



**Date:** April 5, 2024  
**To:** Glenn Steckman, City Manager  
**CC:** Dan Grimmer, City Clerk  
Gangie Nguyen, Administrative Assistant  
**From:** Chip Leeper, Director of Parks and Recreation  
**Re:** Quarterly Report  
**Reporting Period:** January – March 2024

## Nome Recreation Center

The start of the quarter in January kicked off with the resumption of Adult City League Basketball. Three new teams (SPS in Men's A and Bering Air and R.Y.E in Women's) joined the fray for the second half of play. In addition, Net Rippers- after seeing the departure of several key players opted to drop down to Men's B from the top division.

After a quick 7-week regular season and a single elimination postseason tournament took place. Rough Country knocked off CNC Sherman 100-66 to take home the Men's A crown; Q-Trucking showed their strong regular season showing was no fluke as they throttled top-seeded Janet's 50-42 to earn the Women's Division title. Meanwhile Beah's took home their first championship in the thrilling Men's B Division finals- ultimately dispatching a veteran Bering Air side in overtime 72-71.

Overall the season went well but as usual it was difficult finding officials as the season progressed due to continuing conflicts with the high school basketball regular/postseasons and the start of the village tournament circuit. Because of this logjam I am seriously thinking of moving up the Adult City League Basketball season next year to the fall.

Those weren't the only competitive basketball games taking place in our facility. On January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed the mighty Nome-Beltz Nanooks back. They came to play the Seward High School Seahawks out of the Peninsula Conference.

As expected the place was packed and fueled by the energy of the lively, boisterous crowd the boys notched a pair of impressive wins. On Friday evening they prevailed 64-49 before following it up with a 52-24 shellacking on Saturday.

Unfortunately, the energy wasn't enough to sustain a young and hungry Lady Nanooks squad. The first night they were on the receiving end of a 43-22 defeat. The next day was much closer with Seward barely escaping with a 34-22 win.

But even that wasn't all the basketball to have been played at the rec during this reporting period. No sooner were the City League scorebooks stashed until next year and the facility cleaned



and the court waxed before Iditarod rolled around. With it came the return of another longtime favorite- the 51st Annual Lonnie O'Connor Iditarod Basketball Classic.

Of course, anyone attending had to have the Nome-famous reindeer dog and a pretzel with cheese while rooting on their favorite team. As has been the norm for the past decade concessions and after-game clean-up was performed by Alaska Missions. All proceeds for food and drink sales went to the Bering Straits Women's Shelter.

The day after the championships were played and everything put back away it was time for the Finisher's Banquet on March 17th. Hosted by the Iditarod Trail Committee the affair serves as a combination awards banquet and opportunity for the mushers to give one last acknowledgement to sponsors, family and supporters.

As has been the case in recent years the event was scaled back with about half the typical amount of tickets sold. Even with a smaller number of attendees it did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd that came to celebrate Dallas Seavey's record-breaking 6<sup>th</sup> victory in this historic race.

Those weren't the only things happening. On Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> Nomeites showed up to honor local legend Howard Farley. The following weekend on February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Nome Pre-School hosted their annual auction to raise operating funds for their valued program.

On a final note we were finally able to offer a winter co-ed bowling league. Comprised of 6 teams the league went 6 weeks and wrapped up just before Iditarod. If all goes well and we can attract a similar number of teams we will attempt to offer a Spring League as well.

## **Nome Swimming Pool**

Not a lot was happening as the facility still remains closed while the final parts of the job were completed. Polar Pools made a trip up to put the finishing touches on the project.

We are now awaiting the arrival of the 3 major companies that supplied components for the job along with Polar Pools and their subcontractors. All will be here the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for final checkoffs and testing. If all goes well we will be given a certificate of completion and begin the process of training staff and reopening to the public.

More information will be provided in the next quarterly report.