



LEDYARD PARKS RECREATION, AND SENIOR CITIZENS DEPARTMENT

Annual Report
FY 2024

We Merged!

This year was filled with many exciting things including the merge of Ledyard Parks and Rec, and Ledyard Senior Center! With this merge, we hope to expand what we are able to provide to the community, and we believe that we have proved that will work with how this year has gone!

In this report you will see data from our Facebook pages and our MyRec Software, you will see what events and services we offer, and you will see what improvements we have made, and what we plan to do in the future.

Staff this year

Scott Johnson Jr., Director

Matt Cicchese, Asst. Director

Ginny Hungerford, Office Assistant

Courtney Sizer, Office Assistant II

James Metcalf, Site Nutritionist

Donielle Walko, Park Care Taker

Nancy Osella, Van Driver

Scott Fain, Van Driver

Russell Smith, Van Driver

Donations

Between the Ledyard Parks, Recreation, and Senior Center, we have received almost \$2,000! This has helped us provide more for the community, and run more programs/events. We have also received many walkers, puzzles, craft supplies, and books as well!

In addition to this, various groups take donations and returns here as well. We will do Prescription Drug Take Backs on advertised days, we take used glasses, bottles, cans, and even plastic!



Program Registrations

The data on the next page offers a compelling look at the diversity of our programs offered. This shows a various amount of participation and engagement through our town.

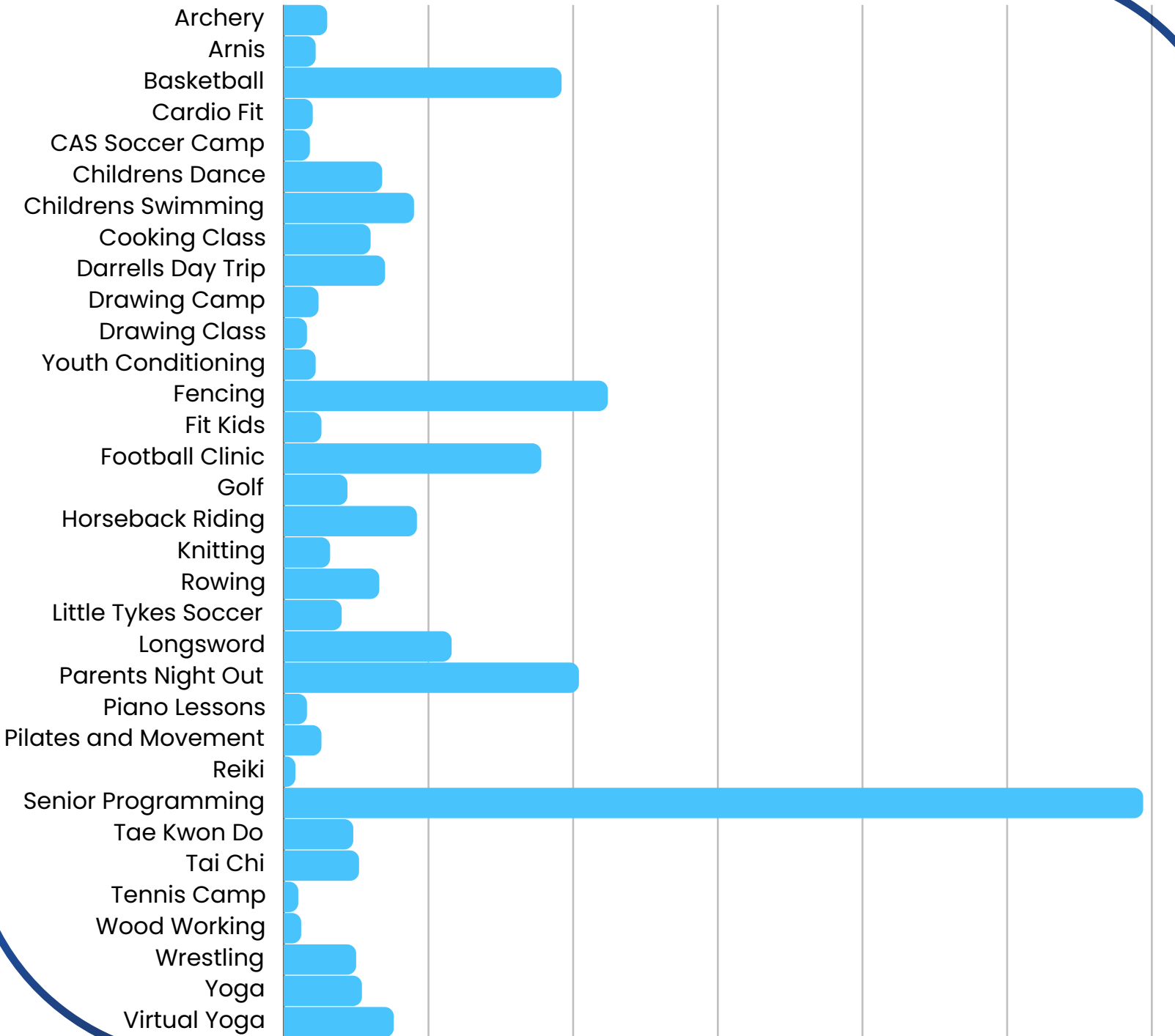
We have seen much growth in our Parents Night Outs as well as some of our Sports classes. Our Fencing and Football programs took the top 2 spots at 112 and 89 respectively.

