**Director’s Report for March 7, 2022**

**Programs**

Our Adult Volleyball program has been running on Tuesday evening with somewhat low, but very steady participation with enough players to run game at a time, sometimes with a few subs. We’ve run a couple of Senior Moment-um activities and continue to see good participation in that program. Our Senior Strides walking program continues to have strong attendance each week. Sue has once again began incorporating a Poker Walk into this program to add a little fun for the participants. Our Ice Skating Lessons wrapped up on February 14th. Feedback I received from parents of participants in this program was very positive and it would be worth trying to offer lessons again next year. Our Adult Curling Program which started the last week of January has unfortunately gone bust during the month of February as we’ve been forced to cancel the program each week as we’ve continually run into poor ice conditions on Thursday evening due to the inconsistent temperatures throughout the month. Our snowshoe hikes have also been a bit up and down. After a great start to our season, we’ve had to cancel a couple of weeks due to raining weather and poor trail conditions. We were able to hold our Full Moon Snowshoe Hike in the middle of the month. Unfortunately, we ended up with an overcast evening, so we did not get to enjoy the bright luster of the moonlight as we have in years past. That said, we had a good turnout and the participants still enjoyed the evening walk. Sue has also been assisting the Gilford Youth Center with a Jr. Picasso Pre-school art program. They have very high numbers in the program and Sue says it has been going well. Our Boston Celtics Bus Trip will be held on Tuesday of vacation week and we’re planning to run our Cardboard Box Sled Derby on Thursday of vacation week. The numbers for the programs we’ve run the past month are as follows:

* Ramblin’ Vewe Farm Snowshoe Hike – 12 Participants
* Adult Volleyball – 10-18 Participants each week
* Senior Walking –10-12 Participants per week.
* Senior Moment-um Lunch and a Movie – 30 Participants
* Youth Ice Skating Lessons – 8 Participants
* Weeks Woods Snowshoe Hike – 11 Participants
* Full Moon Family Snowshoe Hike – 14 Participants
* Adult Curling Program – All four weeks canceled due to poor ice
* Jr. Picasso Preschool Art Program – 17 Participants
* Senior Moment-um Winter Pot-Luck – 19 Participants

Planning and registration is underway for a number of late winter/early spring programs. Our Celtics Bus Trip that we are co-sponsoring with Moultonborough is scheduled for March 1st during school vacation week and we still have a few tickets left. Our Annual Cardboard Box Sled Derby is also scheduled for school vacation week. If weather cooperates, we’re hoping to maybe get one last week of Adult Curling in and we’re open to offering more snowshoe hikes if we get any more snow. Sue has planned a number of upcoming Senior Moment-um programs planned including the Spring Dessert and Show program that we co-sponsor with the GHS Drama Club. We are looking into the possibility of working with the Gilford Youth Center to offer some more Pre-School Programs. Tickets for our Red Sox bus trip in July will be going on sale in mid-March, although we may wait until the MLB labor dispute is settled before opening up ticket sales. 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:

* Boston Celtics Bus Trip on March 1st
* Cardboard Box Sled Derby on March 3rd
* Adult Snowshoe hikes will run on Tuesday mornings as conditions allow
* Adult Pick-up Volleyball runs every Tuesday
* Adult Curling will continue on Thursday evenings as conditions allow
* Senior Walking runs every Wednesday
* Senior Moment-um St. Patty’s Day Breakfast on March 14th
* Senior Moment-um Dessert and Show Program on March 23rd
* Senior moment-um Pizza and Bing on March 28th
* Pre-School Program TBD

**Facilities**

After good ice conditions in January, mild temperatures in February have made for up and down ice conditions over the past month. In addition to having some days with soft ice, we also experienced significant melting on a couple of occasions that forced us to close the ice. Once was only for a couple of days, but the second time we were closed for just over a week, including all of Massachusetts vacation week. We were able to get the ice back open in time for the Monday of NH vacation week and we’ll continue to maintain the ice as long as cold temperatures hold.

The gate to the Gilford Beach is open and available for ice fishing access. This will remain open through the end of March or until all bob houses have been removed, whichever comes first.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director