



ANNUAL REPORT 2000

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
ONE RECREATION WAY

Raymond L. Brown, Director
Telephone Number 421-7740 Ext. 323

1000 CITY COUNCIL

APR - 5 2001

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Michael H. Clavin

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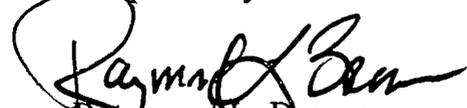
The Honorable Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
Mayor of City of Providence, and
Members of the Providence City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is again both an honor and privilege to be writing to you an introductory letter regarding Providence Recreation Department Activities for the 2000 year. I would also like to thank you for your support and assistance in the delivery of services.

All of us are aware of the value that meaningful leisure activities have on our Providence Population. We will continue to strive to bring our activities to greater heights. I appreciate facilitating the work of our department for you and the people we serve. I am.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond L. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

Raymond L. Brown
Director of Recreation

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FULL-TIME RECREATION CENTERS

Centers	Neighborhood
1. Vincent Brown Recreation Center	East Side/Mount Hope
2. Joslin Recreation Center	Manton/Olneyville
3. Davey Lopes Recreation Center	South Providence
4. Neutaconkanut Recreation Center	Silver Lake
5. Rogers-Selim Recreation Center	Smith Hill
6. Sackett St. Recreation Center	West End
7. South Side Recreation Center	South Providence
8. West End Recreation Center	West End.
9. Zuccolo Recreation Center	Federal Hill

SHARED COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SITE

1. Robert F. Kennedy Recreation Center	Elmhurst
2. One Recreation Way	North End/Mt. Pleasant

SWIMMING POOLS AND WATER PARKS

1. Stephen Almagno Pool- 675 Plainfield Street
2. Fox Point Water Park- Rear Fox Point Elementary School
3. Harriet & Sayles St. Water Park
4. Joslin Recreation Center- 17 Hyat Street
5. Davey Lopes Recreation Center- 227 Dudley Street (Both indoor & outdoor)
6. McGrane Pool- Dexter Street
7. Rogers-Selim Recreation Center- 60 Camden Ave.
8. Sackett Street Water Park - Sackett Street
9. Zuccolo Recreation Center- 11 Gesler Street

DAVEY LOPES RECREATION CENTER

Davey Lopes Recreation Center has hours of 9:00AM to 9:00PM during the winter season. The center, under the guidance of George Lindsey, offers a variety of programs that include arts and crafts, hip-hop dancing and indoor swim lessons. An after-school homework help session has been implemented. Students in grades 1 through 8 can receive help Monday through Friday from 3-5PM. The center is also the host for a Men's Over 30 Basketball League, South Providence Saints Youth Football, and a newly formed wrestling program.

During the summer, the outdoor pool opens at 9:00AM for swim lessons for various groups from around the city. Each day, 100 to 200 swim in the pool and enjoy lunches from the Summer Food Service Program.

SOUTH PROVIDENCE RECREATION CENTER

The South Providence Recreation Center is open seven days and services over one thousand youths and adults each week. Programs include, after school, recreation league basketball and a dance program. Tae-Kwon Do, tennis, soccer, volleyball, arts and crafts, member's newsletter, computer training, recycling program and a meal program. In addition we have developed a youth advisory team and establishing organization and business entrepreneur teams. The population we serve is diverse and is representative of the demographics of the community.

The South Providence Recreation Center continues to outreach with many community groups and as a result of that we have hosted 10/11 Ward Committee, Job Corps Alumni Association, City Year, Easter Fest 2000, Ameri Corp. International Art Galley, South Providence Soccer, Providence Soccer League, Community Preparatory School, Car & Bike show and a Health and Fitness Program. We have established a cooperative collaboration with the South Side/Mendella Woods Elementary School. Moreover we have several volunteers that have consistently committed their time to the Recreation Center.

SACKETT STREET RECREATION CENTER

Sackett Street Recreation Center was opened in September of 1999 under the Direction of Raymond R. Smith. This state of the art facility has attracted nearly ninety children per day during the peak programming hours.

Programs include basketball, girls dance, arts & crafts, homework sessions, theater, movies, and library sessions. Increased participation will help to increase program activities in future years.

