



ANNUAL REPORT 1999

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
ONE RECREATION WAY

Raymond L. Brown, Director

Telephone Number (401) 421-7740 Ext. 323

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 18 2000

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Richard A. Belmont
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 1999 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

VINCENT BROWN RECREATION CENTER

The Vincent Brown Recreation Center, with its Director Thomas Spann, provide 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. The programs offered are activities that include homework help, swimming at the East Side YMCA, table top games, arts and crafts, and movies every Friday. In the gym, children play basketball, soccer, floor hockey, scatter, kick ball, 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 to 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 87 campers enrolled in this program and each one had a camp tee-shirt.

Teen-Nite's - A celebration between the Vincent Brown Center and the East Side/ YMCA gave children 14-17 the opportunity to use both the YMCA and the Recreation Center for activity from 7pm-10pm every Friday. Field trips were taken and the children talked about problems in their community and how to make their community a better place to live.

JOSLIN RECREATION CENTER

The Joslin Recreation Center is run by the Departments Senior Center Director William O' Brine. Various programs are offered between 3:00PM-5:00PM. Basketball, Soccer, Whiffleball, Hockey, Weight Lifting, Arts & Crafts, Board Games, Field Trips, Hip Hop and Dancing Classes in conjunction with the Providence YMCA. Also we have a scatter ball team in the Providence Housing Authority League. During the hours of 5:00-7:00PM the following organizations use the gym. Joslin Community Development Corporation, St. Thomas CYO, St. Pius CYO, Joslin Bittie Ball, Mexican Soccer League, Capital Youth Soccer and the State Capital Police.

The Summer Program, which ran from July 1 through August 27, offered various activities such as open swim to all the neighborhood children, swimming lessons, field trips, and lunches provided by the Summer Food Service Program.

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 pool. The children of the center also went on field trips that included a Pawtucket Red Sox game, trips to Block Island, Camp Cronin, and Mystic Aquarium, Bowling, Roller Skating, Roger Williams Park, Battleship Massachusetts 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 Children's Museum After School Program. And was also on the Browns Field Board of Members 1999.

NEUTACONKANUT RECREATION CENTER

The Neutaconkanut Recreation Center is located in the Silver Lake area of the City under the direction of Raymond Tessaglia. During the winter, open recreation hours are from 3PM-5PM during these hours activities include basketball, soccer, touch football, dodge ball and floor hockey. Many programs are available to residents of all ages. Some of the programs include an Adult Volleyball League played every Thursday evening, and youth basketball games Saturday in the morning and Capital Youth Soccer holds its league during the afternoon. Other programs available for children include tumbling and flipping classes, and other school activities. Local groups also use the facility. They are Times Square Academy, Providence Police, Silver Lake Young Men's Association, and the Silver Lake Community Center Seniors and Day Care. Neutaconkanut is also the site of 2 sports skill camps or competition Major League Baseball Diamond Skills Competition open to boys and girls ages 7-14, and also Major League Soccer Clinic for boys and girls ages 8-15. The Neutaconkanut Recreation Center is also the host of Over 30 Soccer League, Summer Basketball Programs and Various Youth Tournaments.

During the summer, swimming lessons are available in the morning before the pool opens. Volleyball, basketball and softball clinics are also offered in the morning during the summer. One of the most popular new programs is an Ecology Program which is held in conjunction with Keep Providence Beautiful hiking, experiments and observations are just some of the activities involved. The pool is open from 12:00PM to 5:00PM and services approximately 150-250 daily, and lunches are provided by the Summer Food Service Program.

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 Karl Brown. 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, 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 3rd. Annual "Joe Hassett Day" was celebrated at the pool in conjunction with the the Recreation Department's "Puppets by the Pool Cookout." One of the most successful programs which will be back this summer is a learning program for children in grades K-2nd to help them retain what they have learned in the previous school year.

1999 was a very exciting time for the residents of Smith Hill with the Grand Opening of its new Recreation Facility located on Camden Avenue, June 5th. This has brought many more area youth 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.

