

## 2012– FINAL REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE (WCC)

The 44th Annual Veterans' Parade and the Fourteenth Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, which included 23 events, were held over the weekend of Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20, 2012. For the fourteenth year the Annual Parade was a spring event rather than, as in the past, a fall event. The weather was bright and sunny for the third year in a row and all events were completed on schedule.

The highlight of the Weekend, the Annual Parade, was dedicated "To Those Who Serve" with the 2012 theme being "**Wellesley Celebrates Education**".

There were 129 Parade units recorded as entries and 18 bands and other musical groups providing music for the over 2,000 marchers; representing civic, military, militia, school, service, specialty and veterans groups. Additionally, 15 floats were entered, 10 of which received award recognition, with the Best School float going to the Hunnewell School, which will hold the school trophy until the next Parade.

The 20 events under the umbrella of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend actually started on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> with the 2012 Wellesley Kitchen Tour hosted by the Wellesley Hills Junior Woman's Club and on the afternoon of Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> the Annual Hunnewell School Fun Fair was held. A Masterworks Concert featuring the Wellesley High School (WHS) Performing Arts Department was held in the evening in the new WHS Katherine L. Babson, Jr. Auditorium.

Later on Friday 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 on the half hour all day on Saturday, 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 All-Day Pancake Festival at the Wellesley Middle School. Green Tours of the new WHS were held during the morning. A "Dog Contest" was coordinated by the Board of Health, Wellesley Animal Control and the Natural Resources Commission at Warren School Park.

For the twelfth year, the Wellesley Trails Committee hosted a walk, which was held this year around Morses Pond.

From mid morning through late afternoon, numerous Open houses were held throughout town: for the thirteenth year at the Wellesley Police Station, hosted by the Wellesley Police Department and for the eleventh year at the main Wellesley Fire Station #2 on Route 9, hosted by the Wellesley Fire Department.

The Wellesley Conservation Council held a "Build Your Own Fairy House" at the Cochituate Aqueduct and at the Main Library a musical entertainment, "Ricardo Frola's Ecology of Sound" was held, hosted by The World of Wellesley and the Friends of the Wellesley Free Library.

At 4 PM the new Wellesley High School dedication took place in the Katherine L. Babson, Jr. Auditorium.

Additionally, at 4:00 PM the Fourteenth Annual Veteran's Ecumenical Memorial Mass, hosted by the Wellesley Veterans' Council was held at St. Paul Church.

Saturday's events were completed at 6:30 PM with a Kids' Movie night at the new WHS Gym featuring a screening of "The Goonies".

All day on Sunday a Gardener's Fair was held at Elm Bank, sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

At 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Wellesley Celebrations Committee with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80's, started the 44<sup>th</sup> 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 at about 3:15 P.M. over the Crest Road Bridge to the Tailby Parking Lot.

From 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM the 53rd 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, with food provided by the Charles River Rotary Club and other food vendors. Rides for kids were available until dusk, including among others the "Moon Bounce", "Merry-Go-Round" and "Big Slide"; face painting and balloon twisters added to the festivities.

Then at 6:30 the Annual concert, this year featuring "The Reminisants" along with "The WHS 2 O'clock Jazz Group", continued throughout the evening until dusk.

At dusk, the Piece de Resistance of the evening, the final celebration of the 14<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 2012 44th Annual Wellesley Veterans' Parade:

1. Grand Marshals-**Brooks and Jeanie Goddard**— Long time Wellesley High School Educators and coordinators of WHS "Turn Out The Lights" program.
2. Distinguished Service Award—**Michael Eby**, Chairman and The Permanent Building Committee, Overseers of the new Wellesley High School building project and many other building projects over the last 20 years.
2. + Other members of the Permanent Building Committee--**Matt King, Steve Gagosian, Rob Shupe, Kathy Mullaney (PBC Administrator ) and Sarah Norwood.**
3. Chief of Staff— **Lorelei Kettendorf King**—Veteran and community activist.
4. Community Service Award—**William E. Charlton**, Retiring from 15 years on the Wellesley Board of Public Works and the Advisory Committee.
5. Community Appreciation Award—**Richard S. McGhee, Jr.**, Retiring from 20 years service as Chairman and President of The World of Wellesley, Longtime TownMeeting Member.
6. Dedicated Service Award—**Deputy Chief William G. Brooks, III**, Retirement as the Deputy Police Chief of the Town of Wellesley after 12 years.
7. Special Recognition Award—**Wellesley Trails Committee**, For the developing and coordination of trails and walks throughout Wellesley.
8. Special Recognition Award—**Girl Scouts of America**, for 100 years serving the youth of Wellesley.
9. Special Recognition Award—**Sisters of Charity**, In recognition of 125 years of dedicated and outstanding service to the general community.
10. Special Recognition Award—**Needham Bank**, In recognition of 120 years for providing Banking services to the Community at large.

11. Special Appreciation Award—Exceptional Auto Body, in recognition of providing trucks used in transporting bands through the Parade route for 10 years.

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 amounted to \$46,873.85 from over 260 donors. A town appropriation of \$4,700.00 plus the donations were all used toward the \$50,849.49 cost of conducting the 14th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the 2012 Annual Veterans' Parade, most of which was for 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, Salvatore "Tory" DeFazio, Diane Duddy, Lindsay Ellms, Rowie Gray, George Johnston, Pete Jones, Joann Jones, Laurie Lizak, Richard McIntosh, Missy McCarthy, Gerry Murphy, Sarah Murphy, Carl Nelson, Debbie Reynolds, John Saunders, John and Dwin Schuler 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.

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