

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 on the Commission, and are currently short one member position. 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 Commission is happy to announce that Playgroup is still going strong after 13 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 in Fremont. We have every 2nd and 4th Friday from 10:00 to 11 am with Open Gym, story and snack exclusively for Fremont Playgroup and every first, third and fifth Friday with 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 and 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! A special thanks to Stephanie Allen and Aimee Arsenault for co-coordinating playgroup's 2011 season! For any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact FPG via email at nicolecloutier725@yahoo.com. 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 2011 the weather cooperated and the Egg Hunt went off without a hitch. This year we tried a new approach of spreading out the eggs in a wider array 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 soccer field at Memorial Park. Prizes of pickets, teddy bears and special treats delighted the children.

As we progress through the years we try to come up with new activities for a wide range of residents. This year was our second year for the Pat's Peak event. Ski dates at Pats Peak were reserved through the months of January, February and March. However, due to poor enrollment, in 2012 we are opting for just one date-February 11th and will see how this method will work for next year. Price for admission is just \$38 per person and includes rentals, skiing, snowboarding AND tubing lift ticket, or all 3 if people like to switch it up and lesson tips! Children under 5 are FREE, and if they need rentals, the cost is just \$18! (Helmets not included in rental 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!

2011 marked our second 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 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. 2011 was a wildly successful year for Camp Fremont, largely due to an amazing new Director, Lee Anne Hatch! Lee Anne came to us with 9 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, Lee Anne has been an eighth-grade teacher at Timberlane Regional Middle School for 7 years, so we were beyond happy to have her as our Camp Director here in Fremont!

The summer of 2011 saw the biggest attendance yet for camp. Weekly averages were between 40-55 kids. 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 per additional week! There were also discounts for multiple children per family. The before-care program ran from 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. Residents were able to buy tickets to Water Country at the Town Hall (cash only), good for any date and non-expirational, 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!

This summer we hosted our second 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! 75 people attended and many commented that we should continue this program for years to come!

In November, the Parks and Recreation hosted our second of many more to come- "FREEmont Movie Night" where Fremont residents could attend any movie of their choice at the Regal Hoyts Cinema in Hooksett on November 12th for free! This was a residents-only event as it did draw from our budget and guests were required to show proof of residence and sign in to get the free admission.

The Memorial Fields certainly see many activities each year. The fields are not only maintained by the Recreation Commission, but with help from the many volunteers that pitch in every year. Some additional work was done on the drainage system to prevent further

erosion and packed gravel was added for stability. We repaired over 180 feet of fencing that was damaged due to fallen trees and vandalism and repaired the fencing on the batting cages and added reinforcement bars after the weight of the Halloween snow storm caved them in. We also added a 26 foot high net in front of the concession stand to protect diners from getting hit in the head from Fremont ball players' home runs. Fremont children played and enjoyed many games, tournaments and other activities at the park during baseball, softball and soccer season. The Ellis School Field Day had great weather and fun was had by all.

The Fremont Halloween Party was another great success for the third year in a row! 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!

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 were grateful this year for the involvement of Larry Mack, from the FAA, attending one of our Parks and Recreation meetings in an effort to join hands together to create a more unified volunteer base in both groups. Also to Elizabeth Torre who will soon be sworn in as a new addition to the Commission, and has attended many of our meetings and events with new ideas and enthusiasm! We will be glad to have you.

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, Chair	Jon Benson
Sarah Lamirande	Beth Swanson
Fremont Parks & Recreation Commission	