

## BY THE #S

Coventry Parks and Recreation serves hundreds of residents and nonresidents.

Here is a look at the numbers from October - December

### PROGRAMS

- 539 Total Enrollment
  - 230 Unique
- 366.75 Program Hours
- 29 Sessions

### RENTALS

- 39 Lodge rentals
- 28 Millbrook Place rentals
- 316.5 hours rented
- 53 Rental Inquires
- 62% inquires booked

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- 64 Unique Facebook posts
- 7,360 highest single post reach
- 668 Post Reactions
- 5% increase in Facebook followers

### CHILDCARE

- 287.50 hours of childcare provided
- 1,344 snacks served
- 6 local high school/college age staff employed
- 24 avg. daily attendance

### FITNESS

- 67 class hours
- 53 total enrollment



TOUR OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS



SCARECROW CONTEST

## PARKS & RECREATION

## QUARTERLY REPORT: FALL 2021

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

### SPECIAL EVENTS BRING JOY TO THE SEASON:

#### Scarecrow Contest:

This annual event continues to inspire creativity among our residents, as 2021 yielded the most scarecrows eligible for voting (20), and the most votes logged (1,100)! Local organizations, businesses and families including the Booth & Dimock Library, M & J Bus Company, Ackert Electric, Country Way Realty and more showcased their displays both on the Town Green at the corner of rtes 31 & 44, and at their storefronts in Historic Coventry Village, for the first year ever.

#### Veteran Day Race

Patriots Park once again served as the home base for this annual event that in 2021 boasted over 200 runners! Sponsored by the CT Veterans Day Race Committee, Parks and Rec. provided support, and our Department of Public Works did an excellent job beautifying the park ahead of the event.

#### Second Annual Tour of Holiday Lights:

Registration went up in November, and brought in 17 homes for participation (15 for voting, 2 who just wanted to be included on the map). Participating towns included Mansfield, Ashford & Tolland, however Mansfield was the only other town with homes participating (4). Homes were decorated by 12/10, and viewing/voting took place until 12/20. 126 responses were logged in the survey monkey, electing 2 winners, 1 for best traditional & 1 for best overall. Feedback online was incredible, with our Facebook posts logging the most clicks of any other post for the year!

#### Christmas in the Village:

Parks & Rec. participated in this annual event sponsored by the Coventry Lions Club, and set up at the Patriots Park Lodge, with hot chocolate, temporary tattoos and a Santa letter-writing station. We estimate approximately 150 attendees came by our location. As a result of this event, we had a record 47 letters to deliver to Santa, in time for him to personally respond to each one!



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## BASKETBALL IS BACK!

After a one year hiatus Coventry Youth Basketball is BACK! We got a late start as we awaited COVID protocols, evaluations took place in late October and practices started in November. Travel teams started games in early December and Rec League in early January. Due to limited gym space Grades 3 & 4 mixed it up this year to form a co-ed in house league. Also, to keep the groups small we offered two 6 week session of K – 2 instructional.

K – 2 Instructional - 92

Grades 3 & 4 League - 44

Grades 5 & 6 League – 61 (Rec and Travel League)

Grades 7 & 8 League – 67 (Rec and Travel League)

**TOTAL participants: 264**

**THANK YOU** Coventry BOE for allowing usage of the gym for the program and **THANK YOU** Coventry Youth Basketball Board for your time and efforts to make this season happen!

## PARK PROJECTS:

**Laidlaw Pavilion:** A new pavilion is being built at Laidlaw fields. This fall/winter concrete and drainage work was complete by Earth Dynamics with plans for the pavilion structure to be delivered in January/early February. The pavilion will be erected, weather permitting, with hopes to have a ribbon cutting in the spring to kick off the soccer season. Funding for the pavilion came from \$25,000 in state funding, \$15,000 from Coventry Soccer, Inc, and capital improvement funds allocated by the Town Council.

**Miller Richardson Softball Field:** In November the referendum to spend \$325,000 on the plans and construction of a girl's softball field passed. Design and engineering plans are in the works and on schedule for the construction to go out to bid in February. At the same time, design and engineering plans for a new transfer station are scheduled to go out to bid in February. The current transfer station will be the site of the new softball field and the new transfer station will be located near the DPW facility on Olsen Farm Rd.

**Patriots Park:** Over 15 damaged/dead trees were removed from Patriots Park in December. One area of focus was around the bandshell and boathouse area. The boathouse area will also see improvements to the UCONN Club Sailing area being leveled out and cleaned up.

## COVID – 19 STILL IMPACTING THE DEPARTMENT:

The Parks and Recreation staff became COVID – 19 Administrators as Omicron spread through the Community in late fall/early winter. They spent on average 25% of their time reporting positive cases from programs to the Department of Health, communicating with the school nurse, completing contact tracing calls and emails, collecting negative test results, vaccine records, and doctor's notes for return to play. They became available 24/7 even completing contact tracing over the Holiday weekend.

The staff navigated ever changing COVID – 19 guidelines that varied depending on the program and communicated these changes to program participants. In December, the Before/Afterschool Program divided into smaller cohorts to reduce the potential exposure.

Rental groups scheduled for January and February started canceling as the COVID cases increased. The Department pivoted quickly adding virtual programs to the Winter/Spring brochure.

## PROGRAMS IN ACTION



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