

ANNUAL REPORT 1997

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
109 (REAR) BUCKLIN STREET

Raymond L. Brown, Director

Telephone Number (401) 421-7740 Ext. 323-325

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 7 1998

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Richard S. Clement CLERK

IN CITY COUNCIL
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

CLERK _____

IN CITY COUNCIL
JULY 7 1998
READ
THE CITY BE HONORED
AT THE CITY COUNCIL
CLERK _____

The Honorable Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
Mayor of the 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 1997 year. During the past eight months, two of our most valuable colleagues passed away. I would like to dedicate this year's report to the loving memory of

Robert A. Urbani and Marie "Tessie" Puleo

for their 75 years of dedication and service to the residents of Providence. I would also like to thank you for your support of the Department of Recreation over the years. All of us are aware of the value that meaningful leisure activities have on our most important product - our children. We will continue to strive to bring the Providence Recreation Department into the next century. I appreciate working with you now and in the future.
I am,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond L. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raymond" being more prominent.

Raymond L. Brown
Director of Recreation

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FULL-TIME RECREATION CENTERS

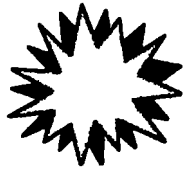
Centers	Neighborhood
1. Davey Lopes Recreation Center	South Providence
2. Joslin Recreation Center	Manton / Olneyville
3. Neutaconkanut Recreation Center	Silver Lake
4. Rogers-Selim Recreation Center	Smith Hill
5. Vincent Brown Recreation Center	East Side / Mount Hope
6. West End Recreation Center	West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

SHARED COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SITE

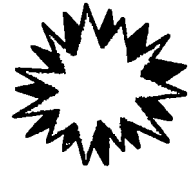
1. Robert F. Kennedy Recreation Center	Elmhurst
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SWIMMING POOLS AND WATER PARKS

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



SPECIAL EVENTS



MAGIC SHOW

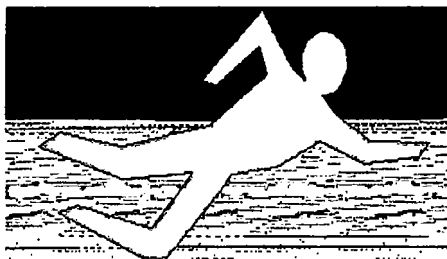
Leon Cerel, who is a magician specializes in making various animal balloons performed at Fagnoli Park. His performance was full of humor and participation from the children. Every child received a special animal balloon-shaped from the magician. The children were able to choose from more than 250 animals for their balloon..

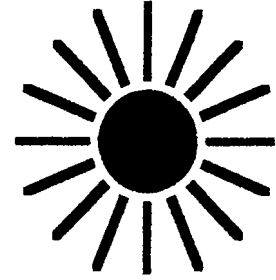
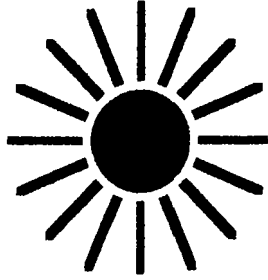
EVENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

On August 27th the Evening in the Neighborhood cookout was held. All the municipal pools as well as Fox Point Boys & Girls Club, Billy Taylor Park, and Regent Avenue Playground people ate hot dogs and hamburgers, soda and chips were provided by the Recreation Department. Johnson and Wales volunteered to cook as well as donated corn on the cob and watermelon, enough for 300 people and Hood Inc. donated Hoodsies Ice Cream. Entertainment included the Nightlife Orchestra, puppets, police mounted command, Captain Conservation, Providence Fire Pumper Truck. The Parks Department also helped out by cleaning and delivering barrels to the park.

LEARN TO SWIM

During the summer youth from various agencies during the morning hours were invited to learn to swim programs at all our 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.





FOX POINT AND SACKETT STREET WATER PARK

The Fox Point Water Park was open July 1, 1997 through August 30, 1997. Youngsters in the area had a place to cool down, play games, and enjoy a lunch every day between the hours of 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Nearly 40 children visited the park each day.

