

DIRECTOR



Department of Recreation  
"Building Pride in Providence"

MAYOR



Vincent Brown Recreation  
438 Hope Street  
273-2390

January 28, 2003

Joslin Recreation  
17 Hyat Street  
456-1778

Mr. Michael Clement  
City Clerk  
Providence City Hall

Robert F. Kennedy Recreation  
195 Nelson Street  
854-9127

Davey Lopes Recreation  
227 Dudley Street  
331-2912  
831-8665 (Fax)

Enclosed please find copies of the Recreation Department Annual Report. I have enclosed 1 copy for your records and 15 additional copies for the City Council Members.

Neutaconkanut Recreation  
675 Plainfield Street  
946-5134  
946-5134 (Fax)

Thank you,

Recreation Center  
One Recreation Way  
421-7740  
455-8860 (Fax)

Rogers-Selim Recreation  
60 Camden Avenue  
455-8854

Sackett Street Recreation  
159 Sackett Street  
455-8807

South Providence Recreation  
674 Prairie Avenue  
278-0518

West End Recreation  
109 Bucklin Street  
421-7740

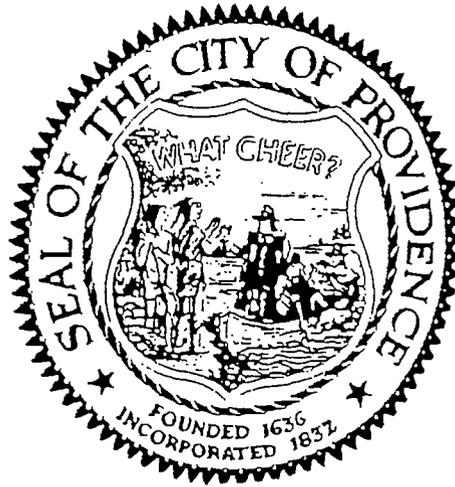
Zuccolo Recreation  
11 Gesler Street  
453-0588

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 6 2003

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Michael A. Clement* C. C. C.



ANNUAL REPORT 2002

***CITY OF PROVIDENCE***

***DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION  
ONE RECREATION WAY***

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

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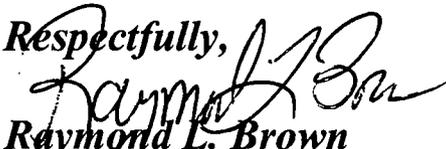
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*The Honorable Mayor John J. Lombardi  
Mayor City of Providence  
Members of the Providence City Council*

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

*It is again both an honor and privilege to present the 2002 Annual Report of the Department of Recreation for your perusal. Our Department is second to none in the field of leisure activities and I am very grateful to have shared this experience with fellow staff and yourself.*

*Respectfully,*  
  
*Raymond L. Brown  
Director of Recreation*

## **FULL-TIME RECREATION CENTER**

### **CENTERS**

- 1). *Vincent Brown Recreation Center*
- 2). *Joslin Recreation Center*
- 3). *Davey Lopes Recreation Center*
- 4). *Neutaconkanut Recreation Center*
- 5). *Selim-Rogers Recreation Center*
- 6). *Sackett Street Recreation Center*
- 7). *South Side Recreation Center*
- 8). *West End Recreation Center*
- 9). *Zuccolo Recreation Center*
- 10). *Robert F. Kennedy Recreation Center*
- 11). *One Recreation Way*

### **NEIGHBORHOOD**

- East Side/Mount Hope*  
*Manton/Olneyville*  
*South Providence*  
*Silver Lake*  
*Smith Hill*  
*West End*  
*South Providence*  
*West End*  
*Federal Hill*  
*Elmhurst*  
*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 Street Water Park*
- 4). *Joslin Recreation Center – 17 Hyat Street*
- 5). *Davey Lopes Recreation Center – 227 Dudley Street (Indoor/Outdoor)*
- 6). *McGrane Pool – Dexter Street*
- 7). *Selim-Rogers Recreation Center – 60 Camden Avenue*
- 8). *Sackett Street Water Park – Sackett Street*
- 9). *Zuccolo Recreation Center – 11 Gesler Street*
- 10). *Fargnoli Water Park – Smith Street*
- 11). *Al Carrington Water Park – Prairie Avenue*
- 12). *Pleasant Street Water Park – Pleasant Street*

