a break,” while knowing that their children are safe and constructively occupied.

We include a wide range of creative, physical, and educational activities for the children. These include, but are not limited to: art activities, board/table top games, take home crafts, homework help, free play and outdoor games. During this year, we were able to partner with California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) and offer tutors free of charge to parents to go beyond just helping a child with their homework. We also partnered with the Recreation Division and have been included in the Food Program at our Reche Canyon and Cooley Ranch sites.

**Days of Attendance**  
17,211

**School Age Program**  
122 children & families



## Main Library Weekly Operational Hours

32

## Luque Branch Weekly Hours

16

## Items Borrowed

59,718

## Library Visitors

41,535

## Total Borrowers/Cardholders

59,087

## New Cardholders

1,775

## Ref Questions Answereds

2,790

## 2016-2017 Colton Public Library Highlights

The 2016-2017 year began with our annual Summer Reading Program entitled, "Read for the Win." During the six week reading program, registered participants enjoyed special programming and incentives for checking out and reading library books. Close to 275 young readers participated in the Summer Reading Program, and it ended successfully with an Ice Cream Sundae Party.

The library continues to expand its resources and increase activities for children, teens, and adults by providing a variety of programs. Colton Public Library (CPL) continues to offer culinary-themed workshops that are designed to teach readers, of various levels, the importance of understanding nutrition labels and planning healthy meals on a budget. These workshops are highly praised by those that attend regularly. Library staff deliver a weekly preschool story time and craft program on Wednesdays that is well attended. Elementary School class tours are another regular event that occurs at CPL. Special monthly programs, such as the Mystery Book Club, Old Fashioned Christmas, and Dr. Seuss' Birthday celebration were sponsored and hosted by the Friends of the Library. For our teen patrons, the CPL offered the California Driver's Test preparation training course.

During April, the Colton Public Library celebrated National Library Week with several free and fun-filled activities and events. Library staff delivered special programming and craft events focusing on the joy of reading which started off with the annual book sale. During the week, library staff handed out incentives and giveaways to all who visited the library during National Library Week. The celebration was capped off with a newly implemented



Amnesty and Late Fine Forgiveness Day. This event allowed long overdue books and other materials to be returned to the library, and encouraged patrons to return.

May was an eventful month at the Colton Public Library. The library hosted its annual Star Wars themed costume contest and outdoor event entitled, "May the 4th Be with You". In celebration of Star Wars, the Luque Library Branch was transformed into a fun and exciting galaxy from far, far away.... Library guests were greeted by costumed presenters and staff, which allowed them to participate in various "force" themed games and trainings, and were also treated to a variety of booths and treats. Luque wasn't the only site to be transformed. The Main Library also had a makeover. The construction of a new restroom, accompanied by the redesign and painting of the children's area and other areas of the library, have left it more colorful and appealing than ever before. Staff were delighted at the grand reopening when patrons expressed their delight at the improvements.

Throughout the year, the Colton Public Library continued to complete it's mission to better serve the community. In a joint project with the Recreation Division, the Colton Public Library provided mobile Wi-Fi access and workstations at various locations throughout the City of Colton. Our popular, free computer literacy trainings and workshops continue to be a success. As with all library services, programs are free of charge and available to all valid, registered Colton Public Library cardholders.

## Public Computer Sessions

8,544

## Wireless Computer Sessions

2,101

## Homework Assistance Center

## HAC Weekly Operational Hours

24

## Total Unduplicated Student Visits

111

## Total Hours of Instruction

271

## Advance to Literacy Program

## Registered Adult Participants

22

## Total Hours of Instruction

309



## **Recreation Services**

### **Total Visitors**

162,215

(July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

### **Lawrence A. Hutton Community Center**

32,302

### **Frank A. Gonzalez Community Center**

114,416

### **Peter S. Luque Community Center**

9,259

### **Art Thompson Teen Center**

7,238

### **Facility Rentals**

36,753

### **Sports Programs**

#### **Youth Basketball**

18,212

#### **Teen Basketball**

5,178

#### **Aquatics**

##### **Recreation/Lap Swim**

3,206

#### **Swim Lessons**

5,828

## **2016-2017 Colton Recreation Services Highlights**

The Colton Community Services Recreation Division is focused on delivering quality programs and events to the community through outstanding service and a commitment to excellence. To accomplish this, the Recreation Division consists of seven (7) full-time staff members and approximately 60-80 part time staff.

*We strive to improve the quality of life for Colton's residents by providing leisure time programming for individual and family health and enrichment.*

In addition to the programming and events offered through our Recreation Division, our Community Centers are available for rent for a reasonable rate for the community. Church groups and funerals make up a large contingency of our rental users. Many residents also choose to celebrate their special occasions, such as baby showers, wedding showers, and retirement parties in our facilities.