This year a new water park was opened. Sackett Street Water Park, located in the Elmwood section of Providence, opened for the first time this summer. Special events and art classes were offered Wednesday afternoons. Approximately 20 children attended for each event.

NEIGHBORHOOD FAIRS

The Recreation Department provides assistance and entertainment at several neighborhood fairs and parties including the 15 Ward Democratic Fair, Representative Joanne Giannini Fair, Joe Hasset Day, Kennedy School Christmas Party and the Smith Hill Egg Hunt.

REGENT AVENUE PARK SUMMER PROGRAMS

Residents of Smith Hill enjoyed a variety of programs this past summer at the Regent Avenue Park. Edward E. Silvestre and Elite Entertainment performed capoeira, a Brazilian dance form which consist of movements similar to Martial Arts. This was just one of the special performance given by local performers every Wednesday evening. Some of the programs offered include Arts and Crafts, movies, free lunches and soccer.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

In years past, the Department of Recreation has held Halloween parties to kickoff its winter season, and each recreation centers would play host.

This year, over 350 children were treated to a trip to Spooky World. All who attended had a great time.

EASTER EGG HUNT

On March 29th, the Providence Recreation Department, in conjunction with Councilman Glavin, sponsored the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Davis Park. Over 200 children enjoyed various activities which included pony rides and free candy and baskets.

CARRIAGE SCHOOL HOUSE AND PROVIDENCE RECREATION ARTS COLLABORATIVE

Forty children who are especially interested in the Arts are transported to the Carriage House School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November through June. In its fourth year, the Carriage House offers a variety of arts programs free to Providence Recreation participants. Such programs include ballet, modern dance, and hip hop. The Recreation Department is grateful to have been able to have our children from its centers involved in this program.



HIP HOP DANCING

Hip Hop Dancing classes are held at the Joslin and Rogers Recreation Centers during the winter season. Boys and girls are enthusiastic about sharing their dance moves and assembling and performing dance pieces. Nearly 60 youngsters participated in this program during the winter season.

TUMBLING FLIPPING AND BREAKDANCING

Tumbling and Acrobatics has been one of the most popular classes the Providence Recreation Department offers. Due to the demand of the program, another recreation center will offer this program. The instructor, Eddie Silvestre has studied modern dance and acrobatics for years and has even appeared on Club MTV. The youth are very enthusiastic about sharing their street moves in a structured environment. Approximately 75 youngsters participate in this program at the following centers: Neutaconkanut, Joslin, Rogers, and Zuccolo Recreation Centers.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Providence Recreation Department hosts arts & crafts lessons for Providence youths. Children at Vincent Brown, Davey Lopes, Joslin, Rogers, and Zuccolo Recreation Centers have benefited from the instruction of Hannah Cole. She has a B.F.A. in Visual Arts from RISD and is working on her masters in Education at Rhode Island College

“BE A WINNER / PLAY IT STRAIGHT” SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Department of Recreation has once again worked with the Mayor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and other city and state programs to spread the message “Be a Winner/Play it Straight”. This year, the program was included in the summer cookouts in various Providence neighborhoods, and the Halloween and Christmas parties. Members of the Recreation staff attended workshops sponsored by the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Association of Rhode Island.

This year the Department of Recreation took on an active role to co-sponsor programs established by the Mayor's Council of Substance Abuse. Some of the programs were SOF/SOC and the establishment of a youth council to better understand the needs of our youth including recreation activities. This was accomplished by participating as an active member on both the full and sub-committees and arranging recreational time at Camp Cronin and Captain Wheeler State Beach. Future plans are presently being discussed for the 1998 season to further improve and expand our efforts regarding the fight against substance abuse in Providence.

This program has had inquiries from other recreation departments and has been recognized nationally by the National Park and Recreation Department.

FARGNOLI PARK SUMMER PROGRAM

The residents of Elmhurst and Mt. Pleasant enjoyed a variety of activities this past summer including free golf lessons offered Thursday mornings at Triggs, Arts and Crafts every Tuesday morning at the park. Free children's matinees at the Castle Theater, swimming at Rhode Island College Pool on Sunday afternoons and soccer and basketball clinics for beginners were also offered for a week.

