

# **Borough of Chatham**

## **Annual Report**

**2008**

### **Recreation**



# CHATHAM BOROUGH RECREATION

## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Chatham Borough Recreation experienced another very active year. We continued to meet with the Chatham Township Recreation Department to discuss and supervise joint programs. This joint venture with Chatham Township, referred to as the Chatham Joint Recreation Advisory Committee (CJRAC), formulated bylaws and completed a Policy and Procedure Manual. This manual along with a new Code of Conduct will continually be updated.

As in previous years, most of our recreation efforts were directed towards youth activities. While adult activities were still an integral part of our overall program, space dictates what we are able to provide. Chatham is fortunate to have a very active Senior Community Center whose focus is our Senior Citizens. Their resources provide both active and passive activities to our residents.

During 2008 our numbers continued to increase. With the eleven basic youth activities offered (baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, flag football, football, lacrosse, skiing, soccer and our summer camps), we continued to discourage playing multiple activities. In looking at the increase of registrations between 2007 and 2008, Chatham Recreation had over 1650 additional registrations (6662 to 8315).

**Total increase in registrations 2007 - 2008**



We began 2008 with our Ski Program. The six week program was a great success. The new gym space at the Middle School and Washington Avenue School gave us the ability to get all of our recreation and travel basketball sessions scheduled alleviating past limitations. Recreation now pays for school custodial staffing for weekend gym use when a custodian is not scheduled for a facility. Registration fees cover that expenditure.

In the spring, our Girls and Boys Lacrosse Programs continued to expand. Parents took clinics in the younger grade levels and became trained as coaches or assistants moving up with their child's grade.

The spring of 2008 also brought together a second season of our merged Recreation Baseball and Softball Program with those from the Chatham Little League Program. Numbers increased, clinics added and coaches training improved.

The Tennis Courts opened with a series of Professional Tennis Lessons for our residents. Those lessons continued into the summer and fall. The gate locks continued to be a deterrent for non-tennis related activities. Funds from the tennis badge sales, along with capital funding, were used to repair and repaint the courts.

The paved area at Garden Park, near the tennis courts, was a very popular location for our residents. Residents appreciated the safe play area for both our youth and adults.

As the summer approached our Summer Travel Baseball and Softball teams took the fields. Recreation also provided over 20 Summer Camps providing in-town opportunities for our children to build on skill development or explore new activities.

The Chatham Borough Municipal Pool provided relief to over 330 residents. Children participated in swimming lessons with the swimmers displaying their new skills at our annual Water Carnival. The Wading Pool had some needed repairs due to age. Outside the pool area the playground was a very popular location for those visiting the park, library and pool.

As the summer ended, our Youth Football Teams began practice on the Lum Turf Field. Six temporary light units were rented for early September for the team's two weeknight practices. League games were held at Cougar Field. Chatham's 8<sup>th</sup> grade coach and Suburban Youth Football League Representative, Gino Pascarella, was named Representative of the Year by the league. One of Chatham's 8<sup>th</sup> grade players received a league scholarship for an essay he wrote about how his football experience affected his life. The Youth Football Cheerleading Squads held practices during the week to prepare for the Sunday Youth Football games.

Our fall Flag Football Teams enjoyed their Saturday morning sessions. Due to the wet fall weather, several of their sessions were moved to turf locations later in the day.

Soccer was again a popular fall activity with numbers increasing in the lower grades. Clinics were held and trainers hired to assist the coaches and players as their season progressed.

The Recreation Field Hockey Teams played in a New Jersey travel league. New for 2008 was a grade 4-6 Field Hockey Clinic. This clinic was held Saturdays after the upper grades completed their sessions. Coaches stayed and introduced new players to the game.

In addition to the above youth activities, adult activities offered through Chatham Recreation were a Men's Over 35 Basketball Program, a competitive Men's Basketball League, Men's Softball, Women's Volleyball and Women's Softball. We also sold golf permits, through Millburn Recreation, to the Millburn Par 3 Golf Course.

To assist Senior Citizens in the community, a link was added to our recreation website promoting the many activities and bus offerings by the Senior Center.

In the spirit of cooperation in working with other organizations, Chatham Recreation participated in the Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (McArp), we assisted the Chatham Community Band with their music supplies and we worked with the Great Reunion Committee to assure all their needs were met for returning graduates. Chatham Recreation assisted the Chatham United Traveling Soccer Club, the Chatham Youth Wrestling Club and the Girls on the Run Program with space after all of our recreation and school needs were met.

