

A Glance at Old Bridge Township's Parks & Recreation Department



Prepared by: Matt Mercurio, Director
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PARKS & RECREATION – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

- ✖ The Parks & Recreation department is one of the township's largest service provider, overseeing a multitude of programs and services. These include:
 - + John Piccolo Arena
 - + Recreation Programming
 - + Parks
 - + Before & After Care
 - + Silver Linings at Old Bridge
 - + Old Bridge Food Bank
 - + Camp ROBIN
 - + Municipal Alliance

JOHN PICCOLO ARENA

- ✗ Overseen by Lisa Valsera, Deputy Director
- ✗ Programs offered at ice arena include:
 - + Over 100+ basic skill ice skating lessons
 - + Instructional hockey clinics through partnership with New York Rangers
 - + Jr. Knights – Youth Hockey League
 - + Veterans skating sessions through a partnership with Operation Beach Head
 - + School day trips
- ✗ Recent improvements:
 - + Updated ceiling
 - + Building of girls locker room
 - + Updated fireplace
- ✗ Upcoming projects:
 - + Arena walls
 - + Arena flooring



YEARLONG RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- ✗ Supervised by Supervisor Brianne McManus

- ✗ Development and implementation of all youth and adult recreation program

 - + 60+ classes per session, including:

 - ✗ Cooking

 - ✗ Arts and Crafts

 - ✗ Mommy & Me Classes

 - ✗ Dance Classes (including a yearly recital)

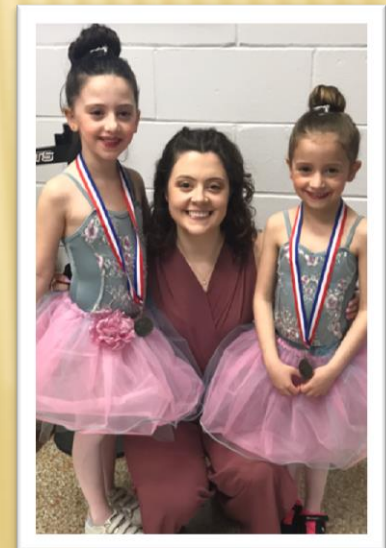
 - ✗ Zumba Classes

- ✗ New in 2019:

 - + 1st Intergenerational Art Show with Silver Linings members

 - + Summer wrestling program

 - + Fall ceramics classes



YEARLONG RECREATION PROGRAMMING (CONT.)

✖ ½ Day Summer Camp:

- + Various locations around town, including: schools, Civic Center, Laurence Harbor Community Center and the Veterans Park Community Center
- + Enrollment is between 600-700 children per summer
- + About 100 camp employees help run the program

✖ Special events:

- + Spring Fling
- + Memorial Day Parade
- + Father-Daughter Dance
- + Annual Summer Camp Color Run
- + Salt Water Day
- + Old Bridge Day
- + Halloween Spooktakular/Haunted House
- + Holiday Tree and Menorah Lighting ceremony



PARKS CREW & LOCATIONS

- ✖ Foreman John Hughes oversees 9 full-time employees as well as a seasonal labor force
- ✖ Responsible for 235 acres of developed park land and maintenance of 1121 acres of open space. Responsibilities include:
 - + Ball field maintenance
 - + Turf grass management
 - + Repair and maintenance of irrigation and mechanical systems
 - + Grass cutting
 - + Playground safety and inspection
 - + Trash removal
 - + Restroom cleaning
 - + Snow removal

PARKS CREW & LOCATIONS (CONT.)



✕ Geick Park:

- + Home of our Camp ROBIN facility
- + 2 fully lighted turf athletic fields for soccer and lacrosse
- + 1 lighted 60/90 baseball field
- + 2 lighted basketball courts
- + 2 lighted sand volleyball courts
- + Kiddie playground
- + Bathroom facilities
- + Pavilion with grills, available for rental
- + 1 lighted softball field with bathroom facilities at Lower Geick



PARKS CREW & LOCATIONS (CONT.)

✖ Mannino Park:

- + 2 lighted fields – one softball and one 45/60 baseball field
- + Kiddie playground
- + Home of Bark Park
- + Bathroom facilities



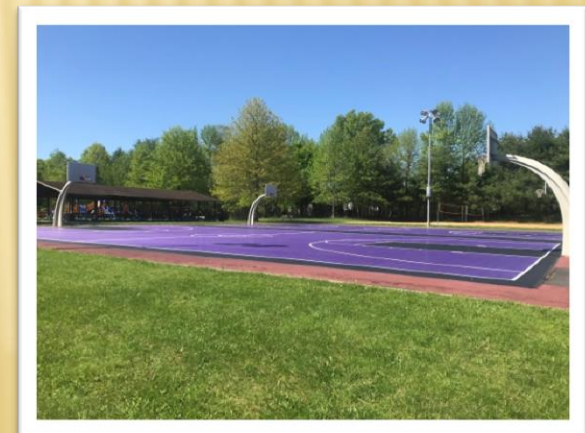
✖ Veterans Park:

- + 2 lighted 60/90 softball fields
- + 1 soccer field
- + 1 lighted 45/60 baseball field
- + 2 newly updated lighted basketball courts
- + 4 lighted tennis courts
- + Lighted wall ball court
- + Community center available for rentals and utilized for summer camp



PARKS CREW & LOCATIONS (CONT.)