The Tuesday Evening Performances series included the following:

July 8th - Groundwerx Dance Theater
July 15th - All Children's Theater
July 22nd - Children's Recording Artist
July 29th - Magic Show
August 5th - Neighborhood Cookout
August 12th - Puppet Show
August 19th - Storytelling

All programs were full to capacity. Art classes had an average of 50 children, golf 40 swimming 30 Families, and an average of 100 people attend the shows every Tuesday evening.



SWIM MEET

On August 13, 1997, the Department of Recreation held its annual Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr. Inter Swim Meet at the Davey Lopes Recreation Center on Dudley Street. All seven of the city's pools sent teams to compete in the races. Rogers Recreation Center, after having won the meet for four straight years was dethroned by Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. Once again in second place was Zuccolo with last year's winner Rogers coming in third.

VINCENT BROWN RECREATION CENTER

The Vincent Brown Recreation Center, with its Director Thomas Spann, provides a wide variety of daily programs, special events and sports teams.

During the winter season, the Vincent Brown Recreation Center offers the children in the Mount Hope/East Side community after school programs from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. This program was for boys and girls from the ages of 6-13 and offered activities that included homework help, swimming at the East Side YMCA, table top games, arts and crafts, and movies every Friday. In the gym, children played basketball, soccer, floor hockey, scatter, kickball, relay races, and capture the flag.

From 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, the Teenage Evening Program was offered to boys and girls from the ages of 14 - 18. Activities offered were basketball, volleyball, dances, movies, field trips, rap sessions, and games.

During the summer, an eight week day camp was offered for boys and girls ages 6-12. The camp ran from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Breakfast and lunch was provided by the Federal Summer Food Program. Field trips were taken once a week and special events were also held. There were 75 campers enrolled in this program and each one had a camp T-shirt. The field trips included USA Skates, Roger Williams park Zoo, camp Cronin, Boston Children's Museum, and Mystic Aquarium.

JOSLIN RECREATION CENTER

The Joslin Recreation Center is run by William O'Brien. Various programs are offered between 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Monday through Friday and Saturdays and Sundays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. Basketball, soccer, whiffleball, hockey, weight lifting, arts and crafts, board games, field trips, and hip-hop and flipping classes. During the hours of 5:00 pm and 7:00pm, the following organizations used the gym: Joslin Community Development Corporation, Mexican Soccer League, St. Thomas CYO, Manton Community Police, Joslin Buba-Ball Basketball.

The Summer Program, which ran from July 1 through August 31 offered various activities such as open swimming to all the neighborhood children, swimming lessons, lunches provided by the Summer Food Service Program, field trips.

During the morning hours, organizations such as the Joslin Community Development Corporation, Project Key, The Providence Housing Authority, Olneyville City Camp, and the Girls Scouts of RI took advantage of the use of the pool. The children of the center also went on field trips that included a Pawtucket Red Sox game, and trips to Block Island, and Camp Cronin.

NEUTACONKANUT RECREATION CENTER

The Neutaconkanut Recreation Center is located in the Silver Lake area of the city with co-directors Ray Tessaglia and Richard Berarducci. During the winter, the hours are 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Many programs are available to residents of all ages. Some of the programs are an adult co-ed volleyball league played on Monday nights and youth basketball games on Saturday mornings and Capital Youth Soccer held its league during the afternoon. Other programs available for children included tumbling and flipping classes, and other after school activities. Local groups also utilize the facility. They are St. Bartholomew's CYO, Providence Police, Silver Lake Young Men's Association, and the Silver Lake Senior Center and Day Care.

During the summer, swimming lessons are available in the morning before the pool opens. Volleyball, basketball, and softball clinics are offered in the morning. Monday through Saturday, the pool is opened from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Approximately 125 youths come and enjoy swimming each day. In addition, Neutaconkanut won the Annual City Swim Meet held at Davey Lopes Recreation Center.

WEST END RECREATION CENTER

The West End Recreation Center, with its Director Bob Peterson, arrange a variety of programs and serve many groups in the community. Each week, San Miguel School, Bishop McVinney, ALP, GED Program, and the Textron Commerce Academy take advantage of the facilities. Other youth sports teams that practice on the grounds are the Intruders Football Team and their cheerleaders, the New Force Steppers. It is also the host of the Tavares Basketball League.

