

# ANNUAL REPORT 1996

## 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  
APR 3 1997  
RESOLUTION IS ORDERED THAT  
THIS ORDER BE RECORDED.  
*Richard D. Brown*  
CLERK

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	1
RECREATION FACILITIES	2
Full Time Recreation Centers	2
Part Time Recreation Centers	2
Swimming Pools	2
SPECIAL EVENTS	3
Evening in the Neighborhood	3
Learn to Swim	3
In School Bowling	3
FOX POINT WATER PARK	4
NEIGHBORHOOD FAIRS	4
REGENT AVENUE PARK SUMMER PROGRAMS	4
HALLOWEEN PARTY	5
NORTH POLE CALLING	5
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	5
HIP HOP DANCING	6
TUMBLING FLIPPING AND BREAKDANCING	6
ART AND CREATIVE MOVEMENTS	6
CARRIAGE SCHOOL HOUSE & PROVIDENCE RECREATION ARTS COLLABORATIVE	7
EDUCATIONAL SHOWS AND WORKSHOPS	7
FARGNOLI PARK SUMMER PROGRAM	8
SWIM MEET	8

VINCENT BROWN RECREATION CENTER	9
JOSLIN AND NEUTACONKANUT RECREATION CENTERS	11
WEST END AND ROGERS-SELIM RECREATION CENTERS	12
ZUCCOLO AND DAVEY LOPES RECREATION CENTER	13
NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS COACHES ASSOCIATION	14
BOYS YOUTH BASKETBALL	15
BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL	16
GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL	16
MEN'S MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL	17
WOMEN'S MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL	17
CO-ED ADULT VOLLEYBALL	18
YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE	18
COURT BUDDIES	19
HERSHEY YOUTH TRACK & FIELD 1996	20
THOMAS SPANN	20
COLUMBUS DAY CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL 1996	21
A NIGHT OF TRIBUTE TO ROBERT URBANI	22
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	23
MAYOR'S DAY IN THE PARK 1996	24
TRIPS TO CAMP CRONIN 1996	25
PUBLIC RELATIONS	26
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM	27
HEALTHY STRIDES	28
BE A WINNER - PLAY IT STRAIGHT	29

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 to you regarding Providence Recreation Activities for the year 1996. 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 than the last name "Brown".

Raymond L. Brown  
Director of Recreation

## 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

## PART-TIME RECREATION CENTER

1. Robert F. Kennedy Recreation Center	Elmhurst
--	----------

## 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. Stephen Almagno Pool- 675 Plainfield Street
7. Zuccolo Recreation Center- 11 Gesler Street

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### EVENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

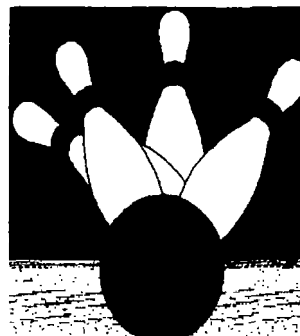
The Providence Recreation Department offered an "Evening in the Neighborhood." These events were held at each of the city's pools with close to 2,000 people attending. These evenings offered the Puppet Workshop, the 17 Piece Night Life Orchestra, and a cookout that featured hamburgers and hot dogs, and chips and beverages.

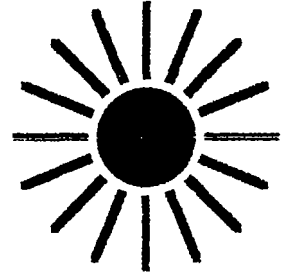
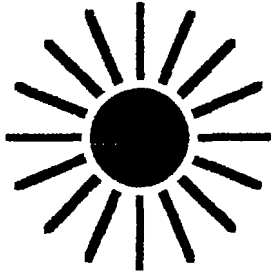
### LEARN TO SWIM

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

### IN SCHOOL BOWLING

The Providence Recreation Department sponsored an In School Bowling at all our recreation centers. This was done in conjunction with East Providence Lanes and Lang's Bowlarama. Equipment was provided by the bowling allies.





