

MEMORANDUM



TO: PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION
FROM: TRACIE RINGLE, COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR
SUBJECT: APRIL 2008 CONNECTING REPORT
DATE: MAY 1, 2008

At each month's Commission meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry staff provides the Commission with a staff report on items of interest. These items reflect the mission of Novi Parks to:

- Promoting a Healthy, Active Lifestyle
- Enhancing Economic Development
- Stewards of the Environment
- Creating Safer Neighborhoods
- Instilling a Sense of Community

Promoting Healthy, Active Lifestyles

53 young area actors have been hard at work rehearsing for the upcoming production of *Kokonut Kapers* scheduled to open May 8, 2008 at the Novi Theatres. During the course of the rehearsal process the actors have been learning new acting, singing and dancing skills. Participating in a musical has proven to be a challenge both mentally and physically for these developing actors.

A variety of classes were offered through the Novi Theatres including *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by a Wolf*. Through imagination and their own interpretation these very young actors (of which eight were new to the Novi Theatres) shared in a special presentation of their self created play including masks and scenery.

The Ice Arena began offering Sticks and Pucks sessions on Sunday afternoons from 1:30pm – 2:50pm before the Public Skate sessions. In May, the arena will expand the offering to Saturday afternoons during the same time. We are seeing a good response from our customers. Sticks and Pucks sessions are for skill development and practice for people of all ages. Currently the Ice Arena offers skating times every day of the week and in May will offer a Friday night public skating session to meet the demand of the community.

The Senior Center hosted a celebration of life for those 85 years of age and older. The event included cake, ice cream and short testimonials read about each person. The event received press in the Detroit Free Press and Novi News. The customer satisfaction rating for this event is 4.98.

The Senior Golf League includes 135 golfers this season. The league not only promotes physical fitness but also a chance to meet new people and reap the benefits of social interaction.

The Novi Summer Adult Softball Leagues registered a record 100 softball teams this summer, surpassing the 2007 mark set at 87. Five nights of leagues at Power Park averaging 400 players per night provides over 2000 players a week with a healthy, active, lifestyle opportunity.

Enhancing Economic Development

The Novi Theatres has developed an ongoing relationship with Max and Erma's at 12 Oaks Mall, during the theatres production of *Father Bingo*, the restaurant donated refreshments to be served at intermission. They have also agreed to donate refreshments for the upcoming production of *Kokonut Kapers*. The cast of both productions have had fun-raisers at the restaurant to help defray production costs.

The storage for the Novi Theatres was relocated to its new location at 11 Mile Rd. and Beck in what was formerly the fire hall. This will enable the theatre to reduce cost and allow the recycling of old sets by rebuilding and repainting.

Both the Ice Arena and Power Park hosted tournaments in April. The hockey tournaments brought in 32 teams from across the state and the softball tournaments attracted over 40 teams from the region. Tournaments bring a significant economic impact to a community's restaurants, hotels and shopping establishments. As we continue to improve our facilities, we will be able to attract more regional, state and nationwide tournaments.

Oakmont of Northville has committed to partnering with the Senior Center for the monthly dance program and were so pleased with the result, they have agreed to another year and are looking into the possibility of a larger sponsorship. The Senior Center's annual Italian Dinner was catered through a sponsorship with Carrabba's Italian Grill. This helps to decrease expenditures for the department without sacrificing any satisfaction for participants, the event received a rating of 4.89 on a 5 point scale.

This spring the Forestry Division had 100 seedlings donated for the Arbor Day by Art Van Furniture. This is an estimated \$200.00 value that was invested into our parks. As these trees mature they will add enhanced value to our parks system.

The department is currently negotiating a contract with Detroit Edison for the placement of a large generator at Wildlife Woods. The agreement could subsidize the department by \$12,000 annually if successfully completed.

Stewards of the Environment

On Saturday, April 26, the department hosted its annual Arbor Day event at Lakeshore Park. The parks division planted approximately 250 trees with the assistance of nearly 100 volunteers. Additionally, volunteers helped pull invasive species (Garlic Mustard), create four large landscape beds, and pick up litter.

