

## **Recreation Director's Monthly Report / January 2026**

### **Recreation Department Programming**

January was an active and productive month for the Recreation Department, with continued focus on youth programming, planning efforts, and professional development. Girls' basketball for grades 1–3 is currently underway and will conclude on February 11, providing participants with skill development and positive team experiences. The boys' basketball program will begin shortly with skills and drills sessions designed to introduce fundamentals and build confidence. Coaches are all volunteers who are so appreciated for their time and efforts.

Looking ahead, line dancing is scheduled to begin in mid-April and will run for five weeks. Spring adult enrichment programs are finalized, and summer youth programming is nearly complete, with only a few minor details remaining. Staff have also begun preparations for seasonal hiring, with both the Recreation Department and Aquatics Division set to begin advertising for summer staff next week.

### **Community Center Programming**

Community Center programming continues to evolve as staff work to increase participation, particularly in adult fitness and enrichment opportunities. While attracting consistent daytime attendance remains a challenge, a newly introduced cardio drumming class has been very well received, generating strong participation and enthusiasm. This success highlights resident interest in innovative and engaging fitness options, and staff will continue exploring innovative approaches and programs to encourage greater use of the Community Center.

### **Program Highlights & Participation**

Youth participation remained steady throughout the month, particularly within basketball programming. These programs continue to offer structured, age-appropriate recreational opportunities that support physical activity, skill-building, and social development. In addition, registration for spring soccer is now open and accepting enrollments.

### **Community Center Highlights & Participation**

Adult programming remains a growth area, highlighted by the success of cardio drumming and newly established spring enrichment classes. Staff will continue to monitor participation trends and adjust offerings to best meet resident interests.

### **Community Engagement & Professional Development**

Professional development was a key focus in January. Kane and Amy Jo attended the WPRA Conference during the week of February 4, participating in aquatics training, recreational programming sessions, and educational classes. Attendance at the conference provided valuable insights, networking opportunities, and current ideas to support program development and operations.

In addition, Amy Jo and Kim visited the Watermark Community & Senior Center in Beaver Dam, where they met with staff to discuss programming strategies and ideas to increase participation. While many of the programs offered are similar, the visit provided helpful perspective on outreach, engagement, and operational practices that may help improve attendance at the Community Center.

Additionally, the Recreation Committee met on Monday the 9th and is in the process of implementing a formal refund and cancellation policy to provide clarity and consistency for participants.

### **Facilities & Operations Update**

Facility usage remains strong, with continued interest in rentals and reservations. The Pavilion staircase project is scheduled for completion by February 15, 2026. Painting of the stairs is planned for late summer or early fall to ensure proper conditions and long-term durability.

Seasonal planning efforts are underway, including coordination between the Recreation Department and Aquatics staff to ensure a smooth transition into the summer season.

### **Staffing & Administration**

The department is currently in the annual performance review season. All staff members are completing self-evaluations, and Amy Jo is actively working on individual employee evaluations. These efforts support professional growth, accountability, and continued high-quality service delivery.

### **Financial Snapshot**

Fundraising and community support remain a priority. Amy Jo is currently working on the annual fundraising letter to solicit donations in support of special events and programming throughout the year. These efforts help offset costs and enhance the quality and variety of offerings available to residents.

### **Looking Ahead / Upcoming Initiatives**

In the coming months, staff will finalize preparations for the Easter Egg Hunt and Scavenger Hunt. Amy Jo will also begin working closely with the CHLPC group by attending meetings to assist with planning and implementing the Summer Concert Series. These collaborations will strengthen community partnerships and expand seasonal programming opportunities.

### **Closing Statement**

The Recreation Department continues to move forward with strong programming, thoughtful planning, and positive community engagement. Staff remain focused on offering diverse, inclusive, and high-quality recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. The department appreciates the continued support and guidance of the council and looks forward to a successful spring and summer season.