

Princeton Recreation Department



Municipality
of Princeton

February 2014 | ISSUE 1



50 PRINCETON
RECREATION
DEPARTMENT
CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS
1964 – 2014



**PRD has
gone viral!**



Do you know where to look to find the most up-to-date PRD info? We distribute information using several mediums:

- Website

(www.princetonrecreation.com)

- Facebook

(www.facebook.com/princetonrecreation)

- #TeamPRD on Twitter

(www.twitter.com/princetonrec)

- Google+

([Princeton Recreation Department](https://plus.google.com/+PrincetonRecreationDepartment))

Online registration begins on 3/1/14

(<http://register.communitypass.net/princeton>) for Spring/Summer

Programs & Memberships. The Spring/Summer Activities Brochure will also be released on 3/1/14 and be transmitted electronically, as well as placed at key locations around Princeton.

Message from the Mayor

I hope you enjoy this first edition of the Princeton Recreation Department's newsletter. Under the leadership of Director Ben Stentz, the Princeton Recreation Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life of all Princeton residents.

Princeton is lucky to be home to beautiful open space, walking trails, parks and playgrounds. Wintertime can be a wonderful time to explore, as long as you dress for the weather!

The Recreation Department also offers plenty of indoor options -- this

newsletter highlights some of the exciting programs offered. As part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, I want to encourage all residents to stay active and healthy by taking advantage of the available activities.

This year is a special year for the Recreation Department as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. I want to thank all our volunteers and employees today and over the past half century who have helped to make public recreation an integral part of our community.

PRD by the #'s

786,000: Gallons of water to fill the Community Park pools

125,000: Visitors to CP Pool in 2013

42: Programs offered by PRD

205: Seasonal employees

3: Years in a row that PRD has been recognized by the New Jersey Recreation & Park Association for outstanding achievement

33: Local businesses & organizations that sponsored sport teams and offered scholarship assistance

Employment Opportunities

PRD is currently accepting the following job applications:

- Day Camp C.I.T. (Counselor in Training)
- Day Camp Counselor
- CP Pool Customer Service/Maintenance Staff
- CP Pool Lifeguard/Swim Instructor
- PRD Maintenance Staff

Check our website for postings!

www.princetonrecreation.com

Program Spotlight: PAWS Wrestling

The roots of the Princeton Amateur Wrestling Society (PAWS) stretch back to 1970, when Princeton High School Coach Tom Murray Sr. supervised a popular youth wrestling program in town. Eventually, the Princeton youth wrestling torch was passed to former PHS wrestling coach, Matt Wilkinson, who led the team into the Mercer County Wrestling League.

In 1999, Coach Mike New, then Princeton University Wrestling Coach, took over the program and moved the team into the world-class Jadwin Gym wrestling facilities on the Princeton University campus. In 2002, Dr. Mark McLaughlin became PAWS Head Coach and grew the team in size and depth creating what is now affectionately known as 'PAWS Nation'. "Coach New breathed new life into the program at a crucial point in time," said Ben Stentz, Executive Director of the Princeton Recreation Department. "The program may not have survived without Coach New, but the transition from Mike (New) to Mark McLaughlin was a turning point that took PAWS Nation to a new level."

PAWS Wrestling has been recognized as a regional training center for elite wrestlers, but also caters to wrestlers of all ages and skill levels. Practices not only emphasize wrestling skills, but also life skills of punctuality, discipline, responsibility, scholar athleticism, and personal excellence. "The monumental efforts of Coach McLaughlin, Coach Jim Monahan, Ernie Barsamian, Nick Corcoran and so many other talented coaches has helped PAWS earn national recognition as a showcase team for the National Wrestling Coaches Association," explained Stentz. "What always impressed me most about PAWS Nation, was the overwhelming involvement of the parent-volunteers."

PAWS wrestlers have achieved success on all levels of wrestling, other sports, and in the classroom. Its graduates, some of whom are still wrestling, are attending colleges such as the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, Johns Hopkins, and others. The coaches and athletes all embody their team motto: "Building Champions On and Off the Mat."

Message from Princeton Recreation Board

We are hoping that "Old Man Winter" will give us a long enough blow to allow ice skating on the lakes. There have been beautiful Currier and Ives scenes here at times in the past, so sharpen your skates and cross your fingers!

With so many offerings from our enthusiastic Recreation Department staff, we're starting this bi-monthly newsletter to make it easier for all of us to be aware of what is and will be happening in the near future. Let's keep Princeton moving and happy. Everybody all together!

Best wishes,
Richard Nosker
Recreation Board Chair



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