SOUTH PROVIDENCE RECREATION

The South Providence Recreation Center is open seven days and services over one thousand youths and adults each week. Programs include, after-school, league basketball, YMCA hip hop/flipping classes, Tae-Kwon Do, soccer, volleyball, arts & crafts, members' 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 area.

The South Providence Recreation Center continues to outreach with many community groups and as a result of that outreach we have hosted 10/11 Ward Committees, Job Corps Alumni Association, Holy Ghost Church of God & Christ, South Providence Soccer, Providence Soccer League, C & J Jewelry, Benefica Washington Park Soccer, Community Preparatory School, Chance to Dance Program, Health & Fitness program and the Children's Crusade. 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.

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, 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 and the New Force Steppers. It is also the host of the Alfred Tavares Basketball League . During the week for the area youth the center offers movies nightly, sewing classes and a newly formed wrestling program.

Evenings at the Recreation Center are also very busy, the Girl Scouts along with the 4-H Club, run programs that service over 50 neighborhood children.

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.

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 for 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.

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 swim lessons. An after-school homework help session has been implemented. Students in grades 1 through 8 can receive help Monday through Friday from 3-5 pm. 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 9:00 am 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.

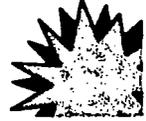
ZUCCOLO RECREATION CENTER

Under the leadership of Jackie Poulios, the Angelo Zuccolo Recreation Center, located on historic Federal Hill serves both youth and adults of the city. During the winter months programs include youth basketball, cheerleading, dodge ball, arts and crafts classes, hip hop dance, movie night and N.E.I.S.P. program in conjunction with the Federal Hill House and the Children's Crusade. For the adults of the City the center offers an Adult Whiffleball League and Men's Alumni Basketball League along with a host of other activities that fit the needs of the community.

During the summer months the neighborhood swimming pool is host to hundreds of children on a daily basis these children also enjoy lunches provided by the Summer Food Service Program. The Center is also very proud to be the host for the following programs. Small Schools Basketball League, Holy Ghost School Girls and Boys Basketball Program and the New Pride School.



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 the Nightlife Orchestra and Twyce, puppet shows as well as DJ Music. The Parks Department also helped out by cleaning and delivering barrels to the park.

NEIGHBORHOOD FAIRS

The Recreation Department provides assistance and entertainment at several neighborhood fairs and parties including the 15 Ward Democratic Fair and Christmas Party, Kennedy School Christmas Party and the annual Joe Hassett Day.



EASTER EGG HUNT

The Recreation Department held Easter Egg Hunts at Davis Park and Fagnoli Park in April. An estimated 400 children enjoyed pony rides, candy, a Jelly Bean counting contest and a visit from the one and only Easter Bunny.

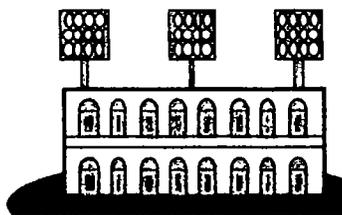
HERSHEY YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD 1999

On June 30, 1999 The Providence Recreation Department's Hershey Track and Field Meet was held at City Stadium at Mount Pleasant High School in Providence. 87 Youth, ages 9-14 participated in the Providence Championship, 33 runners advanced to the State Championship.

The State Championship was held on July 14, 1999 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 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. The Providence Recreation children won six Gold medals, five Silver medals, and three Bronze medals at the State Meet. None of the athletes advanced to the Nationals in Hershey, PA.

COLUMBUS DAY CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL 1999

On Monday, October 11, 1999 the Providence Recreation Department sponsored its 54th. Annual Columbus Day Cross Country Invitational. This year's field consisted of 262 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, and Lincoln, La Salle, Central and Johnston High School. Competitions were held for both boys and girls in the categories of Freshman/Novice, Junior Varsity, Varsity and Special Olympics.



WINTER CARNIVAL CLINICS

The Winter Carnival was held the week of school vacation February 16, 1999 it was for boy and girls ages 8 -16 with Basketball and Soccer offered. All clinics were held from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Tee-shirts were given to all participants and a pizza party was held at the conclusion of the clinics.