Besides basketball and football, the West End Recreation Center offers children movies on Fridays, games, arts and crafts, homework help, Health Education, karate, and volleyball.

During the summer, the center offered swimming lessons to all youths and free lunches in the afternoon to all children under 18. Some of the children also went on a field trip to Block Island.

ROGERS-SELIM RECREATION CENTER

Throughout the year, children of all ages are able to enjoy activities such as basketball, whiffleball, and soccer at the Roger-Selim Recreation Center with its director Leo "Buddy" Cronin. Another favorite activity is a weekly trip to Carriage House. Ten to fifteen children are transported by a recreation van and brought to Carriage House, a federally funded program and facility on the East Side for the promotion of artistic activities such as theater, song, break dancing, acrobatics and dance and hip hop classes from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

During the summer, the activities at the swimming pool were a huge success. The 2nd annual "Joe Hassett Day" was celebrated at the pool in conjunction with the the Recreation Department's "Puppets by the Pool Cookout." Basketball and swimming competitions were held for kids of all ages, and at the Annual City Swim Meet, Rogers Recreation Center took 3rd place and served 275 nutritional lunches daily at the Center. There was also a successful trip to Riverside Park.

ZUCCOLO RECREATION CENTER

Under the leadership of Jackie Poullos, Zuccolo Recreation Center, located on historic Federal Hill, served both the youth and adults of the city. A Men's Whiffleball League was held every Monday night, with a home run contest after the championship game. The Recreation Center has enjoyed another success year of Arts and Crafts program for children under the age of 15. Other programs during the winter included hip hop aerobatics, after-school movies, and other various events.

During the summer, 400 children were able to enjoy the use of Zuccolo's swimming pool each day. Zuccolo also placed second in the Annual City Swim Meet

DAVEY LOPES RECREATION CENTER

Davey Lopes Recreation Center has hours of 9:00 am to 9:00 pm 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 swimming lessons. An after-school homework help session has been implemented. Students in grades 1-8 can receive help Monday through Friday from 3-5 pm.

During the summer, the outdoor pool opens at 9:00 am for swimming 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. Also, Davey Lopes was the host of the Annual City Swim Meet.

NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS COACHES ASSOCIATION 1997

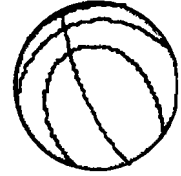
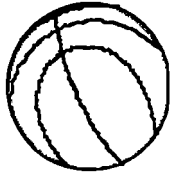
The National Youth Sports Coaches Association was created in 1981 in West Palm Beach, Florida to help improve out-of-school sports for over 20 million youths under the age of sixteen. The non-profit association staff of professionals work to implement a variety of programs, all in cooperation with the national, state, and local association.

The NYSCA program was instituted by the Department of Recreation in 1990. NYSCA is a three year instructional program to be given to volunteer coaches to help them develop skills in coaching psychology, drug awareness, first aid, and practice organization.

First year coaches were given two three hour instructional sessions dealing with coaching psychology, drug awareness, first aid, strength and conditioning, and the dangers of steroids. The second session was a specific sports tape that deals with practice organizational tips. Second year certification is a three hour session that deals with the psychological and emotional development of children, and the differences among different age groups. Third year certification is also a three hour program that deals primarily with ethics and sportsmanship.

At the completion of each course, each coach signs a "Coaches' Code of Ethics". This pledge and the 11 standards set forth a framework which each coach should work from to better the experiences of the athletes. With their certification, coaches receive a \$500,000 liability insurance policy to guard against any wrongdoing.

In 1994, the NYSCA program was expanded to include young athletes and parents involved in baseball and softball leagues through the youth sports initiative grant. The program will be expanded to include certification of coaches in many different youth sports which included football, soccer, flag football, hockey, volleyball, and cheerleading as well as continuing in baseball, softball, and basketball.



