



## *The Month That Was....*

### **NT Parks & Recreation October 2021 Recap**



[www.ntparksrec.com](http://www.ntparksrec.com)

It was a great month, with the Youth Center back up and running, adult programs and exercise classes back in the school gyms, and Senior Center special events taking place throughout the month. There was certainly lots of exciting action all over the City, so let's not waste any time...join us as we take a look at the month that was in our Department!



#### **Adult & Senior Programming**

It's been a great start to the fall season, and we kicked things off at the Senior Center in big fashion with our Anniversary Dinner Dance, celebrating 51 years of programming. 80 seniors took to the floor for some dancing and enjoyed a delicious catered dinner as part of the festivities.

The Red Hatter's senior group resumed their monthly meetings, filling the center with their "red hats" and smiles as they enjoyed some live music entertainment from Jacob & Friends. The Travel Group headed to Pennsylvania Amishlands for a 3-day trip to the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

New programs kicked off this month, including the Singles Social Club that meets on Monday afternoons at 1pm, giving single seniors an opportunity to mingle and meet one another. The Knitting Circle- a knitting and crochet group meets Mondays & Fridays and are currently knitting hats to give away for local charities. Seniors continue to come out for weekly programming including bingo, cards, billiards, crafts, nutrition, exercise & shopping shuttle services. In all 564 different seniors participated in programming this month, with 1,633 total services rendered.

In the world of adult sports and recreation, our exercise programs continue to heat up at our local school gymnasiums, including Zumba, Pilates, and Total Body Workout. Open Pickleball started up this month, with open play on Tuesday & Friday Nights. Lastly, our Adult Co-Ed Kickball season concluded with league champions crowned in both the Thursday & Friday night league.



## Youth Programming

After closing doors for what seemed like an eternity due to the pandemic, the Youth Center was back up and running for general programming and participation. Kids all ages packed the place for our open house week and Grand Opening Street Party. Students were back to enjoying the normal amenities provided by the regular Youth Center programming, including open gym, structured sports, video games, computer lab, arts



and crafts, billiards, air hockey and fooseball. Special events included "Take a Stand Day" where we partnered with Northpointe Council and CHANT (Community Health Alliance of NT) to provide activities and games educating students on the dangers of drugs, with a central message around the importance of living a drug free life. Our Halloween Party was an absolute blast, filling the Rec with spooky, funny, cute and outrageous costumes. Students enjoyed themed games and activities, the younger kids participated in a costume parade around the block, and we sent all kids home with

great memories and lots of sugar! The Rec team took to the schools for the Lumberfest activities which was part of the annual TNT celebration. Our team set up shop at the high school and helped students create signs and banners equipping them to cheer on the football team during the TNT game. Our team also made their way to Williamsville North to rally the fans and help support the NT lady Jacks Soccer Team for their sectional championship game.

Wedged between all the usual and fan favorite programs, we were excited to launch a couple new programs, the first being our girls volleyball camp. 45 girls grades 3-7 took to the hardwood and got to hone their volleyball skills with NCCC coaches and players on a weekly basis. The Chessmaster program was another new program that kicked off, as we collaborated with the Buffalo Chess Association to teach students all ages the in's and outs of the game with master-level instruction.



Rec Sports continued to take place at Wurlitzer park every Monday while the Fall Softball and Football program continued to give participants and fans something to look forward to each week. Lastly, a round of applause to Michelle Bernas (Youth Program Coordinator) who was honored as a Covid Hero for her work in the community



during the pandemic, while Nick Kraus and Skylar Valenti (Rec Sports coaches) were honored with the Project Play WNY Coaches Honor Roll Award, nominated for promoting sportsmanship, leadership, integrity and positive development of skills in the community as coaches.



## Parks

Our parks and public spaces continue to benefit from some outstanding efforts and investment, most notably the completion of the Shoreline Restoration Project by the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers at Botanical Gardens, which transformed just under one acre of mixed-use land into a wetland and shallow water habitat incorporating green infrastructure and bioretention components to filter water runoff.

