

## RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Berlin Recreation and Parks went through a transitional period with the retirement of long-time Community Service Director Laura Lee Viger. With her many hats, Laura's Recreation duties were divided between Michael Perreault, Public Works Director, now overseeing the maintenance division (Parks) and Terry Letarte handling the programming activities (Recreation).



Cheerleaders practicing their routines.

The recreational aspect of the department was fortunate to have the support of outside agencies to help us weather our four percent budget reduction. Tri-County CAP came through for the second year in a row with financial support enabling us to maintain three summer playground sites. We saw a marked increase in playground participation and the economy was probably one major reason we served over 1,700 lunches and 1,500 snacks free to area children. These free, nutritious lunches and snacks were part of the U.S.D.A. Summer lunch program. For the first time, another agency, Jobs for American Graduates, (JAG) provided staff for additional programming oversight. These young workers assisted on a playground, helped with coaching our Farm League Baseball teams and provided maintenance assistance to our Parks' crew. This allowed us to have ample staffing without straining our already tight budget. We hope to continue working with these

agencies in the future to offer quality programs at no or low cost to the citizens of Berlin.

Departmental cooperation was the name of the game this summer as the North Country Men's Basketball league had access to the Berlin Junior High gymnasium. Many summer nights the Junior High was host to a gym full of spectators watching some exciting basketball games. The Men's League also gave back to the community with their fund raising event, a Free Throw and Dunking Contest, raising funds for area military families. Use of the Berlin Junior High allowed for greater attendance and we appreciate the school's support in this activity.



Children enjoying lunch from the USDA sponsored Lunch Program

After a year's break, Field Hockey and Tennis Lessons returned this summer and a new program, Cheerleading, was offered to 13 enthusiastic first through fourth grade girls. This is a reminder to anyone wishing to see a certain program or activity offered; do not hesitate to contact the Berlin Recreation Department at 752-2010. We will do our best to bring a new and enjoyable recreation experience to area residents.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Theresa (Terry) Letarte*  
Recreation Programmer