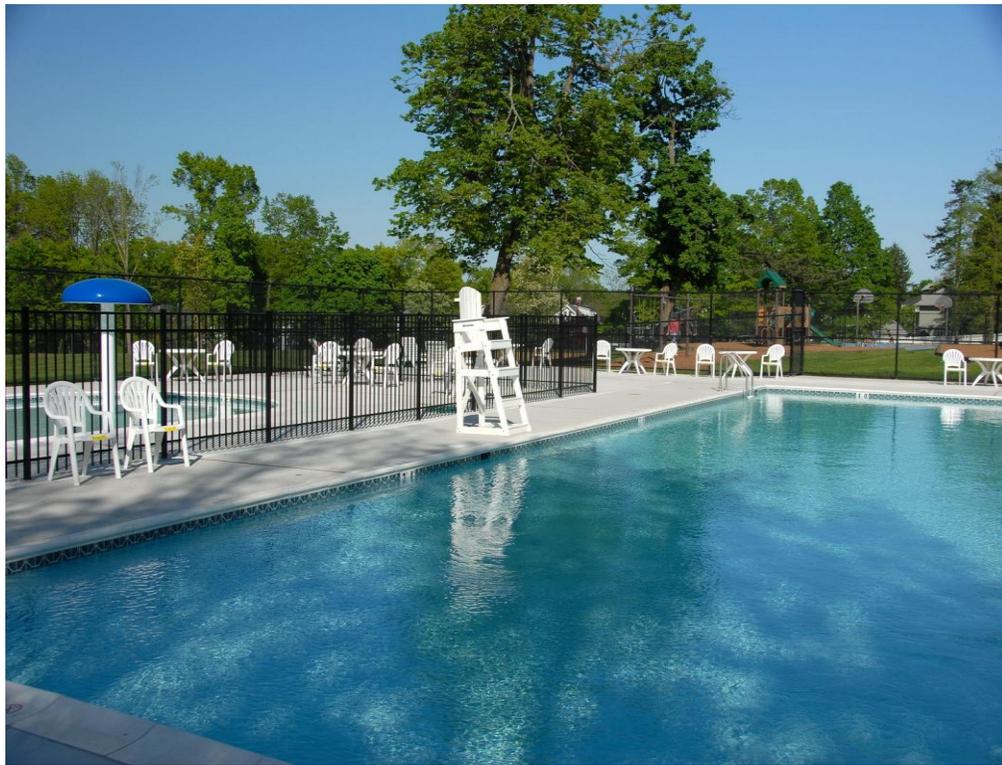


Borough of Chatham

Annual Report

2012

Recreation



CHATHAM BOROUGH - RECREATION

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Chatham Recreation continued to meet with Chatham Township to discuss and supervise joint programs. This joint venture with Chatham Township, is referred to as the Chatham Joint Recreation Advisory Committee (CJRAC). In January, Jack Conway was appointed Interim Recreation Director.

Most of our recreation efforts were directed towards youth activities. Chatham is fortunate to have an active Senior Community Center whose focus is our Senior Citizens. Their resources provide both active and passive activities to our senior residents.

Youth activities offered through Recreation or in conjunction with a Chatham "Club" included baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, flag football, football, skiing, soccer, lacrosse, wrestling, tennis, junior golf and volleyball.

Recreation registrations included, baseball, softball, skiing, cheerleading, football, flag football, field hockey, women's and youth volleyball, men's and women's softball and men's basketball. "Club" activities that collected their own registrations included soccer and lacrosse. Previous Summer Camp registrations were collected by the High School Coaches organizing those camps.

Additional recreation programs planning to have "Club" status in 2013/2014 will be football, basketball and softball. Those programs would then be collecting their own registrations directly as their own entity.

As the "Club" programs evolve bylaws, grievance committees, etc. all will be formulated by each club. The Recreation Committee is discussing how recreation and the clubs will communicate and interact. "Club" representatives have been invited to the recreation committee meetings with the "Clubs" operating as a quasi club/municipal activity. Recreation will continue to assist the "Clubs" with training, background checks and field space.

Chatham Recreation began 2012 with our Ski Program. Due to the elevated interest three larger buses were contracted. The six week program took 152 participants to Shawnee Ski Area in Pennsylvania.

Basketball, for girls and boys in grades 3-8, brought in interested basketball volunteers to enhance and improve the basketball program. Pre-season basketball clinics were held for those trying out for travel basketball. Travel Basketball Tryouts were scheduled earlier for added pre-season practice with fourteen travel teams chosen in grades 5-8. For the in-town recreation basketball program, coordinators were secured for each grade level league. Those coordinators maintained communication for each week's session heightening the skill and drill aspect before each weeks scrimmage/game.

In the spring, Girls and Boys Lacrosse, as a "Club" activity, organized an in-town and travel program for girls and boys in grades K-8.

