Parks Department Updates

April 2023

Spring sprots are underway, with many activities currently taking place at Pirone Park and other facilities throughout town. ASYS soccer started their preseason workouts last month and are currently into their travel season. The combined Ayer/Shirley program has very high enrollment this season, surpassing pre-COVID numbers. The same can be said for the AYS U4-U8 levels, who currently have nearly 150 players in their program. The Parks Department is also offering an informal Youth Volleyball program that meets once a week to give volleyball players a way to retain and hone their skills for the upcoming fall season. Unfortunately the High School gym remains closed, so they are having their sessions outdoors at Pirone, which most players seem to be enjoying. Baseball and softball of all levels from preschool to Varsity High School have been coming out to Pirone for games and practices each night, making the park a very busy place this spring!

Plans for the Ayer July 4 celebration overseen by the July 4 Committee are underway, and there will be festivities at Pirone during the dates of June 23-June 25. They will have a movie night on Friday, then a variety of activities and vendors at the park following the noon parade on Saturday. They will be concluding with a Softball game on Sunday, with teams still being determined.

The environmental group PACE has been sponsoring a water chestnut pull at Grove Pond this spring, following up on their work they did last summer. They have increased their numbers and now have about 10 canoes on hand to help volunteers with this effort. They have reported pulling thousands of plants so far, and will continue their work through the summer.

Funds for the construction of the playground were secured at Town Meeting this month, as well as funding for a study to renovate the Beach house at Sandy Pond. Work on the playground is expected to start this summer, and the study for the beach house should be completed by this fall.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director