

# RECREATION

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In 2011 the Arlington Recreation Department continued to offer a variety of safe, quality programs and facilities for the residents of the Town of Arlington.

The Ed Burns Arena at the Veterans Memorial Sport Complex had 1,944 hours of ice rentals and our public skating attendance numbers were 4,484 adults and 8,317 youth/seniors, excluding seasonal skate passes.

The Department has been committed to providing quality programs, special events, and improvements to its many facilities. New programs offered in 2011 include: Discovery, Legos, Cooking, Middle School Ski Club, and 7 v 7 Football. Overall the participation numbers in recreational programs have remained constant from 4,872 participants in 2010 to 4,869 participants in 2011.

With a mild start to the summer the Reservoir Beach numbers decreased slightly but continue to be high. A total of 1,364 season passes were sold, a decrease from the 1,467 season passes sold the previous year.

The North Union Spray Pool located adjacent to the Thompson Elementary School was also enjoyed by residents on a daily basis throughout the summer. The North Union Spray Pool continues to be a free service offered by the Department.

Gibbs Gymnasium continued to house a majority of the recreation indoor programs as well as provide indoor birthday party and gym rental options for the Ar-

lington community. The Department oversees the rental of the facility, which currently includes various youth activities and organizations, adult basketball, and soccer. Gibbs Gym hosted 86 birthday parties in 2011 which is a decrease from the 63 hosted in 2010.

Arlington Recreation collaborates with various Town organizations and recreation centers in Town to offer special events. Such events include the Town Day Road Race, Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg Hunt, Halloween Window Painting, and Halloween Public Skate. This year we continued to offer the successful Special Needs Skate Program with the Arlington Catholic High School Boys' & Girls' Hockey team and their coaching staff. Arlington Recreation proudly held their Fourth Annual Golf Tournament at Hillview Country Club. The tournament was in honor of long time rink employee Darren McKenzie.

Limited outdoor recreational facilities and playing fields continue to be an important issue facing Arlington Recreation. The Department continues to work with both high schools and the Town's many youth sport associations, the Department is crafting policies and procedures to assist in the scheduling and maintenance of Town playing fields. A field summit was held to review the current scheduling assignments and permitting policies. The Department also works with many of the park abutters, neighbors, and friends' organizations on perpetual park concerns and maintenance items.

The Department was very pleased to welcome Karen Burke to the staff as the Department's Administrative Assistant and Maria Day as its Principal Clerk.

Veteran's Memorial Rink	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2007 Actual
Ice Rental Hours	1,944	1,859	2,086	1,913	1,855
Rec & Public Skate Hrs	610	500	552	496	368
Public Skate #'s-Adult	4,484	3,979	3824	3,597	3,304
Public Skate Passes #'s-Adult	53	58	55	46	45
Public Skate #'s-Child/Sen	8,317	7,846	8597	8,356	9,783
Public Skate Passes #'s-Child/Sen	127	98	92	85	112
Skate Rentals	3,235	2,762	2597	2,713	2,754
Skate Sharpening	1,112	982	962	932	762
Skate Sharpening Passes	15	20	11	NA	NA
Stick and Puck	518	557	452	280	245

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Program Participants by Season	FY2011	FY2010	FY2009	FY2008	FY2007
Summer	1823	1,634	1,349	1,464	1,470
Fall	1110	920	1057	913	901
Winter	1207	1,506	905	764	1,502
Spring	772	812	732	544	808
<b>Reservoir Tags Sold</b>					
Adult Resident	437	455	352	464	526
Child Resident	395	443	346	461	521
Senior Citizen	71	70	51	67	56
Non Resident	24	13	13	31	6
Resident Family	340	379	290	358	357
Non Resident Family	27	34	17	46	55
Resident Family Plus 1	64	70	59	90	52
Non Resident Family Plus 1	6	3	1	8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>1,580</b>
<b>Reservoir Passes Sold</b>					
Weekday Pass	3,050	4,254	3,051	3,500	3,872
Weekend Pass	1,667	1,827	1,431	1,191	1,936
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,717</b>	<b>6,081</b>	<b>4,482</b>	<b>4,691</b>	<b>5,808</b>

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Arlington Recreation continues to manage the capital improvement projects for the Park and Recreation Commission. In 2011 the Summer Street Playground and multi-generational area was completed. The Wellington Park Tennis Courts was completed and when they open in the spring will be the Town of Arlington's first lighted tennis courts. With financial assistance from the Friends of Robbins Farm, the two hill slides at Sky Line Playground were replaced. The Thorndike Field off Leash Dog Recreation Area project was bid and construction has begun. The intent is for the facility to be open in the spring of 2012. The Parks and Recreation Commission also approved the renovation of Buck Field by the Arlington Youth Baseball/Softball Association.

With the passing of Article 36 by Town Meeting in the spring of 2010, the Recreation Director assisted in the implementation plan of designated off-leash dog hours at parks specified by the Park and Recreation Commission. In the fall of 2011 the Park Commission held a public feedback session to review the first year of the program.

### 2012 Objectives

Arlington Recreation will continue to offer residents quality recreational programming. It is the goal of the Department to increase and improve program offerings every season. The Department will continue to work with users of the Arlington Sports Center and Town

outdoor playing fields to address the increasing needs of the community. Our financial goal is to continue to become increasingly self-supporting through appropriate fee structuring and program and facility management.



*Opening Day of the new Robbins Farm Slides*