

## Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission

**Mission statement:** Dedicated to planning & providing recreational activities through open space and facilities for the Fremont Community of all ages and walks of life.

**Overview:** Fremont Parks and Recreation had a great 2022. Our Commission worked very well together, Michelle Gallant, Nancy Murray, Maria Knee and Michael Rydeen and grew by one new member Danielle Gill. This wonderful group of volunteers had lots of ideas and has even more event ideas for the future while still staying within the Commission's budget. This year the Fremont Parks and Recreation has made more of an effort to include other community groups in our events to help increase awareness of the other groups that community members can participate in.

### Our Accomplishments for the year:

February:

- Snow and ice sculpture competition - over 20 creative submissions were received and posted on our Facebook page. The winner received a Stillwell's ice cream gift certificate.

April:

- Fremont Parks and Recreation with help from the Easter Bunny hosted our Annual Egg Hunt which was held at Ellis School.
  - Volunteers filled over 4,000 eggs with candy and little toys.
  - We also turned it into a community event with help from Fremont PTA, Fremont Friends of the Library, Fremont Conservation Commission, Litter Free Fremont, Fremont Garden Club, Fremont Fire Rescue, Police and Highway Departments.



- A big Thank You to our Easter Bunny, Nicole Bielecki.



- Earth Day was celebrated with a town-wide roadside litter cleanup “Litter Free Fremont.”
  - The week leading up to April 23rd, Parks and Recreation encouraged residents to collect roadside trash in blue bags to be dropped off at the Highway Department or collected by volunteers.
  - Participants received raffle tickets for Fremont businesses.
  - Over 109 blue trash bags were collected.



#### May:

- A time-honored tradition of “May Day Baskets” were delivered to 63 Fremont residents.
  - This tradition is meant to bring a small and good fortune to those such as an elderly person, someone sick, or even someone that was having a difficult year.
  - Popular through the 19th and 20th centuries, a basket or cone containing spring flowers and sweets on would be left on doorsteps, usually anonymously.
  - Please contact Parks and Recreation if you know someone to add to the list. (<https://www.almanac.com/content/what-may-day> )
- The Town-Wide Yard Sale was held on May 7th with 22 homes participating. This is a fundraiser for Fremont Parks and Recreation, to hopefully help fund a pavilion at the town ball fields in the future.

#### June:

- Fremont Parks and Recreation participated in the Fremont Public Library’s Kick off to the Summer Reading Cookout.
  - This was very well-attended by families who participated in fun activities and visited with other community members.
- A rug hooking class also started in June on Tuesday mornings at the Fremont Public Library. Maria Knee coordinated this fun activity.



#### August:

- With help from Fremont Police Department, Fremont Parks and Recreation hosted an outdoor movie night.
  - The movie that was shown was “Spies in Disguise.” We set up the blow-up screen on the front lawn of the Fremont Public Library and offered free fresh popped popcorn and drinks.
  - Despite the crazy weather and bugs, we had a great turn out. Can’t wait for more movie nights for next year.





September:

- Fremont Parks and Recreation participated in the Fremont Public Library's Scarecrow Contest Cookout.
  - There was a huge turnout by the town. Parks and Recreation had a table, where children could make beaded necklaces, bracelets and key chains.
  - This was a great community event that brought together many organizations and groups in town. Thank you, Fremont Public Library for hosting this great event.

October:

- First ever Fremont Pumpkin Patch event with over 100 pumpkins for kids to collect.



- We invited other community groups to set up tables and passed out candy and treats, thank you to all of those who participated.
- Fremont Parks and Recreation loved seeing all the children dressed in their Halloween best!
- “Scary Ghost Stories for Grownups”
  - A joint Parks and Recreation and Fremont Historical Society hosted event.
  - This was a great event featuring acclaimed storyteller Papa Joe Gaudet and our very own Fremont Town Historian Matthew Thomas.
  - This event took place after dark at the Historical Fremont Meeting House, right here on Main Street.
  - Papa Joe Gaudet told three different scary ghost stories, while Matthew Thomas told us the history of murders and haunted houses in our small town of Fremont.
  - Parks and Recreation also provide light refreshments. It was a scary but great night.
  - We are hoping to make this a Fall tradition. Big Thanks to Matthew Thomas for helping us put this amazing event on and teaching us so much about Fremont.
  - We would also like to thank the other volunteers that helped make this a special event.



December:

- Annual Holiday Wreath making workshop at the Fremont Public library.
  - Fremont resident Tracy Hines did a wonderful job teaching the event and looks forward to hosting another event.
  - The wreaths were made from greenery and turned out beautiful.
- Annual Tree Lighting Event
  - Santa made a special stop in Fremont on December 2 for the Annual Santa Party and Tree lighting outside at the Ellis School hosted by the Fremont Parks and Recreation.
  - This year, we gave out over 260 cookies, 97 goodie bags, 130 candy canes and an endless number of crafts.
  - Fremont children told Santa what they wanted for Christmas. There was plenty of Christmas spirit as children brought 46 letters to Santa.
  - These Santa Letters were entered into the raffle with prizes including Holiday books.
  - After the meet and greet with Santa, the town tree on the Safety Complex lawn was lit with the help of a countdown from Santa with his magic light up candy cane.
  - The Ellis School Chorus sang beautiful Holiday Carols during the tree lighting.
  - A big THANK YOU to Fremont Police Department for directing traffic so Fremont families could cross the street safely, the Fremont Fire Rescue Department for helping us set up, Jamie Bolduc and the Ellis Chorus, and the Biggest THANK YOU to Kevin Paine for bringing magic to Fremont children.



Fremont Parks and Recreation events would not be possible without all the help from our great community. We would like to thank and recognize Fremont Public Library staff, Fremont Athletic Association, Fremont PTA, Ellis School Staff, the Select Board, Town Office Staff and everyone who supported us this year.

We are hoping to grow our Commission membership from 5 to 7 this year. Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, generally held on the second Tuesday of the month at Town Hall. Follow us on Facebook for more events. We would love to hear from you, with any ideas or comments. Please email us at [fremontnhprd@gmail.com](mailto:fremontnhprd@gmail.com)

Thank you for a great year,

Michelle Gallant, Nancy Murray, Maria Knee, Michael Rydeen, Danielle Gill  
Fremont Parks & Recreation Commission Members