

The Recreation Department went through changes and growth throughout 2016. Program offerings were expanded to provide more services to the teen and adult population. Department staffing was expanded to include a part-time Program Coordinator and seasonal Maintenance Technicians.

Long time staff members, Alan and Karen Morris left the department early in 2016. We would like to thank Alan and Karen for their many years of service and dedication to the residents of Jaffrey. We wish them both success and happiness in their new endeavors.

The weather was erratic early 2016 with January and February seeing shifts in temperature from 0 degrees to 50 degrees in the course of one week. Maintaining the ice rink during this weather pattern was challenging and there was only a week or two of ice skating available this winter. The Learn to Ice Fish class offered in conjunction with New Hampshire Fish and Game had to be canceled. We will try again next winter.

The afterschool ski program continued again this year and was expanded to include youth in second grade through high school. The program was also offered two days a week. These changes contributed to participation number more than double with 27 children participating in the afterschool program in 2016 compared to 10 afterschool participants in 2015.



In January, we offered a Safe Sitter Babysitting course for the first time in partnership with The River Center for middle and high school aged youth. This course filled quickly and we offered a second class during February school vacation week. Thank you Jaffrey Fire Department for the use of your facility!



Middle-school and high-school aged youth also had the option of attending a CPR/First Aid Class offered in partnership with the Jaffrey Fire Department during February school vacation week, which filled with 12 participants.

February school vacation trips had children learning trapeze and tight rope walking at the New England Center for Circus Arts; bowling, swimming, and jumping at Launch Trampoline Park; skiing and snowboarding; playing at the Franklin Pierce Bubble; and enjoying a movie at Chunky's Movie Cinema.

The Annual Easter Egg hunt was held on a Saturday morning in March on the Civic Center Lawn and inside both the Children's section and main section of the Jaffrey Public Library. The event was over within minutes as delighted children raced for brightly colored treat-filled eggs. Volunteers from our weekly Senior Coffee Hour filled nearly 1,500 eggs for the event. The Easter Egg Hunt was also supported by the volunteer efforts of the Conant High School Interact club who hid eggs and provided a Mr. E. Bunny.



April brought us a few firsts at the Recreation Department: the first annual Teen Lock In – a sleepless sleepover - an overnight of fun and games at the Franklin Pierce University Bubble; the first annual Mother-Son Extravaganza – Galactic Bowling; and the first walking club for adults and children. The Teen Lock-In had 15 participants, and the Mother-Son Extravaganza had two dozen moms and sons enjoyed a fun Sunday morning bowling under the black lights, and taking goofy pictures in a photo booth. April

school vacation offerings included Magic Monday – a time for avid Magic the Gathering card players to get together at the Jaffrey Public Library and play several games; Pure Shot basketball camp which served 58 participants; and field trips to Launch Trampoline Park, Roll On America, the Franklin Pierce University Bubble, and the movie theater to see The Jungle Book. April trip offerings for our active adult residents included weekly bowling trip to Yankee Lanes in Keene, NH and a monthly movie trip to Chunky’s Movie Cinema.



Summer programs saw some changes we redesigned our youth day program, Adventure in Movement (AIM). Community service and leadership opportunities were incorporated in the teen program, the age range for the program was extended to make the program available for youth in preschool through 9th grade, and more choices were offered in the elementary day program.

Special sports camps were offered over the summer including the popular Baseball & Softball and Pure Shot Basketball program with David Springfield, and new offerings including Love of the Run Cross Country Camp, and Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp.



Warm weather adult and family trips included Foster’s Clam Bake in Maine and a Boston’s Red Sox game.

Other summer highlights include new light guard stands at Contoocook Beach. The Contoocook Beach lifeguard chairs had come to the end of their life and new replacement stands were purchased. The new stands provide a safer place for our lifeguard staff to stand or sit at an elevated level to maintain a watchful position over the beachfront.



The department also offered two field trips a week throughout the summer open to all youth in the community. The children went to Monkey Trunks, Hampton Beach, Adam’s Pool, Mt. Watatic, Pack Monadnock, Mulligan’s Mini Golf, and Six Flags.

In August, Anne Lambert Maher, was hired as a Recreation Program Coordinator. She has jumped into her position with both feet, quickly learning, and enhancing the offerings of the Recreation Department. Anne will be overseeing programs for youth and families. As a Jaffrey native, Anne has passion for bring quality programs to the community.

In September, a new online registration system was implemented to address the needs of patrons who wanted online registration and easily accessible information. This new software allows the department to offer online registrations, accept credit card payments, and offer a more user friendly and up to date department website: **Jaffrey.recdesk.com**. The overall response from residents has been positive, with the more than 30% of our registrations being processed online in the last quarter of 2016.

Fall programs and events saw participation numbers consistent with previous years. We had 109 children enrolled in our Saturday Morning Soccer program. We would like to thank all the coaches that made this program run smoothly. Without you, this program would not be possible.