Chatham Recreation continued to work with the Chatham Athletic Foundation. CAF continued to provide funds for the ImPact testing program as part of their mission. The program gave players aged 10 and over the opportunity to take a baseline test through Atlantic Health System on concussion awareness.

With school construction projects completed, fields at Lafayette and Washington Schools were open for the spring. Shepard Kollock is on the list for renovations during 2009 upgrading the footprint of the current complex. The Lum Front Field will have a new backstop installed, an on-deck batting area and new safety fencing placed around its player benches. At Lum Turf, safety fencing around the player benches and on-deck batting areas will be installed at both fields.

At Memorial Park, after the spring/summer seasons were completed, backstops, fencing and storage boxes were all painted green to blend into the area of the park and pool. At the Lum Turf Field, sod and a sprinkling system were installed between the fence and playing field. Fifty feet of black netting was installed on one side of the turf to prevent balls from entering the wooded area.

In evaluating our field supply and demand, the Chatham Athletic Foundations fundraising efforts continued. Those funds will assist with a second project in Chatham Township. That project is being evaluated by the state. When that review is complete, plans will commence to produce another turf field.

Chatham's fields, due to enrollment, again had significant wear and tear. Planning and rotation of activities was critical. Problems with cicada killers again appeared at two ball diamonds. Activities using those fields were moved to other locations.

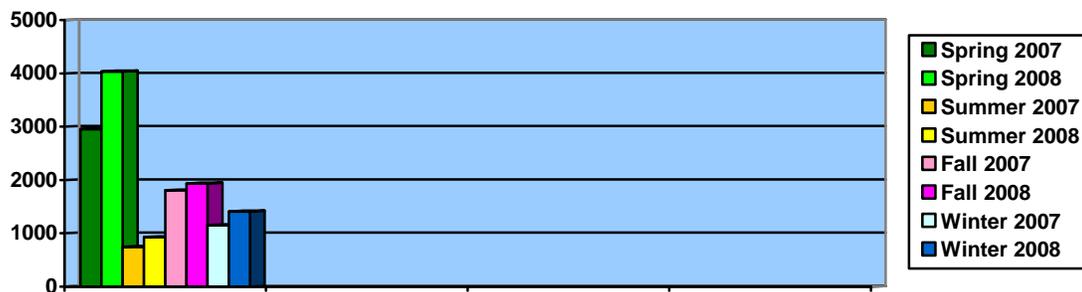
Training for our coaches continued with coaches taking the Rutgers Safety Training. CPR and Defibrillator courses were held for travel coaches. Fingerprint Background Checks began for volunteers working with the children. Initial printing was done through the local police departments. That process changed to a state contracted agency Sagen Morpho. I attended a Sagen Morpho Training Session so Chatham could participate in their volunteer background check program. Coaches successfully completing their background checks receive a card from Chatham Recreation. Over 750 volunteers have been processed and cleared.

In 2008 we developed additional activity sub-committees and league coordinator positions. The sub-committee is a group of active representatives within their activity interest. They met periodically to plan their season with the Recreation Directors and Recreation Committee Liaison. From that group, league coordinators were assigned the responsibility of communicating information to the other coaches within their grade leagues. This generated a very enthusiastic group of volunteers who worked closely with the Directors to put a product forth for the participants. These volunteers became an integral part of the planning process.

Our Chatham Recreation Web Site continued to be a success. New pages for the site are always being reviewed.

Community Pass, our online registration system, was utilized for every program registration. This online process has saved this department time in generating reports and registration information.

**Comparison registered by season through Community Pass from 2007-08**



Cooperation with the School District of the Chatham's was critical to the success of all of our programs. Joint sharing was paramount in our planning as was constant communication. The first right of refusal, on our school fields and in our school gyms, enabled us to provide an active year-round program. We will continue to work closely as we share needed space for our activities.

An Interlocal Agreement was signed by Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and the School District to permit Borough and Township employees and/or volunteers to take care of minor repairs on school fields recreation utilizes.

As always, our success is due to the efforts of many volunteers. They spend countless hours coaching and working with our children and adults.

We want to acknowledge the assistance of the Department of Public Works in preparing our fields and maintaining our park facilities and playgrounds. They continue to perform miracles during poor weather and in keeping with increased usage demands. We would like to thank our volunteers, our Chatham Borough Administrator Mr. Falzarano, Mayor Vaughan, Council Liaison Jim Collander, the members of the Chatham Borough Council and Robert Venezia and his Department of Public Works employees for their continued advice and support.

