



GLEANINGS

VOLUME 13

ISSUE 2

Gleanings is meant to inform the Alderpersons, Mayor, Department Heads and Parks and Recreation Board Members to the workings of the department and issues we need help/support on that affect our department. This newsletter will be issued two times per year; May & September. We hope you enjoy receiving this information. Thank you for your continued support for Parks & Recreation.

KUDOS-DANCAS-THANKS

Our department would like to recognize the following department staff:

At the top of our list is the Engineering staff for their work on Park Arthur, Durham overflow parking lot, and recreation trail cost estimates. Great job Dave & Dan! Thank you!

We would also like to thank the Department of Public Work's staff for assisting us with projects like trail work and with event set-up for the Movies in the Park.

Thanks goes out to the Information Technology staff for keeping the park's staff in operation and for securing a new copier that will help us to remove some pieces of office equipment in the recreation office. Thanks John & Alex!



HOW DID WE DO IN THIS PAST SUMMER?

Summer was a very busy time of year for us. We had a record number of participants in our summer playground program and our sports camps were also very successful. The economy last year proved to be a challenge but it seems people are participating more in our

recreation programs this year.

Our department served 2 less participants this summer (3,284) than we did last summer (3,286). We expect to see participant numbers increase thru the end of this year.

We saw the largest ever-annual increase of games for our baseball fields. Last year, we had 844 practices and 707 games and this year we had 721 and 846, respectively. This is a difference of 123 less practices and 139 more games. All leagues saw an increase in participation and are expecting more participants/teams as the years continue. With the addition of the field that was built at the high school and the real possibility of losing one field temporarily at Mill Valley Middle School next year, this growth is going to put a real strain on our existing baseball fields. Another select team has already contacted us about wanting a home field for 2012 games. They may be looking at using Jensen Park for their use. Shortly, we will be addressing with baseball leagues the real need for cost sharing in creating new baseball fields at Park Arthur. We will keep you posted.

The new class cancellation ratio for summer classes was 18% (compared to 20% last summer). We offered 22 new programs (compared to 10 last year) and 4 were cancelled (compared to 2 last year). A 70% new class cancellation ratio is the benchmark and we are still lower than the benchmark. This still means that Muskego residents desire more recreation programs.

Idle Isle participant numbers were up this year when compared to last year because of the very hot summer weather we experienced in 2011. We had 3,190 (64% from Muskego) visitors this summer compared with 3,017 visitors last year. These park participant numbers are only taken when we are staffed at the park.

PARK PROJECTS

Park Arthur – Currently, the ballfields are having screened topsoil placed on them for future development. Grading on the far north side of the park (off College Avenue) is being finished along with asphalt millings being placed on the yet-to-be-paved road. Paving of the parking lot and a section of roadway will be done the week of September 12. Grass seeding will take place as grading is completed. This project should be complete by the end of September.

We have visited this park often this summer and if you have time, drive by and see the sledding hill. Upon observation, you can almost hear the many kids and parents enjoying this hill next winter!

Boxhorn Launch – The Parks & Recreation Board is recommending approval for the city to start the purchase process of the Boxhorn launch. The existing launch only has 10 more years of use. The owner is finally willing to sell just the launch to the city and then plans on reinvesting those funds into the gun club business. We believe this is the right time to purchase this valuable resource for future generations to use. By purchasing, this also makes any needed improvements to the launch grant eligible. This will be going before the Finance and Common Council on October 11.

Parks & Open Space Plan – This fall/early winter, the Parks & Recreation Board and Conservation Commission will be recommending for approval the 2012-2016 Parks & Open Space Plan. This plan, once approved, will keep the city DNR grant eligible.

Idle Isle/Jensen Park Surveys – Each year, our department surveys residents/park users at 2 parks. In 2011, we surveyed Idle Isle and Jensen Park. Some highlights include:

Idle Isle Park-

- 96% rated the park as excellent or good; 4% as fair
- 96% rated the cleanliness as excellent or good; 4% as fair
- Most used amenities are the shelter/bathrooms, boat launch, and beach (in that order)
- More parking and beach area were the most recommended improvements

Jensen Park-

- 86% rated the park as excellent or good; 14% as fair
- 90% rated the cleanliness as excellent or good; 10% as fair
- Most used amenities are the open space, playground, and baseball field (in that order)
- Keeping baseball field groomed and update building/park were the most recommended improvements

CLUB BASKETBALL

In late spring after hearing from upset parents about team placements, our department worked very hard to revamp the player evaluation process of our boy's club basketball program. After weeks of meeting and tweaking the changes, we held our player evaluations in early June. We brought in an outside vendor, TopFlightOne, to run the evaluation so it was completely impartial and unbiased. Over 120 boys attended and committed to playing with our program which would mean we would have 14 teams. After the players were notified of their team assignments, there were several families who were disappointed at their son's placement, either because of the skill set of his team, or that they were not with friends they had played with for years. They decided to pull from our club program to start their own select program. With their leaving, they took about 35 players with them. Ten additional players left upset that their team make-up had changed. That has left us with 75 players, or 10 teams, for the 2011-12 club season. The remaining boys will begin practicing in October for a season that runs through late March, where the boys in grades 4-8 will play in roughly 30-35 games.

As the boys program saw a decrease, the girl's program has seen growth. We normally carry 1 girl's team in each grade, 4-8. This year for the first time, we will have 2 teams in both 5th and 6th grade. As the league we play in will only allow for one team in each grade, the second team in both 5th & 6th grade will be tournament only teams. The girl's program closely mirrors the boy's program; they, too, will start practices in October and will wrap up by the end of March with the girls playing in roughly 25 games.