During the summer season, children will be able to enjoy the Sackett Street Water park and the Federal Summer Lunch Program.

Organizations which have utilized the center include the Lillian Feinstein School, Narragansett Electric and the YMCA. With the addition of a new fifteen passenger vehicle, we hope to increase our scope of services to accommodate numerous neighborhood groups.

ONE RECREATION WAY

The City of Providence now has a recreation presence in the North End/Mount Pleasant areas. The newly renovated facility, which is located off Admiral Street, is now the new home office of the Providence Recreation Department. This location will also provide a satellite recreation center for local residents and there children.

Creativity must compensate for the lack of a gymnasium and other standard recreation facilities. The staff is currently seeking out the needs and wants of neighborhood residents through community meetings. Our staff will create programs and schedule events that meet those needs.

Several meetings are planned through the month of March to identify community needs and seek out programs and alternate facility options. The process has begun and will accelerate, as the spring and summer grow closer.

ROGERS-SELIM RECREATION CENTER

The year 2000 has been a very busy year at the Rogers Recreation Center. An After School program is now available for children in the community ages 9-12 Monday – Friday 3PM-5PM. We are proud to announce several indoor sports activities which include tennis, soccer, volleyball and basketball. One of the highlights of the year 2000 was the formation of the Rogers Recreation cheerleading squad for area young ladies.

Summers at Rogers Recreation are also busy with activities and the swimming pool on a daily basis along with the annual “Joe Hassett Day”. In conjunction with the Providence Recreation Departments Evening in The Neighborhood cookout music, children’s entertainment, food and refreshments were served to all area residents. We at Rogers look forward to the upcoming year and events that will be taking place.

WEST END RECREATION CENTER

The West End Recreation Center, with its Assistant Director Tyrone Dale, arranges a variety of programs that serves many groups in the Community. Each week, San Miguel School, ALP and West End Community Center take advantage of the facilities. Other youth sports teams that practice on the grounds are the West End Intruders Football Team and their Cheerleaders and the New Force Steppers. It is also the host of the Alfred Tavares Basketball League. During the week for area youth the center offers a new game room, study area, TV room and a new in house store, arts and crafts are also available for those who are interested.

Evenings at the Recreation Center are always very busy, the Girl Scouts along with the 4-H club, AA meetings for the community are also available, also set-up at the center is a volleyball tournament team for the children of the area.

During the summer the center offers swimming lessons in the morning, following these classes, lunches are served and the pool opens its doors to hundreds of area children on a daily basis. In conjunction with the Recreation Department the annual Evening In The Neighborhood cookout was held, music, entertainment, food and refreshments were served to area residents a great time was had by all.

NEUTACONKANUT RECREATION CENTER

The Neutaconkanut Recreation Center is located at 675 Plainfield Street in Providence, Raymond Tessaglia is the Center Director and Robert Sauro is the Assistant Director.

During the school year the facility is used by various groups, some include the following Silver Lake Community Center, Times Square Academy, The Providence Housing Authority, Girl Scouts, St. Bart's and St. Rocco's CYO, Capital Youth Soccer, and the Silver Lake Young Men's Association to name a few. In addition, the Neutaconkanut Youth Basketball Teams practice twice a week and play games on Saturdays. Adult programs include Men's and Women's Basketball Leagues, Co-ed Volleyball, Rhode Island International Soccer League and the Providence Police Departments Men's Basketball League. Along with the above mentioned groups, the Center also accommodates the Silver Lake Little League for registrations and early season tryouts due to inclement weather the gymnasium and community are used.

Neutaconkanut is also the site of 2 sports skill camps or competitions. The Major League Baseball sponsored Diamond Skills Competition is open to boys and girls ages 7-14. Keep Providence Beautiful and the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center conduct an Ecology Program, Hiking, experiments and observations are just some of the activities involved. The Providence Recreation Departments Hassett and Tavares League hold their weekly games at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center on Saturdays. The facility also holds 4 to 5 AAU Basketball Tournaments involve both local teams and those from throughout New England.

During the summer months the pool is the main attraction, open 12-5 with a daily participation of 150-250. Swim lessons are available for ages 6-10. The center also has a swim team that competes in the Departments Swim Meet held in the month of August. The Centers van is also available for field trips during the summer months, and two bus trips to the beach and Camp Cronin which includes a cookout, games and activities. The Center also has 2 neighborhood cookouts with entertainment and a puppet show. The Center is also the host of the summer Providence Recreation and Interscholastic League conduct there Basketball League for high school boys and girls teams.

JOSLIN RECREATION CENTER

The Joslin Recreation Center is run by the Departments Center Director Williams O'Brien various programs are offered between 3PM-5PM 13 & 14 year old boys Basketball Team in the Providence League, soccer, whiffleball, hockey, whiffle ball, hockey, weight lifting, arts and crafts, board games, field trips and on Fridays 5Pm-6:30PM. Tennis lessons in conjunction with the Providence Parks Department and The United States Tennis Association. Also Joslin has the first Scatter Ball League on Wednesday's from 4:30PM-7:00PM there are 3 teams from Providence Recreation Joslin, Zuccolo and West End and three teams from the Providence Housing Authority, Manton, Hartford and Chad Brown. During the hours of 5PM-7PM the following organizations use the gym Joslin Community Development Corporation, St. Thomas CYO Rhode Island Soccer Association Select Team 2001.

The summer program which ran from June 25th through August 23rd offered various activities such as open swim to all the neighborhood children, swim lessons, field trips and lunches provided by the summer food program. For the first time at Joslin pool due to the filling of the deep end of the pool water volleyball, water basketball and different types of water games.

Also during the summer 2000 the City of Providence in conjunction with the National Football League sponsored the first ever for the City of Providence Youth Football Camp held at the Joslin Recreation Center, 110 youth from all over the City participated in the program it was a total success.

During the morning hours organizations such as the Joslin Community Development Corporation, Project Key the Providence Housing Authority, Olneyville City Camp and the National Football Camp took advantage of the pool. The children of the center went on field trips that included Pawtucket Red Sox Games, Trips to Block Island, Camp Cronin and Wheeler Beach and Mystic Aquarium, Bowling, Roller Skating, Roger Williams Park and Zoo, Battleship Massachusetts, Lincoln Woods and the State Beaches.

Also, William O'Brien is an important member of a Special Community of Learners in Providence that participated in the 1998 Americorps/Providence Childrens Museum After School Program. And also on the Browns Field Board of members 1999 and was on the Joslin Park Renovations Committee 1999. He is a leading voice with the Providence Plan and Woonsquatucket River Greenway Project.

ZUCCOLO RECREATION CENTER

The Angelo Zuccolo Recreation Center located on 11 Gesler Street in the Federal Hill section of Providence offers several programs to area residents of all ages.

This year the centers 13-14 year old basketball team competing in the Recreation Departments Hassett League finished in third place with a 6-3 record. For the young ladies in the community a cheerleading squad had been formed to cheer on the youth athletic teams from the Zuccolo Center, the squad is called the "Hilltoppets". Once again this year the centers dodgeball team ages 10-15 finished in 4th place. Arts and Craft classes, after school movies are also a big success at the Center.

During the summer in conjunction with the Recreation Department the Evening In The Neighborhood cookout was held. Music, entertainment, food and refreshments were served to 200 neighborhood residents. The summer was topped off by the 1st place finish by the Zuccolo Centers swim team, in the annual City Wide swim meet.

The Men's Whiffleball League in it's 7th season was once again successful with the 1st place trophy going to DePasquales Pharmacy with a 12-2 record. In the "Men's Alumni Basketball League the Rhode Island Shakers won the title with a 9-3 record. Trophies, plaques and banners were presented to the winners of all leagues. The Youth and Adult Wall of Fame has expanded with more championships and individual awards being won by Zuccolo members.

Special events at the center include Halloween Trip to Field of Screams, Neighborhood cleanup with the Community Police and the centers annual Christmas Party.

The Centers outreach program includes the use of the facility by several local organizations, these include Federal Hill House Day Care and After School Program, and the Saturday N.E.I.S.P. Program. Also, the Textron Chambers Academy and Holy Ghost School Boys and Girls Basketball program as well as the Rhode Island High School "Small Schools" Basketball League.

VINCENT BROWN RECREATION CENTER

The 2000 yearly report on the Vincent Brown Recreation Center is broken down into three sections, Daily Programs, Special Events and Sports Teams. This report will look back on the year we had activities and special events that took place.

