

Parks and Recreation Committee

The Parks and Recreation Dept. started working on a Disc Golf course last fall for McCourtie Park. This spring the baskets were installed and ground cleared for the fairways. Nine "holes" were laid out around the tennis courts and baseball field and north of the stream. The "Lady In Blue", Disc Golf course is being used almost on a daily basis. Some finishing touches remain, such as adding signage to mark the course and a rules sign and signs at each tee. Three waste receptacles will be added around the course to help keep the course clean. We received some volunteer help in cleaning brush from several fairways, from Disc golf enthusiasts from Hillsdale, Jackson and Ann Arbor. Before the course was cleared of brush, players were showing up to try out the new course.

We completed another tennis court and basketball court in June, using the same Sports deck material used on the first tennis court. Both the golf course and the tennis/basketball courts have received strong positive feedback.

Painting of the inside and outside of the Berm House was completed in June and a new overhead door was installed replacing the last wooden overhead door. Plumbers located the septic tank checked and cleaned the line and installed a new toilet in the bathroom.

Electric service in the berm house continues. The replacement of outside sconces on the front of the Berm house was just finished to enhance the front. Lighting in the utility bays and garage areas will complete the inside portion of the project. Electric service will be run to the ponds for "fountains" in the ponds.

Replacement fence around the ponds is a project being looked into. The condition of the cement walls and the duration of the cement is being assessed currently.

"Music in The Park" had its first event Friday June 12th. July 4th will be the next event, before the Fireworks display, and August 21st will be the last event for the summer.

We have begun receiving reservations for vendors for the Longest Yard Sale in America, scheduled August 7, 8 & 9th.

Some modifications have been made to the Park Reservation Agreement form to clear up some areas about start and stop times for using the park and when a gate attendant is needed. People wanting to reserve the park for their event are reminded to contact the Township Clerk's office

Police Department

Chief Eric Stolberg

The Somerset Township Police Department has been very busy through the half way point of 2015. Incident numbers for the Police Department are up approximately 68% as compared to last year. Hillsdale County Central Dispatch's statistics corroborates this data, showing that through May of 2015 the

Department has had 563 dispatched calls as compared to 192 in 2014. We are hopeful this rise in activity has gone un-noticed by the township residents as we have strived to continue the same level of commitment and service to this community as we always have.

As we look forward to the summer of 2015 we can again look to the data and statistics for trends in public safety. The warmer weather and schools being out for summer will bring more people outdoors to shake off cabin fever. We would like to remind all motorists of this as they travel down our roadways. Please slow down and be extra mindful of children who may often pay more attention to their ball rolling into the street than the car driving by.

Another trend during this time of year is an increase in vehicle break-ins and home burglaries. In a proactive attempt to reduce this problem, we ask residents to lock and secure your homes, garages and boats while away and always lock your car doors. Many burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds to try and break into a home or car. (National Crime Prevention Council) Good locks and good neighbors who watch out for each other can be big deterrents to burglars. If you see something suspicious, please call 911 immediately and an officer will respond. With your help, we can cut down crime and keep Somerset Township a warm and friendly place to call home.

http://www.hillsdalecounty.info/downloads/2015_pd_stats.pdf

Library

Barb Nemeth

Story Hour with **Connie Weatherby** begins Tuesday, July 7th for children ages 5-12. Stories begin promptly at 9:30 and will be available for 6 weeks. Fifteen spots are available. Guardian must be present with child/children at all times. Some crafts will be provided during this time. Please call 688-9223 with any other questions you may have.

There are more than a hundred reasons why we should read. Besides being fun and relaxing, you will learn more about you and the world around you. You can do it anytime, anywhere, alone or with friends. Start a summer book club to discuss what you have read. Books can inspire, challenge, and increase our knowledge. They are better than movies, and when reread are usually better than a rerun on TV. There are millions of stories to choose from, why not stop in soon to see what interests you.

The Township Book Sale will be July 28th through the 31st during regular business hours. Come in and find what is available for your summer reading enjoyment. We are still accepting donations of books in good, clean condition, preferably with a copyright of 2000 through 2015+. We cannot accept college books and/or encyclopedias.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00. Friday 9:00-12:00.