



Mayor's Message December 2015

Dear Residents,

Rumson Recreation offers a year-round selection of sports and activities for the whole family.

The mission of Rumson Recreation is to promote affordable, community-wide recreational, cultural and educational opportunities for residents of all ages, interests and abilities. We seek to provide a fun, safe environment for our diverse activities, building community through positive social interaction and volunteerism. In addition, Rumson Recreation strives to develop and maintain high quality parks and recreational facilities for our residents' enjoyment and well-being.

Each year we serve more than 4500 participants in over 20 programs thanks in part to a large group of dedicated resident volunteers who support these programs and our community year after year. Our in-house and approved program offerings currently serve those from ages 3 to senior citizens and include youth sports as well as non-sport activities.

Our website, www.rumsonrec.org, offers registration and program information, including the latest news and events and up-to-date information on field conditions, field/facility closings and announcements.

Please also follow us on Twitter@RumsonRec and "like" the Rumson Recreation Facebook page.

Rumson Welcomes a New Recreation Director

Kevin Delia has joined the Borough as Rumson Recreation Director. Kevin is a certified professional in the fitness industry with many years experience and an advanced degree in physical education. He looks forward to contributing to a fun, healthy atmosphere in town and promote an active lifestyle for all through our Rec programs. In addition, Kevin hopes to enhance the fitness aspect of our youth sports programs and help volunteer coaches



Kevin Delia and Sarah Orsay

develop age appropriate conditioning regimens for participants. Kevin has a passion for sports and helping all kids realize the benefits and enjoyment of community activities. In fact, Kevin has authored a book on the importance of play for kids. Kevin is a congenial "people person" who brings a genuine enthusiasm to the role. An Ocean Township resident and Long Branch

native, Kevin has relatives and friends in Rumson and is eager to serve our community. He encourages residents to stop by Borough Hall and say hello or reach out to him via email at kdelia@rumsonnj.gov.

Rumson resident Sarah Orsay, who has served as Recreation Director since January 2013, will be moving to a new role spearheading the Borough's communications efforts. In this role, she will keep residents up to date with happenings and topics of interest in the Borough and will also lead selected projects and special events.

The Mayor and Council would like to thank Sarah for her outstanding service to our community as Recreation Director. During her tenure our Recreation program has seen many positive enhancements to the already high quality program our residents have long enjoyed.

Youth Sports Activities

The Rec Basketball season officially begins in January for grades

K - 8. The season culminates with the exciting March Madness Tournament in late February/early March for grades 5 - 8.

On January 1, 2016 On-Line Open Registration for Spring sports begins, including Little League Baseball, Softball, Tee Ball and Youth Lacrosse. Please visit www.rumsonrec.org for program and registration information.

We would like to thank our many parent volunteers – over 200 this fall – who devoted significant time and energy to ensuring a positive experience for our children. In addition, we had a number of Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School volunteers who helped coach Rec soccer – their expertise and youthful enthusiasm was an added bonus for the participants. The success of our community programs is entirely dependent on our volunteers and we are grateful to them – THANK YOU!

Parks Report

The Department of Public Works coordinates closely with the Mayor and Borough Council, Recreation Commission and Shade Tree Commission to keep our parks and playing fields in excellent shape. In accordance with maintaining the highest quality grass fields and ensuring players' safety, Meadow Ridge East will be closed to field sports in the spring 2016 for rest and maintenance, but the 60/90 baseball field will remain open.

The Borough of Rumson is proposing to improve the use of Piping Rock Memorial Park and Martello Field by converting the baseball field and a portion of the small lacrosse/youth football practice field into a regulation size, all-weather, multi-sport synthetic turf field that would accommodate boys and girls lacrosse, soccer, field hockey, flag football, and tackle football practice. There would be no permanent lines stitched into the surface – sport specific lines would be painted on as needed, similar to grass playing fields. Also, there are no current plans to install permanent lighting. The tennis courts would remain as they are and the playground would be updated and relocated to the east end of the current Martello field. The 50/70 baseball field would be relocated to Meadow Ridge West or another location. The Martello memorial would remain in its current location and the Keith D. McHeffey memorial would be relocated to a more prominent position at the entrance to the field, in consultation with the donors. Maintaining the aesthetics and neighborhood feel of the park is an essential design priority.

