Where has summer gone? That's becoming the sad lament from most of us as we hear the wind rustling through those drying leaves, a definite signal that there's change in the air.

Parents are out with kids in tow to fill the list of required items for their particular school-age child. Enough pencils, pens, paper, markers, tissue paper… new shoes, jackets, slacks, tops, socks… lunch pails, bags, hot lunch money, snacks…

Football is on everyone's mind… how will the Wykons fare this year? What about the Trojans? Will this be a good season for the Lions? Can the Packers "repeat?"

As spring leads to summer, we all know summer will lead to fall. It's just that the lead time seems to get smaller and smaller and we grow older and older.

Where has summer gone?

Wherever it has gone, it certainly has been another busy couple of months, hasn't it? We know summer comes and goes as quick as the blink of an eye, and we do the best we can to get in as much summer activities as possible in the time allotted.

Looking back, we've done a pretty good job of it. Can you believe how much we've packed in these summer days in the short span of time we have?

Obviously, our jammed-pack summer is a testimony to the many, many unnamed individuals who put in a lot of hours over a lot of months making sure their event, and our summer season, is filled with plenty to do, to see and to enjoy.

Amazingly, they manage to pull it off each and every year. That's a talent that seldom gets recognized, but should.

So, as our summer activities begin to fade into the upcoming autumn sunset – oh be sure, there's still a couple of activities yet on the calendar – we'd like to take time to salute the myriad of unsung volunteers and workers who put in the time and energy to give us another glorious summer to celebrate.

Now, if they could just stretch out the summer for just another couple of weeks or so…

--Allyce Westphal