



Monthly Department Report – February 2017

Program Updates

Senior Trips/ Programs: We had to cancel one trip due to weather in February, but we did have 14 seniors visit the Owl's Head Transportation Museum. We introduced our Market Basket trips, and those that chose that as their shopping location for the week also enjoyed lunch at the Olive Garden after the trip.

Youth Programs: The After School Mad Science Program continues to be offered at the Primary School throughout the schoolyear. The Multi-Week Ski Programs at Shawnee Peak on Wednesday and Friday nights concluded in February, and the conditions were great for skiing this year. We began an After School Yoga Program on Wednesdays for children in Grades K-5, and we filled that session, and began a waiting list for the Spring Session. We offered an Early Release Day Program for the middle school population, and we had 7 youth join us for a rock climbing experience.

Adult Programs: The Men's Basketball League continued its winter season, as did the Men's Tuesday and Thursday Open Gym program. We are also currently selling season passes for the Sunday morning Open Gym Basketball and Volleyball programs which run throughout the winter. The Volleyball Program has become extremely well-attended, and we are working with that gym supervisor to coordinate the program in order to better serve the large number of attendees. Adult Pickleball currently takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings in the Town Hall Gym.

Outdoor Programs: Snow shoes are available to be loaned out from the department, and we have sizes for youth, women and men. This program was very popular this winter due to the snowy conditions, and many residents took advantage of this offering.

Special Events Update

We held our first "S'Mores and Skating Nights at Manchester Ice Rink on Friday, February 3rd, and we had approximately 60 people take part in this free family event. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row the winter conditions on the week-end of Winterfest were not in their prime, and we ended up canceling all but the free open swimming at the Microtel and the Photo Contest, as the rainy, foggy conditions did not lend themselves to outdoor activities. The 1st annual Photo Contest was well received, and we are displaying the photos in the hallway of the Council Chambers. The department has other ideas for a different type of Winter celebration

earlier in the winter next year that will not be weather dependent, but will promote all that our town and region has to offer in the winter.

The department also held another very successful Father Daughter Dance in February, with 149 daughters attending with their “special someones”. Volunteers from St. Joseph’s College were on hand that night to help out with the festivities, and it was a great evening for all. By expanding the area that the dance is held in to both the gym and the cafeteria, the department has been able to serve more families, since ticket sales were previously capped at 100 tickets.

Facility Updates

Donnabeth Lippman Park: Work continues on the storage building at Donnabeth Lippman Park in December whenever Kevin Bailey is not involved with all of the winter responsibilities that he is involved with. We are also planning to install swings at the park this spring to enhance the existing playground there.

Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks: Flooding of the rink at Manchester School began in December, and an area on Chaffin Pond has been cleared for skating and is used regularly.

Department Projects

Preparations for Summer Camp and Dundee Park are underway; Department is working with volunteer committee members of Summerfest to help them with the registration and communication processes through our software program

Staffing Levels

Year-Round Staff – 3 Full-time, 1 Part-time, 2 Per Diem Van Drivers

Trail/Maintenance Staff – 1 Full-time

Organization/Town Meetings

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: The second major goal of the committee has been to continue research regarding the community’s interest in future development of a community center.

Be the Influence: I continue to participate with this committee and seek ways to provide quality programs that can help our youth feel valued.

Amazing Chase: This committee began meeting again in January to initiate plans for the 2017 event.

Monthly department staff meetings on Friday mornings

Future Event Dates

Mother Son Night – Friday, March 31st, 2017

April Vacation Week activities for both Elementary and Middle School populations