The Pinewoods Park improvement project got underway, as the park will see the addition of an ADA compliant family restroom addition onto the main bathroom facility, as well as some upgrades to the kitchen of the main pavilion. We were very proud of our community, which supported our PlaNT it Forward program which saw the community invest in our community tree canopy as 33 trees were purchased for planting in our parks and public areas, while another 67 trees were purchased through the street tree program. In total our parks department will hit the ground running in the beginning of November planting these 100 trees, plus a number of other trees which will be transplanted to our parks from the city's tree farm. Speaking of trees...the City Tree Inventory has been completed with just shy of 13,000 trees identified, assessed, and mapped. Data from the tree inventory will now be used to complete a Community Forestry Management Plan which will help us in the proper maintenance, and future planning of our tree canopy city-wide.

Gateway Harbor was bustling with excitement as we welcomed back our annual Haunted Harbor Event. Thousands of people came out for trick-or-treating stations, activities and more on both sides of the canal. Our department housed a number of trick or treat stations with a Fairy Tale theme. From navigating through a wooded maze and avoiding the big bad wolf to get to grandma's house, to a visit with Hansel and Gretel, families from both Tonawandas had a great time dressing up and being a part of the festivities.



As the month wound down, our parks crews sadly had to prepare for the winter weather, which meant spending time winterizing all of our pavilions, bathrooms, gateway docks and the marina. Launches at Botanical Gardens and Gratwick were removed; however we have left the docks in at the Service Drive boat launch for those avid fisherman who patrol the waters in the cold.



## Golf & More

3,385 rounds of golf were played in October, which was about 300 rounds above average for the month. It was a bittersweet month as we said goodbye to Golf Course Superintendent Nicholas Rosart who resigned from his position for another job opportunity. Nick did a fantastic job making noticeable improvements to the course conditions in his short tenure as superintendent and his presence will be missed. That being said we are

very excited to welcome Matthew Borowiec as Nick's replacement, bringing with him six years' experience as the Assistant Superintendent at East Aurora County Club. This month Matt has jumped in with both feet, looking to build off the momentum of improving the course with the help of his trusted staff. In other news, we are in the process of seeking out a new restaurateur to take over operations of the Deerwood Restaurant, as the previous owners (Ed & Lori May) have decided to opt out of their

contract. We thank them for the years of service provided to the golfers and community. Interested individuals can reach out to our office regarding the opportunity to be considered for the operations of the restaurant. Lastly, with the golf season winding down, we wanted to remind golfers that gift certificates for the holiday season can be obtained at the Recreation Office or online at [www.ntparksrec.com](http://www.ntparksrec.com).

## What's Coming Up?

*Registration is now open for the following activities/events:*

### **PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH**

**Youth Basketball**- Nights vary (3-8 grade) Nov 27-Mar 31

**STEM Club**- Tuesdays @ 5pm (3-5 grade) Oct 12-Nov 2

**Dance Club**- Fridays @ 5:30pm (K-6 grade) Nov 5-Feb 4

**Chess Master**- Mondays (2-12 Grade) Oct 18-Jan 3

**Breakfast with Santa**- Saturday Dec 11 @ 9am.

### **PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS & SENIORS**

**Senior Fitness Classes**- Mondays & Wednesday

**Senior Bingo**- Thursdays at 1pm.

**TNT Senior Holiday Social**- December 7, 6-8pm

**Winterwalk**- Saturday December 4.

**Zumba Classes**-Mondays 7pm Sept 27-Dec 13

**Pilates Classes**- Wednesdays 7pm Sept 29-Dec 15

**Hallwalking Program**- Mon-Fri 4-8pm

**Open Play Pickleball**- Tues & Fri nights 6-9pm Oct 19-Dec 21

#### **Main Office:**

Director

695-8520 x5500

[alex@northtonawanda.org](mailto:alex@northtonawanda.org)

[www.ntparksrec.com](http://www.ntparksrec.com)

@NTParksRec

#### **Golf Course:**

Bob Kania

695-8529

[deerwoodgc@gmail.com](mailto:deerwoodgc@gmail.com)

[www.deerwoodgc.com](http://www.deerwoodgc.com)

@DeerwoodGolfCourse

#### **Youth Programming:**

Michelle Bernas

695-8520 x5510

[mbernas@northtonawanda.org](mailto:mbernas@northtonawanda.org)

[www.ntyouthcenter.com](http://www.ntyouthcenter.com)

@NTYouthCenter

#### **Adult & Senior Programming:**

Pam Hogan

695-8582

[phogan@northtonawanda.org](mailto:phogan@northtonawanda.org)

[www.ntparksrec.com](http://www.ntparksrec.com)

@NTSeniorCenter