

KOTZEBUE PARKS AND RECREATION



Holiday Events

We had lots of holiday related activities in December. We started the month with a holiday decorating contest. Over 70 homes and businesses took part in making the town brighter and more festive during this dark time of year. This was a win for the entire City.

The individual winners were: 1st place Bree & Derek Swanson, 2nd place the Lake Street house, 3rd Place was a tie between Brad & Mary Reeves and Will and Carrie Longley. The Longley's Grinch stealing the Christmas lights made everyone smile who drove down 3rd street. Thank you to all who participated or helped sponsor the event especially the Manillaq

Corporation and others who donated additional cash and prizes for the event. Also thank you to KEA who decorates our streets every year. Next year's decorating contest will be even bigger and better.



Middle School Dance

On December 30th the Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a dance for middle school age youth at the Boys and Girls Club. 40 excited kids showed up for this event which included dance music provided by D.J. Grant Magdanz, games with prizes from AC and North Star Market, refreshments (thank you Kelly Kendall), and a photo booth. Hannah Atkinson, Liz Ferguson, Matt and Ariel Roberson provided great back up as chaperones. We all had a good time. We have some really good middle school kids in this community.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Open Gym

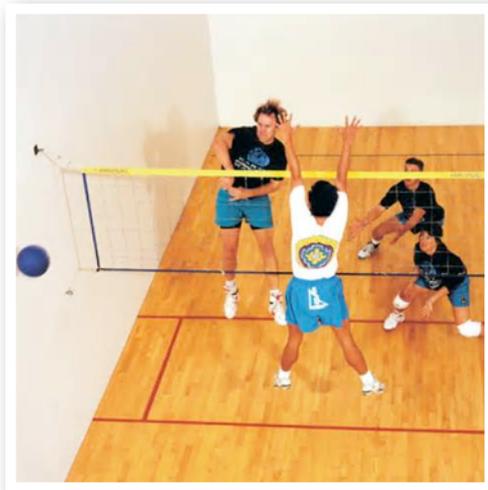
We had open gym for grades K-8 at the high school every Sunday in December and several times throughout Christmas break. It was great for the kids and parents to be able to get up off the couch and get some exercise. While basketball was the main activity, we also played indoor soccer, touch football, and jump rope. We'll continue to have open gym in January. Look on the community calendar for upcoming dates. Thank you to the NWABSD for sharing their facility with the community.



Looking Ahead

Moving forward into a new year, we're excited about opening a new youth facility in Kotzebue. The 3,800 square foot facility is nearing completion and should be open sometime in the first quarter of 2015. Parks and Recreation will have their offices located there. The Boys and Girls Club will have their offices located there as well and will be using the facility to run their programs along with other youth oriented entities in Kotzebue. The new youth center will feature the following amenities: game tables (ping pong, air hockey, foosball, and pool tables), computer lab, computer projection area for movies and online video games, a reading area, and a multi-purpose open area. The facility will also be open to rentals for special events. This is just phase one of a three phase project to expand recreational opportunities for the youth and adults of Kotzebue.

We will also continue work on the Swan Lake Recreational Area which will include a new softball field, walking path, and picnic area. We should make more progress this summer but actual completion will most likely be in 2016.



Great Activities Around the Corner

Wally Ball is coming to Kotzebue in February. This is a fast paced game like volleyball but played in a racquet ball court with 3 – 4 players a side. The ball can be played off any surface except the floor. We hope to get people to try it out and develop a league where it can be played competitively.

We will be having an exploratory meeting in January to see how the City can support a community garden project. We have a large underground (pun intended) gardening community in Kotzebue that are ready to put their collective green thumbs to work. We'll be brainstorming and taking the best ideas to see if we can help with a manageable project.

While these are not City sponsored events, we want to support the fitness community in Kotzebue. Both Zumba and Yoga classes will continue in

January. Pre-school kids need exercise too! Kinder Gym is taking place every Saturday at the JNES gym. Please consult the community calendar for the exact days and times of these fitness groups.

Saturday, January 24th, the Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a family roller skating night at the JNES Gym 7:30-9:30 p.m. Come join us for this time of fun and fitness for the whole family!

Lastly, we will be having two contests in January. The first will be a contest for the naming of the new youth facility, the second will be a photo contest in January. Kotzebue is a beautiful place. Give us your best shot! We'll post them for the public to see. We will have a panel of judges who will vote for the photos that show the best things about living in Kotzebue. Prizes will be awarded. Get those cameras snapping!