

## 2011– FINAL REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE (WCC)

The 43rd Annual Veterans' Parade and the Thirteenth Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, which included 20 events, were held over the weekend of Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22, 2011. For the thirteenth year the Annual Parade was a spring event rather than, as in the past, a fall event. For the second time in seven years the entire weekend was completed on schedule, as the weather cooperated perfectly.

The highlight of the Weekend, the Annual Parade, was dedicated "To Those Who Serve" with the 2011 theme being "**Wellesley Recycles—40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary--2011**". Seven individuals, who have been involved with Wellesley's recycling program from the beginning in 1971 to the present, were honored as Grand Marshals.

There were 124 Parade units recorded as entries and 19 bands and other musical groups providing music for the over 2,000 marchers, representing civic, military, militia, school, service, specialty and veterans groups. Additionally, 12 floats were entered, 10 of which received award recognition, with the Best School float going to the Upham School, which will hold the school trophy until the next Parade. An annual highlight for the past 17 years, that had each year added to the success of the event, --the fly-over of the Line of March Parade route--by a World War II aircraft, ended this year with the earlier death of the pilot.

The 20 events under the umbrella of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend actually started on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> with the 2011 Wellesley Kitchen Tour hosted by the Wellesley Hills Junior Woman's Club and on the afternoon of Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> the Annual Hunnewell School Fun Fair was held. In the evening an 18th Century Military encampment was set up on the hillside in front of Town Hall by the Royal Irish Artillery, who fired their cannons from noon on Saturday all day on the half hour, while tours were conducted showing how folks lived in Revolutionary times. This lasted until after the Parade on Sunday.

Saturday morning began with the Wellesley Rotary Club's Annual Pancake Festival from 7:30AM to 2:30PM at the Wellesley Middle School. A Bike Safety Day was held at the Tailby Parking Lot, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley. A "Dog Contest" was coordinated by the Board of Health, Wellesley Animal Control and the Natural Resources Commission at Warren School Park.

For the eleventh year, the Wellesley Trails Committee hosted a walk, which was held this year at the Town Forest.

From mid morning through late afternoon, numerous Open houses were held throughout town: for the twelfth year at the Wellesley Police Station, hosted by the Wellesley Police Department and for the tenth year at the main Wellesley Fire Station #2 on Route 9, hosted by the Wellesley Fire Department. For the sixth year the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant held an open house, showcasing the varying aspects of operation of the department and their new garage building.

The Wellesley Conservation Council held a "Build Your Own Fairy House" at the Cochituate Aqueduct and at the Main Library a musical entertainment, "Family Concert Flamenco Guitar" was held, hosted by The World of Wellesley and the Wellesley Free Library.

Saturday's events were completed at 4:00 PM with the Thirteenth Annual Veteran's Ecumenical Memorial Mass, hosted by the Wellesley Veterans' Council at St. Paul Church.

All day on Sunday the Annual Society Row White Flower Farm Tomato Mania Plant Sale was held at Elm Bank, sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM there was an Open House offering tours of the new Temple Beth Elohim.

At 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 22nd, the Wellesley Celebrations Committee, with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80's, started the 43rd Annual Veterans' Parade with a step-off of the Parade along Washington Street, continuing from the Wellesley Community Center, at the junctions of Routes 9 and 16, and ending just at about 3:15 P.M. over the Crest Road Bridge to the Tailby Parking Lot. This year the Parade was highlighted by two active duty military bands, the 319th U.S. Army Band from Brooklyn, N.Y. at the beginning and the Navy Band Northeast from Newport, R.I. at the end.

From 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM the 52nd annual Grace Knight Babson Fund for Religious Education program was held at Knight Auditorium on Babson College Campus.

At 5P.M. the Picnic in the Park at Hunnewell Field began, highlighted by a Hot Dog Supper hosted by the Wellesley Kiwanis Club and the Interfaith Community for Action in Wellesley (ICAW), with additional food coordinated by the Charles River Rotary Club. Rides for kids were available until dusk, including among others the "Moon Bounce", "Merry-Go-Round" and "Pirate Ship"; face painting and balloon twisters added to the festivities.

Then at 6:30 the Annual concert, this year featuring "The Reminisants" along with "The Dennis O'Gorman Irish Trio", continued throughout the evening until dusk.

At dusk, the Piece de Resistance of the evening, the final celebration of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend was the annual spectacular Fireworks display at Hunnewell Field, that went off without a hitch under perfectly clear skies.

#### Honorees of the 2011 Parade:

Grand Marshals---Wellesley Recyclers: (Recognizing 40 years of Recycling in Wellesley since 1971)

Martha Stone, One of the original organizers of Recycling in Wellesley, starting in 1971.

