

## Recreation Director Jared Porter



2023 was my first full year as the Recreation Director, and I hope you have enjoyed the programs we have been able to offer.

My goals for this department are to maintain the current established programs and expand upon them. When people think of a Recreation Department, their first thought is youth sports. While that is true, we do so much more than that. We offer programs for youth, adults, and senior citizens. We are also offering a more extensive selection of community events. The more programs we can offer to all ages, the more we can unite this community, which is the ultimate goal.

**Rec Committee Members**  
**7 public, 2 alternates by Ordinance**

**1 non-voting high school student**

Carol Arsenault, Vice Chair

Janelle Eddy

Pat Carter

James Sturks

Amanda Prior

Jaime Edwards

Kathleen Hennessey Arey

Kimberly Matthews 1st Alt.

Our programs collaborate with our friends in the surrounding towns, which include St. George, Rockland, Cushing, Camden/Rockport, Waldoboro, and Warren.

**BASKETBALL** – Our youth basketball program for grades 3-6 is part of the Mid-Coast Basketball League. This league includes Rockland, St. George, Camden/Rockport, and Cushing. We have four divisions: 3rd and 4th-grade boys, 3rd and 4th-grade girls, 5th and 6th-grade boys, and 5th and 6th-grade girls. We fielded one team in every division and two teams in 3/4 girls, and those teams saw tremendous growth throughout the season. Thanks to our coaches who devoted countless hours to make this season a success. We provided a 4-week clinic for our younger players in grades K-2. We had a great turnout this year with 30 kids. Over the four weeks, we focused on fundamentals, dribbling, shooting, defense, passing, and most importantly, FUN!

**SOCCER** – Thomaston hosted a soccer clinic for our K-2 players on the Little League Field; we divided our sessions into two parts. The first half focused on skills and drills, with the second half reserved for scrimmages. We also had teams in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> league and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> league. This league comprised of Thomaston, Rockland, St. George, Cushing, Rockport, Warren, and Waldoboro.

**BASEBALL & SOFTBALL** – Our Tee Ball league included Thomaston, Rockland, and Cushing. The Little League programs offered through Oceanside Little League include Major League and Minor League programs determined by age and talent rather than grade. This league includes Thomaston, St. George, Rockland, and Cushing.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**—This year was our third Annual Trunk or Treat. Thank you to everyone who decorated their cars and dressed up and those who showed up to collect candy; the costumes were terrific. We had plenty of happy kids!

**ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUE**—Like last season, our adult kickball league had five teams. I've already heard chatter about some new teams interested in joining this upcoming season, so we're looking to expand this program as well.

**FALL FESTIVAL**—This year, we decided to go big on a community fundraiser to raise money for future projects. Some ideas are for a new playground or a community ice skating rink. We organized a Haunted Trail, a Softball Tournament, and a festival with games and amusements provided by Vertical Entertainment. The festival included Hay Rides, a Chili Cook-Off, a Pie-Eating Contest, Raffles, and a live band. The community received this event well; we look forward to growing it this year!

**FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE**—This was our first time hosting a Father-Daughter dance, and we sold over 60 tickets. As the fathers and daughters walked in, the daughters received a flower and were guided to our photo screen for pictures. They then walked the red carpet into the dance, where a live DJ kept the music going.

**ADULT COED PICKUP BASKETBALL** – Our adult coed pickup league had a great year, averaging 20-25 people weekly. It's a great mix of fun and competition.

**MAD SCIENCE** – MAD Science brought a hands-on fun science program in for an 8-week session called "Energize it." We had eight students register, and they enjoyed it thoroughly! We look forward to having them back for another 8-week session in the spring.

### **SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMMING**

Seniors are a huge part of what we do, and I genuinely believe we have the best group around. We have a fantastic group of seniors in this town, and working with them on growing this program is a pleasure. Our monthly Senior Luncheons remain successful, and over the last few months, we have offered games and puzzles and have been able to book guest speakers to provide vital information regarding healthcare and transportation. Many of our seniors came up with a great idea to knit hats for kids in need. As the hats come in, I continue to make trips to Thomaston Grammar School, where they are happy to accept them! We will be collaborating more with other towns for this upcoming year.

### **SUMMER DAY CAMP**

The Thomaston Recreation Department once again collaborated with the Pen Bay YMCA to provide a summer camp at the Thomaston Municipal Building. Lincoln County provided breakfasts and lunches. I have already spoken with Benjie at the Pen Bay YMCA, and he is looking forward to returning this program to Thomaston this coming year!

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

We continue to work with local businesses any and every chance we get. As we grow these programs, we have been extremely grateful to have several local businesses step up and sponsor teams and events. This past year, I sold advertising signs for the Thomaston Little League Field to raise enough money for a new zero-turn lawn mower, reducing mowing time by about two hours.

### **VOLUNTEER RETENTION**

Without our dedicated, loyal group of volunteers, none of the programs mentioned above would be possible. They are undoubtedly the backbone of the Thomaston Recreation Department. Your time, dedication, enthusiasm, and knowledge, which you all continue to pass on to our younger generations, do not go unnoticed. I cannot thank you enough.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In closing, I would like to thank several people who have made and continue to make this department what it is. The Recreation Advisory Board, or my board of rock stars, works tirelessly to create new programs, build on existing programs, and always look for new ways to better the department. Our friends at Thomaston Grammar School, Ainslee, Aimee, and the custodial staff, thank you for allowing us gym time throughout the basketball season. My colleagues in the area, Benjie Blake, Ben Vail, Donald Prescott, and Gretchen Tripp. Thank you for allowing me to pick your brains and gain as much knowledge as possible. Thomaston Public Works, who are always there if anything is needed. The Town Office staff: Missy, Sally, Donna, Jodell, and Dorothy. Thank you, ladies, for always encouraging me to go big and picking me up when needed. I would also like to thank Town Manager Kara George and the Select Board for their support over the last year. Thank you to the citizens of Thomaston; I look forward to being your Recreation Director for years to come and continuing to grow this program into something even more incredible!

I want to thank the local businesses for their donations and support to the Thomaston Recreation Department. Please get in touch with me if you are interested in volunteering at any of the events.

[jporter@thomastonmaine.gov](mailto:jporter@thomastonmaine.gov)