Our Senior Programs had a total of 297 registrations for classes and 107 registrations for trips. This was an average of 15 people per class taken.

Notably, Summer camp has taken a large amount of registrations. We had a total of 1,141 registrations this summer.

In total we had 4,452 registrations

Amount of Registrations





Facebook Summaries

Facebook has revolutionized how we connect with our community. It allows us to communicate in a more efficient and dynamic manner, providing timely reminders even when we're not in the office. Additionally, the ability to access and post updates from home ensures that we remain engaged and responsive to our community's needs at all times.

Parks and Recreation Facebook Page

- Reach: We reached 22.3% more people than last year, with a total reach of 20.1k. This demonstrates enhanced visibility and audience engagement.
- Impressions: Our content made 218.6k impressions, indicating a broad audience exposure.
- Content Interactions: There were 2.3k interactions with our content, reflecting strong engagement.
- Followers: Our follower count increased to 3.1k, showing a growing community interest.
- Total Posts: We made 177 posts over the year, consistently sharing updates and information.

Senior Center Facebook Page

- Reach: Our reach was 8.2k, engaging a dedicated audience. This shows that seniors are using Facebook to get information.
- Impressions: We made 53.6k impressions, showcasing our content's broad visibility.
- Content Interactions: There were 1.2k interactions with our content, indicating a strong level of engagement.
- Followers: We have 848 followers, reflecting a committed community.
- Total Posts: We made 141 posts, regularly sharing relevant information and updates.

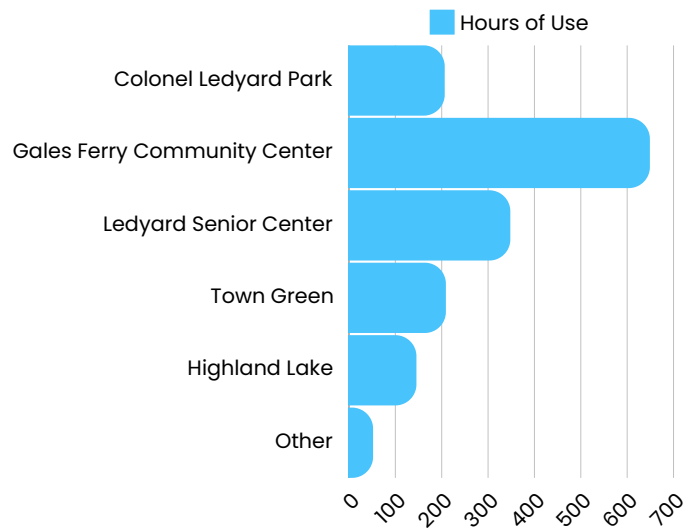
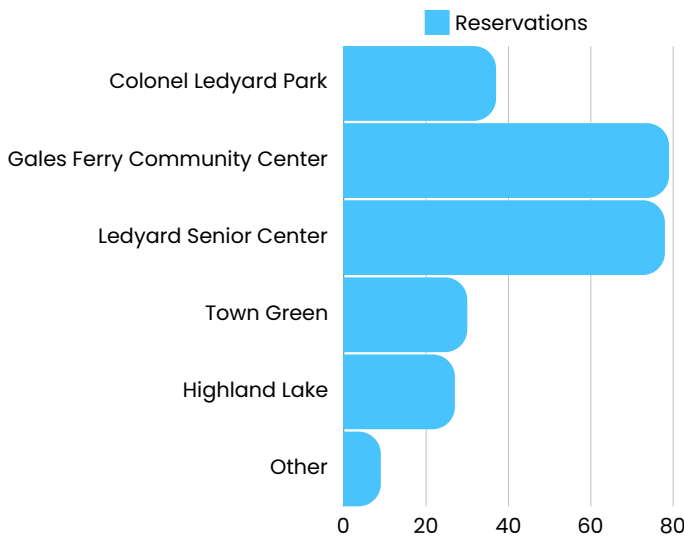


