

DRYS Matters

Department of Recreation and Youth Services

City of Rochester
 Dept. of Recreation
 and Youth Services
 400 Dewey Avenue
 Rochester, NY 14613
 585.428.6755
cityofrochester.gov/DRYS

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

Play is serious business. It's serious because the research clearly demonstrates how essential healthy play is to minds and bodies. The Bureau of Recreation provides City residents with an expansive spectrum of opportunities to play every day including: recreation center programs, pools and water spray parks, ice skating rinks and ball fields and *Rec on the Move*, which brings play to City neighborhoods. Play is essential to a person's life. We at DRYS are excited to serve the community's needs and desires for play. This list of roles and benefits of play I borrowed from Playcore shows just how important our work is in Recreation and Youth Services:



Commissioner
 Luis Burgos

- Play provides sensory opportunities for creativity and imagination.
- Play provides connections for social justice and builds social capital.
- Play has positive effects on brain development and functioning.
- Play equals learning across developmental domains.
- Play has dramatic benefits for wellness and promotes lifelong healthy lifestyles.
- Play is critical in supporting the physical, social-emotional, communicative, sensory, and cognitive development of all children.
- Play is instrumental in engaging children with unique environmental experiences that only exist in nature.
- In play, children naturally enjoy the physical activity they need and desire for healthy bodies.

So make time to play—it's an important part of every day.

Luis Burgos, Commissioner



Assistant
 Commissioner
 Tony Jordan

DRYS IMMERSSED IN CITY'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

Each year, DRYS is a major contributor to and participant in the community's Black History Month events and activities. Recreation and Community Centers held essay contests, storytelling, and other study of Black history in Rochester and the country. DRYS hosted a huge storytelling and theater event at the Thomas P. Ryan Center, attended by 350, including City Councilors Loretta Scott and Lovely Warren. DRYS also distributed over 500 books to attendees!



Black History Month in the City included youth participation in a storytelling event



Assistant
 Commissioner
 Jackie Campbell

LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE THROUGH CITIZEN CPR AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAININGS AT RECREATION CENTERS

Youth participating in the Bureau of Recreation's Junior Recreation Leaders Program—and many other city adults and youth—are learning how to save lives by completing a Citizens' CPR and Emergency Preparedness course offered at our Recreation and Community Centers by the American Red Cross. These special trainings are generously supported by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. Learn a skill that will last a lifetime, and may very well save a life!

To see the full schedule of these free trainings, go to www.cityofrochester.gov/CPRtraining.



A HORSE'S FRIEND CONNECTS KIDS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Earth Explorers program heads out to the farm! Thanks to a collaboration with local organization A Horse's Friend, Earth Explorer participants from three different recreation centers have been making the trip once a week out to Highview Farms in Pittsford, N.Y., as part of a six-week program introducing them to horses. Once there, the youth get the opportunity to learn both how to take care of horses and how to ride them. Here are accounts from participants:

I enjoy the horse program, because I get to ride and learn how to groom the horses. If it wasn't for this program, I wouldn't experience this great opportunity. I have learned a lot about horses. This program has given me the full experience of taking care of my horse and having fun doing it! I hope other kids experience this, too.

Ayreonna Woods, Age 12, Avenue D Recreation Center

I love the horse program. In my country, Puerto Rico, I have seen a lot of horses but have never been able to ride, so this program is perfect for me. I not only ride but groom them, too. My horse's name is Babydoll, and when I'm there I take good care of her. After we are done with the six-week program, I told Ms. Cindy I want to come back again please.

Angel Martinez, Age 8, Avenue D Recreation Center

THRIVE Thrives!

THRIVE is Teens Helping Reinvent Identity, Values, and Empowerment. The City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services, in collaboration with the University of Rochester, and several other organizations and community consultants, implement the THRIVE project, which is a study to learn most effective ways for adults to help young people engage in positive behaviors. Similar studies are occurring across the country



and information obtained from each study is designed to help national and local youth development officials plan for more effective youth services.

Partner agencies include Baden Street Settlement, Charles Settlement House, the Community Place, and the YWCA. These agencies together deliver an evidence-based Teen Outreach Program curriculum. Essential service learning projects anchor the program, providing experiential life skills education. (Participating youth complete 20 hours of youth-led community service projects.) In addition, work readiness education focuses on skills and behaviors needed to find and keep a job.

Evaluators from the University of Rochester observe the program anevery step of the way!

THRIVE is funded through the U.S. Department of Health, Office of Adolescent Health. For more information on THRIVE, please contact the City of Rochester, Bureau of Youth Services at 428-6816.

DRYS STAFFER COACHES EAST HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TO STATE HOOPS TITLE

We're proud to announce that one of our own has accomplished something very special—Mario Velazquez, from the Gantt Center, coached the East High School Girls basketball team to its first state championship! Hearty congratulations to Mario and his team! May they repeat next year!



East High School Girls Basketball Coach Mario Velazquez—who is also a DRYS staff member—celebrates East's first state championship (photo Democrat & Chronicle)

SUPER S.O.O.P. OFF AND RUNNING FOR 2012

The Bureau of Employment Opportunities' hugely popular Summer of Opportunity youth employment program is full speed ahead heading into the summer.

SOOP is an employment and training program for youth ages 14-20 and who are still in high school. The program is designed to provide training and employment opportunities to youth while making a direct connection to success in school. The process for one of the hundreds of annual participating youth goes like this:

Parent Orientation: The Bureau of Youth Services and Bureau of Employment Opportunities provides parent support and family development as a core component of its offerings. SOOP seeks to involve and inform parents as partners in their children's development. One-hour parent orientations provide necessary information that help youth to become successful in the process, and also provide question and answer opportunities.