FALL HIGHLIGHTS –

This fall we are looking forward to a full plate of course offerings. We will have our normal classes like dance for youth and adults, gymnastics for toddlers to teens, sports camps like Lil' Packers and Introduction to Basketball, adult cooking and fitness classes, and so much more. New classes this fall include Hip Hop Dance for kids ages 5-7, Lego Motorized Building for youth, Scrapbooking Crop 'til you Drop, Tap & Jazz for Adults, Ayurvedic Approach to Food & Nutrition, and a Yoga and Kayak Outing, where class participants will do early morning yoga at Idle Isle and then load into kayaks for a relaxing trip around Little Muskego Lake. We also have planned 3 day trips for adults/seniors. These trips are offered in conjunction with the New Berlin and Franklin recreation departments and will be going to the Warren's Cranberry Festival in September, the Apple Festival in Long Grove in October, and Holiday Shopping in Chicago in November. So there are many opportunities for Muskego residents to get out and have fun, learn new skills, and make new friends through one of our many recreational classes.

SUMMER WRAP-UP

As usual, summer came and went way too fast this year. But during those 12 weeks of sun and fun, our department provided numerous programs for the residents of Muskego to participate in. Of course, we held our summer all-day playground program called G.A.P. at three park sites. This year we had 175 kids enrolled and they enjoyed a summer full of water games, sporting competitions and even a field trip to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. For preschoolers, we held weekly-themed camps, like Princess Camp and Super Hero Camp, where the children came dressed up as their favorite character and then made arts and craft projects, heard stories, sang songs and had delicious snacks. We also ran several art camps that were very popular this year for children ages 4-12 and we offered a new drama camp called Kids on Stage that had 46 children registered in 3 different age categories. Also offered, was our usual line up of summer sports camps for youth/teens covering basketball to football to soccer, as well as the Muskego Warriors All-Sports Camp, which is provided by the Muskego High School coaching staff and allows children the opportunity to try several different sports being instructed by the high

school coaches. For adults, there were several new classes like Detoxing from Stress, Clear Your Space of Negativity, Chocolate Candy Making, Recreational Kayaking, several cooking and BBQ classes and many of our regular offerings like fitness classes including zumba and yoga and tennis lessons and men's and women's softball league.

We also again provided 2 Movies in the Park this summer. In July, we showed the movie Despicable Me with about 175 people in attendance. In August, we showed the movie Yogi Bear with about 250 people in attendance. This year we did more publicity with the placement of 5 large signs around the Muskego area. We also wrapped up our G.A.P. playground program this year with a family cook-out on the last day of camp which was also the August movie so many of those families enjoyed the opportunity to eat and stayed to watch the movie. Our plan is to again end the G.A.P. program next year with the cook-out and movie because it was so successful.

Although the summer always comes and goes too quickly, it was still "jam packed" with quality recreational offerings that so many residents participate in.



Park Arthur Sledding Hill

PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS



Clutter Coach –

Like Most--Speakers presentation and content excellent! She gave clear solutions for specific problems. I like everything!

Tennis--Summer

Like Most--This is a great program...Brienne does a great job! Colleen really enjoyed the instructors. Colleen will be taking a 3rd session of lessons BECAUSE of the instructors. Tennis programs offer many levels, time options which is great. One of our FAVORITE rec programs!!!

Creative Expressions Camp

Like Most--How happy my daughter was going to class. Instructor was great with kids!! Teacher, Excellent, Very Professional

Gymnastics (Summer)

Like Most--The teacher/student ratio and the teachers are knowledgeable about the sport. Great socialization for kids!

Kids on Stage (Summer)

Like Most--My daughter loved learning her lines and dressing up. Great new offering!! Being able to be in a production. The program was wonderful

Dance-

Like Most--It was a fun atmosphere for my daughter. The girls in this class are a handful. Very impressed with the way the teacher handled the group. Libby had a blast!! She loves to dance. Addison came out of her shell

He who sows courtesy reaps friendship and he who plants kindness gathers love..

PARKS & REC INQUIRIES

from the main office, citizens ask us

Is the Muskego beach open or can they book a camp site? *Informed Muskego Park is a county park and will need to contact 262-548-7801.*

Is the beach at Idle Isle open? *Informed the water is tested weekly during the summer and to check the information line at 262-679-5645.*

Boaters were calling not only on the status of the lake level but also if the road was open to the Durham launch? *Informed the lake level would be up in September and that they could access Durham to get to the launch.*

When will the goose round-up be? *Informed when the date rolled around, there were no geese at Idle Isle so the project was cancelled for this year.*

PRESCHOOL INSTRUCTOR RESIGNS

Suzanne Jeske, who has been the teacher of our preschool program at Horn Park for the last 18 years, found out at the end of July that she has advanced pancreatic cancer with liver involvement. After a month of researching several different treatment options, Sue started her chemotherapy the end of August. Due to this unexpected medical diagnosis, Sue had to step down from her teaching position with us to take care of her own health. It is with much sadness that we see her leave our program, but it is also with many prayers for her to beat this horrible disease.

As sad as it is to replace Sue, we have been able to hire a wonderful replacement for our preschool instructor. Jennifer Anderson comes to us with several years teaching experience in the Shorewood district, working with children in 4K and up to 2nd grade. We are looking forward to working with her and seeing what new twists she brings to our popular Little Learners Ready to Grow and Jump Start to Kindergarten programs. Please welcome Jennifer to our recreation family!