

Parks Department Updates

January 2019

The basketball program is winding down its 2018-19 season, and will have its final sessions in mid-February. This is the second year that the ASYB program has paired with TAP for its 5th-8th grade competitive divisions, and first that they plan to have a championship game between the top teams of each division. The PreK-4th grade programs continue to thrive, receiving exceptional coaching from its volunteer base. Many local programs have complained that they cannot find enough volunteers to fill their program's needs, but AYB has had the great fortune to have a solid base of coaches in every division. The most gratifying are the 15-20 volunteers who come out for the Unlimited program each week. These volunteers are mostly comprised of teens who play with local high school teams or school organizations and want to give something to their community.

The Parks Department received notice Koman Government Solutions, a firm that is doing some soil testing for some concerns regarding potential pollutants at Grove Pond. This study is not specifically aimed at Pirone Park, more about the quality of drinking water farther down that the town pumps out to residents. They wanted to let us know they would be taking some core samples and then be responsible for any areas disturbed. We will be monitoring their progress once the work starts, likely in the early spring.

The Parks Department and Charlie Schultz have been meeting with Jeff Wetzel to go over options for the redesign of the storage/office building at Pirone. With the cost analysis of the original design nearly double the budget, a new concept will need to be developed. One idea was to consider building a one story garage structure on the upper level of the field and then rehabbing the existing maintenance building to create the new office space and additional equipment storage. Unfortunately this was deemed unfeasible due to the appropriation for the funding designated specifically to new construction of a building. After reviewing other options, it was decided to go with a new design of a one story building at the lower field with a larger square footage that should fulfill the storage needs and still create an office space, all within the budgetary constraints. The new design will be put out to bid as soon as it can be put together, with hopes to have a successful bid accepted by early April.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director