Public Facility Use

Our town's facilities were actively utilized by the community throughout the year. Below, you'll find detailed summaries of facility reservations and usage hours, highlighting the engagement and importance of these spaces in supporting local activities and events. This data does not include all programs we run.

Key Highlights

- Gales Ferry Community Center was the most utilized facility with 79 reservations, totaling 649 hours.
- Ledyard Senior Center had the second-highest number of reservations with 78, amounting to 348 hours.
- Colonel Ledyard Park saw significant use with 37 reservations and 206 hours and 30 minutes.
- Smaller parks like Sawmill Park and Erickson Park had fewer reservations but still played a role in community activities.



Overall, the data reflects impressive community engagement with our town's facilities. The high reservation and usage rates at key locations like the Gales Ferry Community Center and Ledyard Senior Center showcase their value as central hubs for community activities. Even smaller parks and facilities contributed to the community's vibrancy, offering spaces for various events and gatherings throughout the year.

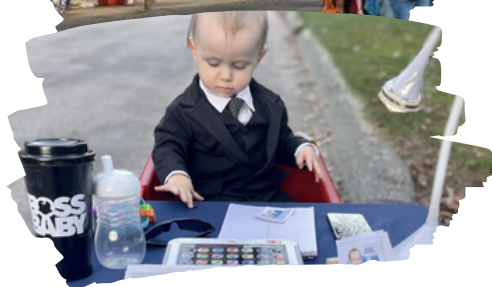
Events



Spring Egg Hunt



Shining Stars



Trunk or Treat



Halloween Luncheon



Memorial Day Parade



**1st Annual Colonel Melee
Tournament**

We had many successful events this year! Over 2000 kids showed up to our Trunk or Treat and around 650 showed up to the Egg Hunt. We held our first Fencing Tournament and raised over \$2000 for the program! As well as this, we hosted Shining Stars for the 5th Graders to talk to our seniors and play games, we held various lunch parties (Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Easter, ect.) and we even took part in the Memorial Day Parade!

Services

We offer many different services at our facility. Here is a look at them.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

\$8,779 was used to provide low income families with childcare through our Scholarship program. This helped a total of 20 different kids for up to 6 weeks of camp each.

HAIR SALON

We have a Hair Salon located in our Facility. This gives seniors, and the public a more affordable hair care option.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Our Ledyard Nurse will take your blood pressure the second Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m. to noon. Karen will counsel seniors on their meds, healthy eating habits and exercise.

MUNICIPAL AGENT

To disseminate information to elderly persons and assisting such persons in learning about community resources which are available to the public.

SENIOR CENTER CAFÉ

Join us for delicious and affordable (\$2 - \$4) breakfast and lunch menu items, Monday through Friday, here at the Senior Center. Breakfast served from 9:00 am – 11:00 pm and lunch at 12:00 pm.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY LUNCH

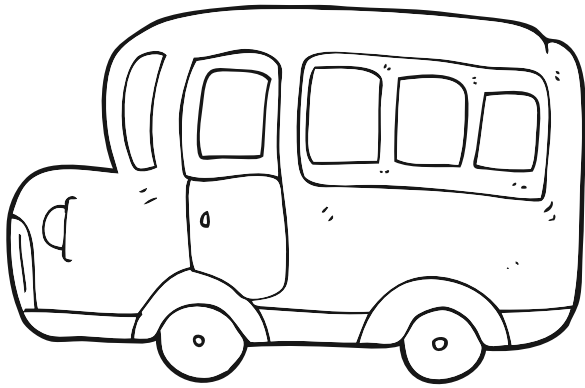
We offer a weekly Wednesday lunch, including dessert, for \$7.00. We offer Curbside Pickup and Dine in options. This year we served 1139 lunches. This service is available to the general public, though it is most advertised to our seniors.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

This year we had 1,342 people filling plates at our Breakfast Buffet that is every Tuesday morning for \$5! We serve eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, and home fries. This is open to the general public.

TVCCA MEALS ON WHEELS

Our Meals on Wheels program provides meals to our homebound seniors, as well as low income seniors. We have many who utilize this program.



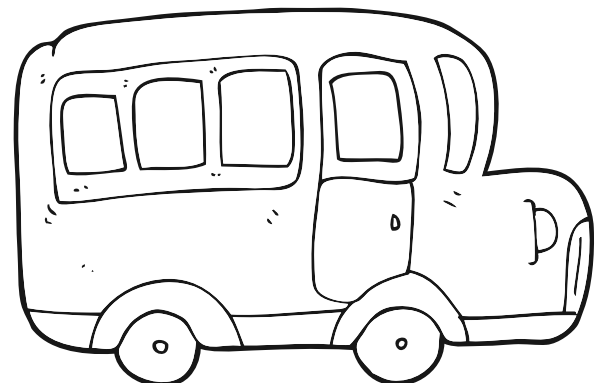
Transportation Services

The Ledyard Senior Center offers daily transportation to the Center for activities including lunch, along with rides to medical appointments and other necessities according to the schedule below. All individuals using our transportation complete an annual transportation form so we can stay updated with all medical conditions, as well as the utilization of our services. A wheelchair lift is available on 2 of the vehicles. We recently got a new mini-van to use for transportation as well. We service Ledyard, Gales Ferry, New London, Groton, Mystic, Waterford, Norwich and other towns in New London County.

SENIOR VAN SCHEDULE

MONDAY: Senior Center, Doctor Appointments
TUESDAY: Senior Center, Doctor Appointments
WEDNESDAY: Senior Center
THURSDAY: Senior Center, Doctor Appointments
FRIDAY: Senior Center, Stop & Shop or Walmart
1st Friday - Bank Run

We take donations for our transportation services. We suggest \$1-2 per ride. From these donations, we raised \$638



Improvements

This year we made a LOT of changes. With a brand new staff we are hoping to improve our presence in the community by advertising more, running more programs, and hosting more events!

The merge of the Parks and Recreation Dept. and the Ledyard Senior Center has proved that as one department, there is so much more we can offer. This merge has started bringing the younger seniors into the building, and has started bringing more programs and event to the table as well. We know it has felt a bit stagnant lately, but we know that in due time, you will be able to see the difference.

This being said, there are many projects that have been completed over the course of this year.

- We partnered with the Eastern CT Conservation Group, as well as our local Garden Club to create sustainable rain gardens. These provide an appealing look, cleaner water going into near by lakes and such, and helps the wildlife get the nutrition they need as well.
- We also refreshed the walking path at Erickson Park. This made it so that people have a nice track to walk/run on.
- At Judge Crandall we raised irrigation heads and replaced overhead doors.
- We added sand to the Highlands Park beach in order to make it more appealing.
- Depta field was top-dressed and dragged, to improve turf quality.
- We added mulch to various playgrounds to create a safer environment for kids.
- Public works also was kind and has helped us out. They provided us with a new Heating/Cooling HVAC system, as well as got our roof at the Ledyard Senior Center replaced.

Plans for Next Year!

- We have applied for an ARPA funding grant, which will give us the money to replace the carpet, wall dividers, chairs, tables, and create a gym space for our facility!
- Next year, we are looking to bring new (and old) events back! We will be hosting a Senior Prom for our 55+ crowd, we will be bringing back the Light Parade after a 6-ish year break, we are looking into different ideas such as trivia, family game nights, and other community events as well.
- With Judge Crandall's age, we know that it needs some repairs done. We will be replacing the garage doors for the concession stand as it is broken.
- We know that many people rent out our spaces. Each of these people receive the keycode for the buildings. This can be a safety concern, and may cause people to be in a building when they do not have it reserved. For this reason we will be purchasing automated locks. This will make it so we are able to schedule when different buildings are unlocked, and we can assign codes to different people when the space is rented.
- At Colonel Ledyard Park, we will be giving the Basketball courts some much needed love. We will be repairing low spots, filling cracks, and cleaning these courts up!
- Since we are adding a gym in our building, we will need an area to store all materials and such for the center that are in that room now. This is why we will be getting a Conex Storage container. This will provide much needed storage.
- We understand that there is a very high demand for court space when it comes to Pickleball and Tennis. To resolve this issue, we will be installing 2 Pickleball courts behind the Gales Ferry Community Center!