



ANNUAL REPORT 1998

# 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  
MAR 4 1999

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Michael A. Clemente*  
Clerk  
*JMC*

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 1998 year. 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 cursive script that reads "Raymond L. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Raymond L. Brown  
Director of Recreation

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## FULL-TIME RECREATION CENTERS

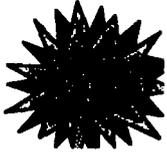
Centers	Neighborhood
1. Davey Lopes Recreation Center	South Providence
2. Joslin Recreation Center	Manton / Olneyville
3. Neutaconkanut Recreation Center	Silver Lake
4. Rogers-Selim Recreation Center	Smith Hill
5. Vincent Brown Recreation Center	East Side / Mount Hope
6. West End Recreation Center	West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

## SHARED COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SITE

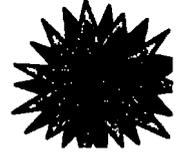
1. Robert F. Kennedy Recreation Center	Elmhurst
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## SWIMMING POOLS AND WATER PARKS

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



## SPECIAL EVENTS



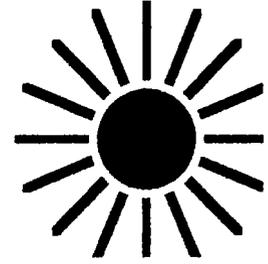
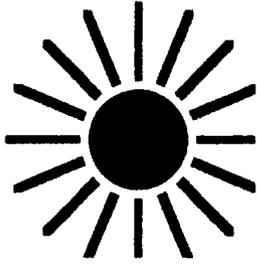
### EVENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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, puppet show as well as DJ Music. 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.





## WATER PARKS

The children of Providence once again ran through the sprinklers of the Fox Point and the Sackett Street Water Parks. This year a new water park was opened at Harriet & Sayles Street.

## 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 Hassett Day, Kennedy School Christmas Party and the Easter Egg Hunts.

## 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 performance given by local performers every Wednesday evening. Some of the programs offered include arts and crafts, movies, free lunches and soccer.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

On April 4th., the Providence Recreation Department, in conjunction with Councilman Hassett and Councilwoman Fagnoli sponsored Easter Egg Hunts at Davis Park and Triggs Golf Course. Over 400 children enjoyed various activities which included a visit from the Easter Bunny, 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 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.



## 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 assembling and performing dance pieces. Nearly 100 youngsters participated in this program during the winter season.

## ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Providence Recreation Department hosts arts & crafts lessons for Providence youths. Children at Davey Lopes, Joslin, Rogers, and Zuccolo Recreation Centers have benefited from the instruction of Hannah Cole.

## 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 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 the Zuccolo Recreation Center.

## 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 were also offered for a week.

The Tuesday Evening Performances 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.



## SWIM MEET

On August 13, 1998, the Department of Recreation held its annual Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr., Inter Swim Meet at the Joslin Pool on Hyat Street. All seven of the city's pools sent teams to compete in the races.

## 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, 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 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. The field trips included USA Skates, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Camp Cronin, Boston Children's Museum, and Mystic Aquarium, Pulaski Park and Newport.

## 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, hip-hop and flipping classes. During the hours of 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm, the following organizations used the gym: Joslin Community Development Corporation, Mexican Soccer League, St. Thomas CYO, Manton Community Police, Joslin Bubba-Ball Basketball.

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..

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.

## 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, 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.

## 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, the New Force Steppers. It is also the host of the Alfred Tavares Basketball League .

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

## 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 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 3rd. Annual "Joe Hassett Day" was celebrated at the pool in conjunction with the the Recreation Department's "Puppets by the Pool Cookout."

## ZUCCOLO RECREATION CENTER

Under the leadership of Jackie Poulios, Zuccolo Recreation Center, located on historic Federal Hill, serves both the youth and adults of the city. A men's whiffleball league is held every Monday night, with a home run contest after the championship game. 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.

## 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 through 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.

## NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS COACHES ASSOCIATION 1998

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.

