

Athletic Department Town Report 2009

It has been a fulfilling year for the Athletic Department. The following sports were offered by season: Spring-baseball, softball and t-ball and tennis; Fall with soccer and Winter with basketball and cheerleading. Unfortunately, the bike-a-thon and the basketball camps were not available this year due to construction at Grantham Village School.

Spring

The Recreation Dept. enjoyed a very active spring season. The spring program supported an extensive T-ball group, 1 Rookie baseball team, 2 Minors baseball teams and due to lack of participation, no major's baseball team. There were two softball teams; a 10U and a 12U team. All players enjoyed a great season with their teams but softball did not participate in the annual Connecticut Valley Softball League tournament due to inadequate numbers at tournament time.

AAU basketball teams again enjoyed the use of the Grantham Village School Gym in an effort to coordinate resources for local players.

I attended a meeting at Eastman in early summer in which New London is actively pursuing a collaborative effort with the surrounding towns to become more cohesive in the availability of programs for youth and adults. The belief of this program is to pool resources so that adult sports and leagues become more available to area residents. This will impact possible budget implications and traveling needs. Some adult teams (such as softball) are traveling south to Manchester and even Massachusetts in the interest of competing.

Fall

August was a busy month for this dept. preparing for the upcoming soccer season. There were teams created from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade. Use

of the new fields at the Recreation Park offered more practice times and easily supported all teams.

The Athletic Dept. provided ghoulish munchies in the cafeteria during the Haunted Pumpkin Festival at GVS in October. This has been a well received offering and a great success each Halloween.

Dedication of New Recreation Park in October was a great success! Many residents and soccer players attended and enjoyed refreshments, a guest speaker and ribbon cutting ceremony.

November offered registration for basketball and cheerleading. The basketball program offers games in the Quad Valley League each year with games against Sunapee, Kearsarge and scrimmages with Newport. The season commences with team tournaments hosted at all locations.

The roll-out of the start to basketball season was not as I had expected as the news of the replacement of the GVS gym was announced in early November. This was planned to begin in early November through December. This did impact the planning and scheduling of the basketball program but with the wonderful support of great minds in our town (thank you Melissa White and Julie Laramie and the Lebanon School District!), the Hanover Street School gym was made available to our 3/4 grade and 5/6 grade teams for practice from November 9th through the 20th. Careful planning with our coaches helped me manage to create an acceptable schedule to get practices in before games begin with the Quad Valley league in early December. The slight bump in our basketball season was certainly well worth it as the new gym floor is a credit to Grantham Village School and offers the players a great place to show their skills.

A second annual referee clinic was held at the GVS gym in early December. It was well attended and will provide a great resource for the Athletic Dept. for referees. Thank you to Norman Morin for making this clinic possible.

Snowshoeing was offered by Tom TenHaken and folks trekked all over Grantham through trails and woods. Moonlit hikes were also offered.

NEW IDEAS!

With the availability of the new fields I hope to introduce a "Pilot" program for Field Hockey for girls in grades 3-6. Many Grantham youth are introduced to field hockey upon moving up to the Lebanon Middle School and had never played before. They greatly contribute to their team's successes and with this new program I feel Grantham girls can contribute even more. Younger Grantham children currently play in the Lebanon program each year.

After a discussion with my friend Linda Preston who is A.D. for the Junior High she offered great ideas, equipment and information for next fall and is very excited about this prospect. Interest will be recorded in the coming spring and with fundraising throughout the summer, to alleviate equipment costs, this new program may prove successful.

I always welcome the opportunity to thank the wonderful parents, volunteers and others who support the Athletic Dept and encourage volunteers for support of future programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Googins
Athletic Director
Grantham Recreation Dept.

January 4, 2010

Activities Department

"Our Town"

2009

"Our Town" is a division of the Grantham recreation department. We are dedicated to providing family oriented community events. Volunteers are always welcome. If there is an event listed below that you would like to help with please contact the department.