The 2nd Annual Halloween Hoopla entertained approximately 300 people through the course of the evening with carnival games, a costume contest sponsored by McDonald's of Jaffrey, hot food, and a spooky trail created by the Recreation Department's Youth Advisory Committee. Thank you to Conant High School's Interact Club for volunteering your time and overseeing the carnival games.



The 2nd Annual Father Daughter Dance, sponsored by Woodbound Inn, was a sold out event again this year. With 126 people in attendance, there was an increase from the 75 fathers and daughters who attended last year. Sadly, we had to turn away approximately 30 people. Planning for next year's event has already begun.

The Annual Town Tree Lighting started out with a bit of a snafu, when a fuse was blown on the common and the only lighting provided was from the soft glow of the sidewalk luminaries created by the local Girl Scouts. With the help of the Jaffrey Police Department and the Jaffrey Fire Department, the breaker was found and the Common was lit-up just in time for the Tree Lighting to begin. Library Director, Libby Feil, provided a dramatic reading of The Polar Express, and silver bells were handed out to the children in the crowd of over 250 people. Santa Claus arrived by fire engine to provide a magical countdown for the Christmas Tree lights to be turned on. Santa stayed to visit with each and every child, before heading back to the North Pole.



The 36th Annual Holiday Craft Fair was a sold out event again this year. An estimated 700 patrons walked through the doors to experience free visits with Santa Claus, 60 vendor spaces, hot food, and festive spirit. Conant High School Interact club volunteered their time assisting the concession stand, and members of the Recreation Department's Youth Advisory Committee volunteered to help set-up and clean-up the event, assist Santa Claus, and work in the concession stand. Thank you to Caren Lewis, Recreation Department Administrative Assistant and craft fair organizer, for continuing to make this annual tradition one that the community looks forward to each year.



2016 saw an increase in community collaborations. The Department paired with The River Center to offer Safe Sitter Babysitting Training classes. We worked with New Hampshire Fish and Game to offer fishing classes. The Jaffrey Fire Department has been a great partner this year providing facilities to hold classes as well as working together to offer a First Aid/CPR/AED Training Class to youth over February school vacation week as well as all of the Recreation Department staff. The Jaffrey Civic Center continues to partner with the department to offer Coffee Hour on Wednesday mornings and an Easter Egg Hunt for older elementary aged youth on the front lawn as well as provided children's crafts to enhance the Easter festivities.

The interior of the Recreation Department office was freshened up over the winter with a fresh coat of paint throughout. The press box at Community Field was completed with the finished walls and ceiling installed, as well as lights and smoke alarms. Weather damaged window casings were also replaced in the Press Box. The Community Field bathroom was updated to be ADA compliant and weather damage to wall panels were repaired in the Community Field concession stand.

In May, Dana Kurylo joined the Recreation Department as lead Maintenance Technician. Dana's attention to detail and pride in work is evident in the quality of work shown in each of our facility and grounds projects. Be sure to take a moment to see the great work being done.

Concession stand and bathhouse at Contoocook beach received a new roof and a fresh coat of paint. A new floor coating was applied to the concession stand. The vegetation overgrowth around buildings were trimmed back, rotten trim boards replaced, and new doors to the bathhouse and concession stand were installed.

The War Memorial at Humiston Park were pruned in April, allowing the flag to fly without getting tangled in the branches. New swings were installed at Humiston Park playground and safety mats to keep the protective wood chips in proper position.



The baseball/softball fields at Humiston Park and Community Field were improved upon with a series of projects that spanned a six-month period of time. At Humiston Park, the pitching mound was rebuilt to the proper height, new infield mix was added to level out home plate and the infield to provide a safer playing surface. At Community field infield mix was added and leveled, and bases were realigned. At Humiston Park, baseball field improvements included rebuilding the pitching mound, adding infield clay mix, loam and seed were added to level the infield and improve the safety of the field, and bases were realigned. The irrigation system needed multiple sprinkler head and pipe repairs at both Humiston and Community Fields.

The lawn at the War Memorial was scraped, loam added and re-seeded. The young roots are taking hold and should be ready for use in the spring. The electrical was updated in the warming hut to include new emergency exit signs and lights, new bathroom lights and fans, and motion sensors to improve efficiency.

The Recreation Department continues to support the community with snow clearing at town buildings and Common, set-up for elections and town meeting, and maintaining recreation facilities and grounds at Community Field, Shattuck Park, Contoocook Beach, and Humiston Field.



Thank you to the members of the Recreation Department's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). Lead by committee chair Kamryn Call, this group of young adults in grades 7-12, works with the recreation department staff to create programs, trips, and events for teens. The YAC also provides much needed volunteer support help at our annual events including Halloween Hoopla, Tree Lighting, and Craft Fair. This group volunteered over 100 hours with the Recreation Department in 2016. Thank you YAC!

Keep up-to-date on Recreation Department happenings throughout the year by joining our e-newsletter list and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Sangermano
Recreation Director