The Beautification Commission mailed out invitations to the annual Spring Perennial Exchange to be held on Saturday, May 24. Additionally, the commission will spearhead efforts to create a bio swale at Rotary Park as part of the upcoming River Day event on June 7.

The Engage! publication is printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper. The publication includes a reminder to recycle when disposing of it.

Creating Safer Neighborhoods

We will also be running a Learn to Play Hockey class on Tuesday nights starting May 26th. We will begin registering students at the beginning of the month. This class will teach kids aged 3-11 the basics of hockey and stick handling skills. It is a 10-week session and will lead directly into fall hockey.

Instilling a Sense of Community

SWOCC teamed up with The Novi Theatres by taping the community theatre world premiere of *Father Bingo*. This taping has been added to the SWOCC programming and has been running intermittently on the cable station. This has brought new awareness of the Novi Theatres to the community and new found fame to the local actors

The Youth Sports Program, in partnership with Dick's Sporting Goods of Novi, held a pre-season open house on April 29th at their store at the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk location. Patrons were given the opportunity to enter a raffle for a gift certificate from Dick's. Parks provided information on our up coming youth, adult and senior programs, summer camps and theater productions. Patrons also had the opportunity to purchase sporting equipment at a discount the entire evening. The children enjoyed give-a-ways, drinks and food provided by Dick's Sporting Goods.

Mothers and Sons gathered at the Civic Center on Saturday, April 5, to watch the Detroit Tigers play the Chicago White Sox. During the game, families joined in baseball activities and won mini Tiger bats from the Louisville Slugger Museum, Tiger hats, Tiger balloons, Tiger Peanuts, and more! The seventh inning stretch featured ball park favorites such as popcorn, Ball Park Franks, Cracker Jacks and Tiger Peanuts. This event's success ensures that it will be a fan favorite for years to come. The Mother/Son Tiger Ball Game provides families an opportunity to spend a quality afternoon together with other community members.

AARP has again partnered with the senior center to provide volunteers to do income tax for seniors. To date, they have completed 166 returns for the older adults in our community free of charge.

Twenty four children attended lunch with the seniors as part of the City of Novi's Take Your Kids to Work Day. This was a great intergenerational day for both the seniors and the children and a wonderful opportunity for them to learn a little about each other.

The Engage! publication hit mailboxes during the 3rd week of April. To date, over 50% of our program registrants indicate that they learned about programs via Engage! The inclusion of programs from other City departments has increased ease of communication with our community members. Comments received have been positive.

May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 11 KK 2pm Jaguar Tourney ITC CSP	5	6	7	8 Kokonut Kapers (KK) Opening Night 7:30pm Civic Center (Debbie)	9 KK 7:30pm Mother's Day 1:30-2:30 Senior Center (Rachel) Jaguar Tourney ITC CSP (Wendy)	10 KK 2pm USSA Tourney Power Park (Derek) Jaguar Tourney ITC CSP
				15	16 KK 7:30pm	17 KK 2 & 7:30pm
	12	13	14	15	16 KK 7:30pm	17 KK 2 & 7:30pm
				22	23	24 Perennial Exchange 9am- 12pm Township Hall (Matt)
18 KK 2pm	19	20	21	22	23	24 Perennial Exchange 9am- 12pm Township Hall (Matt)
25	26 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony 10am (Derek)	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 River Day- Rotary Park 9am(Steve) ITC Park Grand Opening 10am- 12pm
8	9	10	11	12	13 Father's Day Party Senior Center 1:30pm (Rachel)	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Summer Art Series Kick-Off Movie in the Park 7pm Power Park (Wendy/Mallery)
22	23	24	25 Secretary of State Senior Center 9am-4pm (Rachel)	26	27	28
29	30 Puppets in the Park 10:30am Lakeshore (Wendy/Mallery)					

July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Star & Stripes Senior Center 12pm (Rachel)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Detroit Blue Pigs 12pm Civic Center (Wendy/Mallery)	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 50's Festival	24 50's Festival Candy Band 7pm Lakeshore Park (Wendy/Mallery)	25 50's Festival	26 50's Festival
27	28	29	30	31		