## **SOUTH PROVIDENCE RECREATION CENTER**

*South Providence Recreation Center continues to grow under the direction of Cedric Huntley, the center located in Upper South Providence has once again implemented programs that addresses not only the recreational needs of the neighborhood but also the educational needs.*

*The Center just completed another successful summer program in which water-parks at Harriet & Sayles and Al Carrington Water Park serviced once again over 3000 youth and adults over the summer. The South Providence Recreation Summer Camp for over 45 youth age's 7-13 years old campers participated in various summer activities.*

*Field trips were a very popular activity for the youth of the South Providence Recreation Center this summer trips were made to the Zoo, Movies and State Beaches and many more locations.*

*We at the South Providence Recreation Center look forward to another successful year.*

## **ONE RECREATION WAY**

*We at the Recreation Department are proud to call the North End/Mt. Pleasant area its home. This satellite recreation center located off of Admiral Street gives the residents and their children a long awaited recreation facility.*

*During the summer months the children of the area have arts & crafts, organized sports activities and enjoy the playground area.*

## **DAVEY LOPES RECREATION CENTER**

*Davey Lopes Recreation Center has hours of 9AM-9PM during the winter season. The center, under the direction of George Lindsey, offers a variety of programs that include arts & crafts, hip-hop dancing and indoor swim lessons. An after-school homework club is once again this year a successful program. Students in grades 1 through 8 receive help Monday through Friday from 3-5PM. The center is also the host for several outside youth organizations who use the facility on a weekly basis.*

*Once again this summer 100-200 youth use the outdoor swimming pool, also offered are swimming lessons to various groups from across the city. Each day the youth of the neighborhood not only enjoy the pool but they also receive free lunch from the Summer Food Service Program.*

## **MADLINE-ROGERS RECREATION CENTER**

*The Madeline-Rogers Recreation Center located in the Smith Hill section of Providence once again had a very successful year. The staff of the center has made a strong commitment to the residents and the children of the Smith Hill area.*

*With the transformation of the game room to the Madeline-Rogers Learning Center the staff have been able to work with the youth in the community to enhance their learning skills.*

*We at the center strive to not only better the center and the programs it offers, but also the community and the residents it serves.*

## **ZUCCOLO RECREATION CENTER**

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

*The centers youth basketball team finished tied for first place in the Recreation Department youth basketball league. Other successful programs this year included the men's Whiffleball League and Home Run contest, 6 teams were involved with over 50 participants. Also very popular this year was the 4 on 4-basketball league sponsored by the Recreation Department.*

*Zuccolo Recreation Center is the home court for the Holy Ghost Hurricanes basketball team of the CYO, also utilizing the facility are Chambers Academy and the Federal Hill House just to name a few.*

*During the summer the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Federal Hill House Family Night cookout was held for families of the Community Center which 250 people attended. The Evening In The Neighborhood Cookout was once again a big success with 200 residents of Federal Hill enjoying music and food sponsored by the Recreation Department.*

*The swimming pool drew between 300-500 children daily with lunches served to all youth in attendance.*

## JOSLIN RECREATION CENTER

2002

*The Joslin Recreation Center is run by the Departments Senior Center Director William O'Brien. Winter programs are offered between 3:00PM and 5:00PM for youth ages 5-15 years of age, the programs include basketball, soccer, whiffleball, hockey, team scatter, arts & crafts, board games and field trips. Also the center offers a scatter ball team and hockey team in conjunction with the Providence Housing Authority. The Joslin Recreation Center also has a basketball team in the Recreation Department League on Saturday mornings.*

*The following organizations use the gym, Joslin Community Development Corporation, St. Pius CYO, Boys and Girls Rhode Island Bubba Ball and Capital Youth Soccer.*

*The summer program began July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the center offered various activities such as open swim to all neighborhood children and adults, swim lesson's, field trips and lunches are provided by the summer food program. 125 youth 18 years of age and younger were eligible. Special groups also use the pool facility, the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island used the pool from 10AM-Noon daily.*

*Once again the children of the community enjoyed several field trips, these trips included; Pawtucket Red Sox, Block Island, Camp Cronin, Battleship Massachusetts, Mystic Aquarium, Roger Williams Park Zoo and the State Beaches.*

## **VINCENT BROWN RECREATION CENTER**

*During the school year, the Vincent Brown Recreation Center offers the children in the Mount Hope/East Side community after school programs from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. The programs offered are activities that include homework help, swimming at the East Side YMCA, tabletop games, arts & crafts and field trips. In the gym, children play basketball, soccer, floor hockey, scatter, kick ball and capture the flag.*

