

The Parks and Recreation Department experienced the passing of the torch this summer when Renee Sangermano was hired to replace retiring director, Walt Pryor. Walt served the Town of Jaffrey as the Parks and Recreation Director for nearly 18 years.

2015 started with the return of popular programs such as after-school skiing at Crotched Mountain, and Senior Coffee Hour at the Jaffrey Civic Center. The Warming Hut at Humiston Field provided a warm retreat and concessions for patrons using the seasonal ice rink. Winter break trips were offered to elementary age children to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, the movies, bowling, and snow tubing at Granite Gorge.

The spring brought the Annual Easter Egg and Candy Hunt at the Jaffrey Public Library and many hours of baseball and softball games and practices at Humiston and Community Fields. Spring break week trips were once again offered for elementary aged residents to Fun World, mini golf, the movies, Roll On America, and a hike up Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, MA.

Coming aboard the first day for summer programs, the new director jumped right-in during one of the department's busiest times of the year with summer day programs, sports camps for basketball, baseball, and softball, the Mini Triathlon, tennis lessons and the Jaffrey-Rindge Marlins Swim Team. Swim lessons were not able to be offered this year as a qualified instructor could not be found.



Contoocook and Thorndike beaches were visited regularly by residents and guests throughout the summer and the Contoocook Concession Stand was open 7 days a week to offer ice cream, drinks, burgers, hot dogs, and the very popular grilled cheese sandwich.

The Preschool Minis' Program served children three to five years old. The Mini's Program had daily arts and crafts, water play, and guest visitors including Jaffrey's Children's Librarian Sheila Vanderhorst, the Jaffrey-Rindge Memorial Ambulance, Jaffrey Police Department, and Jaffrey Fire Department.



The AIM and Adventure summer programs provide children in grades kindergarten through eighth grade with crafts and games at Humiston Field, hikes in Children's Woods, and daily trips to the Contoocook Beach. Weekly field trips were offered to destinations around New Hampshire and beyond. A visit from the Kona Ice snow cone truck capped off the summer.

The momentum of the summer rolled into fall with returning and new programs offered. Senior Coffee hour resumed at the Jaffrey Civic Center. Saturday Morning Soccer program returned with a total of 135 participants and a new preschool soccer division. Youth Days at Franklin Peirce University were offered in collaboration with FPU Athletics. Jaffrey Recreation youth soccer players participated in a Youth Day at Franklin Pierce University men's and women's soccer games. This free family event consisted of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade youth soccer players getting out on the college field under the lights at half-time for a scrimmage against the Rindge Recreation soccer team. There was also a post-game autograph session with the FPU Raven Soccer team.

New programs were offered for homeschooling families. In September, our Homeschool Meet-up at Humiston Field playground began on Monday afternoons at 2pm with an average of six families attending weekly, totaling an average attendance of 22 people. A field trip for homeschoolers was taken to the Jaffrey Fire Station in October with 10 adults and 30 children in attendance. Another homeschool field trip was offered in December to Terrapin Glass Blowing to make your own ornament.

A Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was created for seventh through twelfth grade students and had its first committee meeting the first Monday in October. The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) has been a wonderful addition to the department. The YAC works with the Parks and Recreation Director to shape department programs targeted at middle and high school youth while providing leadership experience and a volunteer base for department programs. The YAC members have provided assistance at the Giggles and Ghouls Halloween Hoopla, Father Daughter Dance, Town Tree Lighting, and Holiday Craft Fair.

The YAC developed a "Teen Adventure Series" described as once a month field trips to test your personal limits. Trips offered included Fright Night at Davis' Mega Corn Maze, Launch Trampoline Park, and a Lock-In (Sleepless Sleepover) at the Jaffrey Public Library.

An application to the Keith M Sullivan Foundations resulted in the Department being awarded \$1000 grant to help fund the YAC and teen programming. The funds will be used to offer leadership training opportunities for the YAC and offset the cost of the Teen Adventure Series to participants. Thank you Keith M Sullivan Foundation!

Fall saw the first annual Giggles and Ghouls Halloween Hoopla with over 200 children and adults stopping by Community Field on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> during TEAM Jaffrey's Downtown Trick or Treating event. There was a continuous stream of children playing pumpkin putt-putt, haunted bean bag toss, cauldron ski ball, and Frisbee toss. The concession stand was up and running with hot dogs, grilled cheese, and homemade chili. Members of the Jaffrey Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Committee decorated the Rails to Trail for a Spooky Walk and helped with games and clean-up. Laura Howard from Conant High School's Interact Club also assisted with games. McDonalds of Jaffrey sponsored our costume contest by providing free Happy Meals/Value Meals to the contest winners.



The hustle of fall continued with the first annual Father Daughter Dance held on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Jaffrey Woman's Club Cutler Memorial Building on Main Street. The interest in this event exceeded expectations by more than double with 75 fathers and daughters in attendance and more than 30 on the waitlist. The dance floor was full of fathers and daughters dancing the night away, a dessert buffet overflowing with sweet treats, and smiles and giggles filling the room. A volunteer made sure the music kept going and the night proved to be the special evening where memories are surely made. We look forward to next year's event sponsored by The Woodbound Inn on Friday, November 11, 2016 in the Edgewood Ballroom at The Woodbound Inn.

Autumn never seemed to want to leave this year and we were granted a relatively warm December night of plus 40 degree temperatures for the annual Town Tree Lighting held on the common. The Jaffrey Girl Scout troops provided homemade luminaries to festively decorate the walkways. The YAC members volunteered at the event helping with set-up, clean-up, manning the cookie and cocoa table, and assisting Santa with his visitors. Library Director Libby Feil read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* to the crowd of 225 people gathered on the Town Common and we all waited with anticipation for Santa to arrive aboard a fire engine with the Jaffrey Fire Department and escorted by the Jaffrey Police Department. Santa welcomed the crowd and counted down for the magic of the grand lighting of the Christmas tree and decorated gazebo. Santa stayed to greet the children and take pictures in front of the Christmas tree. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for donating the Town Christmas tree.



The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Fair at Pratt Auditorium was held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The weather was wonderful for the event with a clear sky and a high of 55 degrees. The fair hit new records, selling out of vendor spaces in only 8 days and an estimated attendance of 850 people! With 60 vendors, there was a variety of offerings ranging from silversmith, jewelry, wooden toys, doll clothes, homemade breads, soaps, nonprofit raffles, knitted items, clothing, and more.

A few of the facility projects completed this year include the replacement of the outfield net at Humiston Field, the replacement of broken irrigation lines at Humiston Field and replacement of broken sprinkler heads at Humiston and Community Fields. Picnic tables all received a fresh coat of Rec Green paint. The benches and posts along the Rails to Trails were cleaned and freshly stained. Energy efficient LED lighting was installed to replace the nonfunctioning lighting at Contoocook Beach.

Jaffrey resident and Boy Scout, Daniel Campbell, completed his Eagle Scout project with the department during the summer. Daniel and his crew of volunteers removed and replaced the wood steps leading to the Humiston Field baseball diamond with poured concrete steps. He also gave a fresh coat of paint for the program office. Thank you Daniel!

Plans for 2016 include addressing facilities and grounds needs, and continuing program expansion to provide recreation opportunities to a diverse range of residents.

Thank you to the Jaffrey community for your continued support of Parks and Recreation and for welcoming me so warmly to the Department. The kindness and support shown to me by the staff of the Town of Jaffrey, the Parks and Recreation staff, and the Jaffrey community has made this transition a wonderful experience. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Sangermano

Parks and Recreation Director

Town of Jaffrey