

## **Parks and Recreation Director's Report**

### **June 5, 2008**

- Had the Cemetery Memorial on Saturday, May 17 from 11 – 12 p.m. as part of the Portage County Bicentennial Cemetery Memorial Recognition. 3 residents (Ebenezer Sheldon, Charles R. Harmon and John Ingalls Eldridge) were recognized with a grave stone and flower arrangement. Thanks to Dick Fetzer for reading a brief biography of each person and Councilman Kudley for unveiling the commemorative plaque. Also thanks to the Boys and Girl Scouts for helping place the flags along the cemetery drive.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bark in the Park was held on Saturday, May 17 from 1 – 4 at the Tails 'n Trails Dog Park with co-sponsors PAPL and Freedom Greyhound Rescue (FGR). The event was an overwhelming success with numerous vendors, rescue groups and participants. A pledge walk by FGR will begin at 12:30 p.m. around Sunny Lake
- The first annual Aurora Youth Track meet has been postponed due to the turf field project for the AHS. We are considering Friday, August 15 but are confirming with the school.
- The City participated in and supported the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser for the 9<sup>th</sup> year May 31-June 1. The event was a tremendous success, with approximately \$192,000 net raised to this point. That eclipses the American Cancer Society's goal of \$159,000 and also exceeds the event Planning Committee's goal of passing the \$1 million mark of moneys raised to support research, advocacy and programs for those affected by cancer. Approximately 35 teams of various size participated, bringing the registered participant total to somewhere between 6-700 people. The entire community was invited to enjoy the event activities, and many attended to Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back against cancer. A special congratulations to this year's event Co-chairmen Kathi Grandillo and John and Tanya Verga for a job well done.
- First summer music concert will be next Wednesday, June 11 with Tommy Vale and the Torpedos (oldies) and will be sponsored by Aurora Manor Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing and Legacy Place Twinsburg. The second concert will be on June 25 with Chance plating and sponsored by Anna Maria
- Go Skateboarding Day is June 21 from 12p – 3p. Martini Skate and Snow in Macedonia will be on hand to provide giveaways and other items. We have also recently purchased another bench for the skate pad and will be installing the new bench and relocating a picnic table due to discussions with park users.
- Family Movie Night will be on Friday, June 13 at 8:30 p.m. at Kiwanis-Moore Park with the movie Daddy Day Camp. The Aurora Women's League will be sponsoring.
- The new playground at the North End of Sunny Lake has been installed and will be ready for use this weekend. Thanks to the Parks Staff for their diligence in completing this project
- Another successful season for Youth Recreational Spring Soccer is concludes this Saturday, June 7
- Softball and Baseball seasons and field maintenance has been going relatively smooth with minimal issues.
- We will be starting a Lacrosse Club in the Spring of 2009. We have 5 experienced and knowledgeable community members excited about helping. We will be running a Lacrosse Camp this summer at the end of July for youth grades 5 – 12 to get things started a little more.
- Field crew staff is currently working on removing sod from the AHS varsity football field and placing at the retention basin prior to the field turf construction project beginning next week.
- Will be offering a summer integrated open playground program on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July for parents and children with special needs. We are working in conjunction with Aurora City Schools to provide this program as well as potential programs during the school year.
- Currently accepting programs for the fall with deadline of July 1.