**Director’s Report for October 4, 2021**

**Programs**

We’re currently right in the middle of our fall programming. Our youth soccer program is well underway, with very strong numbers, up significantly from last season. We have 5 teams in our grades 3-5 division, 5 teams in our grades 1-2 division and 4 teams in our Kindergarten PeeWee program. We had a couple early issues with some positive COVID-19 cases with participants in our league. After having some teams take a brief pause in their season, we re-evaluated our COVID-19 Policy and made some minor changes to bring us closer in alignment to the school’s procedures. Overall, the program is going very well, with only a couple of days having been canceled due to rain. Our program is scheduled to run through mid-October before wrapping up with our End of Season Round Robin on October 16th. We’ve run the first couple Adult Hikes of our fall schedule. So far, we’ve had good numbers, continuing the trend we saw in the spring. We held our Senior Moment-um End of Summer Beach BBQ program on September 13th and once again had very strong attendance. Dan Barnhart, who runs the Beach Concession Stand, once again helped prepare the meal for this program, which was once again well received by our participants. Sue is already looking at scheduling a few more Senior Programs through the fall. The numbers for the programs we’ve run the past month are as follows:

* Fall Youth Soccer Program (Grades K-5) – 163 Participants
* Senior Moment-um Beach BBQ and Bocce – 56 Participants
* Winnisquam Scenic Trail Adult Hike on Sept. 14 – 14 Participants
* Weeks Woods Adult Hike on Sept. 21 – 14 Participants

We still have a few more Adult Hikes planned for the fall and we may add a few others if interest stays high and as weather allows. Sue will begin running our Adult Volleyball Program the first week in October. This will be the first time this program has started up since the pandemic hit. We’re currently planning for our traditional Halloween Party at the GMS, but are prepared to modify this plan as necessary if COVID-19 cases begin to spike. In addition this this activity, we’re also looking to partner with the Gilford Library to hold a “Spooky Story Walk” sometime the week prior to Halloween. We’ve received information from Gunstock and plan to open up registration sometime in early October It looks like this program will run similar to last season, with only lessons and no chaperoned free ski. We continue to evaluate our plans regarding future indoor programs such as youth basketball and Santa Land. Here is a list of planned programs for the end of September and beginning of October and the dates they will run:

* Adult Hike at Ramblin’ Vewe Farm on September 28th
* PeeWee Soccer Program wraps up on October 2nd
* Adult Hike, location TBD on October 5th
* Adult Volleyball Begins on October 5th and runs every Tuesday at the GMS
* Adult Hike, Location TBS, on October 12th
* Youth Soccer wraps up on October 16th with End of Season Round Robin
* Halloween Program Activities will be offered in late October.

**Facilities**

I am still waiting on result of the testing from the dead Liberty Elm tree that had been located next to the Bandstand at the Village Field to see if the tree died from Dutch Elm disease, in which case it should be covered by warrantee.

Bradley McIntire has completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Arthur A. Tilton Ice Rink. The work he did game out great and we are very thankful for his efforts. I have sent a Thank You Letter to Bradley on behalf of the department.

The Board of Selectmen have approved us to move forward with work to both replace the Bandstand decking with composite decking as well as make the necessary repairs to the ceiling boards. Additionally, they have approved us to move forward with roof replacement on the Bandstand. The have tabled discussion on replacing the roofs on the Varsity Dugouts and the Maintenance Shed until their next meeting.

The Swim Lines at the beach were removed on September 15th and our hope is to remove the JIM Buoys on the 29th. We’ll look to have the water turned off and the building closed up for the season sometime shortly after Columbus Day.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director