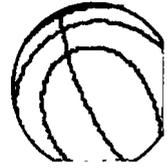
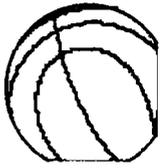
The NYSCA program was instituted by the Department of Recreation in 1990. NYSCA is a three year instructional program to be given to volunteer coaches to help them develop skills in coaching psychology, drug awareness, first aid, and practice organization.

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.

In 1998, NYSCA is offering a certification program that not only reduces the time commitment of the coaches during the certification process, but increases the liability insurance policy up to one million after continuing their second year will increase to two million. Also, a Youth Sports Journal will be added.



## BOYS YOUTH BASKETBALL 1998 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 Center. The League Championship games were held at John Hope Settlement House with pizza and buffet for the children.

### Hassett Basketball League:

Champion: West End Recreation Center

Runner Up: Joslin Recreation Center

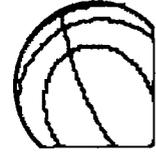
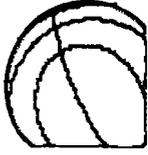
### Tavares Basketball League:

Champion: West End Recreation Center

Runner Up: Neutaconkanut Recreation Center

## WINTER CARNIVAL CLINICS

The Winter Carnival was held the week of school vacation February 17, 1998 it was for boy and girls ages 8 -16. Basketball and soccer were offered. All clinics were held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Tee-shirts were given to all participants and a pizza party was held at the conclusion of the clinics.



## BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Boys High School Basketball League for 1998 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 Bishop Hendricken.

## GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Girls High School Basketball League for 1998 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. Ponagansett High School were the champions.



MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE  
1998  
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  
1998  
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.

## CO-ED ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE - 1998

The Co-Ed Adult Volleyball League, now in its eight 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.



## 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, 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.

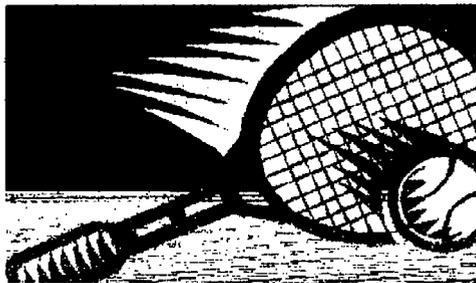
The Department of Recreation and the Little Leagues coordinate the Mayor's Cup tournament for the Boys Major and Senior League as well as the Girls Major and Senior Leagues. All teams participated in a single elimination tournament.

## COURT BUDDIES

The Providence Court Buddies Tennis Program along with the co-sponsorship of The Providence Journal conducted its fourth 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 25-40 youths participated at each of the three sites. The sessions were held once a week except at Rhode Island College where sessions ran twice a week, due to a high demand.

Barbara Potter and Mark Stenning, Director of the International Tennis Hall of Fame donated tennis rackets and balls at the end of the season with the hope that some of these children would continue to play tennis.

The children ranged in age from 7 to 12. 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.



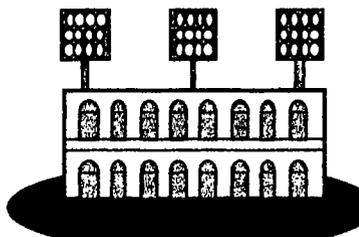
## HERSHEY YOUTH TRACK AND TRACK 1998

The 1998 Providence Recreation Department Hershey Youth Track and Field Meet was held on July 1, 1998 at City Stadium at Mount Pleasant High School in Providence. Sixty youths ages 9-14 participated in the City Championship, 36 runners advanced to the State Championship.

The State Championship was held on July 15, 1998 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. Two athletics were picked to go to the nationals in Hershey, PA.

## COLUMBUS DAY CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL 1998

On Monday, October 12, 1998, 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, and Varsity.





