

Athletic Department Town Report 2008

Spring

It has been a busy year for the Athletic Department. The following sports were again offered to children aged 5-12 with Baseball, Softball and T-ball in the spring, Soccer in the fall, Basketball and Cheerleading for the winter months along with the NEHSA ski program with Mt. Sunapee.

The Recreation Dept. enjoyed a very active spring season. The spring program supported an extensive T-ball group, 2 Rookie baseball teams, 1 Minors baseball team and 1 majors baseball team. There were two softball teams; a 10U and a 12U team. All players enjoyed a great season with their teams and the Minors baseball team won their second league championship title in the Kearsarge Valley Cal Ripken League beating out the high ranking Bradford team.

Coaches for both baseball and softball were certified through the Ripken Online Coaching program as a mandatory requirement for the leagues we participate in. This has been completed by all coaches, is a lifelong certification and should prove to be an asset in the years to come.

Two different events occupied June 1st. The 2nd annual Bike-a-thon was held in conjunction with OUR TOWN's Bike rodeo. There were approximately 20 cyclists completing laps down the road behind the school and returning to the parking lot. First and Second place awards were give to the cyclists with the top two most laps. Door prizes were awarded to all participants.

Also on this date, All Around Towne Photography located in Newport and Lebanon, were contacted to provide a photo opportunity to the baseball and softball players to remember their sport. This was newly offered and well received by parents, players and coaches. This will be a new tradition for the Grantham Athletics players for any sport offered.

The Athletic Dept. offered assistance to one of the local AAU girl's basketball programs out of Lebanon from March to Mid June. The "Granite State Wolfpack" teams led by Roger St. Hillaire and Heidi Bushway were able to practice in the G.V.S. gym with more than half of the 13U and 12U teams consisting of Grantham players. This was a bonus to the girls that joined making it more convenient for them to participate in this type of out-of-season program. A great "Thank you" to John and Michele Gilliatt for organizing a very successful car wash to help out the AAU teams.

Summer

On July 4th, several softball and baseball players marched with their parents and coaches along with the Athletic Director in the parade down Route 10. This dept. also provided an informational booth at Old Home Days informing residents about the Athletic Department's current sports programs with the hopes of obtaining more volunteers willing to share what they know. The programs offered are currently listed in a new brochure created for local distribution. Several new community members were pleased to gather information and introduced their children to these programs during the upcoming school season.

As Director of the Athletic Dept., I am a member of a few committees...over the course of the past year I attended the Kearsarge Valley Cal Ripken League Director's meeting (quarterly and just before start of spring season), the Connecticut Valley Softball League meeting (monthly), and the Grantham (ball field) Park committee (twice monthly).

July also offered a Self-Defense awareness class presented by Professional Standards Investigations of Newport. This was well presented and attended. There are plans to offer a future session geared to the young adults in the area. My heartfelt appreciation to the volunteers that presented this program.

Talks began with Sunapee, Kearsarge and Andover in July with the hopes of re-organizing the basketball season and rejoining the Quad Valley Basketball league. Prior to this arrangement, Grantham players only competed against Indian River teams. This should broaden our current program and help improve skill building and assessment.

A basketball camp was held in August to provide additional fun for those who wanted to continue their skill building in basketball; this was attended by approximately 10 girls.



Front row (LtoR): C. Laramie, H. Hammond, A. Hammond
Back row (LtoR): K. Laramie, K. Googins, H. Laramie and R. Preston

Fall

August was a busy month for this dept. preparing for the upcoming soccer season. After the summer registration dates, in which numbers were low, a final registration was held at the end of August, bringing in an additional 40 soccer players. There were teams created from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade. With the addition of the new fields, we were able to support a 5/6 grade team this year. Unfortunately, this team was not established prior to the Merrimack Valley Soccer League deadline and could therefore not participate in league games. However, they were able to enjoy several scrimmages with area teams from Newport and Bradford. Both the girls and boys 3/4 grade teams participated in the Robert Andrews Foundation Jamboree held in New London on October 5th and enjoyed a great day of soccer.



New goals were made available for use by the older soccer teams. The older bleachers from the school ball field were moved to the new field location for use. It made game viewing much easier and my gratitude goes to the G.V.S. Playground Committee for allowing the use of these older bleachers.

The addition of the new fields enabled the soccer program to grow and more practices made available to the teams. My heartfelt indebtedness to the Selectboard and volunteers for making this happen. The dedicated players, coaches and parents were tremendous in overcoming the issues brought on by the wildlife that resided there.

A different photo vendor, Sportography from Massachusetts arrived in mid September to provide a photo opportunity to families interested in having their child's soccer memories captured. This was a great success and each team coach was presented with a plaque displaying the team photo.

October offered registration for basketball and cheerleading. The basketball program will now offer games against the Quad Valley League this year versus Sunapee and Kearsarge. This move had been in the works for the past year and finalized in September. This is an eagerly awaited move by all. Newport and Mascoma teams are also included in the game schedule for scrimmages but are not part of the Quad Valley League.