## FOX POINT WATER PARK

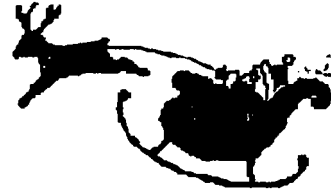
The Fox Point Water Park was open July 1, 1996 through August 30, 1996. Youngsters in the area had a place to cool down, play games, and enjoy a lunch every day between the hours of 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Nearly 40 children visited the park each day.

## 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. Some of the programs offered include Arts and Crafts, movies, free lunches and soccer. Also, special performances were given by local artists every Wednesday evening.



## 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, well over 300 people were treated to a Haunted Hayride in Glensfarm, Portsmouth during the last week of October. In some cases, centers went to Dr. Terror's Warehouse of Horror.

## NORTH POLE CALLING

The Department of Recreation held its 8th Annual North Pole Telephone Calls from "Santa Claus". Each year a Providence elementary school is chosen to participate in the program. This year's school was Robert Bailey Elementary School. Calls were made to some 60 children in grades Kindergarten to 3rd from the Recreation Department between the hours of 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm the week before Christmas. The calls were made by volunteers who would ask the children about school and their behavior during the year.

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Last year, the Department of Recreation sent children from various recreation centers to see a performance of A Christmas Carol at the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence. This year, 15 youths from the Rogers Recreation Center were invited to see the show and a good time was had by all.





## 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

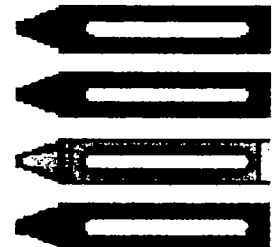
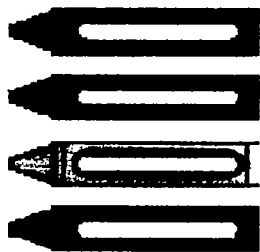
This popular class is offered at the Neutaconkanut, Joslin, and Rogers Center. The instructor Eddie Silvestre has studied modern dance and acrobatics for years. He has even appeared on Club MTV. The youth are very enthusiastic about sharing their street moves in a structured environment. Approximately 75 youngsters participated in this program.

## ART AND CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Close to 45 children from the Davey Lopes and West End Recreation Centers are the host to classes in art and creative movement. Instructor Walter Ferrero is an exceptional artist who has been very successful in involving the most difficult youth in creative art projects.

## 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 the third year of this successful collaboration, the Carriage House offers a variety of Art Programs free to Providence Recreation participants. Such programs include ballet, modern dance hip hop, flipping, African Dancing, circus arts, Latin American Dance, etc. Dorothy Jungles, Creator of the Carriage House School and of the National Acclaimed EDT, recently received a Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award from Senator Pell. The Recreation Department is grateful to have been able to have our children from the Recreation Centers involved in this program.



## EDUCATIONAL SHOWS AND WORKSHOPS

Educational shows and workshops were offered at the Davey Lopes, Zuccolo, Vincent Brown, and Joslin Recreation Centers. The shows encourage children to consider such things as how flight was created, how machines work and the relationship between art and science. Approximately 140 children enjoyed these performances.

## 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 movies at the Castle Theater, swimming at Providence College Pool and soccer and basketball clinics.

The Tuesday Evening Performances series included the following:

July 2nd - Kaleidoscope Theater - Pocahontas  
July 9th - Everette Dance Theater Body of Work  
July 16th - Cookout and Tap Dancer Brian Jones  
July 23rd - Perishable Theater - The Potion  
July 30th - The Wright Brothers - Flight  
August 6th - Acrobatic and Breakdancing Show  
August 13th - 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 21, 1996, the Department of Recreation held its annual Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr. Inter Swim Meet at the Angelo Zuccolo Memorial Recreation Center in Federal Hill. All seven of the city's pools sent teams to compete in the races. Rogers Recreation Center, despite only having 7 children show up, won the meet for the fourth straight year. The second and third place teams were Zuccolo and Joslin, respectively. Some of the winners from Rogers were Socorro Cronan in the 14-15 year olds, Audrey Torrez in the 11 and 12 year olds, and Cidmarie Torrez in the 10 and 11 year olds.

