



## **BUDGET CUTS WILL HIT: The Arlington Department of Recreation**

The Department of Recreation offers safe and affordable programs and facilities for all of Arlington's residents. The Recreation Department:

- Coordinates the use of 31 athletic fields
- Runs the Veteran Memorial Ice Rink, Arlington Reservoir and North Union Spray Pool
- Plans and manages capital improvement projects for these facilities and 25 town parks
- Runs an extensive after-school athletic program and summer camp

The Rec is a self-supporting agency, using money raised by user fees, but it relies on other town departments to run smoothly. While the parks are managed by the Rec, they fall under the Natural Resources budget of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Cuts to the DPW will result in fewer amenities, irregularly maintained facilities, and higher fees.

### **Cuts made this spring have affected the Rec already:**

- Litter in the parks has increased because the DPW no longer has enough workers to empty all trash barrels. As a result, trash receptacles are primarily at the entrances and exits only, resulting in more litter within the parks and fields.
- Playground facilities will be harder to maintain without the manpower in the DPW.
- The DPW does not have the funds to supply mulch, sand, or paint, which it used to provide to volunteer groups who want to make improvements to parks and playgrounds.
- Currently the DPW does not have the manpower to regularly line the sports fields, so the Rec is bringing in an outside contractor at a cost of approximately \$14,000. The cost for this spring is being paid by using reserve funds, but will not be in the future.
- The baseball fields are dragged by the DPW, but not with the frequency they were in the past. Teams are already being affected by the lack of field maintenance.

### **Without an override, the Rec Department will have to raise fees:**

- Starting this summer season, sports user fees will be significantly increased per individual per sport in order to cover the cost of the contractor needed to line fields.
- If the town doesn't have the materials and manpower to provide upkeep, maintenance, and other services, then the Rec Department will increasingly have to contract these services out in order to maintain the heavily used town fields – and the costs of those contracted-out services will be borne by those who use our parks, fields, and Rec programs.

**With an override, the Rec will not have to raise fees and the DPW will restore the services listed above that have been eliminated this spring.**

## **It's up to us. Vote Yes on June 7.**