

## **Director of Recreation Report September 2020**

### **Halloween Parade Becomes Halloween Dance Party**

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Halloween Parade will have to be put on hold for the 2020 year. COVID 19 has forced the Recreation Department to change the look of how we will celebrate Halloween this year. In an effort to still provide a festive and safe event for the public we will be hosting a Halloween Dance Party at Riverside Park on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Partygoers are invited to attend the dance party dressed in costume. Social distancing circles will be placed throughout the park for families to use while enjoying music from DJ G and some Halloween games. The Elks will be there to hand out treats. Leave your calendars open on the 24<sup>th</sup>! Rain date is Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> - same time and location.

### **Fall Youth Soccer Program**

Our 6-week Youth Soccer program kicked off on September 13th at West End Beach. Close to 40 kids ages 3-15 are signed up and are participating. Age 4-6 practice at 9 am and ages 7-15 are held at 10-11:30 am as well. Lessons will run through October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Little Chefs at PJ REC**

The Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Little Chefs at PJ Rec cooking class this FALL. Classes will start on Saturday October 24 and will be held at the Youth Center. Class time is 10:00 am- 12:00 pm. This is a 5-week class for students ages 10-13. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions class size will be only 8 students. Cost for this class is \$50. Registration will take place at the Youth Center on October 5-7-14 between 5 pm-7 pm.

### **Fall Clean-up**

This year's fall clean-up will be scheduled for Saturday November 14, 2020 at 10:00 am. All volunteers are being asked to report to Farnum Park. We will be cleaning up Farnum Park, Veteran's Park and Church St. Park. If you would like to volunteer or know anyone interested please notify the Recreation office.

### **Casino Trip**

The Casino trip to Mohegan Sun in the Poconos has been rescheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>. 33 people are signed up to attend.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Port Jervis Stone Challenge-**

This event is back for the second year with some new additions. The event will be held Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Elks Brox Park and offers two courses this year. There will be a 2 mile course and a more advanced 4 mile course. Information can be found on the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis Facebook page and registration will be open soon.

### **Youth Center**

The Youth/Community Center is now operating under its revised school schedule which follows the cohort schedule that the school has issued. The Rec. Room is open Monday-

Friday 3:00 pm- 6:00 pm. Currently, attendance is low- due to the fact that the majority of our kids come directly off the bus from school- and the Center is taking registrations daily. John will assess and adjust the numbers allowed in the center as the school transitions through the different phases of reentering school. The max number of kids currently allowed into the Rec Room is 20.

### **Parks**

Parks remain open for the season. 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..

### **Watershed Trails**

This is the best time of the year to explore the Watershed Trails either on foot or on bike. Cooler temperatures and color in the trees make for ideal hiking or biking conditions. There are trails for beginners all the way up to advanced. Remember to pack in and pack out- leave only footprints and tire treads. Help us keep our parks clean.

### **2021 Parks and Recreation Budget**

The Recreation Department 2021 proposed budget has already been submitted to the City. I anticipate Common Council budget hearings in late October or November. I will keep the Commission updated on these hearings. Reductions are expected.

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Youth Center.