## 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. 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. Because of this age group, a Teen Council was formed so that they could have input in the daily program for this age group. 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.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

January 1996	Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program
February 1996	African Drumming Group Prime Time (math, engineering, and science studies) Bowling at East Providence Lanes USA Skates
March 1996	Providence Cobras Youth Indoor Track Meet Boston Celtics vs. NJ Nets at the Fleet Center Community Blood Drive
April 1996	Field Trip to the University of Rhode Island Project Peer (youth groups from the training school)
May 1996	Family Day at Billy Taylor Park
June 1996	Teen Night
July/August 1996	Town Teen (Adolescent Health Education) Conflict Resolution Workshop Looking Glass Theater Hershey Youth Track Meet Field Trip to Post Office

September 1996	Center closed for painting and gym floor refinishing
October 1996	Teen Night Halloween Party The Rhode Island Children's Crusade New Games and Adventure Based Education Initiative Program
November 1996	Providence Cobra Youth Cross Country Meet The Wright Brothers Cultural Diversity Seminar Teen Night
Sports Teams	Boys Basketball 11-12: Recreation Dept. League 15-18: Inner City League Indoor Track Boys and Girls 8-14 Cross Country Boys and Girls 8-14 Outdoor Track Boys and Girls 8-18

Holy Name Basketball Boys and Girls Teams 12 and Under  
Mount Hope Cowboys Football Boys 6-7, 8-10, 11-12, 13-14  
East Side YMCA Boys Basketball 12-14

## 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, 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, Capital Youth Soccer Association, Mexican Soccer League, Olneyville Housing Corporation, St. Thomas CYO, the Providence School Department, Olneyville Community Police, Joslin Buba-Ball Basketball. At the Joslin Recreation Center, a new program entitled COZ (Child Comfort Zone) has been operating with great success.

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, and the Joslin Swim Team which placed 3rd at the City Swim Meet.

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.

## NEUTACONKANUT RECREATION CENTER

The Neutaconkanut Recreation Center is located in the Silver Lake area of the city. 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.

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. Lunches are available from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm through the Summer Food Service Program.

## 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, the N.A., the H.B.A., and other various organizations for meeting and banquets.

There are two boys basketball teams that are currently playing in the Hassett and Tavares Basketball Leagues and there is one girls team that competes in the Pawtucket Boys and Girls Club League

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

## ROGERS-SELIM RECREATION CENTER

Monday through Friday, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, children in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade come to the Rogers-Selim Recreation Center to participate in activities such as basketball, checkers, and card games. On Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-15 children are transported by a recreation van and brought to the 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. In the evening, children from the ages of 13-18 years old come to play basketball.

Beginning in June of 1996, the Asian Basketball League was founded in the city. Rogers Recreation Center is represented by a team sponsored by state representative John McCauley. During the Halloween season, the staff and 55 children went to a Halloween Haunted House in Fall River, Massachusetts. Everyone had a great time.

During the summer, the activities at the swimming pool were a huge success. The 1st 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. Ribbons and medallions were given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers with the remaining children receiving honorable mentions in the form of a ribbon or a certificate. At the annual city swim meet, Rogers Recreation Center took the 1st place gold medal with an unprecedented all female team. 275 nutritional lunches were provided daily by the Summer Lunch Program.

## ZUCCOLO RECREATION CENTER

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. Deputy Director Steven Piscopiello won the contest. The Recreation Center has begun an Arts and Crafts program for children under the age of 15. The children hang their unique pictures on the walls of Zuccolo.

During the summer, Zuccolo Recreation Center was host to the Annual City Swim Meet. Recreation Centers from all over the city sent teams to Zuccolo to compete against each other and Zuccolo finished third in the all around.

## DAVEY LOPES RECREATION CENTER

Davey Lopes Recreation Center has hours of 9:00 am to 9:00 pm during the winter season. The Community Prep utilizes the gym from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. From 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Frank Rose, its director, welcomes the neighborhood children. Anywhere from 75 to 100 children use the gym for different programs. Davey Lopes also houses the only indoor pool in the city. Children use the pool and the rest of the facilities six days a week.

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 1996

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

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 eleven teams, is for boys ages 13 to 14. Both teams have playoffs and championships, however the Tavares League plays a twelve game schedule while the Hassett league only plays a seven game schedule. On Saturday mornings, the Tavares League games were played at the Joslin Recreation Center while the Hassett League games were held at the Neutaconkanut and West End Recreation Centers. The League Championship games were held at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center.

