

## PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

# SUMMER WRAP UP FROM PARKS & RECREATION

With summer programs complete, we'd like to take a moment to thank all of our seasonal staff. The outdoor pool had 23,901 visitors during our nine-week season! We also sold 1,628 season passes, a record number. For the first time, we reopened the outdoor pool for 2 days, August 24 & 25 after the initial closing on the 21st. Those days, the facility was free for all Waterville residents while out-of-town rates applied. We felt folks here in town deserved it and, with temps still in the mid-80's, it just made sense. More than 700 people came and seemed very appreciative for the "bonus" days. Big thanks to Bobbie-Jo, April, Sam, and Steve for helping make this happen.

Some very successful events took place this summer including North End Night Out at Quirion Park, National Night Out at Green St. Park, The Taste of Waterville, and so far, 3 of 4 installments of the Summer Concert Series, Waterville Rocks! The Concerts take place in Castonguay Square from 5-9 pm with the final one scheduled for Thursday, September 22. All of these family friendly, community events have been free, very well attended, and open to the public.

Our Parks crews are busy working on the parks, fields, trails, and playgrounds around town. We'd like to see things a bit greener if Mother Nature could cooperate with some rain this fall. We like to devote a bit more time to the schools this time of year as they're beginning to gear up for the start of school and fall sports. We feel as though things are in pretty good shape.

## PURNELL WRIGLEY FIELD

If you haven't driven by the ballfield on Mathew's Ave. lately, you'll be surprised by what you see! The new Purnell Wrigley turf baseball field is well underway. City crews began work in July



*The Waterville Parks & Recreation Staff at the ground breaking ceremony for the Purnell Wrigley Field on September 7, 2016.*

with demolition, and rough grading. Next came drainage and fine grading. Finally, the fencing and turf people will be here early September for installation. This project would not be nearly as far along without the support from Mike Folsom, Ricky Quirion, Karl Morse, and the rest of the Public Works team.

## QUARRY ROAD RECREATION AREA

Late last winter, the bridge that connects the two fields at Quarry Road, began to fail. We looked at a variety of options, received estimates, etc. Our best, most economical solution was to remove the old bridge and replace with (2) large culverts. The project was done entirely in-house and we were able to use funds from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund program. The new bridge should remain in

place for years to come.

This summer, we began working on a project that addressed the rough/bumpy surface in the field area near the yurt. In order for us to host large-scale cross country races/meets, we needed to smooth things out as it serves as the "mass-start" area for races, accommodating up to 300-400 athletes at once. We're proud to say that both Waterville High School and Colby College will both be hosting their respective meets at the area. We expect other schools and colleges to do so as well.

Thanks to the Friends of Quarry Road, folks will begin to see new road signs around town directing visitors to the area. They look great and we're anxious to see them up!

MATT SKEHAN, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION