

### *Capital Improvements*

The major capital improvement was the replacement of the Emerson Playground structure. The planning committee did an excellent job in their selection of the various play features and the structure has received overwhelming attendance on a daily basis. Plans for the replacement of the Rideout structure are in the Town Manager's capital budget in 2011.

The second capital improvement was the replacement of the pool pump at the Emerson Playground pool. The new system has provided significant energy savings.

### *Ripley Playing Field*

Friends of Concord Carlisle Playing Fields, specifically youth baseball, undertook the construction of a premier 60' little league field in October. Plans call for the completion of the project in spring 2010.

### *Maureen Taggart Award*

The 2009 award recipient was Shannon Dalton. 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. Shannon selected the Department's Summer Scholarship program as her charity.

## **PICNIC IN THE PARK**

Frank Okurowski, Co-chair  
Michael Rudd, Co-chair  
Ann Lang, Secretary  
Sandy Folk, Treasurer  
Robert Abraham  
Karen Ahearn  
Isabel Bailey  
Meg Gaudet  
Carol Harney  
Dot Higgins  
Marion Pohl  
Lois Rudd

After a dreary June, the sunny weather lifted everybody's spirits on the Fourth of July and we had a particularly joyous 28<sup>th</sup> annual Picnic-in-the-Park. Turnout was particularly strong this year. Entertainment was provided by Uncle Sam's Patriotic Jazz Band, Southern Rail, Benjamin the Juggler, and the finale by the Concord Band.

The Concord Public Works and Highway Departments provided valuable assistance in setting up the

event. Without them, this event could never take place. Support was also provided by the Concord Recreation Department, the Concord Light Department for the power, the Concord Fire Department for standby safety services and the exciting opportunity for youngsters to use authentic equipment to "put out a fire," and the Concord Police Department for security services, the radar baseball toss and K9 demonstration. Volunteers organized the Field Games and provided a great Master of Ceremonies.

The following helped sponsor the entertainment: The Cambridge Trust Company, the Middlesex Savings Bank, the Harold F. Nichols Insurance Agency and Gloria and Chuck Clough. The entertainment was also funded by the many private donations from "Picnic Backers" to whom we are extremely thankful.



*The United Women's Club is just one of many local non-profit organizations that participate in PIP every year.*

This year, for the first time, there was a fund-raising raffle with 27 wonderful prizes donated by businesses and individuals in Town. These prizes created a lot of interest in the raffle and contributed substantially to the excitement of the event. The following businesses provided in-kind support: the Concord Bookshop, the Concord Funeral Home, Concord Hand Design, Crosby's Marketplace, Emerson Umbrella for the Arts, The Grasshopper Shop, RE/MAX Walden Country and Rocky's Ace Hardware.

## PICNIC IN THE PARK (PIP) PHOTOS



*Children enjoying the New Life Obstacle Course at Picnic in the Park*



*Southern Rail entertains at PIP*



*Even Betsy Ross comes to a picnic on July 4*

## PUBLIC CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE



*Mark Merlino, Ruth Lauer, Wayne Busa, Co-Chair; Mary Fasano, Joel Bohy, Nancy Crowley, James Macone, Co-Chair. Not Pictured: Staci Bowen*

This Committee has the responsibility of organizing, coordinating and managing the celebrations sponsored by the Town of Concord. Celebrations for 2009 included: Honored Citizen Ceremony, March 15; Meriam's Corner Exercise, April 11; Dawn Salute April 19; Patriot's Day Parade, April 20; Memorial Day Ceremonies, May 25; Veteran's Day Flag Retirement, November 11. The observances are recorded in the photographs in this Annual Report.

### 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. When not in ceremonial use, the Cane is on display in the Concord Free Public Library for all to enjoy.

Selection of the Honored Citizen is based upon significant volunteer service to the Town and/or fellow citizens. As a long time resident of Concord, Shirley has been an election worker for more than 20 years, she has volunteered weekly at Emerson Hospital for more than 40 years, served on the Council on Aging board, and was the first employer for more than 200 youngsters over her