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## *News*

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### **Community center gears up for summer programs**

By Colin DeVries

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CATSKILL - The Catskill Community Center is gearing up for summer, offering a wide array of programming for children and adults.

For the second consecutive year, the center will shepherd the Summer Recreation Program, which provides fun summer activities for children from 4 years old to eighth grade.

From July 6 to Aug. 14, Monday through Friday, Summer Rec will provide fun activities including arts and crafts, sports, swimming and field trips. From 9 a.m. to noon, each age group will participate in programming at the Catskill Elementary School on Embought Road with regular trips to the Catskill Country Club swimming pool.

Twice a week Bantams (first and second graders) and Juniors (third through fifth graders) will enjoy swimming lessons and open swim at the Catskill Country Club for about an hour and a half, while Seniors (sixth through eighth graders) will enjoy a full morning of swimming once a week.

Swimming is part of an American Red Cross swimming program that is designed to teach all ages.

Catskill Community Center Director Kellie Darling said the program is an excellent way to learn to swim, especially for those who do not have access to a pool at home.

"I'm a product of the program and now I run it," she joked.

Summer Rec also includes several field trips once a week to Catskill Hoe Bowl, MacHayden Theater in Chatham, Put and Plus in Saugerties, the Catskill Community Theater, and potentially others.

Registration forms for Summer Rec are available online at [www.catskillcommunitycenter.org](http://www.catskillcommunitycenter.org). Registration Night will be held in mid-June.

Between 300 and 350 children are eligible for Summer Rec.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25 per child with a \$50 maximum fee per family (costing only \$50 for three or more children). Fees are due on Registration Night, date to be announced.

## Summer fun

Starting at noon July 6 to Aug. 14, as Summer Rec winds down each day, 60 children from kindergarten through fifth grade can register for the Summer Fun program.

Each day features arts and crafts, educational programming, trips to Dutchmen's Landing and other fun activities, says Darling.

Registration for the six-week program requires a one-time fee of \$15 per child, with a \$30 family maximum. There is also a \$25 per week tuition.

Children are also eligible for the Victor Armstead Scholarship that will pay for the weekly tuition expenses.

Visit the community center for more details on the scholarship.

## Adult programs

Darling was also pleased to announce the center's first-ever adult programs beginning soon.

On April 28 at 6 p.m., Tai Chi for Beginners will begin at the community center and run for four consecutive weeks. The last class is May 18.

David Haines, Qigong and Tai Chi teacher for over 20 years, will be the instructor of the course. Haines is also a certified practitioner of the Trager Approach to movement education.

The fee for the class is \$40. Registration forms are available online and checks are returnable to the Catskill Community Center.

A drawing class for teens and adults is also scheduled for Saturdays between July 11 and Aug. 15.

The class will be \$100 for six weeks and teach students the fundamentals of drawing, the sensitivity of drawing materials and the importance of drawing as the underlying graphic structure of a work of art.

Artist John Lees will be the instructor.

Further information will be made available on the Web.

## Supporting a community's center

The center has also been busy raising funds in support of these programs and much more.

On May 3, the center's first golf tournament at the Catskill Country Club hopes to bring out the community to support their children.

Registration for the golf tournament will begin at 12:30 p.m. and tee time is slated for 1:30 p.m. The fee is \$75 per person and it is not imperative to have a four-member team.

A light dinner will be provided for contestants and gift certificates will be awarded to the winners.

The money that is raised will go to support the Catskill Community Center and the continued development of its programming.

Tickets are also available for The Great Escape theme park in Lake George. They are only for sale at the community center for \$19.99.

Passes are good for every open day at the park during the month of May. The park is open on weekends and May 22, 25, 28 and 29.

The center receives \$5 for each ticket purchased, which will be used to support the Victor Armstead Scholarship.

Be sure to check out [www.catskillcommunitycenter.org](http://www.catskillcommunitycenter.org) for further details and updates.