### 1995-1996 Tavares League Final Standings

Joslin	7-0	League Champion	Joslin
West End	6-1	Runner Up	West End
Neutaconkanut	5-2		
Olneyville	3-4		
Vincent Brown	3-4	Playoff Champion	Joslin
Project Outreach	3-4	Runner Up	West End
Chad Ad	1-6		
Davey Lopes	1-6		

### 1995-1996 Hassett League Final Standings

Joslin	6-1	League Champion	Joslin
West End	5-2	Runner Up	West End
Davey Lopes	5-2		
Project Outreach	4-3		
Neutaconkanut	4-3	Playoff Champion	Joslin
Smith Hill	3-4	Runner Up	Davey Lopes
Olneyville	1-6		
Vincent Brown	0-7		



## BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Boys High School Basketball League for 1996 played a ten 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, Hendricken, Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Moses Brown, PCD, and Wheeler. The teams were coached by high school coaches and the games were officiated by interscholastic referees. The regular season champion was Hendricken with Moses Brown coming in second.

## GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Providence Department of Recreation's Girls High School Basketball League for 1996 also played a ten 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: Bay View, Cranston East, Johnston, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pilgrim, Ponaganset, Smithfield, St. Raphael, and Toll Gate. Like the Boys League, the Girls are coached by high school coaches and games are officiated by interscholastic referees. St. Raphael's was both the division and the playoffs winner with Ponaganset coming in second in both categories.



## MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE 1996 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.

Johnson and Wales was host to the finals with Gellers from Fox Point playing 8 Deep from Bucklin. 8 Deep was victorious with a score of 110 to 80.

## MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE 1996 WOMEN'S LEAGUE

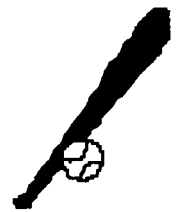
This year was the third season for the Providence Midnight Basketball Women's League. This League, whose games are played at Neutaconkanut Recreation Center, was made possible by the joint efforts and cosponsorship of the Providence Department of Recreation, the Rhode Island Attorney General, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and Citizen's Bank. The League hosts women over the age of 17 and teams are made by a lottery. The finals were held at Johnson and Wales with the Lady Hornets defeating the Lady Suns by a score of 69 to 62. All trophies were donated by Citizen's Bank.

## CO-ED ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE - 1996

The Co-Ed Adult Volleyball League, now in its seventh season, currently has eight teams in the league. They are John Hope East, The Providence Center, Cal Blue, Intense, Fighting Irish, Dig This, Bar One, and John Hope West. 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: John Hope East  
Runner Up: Providence Center

Playoff Champions: Cal Blue  
Runner Up: Rookies



## 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 1996 Mayor's Cup tournament:

Girl's Major League: B-Love Construction - Silver Lake/Olneyville  
Girl's Senior League: Rialto Furniture- Mount Pleasant  
Boys Major League: Bonnett Studios - Mount Pleasant  
Boys Senior League: New York System - Silver Lake Olneyville

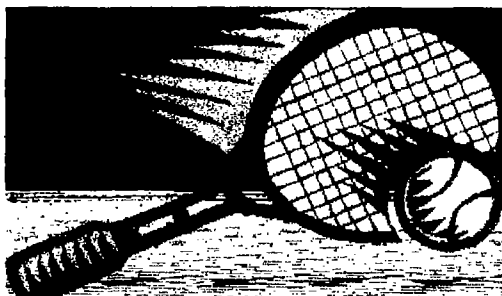
## COURT BUDDIES

The Providence Court Buddies Tennis Program conducted its second season during the summer. Approximately 150 children took part in the five week program and the sessions were held at different sites throughout the city in an effort to have at least one session per week close to the homes of most of the Providence children. The sessions were held five days a week. Due to the construction at Rhode Island College this summer, sessions were held two days per week at Providence College and Hope High School and one day at Roger Williams Park.

The New England chapter of the United States 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.

The program ended with a "Tennis Carnival" which was funded by the USTA. The carnival was held at the Roger Williams Park Tennis Courts and all the students from every site attended. The children played a number of games in which they were able to test their new skills. The carnival concluded with a pizza party and every child was given a T-shirt, a can of tennis balls, and a prize. Ms. Eileen Rose was the USTA official who worked with the department and arranged for the T-shirts and tennis carnival prizes.



