

2014– FINAL REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE (WCC)

The 46th Annual Veterans' Parade and the 16th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, which included 25 events, were held over the weekend of Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18, 2014. For the sixteenth year the Annual Parade was a spring event rather than, as in the past, a fall event. The weather was bright as the Parade began and continued throughout the day.

The highlight of the Weekend, the Annual Parade, was dedicated "To Those Who Serve" with the 2014 theme being "**The 200th Anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner**".

There were 126 Parade units recorded as entries with 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, 12 floats were entered, 10 of which received award recognition. The Best School float trophy went to the Upham School, which will hold the award until the next Parade.

The 25 events under the umbrella of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend actually started on Saturday, May 3rd with the 2014 Wellesley Kitchen Tour hosted by the Wellesley Hills Junior Woman's Club and on the afternoon of Friday May 16th the Annual Hunnewell School Fun Fair was held.

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 (WMS). During that time the Needham Lion's Club Eye Mobile was stationed at the WMS for free eye exams. A "Dog Contest" was coordinated by the Board of Health and the Wellesley Animal Control at Warren School Field.

For the fourteenth year, the Wellesley Trails Committee hosted a walk, which was held this year around Morses Pond. The Wellesley Historical Society hosted a guided walk showing "The History & Development of Wellesley Square".

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

Additionally, the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant and the Wellesley Department of Public Works hosted Open Houses.

The Wellesley Community Art Project and Wellesley Women Artisans had an "Art in the Park" display all day long at Simons Park, which was left up for the following two weeks.

Because of heavy rain forecasts the Wellesley Community Center's all day "Wheels of Wellesley", car show featuring exotic, antique cars, motorcycles and bicycles was cancelled. (The only event of the entire Weekend that was cancelled, as rain did not, in fact, occur on Saturday.)

A display of Star Spangled Banner materials was made available at the Main Branch of the Wellesley Free Library for the entire Weekend and A Maypole Day & Open House was held at the Hills Branch Library.

The Wellesley Conservation Council held a “Build Your Own Woodland Troll & Fairy House” at the Cochituate Aqueduct.

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

In order to recognize Wellesley's support of the Boston Strong commemoration, recognizing those lost and hurt in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, a permanent symbol recognizing "Wellesley Strong", that had been painted on Central Street in 2013 was refreshed and redone at Abbott Street, on the Boston Marathon route, before the running of the 2014 Boston Marathon, by Alexander Golob, Joann & Pete Jones and Carl Nelson and others.

Early Sunday morning a Wonder Run 5K Race was run, hosted by the Wellesley Hills Junior Woman’s Club, starting at Wellesley High School.

Throughout Sunday a “Gardener's Fair” was held at Elm Bank, sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

At 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 18th, the Wellesley Celebrations Committee, under bright sunny skies and temperatures in the high 70’s, started the 46th Annual Veterans’ Parade with a step-off of the Parade, west along Washington Street, continuing from the Wellesley Community Center, at the junctions of Routes 9 and 16, and ending at about 3:20 P.M. over the Crest Road Bridge to the Tailby Parking Lot.

From 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM the 55th annual Grace Knight Babson Fund for Religious Education program was held at Knight Auditorium on Babson College Campus.

At 5:00 PM 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.

At 6:30 PM the Annual Concert featuring “The Reminisants” backed up by “The WHS 2 O’clock Jazz Group”, played until dusk.

At dusk the Piece de Resistance of the evening, the final celebration of the 16th Annual Wellesley’s Wonderful Weekend, a spectacular Fireworks display was completed, as a wrap up of the entire Weekend.

Honorees of the 2014 46th Annual Wellesley Veterans’ Parade:

Parade Grand Marshal	<i>Katherine L. “Gig” Babson, Jr.</i> In recognition of 3 terms of service on the Wellesley Board of Selectmen, 7 years as Town Moderator, 42 years as TMM, and many more community service endeavors.
Distinguished Service Award	<i>Albert S. Robinson</i> In recognition of 37 years service as Wellesley’s Town Counsel.
Chief of Staff	<i>Laurence D. Fitzmaurice</i> In recognition of service in the U.S. Marine Corps; service in Veteran’s programs, particularly Vietnam Veterans, community activist, and long term TMM.
	<i>Ronald F. “Chuck” Tiberio</i>

- Community Service Award** *In recognition of 42 years as a Wellesley High School math teacher.*
- Community Service Award** ***John Garland Schuler***
In recognition of 30 years service on the Wellesley Housing Authority, 62 years as TMM, and many more community service endeavors.
- Community Service Award** ***David Livingston***
In recognition of two terms of service on the Wellesley Board of Assessors, and longtime TMM.
- Community Service Award** ***Emmett O. "Neal" Seaborn, Jr.***
In recognition of 3 terms of service on the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission.
- Special Recognition Award** ***The Wellesley Club***
In recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the Club.
- Special Recognition Award** ***Wellesley College***
In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Great Fire which destroyed College Hall and the tremendous recovery that has taken place since.
- Special Recognition Award** ***Wellesley Junior Raiders Football Team***
In recognition of winning the national championship for 5th grade football teams in 2013.

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 \$48,689.79 from over 300 donors. A town appropriation of \$4,700.00, plus the donations, were all used toward the \$46,885.69 cost of conducting the 16th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the 2014 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, Laura Fragasso, Rowie Gray, George Johnston, Pete Jones, Joann Jones, Kyle Mackinnon, Richard McIntosh, Missy McCarthy, Carl Nelson, Debbie Reynolds, Eoin Shea, 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.

An additional thank you goes to all the donors and sponsors, who each year come to the assistance of the Celebrations Committee; particularly the Roche Brothers/Sudbury Farms Supermarkets and The Wellesley Dental Group, Dr's Ali and Ali, 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