

(No subject)

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To:Duncan Wardwell <dwardwell@richmondvt.gov>

Hello Mr Wardwell,

My name is Mary Lefebvre. My husband Wayne and I are longtime Richmond residents. We have 7 children. 5 of them have gone through the MMUSD system, have graduated college and are independent young adults out on their own. We still have 2 left. One in middle school and 1 in high school. My husband was an active member of Richmond Youth Little league, and coached baseball for many, many years. From T-ball thru Babe Ruth. He coached numerous All-Star teams and we were part of the original group of residents who started the snack shack at the field during baseball season, and got the batting cages installed. We have spent more days and evenings at the volunteer's green than I can count, as all of our children played a sport every season. 7 kids, and 3 seasons, that is a lot of volunteer green time! We LOVED it. I am a pediatric high tech nurse, and I have been a nurse for over 30 yrs. I have spent my life taking care of medically fragile children, with life shortening conditions. I have ,during my career,been blessed to provide respite care in my home for a medically fragile little boy, who we would bring to the volunteers green to watch our children play soccer, as he watched from his wheelchair. Most recently, our family was privileged to be shared living parents to a 20yr old medically fragile girl, who I had taken care of since she was 2 yrs old in her home, through the University of Vermont Health network Home Health and Hospice. She required 24hr a day nursing care, and she lived with us for 2 yrs until her passing on April 28th, 2022. We would take Nicole daily for adventures in her wheelchair. We would find ourselves struggling to find places that she could go that were wheelchair accessible and allowed her to participate in life. We spent as much time as we could in Richmond, at the green, attempting to walk, on the playground with her younger sisters, and trying to enjoy the Farmers Market, or a soccer game etc..Since Nicole's death, I have changed specialties and I now work with the elderly, some of our most fragile and vulnerable population, who are fragile and have very limited mobility. I would very much love to volunteer for the recreational committee that will brainstorm and collaborate on improvements to the Volunteers Green and Browns Court recreational areas. I feel that I bring a unique perspective as someone who has 7 healthy active children who participated in Richmond's recreational sports, a wife of a longtime coach, and a nurse of medically fragile children with limited mobility, and now a nurse of our growing elderly population, who also have limited mobility. I would love to be a part of a committee that can help make our recreational spaces in Richmond inclusive to all residents, despite their mobility challenges. Our town is so beautiful, and we love it, but I would love to see it improved in a way that can include all residents. No one should have to spend any part of their life sitting on the sidelines and watching because areas are not accessible, because there isn't a swing for a handicapped child. Please, please consider my application for this committee. I would love to help make Richmond an even better place to live.

Thank you,
Mary Lefebvre