BOYS YOUTH BASKETBALL 1997 SEASON

During the winter season, the Department of Recreation sponsored two city wide leagues. The Tavares League, which contains eight teams, is for boys ages 9 to 12, and the Hassett League, which contains seven teams, is for boys ages 13 to 14. Both teams have playoffs and championships with both leagues playing a seven game schedule. On Saturday mornings, the Tavares League games were played at the West End Recreation Center while the Hassett League games were held at the Neutaconkanut Centers. The League Championship games were held at their respective centers.

Hassett Basketball League:

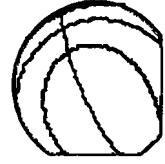
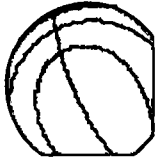
Champion: West End Recreation Center

Runner Up: Joslin Recreation Center

Tavares Basketball League:

Champion: West End Recreation Center

Runner Up: Neutaconkanut Recreation Center



BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Boys High School Basketball League for 1997 played a thirteen game regular season plus playoffs and a championship game. The games were held at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm. The following is a list of the teams who participated in the league: Barrington, Classical, Central, Cranston East, Cranston West, Davies Voc, Feinstein, Hendricken, Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Pilgrim, and PCD. The teams were coached by high school coaches and the games were officiated by interscholastic referees. The winner of the championship game was Hendricken with Hope coming in second.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Girls High School Basketball League for 1997 also played a thirteen game schedule plus playoffs and finals. Girls from all over the state come to compete at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm. The following is a list of the teams that participated in the league: Cranston East, Ponagansett, St. Raphael, North Smithfield, Johnston, North Providence, East Greenwich, Classical, Pilgrim, Toll Gate, Bay View, and Cranston West. Like the Boys League, the Girls are coached by high school coaches and games are officiated by interscholastic referees. .



MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE
1997
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: Bucklin, Fox Point, East Side. Each team, wearing T-shirts donated by Citizen's Bank, sported 10-12 players per team. Citizen's Bank also donated the trophies for 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
1997
WOMEN'S LEAGUE

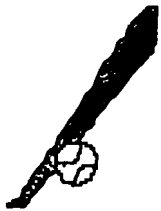
This year was the fourth season for the Providence Midnight Basketball Women's League. This League, whose games are played at Neutaconkanut Recreation Center, was made possible by the joint efforts and cosponsorship of the Providence Department of Recreation, the Rhode Island Attorney General, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and Citizen's Bank. The League hosts women over the age of 18 and teams are made by a lottery. The finals were held at Johnson and Wales with Northwestern defeating UCLA by a score of 63 to 56. All trophies were donated by Citizen's Bank.

CO-ED ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE - 1997

The Co-Ed Adult Volleyball League, now in its seventh season, currently has eight teams in the league. They are John Hope East, John Hope West, The Providence Center, Cal Blue, Intense, Fighting Irish, Dig This, and Bar One. Games are held Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. The league runs from November through March.

League Champions: Providence Center
Runner Up: Bar One

Playoff Champions: Cal Blue
Runner Up: John Hope West



YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

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, T-shirts, pins, and trophies. Also, the Department continued its promotion of the National Youth Sports Coaches Association. The program certifies coaches in the area of coaching psychology, first aid, drug awareness, and practice organizations. The NYSCA program certifies first, second, and third year coaches, as part of a three year program.

The Department of Recreation coordinated 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 following were the winners of the 1997 Mayor's Cup tournament:

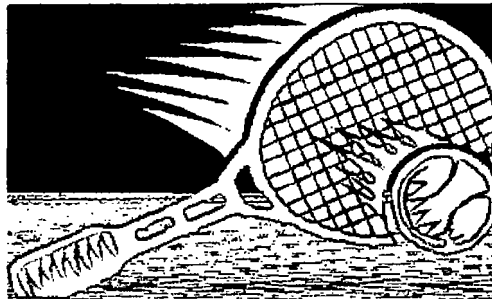
Girl's Major League: 1017 Deli - Mount Pleasant
Girl's Senior League: Niantic Associates- Elmwood
Boys Major League: Lorac Tool - Mount Pleasant
Boys Senior League: Club 650 - Elmwood

COURT BUDDIES

The Providence Court Buddies Tennis Program along with the cosponsorship of The Providence Journal conducted its third season during the summer. Three sites in the city hosted the program. They are Roger Williams Park, Hope High School, and Rhode Island College tennis courts. Some 35-40 youths participated at each of the three sites. The sessions were held once a week except at Roger Williams Park where sessions ran twice a week, due to a high demand.