A Chatham Recreation Baseball and Softball In-Town Program was offered to girls and boys in grades K-8. In addition to the spring in-town baseball program, baseball also offered a few spring travel teams. Pre-season travel baseball warm-up sessions were held for players trying out for a spring and/or summer travel baseball team. The girl's grade 5-8 softball program continued to play teams from Madison and Summit. Softball offered pre-season softball skills and pitching clinics and tryouts were held for their summer travel teams.

The Tennis Courts opened with a series of tennis lessons for 142 Chatham residents. The two tennis hitting walls gave residents a separate opportunity for practice sessions.

The paved area at Garden Park, near the tennis courts and playground, continued to be a popular location. Residents appreciate the safe open play area for both youth and adults.

As the summer approached our Summer Travel Baseball and Travel Softball teams took the fields. A variety of previously sponsored Recreation Summer Camps were organized by the Chatham High School Coaches. The camps provided in-town opportunities for our residents. Each of those High School Coach camps handled their own registration and most operated at school facilities.

The Chatham Borough Municipal Pool renovation was an enormous success. Construction ended on time for the pool to be fully operational for the Memorial Day weekend. New furniture was ordered, new umbrellas, etc. The new kiddie pool, with the water features and a graduated entry was enjoyed by the children. During the course of the season over 400 guests enjoyed the facility with pool members. Membership increased, new programs were offered, swim lesson numbers increased and additional parking was provided on North Passaic Avenue. Children participating in lessons displayed their skills at the annual Water Carnival. Programs offered were adult aerobics, private swim lessons, an adult swim night, float days and Olympic swim events for adults and children. Two pre-season Open Houses were held to attract new members and two end of the season Open Houses were held to show off the facility to potential 2013 members. The new picnic area, within the pool complex, provided a safe space for members. Local merchants benefitted from food sales with the pool being so close to the downtown shops. Outside the pool area the playground, fields and basketball court were a very popular attraction for those visiting the park and pool.

| Pool | 2011 | 2012 | Percent Inc/ Dec |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | 237 | 614 | 159.07% |

As the summer ended, our Youth Football Teams began practice on the Lum Turf Field. Temporary light units were rented for the team's two weeknight practices. League games were held at Cougar Field. The 6th and 7th grade teams entered the Suburban Youth Football Playoffs. 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 sessions. Two additional weeknight sessions were held for coaches to work on player drills to prepare for their Saturday session.

The previous Recreation Soccer Program became part of the Chatham United Soccer Club. Chatham United handled all the registrations, secured the trainers and organized all aspects of that program as a new "Club" activity.

The Recreation Field Hockey, Grade 5-8 teams, played in a newly formed travel league with teams located closer to Chatham. A Grade 4 Field Hockey Clinic was held weekly with coaches introducing new players to the game. Due to the numbers interested overall in playing field hockey, a new format will be discussed so additional girls can be accommodated.

In addition to the above, adult activities offered were Men's Over 35 Basketball, a Men's Basketball League, Men's Softball, Women's Volleyball and Women's Softball. Golf permits, through Millburn and Summit Recreation, were offered to Chatham residents.

Below are Chatham Recreation activity registration numbers that were collected on our online registration system, Community Pass.

| Activity | 2011 | 2012 | Percent Inc/ Dec |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Ski trips | 131 | 152 | 16.03% |
| Basketball | 690 | 739 | 7.10% |
| Baseball | 873 | 860 | -1.49% |
| Softball | 468 | 503 | 7.48% |
| Cheerleading | 32 | 40 | 25.00% |
| Flag Football | 181 | 191 | 5.52% |
| Field Hockey | 193 | 196 | 1.55% |
| Football | 154 | 144 | -6.49% |
| Youth Volleyball | 45 | 55 | 22.22% |
| Men's Basketball League | 103 | 108 | 4.85% |
| Men's Over 35 Basketball | 50 | 71 | 42.00% |
| Women's Volleyball | 15 | 18 | 20.00% |
| Men's Softball | 108 | 122 | 12.96% |
| Women's Softball | 21 | 16 | -23.81% |
| Total Registrations | 3064 | 3215 | 4.93% |

In addition to the above activity registration numbers, Community Pass collects data for clinics, activity information requests, surveys, training, etc. Community Pass has saved the department hours in generating reports, sending communications to its families, etc. This system has greatly enhanced the communication process to keep residents informed.

Our Chatham Recreation Web Site continued to be a success providing a central information base of information regarding our Recreation and “Club” activities and contacts.

In the spirit of cooperation in working with other organizations, Chatham participates in the Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (McArp). Chatham Recreation assisted the Chatham United Travel Soccer Club, the Chatham Youth Wrestling Club, the Chatham Lacrosse Club and the Girls on the Run Program with facility requests.

