**Director’s Report for January 9, 2023**

**Programs**

The Santa Land Program we co-sponsor with the Gilford Youth Center went very well with a record number of children attending this year! Our Adult Volleyball program numbers Continue to remain steady. We took one week off for the holidays and Sue will be filling in for Jenny through the month of January while Jenny assists with the Gunstock Program. Jenny’s Fit2Ski conditioning program wrapped up well, although attendance dropped off a little towards the end as participants had scheduling conflicts. The Senior Walking Program continues to have moderate, but steady participation. This program also took one week off for the holidays and will be picking back up the first week in January. The Adult Chair Yoga program wrapped up moderate, but steady participation. We are working with our instructor to schedule a demo day during one of our Senior Moment-um activities to see if we can drum up more interest for future sessions. Our Senior Holiday Luncheon went great. It was catered by Hart’s Turkey Farm, which we were able to afford in part by a donation from the Gilford Neighbors Program. We had a huge turnout, filling up and the 4th Grade chorus once again stopped by to sing Christmas Carols. Our Youth Basketball Program started well with a good first weekend of games. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our second weekend of games due to a heavy snowstorm. We have a short break scheduled during the holidays and practices will start back up on January 2nd. We co-sponsored a 4-week Preschool Elves Workshop program with the Gilford Youth Center. These kids had the opportunity to work on a different holiday craft each of the four program days. The Holiday Home Decorating Contest we co-sponsored with the Gilford District PTA went pretty well. We had a decent number of submissions and excellent participation in the voting. The numbers for the programs we’ve run the past month are as follows:

* Santa Land – Over 350 Participants over the two-day event
* Adult Volleyball - Averaging about 16 Participants per week
* Fit2Ski Conditioning Program – 16 Participants
* Senior Walking – Averaging about 8 Participants per week
* Adult Chair Yoga – 5 Participants
* Senior Moment-um Holiday Luncheon – 70 Participants (Program Full)
* Youth Basketball – 116 Players
* Preschool Elves Workshop – 10 Participants
* Holiday Home Decorating – 16 Entries
* Holiday Home Decorating Voting – 271 Votes

Planning and registration is underway for a number of upcoming winter programs. Our Gunstock Learn to Ski and Snowboard Program is scheduled to begin on January 3rd. The Lesson portion of our program has 54 registered participants and we have an additional 59 registered for the Pass Only option. Registration is still open for our Cross Country Ski Lessons offered at Bolduc Park, which begins in January. We are once again working with Skating Instructor, Jennifer Tondreau to offer Ice Skating Lessons beginning in January. We still have many tickets left for our Celtics Bus Trip, which is scheduled for March 1st. Jenny will be starting a 6-week indoor pickleball program starting in January with a session for both beginner and advanced players offered. We will also be co-sponsoring an upcoming Jr. Picasso preschool art program with the Gilford Youth Center. Other on-going programs include Senior Moment-up activities, Senior Strides Walking and Adult Volleyball. We’re hoping to also begin Adult Snowshoe programs and Adult Curling as soon as conditions allow. Here is a list of planned programs for January and the dates they will run:

* Gunstock Ski and Snowboard Program runs Tuesday evenings January 3rd – 24th
* Adult Volleyball runs every Tuesday evening
* Senior Walking runs every Wednesday morning
* Bolduc Park Cross Country Ski Lessons begin on January 7th
* Senior Moment-um Pizza and Bingo Day on January 9th
* Adult Pickleball runs on Friday mornings beginning January 13th
* Ice Skating Lessons run on Monday mornings for 4 weeks starting January 23th
* Senior Moment-um Water Street Café Trip on January 23rd
* Senior Moment-um Dessert and GMS Show on January 25th
* Adult Curling will run on Thursday evenings once conditions allow
* Adult Snowshoeing will run on Tuesday mornings once conditions allow
* Jr. Picasso Preschool Program – Dates TBD
* Youth Basketball Rec Season runs through February 4th

**Facilities**

We closed the gate at the Village Field for the season on December 16th. The installation of the new roofs for the dugouts and the storage shed has been delayed as the contractor is still awaiting his supply shipment, which has been delayed for about a month now. He is still hopeful this will arrive shortly.

Mild inconsistent weather, with some extreme mild temperatures has made the process of building ice at the Arthur A. Tilton Gilford Ice Rink extremely challenging. We were close to being able to open before we lost almost all our ice during the warm weather just before Christmas. We began re-building the ice, but once again hit mild weather for about 6 days straight, which has unfortunately delayed our opening even further. At this point, I’m hoping we might be able to open by the second week in January.

Sincerely,

Herb Greene, Gilford Parks and Recreation Director