The New England chapter of the United States Tennis Association lent additional tennis rackets so that children who did not own a racket could participate. Donations of tennis balls were received from Sedgewick Gray, Aquawam Hunt, tennis professionals, and the Todd Morsilli Tournament Committee.

The children ranged in age from 6 to 13. Children were divided by age or ability level. This allowed older children to take on the role as a teacher. The program is designed to expose children to a recreational activity not usually associated with city life. Throughout the program, children learned much more than the fundamental tennis skills. The children left with many new friends, a sense of sportsmanship, and some ideas on how to use their aggression positively.



BELIEVE IN ME

This summer a new program was developed to address the needs of those with special needs regarding recreational activities. The program was coordinated by a new staff member Dennis Leferres with plans to expand the program for next summer.

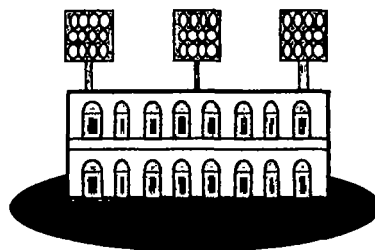
HERSHEY YOUTH TRACK AND TRACK 1997

The 1997 Providence Recreation Department Hershey Youth Track and Field Meet was held on July 1, 1997 at City Stadium at Mount Pleasant High School in Providence. Forty-five youths ages 9-14 participated in the City Championship, 25 of which advanced to the State Championship.

The State Championship was held on July 9, 1997 at Cranston West High School. The children who won from the Providence Recreation Department went on to the State Meet. Each youth received a Providence Recreation Hershey T-Shirt and a State Meet T-Shirt. Lunch and T-Shirts were provided by the Youth Sports Initiative Grant from the Health Department.

COLUMBUS DAY CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL 1997

On Monday, October 13, 1997, the Providence Recreation Department sponsored its 53rd Annual Columbus Day Cross Country Invitational. This year's field consisted of 262 runners representing 11 high schools from across the city of Providence and the state. The schools included Classical, Coventry, Cranston East, East Greenwich, Hope, Mt. Pleasant, North Providence, Pilgrim, St. Mary's - Bay View, Scituate, and Tollgate. Competitions were held for both boys and girls in the categories of Freshman/Novice, Junior Varsity, and Varsity.





PROVIDENCE RECREATION ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER - 1997

Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. and the Providence Recreation Department inducted three new members into their Hall of Fame on Wednesday, May 21st at the Lombardi's 1025 Club.

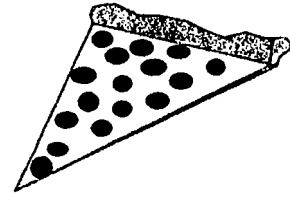
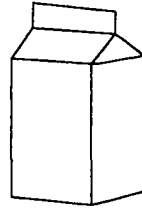
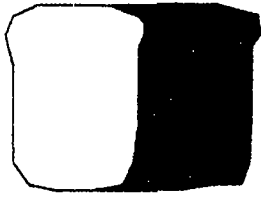
Ruth McDermott, Linda Wimer, and Frank Santos were inducted into the Hall of Fame for their numerous years of service to their respective communities. Ruth McDermott has been instrumental in the development of the St. Raymond Leisure Group for senior citizens on North Main Street. She has organized day trips during this period which bring together numerous senior citizens for leisure activities which keep them active during the year.

Linda Wimer has been a vocal force within the Olneyville community. She has organized countless fund raisers for the less fortunate and has been active with anti-violence activities for at-risk youth. She continues her fine community efforts as Activity Director at the Joslin Community Center.

Frank "Chico" Santos has been involved in Providence Recreation for the past 25 years. Mr. Santos has served in several capacities including Summer Camp Counselor, Lifeguard, Pool Director, and Coach. He is also the founder and Head Coach of the Mt. Hope Cowboys youth football team which recently was crowned champions in their age bracket. Currently, Frank works as supervisor and coach at the Vincent Brown Recreation Center.

The Department also awarded Special Service Awards to Mary Machado for the Fox Point Senior Citizen Center, Armand Batastini for his dedicated service to the youth of the city for over 47 years, and St. Martin Deporres Center for their fine services and programs for the senior citizen population.

Youth awards were given to the winners of the respective basketball leagues. West End Recreation Center was crowned champion of the Hassett Memorial and Tavares Memorial basketball leagues. West End Girls Basketball team recently won the Pawtucket Boys and Girls Club basketball league.



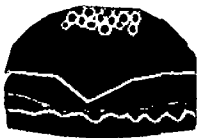
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM - 1997

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 a lunch.

Due to the school year running until the end of June, the program ran from the beginning of July through the end of August, serving meals to over one hundred sixty locations throughout Providence and was monitored by both state and local officials.

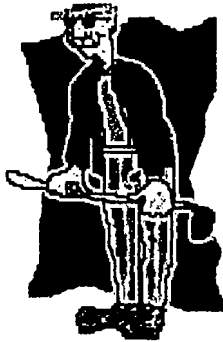
Operating with a budget of over one million dollars, the program was able to distribute over 190,000 breakfasts, and 330,000 lunches to city youngsters. The program also offers summer employment to over 160 residents, mostly comprised of senior citizens, young adults, and teenagers.

This is one of the most successful programs that the Department of Recreation supports because it is helping children get good, healthy meals while also producing summer jobs for its residents.



TRIPS TO CAMP CRONIN - 1997

The Department of Recreation, Senior Division has operated Camp Cronin over the past several summers. Children and adults were fortunate to spend part of the summer at the beautiful, oceanfront camp at Point Judith. Every Friday, various youth groups from the city recreation centers spent a fun day of swimming, sports, cook-outs, and other activities. Some of the groups this year include children with disabilities. The Mayors Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse SOF/SOC program will also utilize the camp on some Fridays. Mondays through Thursdays are reserved for seniors. Activities include cards, bingo, and walks to the beach as well as music, refreshments, and cookouts.



PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, SENIOR DIVISION

The Providence Recreation Department, Senior Division provides positive programs for Providence seniors. It provides seniors with transportation daily for senior citizen organizations, destinations include shopping malls, restaurants, and La Salette Shrine at Christmas time.

The Senior Division also offers arts and craft classes at nursing homes, churches, and residents of elderly housing. In addition, entertainment is furnished upon request to local senior housing complexes, neighborhood community centers, and various social organizations.

In the summer, activities include daily field trips to Camp Cronin, a facility in Point Judith owned by the city. During the day, entertainment, bingo, dancing, and a scenic tour of Galilee is available. The summer finale is Mayor's Day in the Park. Held at Roger Williams Park, senior citizens join the Mayor in a day filled with food, fun, and entertainment.



MAYOR'S DAY IN THE PARK

Mayor Cianci's Senior Day in the Park was held on Wednesday, August 6, 1997 at Roger Williams Park from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The day began with coffee and donuts supplied by D'Amico Catering and Dunkin Donuts, respectively. Lunch was served at 12:00 pm and consisted of a turkey sandwich, fruit cup, cranberry juice and, coffee milk.

Artie Cabral and his 7 piece orchestra played while seniors strolled through the various booths set up in the park. Some of the businesses which sponsored booths were Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Harvard Health, Rhode Island Society to Prevent Blindness, Providence Foster Grandparents, Talbot House, and VNA Technicare.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

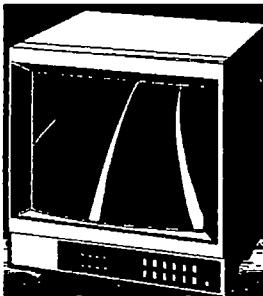
Throughout the year, the Providence Department of Recreation made a special effort to promote the Department's programs. Various press releases were sent to Channels 6, 10, and 12, and the Providence Journal Bulletin. These different media outlets were notified of upcoming events which were to be held. As a follow-up, results of all events were sent to the media.

