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Special Events:

Free events:

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted its 33rd Annual "Superhero" themed Hay Day. Hay Day is a weekend long celebration with adult and children's activities & entertainment; beginning with fireworks on Friday. Saturday's schedule included games, vendors and of course the annual Bed Race. The Recreation Department's team won the Bed Race this year and gladly donated the cash prize back to the event. Sunday the Fireman's Relief Association held their annual pancake breakfast at the Fire Department and the Recreation Department hosted its 2nd annual 3.5 Mile Road Race; the proceeds from the race benefited programs run by the Recreation Department.

Family Nights at Fernald Park is a very popular event. Five Wednesday's during the month of July, Fernald Park was packed with onlookers and gave families the opportunity to enjoy an evening of fun activities. This year's entertainers included, Wayne from Maine, As We Know It, Wild Life Encounters, the Bel Airs and UNH's Little Red Wagon. The Recreation Department sold concessions during Family Nights this year and will continue to do that next year. Items sold included hotdogs, pizza, candy, popsicles, water and soda.

The Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt is held at Fernald Park. This year we spread 5,000 candy & toy filled eggs throughout the park and children ran through with their flashlights and baskets collecting eggs; this event takes place rain or shine.

The Recreation Department celebrated its first Pumpkin Festival Saturday, 10/18. Over 300 people attended the event that was held at Fernald Park. Families were able to carve and decorate pumpkins that they purchased from the Recreation Department for $5/each (we sold out of 40 pumpkins in 20 minutes). Hiram Watson, of Farmington, NH displayed his award winning pumpkin at the event; he was able to answer many questions and allowed participants to take photographs with it. Children also participated in a craft sponsored by the Library and visited the "Touch a Truck" provided by Farmington's Highway, Fire & Police Departments. The Recreation Department set up games for families to play and props to take pictures with; in addition to selling concessions that included hot dogs, chili, apple crisp and other treats.

The Recreation Department hosted a Flu Clinic sponsored by Cornerstone VNA. 11 people attended the event that most health insurances covered; if a participant did not have health insurance their flu shot cost $30.

October 31st the Recreation Department hosted its annual Trick or Treat Parade. 320 people attended the event that allowed children to trick or treat with their parents at participating downtown businesses & organizations.

During the annual tree lighting ceremony, the Recreation Department served hot chocolate and candy to 175 spectators while they listened to the Henry Wilson Chorus perform holiday songs. After the tree and downtown lights came on Santa Claus was delivered by the Fire Department; he walked through the crowd greeting families and handing out candy canes. This event requires a complete community effort; in addition to the schools performing the Highway Department helps put up the downtown lights; the Police Department provides traffic control; and the Fire Department assists in decorating the tree and helping with the ceremony.

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100 people attended the Santa Meet & Greet and ASP Art Show. Participants were able to take their own pictures with Santa Claus at no cost. The Recreation Department was able to take and print pictures of children with Santa for a suggested donation of $3. When the children were done with Santa they walked through the gym admiring art projects completed by our After School Program.

November 21st Alisha and I hosted our 3rd Annual "Fowl" Shot Contest for Town of Farmington Employees. The male and female participant that made the most foul shots in one minute won turkeys to share with their families. In addition, each participant that did not win a turkey was entered into a raffle to win a $25 gift card to Walmart. 25 employees participated in the event which was won by John Langley (Police Department) with 15 baskets made and Deb Tremblay (police Department) & Megan Marquis (Recreation Department) with 6 baskets made. The gift card was won by Robert Hall (Community TV).

The Recreation Department hosted three holiday meals following 55+ Bingo (April, November & December). The meals consisted of ham, turkey and all the fixings you would anticipate from a holiday meal; including desserts!!

Events with a fee:

The annual Daddy Daughter Dance was a sell out; girls age 4-12 and their chaperones enjoyed a night out of dancing and games. Participants enjoyed a pasta bar and deserts prepared by the Recreation Department and received flowers from the Country Daisy. Tickets to the Daddy Daughter Dance were $25/couple and $10/additional child.

The Mom/Son Activity Night was a great evening of individual and team competitions including dodge ball and tug of war (moms vs. sons). The participants ate pizza from Farmington House of Pizza and had ice cream for dessert. Tickets to the Mom/Son Activity Night were $25/couple and $10/additional child.

