

Director of Recreation Report
September 2016

Halloween Parade

The 70th Annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for Sunday, October 30, 2016. 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 30th!

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). We have continued to be busy at the Center. The unduplicated total since January 1st is 298 and the total is 4,214. Teen Night returned on Friday, September 9th after taking the summer off. We have averaged close to 25 teens every Friday night since we re-opened. Teen Night numbers are 171 unduplicated and the total is 623. We held our first teen dance of the school year on September 23rd. The dance was held from 6:30 –9:00 pm. Close to 70 teens attended. Entertainment provided by DJ G.

Rocking the City to Fight Hunger

On Saturday, September 17, 2016 we hosted the 3rd Annual Food Drive Music Festival at Riverside Park. We asked all concert goers to bring canned food items with them as they came to the concert. All donated food was given to the First Assembly of God Church as well as Grace Episcopla Church and Salvation Army. Bands performing on the 17th included- The Carl Richards Band, Side F/X, Mr. Phil, Ponytails and more!! Coffee and donuts were served as well! We received a great amount of food this year and we look forward to continuing this event for many years! Thank you to everyone that donated!

Luann McCarthy Tennis Courts Dedication

On Saturday, September 24, 2016 it was my honor and privilege to celebrate the life and achievements of Luann McCarthy as we officially named the tennis courts at Church St. Park after her. The ceremony was well attended by many of Luann's former co-workers, friends and her parents. Luann was a member of the Recreation Commission for more than 20 years and was also the Varsity Boys and Girls Tennis Coach at Port Jervis High School.

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 year round- now that we have developed the hiking and biking trails. 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- they were turned off due to the fact that very little to nobody was using the facility past sunset.

Watershed Trails

September was a busy month at the trails. Our very dedicated trail crew keeps on enhancing current trails and brainstorming future trails, the new updated trail map was completed (see attached), parking lots were created at the Pt. Peter trailhead, and off of Box Baum Road, kiosks- with blown up trail maps attached were built at all 3 trailheads (including Res. #1 at the Water Plant), trails continued to be marked with colored tree markers and we worked with West Point as we prepared for the Army Mountain Classic. Take advantage of the beauty that surrounds us and get up to the trails.

Army Mountain Classic

On October 1, 2016 close to 100 college students from more than 10 different schools took to the new trails in Watershed Park and Elks-Brox park and competed in both cross country races and short track races. The cross country races were held in the morning and participants completed a 6.3 mile loop- advanced participants did 12.6 miles and 18.9 miles. In the afternoon they raced the short track which was a .5 mile loop. They did the loop for 25 minutes for beginners and up to 35 minutes for advanced participants. Feedback from all the racers was excellent- they loved the courses and trails and they hope to return and ride them recreationally. Colleges that competed were West Point, Navy, Penn St., PENN, RIT, RPI, UCONN, Northeastern, U of Vermont, MIT and VTECH. Great way to open the trail system!!

2017 Parks and Recreation Budget

The Recreation Department has already submitted the 2017 Parks and Recreation Budget. I anticipate Common Council budget hearings in late October or November. I will keep the Commission updated on these hearings.

FYI

1. Upcoming events
October 1- Army Mountain Classic Mountain Bike Race- at Watershed Trails
October 22- Will of Orange Train Run- at Watershed Trails
October 29- Erie 80 Mountain Bike Race- at Watershed Trails
October 30- 70th Annual Halloween Parade- City Hall
2. The ACME Downhill Races scheduled for Labor day Weekend were canceled.
3. Port Jervis Recreation is taking a field trip to a NY Jets game on Sunday, October 23, 2016. The Jets will be taking on the Baltimore Ravens at 1pm game. Only 4 tickets remain! The cost (including transportation) is \$90/person. If you want to add tailgate to your purchase- the price is \$130 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. We may postpone Fall Busy Bodies until the Spring of 2017. I am looking into ways of increasing attendance at this program. I would like to see between 15-20 participants- the last two years we have averaged only 5-10 participants.

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, October 19, 2016
7:15pm