



## Town of Scarborough, Maine

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### Department of Community Services

If you asked residents in Scarborough if they knew what the Community Services Department does in the Town of Scarborough, we bet you'd hear that we offer recreational opportunities to all the citizens of Scarborough. They would be right. We bet you'd also hear that Community Services handles all reservations in town . . . for events in our schools, athletic programs in our gymnasiums and on our fields, or for official town meetings in the municipal building. They would also be correct. And some would say Community Services offers discount tickets for ski lifts, movies, amusement parks, or to sporting events in New England. We are many things to many people. And we serve every age of the community . . . from our preschoolers to our 55+ citizens. Physically, we are spread throughout the community . . . our administrative office is in the municipal building, our preschool and child care administrative offices are in the Bessworth Building, and our maintenance facility (housing our outdoor athletic field and landscaping equipment) is at the Clifford Mitchell Sports Complex. Additionally, our 55+ program is fortunate to have use of the facility at Hillcrest offered by State Manufactured Homes and the Desfosses family as well as use of Bessey Commons for exercise and healthy living programs. Above and beyond what our department offers, our Director is in charge of management of projects throughout the town as directed by the Town Manager. Some projects have included the management of construction of the Eastern Trail in Scarborough, the pier project at Pine Point, the parking lot at Higgins Beach, and construction of most of our town parks.

**55+ Programs** ~ This program has grown by leaps and bounds, particularly over the last year, and more seniors are enjoying day trips, as well as weekly luncheons where seniors enjoy entertainment by local singing groups, storytelling and dramatics, or informational programs sponsored by local businesses. Our three "Out-to-Lunch Bunch" groups visit different restaurants once a month within the Southern Maine area. Transportation is offered to twice-weekly BINGO at the Hillcrest Community Center, to local grocery stores, to the theater, and to USM's Senior College. To kick off the fall season, an annual barbecue is held for seniors on a Concerts-in-the-Park night. All 55+ members receive discounts to a number of area businesses, and local businesses have been eager to be a part of this program.

**Adult Recreation** ~ Our adult recreational component has grown in the past few years with offerings such as Zumba, yoga, Tai Chi, our Healthline exercise program, open gyms in basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball, and leagues such as 3-on-3 basketball, co-ed softball, flag football, and combo tennis. Surfing lessons were also offered this past summer. We are always striving to offer more adult recreational programs.

**Youth Recreation** ~ Our youth programs continue to be popular and thriving . . . most children experience their first organized team sport within our Community Services programs where good sportsmanship and participation in a positive team atmosphere are essential goals, all while learning the basics of a sport in a safe and healthy environment. Offerings continue to be cross country, basketball, indoor and outdoor soccer, field hockey, softball pitching, Dribbles, baseball and softball spring training and skills camps, lacrosse, wrestling, and snow sports. And, of course, our summer program popularity continues to grow with art, engineering challenges, robotics, rocketry, and architecture camp offerings, as well as basketball, softball and baseball camps, lacrosse, field hockey, football, soccer, tennis, swimming lessons, golf lessons, volleyball, track and field, horseback riding, and surfing lessons.

**Child Care** ~ Just as important to Community Services is our popular day care program provided to our young citizens where we offer our two-, three-, and five-day preschool programs at Bessworth and before-school and after-school care for over 300 kindergarteners through middle school age students at each of our three neighborhood schools – Pleasant Hill, Eight Corners, and Blue Point -- at Bessworth for our Wentworth students, and at the middle school. Our child care is also offered to our families for school vacation weeks, snow days, and

teacher in-service days, as well as date nights for parents during the school year. Additionally, each summer we offer an eight-week summer day camp for preschoolers through eighth graders and a program of trips for middle schoolers.

**Facility Reservations** ~ Anyone who would like to use our facilities in town must reserve through Community Services, whether it is an indoor facility or outdoor facility (athletic/turf fields, parks, and beaches). We work closely with the School Department and their maintenance staff in coordination with athletic groups and other organizations throughout Southern Maine. Our Winslow Homer Auditorium in the high school is a popular venue for theater and music programs, as are our school gymnasiums and cafeterias for large events put on by non-profit and commercial groups. We are fortunate to have such wonderful facilities and, of course, Scarborough is in a great location and easily accessible for all. Our weekly schedules can be viewed at any time by accessing the Community Services home page of the Town's website.

**Fields, Beaches, Parks, Trails Maintenance** ~ Community Services maintains all fields and parks within the 54 square miles of Scarborough, as well as the Eastern Trail that runs through town. Community Services and the Athletic Department continue to work hand in hand with maintenance of our athletic fields, preparing for games by lining of fields, mowing of grass for game readiness, adding fences where appropriate, putting in bases for baseball/softball, and ongoing field maintenance by watering, soil testing, over-seeding, aerating, fertilizing, and re-sodding when necessary. Scarborough installed a turf field in 2006 which has allowed athletic competitions to continue regardless of weather. When the turf field is not in use by Scarborough organizations, we rent the field to other groups and this rental income has been going into our capital reserve account for replacement turf when it becomes necessary in the future. Thus far we have raised \$100,000 toward this fund, a fund that was established so that the replacement turf would be paid through the rental fees and not taxpayer money.

Our Outdoor Lighting Management system was put in at the Clifford Mitchell Sports Complex for all of our athletic fields, track, and basketball and tennis courts -- one of the first such lighting management systems in the Northeast. This system saves tax dollars by allowing us to manage the lighting system without additional personnel on-site. This interfaces with our recreational software program in our department. This is one example of continuing to become more efficient, keeping in mind the importance of being good stewards of our taxpayer dollars.

We manage and maintain our three town beaches/parking areas in the summer and employ many local young adults as beach parking attendants. We also employ them at our outdoor ice rink in the winter and in the summer to help with field and grounds maintenance. The ice rink is always popular during our cold winter months and we're especially fortunate to have a warming hut with concession stand. In the winter we plow walkways at the high school, middle school, intermediate school, and town library, as well as the walking trails at Memorial Park. Memorial Park has been very popular for walkers, kite flyers, and anyone who just wants to enjoy the outdoors. We also take care of the nearby skateboard park and our community gardens in Black Point Park and handle the maintenance of the municipal building and Bessworth child care building. Community Services plans special events throughout town, such as our annual SummerFest and WinterFest, with the help of local community sponsors. In addition, we support and staff the summer concerts in the park along with the Scarborough Community Chamber.

**Cable Television** ~ Community Services manages and operates our town's cable television studio which includes staffing cable camera operators for town meetings and managing and maintaining the video technology cable equipment. All town meetings and our daily slide show are produced through this department. Within the last few months we started streaming all official town meetings on-line, and we anticipate starting live streaming within the next month.

Although many citizens would have a differing opinion about what Community Services offers, as you can see we are a major thread weaving through the fabric of our community. We are always willing to consider new and different programming to meet the needs of residents, so we hope residents will not hesitate in letting us know how we can better serve them.

The Staff of Community Services