

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 7, 2025

TO: Ted Henry, City Manager & Bel Aire Governing Body

FROM: Brian Hayes, Recreation Director

RE: March Activities

Recreation

- Indoor Soccer continues with 169 players on 15 teams, which is slightly down from 181 last year. The program will finish the Saturday of Spring Festival on 4/12.
- 112 players on 9 third thru eighth grade Bel Aire teams have begun practices in the Wichita Heights Junior Baseball Softball League. This is the largest number of players and teams we have entered into this league second to last year's 103 players on 8 teams. Games begin April 21st and run through early July.
- Taekwondo class participation was slightly down with 17 compared to 21 in February.
- Exercise classes continue to be steady with 22 participants.
- Tippi Toes Dance class continues with 8 participants.
- Soccer Stars (*formerly Happy Feet*) began their spring session with 12 participants.
- 15 participants enjoyed Spring Break Camp March 17-21.
- March drop-in use had 543 sign-ins which is up from 446 in February.
- The agreement with Wichita Gymnastics has been finalized and sessions will begin in mid-April.
- The Tyler Tech hardware issues are still being worked around but patrons and staff seem to be learning the new system. We hope that we can use the same software at the pool this summer if issues are resolved.
- Scheels in Wichita recently donated \$500 worth of baseball & softball equipment to the Bel Aire Rec Center. The new equipment was checked out and is being used by our WHJBSL teams.
- Upcoming programs include the Spring Festival, Blastball, Short Sports, and Tumbling Tykes.

Seniors

- 919 seniors signed in for cards, pickleball, line & folk dance, book club, exercise, sewing, walking, educational, & special activities compared to 695 in February.
- Programs included a dinner with music, St Patrick's Day activities, an outing to His Helping Hands, and a session on legal resources. In all there were 15 ongoing programs, 5 special activities, and 4 educational sessions offered.
- Senior Director Sarah Christianson recently facilitated a third grant of \$800 from Sedgwick County for some new equipment. A new retractable automatic projector screen will be installed at the Rec Center as well as replacement of activity room folding chairs.
- Upcoming Senior activities include an outing to a wildlife exhibit, an aging presentation by Kansas University, and an evidence based Enhanced Fitness program as well as the many ongoing baseline programs, games, crafts, and communications.

Other

- The Eagle Lake playground renovation has begun and is expected to be completed by mid-April.
- Prep work and repairs at the Central Park Swimming Pool are scheduled to begin in late April.

