

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 Ballfields and Park. We welcome any suggestions and would love to have more input to 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 Department is happy to announce that Playgroup is still going strong after 12 years. Playgroup is for children aged 0 to 5 years. Playgroup sessions are held weekly and alternate locations between the Gymnastics at Brentwood Commons/Action Kids Athletics in Brentwood and the People's United Methodist Church in Fremont. We have the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 10:15 to 11:00 am with Open Gym in Brentwood, exclusively for Fremont Playgroup. The first, third and fifth Friday with crafts and play as well as follow up story, snack and Parent to Parent chat at the PUMC. 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! A special thanks to Stephanie Allen for co-coordinating playgroup's 2010 season! A special thanks also to Aimee Arsenault for her work assisting the playgroup. For any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact FPG via email at nicolecloutier725@yahoo.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 2010 the weather cooperated and the Egg Hunt went off without a hitch. 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. In 2011, ski dates at Pats Peak have been reserved through the month of January, February and March. Another addition to our activities this year included a 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.

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. We would like to thank Jen Jaquith who has been our Camp Director for the past five summers. We appreciate her dedication to Fremont's children and wish her the best as she pursues other interests. This coming summer program will have a new director and we look forward to other new ideas to follow Jen's years of leadership at Camp Fremont!

The summer of 2010 saw the biggest attendance yet for camp. Weekly averages were between 40 and 55 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. The before-care program starting at 7:30 am was a huge hit as it allowed many parents time to get to work.

Also this summer we hosted our first trip to Yorks Animal Kingdom in July where guests could enjoy a discounted price of just \$11 per person for the animal kingdom and rides. Eight-six (86) people attended and many commented that we should do this again! In August Parks and Recreation coordinated with Canobie Lake Park in offering Fremont residents a discounted ticket price by promoting a large group to get the lower rate!

In November, the Parks and Recreation hosted our first of many more to come - "FREEmont Movie Night" where Fremont residents could attend any movie of their choice on November 12th for free! We had a whopping 116 Fremont residents attend and are excited to host more to come for all to enjoy.

The Memorial Fields certainly see many activities each year. The fields are not only maintained by the Recreation Department and Town Staff, but from the many volunteers that pitch in every year. This year we installed security lighting around the perimeter of the main building. We erected a 26 foot high net behind the road end soccer goal in an effort to stop balls from bouncing over and entering the parking area and Main Street. Some additional work was done on the drainage system to prevent further erosion and packed gravel was added to the driveway for stability. Danley Demolition donated a basketball pole and backboard which was placed on the court side at six (6) feet for the use of younger players. Electric hand dryers are now installed in the bathrooms, eliminating the use of paper towels. We added two (2) new structures to the playground for toddlers to enjoy this year as well as well!

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 held this year on Halloween night and was a great success for the second 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 and a pumpkin carving contest where prizes of candy, popcorn and Halloween movies were awarded to the craftiest pumpkins based on three different age ranges!

We rounded out the year with our annual holiday tree lighting, which was held this year at the Ellis School gymnasium. We welcomed many children in making crafts, enjoying cookies and hot chocolate and singing holiday carols. 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!

A very special thank you is offered to Renee King, who stepped down as Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Commission in 2010. Renee has led the Commission for the past 12 years and her involvement is dearly missed. She provided many years of great leadership, energy and enthusiasm to the community. We wish her well in her endeavors moving ahead as well.

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

Fremont Parks & Recreation Commission



Garden Club Members Patricia Angus, Patricia Richmond, Mary Kaltenbach and Aja Mahoney with Selectmen Annmarie Scribner and Greta St Germain dedicating a new sign commemorating Garden Club Founder Brande McLean at the Friendship Garden at the Fremont Town Hall
June 2010

Photo Courtesy of Carolyn Carr