The batting net that originally hung in the Grantham Village School gym was removed and is now stored at the new Recreation facility. There are hopes to re-establish a place to utilize this net and provide controlled batting practices for the baseball and softball players.

The Athletic Dept. provided ghoulish munchies in the cafeteria during the Haunted Pumpkin Festival at GVS. There was a raffle held for four tickets to the Fisher Cats Baseball team for the 08 season and an authentic autographed photo of Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek along with several smaller prizes. This has been a well received offering and a great success each Halloween.

The NEHSA program at Mt. Sunapee was offered to students via the Athletic Dept. again this winter. Data gathered from last years NEHSA program and compiled by Janet Correia has proved to be extremely valuable in helping the students that participated. Parents are looking forward to this continuing to be a part of the Athletic Dept.'s offerings, feeling that their children greatly benefited both at home and in school and the staff at Mt. Sunapee for this program are outstanding.

The Athletic Department works with NEHSA (New England Handicapped Sports Association) at Mount Sunapee and Janet L. Correia, OT for the Grantham Village School to help gather data from this pilot program to support future programs. NEHSA is a volunteer, non-profit organization operated by and for individuals with disabilities. Our goal is to integrate individuals with disabilities into society through social and recreational activities.

With the start of basketball season, a referee clinic was held at the GVS gym on Sunday December 7th. It was well attended by parents, high school students and local residents. This will provide a better resource for the Athletic Dept. for referees and was a great way to involve High School Students and parents in the basketball program. Thank you to Norman Morin for making this clinic possible.

Many residents are aware that the Recreation Department is now housed in the new facility on Shedd Road that is the Grantham Community Park. All of the Athletic Dept.'s equipment; baseball and softball gear, soccer goals and balls, uniforms and more are stored and better organized. This new facility and fields will provide more adequate space for our Recreation Department to grow and thrive for our residents. Thank you to all who supported this great addition to the community.

In retrospect, I have reread this report and noticed how much I am thanking the many volunteers that support the Athletic Dept. through their dedication of time and talents. It always bears repeating. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Googins
Athletic Director
Grantham Recreation Dept.

December 31, 2008



"Our Town" Grantham's Activities Department again had a very busy year. The annual events which remain constant now in our community are:

The Easter Egg Hunt: A crowd pleaser was once again held in the gym at the school due to weather. A huge thank you to young Zachary Wilson for his help.

The Bike Rodeo: This event allows kids the opportunity to ride through an obstacle course, learn hand signals, and control their bicycle when stopping or turning. Thank you to the Grantham PD for helping out with safety training and registrations of bicycles. And because of a donation from the Grantham Area Chamber of Commerce *Our Town* was able to purchase gift certificates to buy two new bikes to give away.



Mother's Day Breakfast: Each May we serve up an all you can eat buffet at the town hall and give each Mother a carnation.



Old Home Day: This year's event is the last Old Home Day to be held at the village school, we'll be moving onto the new park come July 4th 2009. As usual, the crowds were large and the weather fantastic! This year's oldest residents were Etta Barton, and Wilfred (Kiddo) & Lillian Cote.

Each year we try to add or delete activities to keep the excitement going. Old Home Day is always in need of new blood, so if you have some ideas and energy to share be sure to join us.

Craft in the Park: It draws a good 35 children each Wednesday in the summer. We started out at the school in June, but then moved on down to the park next to the blueberry patch. This annual summer activity was free, thanks to our sponsor Brian S. Tilton LLC.



The Scarecrows: A mob of people showed up in the park field to dress the scarecrows. Adding to the excitement, nine businesses kicked in this year as an *Our Town* fundraiser. The straw folks made their entrance onto Main Street the 1st of October, and hung around all month. I'm happy to report that no one had been kidnapped this year. The scarecrows will remain a Grantham fall tradition as long as their appeal remains.

The Haunted Pumpkin Festival: A great way to see all your friends dressed up. As well as being a family fun event, the festival serves as a fund raiser for *Our Town* and the *Athletics Department*. Its success is due to many youth and adult volunteers who I am very thankful to.



4-H: Seventeen youths between the ages of 7 and 14 are enrolled in *Grantham's Lucky Charms 4-H group*. 4-H will be an addition to Grantham's Old Home Day this year with displays and animals. The group learns life skills, crafts, enjoys social gatherings, and is involved in community service.

The Christmas decorations & town tree lighting: Every year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving my husband Dan and I do our best to decorate the town for the holidays. The tree lighting is also held that evening. This year's event drew about 35 folks, all intimidated to raise up their voices in song. Ice filled our electrical outlet from previous rains, so it took our young Gregory Fahrner three tries to keep the connection going. At last we succeeded and the tree remained lit, glimmering in the evening snowfall.

The Gingerbread Man Cookie Decorating: This year, as in years past was a good one for the Gingerbread Man. 160 baked fellows once again ran out the door at A Yankee Barn Christmas. Thank you Missy Walla for all your help with this event.

