

**CITY OF MARTINEZ**

**MEMO**

Date: January 13, 2015  
To: Alan Shear, Assistant City Manager  
From: Patty Lorick, Recreation Supervisor  
Subject: December 2014 Staff Report



**SPECIAL EVENTS**

- **Holiday Frolic, Snow Park and Skating Rink**

The weather proved to be a challenge Friday, December 5. The threat of thunderstorms for the evening canceled the Light Parade and postponed the jump houses/giant games until Saturday evening.

The Public Works Crew worked their magic Friday morning, creating a wonderful snow park and play area for the community. Kids and adults enjoyed three days of sledding fun. Little ones had a great time throwing and frolicking in the play area. The Iceless Skating Rink was kept busy with excited children wobbling on skates.

Recreation staff, volunteers and community groups provided a series of delightful and free activities for youngsters along Court Street Friday afternoon. This year, reusable cloth bags were given to parents to carry home crafts and use for future shopping trips. Recreation estimates 200-300 people attended each themed event.

The Museum was transformed into the Gingerbread House. Docents worked with children to find Gingerbread Men hidden throughout the museum. Gingerbread crafts were provided to make at the museum or take home for a later date.

The mARTinez Gallery kept children busy with crafts made from recycled items, thanks the gallery artist and RC, the Dumpster Diving Diva. The Martinez Library hosted Candy Cane Lane. There staff had face painters, crafts, and candy canes for the children. By the far, the most popular activity was the 10ft photo booth with holiday props.

The Reindeer Flight School returned to the Martinez Veteran's Hall. Dave Jackson and the Veteran's Hall folks did a fabulous job of decorating the room for the event, making it very festive for our special holiday school. Rudolph was there to show children how to prance like a reindeer, pick up packages and assist Santa. Children completing the course were certified by Rudolph to work as backup reindeer on Santa's Sleigh. Youngsters took home crafts, stickers and fun items to remember their visit at the Reindeer Stop.

Natural Healing's sponsors Hot Cocoa with Frosty and the Lighting of the Tree of Spirit. The talking Frosty was quite lively, entertaining and interacting with the children. Natural Healings provided Hot Cocoa, cookies and snowman crafts. Initially, the tree lighting had been canceled, but so many people gathered at the Tree of Spirit that very brief ceremony was held and the tree was lit. The result was a cheery tree shining in the fog.

The jump houses were set up Saturday evening, along with the popular 4ft tall Four Across game. Staff and volunteer handed out the 550 light wands, painted face, nails and applied tattoos. Colorful paper elf hats were distributed. The jump houses quickly filled with children and remained that way all night. A woman in an Elsa costume showed up and the little girls went crazy. A crowd gathered with the woman at the DJ booth to sing songs their favorite winter songs.



Above: City Public Works Crews build the Snow Park  
Below: Candy Cane Lane at the Martinez Library





Above: Elves Workshop at the mARTinez Gallery  
Below: Gingerbread House at the Martinez Museum



Face Painting  
Hot Cocoa with Frosty



- **Santa Letters:** Letters were sent to 192 children this year, up seventy letters from 2013. Response from the letters has been wonderful. Children were excited to receive mail from Santa.



### **SATURDAY SHOP**

- Parents took advantage of the supervised Saturday program to drop off children at Nancy Boyd Park so they could finish their Christmas Shopping. Seven children attended.

### **STAFF TRAINING**

- Six lifeguards completed a 12.5 hour advance first aid class, Tuesday, December 29.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

- Staff has been working with softball and baseball tournament directors to schedule Waterfront DiMaggio Softball Fields for 2015 tournaments.

### **YOUTH SPORTS**

- Baseball Parade will be March 7. Plans are underway to make the day memorable for hundreds of athletes. Harriett Burt will announce.

### **WINTER MINI CAMP**

- Winter Camp was held at Golden Hills Park for twenty-eight youngsters. The children had a great time at the playground, making crafts, hiking, game time and themed activities