

STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 11, 2024

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

FROM: Brian Hayes, Recreation Director

RE: May Activities

Recreation

- 24 participants completed their Blastball season on May 9th.
- Tippi Toes Dance completed their first session but will offer a mini session this summer.
- 30 Happy Feet Soccer & TGA Golf participants completed their spring session. They will be back in the fall.
- Pickleball participation was up with 313 compared to 279 last month. Tuesday & Thursday mornings are now being offered on a trial basis due to demand.
- May Taekwondo participation was steady with 24 compared to 23 in April.
- Exercise classes were steady with 28 participants.
- Drop-in use was steady with 544 sign-ins compared to 509 in April.
- 103 participants on 8 Bel Aire Rec teams continue playing in the Wichita Heights Junior Baseball/Softball League and games will run thru early July.
- 138 participants on 12 T-Ball & Machine-Pitch Baseball teams began practicing on May 15th. Games will be held on weeknights for the entire month of June.
- The extent of the winter-killed Bermudagrass is now fully apparent. An estimated one-third of the 8 acres of bermudagrass athletic turf is damaged. The 2-acre soccer field is in the worst condition with about 75% of it damaged. At this time, we are not planning on playing soccer on it this fall. Making matters worse is the fact that pre-emergent herbicide was routinely applied earlier this year when the grass was dormant so essentially all we can do now is fertilize what is still alive and re-establish damaged areas beginning this fall into next year. This winter kill has affected the entire region and we have been visiting with other local agencies and experts in the field to formalize a plan of action. Other routine mowing and grounds maintenance continues.
- Upcoming Rec programs include Challenger Soccer Camp, Bel Aire Ball, and hope to be able to offer fall sports but will have to modify its delivery due to the athletic turf winterkill issue.

Seniors

- 877 seniors signed in for Tai Chi, cards, line & folk dance, book club, exercise, sewing, walking, educational, & special activities compared to 860 in March.
- Highlights this month included an outing to the Museum of World Treasures and presentations on Estate Planning & Gardening.
- Other April programs included several special games and arts/craft activities. In all there were 13 ongoing activities, 4 special activities and 5 educational sessions offered.
- Upcoming Senior activities include an outing to the Wichita Art Museum, a cookout, a presentation on Trusts/Estate Planning as well as the many ongoing baseline programs, games, crafts, presentations, and communications.

Swimming Pool

- Rec Staff completed patching of some coping, entrance & water line tiles, and concrete decking. Staff will obtain quotes on replacing some of these before next season.
- Pool staff training/orientation and final prep work took place on May 20th. The pool is fully staffed with a manager, senior guard and 7 lifeguards. Of the 9, only 2 are new.
- The pool opened as scheduled on May 25th. Residents started lining up at the door early to swim, purchase memberships and reserve times for pool parties. Unfortunately, the rest of the week was cool and rainy so attendance was spotty at best.