

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 main floor at the Town Hall. Please feel free to stop by and check us out!

The Recreation Department is happy to announce that Playgroup is still going strong after 14 years. Playgroup is for children aged 0 to 5 years. Playgroup sessions are held weekly alternating locations at the Gymnastics at Brentwood Commons/Action Kids Athletics in Brentwood and the People's United Methodist Church. We have every second and fourth Friday from 10:00 to 11:00 am with Open Gym, story and snack exclusively for Fremont Playgroup. The first, third and fifth Fridays include crafts and play as well as follow up story, snack and Parent to Parent chat. There is no preregistration required. Children of all ages are welcome; we do have space and toys for infants as well as older children. The cost is \$3 per child for the gym and children who are not yet walking are free! The 2011-2012 Playgroup season was co-coordinated by Nicole Cloutier and Stephanie Allen. Nicole Cloutier is formally stepping down from her coordinating role in 2013 after six amazing years. If anyone is interested in coordinating or has any questions please feel free to contact fremontplaygroup@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook! Just look for Fremont Playgroup for upcoming events and details! We have a lot of newcomers this year so don't hesitate to join the fun. We hope to see you there!

The Easter Egg Hunt at the Fremont Memorial Park continues to grow every year. In 2012 the weather cooperated and the Egg Hunt went off without a hitch. This year we tried a new approach of utilizing the playground for older children to challenge the collecting and all had great fun! Hundreds of kids had a wonderful time scooping up eggs laid out at the baseball field and hidden high and low at Memorial Park. Prizes, face painting and special treats delighted the children. In 2013 there will be MANY more eggs to collect as this event has grown to such success!

As we progress through the years we try to come up with new activities for a wide range of residents. Last year was our third year for the Pat's Peak event. This year's Fremont Pat's Peak event will take place on February 23, 2013 from 3:00 to 10:00 pm. Price for admission is just \$39 per person and includes rentals, skiing, snowboarding AND tubing lift ticket, or all three if people like to switch it up! Children under 5 are FREE, (however, cost for rentals is \$18, helmets not included and are \$8 for rental). Since this does not take from our budget, you do NOT have to be from Fremont to enjoy this great rate so people are encouraged to invite friends and family! For more info contact Nicole Cloutier via email at nicolecloutier725@yahoo.com

2012 marked our third Memorial Day celebration at the Memorial fields following the annual Memorial Day parade that included free hotdogs, chips, drinks and ice-cream, face-painting,

games, goodies, handouts and a bouncy house. 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!

The Recreation Department 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. 2012 was a wildly successful year for Camp Fremont, largely due to an amazing director, LeeAnne Hatch! LeeAnne came to us with nine years of experience as a camp counselor at the YMCA's Camp Coney Pine in Strafford County, with responsibilities including adventure specialist and Assistant Camp director. In addition, LeeAnne has been an eight-grade teacher at Timberlane Regional Middle School for eight years, so we were beyond happy to have her as our Camp Director here in Fremont for the past 2 years! Unfortunately LeeAnne will not be returning in 2013 and we want to thank her for all that she did for our children and families here in Fremont!

The summer of 2012 saw great attendance for camp. Weekly averages were 35-45 children. With a low camper-to-counselor ratio, your child receives individual attention and is actively monitored. Campers participate in a structured day which is filled with a variety of enrichment, physical, and arts & crafts activities that are largely based upon the theme of the week. Campers are often entertained by educational presenters and typically go on a field trip every week. These experiences and a free Camp Fremont t-shirt are included in the tuition costs. Enrollment is open so you are never too late. Come see how much fun Camp Fremont can be! The pricing structure this year was extremely enticing and many families took advantage of the additional discounted weeks. Price was based on a sliding scale which started at \$95 per week and was decreased by \$10 for each additional week! There were also discounts for multiple children from the same family. The before care program starting at 7:30 to 9:00 am and after care extended from 3:00 to 5:30 pm was a huge hit as it allowed many parents time to get to work. Cost for before and after care was just an additional \$10 per day and only \$30 for the week!

Another addition to our continued efforts to allow residents and families to get discounted prices for local venues included a Water Country consignment deal for the second year in a row. Residents were able to buy tickets to Water Country at the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall, which are good for any date and do not expire, for just \$28.50; a \$9.49 savings per ticket! This event also allows for residents to invite friends and family in the savings since it does not take from our budget! We also offered an amazing deal for almost half off ticket price to Six Flags but were not able to incur enough participation for the group rate and was cancelled.

This summer we hosted our third successful trip to York's Animal Kingdom in August where guests could enjoy a discounted price of just \$11 per person for the animal kingdom AND rides- that's a \$10.25 discount for adults and \$5.25 for children! Thirty-five (35) people attended.

The Memorial Fields certainly see many activities each year. The fields are not only maintained by the 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.

Dick Rand puts a lot of love and care into the field complex throughout the year, often without compensation and his efforts are well appreciated. We did not have any major expenses that we wanted to put forth for 2013 and we chose not to add to the facilities at time. We have future thoughts for a skate park area and an outside public skating rink that can be removed in the spring.

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 a pumpkin carving contest where prizes of candy, pop-corn and Halloween movies were awarded to the craftiest pumpkins based on 3 different age ranges! This year 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. We welcomed many children in making crafts, enjoying cookie-decorating and hot chocolate and singing holiday carols around the town tree at the Safety Complex. Santa was able 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 Denny Wood for taking the time to bring some holiday cheer to the children of Fremont and join in our caroling as well as Renee King 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.

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	Jon Benson	Sarah Lamirande
Beth Swanson	Elizabeth Torre	
Fremont Parks & Recreation Commission		