

## **Director of Recreation Report August 2020**

### **Summer Youth Program (July 7- August 7)**

Our 5 week Summer Youth Program ended on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and looked very different than our years past. Due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 participants had to register for one of two sessions (9am-11am or 12pm-2:pm) Children were still able to participate in many activities this summer. Activities included- street hockey, basketball, dodgeball, kickball, pickle ball, wiffle ball, cornhole, kan jam, and obstacle courses. *Our supervisors worked hard to implement socially distanced activities while still providing opportunities for fun.* If you were more of an indoor child the Youth Center had TV, movies, video games, pool table, ping pong, board games and arts and crafts.

WE also offered FREE lunch at both locations throughout our Summer Youth Program. Lunches were delivered to each site by Rec. staff after being prepared by the school district and served as Grab n Go when the participants were leaving their session. An average of 35 lunches was served each day this summer. This program is funded by NYSED. Over the last 24 years we have served over 23,500 lunches!

### **Youth Center (July 7 - August 7)**

The Youth Center was restricted on how many children were able to participate in the Summer Program. Like the playground, participants could choose between two sessions (9am-11am or 12pm-2pm). Attendance was low. Poor attendance could be a result of parents' work schedules not being conducive to the Youth Center hours or parents' not feeling comfortable with their children participating in public activities due to COVID 19. *Our supervisors worked hard to implement socially distanced activities while still providing opportunities for fun* The last few weeks of summer (August 13--August 28) after the playgrounds and beach closed the Youth Center was open between 11 am- 2 pm. Beginning September 1 the Youth Center will be open 3 pm- 6 pm.

### **West End Beach**

Despite COVID restrictions, the beach had a great summer. The community was respectful of the NYS guidelines. Weekday attendance was steady with an average of 20-25 bathers. The weekends were very popular and brought in a maximum capacity. The beach closed for the season on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The beach was open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12 pm-6 pm and weekends from 11 am-6 pm. The beach was closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Weekend parking was very crowded this summer- many people floating down the river. On weekends we charged non-residents a \$5 parking fee and at the end of the summer we generated a little **over \$3400** (most of the money came from people who parked then floated down the river). Our beach attendants did a fantastic job communicating effectively and politely with the community and managing the parking of cars.

## Special Events

### Concerts in the Park -

Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> - SIDE F/X

Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Parting Glass (Farnum Park)

Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> - DJ G 80's night in the Park

Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> - The Little Big Band (Farnum Park)

Thursday August 6- Rich Wilson

**Outdoor Movie Night at Riverside Park-** Thanks to First Assembly of God Church for sponsoring these movies. Movies were held on July 29<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Attendees at both the FREE concerts and FREE movies were able to maintain social distancing and enjoy themselves. We painted 8 foot social distancing circles on the ground in front of the stages. Each circle was 6 feet apart.*

**Fireworks Show from Point Peter-** As you are all aware our Fireworks scheduled for July 3 were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been rescheduled for Friday September 4 at approximately 8 pm. We will also have a FREE concert at Riverside Park that evening starting at 6 pm. The band SIDE F/X will be performing.

**This was a very unusual and sad summer with the COVID-19 pandemic. Kids and staff were wearing mask, numbers were low and programs and events were canceled. I truly hope we move past this pandemic and back to a normal summer in 2021!**

### FYI

1. The Youth Center Recreation room is open Monday-Friday 3 pm- 6 pm. Starting Monday September 21, 2020 the Youth Center Recreation room will be open 3 pm- 6 pm but will follow the Port Jervis School District reopening plan- whatever cohort (group) is in school will be eligible for the Youth Center. If a student is home studying remote he/she will be off from the Youth Center. If a student is home schooled (not remote learning) they will also be eligible for the Youth Center. We are capping our attendance at the Youth Center to 20 kids due to the Covid restrictions.
2. We are pleased to announce our fall Little Chefs at PJ Rec cooking program will return this fall. This 5-week cooking class will start October 24 and run through November 21. Classes will be held at the Youth Center 10 am- 12 pm. Due to Covid restrictions this fall's class will be limited to 8 students. Registration for Little Chefs will take place at the Youth Center October 5, 7, 12, 14 between 5 pm- 7 pm. Cost for this class is \$50.

3. We are working on an alternative plan/event for the Halloween Parade on October 24 if we can't safely hold the parade due to Covid restrictions. More information will be available at the next Common Council meeting on September 28.
4. We have scheduled a fall park clean-up for Saturday November 14, 2020. The clean-up will be held between 10 am- 1130 am. We will meet at Farnum Park. We hope to have enough volunteers to help clean-up Farnum Park, Veteran's Park and Church St. Park. Refreshments will be available at Farnum Park at the conclusion at 1130 am. Volunteers are needed to help pick up leaves. This is a great community service event for any student.
5. **ALL RECREATION EVENTS AND PROGRAM WILL FOLLOW COVID RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES. SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6' WILL TRY TO BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES. FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED WHEN SOCIAL DISTANCING CAN NOT BE MAINTAINED. HAND SANITIZERS ARE READILY AVAILABLE AT ALL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS. ALL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS WILL BE URGED TO WASH HANDS REGULARLY AND STAY HOME IF NOT FEELING WELL.**

Next meeting- September 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm.