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RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2015

The following is an overview of the Recreation Commission park facilities, events and social, recreational and leisure programs for the year 2015. Highlights included in this report - Memorial Park improvements, completion of Cherry Blossom Park Project Phase I, Kenneth B. George Light Project, and the Automatic External Defibrillator Program discussions.

FACILITIES

Memorial Park

From the small picnic of a few to the 1500 to 2000 people at the 4th of July Fair, Memorial Park continues to be River Edge's center of social, recreational, and leisure activities for all ages. A clean park and maintenance is the priority for the continual use of this park and to the success and safety of our programs that use the parks.

With the ongoing improvements to Memorial Park that have been accomplished through Municipal and County Open Space funding along with the proceeds from the River Edge Run, there continues to be an increase in the use of Memorial Park by residents and town organizations. Always keeping the residents in mind, these renovations have made Memorial Park a functional, user friendly area of our community where all ages can experience recreational, leisure and cultural activities. It is hoped that in the future more senior activities can be scheduled in Memorial Park. The easy access to the park pavilion and bathrooms make the park a perfect spring, summer and fall location for social and leisure activities for the seniors of River Edge.

The maintenance and development of Memorial Park is an on-going process for the Recreation Commission.

As the wood fiber carpet that provides a safety surface under the playground structures has been accumulating over the years and over time has turned to dirt, the top six to eight inches of the large playground surface was removed and the area re-graded by Wogisch Landscape Contracting. A specific amount of wood fiber carpet surface under the playground structures is recommended by our Joint Insurance Fund. To accommodate this coverage, new wood fiber carpet was spread evenly throughout the area also by Wogisch Landscape Contracting and made possible by River Edge Open Space funds. The grass area between Continental and Web Avenue were completely aerated and seeding by Wogisch Landscape Contractors in the Fall.

The hand ball court perimeter surface replacement has been listed as a needed improvement for several years. Through the River Edge Open Space funds approved by the Mayor and Council in 2015, the work at this facility was completed in November of this year. The six foot concrete perimeter was installed by Downes Tree Service . The area around the handball courts is smooth and level. The courts will be enjoyed by the many residents who use this wall to play handball and improve their tennis skills throughout the year.

Through a Community Development Block Grant, the access to the Memorial Park bathrooms was brought up to ADA compliance standards along with the entrance to the Camp Office, allowing for ease of access. A new concrete surface now surrounds the entire front and south side of the camp building. In addition, the drainage from the roof now goes directly into the ground removing the tripping hazards of the leaders/downspouts.

The Commission has been asked by residents to keep the park bathrooms open for public use during the day and on the weekends. The Commission members are in agreement that the bathrooms should be open, with the unanswered questions of who will open and close the bathrooms and what days/hours should the bathrooms be opened. The Police Department have input in this decision. This subject will be discussed in early 2016 so that arrangements for the open-close of the facility and residents notified.

The park permits for the use of the picnic area, barbeques and pavilion continues to show high usage of the park, with over 5,000 residents granted written permission for use of the facilities between mid-May and October, mainly on the weekends. The fees collected for use of the park picnic area and pavilion are used for maintenance, equipment and trash receptacles for the park.

For the past several years, the Cultural Center has requested use of Memorial Park for the display of the Classic Car Show cars. The Commission has always accommodated the request for vendors in the park and use of the pavilion and bathrooms for the event. The Recreation Commission has always stood firm on the policy of no unauthorized cars in Memorial Park, which is clearly stated on the Memorial Park application and permits. Memorial Park is not a parking lot. In 2011 - the Commission was requested by the Mayor to allow a few cars on the pathway - up to five "dealer cars" as a test of park use. This compromise led to further requests and forced compromise of additional cars (10 in 2014) on the pathway to the 2015 request of allowing cars on the grass areas throughout the park. The Commission by motion and unanimous vote - approved the same details and location as the 2014 agreement -maximum ten cars located on the pathway near Continental Avenue. Memorial Park is not a parking lot. The Cultural Center representatives requested of the Mayor and Council once again for the Commission to cooperate with their 2015 request of cars parked on the grass areas throughout the park. The Mayor and Council deemed the responsibility and authority for the use of the park as that of the Recreation Commission. With a further Recreation Commission meeting appearance by the Cultural Center representatives, to pursue approval for their request, the Commission once again upheld the original decision - 10 Cars on the pathway located near Continental Avenue. Many hours of Commissioner time has been spent on discussion and meetings over this issue for several years. Memorial Park is not a parking lot.

Memorial Park Garden - Memorial Bench Program

As of the end of 2015, thirteen Victor Stanley benches located in Memorial Park have been memorialized to very special people. Victor Stanley benches will be installed in Cherry Blossom Park in Spring of 2016. These benches will be included in the Memorial Bench Program.

The Commission developed the Memorial Bench Program so that residents could remember a loved one or relative by donating a bench in their memory. The cast bronze plaque is made available through Crown Trophy of River Edge. The total current cost of the bench and plaque is \$1,500. As benches are purchased by residents, the funds are allocated to the Memorial Park Bench Program. The Memorial Bench Program was first promoted at River Edge Day in October, 2007.

Brookside Park

It appears that since removing the lower level basketball goals in 2014, the occurrence of maintenance issues and vandalism has subsided. At this time, the park has one set of standard level goals. The playground structures are well used by the toddler-aged children and benches supply areas for mothers to sit and watch their children. Even though this park is tucked away at the end of Greenway Terrace cul-de-sac, many neighborhood residents enjoy the amenities of this small park. Next year, additional wood fiber surface will be needed under the playground equipment. The Commission may want to also look at adding seating or a table (to replace the one that was destroyed by vandals) to this park in 2016, along with the standard height basketball goal.

Cherry Blossom Park - Phase I

In late July of 2014, the Borough received word that the Bergen County Freeholders had approved the application of the Bergen County Open Space Grant for the first phase development of the front two thirds of the property at 308 Bogert Road - Cherry Blossom Park. The first phase of the project included minor site clearing and fine grading, stone dust trail, link fencing, electric service for pole mounted lighting, irrigation upgrades and drainage.

The second phase of this project would include an entrance trellis/pergola, stone low wall at the front of the property, landscaping, benches, gazebo, outdoor classroom, storage shed for garden equipment and trash bins.

The funds for the engineering portion of the project were made available in late December 2014 at which time ppd, Inc was awarded the contract for these professional services with anticipated construction in July-August of 2015

During Spring of 2015, the Commission reviewed and approved the site plan and form of proposal for the project. The Mayor and Council reviewed the plans and bid specifications on April 6th and April 20th and approved going out to bid on May 4th.

Bids were received on June 9th. On June 15th, by resolution, the Mayor and Council rejected the one bid - (\$122,250.00 for the base bid) which exceeded the funding available for this project. On Monday July 6, 2015, the Mayor and Council approved

going back out to bid with revisions to the base bid- specifically placement of the fencing as an alternate. The project bid was advertised on Friday July 10th with a bid opening on July 28th.

The Mayor and Council approved the award of contract for the base bid items to Downes Tree Service for the amount of \$113,200 at the August 3rd meeting. Funds available for this project - \$104,000.- The Mayor and Council allocated funds, by resolution, from 2015 unallocated River Edge Open Space - in the amount of \$23,000 - allowing for the award of contract and additional funds for the project if needed. The approved total funding for the project - \$127,000.

A pre-construction meeting was held on August 10th and construction began the week of August 23rd. Three change orders were submitted for the project, one of which was the cost of re-locating twenty-five trees from the tree farm at the east end of the park and three Cherry Trees - all of which will bloom in the Spring. Allocated funds covered these change orders. The project was completed on October 16th. Formal opening of Chery Blossom Park will be scheduled for Spring of 2016.

Cherry Blossom Park - Phase II

Phase II offers a chance for the community to put the exclamation point on the project. The primary function of this next phase is to further the infrastructure and security enhancements starting with the installation of chain link fencing which will be black vinyl coated to make it blend with the surroundings. In addition, stand-alone solar powered security lighting is proposed for the site. The fixtures will utilize LED technology, which offer the latest in low energy demand coupled with long lasting light source. The fixtures will run on batteries during nighttime operation and will enable the lights to operate during low solar interludes.

Plans are to complete the irrigation system in this next phase through the installation of zoned areas and addition of heads and valves as needed. To complete the base items will be the installation of a planned accessible parking area and modified route of travel.

The next group of features add interest - starting with a diversified and complimentary landscaping, which includes a variety of plant material with the intent to utilize a small portion of the adjacent nurseries stock. A focal point is planned in the upper area of the site through the construction of a low maintenance Gazebo.

The gateway to the site is intended to be framed by trellis/ pergola to add interest as you enter the site from the Bogert Road area. Further enhancements include a sitting wall designed so a portion of the elementary age children will be able to rest along a portion of the frontage of the site.

The plan is to marry Phases I and II into a unified cohesive park facility to enable the community to enjoy the amenities. The Phase II components are intended to create an atmosphere of completeness, for Cherry Blossom Park, for years to come.

An educational - learning stone arena style seating area is listed as a potential future project item. The Director suggested that the funding of this outdoor classroom could possibly be a fundraising project by the school children or the School PTO.

The Mayor and Council approved the application for the Bergen County Open Space Grant for an amount of \$70,000 - which is to be matched by the Borough (\$70,000). The application was submitted to the County on September 2nd, 2015. The Borough received a letter from the County explaining that there is a lack of funds for the 2015 requests for Bergen County Open Space and the requested that the Borough reduce the scope of work, rescind the project or fully commit to the funding of the project if grant funds were not received as requested. The Mayor and Council are to respond to that letter. Notification of grant fund amount approval will most likely be in June or July of 2016.

Kenneth B. George Park

The maintenance of this facility which includes the fields, lighting, fencing and storage and concession stand is key to the success of the following programs: River Edge Amateur Baseball League, River Edge Girls Athletic League Softball, River Edge Men's Softball, River Edge Women's Softball, River Dell Soccer, River Dell Jr. Lacrosse, River Dell Junior Football and the River Dell Freshman Baseball Team. These programs start the last week in March and run through the first week of November and involve over twelve hundred resident youth and adult participants in addition to the local spectators and visiting teams.

KBG Light Project

The funding of the 8% contingency for project construction (\$27,720) was approved by the Mayor and Council through the 2015 River Edge Open Space. In July of this year, the Mayor and Council accepted the 2014 Open Space Grant award contract from Bergen County in the amount of \$54,320 for the Kenneth B. George Field Lighting Replacement Project. The actual funds requested for the Bergen County Open Space application was \$172,000. The following is a summary of the funding available for the construction only, as of year end 2015:

2013 Open Space --\$36,363, 2014 Open Space -\$36.363, 2015 Open Space - \$27,720, Capital Res #180-\$100,000 Bergen County Open Space- \$54,320 To date Construction Funding totals \$254,766. In addition, engineering, permit, geotechnical funds of \$63,000 have been encumbered from capital-engineering and held in reserve for ppd, Inc.

Based on the Bergen County contract - the Borough has until late 2017 to complete the project. The geotechnical study to determine footings and the process of required permits (which may take time) will begin in early 2016. Tom Miller, ppd, Inc, approved engineer for the project submitted and received approval of the proposal for the scope of work to begin the permit process, the geotechnical process and the engineer plans. Musco Lighting Representative Bob Zoeller updated the project quote estimate for use in the budget and bid process. The Keystone Purchasing Network (cooperative purchasing) application was approved by the Mayor and Council and will be used for the bid process. Representative, Bob Zoeller submitted a quote proposal for the Green Light System and an LED system which is new in the lighting market. The LED lamp estimate is \$100,000 more

than the HID lamp estimate. The LED lamps do have excellent light spillage and glare and a 10 year guarantee light levels versus a 25 year guarantee of light levels with the HID Green Light System. At this time, the Green Light HID System is considered a better choice and is more cost effective for the budget.

The updated Musco quote proposal of \$305,000 is based on normal soil conditions. Due to the location near the river and potential soil issues, the need for special footings will not be known until after the geotechnical study is completed. These footings, if needed will increase the cost of the project and the budget request for 2016. The Commission will use the proposed estimate of \$305,000 plus an additional \$40,000 (special footings cost estimate) as the estimated amount to complete the project. The results of the geotechnical research to determine the depth and requirement of special footings for each pole location will determine the final budget request. During the 2016 budget process, the Commission requested an amount of \$100,000 to complete the funding for the project.

Little League Fields - Hockey Rink - Basketball Court Area

Through a successful maintenance program over the past few years including a service contract with Tru-Lawn for lawn treatment, the Little League fields have been kept at an excellent level of safety for the players. The River Edge Little League Baseball has requested that repairs be made on the fencing. This request and quote proposal was discussed by the Commission and determined that it would qualify for an Open Space request in 2016. In addition, Little League proposed to renovate the Memorial Field dugouts which were detailed in the quote submitted to the Commission. This project will also be submitted for the 2016 River Edge Open Space.

As reported in last year's annual report, the basketball court has a rather large crack running east west across the courts that had been repaired five years ago. As it may be considered a tripping hazard and needs filling and surface coating, the Commission requested and received approval in the 2015 Open Space Funding to make the repairs. The timing of this work will be in early 2016 when use is at a minimum.

The hockey rink is in need of repairs to some of the boards and doorway. The same large crack from the basketball court continues west into the hockey rink. The repair of this surface crack and other cracks was listed as a 2016 project in the Five Year Plan although the rather costly funding was not allocated.

The Commission will need to review the use of the Hockey Court and future repairs to the boards and doors and surface.

EVENTS

River Edge Run

The Recreation Commission sponsored the very successful 34th Annual River Edge Run on Saturday, April 18th. The total 5k finishers numbered 580 with a record 219 Healthwalk participants and 380 Fun Runners!! The River Edge Run Event has become a very well-known and respected race event. All proceeds benefit our River Edge Parks.

Without the assistance of the River Edge Volunteer Ambulance Service, Police Department, Police Reserves, Volunteer Fire Department, the Commission would not be able to provide the secure environment that is necessary when over 600 people are running the streets of River Edge in the 5k race not to mention the close to 400 Fun Run participants and over 200 Healthwalk participants. With our residents volunteers, school district volunteers along with our generous business community support, this truly a River Edge Community Event.

Our 2015 Major Sponsors were River Edge Diner, Feiler Dental Associates, Total Wine and More, Riverside Oral Surgery, Applebee's, River Edge Family Dental, Parkway Toyota, Optimum Orthopedics Physical Therapy and Sports Rehabilitation and TD Bank.

The Healthwalk event which is sponsored by the River Edge Alliance Against Drugs received \$2, 530 from the proceeds, thanks to the 219 walkers who participated in the event. These proceeds go to assist the Alliance Programs and supplies. The Fun Run Event was once again sponsored by the River Edge Elementary School District with approximately 380 runners. Each fun runner receives a t-shirt prior to the event and a medal when crossing the finish line.

The partnership with the Foundation for Melonoma Research in memory and in honor of resident, Steve Farrell, continues to benefit both the event and the foundation with participants running and walking for a great cause. The number of participants from the REGAL Runners grows each year in addition to groups running in honor of loved ones not to mention that more people find that running as an inexpensive way of staying fit and healthy.

The Commission is always looking to service the runners and make improvements to the events where needed.

For the past five years, the Recreation Commission has discussed the need to offer on-line registration which is the way most run events and runners are currently registering. In November, the Recreation Commission requested approval from the Mayor and Council by resolution to use online services for the registration of the River Edge Run, Healthwalk and Fun Run events. The Commission justified this online service to the Mayor and Council by stating the on-line will ease the process of registering for the participant and will eliminate the paperwork, errors due to unreadable penmanship, cost of mailing of applications and processing of over 900 pre-registration paper forms. In addition, day of race registration of over 400 participants will be less chaotic as more runners sign up on-line prior to the event.

After extensive research, the Recreation Commission determined that they preferred the professional services of Runsignup.com. Runsignup.com does not require a contract or fee from the event management- fees are paid by the participant at the time of registration. Daily deposits are made and customized reports are generated daily. The Mayor and Council approved the on-line registration for the run events in December. Alan Negreann

was instrumental in providing the support and information needed for the Borough Recreation Commission to contract with runsignup.com for the online service for the 2016 Run events.

The 2016 River Edge Run Event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd.

Easter Egg Hunt

The number of young children in River Edge is very evident when it comes to this special event. This year was no exception with Memorial Park full of happy children and parents!

The Easter Egg Hunt is co-sponsored by the Recreation Commission and the Junior Women's Club and has traditionally been held on the Saturday before the Easter Weekend. The Junior Women's Club handles the organization and management of the event and has done an outstanding job for the past several years with the financial support coming from the Recreation Commission's operating budget – special events. Each year the members of the Junior Women's Club add special activities to the event to make the experience not just hunting for eggs!!

Halloween Parade

The Recreation Commission sponsored the Halloween Parade in Memorial Park on the traditional date of Saturday before Halloween.

The 2015 parade was well attended with approximately 300 participants. Children in their costumes and some parents in costumes, lined up and walked through the park pathways collecting their treats from the stations manned by Recreation Commissioners and a few confirmation candidates. For the second year, the entertainment under the pavilion was provided by Melody and Presley - a Hootin' Halloween Musical Interactive Entertainment which again was enjoyed by all ages including the parents. Refreshments were provided by and served by Commission members. The funds for this event come from the Recreation Commission operating fund – special events.

Holiday Lighting Ceremony

This ceremony has taken place in front of the Borough Hall and inside the Firehouse #1 since Mayor Moscaritolo suggested the location in 2012. Residents gathered in front of the Library where they were met by Mayor Moscaritolo, Councilman Mignon and Councilwoman Busted, Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph and led by the River Dell Marching Band from the Library to the Boro Hall. The River Edge Girls Scouts sang Holiday carols down "Tenney Lane" to the Borough Hall and also entertained at the ceremony. The River Del Marching Band then performed their halftime show and a few holiday songs. Mayor Moscaritolo welcomed the residents, announced the turning on of the holiday lights on the specially decorated tree in at the front lawn of the Borough Hall and the arrival of Santa on the beautifully decorated fire truck. Hot Chocolate and cookies were served by the Recreation Commission, in the Fire House, which was decorated with Santa's corner for the children to visit and for picture taking. Fire Chief Greg Cariddi and several of the volunteer firemen, were very helpful in setting up the Fire House for the event to accommodate all the residents, who enjoyed the warmth of the indoors. Characters from the North Pole and the supplies for the event were provided by funds from the operating budget – special events.

PROGRAMS

Summer Playground Program 2015

Overall, the 2015 Summer Playground Program accomplished the goal of providing recreation, social and leisure activities in a safe environment for the children of River Edge. The number of participants has been steady over the past five years. By grade – Kindergarten – 45 (58*), 1st grade – 64 (44*), 2nd grade – 52 (43*), 3rd grade – 41 (45*), 4th grade-37 (35*), 5th grade 38 (45*), sixth grade –53 (50*) for a total enrollment of 330 children (320-2014*). Our program allows a child to be outdoors, to socialize on a fun and creative level and just play with classmates and friends in a safe semi-structured setting. That is the real purpose of the program. Many parents complimented the program and staff and stated their children could not wait to come to camp each morning! It was a good five weeks!!

