

Director of Recreation Report
September 2015

Halloween Parade

The 69th Annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 2015. Line-up is 3:00pm on Hammond Street in front of City Hall. The parade kicks off at 3:30 pm. Invitations have been sent out and the Port Jervis Police Department and DPW have been notified as well. At the conclusion of the parade at Farnum Park, the Recreation Commission will serve apple cider and donuts while the Elks award prizes to the children. Leave your calendars open on the 25th! Rain/Snow date is Monday, October 26th at 4:30pm.

Youth Center

The Youth/Community Center is now operating under its school schedule. The center is open Monday-Thursday 3:00-7:00pm, Friday 3:00- 6:00 pm for elementary students and 6:00-10:00 pm for middle and high school students only (Teen Night) and Saturdays from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. We have continued to be very busy at the Center. The unduplicated total since January 1st is 579 and the total is 4,374. Teen Night returned on Friday, September 5th after taking the summer off. We have averaged close to 40 teens every Friday night since we re-opened. On Friday October 9 we will hold our first dance of the new school year. The dance will be held from 6:30 –9:30 pm. Entertainment by DJ G.

The fall Busy Body Program will begin October 17th. Instructor will be Megan Smith. This is an arts and crafts program open to children in grades K-3 and is FREE of charge. This is an 8 week program that will run through December 12th. Registration will take place at the first class on October 17th. Registration is ongoing throughout the entire program.

ACME Downhill Races

This year's races were held over Labor Day Weekend- September 4-5-6. Tom Barnhart is the race organizer and once again it was a success. More than 80 participants hit Sky Line Drive and raced against each other all weekend long. Participants came from as far away as Puerto Rico and South America! This race has become a favorite by participants because of the closed course (road closed to vehicles) and safety procedures in place (ambulance on site, hay bales at hairpin turns and race spotters all along the course). I will be working with Mr. Barnhart over the winter to schedule next year's event.

Rocking the City to Fight Hunger

On Saturday, September 19, 2015 we hosted the 2nd Annual Food Drive Concert at Riverside Park. We asked all concert goers to bring canned food items with them as they come to the concert. All donated food was given to the First Assembly of God Church. Bands performing on the 19th included- The Carl Richards Band, Side F/X, CBX, Ponytails and more!! Coffee and water was served as well! We received a great amount of food that filled up the back of a van!! Thank you to everyone that donated!

Parks

Parks remain open for the season and we will continue to rent out Riverside Park as long as the weather permits. Elks Brox Park is open daily and will remain open until hunting season- in November. Swings, tennis nets and picnic tables will remain in the parks until the end of October or early November as well. Lights are no longer on at Church St. Park.

2061 Parks and Recreation Budget

The Recreation Department is currently starting work on the 2016 Parks and Recreation Budget. Budget discussions will be held at the November Recreation Commission meeting.

The Recreation Commission mourns the loss of long time Commission member and friend Luann McCarthy. Luann had been a member of the Recreation Commission for the past 20 years and was its Vice-Chairperson for the past 15 years. She was on the committee that created the Delaware River Run back in 1993. Luann was also very involved in the Halloween Parade.

Luann was instrumental in connecting the Recreation Department and the School District- especially when it came to organizing youth volunteers. She will be missed but not forgotten. RIP Luann.

FYI

1. There was no Recreation Commission meeting in September so there are no min.
2. Port Jervis Recreation has scheduled a Fall Clean – Up called “FALL PORT PRIDE DAY” on Saturday, November 14, 2015. Volunteers are needed to help us clean up leaves and debris before the long winter. The clean-up will take place from 10am-12pm and be held at Church St., Farnum Park, and Orange Square. We will add more parks if we get enough volunteers.
3. Port Jervis Recreation is taking a field trip to a NY Jets game on Sunday, October 18, 2015. The Jets will be taking on the Washington Redskins a 1pm game. We will take up to 35 people. The cost (including transportation) is \$85/person. If you want to add tailgate to your purchase- the price is \$125 per person.
4. The Port Jervis Recreation Fall Flyer is now available at the Youth Center or can be emailed as well. Don't forget to check us out on Facebook @ Port Jervis Recreation.
5. Trail development at Point Peter is underway. We have mapped out potential trails that will total close to 24 miles. Some of these “trails” are already partially developed while some need total clearing. We are planning to begin clearing and marking these trails later this fall/winter- weather permitting.

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, October 21, 2015
7:00pm