New Year's Eve Family Dance: *Our Town* threw its usual early bird party with about 80 in attendance. The King and Queen of the New Year were Reese Armstrong and Kayla Zentmaier. The dance also serves as an *Our Town* fundraiser and will help cover the cost of the annual egg hunt.

The Town Wide Yard Sale: Held this year in the town hall as well as homes around the community was once again a successful day for shoppers.

Breakfast with Santa: Arrived right in the middle of Grantham's power outage, most people didn't know if we would still be there or cancel. So as a result the crowd was smaller than usual. Thanks to the Grantham Area Chamber Of Commerce, reliable Santa Claus arrived right on time and all went on as planned.



Our Town also hangs the American flags and maintains them throughout their stay on Main Street.

The Cooking Club for Kids: This is a 5 week winter activity which enrolled 20 excited chefs. A huge thank you to Kim Johnson for volunteering her time to head up the group.



Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party: An invitation to enjoy a theme birthday party in conjunction with Read Across America. The event was free. 75+ guests enjoyed the reading of Horton Hears a Who, played party games, won prizes, received books and visited the town library table. It was a successful fun evening, complete with birthday cake. A huge thank you to Melissa White, our new administrative assistant, for getting the projector up and running. Her knowledge saved me from a sure heart attack.

The Annual Rabies Clinic: Held in March at the town's fire department. This annual community service was well attended.

Ice skating: New this year on the tennis court at the recreation park. It was an undertaking I will not soon forget. Each year I plan to offer a safe space available for public skating at the park. Help is always needed to help clean the snow off the ice, a shovel is available near the rink. It will take a community to maintain it so please chip in as you see needed.

Volunteers: Thank you to all who have stepped forward to give their time at one or more *Our Town* events. Volunteers are key to any program and I welcome help at any time. A huge thank you to my family who are always there to pitch in. And to the Walla family, who have given their time at several events; I appreciate all you do.

In an effort to help out a fundraising endeavor, and to be honest take a little of the load off of my part time status, the *Turkey Dinner* was passed onto the Grantham Methodist Church. I hope they make it their own and it continues to be a successful annual community gathering and fundraiser for them.

Our Town as always, works hard at promoting all events. I produce the monthly "Our Town" newsletter that is distributed through the school and town's web site. I produce flyers and advertising, provide photos to the Eagle Times and try to highlight Grantham and its residents whenever possible.

Every other Tuesday is now time spent on park related items, at the town park meeting. The planning of the Shedd Road property will become the space this community has always dreamed of. Until then we will use what we have and look forward to what it can be. Please come out with your families and take advantage of the activities that *Our Town* provides in your own back yard. As always Old Home Day is funded with tax dollars, but all the other events that *Our Town* produces is accomplished with fundraising. Thus keeping activities low cost or free to the community. It has been a pleasure to provide you with a few smiles.

Sincerely

Laurie Field

Grantham Recreation Park Committee

At the March 2008 Grantham Town Meeting, the voters approved the purchase of the 26.43 acre site previously owned by the Wein family just off Route 10 in the south end of Grantham. The Town officially took title to the property on July 1, 2008, and the Grantham Ball Field Committee was expanded and renamed the Grantham Recreation Park Committee. The new Committee immediately set to work on short-term and long-term initiatives for the park.

In the short-term, the committee leveraged the efforts of its members and interested townspeople to create an interim soccer field and parking area, which was used by the Grantham Youth Soccer program in September and October of 2008. Additionally, Committee members have preliminarily identified a site for a proposed playground.

To develop its long-term plans for the park, the Committee, with a generous gift of \$2,800 from the Grantham Chamber of Commerce, contracted with the engineering firm of Gale Associates, Inc. of Weymouth, MA. Gale Associates, which has assisted Dartmouth College and the City of Claremont with athletics projects, also contributed a portion of their services on a pro-bono basis to create a site plan and budget for the project that will allow for responsible, environmentally sensitive development of the site over the next several years. The design plan for the new park includes a soccer field, a Little League baseball field, a men’s softball field, a playground, two basketball courts, a pavilion, a sledding hill, walking trails and parking.

The new Grantham Recreation Park will offer unlimited access to Grantham residents for many recreational opportunities throughout the year. Spring and summer activities will include baseball, softball, swimming, hiking, playing on the playground, picnics and concerts under the pavilion and the annual Old Home Day event on July 4th. Fall activities will include soccer, the annual Build-a-Scarecrow event, and blueberry picking. Winter activities will include ice skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The new recreation building will offer a meeting place for several organizations including the new 4-H group, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts.

The Committee is currently working on a detail project budget, fundraising and public awareness of the project.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Grantham Recreation Park Committee Members
*Warren Kimball, Chair, Laurie Field, Marsha Googins,
Jamie Hunt, Rick Anderson, Todd Cartier,
Sarah Johnson, Jodie Jones-Poljacik, Todd French,
Ken O’Keefe, Missy Walla, Secretary*

