

Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission

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

Overview: Fremont Parks & Recreation had a great 2023. Our Commission worked very well together, Michelle Gallant, Nancy Murray, Maria Knee, Michael Rydeen and Danielle Gill. This wonderful group of volunteers has had lots of ideas and has even more event ideas for the future while still staying within the approved budget. This year Fremont Parks & 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.

Accomplishments for the year:

February:

- Valentines Day Card Event - Parks & Recreation provided supplies for residents to make Valentines Day cards at the Fremont Public Library. The cards were collected and given to residents of the Poplin Nursing Home. Ninety (90) cards were made and delivered to the nursing home.

March:

- Snow Sculpture Competition - Parks & Recreation received 120 creative submissions. These pictures were posted on our Facebook page. The winner received a Stillwell's Ice Cream gift certificate.
- Family Movie Night with Fremont PD – Parks & Recreation and Fremont PD hosted a movie night inside the Ellis School Gym. We had a great turn out. Everyone enjoyed the new "Minions" movie with popcorn, candy and snacks.

April:

- Annual Egg Hunt- Fremont Parks and Recreation with help from the Easter Bunny hosted our Annual Egg Hunt at Ellis School. Volunteers filled over 3,500 eggs with candy and little toys. We also turned it into a community event with help from Fremont PTA, Fremont Friends of the Library, Litter Free Fremont, Fremont Garden Club, Fremont Fire Rescue Department, Fremont PD, and Fremont Highway.
- Litter Free Fremont - The week leading up to April 22nd, Parks & Recreation encouraged residents to collect road side trash in blue bags to be dropped off at the Highway Department or collected by volunteers. These participants received raffle tickets for every bag they dropped off. Our raffle ideas were gift cards to local



Fremont business - Fremont Pizzeria, 1820 Country Market and Stillwell's Ice Cream. Over 72 blue trash bags were collected.

May:

- May Day Baskets - A time-honored tradition of "May Day Baskets" were delivered to 78 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 would be left on doorsteps usually anonymously. Please contact Parks & Recreation if you know someone to add to the list.
(<https://www.almanac.com/content/what-may-day>)
- Town-Wide Yard Sale - Our Town-Wide Yard Sale was held on May 6th with 21 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.
- Pot Holder Class - Maria Knee and Librarian Cheryl Rowel hosted a Pot Holder Class at the Library. Children and Adults enjoyed the event.
- Memorial Day Parade - At the end of May, Fremont Parks & Recreation helped organize the children groups in the Annual Memorial Day Parade. It was a great turn out!



June:

- Summer Library Cookout - Fremont Parks & Recreation participated in the Fremont Public Library's Kick off to Summer Reading Cookout. This was well-attended by families who participated in fun activities and visited with other community members.
- Fremont Rug Hookers - Maria Knee put together a rug hooking class on Tuesday mornings at the Library. This fun activity has been running weekly for over a year.

August:

- Gem Dig - Fremont Parks & Recreation helped out the Fremont PD with a Gem Dig event. Children were provided with a dig kit and they could find gems and make jewelry out of them. Parks & Recreation provided a pizza lunch.

September:

- End of Summer Concert - Fremont Parks & Recreation organized their first End of Summer Concert at the Fremont Library. The great 60s-70s band "George Belli & the Retroactivists" provide amazing music. Great turn out from all age groups, with about 70 adults and 20 children attending. The Commission sold pizza and drinks from the Fremont Pizzeria.
- Fremont Public Library's Scarecrow Cookout - There was a huge turnout by the town. Nancy came up with a great craft idea "Sprinkle and Spray." Children used color dust and water to make beautiful pictures. 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.

- Family Movie Night with the Fremont PD - A magical movie night watching the First Harry Potter Movie. Fremont Parks & Recreation provided guests with chocolate frogs, popcorn and wands, while Fremont PD provided guests with pizza and chicken tenders. Over 75 guests attended the movie.
- Art for Adults - This year our amazing Nancy started a program called "Art for Adults." She taught art classes 2-3 days a week. She would teach adults about the art of water colors. She would always have a full house.



October:

- Trunk or Treat - Our community came together again for a Halloween Trunk or Treat. Community members decorated their vehicle trunks and handed out candy to local children. Thirteen trunks participated. Nancy designed an amazing photo booth.
 - The winners of the Trunk competition were:
 - 1st place- Don't Fear the Reaper Band
 - 2nd place- Ice Cream Shop
 - 3rd place- Barbie

December:

- Annual Santa Party & Tree Lighting Event - Santa made a special stop in Fremont on December 1st for the Annual Santa Party and Tree lighting in the Ellis School Gym. This year, we gave out over 300 cookies, 123 glow sticks, 140 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 53 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 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 inside the school gym because of the weather. 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 Santa, our very own Selectman Gene Cordes.
- Family Movie Night with the PD - For the Holiday season Fremont Parks & Recreation and Fremont PD played the movie "The Polar Express" Parks & Recreation provided holiday cookies, candy and hot chocolate bar. Fremont PD provided Pizza.





A special guest arrived at the end of the movie (Santa) and passed out magic bells. Thank you again to our very own selectman Gene Cordes for bringing magic to the Fremont Children.

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

We currently have five commission members and are looking for two more. Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, 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

Thank you for a great year,

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

Photos courtesy of Michelle Gallant

“Life is best enjoyed when time periods are evenly divided between labor, sleep, and recreation...all people should spend one-third of their time in recreation which is rebuilding, voluntary activity, never idleness.”

~ Brigham Young