NORTH POLE CALLING

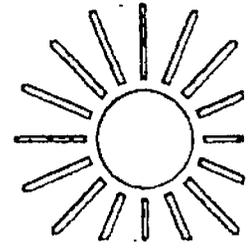
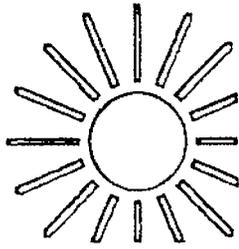
Once again this year the Providence Recreation Department in conjunction with the Alfred E. Lima Elementary School held a very special Holiday Program for inner city children. Prior to Christmas Eve. Calls are made to the children from Santa. Over the years this program has become very successful.

TOYS FOR TOTS

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.

SWIM MEET

On August 12, 1999, the Department of Recreation held its Annual Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., Inter Pool Swim Meet at the Mc Grane Swimming Pool on Dexter St.. Many of the pools entered swim teams that competed in several different swimming competitions. Ribbons and trophies were awarded, approximately 100 youngsters attended.



WATER PARKS

The children of Providence once again ran through the sprinklers of the Fox Point, Sackett Street and Harriet & Sayles Water Park.

REGENT AVENUE PARK SUMMER PROGRAMS

Residents of Smith Hill enjoyed a variety of programs this past summer at the Regent Avenue Park. Kaleidoscope Theater, Improv Jones Theater, Circus Arts Workshop, Julie Garnette, Puppet Show, Storyteller, and Face Painting. These are some of the special performances given by local performers every Wednesday evening. Some of the programs offered, include arts and crafts, movies, free lunches and soccer.

FARGNOLI PARK SUMMER PROGRAM

The residents of Elmhurst and Mt. Pleasant area 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 Friday mornings, Soccer and Basketball Clinics for beginners.

The Tuesday Evening Performance series included the following; Improv Jones Theater, Kaleidoscope Theater, Puppet Show, Circus Arts Workshop, Neighborhood Cookout, Julie Garnette, and 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.



HIP HOP DANCING

Hip Hop Dancing classes are held at the, Davey Lopes, Joslin, Rogers, Zuccolo, and Vincent Brown Recreation Centers during the winter season. Boys and girls are enthusiastic about sharing their dance moves and performing dance pieces. Nearly 100 youngsters participated in this program during the winter season.

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.

TUMBLING FLIPPING AND BREAKDANCING

Once again this year one of the most popular programs with youth across the City is Tumbling, Flipping and Breakdancing. Centers across the city have found that this program has been one of the fastest growing activities the Recreation Department has offered.

COURT BUDDIES

The Court Buddies tennis program has completed its fifth 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 three locations; Roger Williams Park, Rhode Island College, and Hope High School. Roger Williams Park 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, The 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-shirts, tennis balls and candy. As the summer of 2000 approaches we are looking forward to another successful year of Court Buddies



CARRIAGE HOUSE SCHOOL AND PROVIDENCE RECREATION 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 fifth 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.

YOUTH LITTER CORP

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.

LEARN TO READ

Reading lessons were offered at Bucklin Pool every Thursday from 12Noon to1PM. Approximately 25 children attended.

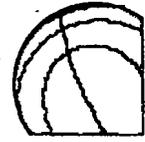
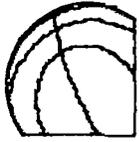
YMCA ON WHEELS

The Recreation Department collaborated with the YMCA to bring Rap and Hip Hop dance performances to neighborhood parks and pools this past summer. Approximately 1,600 individuals enjoyed these very special performances.

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.





BOYS YOUTH BASKETBALL 1999 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 Divisions 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 Providence College with pizza and buffet for the children.

Hassett Basketball League:

Champion: Neutaconkanut Recreation Center
Runner Up: West End Recreation Center

Tavares Basketball League:

Champion: Neutaconkanut Recreation Center
Runner Up: West End Recreation Center

Girls League:

Champion: Providence Intermural League
Runner Up: West End Recreation Center



BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Boys High School Basketball League for 1999 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 Vocational, Feinstein, Hendricken, Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Pilgrim Wheeler, 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 Classical High School.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Girls High School Basketball League for 1999 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, Toll Gate, Bay View, and Cranston West, North Kingston, Like the Boys League, the Girls are coached by high school coaches and games are officiated by interscholastic referees. Toll Gate High School were the champions.

ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE - 1999

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..



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 Leagues 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.



MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE
1999
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, Davis Park. Each team, wearing T-shirts donated by Citizen's Bank, sported 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
1999
WOMEN'S LEAGUE

This year was the fifth 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, 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. All trophies were donated by Citizen's Bank.

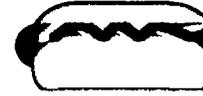
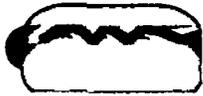
PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT SENIOR DIVISION

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

The Senior Division offers, entertainment upon request at 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, as well as other recreational activities 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.

During the winter months, planning took place and notices went out to some 70 different city agencies and their Activity Directors that deal with the city's Senior population, regarding a January 13, 2000 Forum. The Forum's agenda includes information about current and new senior programming for the year 2000. Two of the new programs for 2000, include a renovated Senior Advisory Board and a newly developed Senior Speaker Program that will begin on February 17, 2000 and be held on the third Thursday of every month. All the topics will be ones that greatly effect the City's Senior population. All speakers are considered experts in their particular field.



TRIPS TO CAMP CRONIN - 1999

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, ocean front camp at Point Judith. On Mondays & Fridays, various youth groups from the city recreation centers spent a fun day of swimming, sports, cook-outs, and other activities. This is the third year that children with disabilities attended. Tuesdays through Thursdays are reserved for seniors. Activities include cards, bingo, boccie, horseshoes, and walks to the beaches as well as music, refreshments and cookouts.

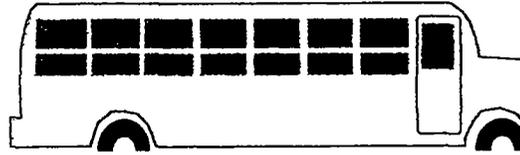
Many new decorations were added to the Camp's decor including flowers on every table, new window boxes and ground coverings. Added to the entertainment portion of the activities is the addition of what is known as the Camp Cronin Band, utilizing inflatable instruments by the staff and visitors. New for 1999 was the newly paved Basketball and Volleyball court area. Also some new programming was added to existing ones designed primarily for the youth population of special needs. Some of the new programming included such activities as floor and water basketball, and invited outside agencies to speak and perform demonstrations of interest for the youth. Two such agencies were from sister city agencies, the Providence Police Department, Trained Dog Demonstration and the Providence Parks Department Traveling Zoo Mobile. As always the Mayor's Council on the Handicap was a valuable partner in our efforts.

MAYOR'S DAY IN THE PARK



Mayor Cianci's Senior Day in the Park was held on Wednesday, August 4, 1999 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.

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, Harvard Pilgrim Health, Rhode Island Society to Prevent Blindness, Providence Foster Grandparents, Talbot House, and VNA Technicare.



PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT 1999 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.

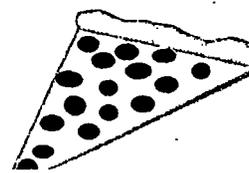
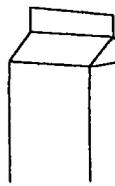
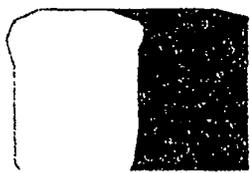
A YEAR IN REVIEW

TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRIPS	856
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	26,098
AVERAGE TRIPS PER DAY	3.56
AVERAGE TRIPS PER MONTH	71.3
AVERAGE DAILY PARTICIPANTS	30.4 PER TRIP
AVERAGE WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS	542
VEHICLES IN USE	3 - 50 Passenger Buses 10 -15 Passenger Van As of 12/1/99
NUMBER OF DRIVERS	2 Full Time Drivers
ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED BY SERVICES	85-120 Groups

These Included:

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

During 1999, the Providence Recreation Department assigned a new 15 passenger van to each full time center. The year 2000 annual report will be the first year that the additional vans will be indicated in this report. These vehicles assist each center with transporting children to local competitions, field trips and various other events.



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM - 1999

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.

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 months 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, 1999 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 1999.

