

and All American selection in his senior year of high school. His older brother introduced him to the sport when he was in the 5th grade. He played at the professional level and in 2002 started and coached a high school championship team in San Diego.

Ric Suzio brings over 20 years of LaCrosse experience to the program having played since age 12 until into his 30's. He played for Springfield College as well as his Junior High, High School and Club leagues during those 20 years.

"With Ric Bontatibus helping to organize the program it has a firm foundation I am sure it will develop enthusiasm from Meriden youth," said Suzio. "I am really excited given the recent successes of surrounding towns such as Wallingford, Cheshire and Southington. The Club is always seeking ways to involve our boys and girls in healthy, constructive, and challenging ways in the afterschool hours." he added.

"We are very fortunate to have both Ric Bontatibus and Ric Suzio as a major helpers in the formation and plan-

ning phase of the program. Both have offered valuable insight and support getting our program started on the right footing," said Sports Director Amanda Rossi.



Colleges and High Schools across the country are adding Lacrosse to their athletic repertoire as the sport gains attention. The Mid-Atlantic and Northeast have been the hotbeds of Lacrosse with teams like Johns-Hopkins, Syracuse and Duke among those getting National exposure on television. In 2000 there were 1,273 boys' teams at the high school level. In 2007 there were 2612.

The Club program is instructional for 5th-8th grade boys, and will be held on Saturday mornings for eight

weeks. Registration will take place over the winter. "We are happy to be adding such a highly skilled, intense, and fast growing sport for our youth in Meriden", added Rossi.

CUNO League Adds Travel Teams

A Travel Basketball Program will be held on Sundays for 5th-8th graders who participate in the CUNO league.



Two Divisions are Planned

There will be two divisions, JV and Varsity and you must be a part of the CUNO League to play for travel team. This new offering allows the youth to explore other towns and play against different competition among the same age groups.

The players are selected from among the 2011-12 CUNO players.

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The Joseph F. Coffey Boys & Girls Club Connecting

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A Publication for the members, families, friends and alumni of The Boys & Girls Club of Meriden

Our Mission:

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their fullest potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Hot Times - Summer in the City

The Summer Safe Havens Drop-in Camp served over 250 youth with a variety of daily activities, lunch, trips to State sites and a summer session ending party. Funded by a grant from the Naugatuck Savings Bank and a Community Development Block Grant from the City, the 8 week program kept boys and girls safe and active.



Summer Safe Havens boys and girls take a break from the Stamina Tests.

Summer in the City can be hot and boring for some youth but it also offers great opportunities for boys & girls who are out of school for vacation. It can also be a time when young people waste great opportunities.

The Boys & Girls Club of Meriden Summer Safe Haven Drop-in program has become a refuge for the youth of the inner city during the hot summer months. It is one of those great opportunities!

In 2011, the Club staff provided 8 weeks of activities to keep the 250 at-

tendees safe, off the streets, and involved. There was something for everyone. Here is a rundown of some of the events members participated in:

The Stamina challenge. Members participated in various stamina/endurance activities such as; jump rope, push-ups, crunches, crawl run, and running. Boys and girls were broken into groups for "friendly" competitions.

Wii Bowling Tournament. Staff members conducted a Wii bowling tournament. Con-

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Driving rain didn't deter the 123 golfers who teed off on September 23, 2011 in the Meriden Hyundai/Boys & Girls Club Alumni Tournament.

Golf-Dinner/Auction Event Draws 300 People

The Meriden Hyundai Golf Tournament and the 3M Dinner/Auction drew large numbers once again this year. Despite postponement on the original date because of course flooding, 123 brave golfers teed off at Hunters' Golf Course on September 23rd to support the mission of the Club. On September 8th, the 3M Dinner/Auction went off without a hitch, much to the pleasure of the 225 attendees.



3M Auction drew 300 to an evening of good food, great bidding items and a chance to support the mission of the Club. The auction generated \$25,000 and the golf tournament \$23,000 for Club programs to serve the over 2,400 boys and girls ages 6-18 who are members of the Club.

SOUTHINGTON - Though the weather forced the Meriden Boys and Girls club to reschedule their annual golf tournament, the evening's indoor activities went off without a hitch Thursday night.

Over 300 people packed the ballroom at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington to bid on weekend getaways, sports

memorabilia, theater tickets and more at the 3M sponsored Boys & Girls Club Auction. In its sixth year, the auction is part of the Golf package and raises money that goes directly to the club.