Of the fifty-two counselors that were hired this year, thirty counselors returned from the 2014 staff. The state requirement to pay the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.25 per hour to seasonal employees, starting in 2014, helped to maintain the trained staff with a higher commitment to return rate from previous years.

Dore Ann Minervinni-Zimmerman, our Camp Director, for the sixth year, was again excellent in her leadership, counselor management and parent relations. She continues to handle her responsibilities in a very professional manner, managing the over 50 staff members, 330 children and the parents. Dore also coordinated the day long training of the staff which includes: guidelines and expectations, calendar and special days, first Aid, attendance, rotations, clean up responsibilities, viewing of Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund recommended training videos- Bully Prevention at Camp; Playground Safety for Camp Counselors; Trip and Transportation Safety; Bus Trips.

In addition, the distribution of camper Lists, introduction of Unit Leaders, distribution of calling list which takes place at the Borough Hall Court Room. The staff then moves to Memorial Park-where group locations and facility safety is covered , along with creating activity charts for age groups (Unit Leader Lead), coordinate name tags, bins and t-shirts for the 330 campers. The staff then focuses on instruction of recreation and sport activities for the campers and ice breaker games.

Assistant Camp Director, Brad Segal, in his second year, continued his excellent hands-on high energy approach with the recreation games, tournaments, sport contests and special programs of which he was in charge. Brad continues to be a terrific addition to the staff and has a good working relationship with the counselors.

New this year to the staff, Annamarie Richter was hired as our Arts and Crafts Director. Annamarie is an art teacher with experience dealing with children of our camp age groups. She did an excellent job of coordinating the arts and crafts program for camp and worked very well with the counselors, as the counselors need to be hands-on for the learning process of each project. We look forward to Annamarie's return next year.

Anna Collard, was hired this year to be in charge of monitoring the bus trips, which she handled professionally with great results. With her ten years of teaching experience, she

was of invaluable assistance wherever she was needed during the camp session. Anna has music and dance experience and would like to introduce these activities to the camp program next year.

The 2015 Camp Fee of \$170.00 per participant covered all costs of the camp program including all staff, equipment, on-site entertainment arts and crafts supplies, special theme day supplies and crossing guard expenses. No funding is received from the Borough budget for this Playground Program. Trips are an additional fee for the participant which includes the bus transportation and entertainment.

It is suggested that an early drop-off program for the parents that need such a service, be discussed and developed for implementation in 2016. The recommended drop-off would be at 8:30am - under the pavilion with supervision until camp starts at 9:00am. As the Grace Lutheran Church has a pre-camp drop-off service starting at 7:00am for parents who work, the Borough Camp would not have to provide an earlier time slot than 8:30am. A fee will need to be established and a supervisor hired for that half hour. Additionally, a zero tolerance policy will be reviewed by the Commission for inclusion in the parent letter. These subjects are to be discussed in early 2016.

An overview of the Playground Program

The program hours remained the same as previous years - 9:00am to 12:00noon, Monday through Friday for five weeks and continues to be the best formula for success.

The Playground Program provides a place for children to be children, to play, socialize and have fun with established friends and to make new friends. The playground staff priority continues to be the safety and security of the children. Counselors are assigned children for whom they are responsible every day and at all times during the program. The parents are required to bring their child into the park for check-in with the child's designated counselor and at that check-in, an ID badge is clipped to the child's t-shirt.

The use of colored River Edge Recreation t-shirts for each grade level is an additional measure to further the safety and security of our playground program children. The counselors continue to wear the bright yellow staff shirts, which once again are visible from afar and children and parents know that these are staff members in the park. At the end of camp, the parent or designated (in writing) guardian is required to come into the park and checkout the child with the designated counselor. This system has worked for the last nine years and will remain in affect. To secure the safety of the children and parents, crossing Continental Avenue, the Commission through the Police Department hires a crossing guard who is stationed at the entrance of the park near the Ambulance Service building. This additional security measure has been extremely successful and relieved much of the congestion along Continental Avenue at the morning drop-off and noon pick-up from the park.

In addition to the daily activities, our special programs included musical-dancing entertainment with camper participation, ice skating at the Ice House for 4th - 6th grade; face painting day for all children, obstacle course, field day relays, varied theme days including Olympics Day, the popular counselor carnival, Bergen Batting Cages trip, bowling at Bowler City in Hackensack and for the Kindergarten - 2nd - Bounce U in Paramus. A separate fee is charged for all activities outside of the park.

