Caretaker House Demolition: June 2019

At one point, the Caretaker House at Patriots Park was the Salvation Army Camp Director’s residence, which for many years housed several folks that served as Caretakers of the park. Since eliminating the Caretaker Position several years ago, the building sat vacant with little commercial or residential interest due to the existing conditions of the interior, which were poor at best. A home inspection, conducted in 2016 by The Best Home Inspection LLC, identified all existing conditions requiring service. Cost estimates were acquired and the consensus was that the building would be too costly to renovate.

In September of 2018, the Town Council requested a recommendation from the Recreation Commission, so that they could move forward and budget funds for either demolition, or renovation. The Commission revisited the building inspection conducted in 2016, and as a result, voted unanimously to that the Caretaker House be demolished.

As the first step toward developing a long-range plan for Town facilities, to best meet the needs of the community. The Town Council held a Public Hearing on January 22, 2019. The Town Council subsequently approved the demolition of the Caretaker House. The demolition was carried out during the week of June 17th, 2019.
CIRMA Risk Management Award Recipient!

On January 25th, 2019 Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) presented Coventry’s Parks and Recreation Department with its Excellence in Risk Management Award, including a $2,500 Excellence in Risk Management Grant, in the category of Sustained Risk Management Programs.

David Demchak, President and CEO of CIRMA, said, “CIRMA commends the Coventry Parks and Recreation Department for their ongoing commitment to put the safety of youth athletes first. Their efforts are an excellent example of how leadership, organizational commitment plus action equals continued success.”

With the funding received through his award, we were able to host “An Intimate Evening with Bob Bigelow” on April 10th 2019, at the CHS Lecture Hall. Mr. Bigelow is a former NBA Player and Author of “Youth Sports: Still Failing Our Kids & How to Really Fix It.” This program was offered in conjunction with Coventry Youth Baseball Association, Coventry Youth Basketball, Coventry Youth Football, Coventry Soccer Inc., and Coventry Youth Softball.
Disc Golf @ Creaser Park:
The Coventry Parks & Recreation Department is installing Phase 1 of an 18-hole disc golf course in Creaser Park. Phase 1 includes holes 1-9 and a practice hole. It is the easier, family friendly portion of the course, mainly on flat lands starting in the general area of the main entrance and parking area. The back 9 (Phase Two) will be more difficult as it is mostly along the trails deep in the wooded areas of the park. The project was included in the 2015 Capital Improvement Plan, with LOCIP as the funding source. We made the decision to wait until the DEEP lease was renewed, which expired in Nov. 2017. We received permission from CT DEEP in May of 2018 to move forward. We engaged the services of Disc Gold Professional Designer Karl Molitoris, a champion Disc Golfer and Course Designer, who most recently designed the Nichols Field course in East Haddam.

Many disc golf aficionados have volunteered in many ways to assist. DPW installed the first 3 tees and are currently planning to finish up by fall of 2019.

Softball Field Planning Committee:
Newly appointed by Town Council in FY19, this committee is facilitated by Parks & Recreation with the following charge:

1. The Committee shall review existing Town and other potential land available and conducive to construction of or modification to a softball field.
2. Consider location, access, neighborhood impact, soil conditions, site preparation requirements, water supply and drainage, expected level of maintenance and amount of intensity of use.
3. Assess current sports field use and possible ways to accommodate softball through necessary improvements.
4. Select several options with cost estimates for review.
5. Review options to satisfy the Softball Association’s fundraising and food service needs.

Silver Anniversary of Coventry Soccer @ Laidlaw Park:

Coventry Soccer Inc., in conjunction with Parks & Recreation, held a 25th Anniversary Celebration of soccer at Laidlaw Park, on Sunday, May 19th.

The event was originally scheduled for October 2018, but was postponed until Spring 2019, due to weather. Representatives from CSI Soccer, the Parks & Recreation Commission and Town Council spoke to the history of both Laidlaw Park and its namesake, James Laidlaw. Coventry Soccer has used Park since the soccer fields were built back in the mid-1990’s. Many thanks to CSI Soccer for their work on this event and their continued support of youth sports here in Coventry.

We Are A NAYS Award Winner!

Coventry Parks & Recreation has been awarded the Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider designation by the National Alliance for Youth Sports. This designation demonstrates that Coventry Parks and Recreation Department has taken steps to ensure a safe, quality playing environment for children, by proving it meets key requirements in five categories: Written Policies and Procedures; Volunteer Screening; Coach Training; Parent Education; and Accountability.
## NEW Event Spotlight: Arts on Main

2018 marked the inaugural Arts on Main event, held as a collaboration between the Coventry Village Partners and Town of Coventry in conjunction with our many sponsors. Held on Sunday, August 26th, visitors were treated to FREE music performances; kids activities including face painting & balloon art; arts and crafts vendors; and a David Hayes sculpture showcase, to name a few.

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## 2018-2019 Program Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>Afterschool</th>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Basketball</th>
<th>Aquatics</th>
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## Camp Enrollment: Year to Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total # Campers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>1025</td>
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<td>18-19</td>
<td>1065</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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“We could not be more thrilled and satisfied with the attentive care of all the staff members at the summer camp program, led by the Parks & Recreation Department.”

--A Camp Parent

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Parks & Recreation also forged a brand new collaboration with Coventry Senior Center, in introducing the 06238 Magazine. The first edition will be the Summer 2019 Magazine, and will continued to be mailed directly to all Coventry residents.