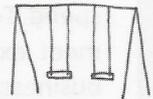


# ARUNDEL PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

JENN DUMAS, RECREATION DIRECTOR

As another budget year comes to a close, and a new one is set to begin, it is time for reflection and making plans for the future. Our long-term programs such as Summer Rec, winter basketball, fall soccer, and the Before & After School program continue to grow annually. New adult programs in the last year include our Adult Fitness programs taught by Lea Lehman, "Sweat & Sculpt" and "Punk Rope" which serve the population who are looking for a higher intensity workout. We look forward to working with Lea to offer a 5K preparation class, for anyone interested in getting physically prepared for our first ever 5K Trail Run/Walk for families on the Eastern Trail, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, 2014. Community events, the availability of discount passes to local amusement and theater venues for families to purchase at Town Hall, and a variety of other programs round out Rec Department efforts on behalf of the Town of Arundel.



*don't forget to play*

One of many things that make the Arundel Parks & Recreation Department unique from most area recreation departments is our enormous fleet of volunteers who come forward to coach youth sports. Most other area departments are using paid staff for running such programs, which incurs a cost to the taxpayers. The investment being made by the volunteers working with children in this community has perks that reach well beyond tax savings. Thank you to the volunteers who are teaching the children

of Arundel to value community service and to pay it forward, among many other important life lessons, through youth sports programs. You are an inspiration to many, and your time and effort is deeply appreciated.

It shouldn't go without notice that Arundel Little League, which is a private, non-profit organization in Arundel, has been a great partner to the Town in making improvements to the Gilliam Field including financial help and volunteer efforts toward field improvements. Thank you to all those involved.

In last year's annual town report, the planned implementation of new Rec software was announced. The intent of investing in the software is to allow for more convenient online program registration for the public, as well as simplification and significant time savings of office procedures. As that software implementation process began last fall, I discovered that the software that I had researched extensively had one seemingly small glitch that failed to meet a rather significant need of our department. It was a deal killer as I could not, in good conscience, spend Town money to purchase a product that failed to meet expectations and needs. In an effort to earn our business, the software company has made an update to their product for us so that it will meet our needs. With town approval of our budget, we hope to move forward with the implementation of the software this fall.

Do you have a new program idea, or a skill or talent you'd like to share through the Rec Department? Let us know! (207) 286-9241 or [recreationdirector@arundelmaine.org](mailto:recreationdirector@arundelmaine.org)

