

Lesly Ferris, Director
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report
July 2015*

From the June monthly meeting:

- I ordered safety fabric for the two playgrounds.
- I sent home the summer concert series flyer through Kent Center School.
- There are four candidates for the After-School Program director position, and interviews will be July 13, starting at 6 p.m. I have put this on the agenda and hope to have a candidate to recommend to the commission.

From the director:

After-School Program: There are 10 families who have balances due the program for the school year that just ended. I am billing them weekly and have reminded them their children cannot participate in the program until these balances are paid in full. The program ended with an ice cream sundae party on June 18. I am attaching a cost analysis for the year. The program resumes Aug. 31. I have filled out the Kent Center School building usage form for the After-School Program's use of the school cafeteria.

Seniors: Social Services Director Leah Pullaro and I mailed and emailed the senior newsletter for July/August. There will be an AARP safe driving course offered in Kent on Sept. 16, and I have two registrations so far. The trip to the Katherine Hepburn Museum was very interesting and we had a nice lunch at Bill's in Westbrook where several groups sat outside. I have mailed out flyers for the July, August and September trips. This month we are visiting the Lockwood Matthews Mansion in Norwalk. The free Tai Chi and Pilobolus classes end this week at the senior center.

Budget: There likely are some funds remaining in the hourly salary line of the 2014-15 budget. The new fiscal year began July 1.

Parks: Thank you for the town crew for putting the sand in the one end of the swimming area at Emery Park and to the lifeguards who then moved and raked the sand across the beach. There was a problem with the electrical outlet at the swimming area which has been repaired. I have had reports that people have been playing tennis often at Kent Common Park. Park pass sales are ongoing at Emery Park as well as some at Town Hall.

Fee Programs: The Tang Soo Do classes are ongoing. Instructors Keith and Theresa emailed me a group photo from the most recent grading class, and I posted that on the Park and Recreation Facebook Page.

Baseball: There will be a tri-town (Cornwall, Kent and Sharon) summer Little League team with barely enough players to field a team but the team is moving forward and games begin next week. We did not have sufficient players interested in playing summer Babe Ruth baseball (from four towns) so that program is meeting but there are only five teams participating.

Regional Recreation directors: The rec directors will meet again in August to finalize details of fall soccer. Sharon Health Care has contacted us to set up a meeting to discuss the possibility of working cooperatively on some senior programming. We hope to meet with them in early September.

Summer Employees: Our staff is in place and overall working well. We have one volunteer counselor assisting at Camp Kent. We do have about 10 days when we will need some help with lifeguarding and have identified so far two people who can help with five of those days.

Summer Programs: The first session of basketball camp went well. A second week is planned Aug. 17-21. I now have four registrations for the film camp and heard about a couple more youngsters who will be registering so I am hopeful this program will take place. Camp Kent is finishing its second week (already). This week is celebrations week. The staff and campers have celebrated Halloween, everyone birthdays, beach luau day and tomorrow is Thanksgiving, which will feature a barbecue luncheon with campers sitting together at one long table. We did this last summer, and the campers mentioned this week how much fun they had.

Summer Concert Series: I have been putting the signs up in Town and will finish this by Monday. I have sent out a press release to area newspapers and to the Chamber which put it up on their website. I also have placed this on the Park and Recreation Facebook Page and our website and it appeared in the Town newsletter. I put on the agenda the food vendors so the commission can act on this. I did let the bands know that we will need an invoice from which the Chamber will pay them. I also ordered a port-o-let to have at Town Hall for those three weeks.

Looking ahead ...

- The Park and Recreation office will be closed July 10.

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