

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 7, 2025

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

FROM: Brian Hayes, Recreation Director

RE: April Activities

Recreation

- Blastball & Short Sports began their spring sessions with 30 participants. These programs for 3 & 4-year-olds run through early May.
- 169 players on 15 Indoor Soccer teams completed their season on 4/12.
- 112 players on 9 third thru eighth grade WHJBSL Bel Aire teams have begun games. This is the largest number of players and teams we have entered into this league. Games run thru early July.
- Taekwondo class participation was steady with 18 compared to 17 in March.
- Exercise classes continue to be steady with 23 participants.
- Tippi Toes Dance class continues with 8 participants.
- Soccer Stars (*formerly Happy Feet*) finished their spring session with 12 participants.
- April drop-in use had 587 sign-ins which is slightly up from 543 in March.
- The first session of Tumbling began with 9 participants. This collaboration with Wichita Gymnastics will continue this summer.
- The Tyler Tech hardware issues are still being worked around but patrons and staff continue learning the new system. We plan to use the same software at the pool if issues are resolved.
- The Baseball/Softball field turf damaged last year was overseeded again and has moderately germinated. Unfortunately, weeds are now out of control. Weeds will be treated after the new grass matures. Repair of the winterkilled Soccer Field turf is now being planned for May and June.
- Upcoming programs include T-Ball, Machine Pitch Baseball, and Summer Day Camp

Seniors

- 847 seniors signed in for cards, pickleball, line & folk dance, book club, exercise, sewing, walking, educational, & special activities compared to 919 in March.
- Programs included an outing to a wildlife exhibit, a presentation from KU Med, and Bingo. In all there were 16 ongoing programs, 3 special activities, and 5 educational sessions offered.
- Upcoming Senior activities include Enhance Fitness, an outing to the Great Plains Nature Center, a master Gardening presentation, as well as the many ongoing baseline programs, games, crafts, and communications.

Spring Festival

- The Spring Festival was a great way to kick off this year's community events! There were an estimated 2000 people that came to enjoy festivities at the Bel Aire Rec Center. Around 700 kids participated in the egg hunts, inflatables, games, kite flying, photo booth and pictures with the Bunny.

Other

- The Eagle Lake playground renovation has been completed and is now open.
- The Swimming Pool was uncovered and circulation began on April 25th. We were disappointed to discover more than usual concrete coping & tile cracking. A pool contractor is scheduled to assist with some of the necessary repairs. Additionally, the pool was not drained and cleaned as usual due to water conservation. Instead, heavy chemical treatment took place and vacuuming efforts will continue up until opening. Staff are scheduled to begin work & training after school is out in May.