*From 6:00pm-9:00pm, the teenage evening program was offered for boys and girls 13-18. Activities offered are basketball, volleyball, dances, movies, field trips and games.*

*During the summer, an eight week day camp was offered to boys and girls ages 6-12. The camp ran from 9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. Breakfast and lunch was provided by the Federal Summer Food Program. Field trips were taken once a week and swimming was everyday at the YMCA. We had 78 campers enrolled in the 2002 camp.*

*Mount Hope Tech is one of 20 programs nationwide that represents a five year five million dollar effort funded by World Com that will link schools and community based organizations with colleges (Brown University) to implement educational technology programs. Classes are held at the Vincent Brown Recreation Center Monday through Friday from 3:15pm-5:00pm.*

## **WEST END RECREATION CENTER**

***The West End Recreation Center staff, along with its center Director Jacqueline Shipp, have arranged a variety of programs and activities for the West End residents. Some of these programs and activities include: ping pong, volleyball, boys and girl's basketball teams, arts & crafts, table games, video arcade games.***

***Organizations that currently use the Recreation center for meetings or activities are: The Providence Plan, West Elmwood Intruders, West End Community Center, Hispanic Basketball Association, Latin American Sports Federation, Girl Scouts, San Miguel School, the Providence Public Library 4-H Club.***

***The West End Recreation Center along with Stop & Shop helped to feed 25 families in the West End for Thanksgiving. The Recreation Center purchased 25 turkeys and Stop & Shop donated all the trimmings.***

***The YMCA and the West End Recreation Center formed a partnership and held a free vacation camp from December 24<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. A free summer camp was held from July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> and serviced area youth ages 5-14 years old.***

***The West End Recreation Center helped to sponsor the Girls Youth Basketball Clinic, which was held at the Recreation Center from July 8<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>.***

***The West End Recreation is the home to the West End Tigers basketball team (2002 Champions 14-16 years old), and the home of the New Force Steppers.***

***The West End Recreation Center is located at 109 Bucklin Street. Providence Rhode Island 02907. Tel. (401) 421-7740 Ext. 324 & 325 Fax Number 455-8810.***

## **SACKETT STREET RECREATION CENTER**

*The Sackett Street Recreation Center under Director Raymond Smith attracts 80-90 children daily during the hours of 3pm-6pm and 40-50 children between the hours of 6pm-9pm.*

*Programs included basketball, girls dance, arts & crafts, homework sessions, theater, movies and library sessions. One of the programs that that Staff of the Center and the Recreation Department is most proud of is the Kids Café. This program is in conjunction with the Rhode Island Food Bank and feeds 80 children per day. Coming soon will be the Saturday morning breakfast program; this program presently runs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.*

*During the summer, the children of the community went on several field trips, these included; Newport, the Marine Museum in Fall River, and the Asian Heritage Celebration just to name a few.*

*Some of the organizations using the facility include, the Mexican Soccer League, Lillian Feinstein Girls Basketball League and Guatemalan Soccer along with several other neighborhood groups.*

*Once again the Staff of the Sackett Street Recreation look forward to its continued work with the children in the community.*

## **ROBERT F. KENNEDY RECREATION CENTER**

*2002 has brought many new and exciting recreational opportunities to the Elmhurst area. Open recreation is a popular concept and gives children a place to go during the cold winter months; children from the age of seven to fifteen are given the opportunity to use our facility with their peers. This year two of the many popular activities is the Recreation Departments Hassett League and the Summer Basketball League, which brought together sixty-five children ages 8-14 to give them the opportunity to sharpen their basketball skills in a safe competitive atmosphere.*

*Some of the outside groups that are presently using the facility are the Providence Intramural Basketball League, which registers hundreds of children. Also using the Recreation facility is St. Pius with the grammar school and midget leagues.*

*The summer months finds the Fagnoli Park and Kennedy Recreation Center quite busy with the Summer Lunch Program, Evening in the Neighborhoods cookout, entertainment and last but not least the Waterpark. The summer of 2002 was the first full summer of the waterpark. This wonderful facility gave city children relief from the summer heat, with a lot of fun in the process.*

*It was a great year for Kennedy Recreation and Fagnoli Park. We added a new waterpark, a competitive new basketball league and much more. We are all looking forward to building on this in 2003.*

## ***NEUTACONKANUT RECREATION CENTER***

***Under the direction of Ray Tessaglia, Center Director and Assistant Center Director Robert Sauro, the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center is open 7 days a week for various activities and outside groups. Open recreation daily from 3-5pm and 7-9pm. During the daytime weekdays the facility is used by several schools, and the Silver Lake Community Center. The gym is also the home gym for the Recreation Department sponsored Hassett and Tavares basketball leagues on Saturday mornings. A fall basketball and spring basketball league also are activities that Neutaconkanut sponsors. Sports Clinics are also held during most school vacations, which include basketball, baseball and soccer.***

***During the summer the pool is the main focal point, but the center also is home of the Recreation sponsored interscholastic boys and girls high school league. Also during the summer hundreds of area children benefit for the Summer Lunch Food Program on a daily basis.***

***We at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center are proud to be working with the residents of the Silver Lake area, and we look forward to another successful year.***

## ***SPECIAL EVENTS***

### ***EVENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS***

*Evening in the Neighborhood cookouts were held throughout the summer. All municipal pools as well as Fox Point Boys & Girls Club, George J. West Park, Ardoene Park, Billy Taylor Park, Regent Avenue Playground and Fargnoli Park enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, soda and chips provided by the Recreation Department. Entertainment included Twyce, puppet shows, DJ Music along with Y on Wheels, Pony Rides and the Circus Arts Program. The Parks Department also helped by cleaning and delivering barrels to the park.*

### ***NORTH POLE CALLING***

*Again this year the Providence Recreation Department in conjunction with the Robert Bailey 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 a great success.*

### ***SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS***

*Once again this year children across the city were treated to several field trips. Over 500 citywide youth had a special Halloween treat this year they attended Factory of Terror. Another very special trip for the youth in the city of Providence was to Sloop Providence/The Providence Heritage Maritime Foundation. A great time was had by all.*

## **WINTER CARNIVAL CLINICS**

*The Winter Carnival was held the week of February School Vacation, these clinics were held for boys and girls ages 8-16 with basketball and soccer offered. All clinics were held from 9AM-12PM. The host site for this clinic will be Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. Following the weeklong clinic a pizza party and T-shirts were given to all participants.*

## **TOYS FOR TOTS**

*Again this year the Department participated in the Toys for Tots program, this past Christmas arrangements were made for toys to be distributed at all the City Recreation Centers.*

## **SWIM MEET**

*On August 14, 2002 the Department of Recreation held its annual Mayor's Inter Pool Swim Meet at the Davey Lopes swimming pool on Dudley Street. Citywide pools entered swim teams that competed in several different swimming competitions. Ribbons and trophies were awarded, approximately 100 youngsters attended. This years overall swim meet winner was the Davey Lopes Recreation Center.*

## **WATER PARKS**

*The children of Providence once again ran through the sprinklers of the Fox Point, Sackett Street, Harriet & Sayles, Fagnoli Park and newly constructed Pleasant Street and Al Carrington. Each year the popularity of these facilities increases.*

## **USTA TENNIS**

*The United States Tennis Association in conjunction with the Recreation Department sponsored tennis lessons and competition at various sites around the City. Several city youths attend the United States Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport and they were allowed to observe the yearly tennis championship at the Newport facility.*

## **ARTS & CRAFTS**

*The Providence Recreation Department offered arts and crafts lessons after school at the Recreation Centers. This program gives the youth of the city the opportunity to showcase their creativity.*

## **DANCE WITH ME**

*The Providence Recreation Department offered young women an opportunity to learn Jazz and Hip-Hop dancing over the summer. The classes were held on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9:30AM to 11:30AM at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. Free lunches were provided for all those you attended the classes. Approximately 40 young ladies took advantage of this new citywide program.*

## ***HERSHEY TRACK AND FIELD 2002***

***The 2002 Providence Recreation Department Hershey Track & Field Meet was held on July 1, 2002 at Hope High School. 81 boys and girls age 9-14 participated in the city championship. 31 athletes advanced to the State Championships.***

***The State Championship was held on July 10, 2002 at Cranston West High School. At the state meet Providence won 8 Gold 5 Silver and 3 Bronze medals.***

***Anita Rogers of Providence advanced to the Nationals in Hershey, Pennsylvania in the 200-meter dash and placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thom Spann of the Providence Recreation Department was the male chaperon for the Rhode Island Team at the Nationals.***

