**Director’s Report for March 6, 2023**

**Programs**

Our Adult Volleyball program has been running on Tuesday evenings and continues to have steady participation each week. We ran two Senior Moment-um activities through February; Lunch and a Movie and a Winter Potluck and had decent attendance at both. Our Senior Strides walking program continues to have steady participation each week. Sue has once again began incorporating a Poker Walk into this program to add a little fun for the participants. Inconsistent ice conditions caused some difficulty with our Ice Skating Lessons. After being able to hold the lessons at our rink for the first two weeks, Instructor Jen Tondreau was able to make arrangements to hold our final two lessons at the Merrill Fay Arena. This was crucial, as we may have been forced to cancel the remainder of the session otherwise. After holding out hope that conditions would improve, we ultimately made the decision to cancel our Adult Curling program for this season due to poor ice conditions. Our Adult Indoor Pickleball Program that Jenny ran wrapped up on February 24th. Overall the session went well and Jenny has some ideas on how to improve this program for future sessions. We’ve been able to hold 4 snowshoe hikes this season. Although turnout has been good, the trail conditions have not been the best and has caused some difficulty with participants needing to decide whether snowshoes or spikes would be better on any given hike. We are not running this program over school vacation week and at this point, we’re unsure whether we’ll be able to run any further hikes in the month of March. Sue and Jenny have been working with the Gilford Youth Center to run a preschool “Mad Science” program, which has gone very well, with participants enjoying making a mess with a new activity each week. Our Youth Basketball All Star teams have been practicing and participating in scrimmages throughout the month. All three teams also participated in the Lou Athanas Youth Basketball League (LAYBL) tournament, which was held February 22-26 and they each experienced varying levels of success. We have a number of programs scheduled for school vacation week. These include a Vacation Fun Day on Tuesday, our Annual Cardboard Box Sled Derby on Wednesday and our Boston Celtics Bus Trip on Wednesday evening. The numbers for the programs we’ve run the past month are as follows:

* Weeks Wood Snowshoe Hike – 10 Participants
* Adult Volleyball – 14-19 Participants each week
* Senior Walking – 5-7 Participants per week.
* Ramblin’ Vewe Farm Snowshoe Hike – 10 Participants
* Senior Moment-um Lunch and a Movie – 23 Participants
* Waukewan Highland Park Snowshoe Hike – 14 Participants
* Youth Ice Skating Lessons – 7 Participants
* Ramblin’ Vewe Farm II Snowshoe Hike – 6 Participants
* Adult Indoor Pickleball Program – 24 Participants
* Adult Curling Program – Canceled Due to Poor Ice Conditions
* Preschool Mad Science Program – 14 Participants
* Youth Basketball All Star Program – 31 Participants
* Senior Moment-um Winter Pot-Luck – 22 Participants

Planning and registration is underway for a number of late winter/early spring programs. We have three programs scheduled for February School Vacation Week; our February Vacation Fun Day, Annual Cardboard Box Sled Derby and Celtics Bus Trip. After a two year hiatus due to COVID-19, we’re excited to be bringing back our Annual Francoeur-Babcock Basketball Tournament. Teams from the communities of Franklin, Gilmanton, Laconia and Sanbornton will be joining our all-star teams for this four-day tournament scheduled for early March. Jenny and Sue have a couple of upcoming Senior Moment-um programs planned including the Spring Ice Cream Buffet and Show program that we co-sponsor with the GHS Drama Club and the GHS National Honor Society. Jenny is exploring the possibility of offering another Pickleball session. We are looking into the possibility of working with the Gilford Youth Center to co-sponsor a preschool Jr. Picasso program this spring. Tickets for our Red Sox bus trip in July will be going on sale in mid-March. Registration has also opened for some of our Summer Camp programs. We also have a number of on-going programs that will continue through or will end in March. Here is a list of planned programs for late February and March as well as the dates they will run:

* February Vacation Fun Day on February 28th
* Cardboard Box Sled Derby on March 1st
* Boston Celtics Bus Trip on March 1st
* Senior Moment-um Water Street Café Trip on March 6th
* Adult Volleyball runs every Tuesday
* Senior Walking runs every Wednesday
* Francoeur-Babcock Memorial Basketball Tournament on March 9th – 12th
* Adult Pickelball Spring Session – TBA
* Preschool Jr. Picasso Program – TBA
* Senior Moment-um Ice Cream Social and Show Program on March 29th

**Facilities**

 We were able to finally open the Ice Rink for the first time this season on February 7th. Warm weather forced us to re-close the rink on the 13th. Mild temperatures kept the rink closed through the 23rd. We were finally able to get the rink re-opened on February 24th. The extended forecast looks to have cold weather, so we will continue to maintain the ice until we hit the next warm spell, at which time we will likely close for the season.

 The gate to the Gilford Beach was opened for the season on Monday, February 6th to allow access for ice fishing. The gate will remain open through the end of March or until all Bob Houses have been removed, whichever comes first.

The door to the concession stand at Stonewall Park was broken into. Nothing appeared to be missing and it looks as if someone may have been taking shelter in there. The Police have been notified and we’ve coordinated with Buildings and Grounds to secure the door. This is the second time in past three winters this has happened. Talking with members of the Cal Ripken Board, we’re thinking it might make sense to board up this door in the off season moving forward.

The installation of the new roofs for the dugouts and the storage shed has continued to be delayed. At this point, we may just wait for early spring to get this project completed.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director