During the year the Vincent Brown Recreation Center offered the children in the Mount Hope/East Side community After School programs from 2:30pm-5:30pm. This program is for boys and girls 6-13. Activities offered were homework help. Swimming at the East Side YMCA, tabletop games, arts and crafts, dance and movies (VCR). In the gym the children played basketball, soccer, scatter, kickball, capture the flag and relay races. From 6pm-9pm children ages 14-18 use the recreation center, activities offered are basketball, volleyball, dance, movies, field trips, rap sessions and Teen Extreme a collaboration between the YMCA and Recreation Center. Mt. Hope/Vincent Brown TECH our computer center is open daily for the children in the community.

Summers at the Vincent Brown Recreation Center are also a busy time, an eight week day camp for boys and girls ages 6-12 is held. The camp runs from 8:30AM to 5:30PM Monday-Friday. The Center provided breakfast and lunch from the Recreation Departments Summer Lunch Program. The Vincent Brown Recreation, Hope High School athletic fields and tennis courts and the pool at the East Side YMCA.

During the year at Vincent Brown Recreation Center serviced 350 children.

SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Evening in the Neighborhood cookouts were held throughout the summer, all the municipal pools as well as Fox Point Boys & Girls Club, Billy Taylor Park, Regent Avenue Playground and Fagnoli Park enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, soda and chips provided by the Recreation Department. Entertainment included Brass Attack and Twyce, puppet shows as well as DJ Music. The Parks Department also helped out by cleaning and delivering barrels to the park.

NORTH POLE CALLING

Once again this year the Providence Recreation Department in conjunction with the Alfred E. Lima Elementary School held a very special Holiday Program for inner city children. Prior to Christmas Eve, Calls are made to the children from Santa. Over the years this program has become very successful.

MAGIC AND MUSIC

The Recreation Department in conjunction with Providence Head Start held magic presentations at all 7 Providence Head Start sites. This year 17 performances were given for the children, parents and staff of the Head Start Program.

MODEL MAKING

The Recreation Department is once again proud to be working with the Charles Fortes Elementary School, on the model train project. This unique program has turned the school into a museum of history, immigration and working class culture. Recently the Disney Corporation traveled to the Charles Fortes School to film the fine work which has been done on this program.

HERSHEY YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD 2000

On June 28th 2000 The Providence Recreation Department's Hershey Track and Field Meet was held at Hope High School in Providence 86 Youth, ages 9-14 participated in the Providence Championship 35 runners advanced to the State Championship.

The State Championship was held on July 12, 2000 at Cranston West High School. The children who won from the Providence Recreation Department went on to the State Meet. Each participant received a Providence Recreation T-Shirt and a State Meet T-Shirt. Lunch and T-Shirts were provided by the Youth Sports Initiative Grant from the Health Department. The Providence Recreation children won 8 Gold Medals, 7 Silver Medals, and 3 Bronze at the State Meet. None of the athletes advanced to the Nationals in Hershey, PA.

COLUMBUS DAY CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL 2000

On Monday, October 9, 2000 the Providence Recreation Department sponsored its 56th Annual Columbus Day Cross Country Invitational. This year's field consisted of 350 runners representing 15 high schools from across the city of Providence and the state. The schools included Classical, Coventry, Cranston West, East Greenwich, Hope, Mt. Pleasant, North Providence, Pilgrim, St. Mary's Bay View, Bishop Hendricken, Tollman, Westerly, Cranston East, Smithfield, East Providence, Cumberland, Lincoln, LaSalle, Central, Johnston High School and St. Ray's. Competitions were held for both boys and girls in the categories of Freshman/Novice, Junior Varsity, Varsity and Special Olympics. Award Ceremonies for this special event were held at the Temple of Music at Roger Williams Park.

WINTER CARNIVAL CLINICS

The Winter Carnival was held the week of school vacation February 19th, 2001. These Clinics were held for both boys and girls ages 8-16 with Basketball and Soccer offered. All Clinics were held from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Host sites for these clinics were Neutaconkanut Recreation Center and the West End Recreation Center. T-Shirts were given to all participants and a pizza party was held at the conclusion of the clinics.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Once again this year the Department participated in the Toys for Tots program, this past Christmas arrangements were made for hundreds of toys to be distributed at the neighborhood Recreation Centers across the City.