"Let's Go Fishing" Grantham offered a "Take Me Ice Fishing" program in January. Volunteers and members of the NH Fish and Game came out for a day long program that offered information and safety tips as well as a field trip to Croydon's, Spectacle Pond to fish. The program provides parents the information and opportunity to ice fish with their children. It has become an annual Our Town activity.

Ice Skating was open throughout the month of February at the recreation park on Shedd Road. Many hours were spent shoveling with the help of some young friends and their families. Flooding the ice happened in the cold evenings, to keep it looking good for the 5 themed ice skating parties that I offered on Sunday's. Music was provided and the recreation building was open for warming up, games, puzzles, free themed craft projects and goodies. Snacks and drinks were sold. The themed parties were as follows: Groundhog Day celebration, Hershey's Chocolate Day, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, and Dr Seuss's Birthday.

The Rabies clinic was offered once again this year at the fire department. The annual community service was well attended.

The Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet brought its usual hungry crowd. The buffet offers up hardy dishes of all kinds and each mother is presented a carnation for sharing their morning with us. Visit us this year if you've missed us in the past, it's a crowd pleaser.

The Easter Egg Hunt was once again held outside at the Grantham Village School. Thanks to the employees at Sugar River Savings Bank all 2500 eggs were stuffed with goodies. Each year we have four golden eggs shuffled in the mass egg scramble in which the recipient wins a basket of goods. And of course there were visits and photo opportunities with the Easter bunny. A big thank you to Katelyn Kretowicz for volunteering to help make the day special for our young guests.

The Town Wide Yard Sale was held again this year on the weekend after Memorial Day. Grantham held 34 sales. The town hall was open for those folks wishing to rent a table to hold their own sale inside. Our Town provides a map to help you find the bargains that are scattered throughout Grantham.

The American Flags this year were hung by Dan and Karen Foster, residents and members of the Grantham Area Chamber of Commerce. I greatly appreciate the Chamber's hand in taking over this task. The flags are in place on RT 10's telephone poles each year from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Old Home Day

The parade and the crowds were fabulous, some of the biggest we have ever seen. Our theme was fairy tales and your ideas were excellent. But the rain continued on and off throughout the day squashing all hopes of a dry warm summer afternoon. Etta Barton road in the parade with the honor of being Grantham's oldest native.

Ozzie's country band entertained us as the rain drove on. Despite the weather the scheduled races continued, the pics were consumed, and the duckies swam. Children's games were held, the bounce houses remained inflated and the show went on. I can't say it was one of my favorite Old Home Day's, but it was the first to be held at the new town park on Shedd Road. Thank you to everyone that volunteered. Your support is greatly appreciated. Old Home Day entertained over 1000.

Craft in the Park took place every Wednesday during the summer at the new town park. The program was attended by approximately 40 children a week. A new make and take craft is offered at each visit free of charge. The season concludes with a free BBQ, feeding about 60. Many thanks to our generous sponsor for making this event possible, Brian S Tilton LLC. metal framing and drywall.

The 4-H after school program begins each September. 4-H was introduced to Grantham in 2008. The initial introductory meeting at that time only brought the interest of 3 children. Presently 40 + members are enrolled. The Lucky Charms 4-H group meets every two weeks on two separate nights. The organization provides hands on experiences for children from 5 to 18 and is desperately in need of volunteers to sign on as leaders.

4-H itself is the youth educational program of UNH Cooperative Extension. The organization provides hands on opportunities for members to experience places, people, challenges, skills, and friendships. The group is run by volunteers.

Grantham's Lucky Charms have learned to sew, knit, crochet, and cook. They have been introduced to paper mache, photography, wreath making, fishing, archery and wood working. Our older members, through the teen club, have taken trips to teen conference at UNH, and a four day fashion review trip to New York City. Our youth are involved in community service providing for Newport's Meals on Wheels, town meeting refreshments, and food drives. We continue to win awards at the county fair in Cornish New Hampshire, and as kids get hooked, are enrollments are growing daily.

If you have a talent or skill you would like to share with us please contact the Activities Department, I would love to hear from you.