USA Sport Institute – Camps and Programs

This institute is a professional sports provider that has worked with the Recreation Commission for the past ten years. US Sports Institute is at the forefront of providing quality sports camps and programs, working with community based organizations. The institute enables each camper to grow in an atmosphere that promotes integrity, self-esteem, positive values and good sportsmanship. The

Commission has had a great experience and success with this turnkey operation which provides a variety of sports programming for all ages and ability levels to our resident children. Beginning with the

Spring break camp, the offerings then continued into the eight- week spring programs offered from mid-April to mid- June including: Total Sports Squirts (age 3 to 5); Soccer Squirts (age 3 to 5); T-ball Squirts (age 3 to 5); Parent and Me: Total Sports Squirts (age 2 to 3).

The programs listed above were offered again in August as well as the Multi-Sports Program for 5-7 and 7-14 age group which offers an opportunity to experience fifteen sports in a positive, low pressure educational environment. Golf Camp was offered in the summer for the squirts and for the 5-12 year olds.

The staff of the USA Sport Group is fully qualified and each coach is an inspiring role model for our children. Many compliments have been received from parents and grandparents whose children have enjoyed the US Sport Institute camps.

A user fee of \$10 per registered participant is received by the Commission from US Sports Group at the end of each camp which is deposited in the Park and Field Maintenance Trust Fund.

At the end of the year, the Associate Director of the US Sport Institute took the time and effort to sit with the Recreation Director to review the participation numbers of each camp and parent comments for each of the 2015 programs and to plan future programming based on this past year's experiences.

Looking forward to 2016, the Commission will continue the US Sports camp offerings during the spring, summer and fall with a full complement of classes.

Adult Basketball - Volleyball – Soccer

The Men's Basketball, co-ed Volleyball and co-ed Soccer programs are available to River Edge residents on a drop-in basis with a no-fee registration-waiver /release form required. These programs are held at the River Dell Middle School gym. The programs have run smoothly for many years and at no cost to the borough. Volleyball is played on Monday evenings, Men's Basketball on Tuesdays and Soccer on Wednesday evenings from November through May. Each night the programs run from 9:00pm to 10:30pm. A volunteer for each program; Laura Goff – volleyball, Bill Hamilton –basketball, Chris Ilg – soccer -monitors the registration and the management of the program for the Recreation Commission.

The Women's Basketball Program has been in existence for the past four years and is held at the Roosevelt School old gym – once a week – usually Thursdays from 7:30- 9:00pm. Also on a drop-in basis with a no-fee registration-waiver /release form required with a volunteer monitor, this program runs at no cost to the borough.

Adult Softball

The Men's Softball Program has been in existence for thirty-three years. The program has been managed by Jim Conway for the past sixteen years. The men's softball program is a very popular adult activity with one hundred nineteen residents registering this year. Men's Softball is offered to residents, twenty-five years of age and older. Games are played during the week usually on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays starting the middle of April and ending with playoffs, usually the first week of August. The annual cookout for these games is very popular and very much appreciated by the players and their families. The Fall Men's Softball League managed by Jimmy Teehan for the past seven years, carries the same requirements as the spring/ summer league.

The schedule for the games this varied somewhat from the regular Tuesday- Wednesdays Thursdays schedule. The program starts in August with playoffs that last week of October. Ninety-one residents participated in the Fall Softball Program in 2015.

The Women's Softball Program which was started in 2005 was managed by Kathy Mitchell this year with fifty-nine residents participating this past season. The teams play during the months of late June, July and August primarily on Friday nights. The playoffs are scheduled for the last week of August.

Tennis

The River Edge Tennis courts located behind the Public Library are for River Edge residents' use. The courts were re-constructed in 2010 and as a result there has been an increase in use by our residents. The lock system which requires a pass code to enter the courts has resulted in additional memberships and funding to maintain the courts. The pass code will be changed annually and if needed, semi-annually.

The tennis membership requires a River Edge Tennis Photo ID badge and membership fee of \$35 for an individual and \$55 for a family available through the Recreation Department. These funds are allocated to the maintenance, supplies and equipment for the Tennis Courts

The Mayor and Council approved the removal of the trees on the west side of the tennis courts after many meetings and discussions over the safety hazard and the liability to the Borough due to the droppings of these trees onto the new courts. The trees were removed and new ones planted by the Shade Tree Commission. There has been a dramatic decrease of maintenance issues since the removal of the trees. In addition, the Commission hired a firm specializing in power-washing of tennis courts paid for partially by the Tennis Court membership and Open Space. The results were extremely positive - with the surface looking brand new.

Tennis Clinics for residents 6 years and older are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm to dusk beginning in April with spring, summer and fall sessions. The clinics have been managed by Barry Ruback for the past twenty-four years and have continually been filled with participants for each of the sessions of spring, summer and fall.

A user fee of \$10 per participant each clinic session is added to the registration fee. These funds are allocated to the maintenance, supplies and equipment for the Tennis Courts.

