

Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission

The Town of Fremont's Parks and Recreation Commission oversees recreational programs and activities for the Fremont community and the maintenance and management of Fremont Memorial Parks. We welcome any suggestions and would love to have more members involved with the Commission. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the basement meeting room at the Town Hall. Please feel free to stop by and check us out!

The Easter Egg Hunt is an Annual tradition hosted by the Parks and Rec for the children of Fremont. In 2015 the snow decided to stick around and the turnout was not great. Over 3,000 eggs filled with candy and toys were hidden on the two playgrounds at the Ellis School as well as the field for younger children. Children ages 0-3 picked up eggs distributed on the field, while children ages 4-6 searched for eggs hidden on the smaller playground and children ages 7-10 hunted for eggs high and low on the larger playground. Prizes and special treats delighted the children. We would like to especially thank Dunkin' Donuts for their continual support in donating donuts, munchkins and coffee to this event and many others. We are hoping 2016 will bring less snow and a higher turnout!

As we progress through the years we try to come up with new activities for a wide range of residents. In 2015 the Parks and Rec reserved 75 tickets to Canobie Lake Park for the discounted price of \$29 (\$7 off the regular admission price). All tickets sold and we will be ordering 100 next year in anticipation of this great offer gaining interest! We also offered tickets



to Fishercat Baseball games in Manchester, one game per month from May to August. Tickets were \$6 and \$8 for premium seats (about 50% savings off regular ticket prices). York's Wild Kingdom Zoo tickets were sold for \$12 for the zoo and rides package (savings of \$10.25 for adults and \$5.25 for children ages 4-12). We ordered 150 tickets and sold all of them as well! Residents were able to come in to the Town Clerk's office during open business hours and purchase tickets throughout the summer.



2015 marked our sixth Memorial Day celebration in front of the Ellis School following the annual Memorial Day parade that included free hotdogs, burgers, chips, drinks and ice-cream, as well as handouts and patriotic beads, headbands and balloons. We have great pride in our Fremont residents who have and are currently serving our Nation's military and this is a great way to join together and celebrate our patriotism!

Throughout the summer months, the Fremont Parks and Recreation Department hosted outdoor movies held at the Memorial ballfields starting at dusk, beginning Memorial Day weekend with a patriotic lineup on of "the Sandlot" for families and

"American Sniper" for adults only. Movies were played every three weeks and families brought lawn chairs and blankets to come out and enjoy a free movie and open concessions. Children tossed footballs and played on the playground until it became dark enough to start the movie.

The Commission also hosts Camp Fremont. The main objective of camp is to provide a safe, enjoyable environment where school-aged children can develop mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically at an affordable cost to parents. Unfortunately, due to renovations in the school gym and lack of space we were unable to host Camp Fremont in 2015. We are making changes to our budget and overall program this year and will be advertising soon! If you are interested in applying as Camp Director or Co-Director, or becoming a Camp Counselor or returning from previous years please contact nicolectoutier725@yahoo.com.

This year the Fremont Parks and Recreation Commission hosted a 5K Road Race to benefit a "Rec Revolving Fund"! This fund will allow us to raise funds through fee-based events and programs in order to purchase or raise money for new equipment, facilities and events without raising or using tax dollars. This allows us to offer more to our community in a cost-effective and self-generating manner!

Participants were able to use an online registration site or stop by the Town Clerk's office during open hours to register! Cost was \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth 12 and under, and a family package was \$60 for families with more than two adults and two children. The route started and ended at 25 Spaulding Road, and we would like to formally thank Rock Your Body for allowing the Fremont Parks and Rec to use their facility for a pre-run warm up and a room for check-in procedures.

Sponsorship was provided by: Evenflow Automotive, Benson's Driving School, Fremont Pizzeria, KTM Properties, Rock Your Body and Danley Demolition Inc. Thank you Sponsors! Without you this event would not have been possible!

The Memorial Fields certainly see many activities each year. The fields are not only maintained by the Town and Recreation Commission, but by the many volunteers that pitch in every year. With due concern for keeping within our budget and trying to keep costs down, we performed routine maintenance to keep the fields in best possible condition for appearance and the safety of users. It is difficult to remember back to the times when there were only two non-irrigated ballfields. Because of the expanded size of the complex we also incur the costs of irrigation, upkeep, electricity, septic, mowing and fertilization and thankfully less frequently this year, vandalism was at a minimum.

Since 2014, with the coordination of Doug Brown, the Memorial fields have had great use by Fremont's Adult softball league! Throughout the summer from July through September Fremont resident adults play softball as their children play on the playgrounds and cheer them on. This league has grown in popularity and in 2015 two teams were added to accommodate the growing interest to host a total of 6 teams playing 1 to 2 times a week on the Babe Ruth field.

A new zero-turn mower was purchased this year, which has allowed us to mow the fields in 1/3 the amount of time, reducing cost of labor for mowing. We also purchased a 12x20' shed to accommodate overflow.

