



2013 CONCORD ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

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Recreation Commission

Susanne Jarnryd, Chair

Lawrence Gordon

Peter Hunter

Jim Richardson

Peter Ward

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All of the Recreation Department's programs and services including the Beede Swim & Fitness Center operate without tax dollars on a user fee basis. The success of these programs and services enabled the Recreation Department to provide over \$200,000 in financial support to Concord families participating in the summer day camp, school age child care programs and as members of the Beede Center.

Friends and Partners

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Lamont Family for their continued support as lead sponsor of the Concord Open Golf Tournament. We are pleased to report that this year's even raised over \$31,000 for summer camp scholarships.

We would also like to thank Middlesex Savings Bank for their continued sponsorship of the Recreation Department's seasonal brochure which is mailed all residents of Concord and Carlisle in August and March.

Concord Carlisle Community Chest is a valued partner in providing scholarship funds for families participating in the summer programs.

Thanks to the following organizations/individuals for their support: the Silent Fund, Concord Women's Club, Picnic in the Park and a special note of appreciation to Tim Gaudreau – Alcott Physical Education Director for his generous donation from proceeds of the Annual Turkey Trot.

New Initiatives

In cooperation with the Cemetery Committee, the Commission has studied the existing Bylaw related to dogs in public areas. The current statute does not require owners to pick up after their dogs. Both the Committee and Commission would prefer making it a requirement and we would like to have dogs on a leash during summer camp hours at Emerson Playground. Plans call for a presentation at Annual Town Meeting and we will report the results of this discussion in next year's Town Report.

Under the direction of the Town Manager the Department is undertaking a Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan to gauge the community's vision for potential recreational facilities. The consultant's report will be issued next spring and we will report on the results in next year's Town Report.



Vivian Mulvany, Caroline Barton, Gracie Garofalo, and Teagan Piper participate in the Recreation Department Little Aces Tennis program

Beede Swim & Fitness Center

Opened in April of 2006, the Center celebrated its 7th year of operation this past April. Operating as an Enterprise Fund, the Center does not receive tax funding and relies solely on membership and programing fees to achieve the status of self-support. The Center is open 100 hours per week, 50 weeks per year and is staffed with approximately 60 full and part time employees. The Center is fully handicapped accessible.

Membership is comprised of approximately 3,050 Concord Residents and 1,094 users from surrounding communities. There are 1,950 memberships supporting approximately 4,154 total members. Member retention has been above the industry average.

183,325 people from Concord and surrounding communities used the swim

and fitness facilities at the Center -- an average of 15,277 visits per month or 523 users per day. This is a 2% increase over 2012.

The Beede Center continued to operate in “in the black” for FY13 adding to the fund balance for the 7th year. For fiscal year 2013, revenues were \$2,429,579 with expenses of \$2,385,361 resulting in a net income of \$44,218. The economic recession of the past 6 years has impacted the Beede Center’s membership. However, membership increased slightly from 2012.

The Beede Center remains true to its mission to provide the community with an affordable option for health and fitness. For 2013 there was a slight increase in the fee structure. The staff works hard to contain costs and provide a high level of service. Swim and fitness programs are open to all members of the community. Beede members receive 40% discount on fitness and swim programs.

The Center offers programming for all ages from infant swim lessons to adult water fitness; diving and use of the warm water therapy pool. The aquatics staff manages the Department’s youth swim team, the Concord Otters. The Beede Center is host to the Concord-Carlisle High School swim and dive team for both practices and home meets.

The Fitness Center offers both cardio and strength equipment with highly skilled and fully certified trainers. The equipment is well maintained and replaced every three to four years as needed. There are always trainers on duty to assist members. The trainers also offer personal training for those members that prefer a one-on-one training session.

The Beede Center is committed to conserving energy and going “green” whenever the opportunity arises -- a few examples are: cleaning products used at the Center are certified “green” products, the lap pool is heated at no cost from the heat generated by the dehumidification system. Waterless urinals were installed to reduce water consumption. A photovoltaic control system was installed to maximize use of natural lighting and to conserve energy. With a financial grant from the Sawyer Trust, the Beede Center has been able to implement two projects that will greatly reduce its energy consumption. Variable speed drives were installed on each of the 4 pools.

Efficient lighting was installed in the natatorium, lobby and stairwells. Significant reduction in energy consumption with considerable saving will be realized from both of these projects.

Pam Higgins, Assistant Recreation Director and Jon Straggas, Recreation Coordinator/Beede Center Facility Manager, are currently working on a significant project to improve the HVAC systems and install an automatic control command system which will provide the Town with a significant energy savings. When all these energy initiatives are complete, the Beede

Center should realize an overall 42% energy savings. We are grateful for the support of the Sustainable Energy Committee and especially to Charles Parker for his efforts in bringing these projects from idea to reality. This year's capital projects included: replacement of 6 computer workstations, online registration software, replacement of treadmills and phase 1 of the HVAC project,

Recreation Department Services

The Recreation Department provides programs for a wide range of ages from toddlers to adult. Major programs include school-age childcare, the Carousel Preschool, a variety of summer camps and clinics as well as youth basketball and skiing.

The Department produces community special events such as the Shamrock Ball/Parent Daughter Dance in March, the Minuteman Classic Road Race on July 4th, the 6th grade Halloween Dance in October and the Concord Open Golf Tournament in August. All of these activities are designed to support the summer camp scholarships.

For fiscal year 2013, the Department's program revenues were \$1,667,992. In 2013, the Recreation Department provided over \$200,000 in school year, summer program and Beede Center scholarships to Concord families.

Maureen Taggart Award

The 2013 award co-recipients were Peter Bailey Wells and Audrey Ng. This award honors young adults who have given exemplary service to their community. The recipient receives a monetary award as well as designating a charity to receive a monetary contribution. Peter's charity was One Fund Boston, Inc. and Audrey's was the CCHS/Pathways program.

Picnic in the Park -- July 4th



Back from left: Ann Lang, Michael Rudd, Nina Rose, Dot Higgins, Tina Browne, Tim Rose.
Seated from left: Sandy Folk, Lois Rudd, Karen

Ahearn, Frank Okurowski. Not pictured: Irme Doane

The weather for the Fourth of July Picnic in the Park was great this year with bright sun and a light wind. By 9AM the Picnic setup of booths, Moon Walk and other facilities progressed rapidly. With the light wind conditions, the REMAX Hot Air Balloon was able to fly for the second year in a row. It was aloft at 10 AM and flew for an hour offering rides for donations to the Concord Recreation Department. After an hour the wind increased, and due to a lack of strong arms to tether the balloon, it had to come down. The committee hopes for greater community support next year to enable this popular event.

Annalivia Cape Breton Band, Southern Rail Bluegrass Band, Peter Panic Juggler, and the Concord Band provided entertainment during the course of the afternoon. Jay Nulan also read the Declaration of Independence to the attendees.



Children using a real fire hose on the "burning house" at the Picnic

Frank Okurowski

The Picnic Committee organizes and obtains donations for the event, but it would not be possible to hold it without the invaluable assistance of the Town of Concord: Peter Flynn, Mick Hone and Marc Reardon from the Concord Public Works and Highway Departments provided valuable assistance for the booths setup and cleanup; the Concord Recreation Department provided walkie talkies; Concord Light Plant set up the electric power; the Concord Fire Department provided the popular "Burning House" with water hoses and the ladder truck elevated flag display; the Concord Police Department provided security services and the radar baseball toss. Rebecca Purcell and Stephen Bader organized the Field Games, and Bruce Barker was the Master of Ceremonies for the entertainment and raffle.



Crowd favorites Southern Rail Bluegrass Band playing at the July 4 Picnic in the Park.

The US Army National Guard Armory was not available since it is being converted to a museum and archives facility. The backup plan for additional rest rooms and a venue for the entertainment in case of rain was the Emerson Umbrella building. A number of volunteers provided the assistance on the 4th that is essential in running the event. These tasks include selling tickets, supervising the Moon Walk, conducting the raffle, and holding the Hot Air Balloon tether ropes.

The following corporate sponsors and private donors provided funds for the entertainment: Middlesex Savings Bank, Cambridge Trust Company, Salem Five Bank, McWalter Volunteer Insurance, Concord Lumber Company, Nichols Insurance, Dunkin Donuts Concord, and Gloria and Chuck Clough.

