

# RECREATION QUARTERLY

## Woodlawn

### *First Season Report*



Recently New York State Parks faced major budget cuts, which put several parks on the brink of closing.

Woodlawn Beach State Park had been struggling financially (some years spending nearly \$200,000 more than the park earned), and it seemed unlikely to survive the budget cuts.

Despite Woodlawn's struggles, the Hamburg Town Board expressed interest in taking control of the facility, instead of allowing the park to close. The Board believed with efficient staffing and promoting, the park could be financially viable.

Last January, after lengthy discussions with the State, the Town of Hamburg assumed control of Woodlawn State Park; the Hamburg Recreation Department took over

park operations and the Building and Grounds Department took over park maintenance.

After one season under Town control, reports indicate an unprecedented increase in attendance. the Town of Hamburg Recreation department expects final reports to show

Woodlawn Beach State Park is not only financially viable, but may even generate a surplus.

Preliminary estimates from the Recreation Department show approximately \$110,000 was spent on part time employees and other park expenses (maintenance purchases not accounted for), and the park brought in nearly \$160,000. No new money was allocated to any department to support Woodlawn.



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*This News Letter is a publication of the  
Town Hamburg Recreation Department.*

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THREE DEPARTMENTS, ONE UMBRELLA

A year and a half ago, the Town of Hamburg Recreation Department had the considerable responsibility of managing a variety of indoor rental locations, outdoor parks, sporting programs, and various other recreation programs offered to the diverse population of Hamburg.

At the same time, the Senior Service Department supervised the town’s Senior Center, Adult Day Care Center, transportation programs for senior citizens and a variety of educational programs; the Youth Bureau oversaw counseling services, the Youth Engaged in Service Program, and Youthful Offenders Program.

In late 2009, Hamburg Senior Services Department director John Farrell passed away; shortly afterwards Mary Eisenhauer, director of the Hamburg Youth Bureau, retired. Instead of hiring new department heads, the Town Board saw an opportunity to cut costs through the consolidation of the three departments, and asked the Recreation Department to assume control over Senior Services and the Youth Bureau.

With the consolidation of the three departments under one umbrella, director of the new Youth, Recreation & Senior Services Department Marty Denecke, and the

rest of the department staff were faced with an enormous undertaking.

Today, over a year after the merger, the changes have been successful. The department is running smoothly, no new supervisors have been hired, and thousands of taxpayer dollars have been saved in unpaid salaries and benefits.



FINANCE: FOUR YEARS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GENERAL FUND



In 2010, the Recreation Department generated over \$98,000 surplus revenue. Revenue from the Town’s golf course was reinvested in the golf course; however, the department was able to return over \$36,000 of its surplus income to the Town of Hamburg general fund. This coupled with \$54,000 of unexpended budgeted funds meant the department returned \$91,000 dollars to the general fund.

2010 was the fourth consecutive years the Town of Hamburg Recreation Department was able to

exceed its revenue goals while undercutting its budget, making it one of the most efficient branches of government in Western New York.

From 2007 – 2010, the department’s positive impact on the budget has been at least \$50,000 annually, with some years nearing \$100,000 or more. A slight majority of the department’s income comes from the Town golf course, which is operated out of an enterprise account; this means money brought in by the golf course legally must be re-used on projects, payroll, or other costs within the golf course. Any other excess revenue generated by the recreation department has been returned to the Town of Hamburg general fund.

Money returned to the general fund can be used to offset deficits, or used to save taxpayers money.

Despite returning money to the general fund several years in a row, Recreation Department programs have not suffered. In fact, in the past four years, the department has helped build several playgrounds, started a new day camp, and continued to offer some of the most exceptional programs for disabled individuals in Western New York.

The department has been able to maintain its programming through efficient spending and local partnerships with companies such as Tops Friendly Markets, the Buffalo Bills and Dicks Sporting Goods, as well as various community grants from generous private sources.

The 2011 financial records aren’t finalized yet; but, the Recreation Department is optimistic about its 2011 numbers as well as the coming year.

FIRST QUARTER FACILITY USAGE AND RENTAL GUIDE



Recreation Department is proud to offer several family friendly facilities for rental and / or community enjoyment. The first quarter rental and usage guide is as follows:

WOODLAWN STATE PARK PAVILION

is available for rental year round. The Pavilion's spacious interior and ample parking makes it an ideal venue for awards banquets, fundraisers and other events regardless of the season. For more information on rental rates, or to book rentals, please contact Town of Hamburg marketing consultant Linda Rogers at 515-5538 or by email [lrogers@townofhamburgny.com](mailto:lrogers@townofhamburgny.com).

TAYLOR ROAD CABIN

located at S-6765 Taylor Rd., is available to rent for private parties. The facility includes a lodge, playground, kitchen, and grilling area, which make it a pleasant setting for family reunions, first communion parties, or landmark birthday celebrations. Reservations may be made up to 13 months in advance. For more information on rental rates, or to rent the facility, please call 646-5145.

HAMBURG TOWN PARK FITNESS CENTER

is a full service community fitness facility open year round to Hamburg residents. The fitness center offers a friendly

atmosphere, a variety of fitness classes, knowledgeable staff, and great facility with affordable membership. For information on membership rates please call 646-5145 or 627-4168.

TOWN OF HAMBURG ARENA

programs are in full swing for the winter. Limited rental options are available for birthdays and other events. For information on programs or rentals please call 646-5145.

TOWN OF HAMBURG GOLF COURSE

will re-open in mid-April.



CLINICS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS & OTHER DISABILITIES

As youths, individuals with disabilities are rarely given the opportunity to participate in, learn about, or enjoy organized sports; the Town of Hamburg Recreation Department always works hard to provide individuals with disabilities with these opportunities.