Senior Programming

Although many of the casino bus trips and holiday bus participants are senior citizens, the director suggests that the Recreation Commission offer Memorial Park for senior activities in the spring and summer afternoons. A senior day in the park in coordination with the Health, Police, Fire, Ambulance, Alliance Against Drugs and the Library - offering a light lunch under the pavilion may be the start of future outdoor activities. The SCORE Organization is revamping their group and looking to offer more to their members as well. By co-sponsoring this senior day in the park, the Recreation Commission and other groups will have an opportunity to reach out to this senior group of residents who may have ideas as to what-in-park activities in which they would like to participate. The bus trips are very costly and low participation causes loss of funds at each trip. The Commission does not have special trip funding for seniors.

Bus Trips

Saddle River Tours has provided the Recreation Commission with superior bus service for the past twenty-three years. The busses have been very clean and in superb, new condition. The drivers have been extremely courteous and very capable in all driving aspects- from on time pick-up to safe driving to delivery and return.

The Recreation Commission sponsored two casino bus trips this year - both to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The March Casino Trip was a great success with forty-four participants. The September Casino trip worked out well with fifty-two participants. All costs for both of these trips were covered (including the transportation and refreshments) by the participant fee of \$30 each. The bus trip participants enjoy the Sands Casino due to the options of gambling or shopping at the outlet mall right inside the casino building plus the drive is only one and a half hours versus two and a half for Atlantic City. The bus trip participants were surveyed for their opinion of trips to Atlantic City versus Bethlehem and the overwhelming response was for the Sands in Bethlehem. The Commission continues to keep the cost of the trips at \$30 which in most cases covers the cost of the bus depending on the number of participants.

In conjunction with the Friends of the Library and the Cultural Center, the Recreation Commission sponsored a bus trip to the Cloisters Museum and Gardens in NYC. Jennifer Kelemen, Adult Programs Coordinator for the Library, organized and promoted the event including a Medieval Art talk by Michael Norris at the River Edge Library and lunch (bring your own) at the library with a guided tour of the Museum by Mr. Norris. Funds for the tour and admission were paid for by the Friends of the Library and Cultural Center. The Recreation Commission handled the registration and fee collection and bus arrangements. The day was lovely and enjoyed by all. The number of participants (19) did not cover the cost of the bus and resulted in loss of funds for the Commission. It is understood that it is difficult for seniors to plan ahead and pay a fee without refund for bus trips. However, the Commission cannot continue to lose money without supplement funding from the Borough. The cost of the bus is becoming unaffordable for bus trips for this group.

In late June, the Commission organized a Mets Baseball game bus trip for a second year in a row. The game package included a ticket (section 140), a Keith Hernandez Baseball Hat and a David Wright T- Shirt plus transportation- all for \$43.00. To keep the cost down, the

transportation was through First Student Bus Company - yellow bus, arranged by our Chairman, Jimmy Teehan. All forty tickets were sold. Everyone had a great time. The Commission looks forward to another MLB game - possibly with the Yankees in 2016!

In October, the Commission sponsored tickets to the Army-Duke Football Game at Mitchie Stadium. The offer was for the group ticket seating with no transportation. The Commission purchased and sold forty tickets for the event. Those attending enjoyed the game and the beautiful West Point location, although it was a big loss for Army that day!

In December, the Commission sponsored a Holiday Tour bus trip to New York City to view the Holiday sites with a professional guided tour. The bus toured all over mid-town Manhattan to locations of famous buildings, events and holiday lights and sites. This tour was excellent and the tour guide was extremely good at his trade - very informative. The Commission charged only \$40 which covered the bus and guide- all were asked to bring a snack with them on the bus. A stop at Grand Central Station allowed for the use of the facilities and the ability to get some refreshments.

Central Athletic Council

The River Edge Central Athletic Council is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of promoting our youth sports, which are organized and operated under the authority of the Recreation Commission. The Council consists of the presidents of the sports leagues or programs - River Dell Soccer Association, Little League Baseball, Jr. Baseball, REGAL basketball, REGAL softball, Jr. Wrestling, Roller Hockey, Jr. Football, Cheerleading and Boys Basketball, all of whom are trustees with voting rights. The Recreation Commission Director and Chairman are non-voting trustees. The Central Athletic Council as an incorporated entity is in its tenth year of existence. The CAC meets in January of each year to re-organize, to review policy and to discuss topics that are coming up for the current year. Additional meetings are scheduled based on need.

CAC- Major Topic of discussion in 2015 - Automated External Defibrillator

After many AED Committee meetings and discussions in 2014, the year ended with a standstill due to the lack of a legal opinion for the purchase and use of AED's. In early 2015, the Executive Director of New Jersey Recreation and Parks reported during a Bergen District Meeting, that an AED policy was under review by the State which would require all athletic fields to have an AED with a three minute response time. She reported that the NJRPA does not agree with the policy under consideration. Our Borough Attorney submitted his opinion referencing that a new law is under consideration. The Attorney's opinion at this time, recommended that all volunteers be certified in CPR/AED if the units were purchased and made available on the recreation fields. Many questions still remained unanswered and positions on this issue varied.

