

The summer marches on with lots of activities still on the horizon at the Auburn YMCA. The Little Feet Running Camp is winding down with the last meeting being on Thursday, July 29. All participants have received their shirts and as I was down there the other day, I noticed a lot of the kids were wearing them. There are a lot of different ages who are participating in running the track at the high school, challenging themselves with sprints and long distance running as well as stretching out. Instructors Mary and Tracy keep the program fun and interesting.

The Clifford Field recreation program is going great guns. This program runs Mondays through Fridays from noon to 3pm under the direction of Greg Stowell and Mindy Cardinale, both certified teachers. Last week the art project had all of them decorating their own flip flops. There is a monthly craft schedule that anyone can pick up as well as drop in sports activities and games. With over 60 kids dropping in on a daily basis, this collaboration between the city and the Auburn YMCA seems to be working out very well. Another example of the Auburn YMCA's mission as we continue to provide programs "for all".

Continuing along in the collaborative vein, the first Auburn Doubledays/YMCA baseball camp is already full and the second session, beginning August 9-11 has 5 openings left in it. If your child is interested in instruction by the Doubledays players and coaches, sign them up as soon as possible. Free admission to the Doubledays game is included in the price of registration.

Many of you may have seen on the national news that the YMCA has developed a new "brand" which allows us to be more recognizable as a charitable organization and less as a gym or swimming pool. The YMCA will still adhere to our mission but it will be expanded to include social responsibility, youth development and healthy living. These will be incorporated in our regular programming. The brand will be consistent with all of the Ys across the United States and we will still stand proud in our history of how the YMCA became an organization in the beginning. It is hoped that with the new brand revitalization we will be recognized as the leading, non profit, charitable organization that is able to provide impact in the areas that we serve. Going forth, this should also ensure that we will be able to continue to provide Y programs for generations to come as well as serve people in new ways. The YMCA feels that we have a responsibility to those who depend on us to clarify what we stand for and why we are worth supporting.

The management of the Skaneateles Rec Center by the Auburn YMCA will begin on August 1. At this time, there will be reciprocal memberships for use in either facility. We welcome all members to come and visit us as well as the Skaneateles Rec. Center. All of the staff there have been working hard to try and acclimate to the many changes that will be going on. We have also been working hard to keep them informed of our policies here. We look forward to this being a huge success and a good situation for all members at both facilities.