

Farmington Parks & Recreation 2016 Report

Special Events:

January 29, 2016- 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.

February 12, 2016- 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 Village Bouquet. Tickets to the Daddy Daughter Dance were \$25/couple and \$10/additional child.

March 1, 2016- The Recreation Department hosted a “paint night” at Farmington House of Pizza. Proceeds from this event benefited the Hay Day Fireworks. We greatly appreciate all the families that came out to support us that evening.

March 25, 2016- The Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt is a *free event* held at Fernald Park. This year we spread 6,000 candy filled eggs throughout the park and children ran through with their flashlights and baskets collecting eggs; this event takes place rain or shine.

May 6, 2016- Recreation Department hosted its 4th 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 one free week of Farmington Recreation’s Summer Camp, \$60 in game tokens to Funspot, a \$50 gift card to Subway, a \$25 gift certificate to the Village Bouquet, a \$25 gift card to Walmart, 4 passes to play mini golf at Hilltop Fun Center and four free entries to Farmington Recreation’s Senior Bingo.

June 13, 2016- 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.

July 16, 2016- Family Day @ Fernald Park was held on a Saturday. The *free event* featured performances by Wildlife Encounters & Kacie Grenon, touch a trucks and family games. The Recreation Department sold concessions during the event; items sold included hotdogs, candy, popsicles, water and soda.

August 2, 2016- In conjunction with the Farmington Police Department the Recreation Department hosted National Night Out at Fernald Park. National Night Out is meant to give families and community members the opportunity to interact with law enforcement officials in a positive way. Kacie Grenon performed during the *free event* that also featured the family games with the Recreation Department, concessions sold by the Fire Department and a Police Department information booth.

August 19-21, 2016- The Recreation Department hosted its 35th Annual “Just Keep Swimming” themed Hay Day. Hay Day is a weekend long celebration (8/19- 8/21) with adult and children’s activities & entertainment; beginning with fireworks 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 Recreation Department hosted its 4th annual road race; this year 73 people participated in the 5K race. The proceeds from the race benefited programs

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run by the Recreation Department. During the race the Recreation Department hosted a pancake breakfast in the Municipal Office parking lot.

October 22, 2016-The Recreation Department celebrated its third annual Pumpkin Festival. 40 people attended the event, that featured pumpkin carving, crafts provided by Grace Community Church, a “touch a truck” sponsored by Farmington’s Police & Fire Departments and concessions sold by the Recreation Department. We feel the drop-in participation of this year’s event is due to the rain that was heavy at times throughout the day.

October 26, 2016- The Recreation Department hosted a Flu Clinic sponsored by Cornerstone VNA. 10 people attended the event that most health insurances covered; if a participant did not have health insurance their flu shot cost \$40.

October 28, 2016- Recreation Department hosted its annual Trick or Treat Parade. 150 people attended the *free event* that allowed children to dress in costumes and trick or treat with their parents at participating downtown businesses & organizations. We feel the drop-in participation of this year’s event is due to the rain that was heavy at times throughout the day.



Pictured left are Farmington Recreation employees preparing for the 2016 Trick or Treat Parade: Elysa Braman, Megan Roche, Rick Conway, Travis Smith, Alisha Randall & Eric Brackett

November 15, 2016- The Recreation Department hosted its 5th Annual “Fowl” Shot Contest for Town of Farmington employees. The male and female participants that made the most free throws in one minute won turkeys to share with their families for the holidays. This year we also awarded the department with the highest percentage of participation a pizza party. This year’s winners were Scott Orlando from the Police Department (18 baskets made) and Alisha Randall from the Recreation Department (13 baskets made). Alisha generously donated her turkey back to the Recreation Department so it could be used for our December Senior Meal. The Farmington Police Department won the pizza party with an impressive 100% participation.

Pictured right “Fowl” Shot Winners:
Alisha Randall & Scott Orlando



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December 2, 2016- During the annual tree lighting ceremony, the Recreation Department served hot chocolate and while Farmington's Historical Society served deserts to 300 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 *free event* requires a complete community effort; in addition to the schools performing the Highway & Fire Departments help decorate the tree and the Police Department provides traffic control.

December 16, 2016- 30 people attended the Santa Meet and Greet & Recreation Department's After School Program Art Show. Participants visited with Santa while their family took their picture with him; the Recreation Department was available to take and print pictures of children with Santa for no charge. When the children were done with Santa they walked through the gym admiring art projects and decorated sugar cookies prepared by the After School Program.

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 2017.

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, Paint for Fun and Hilltop Fun Center.

Summer Programs:

The Recreation Department offers a Grades 1-6 Summer Camp. Campers 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. Camp ended its summer with a trip to the Funtown/ Splashtown in Saco, ME where they spent the morning going on rides and the afternoon in the water park.

The Recreation Department continued its 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 2017 should contact the Recreation Department in May.

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Adult/Senior Programs:

In 2016 our Adult/Senior Programs consisted of 38 trips and activities in addition to 55+ Bingo every Wednesday. Some of the trips that were offered were to: the Fryeburg Fair, Foxwoods, plays at the Leddy Theatre, shopping trips and Lunch Bunches. The Recreation Department hosted three holiday meals (April, November & December) following 55+ Bingo. The meals consisted of sandwiches, soup ham, turkey, and all the fixings you would anticipate from a holiday meal; including desserts!!

Acknowledgments:

The Recreation department is very grateful for the efforts of the Recreation Advisory Committee (Ashlee Rourke, Jo Kenney, Kristina Pelletier & Meredith Benker) for their work to fund the Hay Day Fireworks through fundraisers and donations. In addition to fundraising for the fireworks many members of the Recreation Advisory Committee assisted us in planning and implementing our community events. The Recreation Department with the help of the Recreation Advisory Committee is in the process of planning fundraisers to fund the fireworks in 2017.

Another group that went above and beyond this year for our community was Grace Community Church (GCC). On Wednesday evening's during the winter months' members of GCC serve free meals to the community in the Recreation Department's Gym.

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,



Rick Conway
Director of Parks and Recreation