## HERSHEY YOUTH TRACK AND TRACK 1996

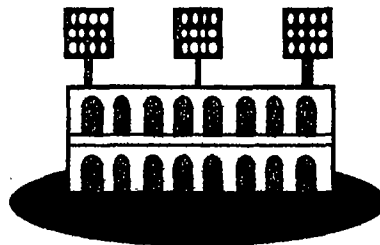
The 1996 Providence Recreation Department Hershey Youth Track and Field Meet was held on July 1, 1996 at City Stadium in Providence. Forty-five youths ages 9-14 participated in the City Championship, 25 of which advanced to the State Championship.

The State Championship was held on July 10, 1996 at Cranston West High School. The children from the Providence Recreation Department had a great State Meet. They won 8 gold, 2 silver, and 5 bronze medals. 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.

## THOMAS SPANN

Thomas Spann, founder of the Midnight Basketball League, was chosen this past summer to carry the Olympic Torch and to light the Olympic cauldron in front of the State House. The Olympic Eternal Flame passed through Rhode Island on June 15 and 16 en route to its final destination in Atlanta for the 1996 Olympic Games. He was one of 26 Rhode Islanders selected by a panel organized through the United Way. The criteria for the search included outstanding volunteer work, serving as a community leader, role model or mentor; performing acts of generosity or kindness, and performing extraordinary feats or accomplishments.

Tom is the Director of the Vincent Brown Recreation Center, and also coaches track and field at Hope High School and Johnson and Wales.



## COLUMBUS DAY CROSS INVITATIONAL 1996

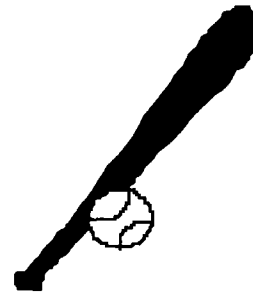
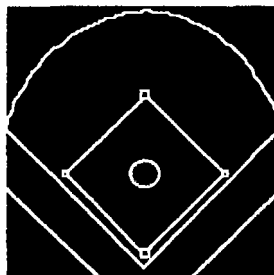
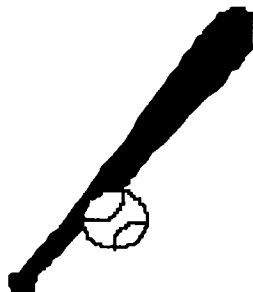
On Monday, October 14, 1996, the Providence Recreation Department sponsored its 52nd Annual Columbus Day Cross Country Invitational. This year's field consisted of 262 runners representing 12 high schools from across the city of Providence and the state. The schools included Classical, Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Coventry, Bay View, Scituate, Cranston East, Cranston West, Johnston, LaSalle, Moses Brown, Pilgrim, and North Providence. Competitions were held for both boys and girls in the categories of Freshman/Novice, Junior Varsity, and Varsity.

Those sponsoring the event were the RI Timers Guild and the Coca-Cola Company. In addition, the Charness Running Foundation presented prizes for the runners who were able to solicit the highest amount of donations on behalf of the foundation.

### Columbus Day Awards - 1996

EVENT	OVERALL	PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Boys Freshman/Novice Individual	Jeremy Eichhorn	Eric Demison
Team	Lincoln	Classical Hope
Girls Freshman/Novice Individual	Wans Lee	Wans Lee
Team	Classical Bay View	Classical Classical
Boys Junior Varsity Individual	Andre Costa	Andre Costa
Team	Classical Classical	Classical Classical
Girls Junior Varsity Individual	Jessica Kieluzak	Lisa Viaz
Team	Pilgrim Cranston East	Classical N/A
Boys Varsity Individual	Sam Colan	Eamon Dempsey
	Mt. Pleasant	Classical
John O'Shea Trophy Team	Cranston East	Classical
Girls Varsity Individual	Micheala Thompson	Ymil Jimenez
	Coventry	Mt. Pleasant
John O'Shea Trophy Team	Pilgrim	Classical

