**Director’s Report for April 5, 2021**

**Programs**

After a number of successful programs during the February Vacation Week, our program offerings have slowed during the month of March. Our hope to continue snowshoe hikes into March fell flat as a combination of rain and warm weather wreaked havoc on the trail conditions. We were able to extend out Adult Curling program one extra week into March before we began to lose the ice for the season. Sue continues to have good participation in our weekly Senior Walking and Poker Walk program. We did have to cancel one week due to clean-up from town voting, but participation picked right back up. We had pretty good participation in our two virtual St. Patrick’s Day contests; Coloring Contest and Hidden Picture Contests. The Code Wiz After School Program we were hoping to start in March has been pushed back to May due to scheduling availability of the instructor. We’ve been accepting pre-registrations for the Bunny Hop Story Walk that we’re co-sponsoring with the Gilford Public Library and the Gilford Youth Center on April 3rd and are already anticipating pretty good numbers. The numbers for the programs we’ve run the past month are as follows:

* March 2nd Adult Snowshoe Hike – Canceled due to poor trail conditions
* Adult Curling – 24 Total Participants
* Senior Walking – Averaging about 10-13 Participants per week
* St. Patrick’s Day Coloring Contest – 20 Entries
* St. Patrick’s Day Hidden Picture Contest – 7 Entries
* March 18th Snowshoe Hike w/Library – Canceled due to poor trail conditions

Planning and registration is underway for a number of upcoming spring programs. We’re partnering with the Gilford Public Library and the Gilford Youth Center to co-sponsor the Bunny Hop Story Walk, which is a combination Story Walk and Egg Hunt. We’ve required pre-registration so that we can break all participants into set time frames to limit the number of people allowed in each group. Although we are not planning to run our traditional Vacation Fun Day Programs, we are planning to work with the Lakes Region Riding Academy to offer a four-day Horsemanship Camp. Our Senior Walking program will continue to run weekly and we’re looking into possibility offering some outdoor Senior Programs once weather warms up. We’re working with CodeWiz to try to offer a six-week after school program beginning in early May and hope to have registration for that program opening later in April. We’re also beginning to open registrations for some of our Summer Camp programs as they become available. Unfortunately, some of these programs are still up in the air and may delay completion of our Spring/Summer Brochure until sometime in May. We’re also keeping an eye on fans at Red Sox games. Although we have tickets booked, they are currently limiting capacity and we’re not sure how restrictions around bus travel may affect us, even if Fenway begins to allow more fans in the stands. Here is a list of planned programs for the month of April the dates they will run:

* Bunny Hop Story Walk scheduled for Saturday, April 3rd
* Senior Walking Program continues on Wednesday mornings through the end of the month.
* April Vacation Horsemanship Camp scheduled for April 26th – April 29th
* Senior Programs TBA
* Code Wiz After School Coding programs TBA

**Facilities**

The Arthur A. Tilton Ice Rink officially closed for the season on Wednesday, March 10th. After a tough start due to inconsistent temperatures, we ended up with a very successful, very busy season. We had the most rink rentals since I’ve been with the department and my maintenance staff indicated this was the busiest they have ever seen the rink!

Although all the Bob Houses have been removed from the ice, there are still some on the Beach Property. By State law, they need to be removed by April 1st, so we’ll keep the gate open until that time, or until they have all been removed, whichever comes first.

The nets have been put up at the Tennis Courts and the court gates have been unlocked. We’re coordinating with DPW to monitor the condition of the driveway within the field. Once they notify us that the driveway has firmed back up, we’ll open the gate to the public.

The deadline for firms to submit bids for tennis court re-surfacing services is April 5th. Our hope is to have the courts resurfaced this coming June.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director