

City preparing for summer activities

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

In anticipation for the upcoming summer sports season, Theresa Tharp discussed last year's achievements of the rec sports program as well as provided information about the upcoming season during the Tuesday, April 2 City Council meeting.

Last year approximately 140 kids were out for baseball, softball or T-ball. About 50 of all participants were out for T-ball. The programs are for children age 5-15 and up to 16 years old for softball.

During the final baseball tournament put on by the city last year, the rec department raised enough money to purchase \$4,000 worth of new uniforms for the entire program.

Tharp also noted that coaching positions are not yet finalized, but a number of candidates have put in applications, and decisions will be made shortly.

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Progress slowed for code enforcer, animal shelter

For the time being, the council has determined that the code enforcement position will have to remain a duty of the Holyoke Police Department.

It became clear in recent weeks that finding a qualified candidate to fill the spot as a part-time position was going to be very difficult. Police Chief Doug Bergstrom commented that the department will be able to handle the responsibilities.

Board members Steve Moore and David Churchwell mentioned that the board can possibly revisit the topic after more progress has been made on the animal shelter.

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After addressing a handful of issues with the proposed animal shelter plans, the health department has been slow to comment on the overall progress of the blueprint.

The lack of direction has been frustrating for board members, but they are continuing to make improvements to the draft in order to stay current with all health codes.

“I will continue to work on the full details of the plan to see where we can go,” City Superintendent Mark Brown commented. “Hopefully we don’t go back to square one if they find something wrong.”

City officials report

Brown said that there had been a power outage caused by trees down on power lines in the 200-300 block of East Akron Street due to the heavy snow on March 23.

Brown also informed the board that the alfalfa sprinkler system will be fired up as soon as the weather warms up. City workers will also continue to fill street cracks when the weather cooperates.

Chief Bergstrom reported that from March 14-27 there had been 60 calls for service, one arrest, three reports made and five warnings given.

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Other business:

In other business April 2, the council:

—agreed to donate water for the 2013 community garden.

—approved a purchase request from Chief Bergstrom for a Lexmark X738DTE Multifunction printer from Computers Etc. for a total of \$2,759.

—agreed to donate \$100 to the Phillips County Relay for Life.

—approved a donation of one summer youth swim pass to Partners In Education for the school carnival silent auction.

—approved travel request for Kathy Olofson to attend recertification of election official training May 3 at Adams County Government Center.

—approved travel request for Tillie Fisbeck and Olofson to attend election basics training April 26 at the Sterling Library.

—agreed to place ads in the 2013 Explore magazine and the Holyoke Enterprise 125th Anniversary edition.

—passed a motion to help the golf club pour cement for a gazebo and to waive the building permit fees.

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—accepted a bid from Blue-White Pools for \$8,400 to replaster the bottom of the wading pool as well as supply hotel rooms for the Blue-White Pools employees.

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