Summer of Opportunity

Interviews: Students who complete all requirements will have an opportunity to competitively interview for appropriate summer employment opportunities.

Employment: Youth employees earn hands-on training and work experience during a 6-8 week summer employment opportunity with area employers.

SOOP has offered thousands of Rochester youth an important combination of employment preparedness training and real-life work experience. For more information, go to www.cityofrochester.gov/soop or call the Bureau of Employment Opportunities at 428-6342.

PUBLIC MARKET UNVEILS ANOTHER MUST-HAVE PIECE OF MERCHANDISE

Fresh off the astounding holiday sales of the Public Market Cookbook: The Public Market Apron!

These handsome but practical kitchen garments shows your Market and Rochester pride and also keep your duds free from the ingredients going into your meals. Aprons are available at the Public Market Office for \$18.89 plus tax. Proceeds from sale of the aprons go to the Market Token Program, through which those with food stamp benefits can use those benefits at the Market to get fresh, healthy foods. (See www.cityofrochester.gov/markettokenprogram)

Learn the million things there are to know about the Public Market at www.cityofrochester.gov/publicmarket



Friends of the Market's Margaret O'Neill and Assistant Director of Recreation (and Market Director) Jim Farr model the new Public Market aprons

KUDOS and COMPLIMENTS

DRYS employees do their important work well and this does not go unnoticed by the community. We're pleased to feature several kudos and compliments delivered to DRYS!

Department of
Recreation &
Youth Services



I had a really positive experience with one of your Rec on the Move employees that I want to share with you. He is a young man named Jeff Patterson, and he was at the Autumn at the Lake Family Day. He said he works year round.

While waiting in line for the hay ride, my 4 year old son and I had the opportunity to talk to Jeff. My son is very shy with adults. Jeff had a very non-threatening manner, and spoke directly and not down to my son, which is usually the key to winning him over. I told Jeff that we are new to Charlotte, and he recommended some programs, like Rec on the Move. When we returned from the hay ride, he had pamphlets in hand for me, and my son smiled and waved to him (which really says something coming from my shy-guy)!

Jeff was really a good ambassador for your programs and impressed me as someone that parents and kids enjoy interacting with. If you have chance, please pass along to him that he has a satisfied customer!

Best Regards, Megan Bosco



For the last five years now a couple of my siblings and I have been putting together an ice skating party at Manhattan Square Park. We plan our party with the intent to bring family and friends out to enjoy one of Rochester's hidden jewels, and in the same process we collect canned goods for the Open Door Mission. Our annual party has grown through the years and it could only grow with the help that we receive from the staff that works at the rink. The rink manager Karen Piedici, , and her crew go to great lengths to make sure that our party is successful.

The ice is impeccable, the staff is always professional and courteous to the many people that come. They have continued through the years to make sure we have everything we need by providing great service, and ensuring that everyone is safe out on the ice.

Please extend this memo to your crew working there, for they truly should be recognized for the work that they provide day in and out. Have a Great Day !

Sincerely, Jimmy Mirabella

Commissioner-

*I would like to tell you how wonderful your employees are at the ice skating rink at Manhattan Square. I and several other families have been frequenting the rink this year and the crew is always so helpful, respectful and polite. We always feel welcome, safe and really love being able to bring our kids downtown, just as we were able to do **many years ago!***

I hope more things open up for families from the suburbs to enjoy in the downtown area! Again, Great job and many thanks to all at the ice rink!

Sincerely, Marybeth Bauler

FLOWER CITY LOOKING GOOD 2012 SLATE

Each Year, the Bureau of Recreation, in partnership with CITY Newspaper, MVP Health Care, and Wegmans, offers the community dozens of opportunities to explore the City's nature, history, and culture. This program is called *Flower City Looking Good*, and this year, as in previous years, the slate offers historical and nature walks, guided hikes and bike rides, horticultural workshops, service opportunities, and much, much more. To join the explorations, check out www.cityofrochester.gov/fclg, where you can download the entire 2012 schedule.



ALL ABOARD! EDGERTON MODEL TRAIN ROOM PACKS `EM IN!

In the last year, we've been working to make the phenomenal Edgerton Model Railroad less of a secret and a more widely enjoyed community treasure. This Model Railroad Room, within the Edgerton Community Center, was dramatically launched in 1950 when Governor Thomas Dewey drove a miniature golden spike into the miniature tracks! Today, the dazzling layouts still feature Rochester in all four seasons, and are stewarded by the tireless

and dedicated Edgerton Model Railroad Club. In 2011, there were 4,383 visits to the Model Railroad during its open houses, which were the last Saturday of each month and the last ten days of the year. If you haven't yet heard the horns and the clackety-clack on the tracks, you owe it to yourself to witness this Bureau of Recreation resource! www.cityofrochester.gov/edgertontrain.

FLOOR HOCKEY PROGRAM RECEIVES DONATIONS FROM ROCHESTER AMERICANS

Director of Athletics and Aquatics John Picone asked the Rochester Americans in February if they could provide a speaker for the annual Floor Hockey League banquet. The response to this request was amazing: the Amerks provided Hall of Famer Jody Gage a free visit to an Amerks game for the league champion Ryan Center youth, and also 40 sticks, eight sets of goalie equipment, and four goalie nets for the 2013 season! A million thanks to the Amerks for this generosity and support of the Floor Hockey program.



Director of Athletics and Aquatics John Picone accepts donation of hockey equipment for the City Floor Hockey League from Rob Crean of the Rochester Americans