This year, both events raised roughly \$48,000, a number which

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exceeded last year by \$15,000.

The silent auction featured smaller items, like tickets to a New Britain Rock Cats game, passes to Mystic Seaport, cookbooks and gift certificates of all denomination let everyone get in on the bidding. Some of the items' bidding started at just \$10. Larger, more expensive items drew bids with starting prices ranging from \$100 to \$300. Popular items like a large beautiful item baskets, mirrored image of Yankee Stadium, Budweiser paraphernalia, autographs from Tiger Woods, Eli Manning, Johnny Pesky, Yogi Berra and more garnered bids nearly after bidding was opened.

The live auction drew the biggest bids. A week in a house in Durango, Colo., along with lift tickets to surrounding ski resorts was valued at \$5,000. A weekend in a house in Old Lyme, a pig roast at Camp Cuno, a Derek Jeter autographed jersey and a lobster bake delivered to your house were some of the other high-priced

items. Carving, pasta, seafood and appetizer stations set up throughout the ballroom served patrons oysters, crab cakes, shrimp and more. An open bar was also pouring wines, beers and mixed drinks.

Hyundai Golf Tournament

Thanks to the hard work of Chairmen Jack Clancy, Skip Nawrocki and their committee the Golf Tournament got underway on September 23, 2011. Due to the heavy rain on September 8th, the Golf Course was unplayable and a new date had to be set. Although schedule conflicts forced a few to withdraw from the field, 123 braved the inclement weather to get in the round of golf. Hunter's Golf course offered 9 hole certificates due to the inclement weather. The results:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Men's Flights | | |
| Flight One | | |
| 1st Place | Chad Boudreau | Mike D'Agostino |
| | Angie D'Agostino | Rob D'Agostino |
| 2nd Place | Kevin Langan | Joe Weigand |
| | Rico Buccilli | Kevin Grobbsky |
| 3rd Place | Tod Moynihan | George Claffey |
| | Wint Filipek | Phil Beedle |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Flight Two | | |
| 1st Place | Nate Cumberlidge | Gary Dee |
| | Tom Capps | Matt Dicham |
| 2nd Place | Joe Ruffo | Zack Shepard |
| 3rd Place | Jim Suzio | Jeff Pellegrino |
| | Jim Pellegrino | Rob Smith |
| Third Flight | | |
| 1st Place | Dan Schrippt | Aldo D'Agostino |
| | Herman Jackson | Bill Bevacqua |
| 2nd Place | Marty Lillenthal | Skip Nawrocki |
| | Matt Nawrocki | Rob Conroy |
| 3rd Place | Hank Macala | John Wrobel |
| | Bruce Anderson | George Dimella |
| Women's Flight | | |
| Winners | Diane Naimo | Terry Vaccaro |
| Runner | Jean Wysocki | Carole Carabetta |
| | Jan Vocola | Jan Egan |
| Other Winners | | |
| Closest to the Pin | | |
| #2 | Henry Macala | 43" |
| #6 | Gary Dee | 8' |
| #11 | Kevin Langan | 1'11" |
| #17 | Bob Gullely | 45" |
| Longest Drive | | |
| Women's | | |
| | # 13 Terry Vaccaro | |
| Men's | | |
| | #13 Zack Shepard | |
| Closest to the Line | | |
| | #18 Chad Boudreau | |

Thanks to all the friends of the boys & girls of Meriden who attended the events!

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ducted like a normal bowling tournament, this computer tournament was based on teamwork!

Tie Dye Day! Water & colors, always a favorite in the summer! Boys & girls brought in their own white t-shirt and participated with the staff in making their shirts colorful. They chose what type of style they wanted by placing elastic bands on their shirt and selecting vibrant colors. The following week they all wore their creations on the same day!!

Water Balloon Tossing. What would a hot summer day be like without a water balloon toss? Multiple games kept everyone laughing... and cool.

Lets' Go Fishing! Started 3 years ago, fishing at Beaver Pond has become a real treat for Safe Haven members. Run in conjunction with the State Department of Environmental Protection, this activity has introduced dozens of members to their first experience in catching (& releasing) a fish.

Safety Week! A major focus of the Club is safety

for boys and girls and their families. The Meriden Fire Department visited the Club and Fireman Greg led a discussion on what to do in a fire situation. Fireman Mike showed how his gear protects him while fighting a fire. (Of course... sitting in the truck was a highlight!)

Other daily events included time in the computer center for special searches, games, and other activities. Zumba was a big hit, as were daily art classes, gym games and this year lunch was served by the NOW staff. This enabled the boys and girls to stay from 10:00AM to 4:00 PM everyday.