Most recently, the Recreation Department, in partnership with the Buffalo Bills and Donny Thiry Foundation, offered its annual football clinic for disabled individuals as well as individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The goal of the clinic was to give participants the opportunity to play, learn about, and develop an appreciation for the sport of football.



This year's clinic was a whopping success. The program ran once a week for the duration of November

culminating in a meet and greet with David Nelson and Billy Buffalo.

Now that this year's clinic is over, the Town of Hamburg Recreation Department, Buffalo Bills and Donny Thiry Foundation are evaluating feedback from this year in an effort to ensure next year is even better.

In the mean time, various other adaptive sports programs are offered throughout the year. Clinics for floor hockey, basketball and tennis will be on tap for January, February, and March.

For further information on adaptive programs call 646-5145 or visit the website at [www.townofhamburgny.com/Recreation\\_Department\\_Home](http://www.townofhamburgny.com/Recreation_Department_Home).

**FIRST QUARTER  
RECREATION PROGRAM  
GUIDE**



The Town of Hamburg Recreation Department is pleased to announce its first quarter program schedule for 2012. Programming includes:

**Learn to Skate**

lessons are open to residents and non-residents ages 3 and up at the Hamburg Town Arena. The next evening session starts February 1<sup>st</sup>; lessons will run on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 5:45 PM and 6:00 – 6:45 PM. The upcoming daytime session starts February 2<sup>nd</sup>; lessons will run on Thursdays from 10:00 to 10:45 AM.

**Rising Stars**

figure skating lessons are open to resident and non-residents who have attained the basic Learn to Skate skills. Lessons run Wednesday's from 4:15 – 5:00 PM at the Hamburg Town Arena. The next available session starts February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Public Skate**

is open to residents and non-residents. Skates are held at the Hamburg Town Arena during the following times: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 AM – 12:50 PM, Friday 8:00 – 9:50, Sunday 2:00 – 3:50. Rental skates are available at the Arena. Public skate will run through the end of March.

**Skate & Shoot**

will continue through the beginning of April. Youth skate and shoots run Mondays 4:00 – 4:50 PM (Ages 10 - 13), Wednesdays (Ages 14 - 17), and Fridays (Ages 6 - 9). Adult (Ages 18+)

skate and shoot runs Monday – Friday, 1:00 – 2:50 PM.

**Youth Basketball Skill Development**

provides an opportunity for boys and girls ages 6 – 8 to learn about basketball, and develop the tools to advance in the sport. Practices are held Mondays 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the Big Tree Elementary School gym. The next youth basketball session begins January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Pick-up Basketball**

is open to anyone ages 18 and up. Games are held in the Big Tree Elementary Gym from 7:45 – 9:45. Session II will begin January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Start Smart Sports**



programs provide sport specific, introductory skill development for children 3 – 5, residents and non-residents are welcome. Upcoming Start Smart Sports include basketball, baseball, and soccer. All Start Smart programs require an adult to participate with the child at each class. All Start Smart programs offered this quarter will be held at Big Tree Elementary *Start Smart Basketball* Winter session will begin January 9<sup>th</sup>, practices will be held on Mondays from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. *Start Smart Soccer* session I will begin January 12<sup>th</sup>, lessons will run Thursdays from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Session II will begin March 5<sup>th</sup>, lessons will run Mondays 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. *Start Smart Baseball* session I will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>, lessons will run Thursdays 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

**Saturday Gym**

sessions are currently running at the Frontier Community Learning Center and Pinehurst Elementary. Each Saturday Gym session is divided into three age specific segments; gyms are open to grades 2 – 5 from 9:00 – 10:30, grades 6 – 8 from 10:30 – 12:00, and grades 9 – 12 from 12:00 to 1:30. Open gym will continue through the end of March.

**Open Swim**

is underway the Frontier High School pool. Open swim hours are as follows: Sundays 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 PM, and Saturdays 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

**Adult Lap Swim**

is in full swing at the Frontier High School. The pool is open for lap swim Saturdays from 4:00 – 5:00 PM and Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:00 PM.

**Swimming for Disabled Individuals**

is available at the Frontier High School pool Wednesdays 7:00 to 9:00 PM. During this time the pool is only open to special needs individuals and those accompanying them. Patrons must fill out a waiver before attending.

**Town Tot**

is an early childhood education program. Sessions are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Town Tot is open to resident and non-resident children ages 3 – 5.



For more information on any of these programs, please call the Town of Hamburg Recreation Department at 646-5145 or visit the website at [www.townofhamburgny.com/Recreation\\_Department\\_Home](http://www.townofhamburgny.com/Recreation_Department_Home).

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**Youth Staff**

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 Beverly Preischel - YES Coordinator  
 Nicole Dayka - Program Coordinator

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**

the following organizations for their support. Their help and generosity allows us to continually provide quality services.

**Special Donations**

Donny Thiry Foundation  
 Jeremy Krencik Family

**Grant Funds**

Buffalo Bills Youth Foundation  
 National Recreation and Parks Association  
 Hook a Kid on Golf Foundation  
 United States Tennis Association  
 Golf Builders Association of America

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Frontier Central Schools  
 St. Francis High School  
 The Hub  
 Braymiller's Lanes  
 Hamburg Central Schools  
 Buffalo Bills  
 Hilbert College

**THERAPEUTIC POOL RENTAL**



Rental options for the Town of Hamburg therapeutic pool are being made available to established, independent, wellness professionals (physical therapists, chiropractors, fitness trainers, etc.) as a site for low impact therapy and training options. Anyone interested in renting the facility is encouraged to contact the Town of Hamburg Senior Services Department's Barbra Scheffler at 646-0665.

**Thanks to our Sponsors**