We again had a fund-raising raffle with wonderful prizes provided by local merchants. The following also provided in-kind support: the Concord Bookshop, the Concord Funeral Home, Crosby's Marketplace, Emerson Umbrella for the Arts, and RE/MAX Walden Country. In general, private citizen donor contributions, and additional financial contributions from corporate sponsors go to supporting the event and funding the entertainment. After all expenses had been paid, a donation was made to the Concord Recreation Department Summer Scholarship Fund. The Picnic Committee encourages the citizens of Concord to support Picnic-in-the-Park in terms of financial contributions and volunteer effort, on the committee or during the day of the event.

Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee



From left: Kevin Paulsen, Chair; Staci Bowen, Michael Benn, Joel Bohy, Keith Nelms, Claudia Curran. Not pictured: Colleen Giddings

Robert Cheney Photography

This Committee has the responsibility of organizing, coordinating and managing the celebrations sponsored by the Town of Concord. Celebrations for 2013 included: Honored Citizen Ceremony, March 24; Meriam's Corner Exercise, April 6; Patriots' Day Parade, April 15; Dawn Salute, April 19; Memorial Day Ceremonies, May 27; Veteran's Day Flag Retirement, November 11.

Honored Citizen

Each year since 1962, Concord has acknowledged the outstanding efforts of some very dedicated citizens at the Honored Citizen Celebration. The award to the Honoree is intangible --for the year of the honor, the citizen shall be the steward of the Boston Post Cane, and is invited to lead the Patriots Day Parade. In 2013, Ned Perry and Cynthia Wood were recognized as Honored Citizens for their longterm commitment to matters as diverse as culture, land preservation, infrastructure, finance, philanthropy, and elected office.



Katheryn Angell

Meriam Corner

This commemoration marks the assembly and actions of militia and Minuteman units that arrived at Meriam's Corner during the British retreat from Concord, April 19th, 1775. After the Regulars' withdrawal from the North Bridge, they began a retreat back to Boston. By the time the Regulars arrived at this spot at half past noon, there were reported to be about 1,100 Minutemen in the area from more than a dozen towns.



Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums performs the traditional music of the regimental fife and drum corps of American armies during the American War for Independence. Members are attired in uniforms that replicate the Continental Army.

Patriots' Day



Fenn School Band has been participating in Patriot's Day events since 1969! 44 years! Fenn is the only local student band that marches in the Patriot's Day Parade each year.

The Patriots' Day Parade covers a route of approximately 2.5 miles. Participants include musicians, Minuteman companies, color guards, cultural and youth groups and dignitaries from neighboring towns, the State, the nation and several foreign countries with ties to Concord.

At the North Bridge there is a ceremony to commemorate the engagement between the Minuteman companies and British troops with a wreath laying ceremony. The parade, in which the Honored Citizen has a place of honor, continues across the North Bridge and returns to Concord Center.



Minutemen from Concord and surrounding towns hold the Bridge in the ceremony marking the Concord Fight.

Robert Cheney Photography

Dawn Salute

Church bells at First Parish toll at 5:45AM to sound the alarm. “Dr. Prescott” arrives at the North Bridge after riding across the fields calling out the warning to towns and villages that the Regulars were on the march and their destination was Concord. The Concord Minutemen fire salutes and the Concord Independent Battery fires several volleys from Buttrick’s Hillside.



The Concord Independent Battery is entrusted by the Town of Concord with custody of the Town's two historic six-pound brass cannons and plays an active role in the celebrations of events surrounding April 19th as well as performing ceremonial functions on both joyful and solemn occasions.

Memorial Day

For some, beginning in 1775 and continuing today, responding to the challenge of citizenship has meant a period of service in the Armed Forces. More than 1,400 men and women from Concord went to fight in WWII and just about 300 each to Korea and to Viet Nam. Today, almost 1,000 veterans live in Concord. Memorial Day is Concord’s opportunity to honor the men and women who served our community and our nation in these wars.

Flag Retirement

The Flag Retirement Ceremony is traditionally held each year on Veterans’ Day and gives Concordians the opportunity to retire their American Flags in a respectful and appropriate manner.

The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee is grateful to the many who helped make the celebrations of 2013 so successful—Town officials, the staff of various Town Departments, CCHS Music, the VFW, the American Legion, the Concord Minutemen, the Concord Independent Battery, Middlesex County 4H Fife & Drum Corps and all participants. Once again, many thanks to the supportive people of Concord, Massachusetts.