Trips were taken to the Dinosaur State Park, Hammonnasset for swimming and a picnic and a trip to see a juggler. This Safe Havens Program was funded by a Grant from the **Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation** and from a City Development Block Grant (CDGB) awarded by the City of Meriden.

The program served over 250 youth primarily from the inner-city with great opportunities for fun and growth.



Safety Week—Firemen Visit the Club | Summer is for fishing at the Summer Safe Havens | Hat Day! | Stamina & Exercise is important in the summer too! | Water Balloons Summer Cool Off! | A summer tradition for Safe Havens—Tie-Dyeing

Camp CUNO News



Nick Kern & Andrew Schmitz are set to Ready, Aim, Fire.

Ready, Aim, FIRE!

21 youth that love the shooting sports had the chance to compete against each other during CUNO Camp's Week 9 Program, Ready, Aim, FIRE!

Campers were broken up in to 4 teams, red, yellow, green and blue, then shot against each other in archery, air rifle, rifle and even squirt guns! Many fun events were held like popping balloons and knocking over tin cans. Special events like a team spirit day in which youth were challenged to wear as much of their team's color as possible, a cook out and a trivia contest were also held.

"It was a fun week for the kids and I'm looking forward to doing it again next summer" said Dominic Pereyo the director of Ready, Aim, FIRE!

One of the highlights of the program was held Thursday evening at the Club's indoor rifle range. Youth were able to pass a short safety test and if they displayed proper care and behavior were able to shoot a .22 caliber rifle at the targets.

"I was very impressed with the shooters in the way they shot and paid attention to the rules of safety we had discussed," added Pereyo.

For any youth or parent interested in the program of archery, air rifle or .22 rifle please contact Dominic at the Club. (203-235-8185)



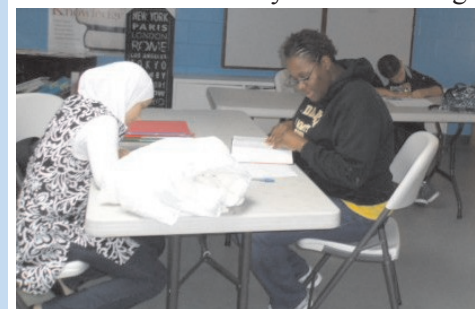
Dragon by Chris Farrell—Lion Amy Farquharson

Animals Appear at Camp CUNO!

During the Creative Arts mini-camp youth had the opportunity to make 3-D animals out of wood. Eagles, gorillas, rhinos, a lion and even a Komodo dragon were seen roaming around the Camp's Arts & Crafts area. "The kids often surprise me with their choice of animals they want to make but I love the challenge of helping them to realize them in wood," said Dominic Pereyo, director of the Creative Arts Mini-Camp.

Power Hour Expands to High School in 2011-12

Power Hour Homework help has served elementary and Junior High



CEO Don Maleto, Ric Bontatibus and Amanda Rossi look over Lacrosse equipment while planning for 2012

School youth for almost 20 years.

For the 2011-12 school year the Boys & Girls Club of Meriden is expanding the Power Hour Homework Program to include high school stu-

dents. The program has been conducted at the Club for since the early 1990's and served primarily elementary and middle school boys and girls. The inclusion of high school students also brings with it a new member tracking process.

Power Hour's new tracking system will help member's to succeed academically as it monitors each member's progress throughout the year to ensure they are reaching the goals that they have set for each marking period.

This program is available after school, Monday through Friday 3:00 – 6:00pm. Members earn Power Points for participating in the program, completing their homework and taking part in additional learning activities. The Club expands the program to Teens as well. Power Hour is partially funded through a grant from the United Way.



Lacrosse is Coming!

The Club is introducing a new sports program in the spring; Lacrosse

will be offered this coming spring. It has been tagged as the "fastest growing sport in America" and "the fastest game on

two feet". Meriden feet will soon be running on a Lacrosse field!

Lacrosse is a team sport of Native American origin played using a small solid rubber ball and a long-handled stick called a crosse or lacrosse stick, mainly played in the United States and Canada.

Consultants Bring Experience

The consultants for the program planning include Villanova Hall of Fame Lacrosse player, Ric Bontatibus and Ric Suzio former President of the Board of Directors and long-time Club supporter.

Ric Bontatibus, a member of the Villanova University and Cheshire High School Hall of fame, Ric was an All-State