



WINTER CARNIVAL
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Recreation - Page 3



The launch of our Traveling Basketball League, a new Spring Dance session and Winter programming to help keep your seasonal blues away.

Senior Center - Page 3



A new event to kick off registration for the Lancaster Senior Games and two new interactive field trips.

Early Learning - Page 4



Get ready for laughter, creativity, and sweet holiday fun! We're excited to invite all our Early Learning Families to the Great Gingerbread Gathering.

School Age - Page 4



Our School Age Care Families are invited to join us for a festive afternoon of games, activities, tasty treats, and holiday cheer at our Jingle and Mingle events.

Upcoming Events

Winter Carnival

Thursday, December 18
Lancaster Rec Center
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



Open Streets

Lancaster
Saturday, May 9
Water Street
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Lancaster Senior Games

May 4 - 8
Spooky Nook



Want to know what is going on TODAY at Lancaster Rec?

Follow us on our social media accounts.



[LancasterRec](#)



[Lancaster_Rec](#)

Our Winter Carnival is right around the corner!

The Lancaster Recreation Commission (Lancaster Rec) is welcoming families and neighbors to embrace the joy of the season at its annual **Winter Carnival** on **Thursday, December 18th** from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Lancaster Rec Center**. This free community celebration gathers all the most magical parts of winter into one festive evening—featuring a lively DJ, hands-on family crafts and games, a cookie-decorating station, a cozy hot chocolate bar, and of course, a special visit from Santa himself.



With activities designed for all ages, the **Winter Carnival** offers a warm and inviting atmosphere where community members can come together and share in the excitement of the holidays. “**Our Winter Carnival is a celebration of everything we love about the holidays,**” said Mathieu Schroeder, Recreation Events Specialist. “**It’s a time to come together as a community, celebrate the season, and make some core memories.**”

Attendees are encouraged to bring the whole family to enjoy winter-themed fun, connect with neighbors, and take part in a beloved annual Lancaster Rec tradition. This cheerful, intergenerational event continues to shine as a highlight of the holiday season in Lancaster, bringing joy, laughter, and togetherness to all who attend.



Volunteer Opportunities are Available!

If you would like to lend a hand or make a product donation, please reach out to Mathieu Schroeder at MSchroeder@LancasterRec.org

Recreation



Travel Basketball - Lancaster Rec Travel Basketball is hitting the court in the LL League for the first time ever! This exciting step gives our young athletes the chance to showcase their skills and compete on the biggest stage yet.

[Learn More](#)
About Our
Recreation
Programs

Join our Spring Dance Session - For the first time ever, dancers can join our Spring Session starting in January and still perform in the end-of-year recital! It's the perfect chance to step into dance, learn new skills, and shine on stage this coming June.



Stay Active this Winter - Don't let the dark, cold days of winter slow you down! Stay active all season long with programs for every age – from Iddy Biddy Tennis and Never Stop Moving 365 for toddlers, to Little Hoopers, Youth Sport Clinics, Karate, Adult and Toddler Dance, and Tai Chi.

Senior Center



Lancaster Rec “Kickoff” Games will be held the first week of April in 2026. This new event is a great way to **complete the registration process for participating in the Lancaster Senior Games**, get in some practice time, and meet other Seniors who are competing.

Our Lancaster Senior Center will be taking several field trips this Spring. One trip to Lancaster County Park to learn about Maple Sugaring on **Wednesday, March 4** and another to the 5-Senses Garden on **Friday, May 29th**.



[Learn More](#)
About Our
Senior
Programs

Early Learning



Get ready for laughter, creativity, and sweet holiday fun! We're excited to invite all our **Pre-K Counts Classrooms at Lancaster Rec to the Great Gingerbread Gathering on Tuesday, December 23 at 10 a.m.**

We'll provide food and all the supplies—gingerbread, frosting, and plenty of candy decorations—so all you need to bring is your imagination and holiday spirit!

School Age

Our **School Age Care Families** are invited to join us for a festive afternoon of games, activities, tasty treats, and holiday cheer at our **Jingle and Mingle events** beginning at **4:00pm/4:30pm** at our various school sites! Please contact your site staff for more information.

Bring the whole family, your smiles, and your holiday spirit — we'll provide the rest. Come jingle, mingle, and make sweet memories together!



