

Director of Recreation Report August 2015

Playgrounds

Our 8-week Summer Playground Program ended on Friday, August 21st. Church St. Playground and the Youth Center continued for an additional week and finished up on August 28th. Below are the unduplicated totals from the playgrounds as well as the Youth Center. I have also included total attendance over the 8-week period.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>Church St</u>	173	247	273 (total- 1675)	247 (total- 1691)
<u>Farnum Park</u>		204	307 (total- 1013)	131 (total- 553)
<u>Riverside</u>	151	138	123 (total- 570)	206 (total- 755)
<u>Youth Center</u>	392	108	119 (total -1174)	79 (total- 701)

As you see overall our numbers were down from last summer.

Youth Center

The Fall Recreation schedule/flyer will be released in September. It will include all Youth Center activities and events as well as special events. When school begins on September 3rd, the Youth Center will be open for the after school hours and programs. These hours are Monday – Thursday 3:00pm-7:00pm, Friday 3pm-6pm and 6pm-10pm for middle and high school students and Saturday from 11 am-3 pm.

Summer Lunch Program

This summer we served over 1400 lunches to the kids at 4 different locations- Church St., Farnum Park, Riverside Park and the Youth Center. Lunches were prepared by the PJ School District. Lunches were served daily at 12:00 pm. This was the 20th summer we have participated in the Summer Lunch Program and in that time we have served over 19,000 lunches. This program is funded by the New York State Education Department and is no cost to the city!

Specialized Programs

Street Hockey- was held at Church St. Park every Monday-Wednesday-Friday morning. We averaged 15-20 kids each day. The program ended on August 18.

Basketball- was held at Church St. Park every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. We averaged close to 50 kids each day. The program ended on August 20.

Little Chefs of PJ Rec- was held at Farnum Park every Tuesday afternoon. We averaged 5-15 kids each day. The kids prepared a different meal each week with the help of Kathy Shortell. The kids also made more than 500 oatmeal raisin cookies that were given out FREE at National Night Out on August 4. This program ended on August 18.

Softball- was held at Riverside Park every Friday afternoon. We averaged more than 20 kids each day. The program ended on August 14.

Tennis- was held at Church St. Park Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We averaged 10 kids each day. The program ended on August 13.

Soccer Camp- was held at the PJ High School the weeks of July 6 and July 13. More than 70 kids participated over the 2 weeks. This was the 5th year of this camp.

Volleyball Camp- We held our first Volleyball Camp the week of August 3. This camp was for girls entering grades 4-9. More than 20 girls participated!

Track- was held at the PJ High School every Tuesday and Thursday evening. We averaged 15-25 kids each night. The program ended on August 6 with a "Track Meet" where ribbons were awarded to winners.

Special Events

Yankees Game field trip- was held on July 21, 2015. 30 adults and kids attended as we watched our New York Yankees take on The Baltimore Orioles. The Yankees won 2-1 in a great pitcher's duel.

Free Movie in the Park – The Recreation Department and the First Assembly of God Church co-sponsored 2- free outdoor movies at Riverside Park on July 22 and 29. Both movie nights were well attended. Thank you to First AG Church for their help!

Dorney Park field trip – was held on August 7, 2015. 40 adults and children attended this annual field trip. The weather was fantastic and everyone had a great time and are already looking forward to next year's trip!

National Night Out – The 9th Annual National Night Out event was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at Riverside Park. National Night Out is a national event that is held the 1st Tuesday in August across the country. National Night Out is an event that brings the community and law enforcement agencies together to combat crime. The event was a huge success with close to 2500 people attending. Thank you to the Port Jervis Police Department and National Night Out Committee for putting this event together!

The Summer Concert Series at Riverside Park- We hosted 7 concerts this summer and unfortunately we experienced very low turnout. The Recreation Commission will discuss the plan for next summer- whether to continue on a reduced schedule or cancel entirely. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors (A1A Tri-State Taxi, Erie Restaurant and Hotel, Hawks Nest Realty, Port Jervis Teachers Association, Port Jervis Youth Football League, Quality Bus Service, Tri-State Auto Body, Court Madonna #114 Catholic Daughters of America, Port Jervis Little League, Al's Music Shop). Their support makes the Summer Concert Series possible.

Broome Street Wind Ensemble Band concerts- We hosted 3 concerts at Farnum Park this summer. Concerts were held on June 29 and July 13 and 27. Great crowds attended each concert and enjoyed fantastic music!

PJ REC Summer Olympics- We held this summer's Olympic Games at Church St. Park on August 13, 2015. Kids were able to compete in hot shot basketball, 50 Meter Dash, Standing Long Jump, Softball Toss, water Balloon Toss, Scooter Relay, Tennis Hot Shot and Basketball Foul Shots. We had 3 age groups (7-9, 10-13, 14-17) compete throughout the day and winners were crowned at the end of the day. PJ Rec staff prepared lunch for the more than 75 kids that participated.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament- Our rd Annual Tournament was a HUGE success! Held at Church St. Park on Saturday July 25, 2015- more than 60 teams participated and kids from as far away as Poughkeepsie came to PORT to play in the tournament. We had 4 age groups (9-11, 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19) competing all day long with champions crowned in each age group. Thanks to Cory Puopolo for organizing the event. Thanks also to PORT Boys Basketball coaches, Shoprite, Roy's Corner Café, Texas Lunch, DJ Charli Magos and all the volunteers for making it a great day!

Scranton Yankees field trip- was held on August 19, 2015. 40 adults and children attended and watch the Scranton Yanks beat their rival Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs 3-1. This trip also was a reward for close to 20 kids that participated in our summer program. These kids were awarded "Kid of the Week" throughout the summer for good behavior or helping out park supervisors.

1st Annual Tri-State Triathlon- On Sunday August 16, 2015 we held our first Triathlon here in Port Jervis!! Close to 50 participants swam 400 meters in the Delaware River then biked 10 miles through Port Jervis and Deerpark- including beautiful Hawks Nest and finished with a 5K run through Port Jervis! It was a beautiful day and we had many compliments on how well organized the event was. Many spectators added that they would love to compete in it next year! Thank you to all the volunteers- more than 50 that helped make this a great day in Port Jervis! Looking forward to next year's race!

FYI

1. ACME downhill races will be held Labor Day weekend- September 4-5-6
2. Rockin the City to Fight Hunger II Concert- On Saturday September 19, 2015 along with The Carl Richards Band we will be hosting a Canned Food Drive concert at Riverside Park. More than 6 bands will perform all day long from 11 am-5 pm. More information to come in September.
3. The Recreation Department's 69th Annual Halloween Parade will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2015. Lineup will be at 3:00pm in front of City Hall on Hammond Street. Kick off will be at 3:30pm
4. NY Jet Football game field trip on Sunday October 18, 2015. The Jets will be taking on the Washington Redskins. Tickets cost \$85-\$125 per person.

**NEXT MEETING:
September meeting CANCELED
October 21, 2015 at 7 pm**