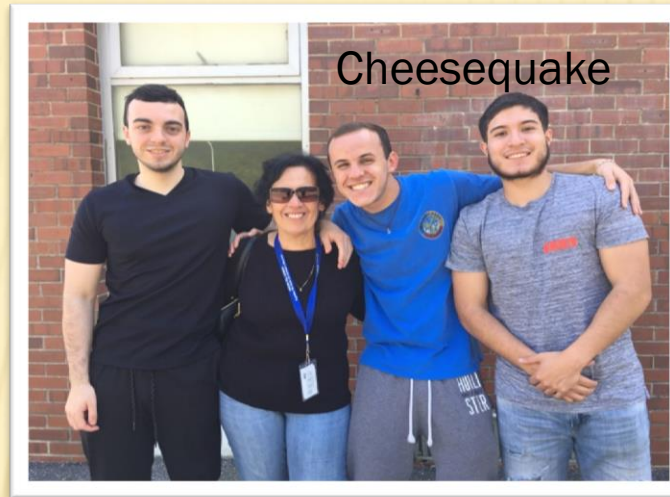
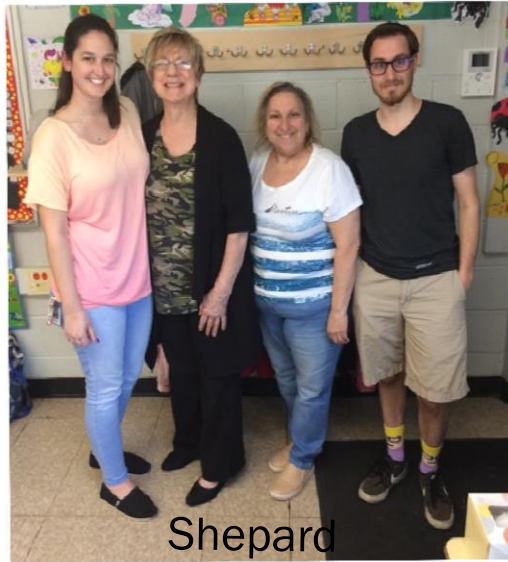
- ✘ Municipal Tennis Courts:
 - + 8 lighted tennis courts
 - + 2 courts were recently lined to serve as Pickleball courts
- ✘ Laurence Harbor Beach Front Park:
 - + Basketball courts
 - + Wall ball courts
 - + Community center available for rentals and utilized for Summer Camp
- ✘ Pension Road Field:
 - + Dedicated Cricket Field
- ✘ Genoa Park:
 - + 1 basketball court
 - + Kiddie playground
- ✘ Ticetown Road Soccer Complex:
 - + 4 soccer fields varying in size based on level and bathroom facilities
- ✘ Higgins Road Soccer Complex:
 - + 4 lighted soccer fields and bathroom facilities
- ✘ Central Park:
 - + 2 basketball courts
 - + Playground area and pavilion
- ✘ South Old Bridge Community Center:
 - + Located on Marlboro Road and available for rentals



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ✖ Under the supervision of Manager Gregg Grieve
- ✖ State-licensed program
- ✖ 14 sites – at all 12 elementary school and both middle schools (aftercare only at Salk & Sandburg)
- ✖ Safety improvements – presence of Class III Specials at all sites
- ✖ 2019 marks the largest enrollment of children with over 720 enrolled; monthly registration with many different options to choose from
- ✖ Program overseen by approx. 125 staff members
- ✖ Always looking for ways to enhance our program
 - + Plan to provide tables for special needs students in our program for the 2019/2020 school year
 - + Expand intergenerational programming by continuing to build on our partnership with Silver Linings – students will begin working on an intergenerational vegetables garden with Silver Linings members by the end of this school year

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (CONT.)



FULL DAY CAMP

- ✖ Overseen by Gregg Grieve, Manager
- ✖ Full day camp options for families that need full day coverage
- ✖ Staff rolls over from the before and after school program to our summer program which is invaluable to the relationships they establish with the children and their families
- ✖ Program offered at 3 sites: McDivitt, Old Bridge High School and the Grade Nine Center
- ✖ All sites have Class III officers, enabling us to provide a safe and secure environment for children and staff
- ✖ 2018 Home News Tribune Best of Middlesex County Full Day Summer Camp
- ✖ Sold out once again for summer 2019

SILVER LININGS AT OLD BRIDGE

- ✖ Overseen by Manager Anna Feltz
- ✖ An Activity Center for Adults 60+
- ✖ Nationally Accredited Senior Center – only accredited center in Middlesex County
- ✖ Over 2000+ registered members
- ✖ Average daily attendance of 115+
- ✖ Extensive transportation services, covering all 42 sq. miles of Old Bridge
- ✖ Grant funding through county and state; increased funding for 2019 for physical activity and transportation
- ✖ Programs and services offered include:
 - + Exercise classes
 - + Paint and sketch classes
 - + Health and wellness presentations
 - + Intergenerational programming
 - + Trips
 - + SHIP counseling and other social services
 - + More information can be found at www.oldbridge.com/silverlinings



SILVER LININGS AT OLD BRIDGE (CONT.)

