

AUGUST 2024



SAYREVILLE RECREATION

RECREATION COMPASS



Welcome to our first issue of the Sayreville Recreation Compass. We are excited to share this new newsletter with you to highlight what's happening with Sayreville Recreation.

We'll tell you our perspective, but we'll also have some "junior journalists" who share their experiences during our programs and events in the newsletter as well.

We hope you had a great summer.

As the heat of summer begins to turn to the cooler fall temperatures, we hope you continue to visit our parks and programs. Back to school can be a challenging time of year and spending time outdoors, in nature, and parks can reduce stress and decrease anxiety.

While this is true for people of all ages, playing outside can be especially helpful for students. Outdoor play aids in physical health, improvements in positive behavior, and assists with engagement in learning.

Independence Day Celebration

The Fourth of July is always a big party in Sayreville, and this year was no exception!

Our Independence Day Celebration featured inflatables and a mechanical shark, face painting, a wide variety of food and dessert trucks, and live music from the Jackie & Joe acoustic duo and the Promise Land Band.

The event concluded as always with a wonderful fireworks display lighting up the night sky.



A Busy Summer at Summer Camps!

It was a busy summer at the parks, as we held recreation youth, sports, and science camps!

The traditional **Burkes Park Summer Camp** had 270 campers registered, the most campers since the suspension of recreational activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Campers participated in a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, sports, games, playground, and more! Special shows from Bill Kerwood and the Grand Falloons wowed campers with magic and taught them about the importance of recycling and keeping our planet clean.



Many of our young campers performed the Chicken Dance at our first Burke's Got Talent show.



Junior Journalist

Burke's Park Camp

I love to do arts and crafts at home so I am happy we get to do them at camp.

I love to hang out with my friends on the swings at the playground every day!

My favorite thing is tie-dye shirts at camp.

I loved the talent show. See you next year!

-Samantha, age 8

Our award-winning Camp Kindness Day and annual Winter in the Park day also highlighted the summer. New to this year was the Burke's Got Talent show, where campers displayed their talents to their fellow campers and parents.

The weekly **Sports Camps** were held at War Memorial Park and included basketball, volleyball, playground games, flag football softball, field hockey, and lacrosse.

Science Camp returned the last week of August and is filled to maximum capacity for the second consecutive summer. This year's theme was NASA: STEM Explorers. Campers used creative and collaborative skills to design a mission patch, train like an astronaut, build a Mars rover and solve real-world engineering problems.

Visit our website
sayrevillerec.com
 to register for programs and
 get information about
 upcoming events.

Scavenger Hunt Celebrates Parks & Recreation Month

July is National Parks and Recreation Month and we celebrated with our first Sayreville Stash's Scavenger Hunt. Throughout the month, families visited parks to answer questions, complete challenges, and solve clues. Over 80 families participated and could complete up to 36 challenges to earn points. The top 10 families won Sayreville Recreation picnic baskets and blankets.

The **scavenger hunt** was designed not only to entertain but also to foster a sense of community and appreciation for the local parks.



As part of the scavenger hunt, QR codes were hidden around the park and could be found by deciphering the clues.



Junior Journalist Scavenger Hunt

I loved the scavenger hunt! It was great to see all the different parks and play outside with my sister! We really liked the maracas at Jackson Park! I can't wait for the next one.

-Jeffrey, age 7

Farmers' Market and Car Shows Highlight New Community Offerings

We're excited to share two new community gathering opportunities this year: the weekly Farmers' Market and the monthly Cruisin at Kennedy Park Car Shows.

The **Farmers' Market** features farm fresh produce and locally sourced products such as hot sauces, cheesecakes, honey, baked good and more. Visit the market every Thursday through October 24 from 12:00pm to 6:00pm at War Memorial Park off of MacArthur Avenue.

Cruisin at Kennedy Park is a new monthly car show showcasing classic cars. There are two more car shows remaining: Wednesday evenings, September 25 and October 23 in addition to the annual Blast from the Past Car Show on Saturday, September 14.

Upcoming Events



EVENT

Blast from the Past Car Show

**Saturday, September 14
4:00pm - 7:00pm
Kennedy Park**

Admire the display of classic cars and listen to live music performed by Clem and Friends.



EVENT

Sayreville Day

**Saturday, September 15
12:00pm - 4:00pm
Kennedy Park**

Gather as a community and meet your neighbors with local vendors and crafters, community organizations, musical performances, inflatables, face painting, and food trucks.



EVENT

Hit the Bricks 5k Trail Run and Walk

**Saturday, October 12
Race Start: 9:30am
Jerry Ust Recreation Complex**

Run or walk the trails of Capik Nature Preserve in a 5k race supporting the Sayreville BIC.



EVENT

Halloween Trunk or Treat

**Friday, October 25
Begins 6:00pm
Jerry Ust Recreation Complex**

Dress up in your Halloween costume and trick or treat from local community organizations.