

Parks Department submitted by Sue Murphy

What a summer! Austin Park, The Charlie Major Nature Trail and The Conservation Area were very busy. The parks employees worked so hard to make sure the community could use the swimming area, farmers market, ballfields, and parking lot in Mandana for their boat trailers.

Waterfront – Our heartfelt thanks go out to our lifeguards – Keady Azzam, Jacob French, Braden Gryzlo, Nolan Gryzlo, Amelia Musso, Peter McCaffrey, Benjamin Patterson, Matt Persampier, Ryan Persampier, Alice Spaulding, Thomas Parisi, and Allison Whipple. Without them we couldn't have opened. Many of them, this was their first job, and we were thrilled that they rose up to the challenge, especially with the lack of lifeguards nationwide. A special thank you goes out to Keri Steves Fey for her guidance with the new lifeguards. She recently joined the budget office at the Town, but since she was a head lifeguard for several years, she was always up to helping out and lending words of wisdom to our new guards. **THANK YOU!**

Allison Whipple



Farmers Market – Another fantastic season is over, many thanks to our wonderful vendors and customers. The continued outpouring of support this year was overwhelming. Thanks to all of you for your patience. We added a wonderful addition to the market this year. Kim Ramsden Kelly did a great job manning the market. With Kim's gentle nature and constant smile, she is a great addition.

Playday – **WOW** - What a time we had! The campers were full of energy, excitement, and exhaustion.



Playday campers enjoy the new blow up movie screen at the park.

Many thanks to our councilors, Abby Adams, Head Counselor Junior Playday; Kayla Ramsden, Head Counselor Regular Playday; Matthew Domino, Head Counselor Senior Playday. Our counselors, Katelyn Guerrette, Amber Herman, Emily Hutter, Chelsea Metz, George Isserlis, Rose Kozub, Brooke Mailloux, Paris Paciork, Ashley Poulton, Lily Simmons, Jack Torrey, and William Werner. Kim Ramsden Kelly, Playday Coordinator, did a great job of organizing and overseeing this program. Kim, herself, was a playday camper, camp counselor and now

coordinating. Some things just go full circle. For seven weeks, we worked hard, laughed hard, and played even harder. At the end of the program, there were sad tears from both campers and counselors, so everyone must have had a great time! We want to thank the parents for sending the campers to the program and look forward to seeing them again next summer.

Mandana Parking Lot and boat launch – Gene LaForte was our out-front person for the parking lot. Every weekend he was there to charge non-residents for parking and answer any questions one might have. He helped boaters park their trailers in the right way and in the right direction. His patience and concern for the drivers, vehicles and trailers is greatly appreciated by everyone. Rick Morris, town constable, did a great job of keeping the town boat launch moving and safe. These two

were a wonderful duo through this summer. Thank you, Gene and Rick, for being so loyal. A job well done!

Parks Staff – This year we had a hard-working crew that consisted of Matt Sheppard and Gene LaForte. Without them, our park grounds and fields would not look as pristine as they did this year. I couldn't have done all that needed to be done without them – Thank you!!

Parks Department Reservation Program – It was a great success. We will assess the program over the winter to work out some of the kinks that we had, but overall, a great success. Thank you for patience as we moved through this new process.

Text Message Alerts – If you haven't done so, please sign up for the text message alerts. The alerts are not just for the parks, it's for water emergency, transfer station, swap shop, town clerk and the list goes on. Go to www.townofskaneateles.com and sign up. It was used a lot for information on the opening and closing of the waterfront, playday updates and park alerts - those that signed up were so grateful. Sign up today! Questions? Call Julie or Paula at the town hall, they will help you. 315-685-3473.

Moving forward – reminders and updates!



- When walking out at the Conservation Areas, please wear bright colored clothing. It is hunting season, and the more we make ourselves visible, the safer we are.
- The Sims building will be closing in the next few weeks for the winter and will open again in the spring. Thank you for your comments regarding the building, it is a great asset to the park, and was greatly needed.
- Fall maintenance has begun and we will be on the walking path so please watch out for us when walking around the park. We don't want to be in your way just as much as we know you don't want to be in ours.
- Snow reflector poles will be put out shortly. **Please leave them where they are.** Even though the staff knows this path by heart, in the wintertime it's a bit challenging, and having them in place helps with spring maintenance.

