



Parks and Recreation Commission –
Report for November 2016
Wendy Clubb, Recreation Supervisor

Swimming Pool Programs-

The VHS Swim Team season ended the second week of November, and we have more pool time available in the evening again.

The Valdez Torpedoes Swim Club (VTSC) adjusted their swim schedule with the conclusion of the VHS Swim Team season, so they are now practicing earlier in the day. They are also continuing to increase their learn to swim program. This will begin to impact our staffing budget and operations with the start of a new year.

The Salty Dawgs Swim Association (US Masters Swim Team) is building their presence and currently practicing every Saturday.

The Synchro Swim Team had a minimal start to their season in November, and have since suspended their practices until the new year, when they hope to drum up more interested participants.

We offered Babies R Swimmin', as well as Minnows, Tadpoles and Levels 1-4. These lessons will all conclude the week of December 19th.

We also had six take the Lifeguard Class that ended November 22nd.

We brought Test the Waters in from North Pole to hold an intro to scuba diving class. We filled two classes in November, and offered a third class December 10th. We'll continue to build this relationship and hope for a full scuba certification class this spring.

Teen Center –

The Teen & Community Center has seen a steady increase of community use with party rental increase.

We also have the Valdez Dance Company renting the dance room while their space is under renovations.

We are still holding Fencing classes, and have begun Brazilian Ju Jujitsu classes three times a week.

We'll be advertising for a new Teen & Community Center Coordinator in the coming weeks.

Gyms-

Rock Wall continues to be a popular place; our schedule has changed for the next few months greatly due to school sports programs using the Mat Room space. We're trying to determine the best way to accommodate the greatest number of people in the limited time that we have... and may be trying several different schedules during these few months. This month we are trying an OPEN Climb time, where everyone is welcome. Based on feedback, the community likes the Family and Adult time segregation, and so we'll try something along those lines in January. We have 50 people participating in Climb Denali program, and have a few climbers that have almost made it to Base Camp. (Each trip to the top of the wall counts towards the top of Denali.)

Special Events-

We have been working on 2017 Qaniq Challenge and 2017 Healthier You.

We had the 34th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, where the tree was lit and approximately 75 children visited with Santa. We had over 200 families join in this annual event to mark the start of the holiday season.

We hosted a new event – the Turkey Shootout. We had six participants walk away with winning turkeys, hams or a pie for their basketball free throw skills.

We're hosting the Annual Festive Homes Contest this month, with participating homes to be judged on December 21st.

Ski Hill-

We've begun preparations for winter operations at the Salmonberry Ski Hill.

We've begun recruitment, hiring and training of Ski Hill staff.

Looking to the Future-

Our next events coming up:

- Festive Homes Contest – Registration deadline December 16th; Judging December 21th.
- The 'But Drop – Saturday, December 31st at the Civic & Convention Center
- Qaniq Challenge – Saturday, January 14th & Sunday, January 15th
- Healthier You Kick Off – Saturday, January 28th at the Civic & Convention Center
- Alaska Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference – Hosted in Valdez, September 13-16, 2017 at the Civic & Convention Center