

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 14, 2025,
TO: Ted Henry, City Manager & Bel Aire Governing Body
FROM: Brian Hayes, Recreation Director
RE: December Activities

Recreation

- Youth Basketball games began on December 14th. This season there are 103 players on 17 teams compared to 102 last year. We partner with Valley Center Rec in 3rd-6th grade boys & girls divisions and play coed in a 1st-2nd grade Bel Aire division. Games run through February 22nd.
- Pickleball participation was up with 325 compared 248 last month.
- December Taekwondo participation was down with 11 compared to 18 in November.
- Exercise classes were steady with 20 participants.
- Drop-in use was up with 549 sign-ins compared to 450 in November.
- Rec Staff is in the process of partnering with Wichita Gymnastics to offer beginner tumbling classes at the Rec Center. An agreement is being drafted and will be presented to the governing body in February.
- Baseball/Softball infield work began in December. Three truckloads of Red Shale were added to the infields. Infield work will continue as weather allows in order to be completed by March when practices begin. Plans to repair winterkilled Bermudagrass are also being revisited.
- Upcoming Rec programs include Indoor Soccer, Heights Baseball/Softball, & Spring Camp.

Seniors

- 791 seniors signed in for Medicare Counseling, cards, line & folk dance, book club, exercise, sewing, walking, educational, & special activities compared to 711 in November.
- December programs included Medicare Counseling (*Sedgwick County funding requirement*), Holiday Dinner and Singo, an outing to Prairie Rose Chuckwagon, and several Holiday activities. In all there were 15 ongoing activities, 6 special activities, and 2 educational sessions offered.
- Bel Aire again exceeded the Sedgwick County annual funding requirements. The 2025 county funding contract has been reviewed by city staff & counsel and is on the next council agenda.
- Upcoming Senior activities include an AARP Scam/Fraud presentation as well as the many ongoing baseline programs, games, crafts, and communications.

Christmas in Bel Aire

- This year's event was held on December 6th. Hundreds came out and visited with Santa, made ornaments, decorated cookies & enjoyed other treats. The light show is always a success! A big thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and all the sponsors for making this year's event another success.