Team Member Spotlight



Kisha Pinkney
Children and Family
Services Director

With over 20 years of experience working with children, I am deeply passionate about creating positive, supportive spaces where young people can grow, learn, and feel valued. My greatest joy comes from being the best mother I can be, and that same care, patience, and dedication shapes the way I show up for the families and youth I serve.

I pride myself on being a great listener—someone who meets others with empathy, understanding, and respect. Outside of work, you can often find me enjoying sports, fishing, and spending quality time with my family, who keep me grounded and inspired.

I am truly grateful to have found my career path at Lancaster Rec, and I look forward to continuing to support the youth and families of Lancaster County. The future is bright, and I'm excited to be a part of it.

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."
-Barack Obama

Esports and Technology

Learn More
About Our
Blizzard Builders
Esports
Program



Lancaster Rec was awarded \$50,000 by the **Lancaster STEM Alliance** for our Idea Incubator grant submission in collaboration with the **Lancaster Science Factory & make717**.

This funding source will provide new equipment such as a **CNC machines, 3-D printers, laser engravers, and lower costs for families participating** in esports and technology programming.

Additionally, Lancaster Rec was awarded **\$23,469** from the **PNC Foundation** to **expand and update our esports and technology programs**.

This funding source will provide for upgrades at our **Rodney Park Esports Center**, new equipment to bring esports interactive experiences to the **Lancaster Rec Center**, and expanding into **McCaskey High School's** new esports lab.



Pictured clockwise:

Heather Dighe, Executive Director & **Sean Kennedy**, Esports Director, both of *Lancaster Rec*, and **Ellen Kyzer Smith**, Community Relations Director, *PNC Foundation*

Career Opportunities

Help create a **fun, safe, and supportive** environment for young children! Duties include assisting with activities, encouraging independence, and building positive relationships with kids and families.

Requirements: High school diploma/GED, plus either 2 years of childcare experience or college credits in Early Childhood Education.

Schedule: Monday - Friday

Lead ECE Teacher (Full Time)

Pay: \$17-\$19/hour

\$1,000 sign-on bonus after 90 days

Benefits: Health, Dental, Vision, PTO

Assistant Group Supervisor (Part Time)

Pay: \$15-\$17/hour - 25 Hours/Week
Split Shift - Mornings/Afternoons

Assistant ECE Teacher (Full Time)

Pay: \$15-\$17/hour

\$1,000 sign-on bonus after 90 days

Benefits: Health, Dental, Vision, PTO

Ways to Support Lancaster Rec



Recreation experiences are especially important for the healthy development of our children. When children play, they're developing the skills they need to succeed in life. Recreation activities help children feel good about themselves, learn how to solve problems and get along with others. By [Donating to Lancaster Rec](#), you support the creative community recreation and educational programming our Lancaster residents rely on.



We pride ourselves on education through recreation. Generous product or service donations by the community not only help us create new programming, they enhance our existing programs. Our [Requested Donations List](#) is the perfect way to make a gift that will make an instant impact.



Many of our programs rely on [Volunteer Help](#). Adult volunteers coach youth sports, help out at senior centers, assist with special events, lead classes, and provide entertainment. Teens volunteer as summer camp counselors-in-training and junior playground leaders. The orange and blue needs you!

For more information, please visit: www.LancasterRec.org and navigate to the "Support Us" tab

Testimonials

“
I really enjoy coming to the Senior Center because it gives me the chance to meet other seniors and make new friends. The activities give me something to look forward to, and everyone here is so friendly and helpful. It's such a welcoming place — I don't have to sit at home feeling alone, because I always have something enjoyable to do and people to share it with at Lancaster Rec.”

**PEGGY S.
LANCASTER REC
SENIOR CENTER MEMBER**

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LancasterREC

“
Lancaster Rec was one of the brightest parts of my childhood. As a quiet kid, it was a place where I felt welcomed, supported, and surrounded by people who made me feel special. The memories of the staff and the friends I met have stayed with me for years.

Now, as a senior studying early childhood education, I can see how much this program influenced my passion for working with children. Thank you, Lancaster Rec, for helping shape who I am today.

**ZAYANNA K.
SENIOR CLASS OF 2026**