The Scarecrows, who would have thought that some old clothes, a stick and a smile would bring people such joy. October brings the adornment of straw people along RT10. This late September after school craft project was attended by a mob of anxious students and parents teaming up to dress our fall visitors. Grantham received much attention this year from local news media and travelers. We grow a bit in number as a new business will sign on to own one of our fall friends. So keep your eye out for our new arrivals.

The Haunted Pumpkin Festival again drew in over 200 goblins. The Athletics department director Marsha Googins ran our haunted meal counter. Prizes were awarded to best costumes. Mr. Phil was added to the lineup this year to provide a little magic to the crowd. A huge thank you to the many youth and adult volunteers that helped to make this event run smoothly, without you it wouldn't be possible. **A small pumpkin pageant** was held on the church railing on RT 10 Halloween night. Each carved jack-o-lantern was well done, Thank you.

Christmas Decorations, Caroling and Tree Lighting all happens the Sunday after Thanksgiving. 60 people enjoyed cocoa and donuts in the presence of the tree. 1 and 1/2 year old Caroline Weber was chosen in a drawing to light the tree. Congratulations Caroline!

Breakfast with Santa was on December 5th, as always it was a wonderful turn out, 270 plates left our pancake table. The food drive was held again this year for the local food pantry. Thanks again to the Grantham Area Chamber of Commerce for providing us with a fabulous Saint Nick.

The Christmas Lights Contest Winners are as follows:

Best RT 10: Billings, 24 Bouldervale Rd, 1st : Angelli, 358 Burpee Hill Road,
2nd : Kelley, 442 Olde farms Rd., 3rd : Field, 8 Sturgis Circle, Honorable Mention : Moran, 403 Burpee Hill Road. Winners received gift cards to Grantham businesses.

120 Gingerbread men left our cookie table at a the town hall on Dec. 21st. Thank you Missy Walla for all your help in making this event successful. If you missed us, this free event will continue next year.

Volunteers

A special thanks to my family and the Walla family who are always there to help out. I also would like to than everyone that has given their time to help make our events special, including the more than 20 youth voluntee: who give their time for their community. **To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be th world. VOLUNTEER!**

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Field
Activities Director.



Laurie Field—still smiling despite it all!

Wien House Subcommittee

The full Wien House Sub-Committee Report is available at the Town Office. The report is approximately 46 pages in length. We are including the "Conclusions" section of this report for your information. If possible, please take time to read the entire report. Thank you.

IV CONCLUSION

The Wien House is a unique residence, very nicely situated on a slight rise at the northwest perimeter of the so-called Wien property off Juniper Hill Road.

Clearly, the house has substantial value. It should not be razed and would be very difficult and expensive to move. There is no compelling reason to take either of those actions.

This is a house...a residence...a home. It would not easily be adaptable for use as a recreation center and is far too valuable a property to be used simply as a storage facility. At least \$77,000 would need to be spent to meet public building code requirements. While it could be used for storage and to house a few recreation programs, the Town would lose the opportunity to liquidate the property in order to generate a substantial sum of money that could be used to construct a simple pre-fabricated structure for storage and other purposes and to construct additional badly-needed athletic fields.

Renting/leasing the property would likewise close out the option of generating an immediate large sum for facility and athletic field construction. Annual net rental income would take several years (decades?) to accumulate sufficient capital to construct athletic fields and other recreation facilities.

Sub-dividing the property and selling the house appears to be the most logical option. It is the one that will generate a substantial sum of money to resolve a number of the Recreation/"Our Town" needs and to construct, sooner than later, much-needed athletic fields for youth sports and adult recreation.

And finally, we urge that renewed efforts be initiated to maximize the use of the school, Town Hall, and "Old Town Hall" for housing programs, providing office space, etc. It is a prudent and wise use of Town resources to maximize the use of existing public property before acquiring or building new property.

This Committee makes this report of its findings and conclusions to the Selectmen with the full knowledge that the policy decision on this matter vests clearly with the Selectboard.