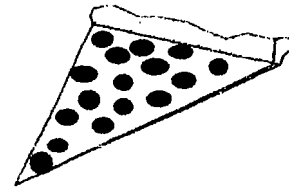
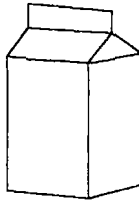
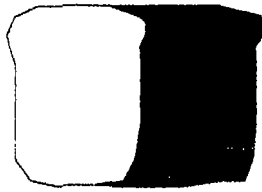




## A NIGHT OF TRIBUTE TO ROBERT URBANI

On Wednesday, May 22, 1996, the Providence Recreation Department held a celebration in honor of the retirement of Robert Urbani. Robert was the Deputy Director of Recreation from 1979 to 1996 as well as member/chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Persons with Disabilities, RI Amateur Baseball League Commissioner from 1975-1995, and member of the Board of Directors for the PARI Independent Living Center. Among his other accomplishments were Unsung Hero Award - PARI Rhode Runners (1976), USSSA New England Hall of Fame (1990), Latin American Basketball Appreciation Award (1992), and NYSCA Clinician of the Year (1996) to name a few.

Over the last 21 years with the Providence Recreation Department, Robert Urbani has displayed talents in working with youth, adults, and seniors in the area of leisure services. His philosophy of learning skills in recreation and sports and applying this to life has been of great benefit to all that he worked with and worked for. His dedication to all the citizens of Providence has been immeasurable and he will be sadly missed.



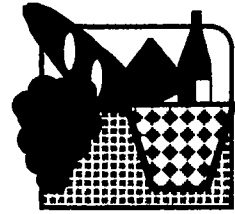
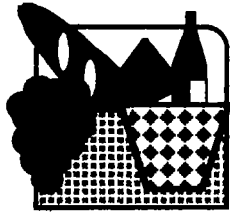
## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

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 fifty 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 125,000 breakfasts, and 325,000 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.



## MAYOR'S DAY IN THE PARK

Mayor Cianci's Senior Day in the Park was held on Thursday, August 8, 1996 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, coffee milk, and peanut butter crackers.

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, Memorial Hospital, Roger Williams Hospital, University of Rhode Island, and Arts and Crafts by Tessie Puleo.



## TRIPS TO CAMP CRONIN - 1996

The Department of Recreation, Senior Division has operated Camp Cronin over the past several summers. The Camp is located in Narragansett near the Point Judith Lighthouse, and is used primarily as a day camp for senior citizens. The senior's utilize Camp Cronin three days a week through the months of July and August.

### Camp Cronin Itinerary

9:00	Pick-up Seniors
10:00-10:15	Seniors arrive
10:15-10:30	Coffee and donuts (donuts provided by the Providence Fire Department)
10:30-12:00	Nature walks, bingo, and bus tour of Galilee
12:00-1:00	Lunch - (choice of box lunch or cook-out)
1:00-2:00	Entertainment provided by Bill Volpe and Nick Cannao
2:00	Departure time - stop at local ice cream shop
3:00	Arrive in Providence

For the past two summers, two days a week are reserved for youth groups (City of Providence pools and recreation centers). The youth groups are given a cook-out at Camp Cronin and then bused to Captain Wheeler State Beach to swim. Transportation is provided by the Department of Recreation, Senior Division.

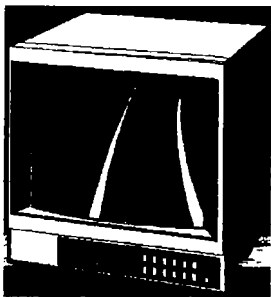
## PUBLIC RELATIONS

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 in 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 lighting of the torch by Vincent Brown Director Thomas Spann, the Annual Swim Meet, 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.





## PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT 1996 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. In June of 1996, the Department operated without the use of a second bus which was destroyed by fire. Numerous trips were either canceled or modified due to lack of a second school bus.

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRIPS	534
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	13,198
AVERAGE TRIPS PER DAY	2.2
AVERAGE TRIPS PER MONTH	47.5
AVERAGE DAILY PARTICIPANTS	25 PER TRIP
AVERAGE WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS	275
VEHICLES IN USE	50 Passenger Bus 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 1997 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 1996 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.



## **“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 1997 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.