In March the Recreation Department hosted its 2nd annual Duck Race. Participants purchased their "lucky duck" numbers for $5 each and watched as we floated ducks with corresponding numbers down the Cocheco River. Prizes included a $100 gift card to Walmart, a $50 gas card, a $25 gift card to Funspot and an IPad Mini which was donated to the event by Coppola Physical Therapy, Farmington. Proceeds from this event benefited the Recreation Department. We are planning for the 2015 Duck Race grand prize to again be an IPad; hopefully this will encourage participation in the event.

The Town Wide Yard Sale provides an opportunity for people to get publicity for their yard sale at a low cost. Each participant pays $5 and the Recreation Department constructs a map with all of their addresses on it. The maps are distributed throughout Farmington so thrifty shoppers can plan their yard sale hunt. This year the Recreation Department collected donations from its program's participants and set up a yard sale at Fernald Park; the proceeds from this yard sale benefited the Recreation Departments Summer Programs.

The Toddler Carnival was held at Fernald Park in June. This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy games, contests and a bounce house with their young children. The fee for this event is $5/child.

In September the Recreation Department hosted Family Fun Night at Margarita's Family Restaurant, Dover; 20% of all sales, 4pm-10pm were donated to the Recreation Department. We greatly appreciate all the families that came out to support us that evening.

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Youth Programs:

School Year Programs:

The After School Program for children in grades K-6 continues to be popular with parents and students. This program runs the entire school year; participants are picked up at the school by Recreation Staff members and brought to the Recreation Department to participate in a variety of games, sports, crafts and special activities. Our department is always researching new ways to promote exercise and healthy living to the children in Farmington. We are looking forward to trying new things in the spring of 2015.

In addition to the After School Program the Recreation Department runs February and April Vacation Camps. These camps attend a trip each day and lunch is included in the cost of the week. Some of the trips include: ice skating, bowling, swimming, tubing and Hilltop Fun Center.

Pictured Above:

Addie Fausett is a terminally ill 6 year old girl who lives in Fountain Green, Utah. Addie made national headlines (http://www.today.com/health/6-year-old-girl-asks-holiday-cards-her-last-christmas-1D80339300) when her parents requested for people to send her a "lifetime" of Christmas Cards. Our grades K-6 After School Program made cards for Addie during their craft time and also encouraged their friends at school to do the same and to drop them off to the Recreation Department to be mailed. Our community did a really nice job with this project; on 12/12 I was able to mail 80 Christmas Cards to Addie.

Summer Programs:

The Recreation Department offers two camps during the summer (Grades 1-3 & Grades 4-6). Each camp attended 2-3 trips each week to state parks, pools and other attractions. During the "in house" days children spent time playing games and doing crafts organized by Recreation Staff members. The Grades

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4-6 Camp ended their summer with a camping trip @ White Lake. The three day, two night camping trip was cut short due to inclement weather and the children and staff spent their last evening sleeping in the Recreation Department's Gym.

The Recreation Department introduced a Counselor in Training (CIT) program this year. Children age 13+ were eligible to apply for five open positions in which they worked with Recreation Staff planning and implementing summer programs on a volunteer basis. Each CIT had to complete an application, go through an interview process and once hired become trained in American Red Cross, First Aid and CPR. The goal of this program is to teach teenagers responsibility and to train future Recreation Employees. Children interested in applying to be a CIT the summer of 2015 should contact the Recreation Department in May.

Adult/Senior Programs:

In 2014 our Adult/Senior Programs consisted of 45 trips and activities in addition to 55+ Bingo every Wednesday. Some of the trips that were offered were to: Foxwoods Casino, plays at the Leddy Theatre, holiday shopping trips and Lunch Bunches.

Acknowledgments:

Due to the extraordinary efforts of Chris Davis and Kathy King the Recreation Department was able to raise the funds needed for the 2014, Hay Day Fireworks; without their help the event would not have been possible. The Recreation Department with the help of the Recreation Advisory Committee is in the process of planning fundraisers to fund the fireworks in 2015.

Another group that went above and beyond this year for our community was Grace Community Church (GCC). Members of GCC took on the daily duties of dinners at Fernald Park during the Summer Feeding Program; which provided free breakfast, lunch and dinner to children 0- 18 years old June 30th- August 15th. During the winter months members of GCC put on a free meal in the Recreation Department's Gym Wednesday evenings.

I would also like to give a special thank you to all of the businesses and organizations that continuously support our department through sponsorships and donations. Without your support we would not be able to provide the quality programs and events that we do.

Respectfully Submitted,

RPC

Rick Conway
Director of Parks and Recreation