SWIM MEET

On August 16th, 2000 the Department of Recreation held its Annual Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr., Inter Pool Swim Meet at the Zuccolo Swimming Pool on Gesler Street. Many of the pools entered swim teams that competed in several different swimming competitions. Ribbons and trophies were awarded, approximately 100 youngsters attended. This years overall swim meet winner was the Zuccolo Recreation Center.

WATER PARKS

The children of Providence once again ran through the sprinklers of the Fox Point, Sackett Street and Harriet & Sayles Water Park. Each year the popularity of these facilities increases.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Providence Recreation Department offered arts and crafts lessons after school at the following Recreation Centers; Zuccolo, Rogers and Joslin. This program gives the youth of the city the opportunity to showcase their creativity.

YOUTH LITTER CORP

Once again this year the Department received a grant from the Department of Environmental Management to hire a litter corp team. The program consisted of four teenagers and one adult supervisor that were in charge of keeping city parks clean and playgrounds litter free.

WATER SAFETY SKILLS

During the summer youth from various agencies during the morning hours were invited to learn to swim programs at all municipal pools. Lessons were taught by our invaluable lifeguard staff. Several agencies participated in the event. John Hope Day Care & Youth, Salvation Army and the West End Community Center.

COURT BUDDIES

The Court Buddies tennis program has completed its sixth successful season of providing free tennis lessons to the children of Providence. This year proved to be yet another great year with a number of returning faces as well as many new kids to the program. Close to 150 kids took part in the program, which was conducted at the following three locations Roger Williams Park, Rhode Island College and Hope High School, we are pleased to announce that this year the program as expanded to all of the City Recreation Centers. The Roger Williams Park site was used twice a week in order to accommodate the Washington Park Community Center, which brought close to 30 kids to the program twice a week. In addition to the Washington Park Center, Vincent Brown Recreation Center also brought a number of children to Hope High School each week. This program runs a total of six weeks. At the completion of this six week program an appreciation day is held at Roger Williams Park and all participants are given T-shirt, tennis balls and candy. As the summer of 2001 approaches we are looking forward to another successful year of Court Buddies.

BOYS YOUTH BASKETBALL 2000 SEASON

During the winter season, the Department of Recreation sponsored two citywide leagues. The Tavares League, which contains eight teams, is for boys ages 9-12, and the Hassett League, which contains eight teams, is for boys ages 13-14. Both divisions have playoff and championships with leagues playing an eight game schedule. On Saturday mornings, the Tavares League and Hassett League games were played at West End Recreation Center and Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. Championship games were held at Providence College with pizza and a buffet for children and parents of the two leagues.

HASSETT BASKETBALL LEAGUE (13-14)

**CHAMPION: Neutaconkanut Recreation Center
RUNNER-UP: West End Recreation Center**

TAVARES BASKETBALL LEAGUE (10-12)

**CHAMPION: Providence Housing Authority
RUNNER-UP: West End Recreation Center**

**BOYS HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE
2000**

The Providence Department of Recreation Boys High School Basketball League played eleven regular season games plus playoffs and a championship game. The games were held at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30pm – 10:00pm. Listed are teams who participated in the league.

Barrington, Classical, Central, Cranston East, Cranston West, Feinstein, Hendricken, Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Wheeler and Providence Country Day. The teams were coached by High School Coaches and officiated by Interscholastic Referees. The winner of the championship game was Providence Country Day.

**GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE
2000**

The Providence Department of Recreation Girls High School Basketball League played a twelve game schedule, playoffs and finals. Girls from all over the State came to compete at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm – 10:00pm. The following is a list of the teams that participated in the League. Cranston East, Tollgate, Saint Ray's, Classical, Bay View, Cranston West, Feinstein, LaSalle, like the boys league, the girls are Coached by High School Coaches and games were officiated by Interscholastic Referees. LaSalle Academy were the Champions.

**MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE
2000
MEN'S LEAGUE**

The Midnight Basketball League was cosponsored in joint effort by the Providence Department of Recreation and Citizen's Bank. The league attracted men ages 17 years and older playing games at the following sites: Johnson & Wales, Fox Point, and Davis Park. Each team, wearing T-shirts donated by Citizen's Bank, sported 12 Players per team. Citizen's Bank also donated the trophies to the playoff champion and runner-up teams. The league offers an opportunity for people to get together to play basketball with friends, while for others, it's a great way to fine-tune the skills of players on their way to play on the college level.

**MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE
2000
WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

This year was the sixth season for the Providence Midnight Basketball Women's League. This League, whose games are played at West End Recreation Center, was made possible by the joint efforts and cosponsorship of the Providence Department of Recreation, the Rhode Island Attorney General and Citizen's Bank. The League host women over the age of 18 and teams are made by a lottery. All trophies were donated by Citizen's Bank.

ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE-2000

The Co-ed Adult Volleyball League was held every Thursday evening at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. Eight Teams participated in the League. Trophies were awarded to the League and Playoff Champions. Congratulations to the 2000 League Champions, John Hope Settlement House.

YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUES

During the summer the Department of Recreation assists the neighborhood Baseball Leagues, which include eight little leagues, five senior leagues, four softball leagues, and a Babe Ruth League. The Department issues the park permits for the use of the fields for the leagues and acted on behalf of the leagues for field maintenance with the Parks Department.

The Department of Recreation also assisted the leagues with operating costs for charitable tournaments. For these tournaments, the Department aided with defraying the cost of umpires.

The Department of Recreation and the Little League coordinate the Mayor's Cup tournament for the Boys Major and Senior League as well as the Girls Major and Senior Leagues. All teams participated in a single elimination tournament.

**THE PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SENIOR DIVISION
2000**

The Providence Recreation Department Senior Division provides positive programs for Providence seniors. It provides daily transportation for senior citizen organizations located throughout the city, some of the destinations include shopping malls, restaurants, and those with special holiday theme, such as trips to Salem, on Halloween, and to LaSalette Shrine at Christmas time to name a few.

Also included as one of the positive programs offered through the division, a long time favorite for many years, is the entertainment package provided upon request at local senior housing complexes, neighborhood community centers, and various social organizations. The entertainment includes both music and vocals and many times requested for special events such as those with a holiday theme and others such as talent shows that give local seniors an opportunity to demonstrate their performing talents. During the summer, activities include daily trips to Camp Cronin, a facility in Point Judith owned by the city. Mondays and Fridays are set aside for Providence Youth who participate either at one of our department's recreation centers, or from one of the many city community centers located throughout the city of Providence. Also in cooperation with the Mayor's Council on Disabilities, The Providence School Department, and the Safety Commissioners Office, the Senior Division, provides an opportunity for youth with special needs to also participate at the camp on these two days as well. Tuesday through Thursday are set aside for the Providence Senior population, who are members of senior community centers, local senior housing complexes and various other social organizations. During the day, entertainment, bingo, dancing, as well as other recreational activities and a scenic tour of Galilee, and local beaches. Also a cookout is provided for both age categories. On August 9, 2000, the Senior Division conducted the annual "Mayor's Day In The Park" at Roger Williams Park, where some 1,200 seniors attended. Continental Breakfast, entertainment of all types and a box lunch as well as informational booths all are part of the days activities the day is set aside to respect and honor Providence Senior Citizens for all their contributions to the city throughout the years.

During the winter months, as follows up way conducted regarding a January forum with some 70 different city senior agencies and their activity directors to share and gain information as to what programs are available for their usage, Additionally greater efforts were conducted in our outreach efforts with outside agencies. Some of these included, the Rhode Island Health Department, the Rhode Island Arthritis Foundation, and other forums held throughout Providence and the State Of Rhode Island. It's the hope and belief of the Senior Division that these efforts will help guide us in the right direction as to the need of those we serve and expand in our efforts that are now ongoing.

