



**Seasonal Highlight:
2019 Veteran's Day
Patriot Race Kids Run!**

27 children participated in our second annual Junior Patriot Race held in conjunction with the CT Veterans Day Patriot Race on Nov 9 at Patriots Park. Volunteers from UConn assisted in making sure the kids stayed on the path. It was a cold day, but it did not stop us from encouraging the kids to run as fast as they could!

**COVENTRY PARKS &
RECREATION**

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Winter at Lisicke Beach, a sketch in charcoal by our own Staff member Yasmine Forte

PARKS & RECREATION QUARTERLY REPORT

With the change to the fall season, we too change our focus. During the winter season, while office "traffic" is lower than spring and summer, Departmental activities never slowed, with year-round adult fitness and sports, Youth Basketball, Rec Daze, and several upcoming special events. Staff also take the opportunity to plan for the much-anticipated summer season. It is also time to prepare Capital and Operating Budgets, long range planning, evaluation of programs, and participation in Professional Development opportunities.

National Recreation & Park Association Annual Conference

Ms. Rubin was able to attend the NRPA National conference for the first time in over 10 years. The Conference is the premier annual meeting of the park and recreation community. The three-day event brings together more than 8,000 park and recreation professionals, citizen advocates and industry suppliers for networking opportunities, education sessions, and the industry's largest trade show showcasing the products and services of nearly 400 exhibitors. The Opening General Session featured **Baseball legend, Cal Ripken, Jr.** An inspirational speaker, Ripken, is the personification of leadership, commitment and excellence. She received 1.30 CEUs toward her Professional Certification, attending sessions like "Inviting the Angry Mob to Dinner: Strategies for Fearless Community Engagement," "Pickleball 101 & League Director Guide," "Facilitating Play," "Utilizing Social Media and Team Events for Recruitment and Retention of Seasonal Staff," to name a few.

Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association Annual State Conference

All Department staff also attended the 2019 CRPA Annual Conference and Trade Show, held at Mohegan Sun Casino & Convention Center in Montville, CT on November 25 & 26. Ms. Rubin, Ms. Merriam and Office Assistant Bethany Cologna attended sessions on "Building Community in an Isolated World," "Revenue 101," "Keep Calm & Post On: Social Media Crisis," "Trauma-Informed Training for Camps," "Strategic Marketing & Outreach," and more. Ms. Rubin also presented a session at this year's Conference entitled "Providing a Quality Youth Sports Program," demonstrating the criteria needed to become a nationally recognized **Quality Provider of Youth Sports** through the National Alliance for Youth Sports.



Project Updates:

Mill Brook Place Maintenance & Repairs:

Wi-Fi service is now available at Mill Brook Place free of charge. Visitors will be able to stay connected with their smartphones, tablets, and other Wi-Fi enabled devices as they enjoy their special events!

We also addressed emergency repairs to the HVAC Condenser unit, and provided support to renters to relocate or reschedule, depending on their needs and facility availability.

Additionally, we arranged for repairs to the elevator, which was not functioning due to a broken hinge.



Community Center Flooring:

Phase 1 of the project began and in October, and was completed in December, by Earth Dynamics. Once the structural work was finished, staff commissioned quotes from three local flooring companies, to determine the best course of action for floor covering.

Staff awarded the job to Booth Flooring out of Tolland, and once materials are ordered, work will begin in January. Earth Dynamics will return to the job shortly after the holidays, to clean up some edges so that the floor is laid properly.

Commercial grade vinyl planking will be laid in the main room complete with vinyl baseboard, while industrial grade carpeting will be laid in the Food Bank closet (behind the stage).



Basketball 2019: Off to a Roaring Start!

Youth Basketball started earlier than past years with player evaluations and team selections occurring as soon as coaching assignments re-confirmed. The volunteer Board of Directors met regularly, as did the Lakes Region administrators from our neighboring towns. Local EMT staff provided a workshop on emergency first aid, and then Bob Bigelow, former NBA player, nationally known author, and expert on youth sports returned to Coventry for a 3-hour hands-on coaching clinic.

Administrative tasks included: mandatory background checks for coaches, NAYS 1st year coaches training, bullying, concussion, and Mandated Reporter trainings managed and documented. After interviewing, hiring and training our Gym Supervisors/Scorekeepers/Referees, staff was scheduled. Participant registrations and team assignments were processed. Finalized Quickscores game schedules and International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Board 8 (IAABO 8) referee assignments. Equipment and supplies ordered include scorebooks, referee shirts, pinnies, balls, team uniforms, etc.

Our numbers are up, and this year we added one high school boys' team and several new travel teams. Our travel teams participated in a pre-season tournament. The 7/8 girls' team joined the Eastern League to add four games to their schedule due to low enrollment within the Lakes Region League.

PJ Day for the Kids

Coventry Town Hall participated in this year's PJ Day for the Kids to benefit Connecticut Children's Medical Center on December 13th. We had a great time getting to come to work in our PJs AND supporting a wonderful cause. We are looking forward to 2020!



Holiday Happenings:

Ms. Rubin helped facilitate Christmas tree lighting at First Church as part of the 2019 Christmas in the Village event, coordinated by the Coventry Lions Club. She assisted by arranging for the Fire Department to help in hanging lights provided by Department of Public Works. She was also on-site to take photos for social media on Sunday, Nov. 17. The 2019 Christmas in the Village event was held on Sunday, December 8th throughout the Village district on Main Street, and at Patriots Park. Parks & Rec. sponsored a professional face painter, who worked alongside the Hale Early Education Center Cookie Decorating and Polar Express Train Ride, at the Patriots Park Lodge.

Ms. Cologna facilitated this year's Letter to Santa replies with the Elves up at the North Pole. We received approximately 20 letters, which is far less than usual. We will be discussing either improvements to the existing program or alternatives for next year.