### **Sports Programs**

In addition to the Drop-In Recreation program, the Recreation Division offers several sports and fitness opportunities. One of the most beloved programs is the Youth Basketball league. Volunteer coaches donate their time to coach and mentor players and help them develop the skills necessary to be successful on the court. For those who have completed the youth basketball league, the Teen Basketball league is an opportunity to further hone their skills.

### **Aquatics**

During the summer months, the Gonzales Community Center offers a robust swim lesson program in addition to opportunities for recreation and lap swim. The addition of evening lap swim hours and fee-based aqua exercise classes provided additional opportunities this summer season.

## Senior Programming

The City of Colton's 50+ Club offers a place for those 50 years old and "better" to socialize, get fit, and participate in both educational and enrichment activities. These activities include bingo, crafts, games, crochet circle, and potlucks. Each morning, Breakfast Club offers an opportunity for participants to socialize while sipping coffee. In addition to programs, we also offer access to resources and services that are valuable for this population.

Each day at 11:15 a.m., in partnership with San Bernardino County, lunch is provided (with a recommended donation of \$3.00) for those 60 years and older. For many of our participants, this is the most well-rounded and nutritious meal they will eat during the day. The nutrition program is the biggest draw for participation in the 50+ Club, with most programs scheduled directly before or after the lunch hour.

Enrichment activities for the 50+ Club members include the opportunity to attend regularly scheduled dances for a nominal fee. The events typically include live music played by a DJ or band, refreshments, and a different theme. Everyone is delighted as they dance the afternoon away.

Day trips to exciting locales are available for purchase through the 50+ Club program. Many participants use this as an opportunity to travel to places they otherwise may never have the opportunity to enjoy. Trips enjoyed this past year included shows at the Candlelight Pavilions, Museum of Tolerance, The Getty Villa, and the Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival.

## 50+ Club Programming

13,286

## Nutrition Services

6,746

## Breakfast Club

1,887



# RECREATION

## Colton Birthday Celebration

6,000+

## Halloween Festival

1,000

## Thanksgiving

1,219 (*meals served*)

## Christmas Tree Lighting

500

## Christmas Baskets

285 (*children served*)

## Christmas in the Park

540

## Egg Hunt & Earth Day

900

## Hall of Fame

152

## PAWS

500

## Star Wars Day

85

## World's Largest Swim Lesson

132

## Concerts in the Park

4,123

## Movies in the Park

1,920

## Special Events

City-wide special events are a spectacular way to celebrate holidays and bring the community together at various parks and community centers. All our special events are provided for free and provide opportunities to recreate and connect as families with low-cost food, entertainment and purchase options. During the second half of the year, special events was streamlined from an administrative perspective to provide economy of scale, operational efficiency, and consistency throughout our event offerings. This resulted in increased vendor participation, which we anticipate will lead to increased sponsorship and partnerships in the community. Without our sponsors and partners, we would be unable to provide the level of service and excellence the community has come to expect and deserve.



## Youth Programs

Our youth programs provide free and low-cost opportunities for children to have a safe place to play, explore, and learn. Drop-In recreation offers homework help, free play time, and organized activities each afternoon. Drop-In Basketball provides free practice time for youth interested in developing their skills. While the everyday program activities might not seem significant, the relationships the youth establish within the program last a lifetime and help them become productive, empowered adults. For those who have difficulty traveling to one of our centers, our Rec on the Road truck delivers organized programming to two parks on a weekly basis.

## Classes

Enrichment classes are offered year-round through contract instructors. These classes vary from gymnastics, karate, folklorico, ballet, boxing, guitar, drawing, and more. In addition to classes for leisure, certification courses offer the opportunity, once completed, to gain a certification in Babysitting, First Aid, CPR/AED, and Lifeguarding.

## Day Camp

Our Youth Day Camp program operates during school breaks and provides a low-cost option for parents who work to have fun, structured supervision for their children. This past year, recreational swim for day camp participants returned along with a focus on special events solely for the youth camp participants, such as human foosball, exotic bird exhibits, and a visit from a video game truck.

## Teens

The Art Thompson Teen Center provides free recreational opportunities for middle school through high school aged youth. With access to new computers, video gaming systems, books, and games (thanks to a generous donation from the California Trucking Association), the teens can gather together to socialize, work on homework, and build positive relationships with mentors. In addition, teens are given the opportunity for a group-rate fee, to take trips and excursions to local theme parks, hiking trails, and educational/leadership seminars.

## Drop-in Recreation

13,031

## Rec on the Road

801

## Breakfast Club

1,887

## Enrichment Classes

24,165

## Youth Day Camp

589

## Afterschool Teen Program

3,484





2016 - 2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT