

## Parks Department Updates

February 2023

We finally were hit with some wintry conditions this month, which led to some challenges removing snow, slush and ice from the perimeter path and parking areas. Our maintenance workers Nathan and Hannah did a spectacular job doing most of the clearing with limited resources after several storms. We are looking forward to a potential early spring and getting a jump on preparing the parks for another busy season.

The Parks Department was able to hire a part time administrative assistant to help with the day to day operations of the Parks office and management of recreational programs. Sarah Ernst was selected over several other highly qualified applicants due to her degree in recreation management, experience in municipal finance and knowledge of recreational programs in town. She has been through her orientation and has already proved to be an asset to the department.

The AYB, ASYB and NVUB youth basketball programs came to a close this month, marking the end of a very successful season. Players in the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade travel programs had their final playoff games on February 11 and crowned four new division champions. Players in the Unlimited and PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade developmental programs had their final sessions on February 18, including games, contests, and awards. Pizza and other food items for all levels were donated by parents or provided at a significant discount from the Cottage Restaurant. The Cottage has been amazing with their generosity in support of all of our programs since they opened about a dozen years ago.

Plans for the upcoming Parks Department sponsored summer youth sports clinics and camps are under way. We hope to offer similar activities to what we have done in the past, including baseball, softball, basketball, soccer and possibly a few others. These are offered at a relatively low cost to town residents and provide a fun and instructive off season program for children of all levels of play.

Jeff Thomas  
Ayer Parks Director