In 2015 the Parks and Recreation Commission regavelled the driveway from the entrance up to the little league field. Several volunteers cleared brush and trees in front of the entry and near Main Street. We hope this helps reduce vandalism by providing enhanced visibility to the park and that damage to vehicles is reduced as overhanging brush has been eliminated. Several residents have commented on how nice it looks to see into the park! This spring we will be pulling stumps from the area and seeding to enhance the beauty of the entrance. A special thanks to Michael Rydeen, Doug Brown, Bob Sabatini, Jeff Lescizka and all volunteers who helped make our park beautiful!

In 2017 we hope to add a pavilion for residents to enjoy. This project is the inspiration for the Rec Revolving Fund that will be able to be utilized by not only residents and the Parks and Rec events but also by the Fremont Athletic Association and the PTA for field day. Every year the PTA uses the Parks and Rec tent for field day and we are hoping to replace it with a stable structure that will withstand the test of time. We will also be looking into adding electricity to the back fields to run the pitching machines, outdoor movies, etc. as well as looking into a portable ice skating rink on the soccer field. Vote YES for the Rec Revolving Fund on Article 15, with no tax impact!

The Fremont Halloween Party was another great success! Children came in costume and enjoyed parading around the gym to show off their spooky attire. There was face-painting, goodies, crafts, trick-or-treat bags, games, donut-eating contest and pumpkin decorating. Pizza was included for FREE to all who attended from the Fremont Pizzeria and two pizzas were donated!



We rounded out the year with our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting, which was held this year again at the Ellis School gymnasium. A big Thank You to Keith Burleigh for the use of his equipment and his time and labor in helping us get high enough to decorate our ever-growing tree! We welcomed many children in decorating gingerbread house shaped cookies, making crafts and singing holiday carols around the town tree at the Safety Complex. Santa was able to take time from his busy schedule to pop by for a visit as well as participate in the caroling around the tree at the safety complex! We would like to thank John Linville for taking the time to bring some holiday cheer to the children of

Fremont and join in our caroling as well as the Fremont Police Department for directing traffic to ensure safety of our children and families in crossing the street from the Ellis School parking lot to the Safety Complex tree-lighting and back to the Ellis parking lot.



In December, the Fremont Parks and Recreation hosted a Holiday Fair. Community members and surrounding towns were invited to join local vendors to do some holiday shopping, eating, crafting and more! Guests could purchase or browse a variety of goods including, hand-painted glass, handmade American Girl doll clothing and accessories, jewelry, candles and home decor, caked goods, handmade cards and paper crafts, hand-knit items, books, Jamerry nails, wearable art, hand-painted tote bags, handmade soaps, Shakeology and more!!! Vendors paid a \$15 fee per table and all profits went toward the Recreation Revolving Fund.

In 2015 the Fremont Parks and Recreation partnered with McIntyre ski area in Manchester to provide ski and snowboard lessons to Fremont children and children in the surrounding towns this winter. Children ages 4–6 had lessons on Sundays from 12:30 to 1:45 pm beginning January for 4 weeks. Lessons cost \$145 (all 4 lessons), rentals were \$55 (if needed), and helmet rental was \$15 (if needed). Children ages 6+ had lessons on Fridays from 4:30–6:30 pm for five weeks. Lessons were \$145, rentals were \$65 (if needed), and helmet rental was \$15 (if needed). This was the first year we've partnered with McIntyre and we hope to make this an annual opportunity for Fremont families!

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to formally thank Gabby and Joey Studley for their continuing efforts and volunteerism with our events. Gabby and Joey show up to nearly every event early, help set up, help with activities and clean up! Without the help of our volunteers none of our events would be possible!

NEW AND EXCITING NEWS: The Friends of the Fremont Library, in conjunction with the Fremont Parks and Recreation Commission has begun an ADULT RECREATION PROGRAM. We will be offering ZENTANGLE and Stamping/Papercrafting classes. Zentangle is the fun and relaxing process of using repetitive patterns to create beautiful images. The cost is \$5 for materials and classes are free! Flyers will be available at the Library, Town Hall or email us at fremontadultrec@gmail.com for more details! We will be providing more classes throughout the year. If you have ideas, we would love to hear them! This is a wonderful way to meet new community members, have a night out with friends, be inspired and learn new skills! Please join us!

We are dedicated to continuing these successful programs and we are always seeking new ideas to build the community through recreational activities and programs. Without the many volunteers from the community these activities and programs would not be possible. We would like to recognize the time and efforts of organizations such as the Fremont Athletic Association, PTA, Ellis School employees, the Board of Selectmen, Town Office Staff and everyone who supported us during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Cloutier
Fremont Parks & Recreation Commission

Sharon Muse

Kim Dyer

Jon Benson

Photos Courtesy of Nicole Cloutier