Chatham Recreation continued to work with the Chatham Athletic Foundation. The CAF continued to provide funds for the ImPact testing program on concussion awareness as part of their mission. The program gives players aged 10 and over the opportunity to take a baseline test through the Atlantic Health System. The CAF was also instrumental with the funding of a new fully lined basketball court at Memorial Park. Residents enjoyed the renovated facility for practice and to play small sided games.

In evaluating our facility supply and demand, a seasonal facility committee met to coordinate each others in-season needs. The goal was to learn and inform each other of each of their requirements and then collectively share space and time.

Chatham’s fields, due to enrollment, receive significant wear. Planning and rotation of activities was critical. The turf fields at Lum and Shunpike enabled us to hold sessions that otherwise would have been canceled. The renovation at Memorial Park enabled our softball teams to have two updated fields that were level for play. In the fall, soccer was able to practice and play on the Memorial Park grass, in-between the two ball diamonds, giving them an added small sided field.

Training for our coaches continued with coaches taking the Rutgers Safety Training and CPR and Defibrillator courses.

Fingerprint Background Checks continued for volunteers working with the children. To date almost 1,400 volunteers have been processed.

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.

An Interlocal Agreement continues between 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.

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. We would like to thank our volunteers, our Chatham Borough Administrator Robert Falzarano, Borough Engineer Vince DeNave, Council Liaison Jim Lonergan, 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.”

2012 RECREATION GOALS - OBJECTIVES - ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Goal: Alleviate drainage issues at Shepard Kollock
Objective:
Provide safe play area for our residents
Install drainage to increase field usage
Upgrade ball diamond areas to fulfill JIF guideline
Achievement:
Project put on hold until the spring of 2013 due to Hurricane.
2. Goal: Memorial Park/Pool
Objective:
Complete renovations of the current pool/park complex.
Achievement:
Project completed
3. Goal: Shared Services
Objective:
Continue to share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase some program offerings to sometime limited numbers.
Achievement:
Programs advertised that are available to our residents were communicated. Program offerings were offered to residents with children who had special needs – TryCan.

4. Goal: Provide new non-athletic program/activities
Objective:
Provide non-athletic activities to our residents – youth and adult.
Expand non-athletic recreational needs in community
Develop plan to initiate further new programs.
Achievement:
Goal postponed to 2013 due to changes with some current programs to “Club” status.
5. Goal Tennis Courts
Objective:
Provide safe play area for our residents
Evaluate court conditions for repair/renovation.
Achievement:
New gate fencing postponed until 2013 due to Hurricane timing with contractor.
6. Goal: Youth Drop In Activity Center
Objective:
Provide a safe location for the Middle School and High School youth to gather and socialize.
Open discussions with CAF.
Achievement:
Further discussions with Recreation Committee
7. Goal: Recreation Committee/Sub-Committees/Club Programs
Objective:
Assist with the growing needs of the recreation department
Update the Policy and Procedure Manual.
Develop a Recreation Master Plan.
Develop guidelines for each sub-committee.
Assist sport committees in the formation of independent clubs.
Achievement:
New “Clubs” will formulate their own bylaws/structure working within the resolution guidelines approved by each town.
8. Goal: Fields/Gyms
Objective:
Maximize space working with each season activity needs.
Continue a close relationship working with the school district.
Achievement:
Seasonal facility meetings are now held with representatives from each of the in-season activities to discuss, share and distribute space.

2013 RECREATION GOALS - OBJECTIVES

1. Goal: Complete drainage at Shepard Kollock
Objective:
 - Provide safe play area for our residents
 - Install drainage to increase field usage
 - Upgrade ball diamond areas to fulfill JIF guideline

2. Goal: Memorial Park Pool
Objective:
 - Maintain membership numbers
 - Expand pool committee
 - Continue new program offerings to members
 - Discuss extended pool hours
 - Investigate a swim team
 - Discuss swim lessons time/day options.
 - Provide an online registration system and member check in process.
 - Discuss options for shade in the picnic area
 - Increase ‘spirit wear’ options for additional income.
 - Work with area merchants

3. Goal: Shared Services
Objective:
 - Continue to share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase program offerings. Some smaller programs are more cost efficient when done as a group.

4. Goal: Athletic/Program enhancements
Objective:
 - Continue interface with the Chatham Athletic Foundation
 - Recommend areas for improvement
 - Continue to work with the school district regarding facilities

5. Goal: Tennis Courts
Objective:
 - Evaluate court conditions for repair/renovation.

6. Goal: Privatize activities
Objective:
 - Assist with the transition of the activities achieving “Club” status.

7. Goal: Fiscal reports
Objective:
 - Continue to maintain fiscal responsibility with all programs.
 - All recreation programs are to be self sustaining
 - Participant fees to continue to be deposited in a dedicated facility account.

