

2nd Annual Syracuse Parks and Recreation Community Center Chili Cook-off

On Friday, January 30th at 2pm, Westmoreland Community Center hosted the 2nd annual Parks and Recreation Community Center chili cook-off. This was one of many monthly competitions held between the centers. Each participating center was given the basic ingredients to chili, provided by Parks and Recreation. They were told they could add any other ingredients they would like to make their chili the way they wanted. Each center was given, one pound of ground beef, one can of beans, one can of crushed tomatoes, and some chili powder. They then made their chili on their own with the children at their centers. Participating centers included, Westmoreland, Wilson, Northeast, Ed Smith, McChesney/ Schiller (who had one chili between the two centers), and Cannon. The Spencer St. office also entered a chili. There were 7 chili's total, to be judged. All centers and staff were transported to the event by the Parks and Recreation green bus.

There were three judges at the event. They were Tom White, director of McChesney Community Center, Kathleen O'Neil, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, and Alice Bell, the mother of Westmoreland director, Diane Hunt. Each participating center brought one to three staff and two children. The hosting center, Westmoreland, also had two staff attending and about 10 children. Including all staff, children and other guests attending, there were about 40 people participating in the event (about 25 kids).

The children from the centers served the judges samples of each chili. The judges tasted each chili and scored them. While the judges were adding up their scores, staff handed out chili to all attending. Once the scores were added up, the winners were announced. The second place chili was Cannon St. Community Center. And the first place chili was the Spencer St. office. This is the second year for Spencer St. to take the winning prize. Trophies were awarded to the winners. Once all attending had some chili, socialized and heard who the winners were, they were transported back to their centers in the park's bus. Westmoreland center children and staff cleaned up and thanked the judges, presenting them with appreciation gifts, which were picture frames. Westmoreland did a great job hosting, and the event was enjoyed by all who participated.