The Trustees of the Central Athletic Council were asked to attend the July Recreation Commission meeting to review the current status of the AED Committee findings, the Bill #3500 and prepare for a meeting with the Mayor and Council to present the status of the AED program. In attendance AED CAC Trustees from REGAL, River Dell Soccer, River Dell Jr. Wrestling, River Dell Jr. Football, River Dell Lacrosse, River Dell Lacrosse and River Edge Little League. The Recreation Director reported on the current information that was available from New Jersey Parks and Recreation. Pam Griffin, Executive Director of New Jersey Parks and Recreation.

Current Law - provides immunity only for those who are trained in CPR and AED - anyone who is an employee or volunteer is not protected if they are not trained. The Entity is immune if the person is trained. A lay person - not trained is not immune. New Bill #3500- requires an AED on hand at all practices and games. All Volunteer Coaches are covered under the Good Samaritan Law and do not have to be trained. Do not need training to use AED.

The Governor had signed other bills in the past month but not Bill # 3500 to date - The Governor has 45 days (August 15th) to sign (or respond to the bill- revise- veto or act) by the time the Assembly comes back in session. The NJRPA lobbyist is also working closely watching the progression and reporting back to NJRPA.

Chairman Jim Teehan stated that there were six points that need to be address: locations of AED's, storage/signage, cost of unit and box (with alarm), training, maintenance and procedures. Although the Committee received an opinion from our Borough Attorney, until there is better direction via the approval of legislation, it is difficult to move forward. In order to be prepared for the state mandate, the location of the AED's was determined to initially be : Roosevelt Field, Cherry Hill Field, KBG Field, River Dell Middle School Field*, River Dell High School Filed*, Tennis Courts and Camp Office. Total of (8) eight AED's. (* These may (or may not) be portable and take with AED's depending on facility and approvals). Use of the AED's in the school facilities was questioned as the indoor programs should have access to these units. With regard to funding, J. Teehan asked if the leagues would be able to pay for the AED units. Generally the consensus was yes but ownership and liability of use was a concern. It was discussed that the units could be donated by the leagues to the Borough if purchased by a league. A resident may want to donate an AED unit, once they hear of the program. The cost of the maintenance of the units and responsibility of maintenance was discussed. J. Teehan asked whether the CAC Leagues would be willing to allocate a portion of the Field Use Fee to the maintenance of the units. The general response from the CAC representatives was positive. No decisions were made with regard to purchase, maintenance, responsibility of maintenance or training. There is a concern that coaches will not volunteer if required to take the CPR/AED training. J. Teehan stated that the meeting with the Mayor and Council is to inform the members of the progress to date by the Recreation Commission and Central Athletic Council on the AED issue, so that they are aware that both parties have been working together to try to come up with a solution. Although the Bill #3500 has yet to be signed, the Commission and Council can be prepared to move forward depending on the outcome of the Bill. The AED presentation to the Mayor and Council was tabled on August 3rd, after the long closed session and wait by Commission members and CAC members. The Mayor stated that the Recreation Commission and Central Athletic Council Trustees would be invited back for the AED presentation once Bill # 3500 is signed and becomes official. At the October Recreation Commission meeting, it was reported that the Governor had not signed the Bill

#3500. The Director provided information from Life Saver which included CPR/AED course costs of \$45.00 per person with fifteen or more in class or \$60 for less than nine in class. Life Saver also sells the AED units and accessories and a maintenance contract. Commissioner Krauthem provided AED product information from Team Life Inc of Colts Neck NJ for Commission review. The Commission discussed that purchase would be a capital request and maintenance could possibly come from the PPFM Trust Account.

In November, the Commission received and reviewed an email from New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association Public Affairs Committee regarding the AED Legislation status and the attached "Governor Christie- returning Assembly Bill No. 3500 (Third Reprint) without my approval" for the Legislative update. The AED legislation was not signed into law and the current law stays in affect.

After months of discussion, the Recreation Commission members concurred that they are not opposed to the AED purchase but that there must be a full commitment from the Central Athletic Council Leagues and a policy of protocols must be in place. As a result, the Commission members requested of the Central Athletic Council Leagues, a thorough discussion and determination as to the commitment and investment by the leagues of the CAC to an AED Program. This discussion is to take place at the annual Central Athletic Council meeting to be scheduled in January. If it is determined by the full membership of the Central Athletic Council Leagues to commit to an AED Program of use, a recommended policy regarding the purchase, use, training and accessibility of AED's is to be developed by the Central Athletic Council and presented to the

The Recreation Director has special event responsibilities that are not part of the Recreation Commission Director's scope of work.

These events are:

4th of July Celebration -River Edge Day - Mayor's Volunteer Day- Employees Appreciation Luncheon

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY BOBBI CONWAY - RECREATION DIRECTOR