

RECREATION COMMISSION

This past year was very much a learning curve trying to determine what best works for our kids in Plainfield. I thank everyone for your patience and understanding through it all. One of the things that I have learned is that smaller teams are better. I will try to keep this as a practice as we continue in the future.

Our baseball and softball program had a better season. The weather was much more cooperative and we didn't get the rain that we had the previous year. Grades 3 and 4 had a very good turn out for both baseball and softball and they played other area teams. The grade 5 and 6 softball was light but we were able to field a team with the help of some of the 4th graders to fill in. They also played other area teams. Unfortunately we were unable to get together a team for 5 and 6 baseball because of low numbers. Lebanon was able to take the ones that wanted to play. At this time, the plans are to move the 5 and 6 teams for softball and baseball to fall under the school teams to line it up with the other sports.

The annual fishing derby was held in early June. With rain in the early morning, participation was down slightly from last year. It did clear off and we had a great day. There were plenty of fish and they were biting well. Most of these were stocked and donated from Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm and from the State. There was plenty of food for the kids to enjoy donated from the Meriden Deli.

T-ball had 34 participants for grades 1 and 2 and an additional 16 for a kindergarten group. They worked on basic skills and grades 1 and 2 played games with each other in town. We did find that the teams ended up on the large size and plans for this year will be to run more teams with lower numbers so that all kids stay participating.

We had 20 kids sign up for our tennis program with several skill levels. We hope to build this program in the future. Our swimming program was well attended and enjoyed by 44 children ranging from beginners to experienced swimmers. This program is always well attended and is a life saving skill to learn.

We had a very big participation in soccer with 27 3rd and 4th grade boys making up two teams and 24 3rd and 4th grade girls making up two teams. They played in town as well as some other area recreation teams. We had an additional 40 1st and 2nd graders that made up four teams that worked on basic skills and played each other. We had 28 kindergarteners that worked on basic skills. That was a total of 118 soccer kids. All received a ball to use at practice and to keep so they could practice at home.

Basketball is currently running with 18 1st and 2nd graders working on basic skills. We have an additional 27 3rd and 4th graders working on skills and will play six games through the season with some area teams. They will finish off playing three games in the Claremont tournament at the end of the season.

I would like to thank Plainfield School and Kimball Union Academy for the use of their facilities. Also thank you to the Meriden Deli, Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm, and Keene Medical for their donations. I would also like to thank the town of Plainfield and the select board, and the members of the recreation commission for all of your support through the year. A huge thank you to all of the coaches, officials, and various individuals who have donated their time and helped make this program successful. Without all of your help and support, this program would not be possible to run.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel P. Cantlin
Recreation Director