The location is desirable precisely because it is within walking distance to schools and local businesses and centrally located for use by Rumson residents.

All Rumson parks are designated by Green Acres public access and have been since the 1970s. Piping Rock Memorial Park has this designation now and would continue to have a Green Acres designation after any renovation, thus access and permit allocation for residents and non-residents would be the same as it is now. All organized activities, whether resident or non-resident, require a Borough permit.

Recent years have seen a considerable growth in field demand from our schools, recreation and travel programs, includ-

ing year-round programming demand in all sports. This includes a growth in the number of programs, number of participants per program, and the amount of field hours per program. There has also been a significant increase in demand for competitive programming for younger and younger children. The result is that the field demand far exceeds the supply of available field space in town. The Borough and surrounding Two River area is fully developed, thus the Borough must search for new and creative ways to maximize the amount of open space available for recreation.

If the Borough cannot find a way to increase field capacity, we will not be able to continue to expand support for new sports programs and may even need to reduce the number of permits currently issued as the constant wear and tear on our grass fields makes it very difficult to maintain high quality, safe playing surfaces.

Based on an analysis of past and projected program participation, the Borough is confident it can meet the needs of the baseball & softball programs in town even without the Piping Rock baseball field. This can be accomplished by assigning teams to the underutilized Meadow Ridge South baseball field and by transforming another field to a convertible 46/60 – 50/70 diamond. The RFH girls softball team has access to both Meadow Ridge and Fair Haven fields for after school practice and games.

The total anticipated cost of the project is \$1.3million. The Borough has been awarded \$250,000 in matching funds from the Monmouth County Open Space grant (“MCOS”) and has applied for an additional \$130,000

from MCOS in matching funds. The outcome of that application will be known in the first quarter of 2016. The remainder of funds needed is anticipated to be a combination of private and public funds.

Detailed decisions, e.g., the choice the infill material, will be definitively determined at a much later date and only after the project has been approved based on safety, budget, and other considerations including the environmental impact on our community.

No final decision has been made on this proposed project. The Borough has conducted a needs study, applied for two MCOS grants, and held several public hearings. Once the result of the second grant application is known, the Council will request a detailed engineering study. They will then review the results of that study as well as the proposed budget and hold at least one more public hearing. If at that time the project receives final approval, it would be put out for bid with construction beginning in May 2017 at the earliest.

We encourage all residents to review the Frequently Asked Questions at www.rumsonrec.org/parks.html or www.rumsonnj.gov/departments/parksrec.htm.

Season’s Greetings

On behalf of the Borough Council and all of our Employees, I would like to extend to all residents a happy, healthy, and joyous Christmas, holiday season and New Year’s.

§ § § § §

Keep in touch...

- Visit our websites, www.rumsonrec.org; www.rumsonnj.gov
- “Like” Rumson Recreation on FaceBook
- Follow @RumsonRec on Twitter for Rec updates and @Rumson_Borough for Borough-wide updates
- Get the Borough newsletter delivered via email by signing up at RumsonNJ.gov

Upcoming Events...

- Rumson Christmas Tree Lighting - Sunday, December 6 - Victory Park - 5:00pm
- Rumson Public Works Annual Toy Drive at the Public Works Garage
Friday, December 11 - 3:00pm-7:00pm and
Saturday, December 12 - 9:00am-1:00pm

RUMSON BOROUGH BULLETIN
POSTAL CUSTOMER LOCAL
RUMSON, NEW JERSEY 07760

FRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit No. 321
 Red Bank, N.J.

BOROUGH OF RUMSON
 RUMSON, NEW JERSEY 07760