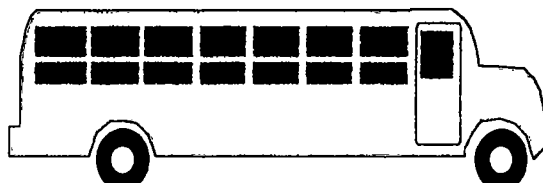
Numerous articles and stories have appeared in area newspapers and on television reporting on the Recreation Department's programs. Throughout the year, public service announcements promoting the Recreation Departments activities have aired on the local television stations, local cable television, and in the local newspapers.

Some events covered by the media outlets were the Annual Swim Meet, Men's and Women's Midnight Basketball, the city's pools, and the Summer Food Service Program.

The Recreation Department had announcements made in the schools, promoting its activities. Posters were also posted in the schools and in the community centers, notifying people of up coming events.

This summer, five people were assigned to Public Relations. This group handed out thousands of flyers for neighborhood events, prepared as summer brochures of what they observed and took hundreds of photographs.





PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT 1997 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

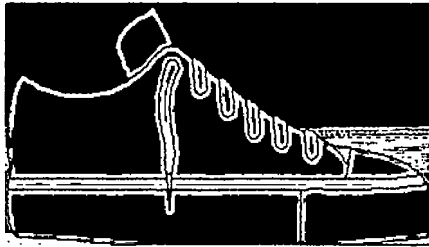
During the year, the Providence Recreation Department Transportation Program provides transportation for agencies that serve the city's youth and elderly. Transportation is provided for field trips to many sites throughout the state. After a fire in 1996 destroyed one of the buses, this April, the Providence Recreation Department was able to purchase a new bus. With the purchase of the new bus, many trips that were canceled last year were reinstated this year.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRIPS	772
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	22,212
AVERAGE TRIPS PER DAY	2.1
AVERAGE TRIPS PER MONTH	64.3
AVERAGE DAILY PARTICIPANTS	61 PER TRIP
AVERAGE WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS	250
VEHICLES IN USE	2 - 50 Passenger Bus 2 - 15 Passenger Van
NUMBER OF DRIVERS	2 Full Time Drivers
ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED BY SERVICES	75-100 Groups

These Included:

1. Senior Citizen Housing Complexes and Organizations
2. Community Centers
3. Youth Organizations
4. Special Events
5. Recreation Centers



HEALTHY STRIDES

Providence residents laced up their walking shoes for the fourth year to participate in "Healthy Strides", a national walking program sponsored by the California Prune Board in cooperation with the National Recreation and Park Association, as well as the Providence Recreation Department. Healthy Strides is designed to promote fun, fitness, and healthy eating habits. Last year, Providence was one of 2,000 park and recreation agencies nationwide that helped to kick off this program. This is double the number of agencies active in this program.

Some 200 adults, 80 seniors, and 130 children ranging in age 5-14 took part and were introduced to this not only fun, but beneficial form of exercise. The participants received once again such items as a walking journal, brochures that deal with weight loss and myths and facts on walking. Also, they received wallet size cards containing walking information and tips on reducing fat intake, California Prune Packs, Prune the Fat buttons, as well as recipes and other items.

It is the hope of the Department to continue our efforts regarding future walking programs for the upcoming 1998 season and expand our number of participants as we did this year. This year there was a significant increase for both the senior and children categories. For 1997 we had an increase of 35 adults, 33 children, and 25 seniors who participated in the program. Local agencies have shown an interest in both cosponsoring our efforts and expanding the program.

ZUCCOLO RECREATION CENTER PLEDGES TO BE "DRUG FREE"

In October of 1997, Zuccolo Recreation Center, in conjunction with the Federal Hill House, took a pledge that their respective centers would be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. In addition, an anti-violent theme would also be followed by members of the centers. This program was sponsored through the Federal Hill task Force and a grant from the Mayor's Council on Drugs and Alcohol Abuse.

Targeting the age group of 8-15 years old, each member of the center must sign a "Zero Tolerance" agreement form stating that he/she agrees to be drug free. In addition, each member pledges to stay away from violence. The child then receives a Zuccolo "membership card." A violation to these terms could result in the revocation of one's membership card. The program is showing great results and the children are benefiting from workshops being offered. Those who participate in the program will partake in a party and receive a T-shirt.