

November 2016

Work is finishing up at Pirone Park and Sandy Pond for the fall season.

This includes closing and winterizing bathrooms, aerating fields, leaf removal, and inventorying equipment. We also have been giving a final tune up to all vehicles and power equipment to ensure they will be in good working order when we return to outdoor work in March. Most of the larger pieces of equipment will be stored at the old firehouse, which is back under town ownership until an acceptable bid can be made on it. We are hoping to get a new storage building built by next fall so that we will have a long term solution for housing and maintaining Parks Department equipment in the future. We will be submitting a request to the Capitol Planning Committee this month for funding of a new building, as well as funding for a study to be done for the perimeter path that has been proposed to be built around Pirone Park. Other capitol plans that will be submitted for review over the next five years include an irrigation system and new docks for Sandy Pond Beach, purchase of a new pickup truck/plow, paving of the dirt roadway leading to the boat launch at Grove Pond, and remediation of Kiddie Junction.

The soccer program finished up on the first week of November. Overall, it was a great year for the program with all levels having exceptional turnout.

Sarah Gibbons once again coordinated the AYS program and worked with all the volunteers and Challenger Soccer Organization to help provide a quality program. Soccer registration forms for the spring will be going out in late December. Basketball has been underway in its preseason for the 3rd-8th grade levels. Teams have been formed and are currently practicing for their first games on December 3. Eric Hebert is chairing this year's ASYB Board, which oversees the joint Ayer-Shirley 5th-8th grade levels. The younger

(PreK-2) grades will be starting on December 3 as well. There is a nice balance of players at every level, and over 75 participants have volunteered to help coach the program. The ASRSD has been very cooperative in offering us adequate gym space for the season, which is greatly appreciated. We will be maintaining our shared facility use agreement from last year, which allows both entities to share resources and minimize costs. More importantly, having such an agreement in place allows further growth for community programs and helps keep fees down for the hundreds of families who utilize Parks Department programs.

Jeff Thomas

Ayer Parks Director