## **COLUMBUS DAY CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL 2002**

***On Monday, October 14, 2002 the Providence Recreation Department sponsored its 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbus Day Cross-Country Invitational. This year's field consisted of 405 runners representing 18 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, Tollmen, Westerly, Cranston East, Smithfield, East Providence, Cumberland, Lincoln, LaSalle, Central, Johnston High School, St. Ray's, North Smithfield, Central Falls and Woonsocket High School. Competitions were held for both boys and girls in the categories of Freshman/Novice, Junior Varsity, Varsity and Special Olympics. Award Ceremonies for this special event were held at the Temple of Music at Roger Williams Park.***

## **BOYS YOUTH BASKETBALL 2002 SEASON**

*During the winter season, the Department of Recreation sponsored two citywide leagues. The Tavares League, which contains six teams, for boys ages 9-12, and the Hassett League, which contains eight teams for boys ages 13-14. Both divisions have playoff and championships with leagues playing an eight game schedule. On Saturday mornings, the Tavares League and Hassett League games were played at various Recreation Centers. Championship games were held at John Hope Settlement House with pizza and a buffet for children and parents of two leagues.*

### **HASSETT BASKETBALL LEAGUE (13-14)**

**CHAMPION:**                      *West Side Pride*  
**RUNNER-UP:**                 *Providence Housing Authority*

### **TAVARES BASKETBALL LEAGUE (10-12)**

**CHAMPION:**                      *Providence Housing Authority*  
**RUNNER-UP:**                 *John Hope Settlement House*

**BOYS HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE  
2002**

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

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

**GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE  
2002**

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

**MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE**  
**2002**  
**MEN'S LEAGUE**

*The Midnight Basketball League was co-sponsored 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: Fox Point, and Davis Park. Each team, wearing T-shirts donated by Citizen's Bank, sported 12 players per team. Citizen's Bank donated the trophies to the playoff champion and runner-up teams. The league offers an opportunity for people to get together to play basketball with friends, while for others, it's a great way to fine-tune the skills of players on their way to play on the college level.*

**MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE**  
**2002**  
**WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

*This year was the 8<sup>th</sup> season for the Providence Midnight Basketball Women's League. This League, whose games are played at Johnson & Wales University, was made possible by the joint efforts and co-sponsorship of the Providence Department of Recreation, the Rhode Island Attorney General and Citizen's Bank. The League host women over the age of 18 and teams are made by a lottery. All trophies were donated by Citizen's Bank.*

## **ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE 2002**

*The Adult Co-ed Volleyball League was held every Thursday evening at the Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. Eight Teams participated in the League. Trophies were awarded to the League and Playoff Champions. Congratulations to 2002 League Champions, Steadfast Construction.*

## **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 League. All teams participated in a round robin tournament. This years winner South Providence/Washington Park Little League Team, Ferguson Perforating.*

## **SAFETY PROGRAM**

*The safety program made a positive impact for the department in 2001-2002. Employees were given the opportunity to receive identification badges. First Aid Kits, building safety, safety presentations, safety signs, Red Cross presentations are some of the activities that have been taken place at the eleven recreation centers, 6 municipal pools and six water parks. Chlorine levels were checked regularly during the summer months to ensure the safety of all participants. The department is proud of the safety record of all recreational facilities over the past twenty years. We anticipate future activities to strengthen safety issues for many years to come.*

**THE PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
SENIOR DIVISION  
2002**

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

*Also included as one of the positive programs offered by the division, a long time favorite for many years, is the entertainment package provided upon request at local senior housing complexes, neighborhood community centers, and various social organizations. The entertainment includes both music and vocals and many times requested for special events such as those with a holiday theme and others such as talent shows that give local seniors an opportunity to demonstrate their performing talents. During the summer, activities include; daily trips to Camp Cronin, a facility in Point Judith owned by the city. Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays are set aside for Providence Youth who participate either at one of our department's recreation centers, or from one of the many community centers located throughout the city of Providence. In cooperation with the Mayor's Council on Disabilities, The Providence School Department, Commissioners Office and the Senior Division, provides an opportunity for youth with special needs to participate at the camp as well. Tuesdays and Thursdays are set aside for the Providence Senior population, who are members of senior community centers, local senior housing complexes and various other social organizations. During the day, entertainment, bingo, dancing, recreational activities and a scenic tour of Galilee. A cookout is provided for both age categories. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the Senior Division conducted "Seniors" Day in the Park at Roger Williams Park, where some 1,000 seniors attended. Continental Breakfast, entertainment of all types, box lunch and informational booths are part of the day's activities. The day is set aside to honor Providence Senior Citizens for all their contributions to the city throughout the years.*