MAYOR'S DAY IN THE PARK

Mayor Cianci's Seniors Day In The Park was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2000 at Roger Williams Park from from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. The day began with coffee and donuts supplied by Carl & Daves catering and Dunkin Donuts (ADJ Donuts, Inc.) respectively. Lunch was served at 12:00PM

Bill Volpe, Nick Cannao and Artie Cabral and his seven piece orchestra played while the seniors danced to their contentment and strolled through the various booths set up in the park. Some of the businesses which sponsored booths were Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Blue Chip, United Health Care, Roger Williams Hospital, Rhode Island Society To Prevent Blindness, Providence Foster Grandparents, Talbot House, VNA Technicare, Woman & Infants, Duramed, URI Pharmacy Outreach Program College of Pharmacy and Hospice Care of Rhode Island. Each booth provided the seniors with both valuable information and free handouts, that include everything from coin change holders to jar openers. Some of the booths provided a raffle and prizes that were awarded at the end of the day's event.

Two new additions for the year 2000 included dancers from Denise's School of Dance and clowns from Boss Clown from the Shriners. The dancers were provided by Denise's School Of Dance located on Greenville Avenue, Johnston, R.I. and provided several dance routines demonstrated by several of their award winning dancers, one such routine included a Swing Dance demonstration that brought the seniors back to the days of yesteryear during it's original heyday. The clowns from the Shriners walked through the crowds of seniors and delighted them with comedy routines and shaped blown up balloons that were given to various participants. The clowns were arranged by the Palestine Shriners located at One Rhodes Place in Cranston, R.I.. Both the Dancers and Clowns were great additions to the day's activities and many favorable comments were expressed by the seniors, on the day of the event and days that followed.

Although no contribution or effort ever goes unnoticed, their our those that went above and beyond and we would like to take this time to mention a few and they are the following: Cindy Votto, Roger Williams Home Care, Graig Mello, United Health Care of Rhode Island, Kathy Wallitsch, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Tasha Lukasiewicz, Roger Williams Geriatric Center, the Palestine Shriners, Denise DiPippo and last but not least, all the volunteers assigned to the days event arranged by the Providence Center Residential Services.

TRIPS TO CAMP CRONIN 2000

The Department of Recreation, Senior Division has operated Camp Cronin over a decade, affording both the young and old an opportunity to visit a beautiful, ocean front camp at Point Judith. An opportunity to view and smell the nearby ocean and the sound of breaking waves all adding to the day's activities and the uniqueness of it all. On Monday and Fridays various youth groups from the city recreation, as well as city community centers and children with special needs from the Providence School Department. This marks the fourth season the children with special needs have attended camp in cooperation with the Mayor's Council On Disabilities, the Providence School Department as well as the office of the Commissioner of Safety Tuesday through Thursday are reserved for the Senior Population. Activities include cards, bingo, horseshoes, boccie and walks to the beaches as well as music and refreshments and cookouts.

New decoration were added to the Camp's décor to add a decorative changes that began last year, some of these were the additions of decorative signs and painting areas of need with new colors, including additional pictures were displayed of both the youth and senior participants and historical pictures of the camp. New for 2000 was the introduction of tennis 123 a basic tennis instructional program provided in cooperation with our department, the Parks department and that of the U.S.T.A.. This program was highly successful with all the camp participants, the youth, seniors, and those with special needs. This program was in addition to the already on-going programs are the following: Musical Entertainment, Basketball, Volleyball, Horseshoes, Bingo, Boccie, floor and water Basketball, Tug of War, Whiffleball, noncompetitive games, indoor games, field trips to local beaches, Galilee and other local areas of interest. In addition to the physical programming, outside agencies are invited to perform demonstrations of interest designated for either the youth or senior population and in some cases for both.

Further promotion will take place next summer, in the year 2001, to increase the number of youth and senior participation, and increasing their awareness of this jewel by the sea, and to inform everyone that because of the nature of the camp it's activities and day's events can be within reason suited to their individual needs.

TODAY'S ANSWERS TO TOMORROWS QUESTIONS

Beginning in February 2000, the Senior Division of the Providence Recreation Department began it's new speaking program titled "Today's Answers To Tomorrows Questions". A series of talks was held on the third Thursday of the month, unless the schedule had to be changed otherwise for various reasons. The program was designed to address the questions and concerns of the Providence Senior Citizens throughout the city. Topics included everything from consumer issues to those related to their health concerns. The first scheduled speaking program was held in our new conference/activity room and even though we had provided transportation to and from, the turn out was much lower than we had hoped for. We discussed the matter with many of the Senior Activity Directors employed at various city agencies dealing with the idea of holding the forums at their particular sites to better suit their scheduling. We did just that and we discovered the audiences grew and at the same time it gave us and the speakers more of an opportunity to visit the seniors and their facilities.