In closing Chatham Recreation will strive to continue the mission of the committee which states “Our mission is to provide advice and recommendations for a comprehensive program of community based recreational activities in the most safe, efficient and effective manner, providing accessibility and affordability, which contribute to the quality of life for all Chatham residents.”

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Nauta  
Recreation Director

## 2008 RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Goal: Finalize a plan for the second CAF project  
Objective:  
Provide an added safe location for our residents  
Provide relief to existing complexes  
Achievement:  
Plan in progress for 2009
2. Goal: Complete a Policy and Procedure Manual  
Objective:  
Provide policy and procedures to our residents  
Achievement:  
Manual completed and to be updated as needed.
3. Goal: Explore grant opportunities  
Objective:  
Assist with funding facility repairs/enhancements  
Achievement:  
Some grants were explored.
4. Goal: Develop a Recreation Master Plan  
Objective:  
Identify field needs  
Evaluate existing fields  
Prioritize needs and locations  
Achievement:  
Complete in 2009
5. Goal: Memorial Park  
Objective:  
Formulate a plan  
Provide a progress report for additional parking  
Provide a progress report of park renovations  
Provide a timeline to enhance safety measures  
Provide a review of the current pools  
Achievement:  
A new committee will be formed in 2009

6. Goal: Athletic enhancements  
Objective:  
Interface with the Chatham Athletic Foundation  
Recommend areas for improvement  
Improve the Front Lum Field  
Complete a walkway into the new Lum Turf Field  
Complete batting areas/safety fencing at the new Lum Turf Field  
Renovate Shepard Kollock  
Continue to work with the school district regarding facility needs/repairs.  
Achievement:  
Continued dialogue with CAF  
Lum Front Field Improvement to be completed early 2009  
Walkway to new turf field completed  
Batting cage/fencing plan set for 2009 completion  
Shepard Kollock renovations set for 2009  
Work with the school district continues with Milton Field as a projected project
7. Goal: Background Checks  
Objective:  
Ensure safe staffing for our activities  
Facilitate a simple procedure for volunteers to be checked  
Achievement:  
Procedure formalized and in progress
8. Goal: Evaluate new program/activity requests  
Objective:  
Insure space  
Consider impact on existing activities/program  
Achievement:  
New requests have been evaluated as received.
9. Goal: Tennis Court Repairs  
Objective:  
Provide safe play area for our residents  
Replace old, rusted fencing securing the courts  
Achievement:  
Court repairs completed  
Fencing to be done in 2009
10. Goal: Hire a part time assistant  
Objective:  
Assist with the growing needs of the recreation department  
Achievement:  
A part time floating staff member has been utilized as needed

## **2009 RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Goal: Finalize joint construction project at Shunpike Field  
Objective:
  - Provide an added safe location for our residents
  - Provide relief to existing complexes
  
2. Goal: Complete renovation at Shepard Kollock Park  
Objective:
  - Provide safe play area for our residents
  - Install drainage to increase field usage
  - Upgrade ball diamond areas to fulfill JIF guideline
  
3. Goal: Explore grant opportunities  
Objective:
  - Assist with funding facility repairs/enhancements
  
4. Goal: Develop a Recreation Master Plan  
Objective:
  - Identify field needs
  - Review school demographics
  - Evaluate existing fields
  - Prioritize needs and locations
  - Interface with the Planning Board
  - Complete a field utilization report
  
5. Goal: Memorial Park  
Objective:
  - Meet with committee to formulate plan for the entire complex.
  - Provide a progress report for additional parking
  - Provide a progress report of park renovations
  - Provide a timeline to enhance safety measures
  
6. Goal: Facility enhancements  
Objective:
  - Work in conjunction with the Chatham Athletic Foundation and Board of Education
  - Recommend areas for improvement
  - Complete on-deck batting/fencing areas at Lum Turf Field and Front Lum
  
7. Goal: Continue Background Check Procedure  
Objective:
  - Ensure safe staffing for our activities
  - Ensure periodic evaluations are completed

8. Goal: Evaluate new program/activity requests  
Objective:  
Insure space  
Consider impact on existing activities/program
9. Goal Tennis Court Repairs  
Objective:  
Replace old, rusted fencing securing the courts
10. Goal: Review Recreation Bylaws/Policies and Procedures  
Objective:  
Ensure goals are satisfied  
Evaluate program fees  
Finalize organizational chart
- 11: Goal: Community Pass and Website  
Objective:  
Ensure necessary updates are incorporated
12. Goal: Work with Municipal Alliance and Senior Citizens  
Objective:  
Assist with non-athletic activities for our youth and seniors