*For the upcoming 2003 season, there will be new additional programs for the Providence Senior population. These programs will consist of social, cultural, and recreational activities. Beginning as early as October of 2002, our senior computer literacy program, which teaches the seniors the basics to operate a computer, is expanding cooperatively with the East Side/Mt. Hope YMCA, RSVP. The Senior Division is also exploring the possibility of golf and tennis instruction.*

## **MAYOR'S DAY IN THE PARK**

*Mayor's Seniors Day in the Park was held on Thursday, August 9, 2002 at Roger Williams Park from 9AM to 3PM. The day began with coffee and donuts supplied by Carl & Dave's catering and Dunkin Donuts (ADJ Donuts, Inc.) with lunch served at 12:00 Noon.*

*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, Rhode Island Society To Prevent Blindness, Talbot House, Providence Performing Arts Center, Providence Housing Authority, YMCA, Elmhurst Extended Care. Each booth provided the seniors with valuable information and free handouts that included everything from coin change holders to jar openers. Some of the booths provided raffle prizes that were awarded at the end of the day's events. Once again this year, the award winning dancers from Denise's Dance Studio in Johnston, Rhode Island entertained the seniors in attendance.*

*This year Stop and Shop Supermarket, Pepsi Bottling Company and Coca-Cola Bottling Company donated bottles of water, which the seniors needed due to the heat of the day. We would also like to thank these additional groups for all their assistance, they include; Verizon, Talbot House.*

*The days success is due to the collaboration of various city departments along with those mentioned. A special thanks to the Providence Parks Department for all their help with this special event.*

**CAMP CRONIN**  
**2002**

*The Department of Recreation Senior Division has operated Camp Cronin for over a decade affording both the young and elderly residents of the city the opportunity to visit this beautiful ocean front camp at Point Judith. New for 2002, Wednesday was added to the youth schedule joining Mondays and Fridays as days are set aside for various youth groups from the city recreation, as well as city community centers and children with special needs from the Providence School Department. This year marked the fifth season that the children with special needs have attended camp in cooperation with the Mayor's Council on Disabilities, Providence School Department as well as the Commissioner of Public Safety. Tuesday and Thursday were set aside for the Senior Population. Activities included cards, bingo, horseshoes, bocce and walks to the beaches as well as music, refreshments and cookouts.*

*This year marked the second year of the YMCA "Y on Wheels" program. This group of talented young entertainers danced and performed gymnastic routines for the seniors. Entertainment was highly successful once again with all the participants. The attendance for this year for 2002 is as follows:*

<i>Seniors</i>	<i>554</i>
<i>Youth</i>	<i><u>1,769</u></i>
 <i>Total Participants</i>	 <i>2,323</i>

*This year the attendance jumped by a total of some 429 more participants. Plans are being made to order more picnic tables and other items because of the increase in numbers.*

## *Today's Answers To Tomorrow's Questions*

*Beginning in February of 2002, the Senior Division of the Providence Recreation Department began a new speaking program titled "Today's Answers To Tomorrow's Questions" A series of talks were held on the third Thursday of each month. The program was designed to address the questions and concerns of the Providence Senior population. Topics included everything from consumer issues to those related to health.*

*The first scheduled speaking program was held in our new conference/activity room with the department providing transportation to and from the speaking program. After discussing the program with many of the city wide Senior Activity Directors, it was determined that these discussions would be more of a success if the program could be held at their particular center throughout the city of Providence. It later proved to be good advice, and because of the change of plans more seniors were able to enjoy the program and at the same time it gave the speakers the opportunity to meet more of the senior population in the city. We had found that many senior agencies were already doing such a program or one that was very similar. We went back to the drawing board and decided that we had a better chance to invite local and other celebrities that could talk to the seniors about an issue that they felt and we felt was interesting to them. As the year 2003, gets into swing we are hoping to include speakers from outside the state as well as those from within. Also for 2003 we hope to include speakers who can give some interesting history facts regarding the Capitol City.*

*During 2002 many speakers were invited to attend our Camp Cronin, some of those included Tom Kelly of "Kelly Vision" a local cable internet show. Tom actually filmed the seniors and the staff that day. The filming resulted in a program which aired on cable describing the Camp Cronin experience. Another special guest was representatives of the Rhode Island National Guard, who actually landed a helicopter in the open field and later let participants sit inside while they explained the components and their purposes. We felt it was better to surprise the seniors with only saying that we had surprise visitors, it later proved to be the right decision by the expressions on their faces.*