Mary Ann Cluggish, A member of the original Recycling group, starting in 1971.

Everett R. Kennedy, Director of Department of Public Works when recycling began (1963-1975).

Maurice "Pat" Berdan, Director of Department of Public Works, who expanded DPW's involvement in recycling (1976-1996). (Posthumously)

Gordon Martin, Superintendant, Wellesley Recycling & Disposal Facility (RDF) since 2000 and involved in program from 1978 to present.

Frank R. Hays, reactivated organization of and served as President of the Wellesley Friends of Recycling for many years since 1990.

Joan M. “Joany” Sasso, Coordinated rebirth as Head volunteer of the “Take and Leave” area at the Wellesley RDF, starting in 2005, when DPW had plans to close it down.

Distinguished Service Award—Stephen S. Fader, Wellesley’s Town Engineer, retiring after 29 years.

Chief of Staff— Robert H. Murphy, Long active in Town affairs and Colonel Air Force Reserve.

Dedicated Service Award—E. Martha Parks, Retiring DPW Customer Relations Representative after 25 years of service.

Community Service Award—Suzanne B. Newman, Retiring after 9 years of service on Wellesley School Committee.

Community Service Award—Stephen R. Burt, Retiring from 2 years on Wellesley School Committee, and formerly 14 years service on the Wellesley Recreation Commission, and a longtime Town Meeting Member.

Community Service Award—Rose Mary Donahue, Retiring from 12 years service on Wellesley Planning Board.

Special Recognition Award—Wellesley Bank, for providing Banking services to the Town of Wellesley for 100 years.

Special Recognition Award—Boy Scouts of America, for 100 years serving the youth of Wellesley.

Donations for this year’s events, received from citizens, local merchants, civic groups and service clubs and from many along the parade route and at Hunnewell Field, which amounted to \$34,123.82 from over 270 donors. A town appropriation of \$4,700.00 and the donations were all used toward the \$45,216.28 cost of conducting the 13th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the 2011 Annual Veterans’ Parade, covering fees of the bands, specialty units, transportation and the Fireworks.

Special thanks go to all of the members of the Wellesley Celebrations Committee who coordinated all of the activities of this year’s Wonderful Weekend: Mark Antonelli, Adele Beggs, Jim Bishop, Cathy

Brauner, Ted Coates, Carmen Cortese, Marcey DeChristofaro, Salvatore "Tory" DeFazio, Diane Duddy, Lindsay Ellms, Rowie Gray, George Johnston, Laurie Lizak, Richard MacIntosh, Missy McCarthy, Marlene Mihalsky, Gerry Murphy, Sarah Murphy, Irene Palmigiano, Debbie Reynolds, John Saunders, John and Dwin Schuler, Harold Sheldrick, Joellen Toussaint and Tom Ulfelder.

Many others helped, particularly from among Wellesley's wonderful town employees, including the Police and Fire Departments, the Engineering, GIS, Highway, Municipal Light Plant and the Parks and Recreation Departments, who unselfishly gave much of their personal time and energy in order to make this year's Weekend's events a success. Additionally, The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society once again offered invaluable help in coordinating the individual units from the start to finish of the Parade, through their communications network.

2011 was also the 300th birthday of the Town of Needham from which the Town of Wellesley seceded in 1881. Accordingly, the Wellesley Celebrations Committee joined with the Needham Tercentennial Celebration Committee and participated in two parades. A float depicting the Needham town seal with a sign attached, stating "*Wellesley (West Needham) Birthplace of Needham - 1711*" and reenacted by Wellesley residents was in our Wellesley Wonderful Weekend's annual Veterans Parade on May 22nd and the Needham 300th Birthday 4th of July Celebration Parade. Two Wellesley Selectmen participated in the Parade.

Additionally, the Town of Wellesley donated two American Elm trees and appropriate plaques in honor of Needham's 300th birthday. The Wellesley tree was planted on Walnut Street in the vicinity of the Benjamin Mills' Inn in Wellesley Lower Falls, the place where the Needham secessionists planned their separation from the Town of Dedham in 1711. The Needham tree and plaque was placed on the front lawn of the Needham Historical Society on Central Avenue in Needham.

An additional thank you goes to all the donors and sponsors; who each year come to the assistance of the Celebrations Committee; particularly the G. Drew Conway Family and Roche Brothers/Sudbury Farms Supermarkets for their donations; that made the fireworks display possible. All of their help is most sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Royall H. Switzler, Chairman  
Wellesley Celebrations Committee