

November/December

Winter is upon us, and activities at Pirone and Sandy Pond Beach have for the most part come to a close. Bathrooms and irrigation systems have been winterized, leaves and pine needles cleared, and everything tied down or stored away until early spring. This fall called for more out-of-the-box solutions for the latter due to our losing the firehouse for winter storage and awaiting our new storage facility to be built next year. We needed to utilize tarps and come up with some creative spacing to get all our equipment stowed away with limited indoor storage available. It will be well worth it to have the new facility in place and be able to put away all our equipment more safely and securely.

The basketball program is well underway, and the merger with the TAP program for the 5th-8th grade levels has been going well by all reports. This season the two programs will have limited interaction, with most levels only playing 2-3 games of interleague competition. This will allow an inaugural year that can more easily work out any kinks with rules or policies that inevitable come up when merging youth programs. Kevin Williams, Eric Hebert, and Randy Clemence are the ASYB Ayer representatives who have been seeing this venture through, and so far report all is going well. Plans for a post season are still being worked out, but it appears that there will be an eventual championship game at each level between the top ASYB and TAP teams.

The two current main projects for the Parks Department, the perimeter path and storage/office building at Pirone, are moving along in their planning stages. Preliminary drawings for the storage facility have been put together by William Sloan Associates and have gone through several alterations based on suggestions from the Parks Commission and Charlie Shultz. The Commission will be reviewing these again at their next meeting, with hopes a final initial design can be agreed on and put together to create an RFP to be bid on by Early February. As for the perimeter path, we have been in discussions with representatives for LandTech Consultants, who were chosen to design the path within the scope of specs we had given them. After several meetings and a site visit, they appear to have enough information to move forward with a design that we hope to put out to bid by early spring.

Jeff Thomas
Ayer Parks Director