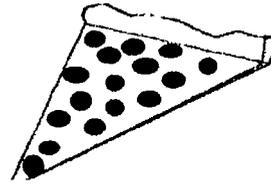
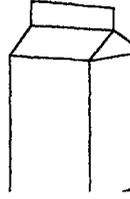
## PROVIDENCE RECREATION HALL OF FAME- 1998

Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. presided over the induction of three new members into the Eleventh Annual Providence Recreation Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place at the Second Annual Luncheon of the Providence Coalition For Recreation And Leisure. This brings the total number in the Recreation Hall of Fame inductees to thirty.

Inducted by the Mayor were the following. Harold Metts, member of the Class of 1965 Central High School. He has actively served the youth of the City of Providence for over 25 years. Ann D. Hill, Ann has a long exemplary career contributing to the quality of life of Providence Seniors. A previous Jefferson Award winner she has continued to serve Providence since her retirement in 1993. Joseph De Stefano, Joe served 35 years as an educator in the Providence Public School System. Joe has been a positive role model for Providence youth. He retired as Principal of Central High School in 1992.

## PROVIDENCE COALITION ON RECREATION AND LEISURE

This coalition was formed in September of 1996 for the prime purpose of delivering recreation and leisure services at a much more comprehensive and timely manner that has ever been witnessed in the City of Providence's history. Providence has a very dynamic and diversified population and our scope is to move our recreation programming forward to the year 2000. The Second Annual Coalition conference was held May 15, 1998 at the Providence Marriott.



## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM - 1998

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 150,000 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 - 1998

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. 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 second 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.

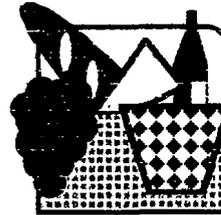
Many new decorations were added to the Camp's decor flowers on every table, new window boxes and ground coverings. A new twist was added to the entertainment portion of the activities by the addition of what is known as the Camp Cronin Band utilizing inflatable instruments by the staff and visitors.

## 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 offers, entertainment 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, 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.



### MAYOR'S DAY IN THE PARK

Mayor Cianci's Senior Day in the Park was held on Wednesday, August 5, 1998 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.

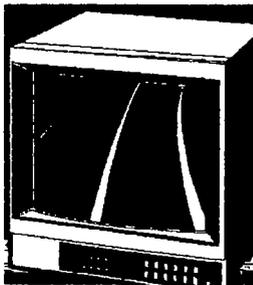
## PUBLIC RELATIONS

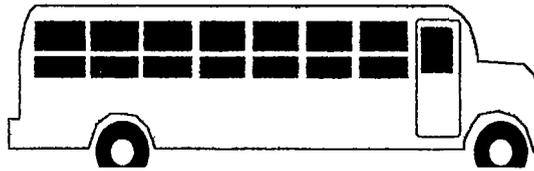
Throughout the year, the Providence Department of Recreation made a special effort to promote the Department's programs. Various press releases were sent to Channels 6, 10, and 12, and the Providence Journal Bulletin. These different media outlets were notified of upcoming events which were to be held. 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. Thousands of flyers were handed out in the community for neighborhood events.





## PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT 1998 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

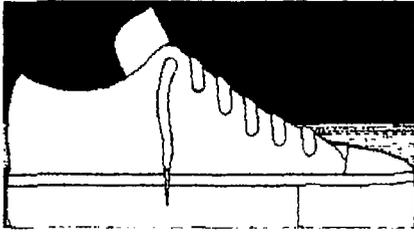
During the year, the Providence Recreation Department Transportation Program provides transportation for agencies that serve the city's youth and elderly. Transportation is provided for field trips to many sites throughout the state.

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRIPS	852
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	26,712
AVERAGE TRIPS PER DAY	3.55
AVERAGE TRIPS PER MONTH	71
AVERAGE DAILY PARTICIPANTS	31 PER TRIP
AVERAGE WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS	550
VEHICLES IN USE	2 - 50 Passenger Bus 2 - 15 Passenger Van
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



## 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.

As in the past, 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 was 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 was accomplished by holding two walking seminars at the Downtown YMCA and utilizing their indoor track. By conducting the seminars, the department was able to attract an increase in the senior population.