The speakers included those from the Lt. Governor's Office, Providence Journal, R.I. Arthritis Foundation, and the R.I. Department of Health, to name a few, and all of them speaking on separate issues, that seem to interrelate with each other and all having a current or future effect on the senior population. For 2001, local celebrities will be asked to make appearances, adding a new aspect to the program and helping to induce new participants. These celebrities can still address important issues such as medical, entertainment, weather, musical, transportation, recreational and leisure to name a few. As in 2000, this program can serve as a format to introduce seniors to new programs or for gathering survey information.

PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2000 TRANSPORTATION REPORT

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During this 2000 season, the Providence Recreation Transportation program has expanded to provide each Recreation Center with a fifteen-passenger van. Each Center has the capacity to offer daily field trips for neighborhood participants. Overall bus transportation participants is down because of expansion and the loss of one bus for a two-month period for repair and illness. The program continues to offer the City's youth and elderly agencies free transportation upon request and advance notification.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

1). Total Department Trips	639
2). Number of Participants	19,057
3). Average Trips Per Day	2.45
4). Average Trips Per Month	58.8
5). Average Daily Participants	29.8
6). Average Weekly Participants	366

7). Vehicles In Use:

- A). 2 Handicap Accessible Buses
- B). 1 70 Passenger Bus
- C). 10 Fifteen Passenger Vans

8). Number of Drivers:

- 2 Full Time Drivers
- 1 Part-Time Driver
- 10 Recreation Center Drivers

9). Organization affected By Services 85-135

- Including:
- 1). Senior Citizens Groups
 - 2). Community Centers
 - 3). Youth Organizations
 - 4). Special Events
 - 5). Recreation Centers

10). RECREATION CENTER FIFTEEN PASSENGER VANS:

*Estimated Trips	900
*Estimated Participants	13,500

** Because of the numerous amount of trips, these statistics have been compiled by mileage sheets each center turns in at the beginning of the month for review. These statistics indicate a substantial increase in recreation center trips and participation.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM – 2000

The Department of Recreation sponsored the Annual Summer Food Service Program for children. The program is an extension of the School Lunch Program and is funded by the Federal Government through the Department of Agriculture and monitored by the Rhode Island Department of Education, Food Services Division. City residents up to the age of eighteen are eligible to receive a breakfast and lunch.

After school dismissal for the summer, the program ran for July and August. Meals were served at over 150 locations throughout the city. These sites included city recreation centers, swimming pools, playgrounds, summer school sessions, summer day camps, private agency recreation, education, and religious sponsored programs.

The end result of all this was that over 150,000 breakfasts and 300,000 lunches were distributed and consumed throughout the city. This was accomplished by a solid effort, comprised of 160 summer employees, a mixture of teenagers, young adults and senior citizens. A good number of volunteers also contributed to its success.

This program is one of the most gratifying programs offered by the Recreation Department to the citizens of this city. It not only fills nutritional needs to many, but it also puts almost a million dollars into the local economy. Including into the hands of well deserving summer employees.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Providence Recreation Department has taken several steps to upgrade promotional material which highlights activities sponsored by the department. The Providence Journal Local News column in the Sports section has been a vital tool to promote upcoming recreation activities. Department Youth Leagues, tournaments and special events are displayed numerous times in this column before the scheduled activity. Youth league scores and standings highlight the very successful youth basketball program the department facilitates each year.

This past summer over fifteen stories and/or pictures were displayed in the Metro Section of the Providence Journal. Journal photographers were in constant contact with recreation personnel to attend recreational events for media coverage. Likeliness media (Channel 6,10,12) were frequent visitors to municipal swimming pools because of the intense heat we experienced last summer.

The Recreation Department has started a monthly newsletter highlighting the previous month's activities. These are available at all the neighborhood recreation centers. Special events continue to be announced at neighborhood schools and flyer drops are done in prospective neighborhoods for specific activities.

Overall, 2000 was an extremely impressive year for media recognition for the Department of Recreation. Many of our programs were introduced to many Providence residents because of the increased visibility the department received. As we enter the new millennium, the department hopes this trend will continue and build upon an outstanding 2000.