## **SENIOR COMPUTER LITERACY PROGRAM**

*This year marked the first year for the Senior Division Computer Literacy program. This was a great success considering the newness and the reluctance of some seniors to initially sign up for something that was a new adventure, running a computer. That philosophy has changed greatly and major goals when we first initiated this with our main co-sponsor Capitol RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) were met. We scheduled several classes that ran for approximately six weeks each, some ran a little longer because certain individuals needed more training time to better understand what the classes were trying to teach them.*

*The program instructs seniors with computer basics and the knowledge to use such software as Word Perfect (word-processing), Paint (self-art program for drawing) and others affiliated with Windows 95 and 98. We hope for funding Internet service at our lab site to begin lessons regarding Internet Service, it is one of great interest to the senior population. As a part of our success story with this program has been that some of our students now help with the instruction of new students and there are plans to use the computers for after school programs.*

*Our computer lab was one of some 4 located in the city of Providence and part of another 2 labs located in the cities of both Johnston and North Providence. All the site coordinators meet periodically throughout the year to discuss new ways of instruction and software to improve the program. Constant feedback from the seniors is noted and responded to when possible. Our department is currently looking to include this program with the East Side YMCA to offer the Providence East Side residents a recreational package, that will include, swimming, field trips, and walking programs for and the upcoming 2003 season. We hope to use this cooperative adventure to catalyze similar programs with other city agencies as well.*

**SUMMERFEST**  
**2002**

**PROVIDENCE ALLIANCE ON RECREATION AND CULTURE**

*This summer the Providence Alliance on Recreation and Culture in conjunction with the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet co-sponsored a summer time outdoor festival on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 12-5pm. There was free food, fun activities and entertainment for all ages. Some of the activities that day included carnival games, dance teams, informational booths, summer job fair, face painting, arts and crafts, DJ and dancing. The event took place at Conley Stadium, behind Mt. Pleasant High School.*

*The attendance was estimated at over 4,000 and was made up of youth and their families. It offered both alternatives to violence and to let them see first hand that they could be together and have fun, and to see how many city and non city agencies are available to them and the programs that they provide.*

*Providence Recreation Department played a major role by providing transportation to and from several sites throughout the city, contributing to the food concession stand, and by providing several staff members to help with the implementation and planning of the festival.*

*Plans are under way on making this an annual event. We are hoping that since this was very successful, that more agencies and organizations will participate in the future.*

**PROVIDENCE RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**2002 TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

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*During the 2002 season, the Providence Recreation Transportation program once again had an increase in participants and trips. With each center now having its own 15 passenger vans, the City is able to provide free transportation for the City's youth and elderly agencies. Transportation is available upon request and advance notification.*

**A YEAR IN REVIEW**

1). Total Department Trips	767
2). Number of Participants	23,503
3). Average Trips Per Day	3.00
4). Average Trips Per Month	63.91
5). Average Daily	81
6). Average Weekly Participants	452

7). **Vehicles In Use:**

- A). 2 - Handicap Accessible Buses
- B). 1 - 70 Passenger Vans
- C). 12 - Fifteen Passenger Vans

8). **Number of Drivers:**

- 1 Full Time Driver
- 1 Part-Time Driver
- 10 Recreation Center Directors

9). **Organizations affected by Services 85-135:**

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

10). **RECREATION CENTER FIFTEEN PASSENGER VANS:**

*Estimated Trips:	1,200
*Estimated Participants:	15,600

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

## **SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

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

*After school dismissal for the summer, the program ran for July and August. Meals were served at over 130 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 an established relationship with the Providence Journal Metro Edition and the Sports Desk. Departmental youth leagues, tournaments and special events are displayed in the local sports column.*

*On a quarterly basis, the department has an informational newsletter, which highlights the various programs from the previous months. Special events continue to be announced at neighborhood organizations, flyer drops are performed in prospective neighborhoods for specific events.*

*During the course of the year, the recreation department programs have been displayed in the Metro Edition section. These pictures highlight the numerous programs that take place during the course of the year.*

*Overall, 2003 continued a progression of increased media recognition for the department. By highlighting our popular programs that may draw interest from family members. We will continue to strive for extensive coverage for years to come.*