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Louis F. Recchio
Parks and Recreation Director

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Lou Recchio, Director, Parks and Recreation
DATE: July 16, 2020

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH 2020

Rather than the usual presentation of a Proclamation celebrating Parks and Recreation Month, I thought that I would share some thoughts on how our parks have impacted our community and its residents.

Parks have always served as a place where people can go to find peace and relaxation. Never has this been more evident than during the public health crisis that has gripped the entire nation for months. We know that the CDC has identified mental and physical wellness as a concern associated with COVID-19 and what better outlet to recharge and rejuvenate than our parks. The mere presence of parks and green space helps promote psychological well-being and a greater quality of life.

Over the past few months the need and desire for our parks and green spaces to open for our residents has been overwhelming. Whether it's a fast paced activity such as: basketball, tennis, racquetball, soccer, baseball or something slower paced such as bocce, golf, fishing, bicycle riding or swimming our parks have proven to be an important and essential part of our lives, people young and old alike.

One of the primary pillars of Parks and Recreation is to make parks and open spaces accessible to everyone and to be a champion of inclusiveness, fairness and social equality. Parks and Recreation Departments throughout the country have historically been the driving force in bringing communities together. This has become more evident now, during these very challenging times, than ever before. It is times like these that we gain a greater appreciation for Parks and Recreation as an essential service provided by government.

So at this time, during Parks and Recreation Month 2020, I would like to commend our entire staff for their outstanding work and dedication in keeping our parks maintained and safe and for providing programs and activities for our residents to enjoy, especially during these trying times of this pandemic.

PARKS AND RECREATION “AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ALL COMMUNITIES”

Fred Pinto
Mayor

Jeff Hmara
Vice Mayor

Selena Samios
Councilman

Richard Valuntas
Councilwoman

Jan Rodusky
Councilwoman

Raymond C. Liggins, P. E.
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