



Date: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
To: Dan Grimmer, Acting City Manager  
From: Chip Leeper, Director of Parks and Recreation  
CC: Dan Grimmer, City Clerk  
Angie Nguyen, Administrative Assistant

Subject: Parks and Recreation Department Quarterly Report (October – December 2024)

### **Nome Recreation Center**

Despite the minimal snowfall that occurred during the last quarter, blustery winds and icy conditions led many locals to seek indoor alternatives for their recreation and exercise needs. The harsh weather conditions, including cold temperatures and frequent gusts of wind, made outdoor activities less appealing and unsafe due to the slippery conditions, prompting a shift in how people chose to be active.

Things got started in October with our Co-Ed Adult Volleyball League. Played on Monday and Thursday nights this past season attracted 9 teams across two divisions- Competitive (5 teams) for the more serious players and Recreational (4 Teams) for the exercise seeking crowd.

After two months of play (48 regular season matches) and a postseason tournament (7 playoff matches) Milano's took home the crown in the competitive division and NSHC took the top spot in the recreational bracket.

The volleyball stanchions were immediately stowed and basketballs brought out as we began City League Adult Basketball play in early November.

The league was composed of three divisions: Women (5 teams); Men's A (3 teams); and Men's B (5 teams). After playing a 7-week schedule the league will take a break for the holiday season.

Heading into the break Harold's and Team Mimi each posted a 5-2 record to share the top spot in the Women's Division. Newcomer G-Spot dominated the Men's A Division with a 6-1 record. NSHC Ballers and Net Rippers tied for the spot of the Men's B Division.

While the first half of the league was completed it was a major challenge finding referees. Things got so bad there was some question whether a second half could be offered. Fortunately, I was able to meet with the Nome Referee Association and the team captains to work out a solution.

In addition to the leagues outlined above we also hosted some other events.



Bering Straits Native Corporation rented out the facility to host their annual shareholders meeting on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Village of Solomon sponsored a Celebrating Culture event on Indigenous People's Day (October 14<sup>th</sup>). An Inu-Yupiaq Dance Group from the University of Alaska Rural Student Services visited Nome to host a group dance practice that was open to the public on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

The annual Nome Volunteer Fire Department hosted their annual Winter Carnival on the traditional first Saturday of December. As is typical the carnival attracted throngs of people to the facility to play games, bingo and eat food supplied by a variety of organizations fundraising for their respective causes.

On a more somber note we hosted a Celebration of Life for Rob Luce on November 10<sup>th</sup>. He was a longtime softball coach for our summer youth program introducing hundreds of kids to the game during his long tenure. He will be greatly missed.

### **Nome Swimming Pool**

The quarter started off a bit slow as a shortage of available lifeguards greatly impacted the ability to offer programs to the public.

In an effort to bolster the pool of lifeguards lead life Melissa Ford offered a couple of lifeguard certification classes. The first one in late September yielded 4 new lifeguards (Lahka Peacock, Melissa Stewart, Sophia Pentelis and Valerie Fuller) and the other in early November yielded another 4 (Darcee Perkins, Jesse Blandford, Jessica Spindel and Chelsea Hubert).

In addition, an American Red Cross instructor was brought up from Juneau to instruct a Water Safety Instructor class from November 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The class was attended by pool and NACTEC staff.

### **Golden Strike Bowling Alley**

Traffic through the bowling alley was a little sluggish at the start and picked up a bit as the quarter progressed. Along with open bowls, the alley hosted numerous birthday and holiday parties.