- ✗ February 2019 saw the introduction of *MySeniorCenter*, which is a web-based software that enables us to track daily attendance and transportation use
 - + *MySeniorCenter* was grant funded through a community grant awarded to Silver Linings by Columbia Bank
 - + 2019 Capital Project funding enabled us to purchase 4 mobile scanners to scan members using our transportation services; mobile scanning on the buses went live on May 1st
 - + The first 2 full months of *MySeniorCenter* provided a glance at our numbers
 - ✗ Thanks to the software we are able to capture each person that comes into our center; it also provides us with data that will enable us to better our programming by giving us an idea on which day are most and least attended

*my*seniorcenter™
innovation at the center

SILVER LININGS AT OLD BRIDGE (CONT.)



- ✕ One of our goals for 2019 is to continue coming up with new and innovative programs for our members
- ✕ *Silver Linings Clean Communities* began in April 2019
 - + Comprised of 18 volunteers
 - + Volunteers go out twice a month during the spring and fall to help keep Old Bridge beautiful by doing litter pick up in our parks and beachfront
 - + Our first clean up took place on April 12th, 2019; completed 2 cleanups so far; one more coming up in May and 2 in June before breaking for the summer months
 - + Program has been very well received by our members
- ✕ Once again, our Dancing Divas & Dudes team will be heading to Atlantic City this June to perform at the Ms. New Jersey Senior America Pageant

OLD BRIDGE FOOD BANK

- ✖ Overseen by Anna Feltz, Manager and Brittany D'Anton, Administrative Assistant and Food Bank Volunteer Coordinator
- ✖ Food Bank services available for Old Bridge residents in need by appointment only
- ✖ Food Bank is run by 15 dedicated volunteers
- ✖ Assists over 500+ residents monthly
- ✖ Yearly Thanksgiving Basket distribution
- ✖ On-going partnership with MCFOODS (Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distributions Services) to receive weekly donations of bread and other perishable and non-perishable food items
- ✖ Established partnership with Old Bridge Shoprite to receive weekly donations

For more info, visit www.oldbridge.com/foodbank



CAMP ROBIN

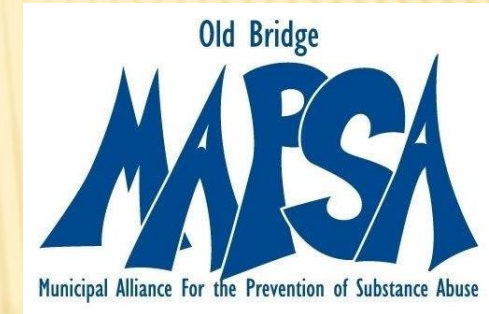


- ✗ Under the supervision of Pete Pero, Coordinator
- ✗ Essential program for not only the participants but for their families as well
- ✗ Programming includes:
 - + Seasonal programs such as Basketball, Computer Enrichment and other therapeutic programs
 - + Summer camp
 - + Friday night program adults/teens during the fall, spring and summer
- ✗ Involved in Special Olympics
- ✗ Received \$7000 in grant funding from Columbia Bank for technology upgrades
- ✗ Special Projects for Special Children:
 - + Non-profit organization started by Jim and Barbara Anderson in 1998
 - + Supports Camp ROBIN



MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- ✘ Under the supervision of Coordinator Karen Tortorici
- ✘ Implements programs and events throughout the school district and community
- ✘ Grant funded by the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Township
- ✘ Group of approx. 30 volunteers meet monthly to come up with programs and events to educate children and residents on the dangers of drug and alcohol use and to prevent substance abuse
- ✘ Mayor's Bi-Annual Community Forums on Opiate Awareness (April 30th)
- ✘ Upcoming events:
 - + Intergenerational End of the Year Celebration with Silver Linings (May 21st)
 - + Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs (June 8th)



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✘ Completed capital improvements:
 - + Arena roof
 - + Updated fireplace at arena
 - + New basketball court at Veterans Park
 - + Purchase of 2 new buses for Silver Linings
 - + Purchase of mobile scanning for Silver Linings transportation
- ✘ Upcoming 2019 capital improvements:
 - + Arena walls stripping and painting
 - + Installation of new rubber arena flooring
 - + Update and replace lighting at Laurence Harbor Boardwalk
 - + Purchase of equipment trailer for Parks
 - + Purchase of bus for Silver Linings
- ✘ 2020 capital improvements:
 - + Geick Park Baseball new turf installation
 - + Replacement of irrigation system at Higgins Soccer Complex

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✕ Below is a list of our upcoming events for the Parks & Recreation Department:
 - + May 24th – Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony at Silver Linings
 - + May 27th – Memorial Day Parade in Laurence Harbor
 - + June 8th – Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs
 - + June 15th – Father-Daughter Dance at Civic Center
 - + July 1st – First Day of all summer camps
 - + August 10th – Salt Water Day
 - + September 21st – Old Bridge Day