

2010– FINAL REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE (WCC)

The 42nd Annual Veterans' Parade and the Twelfth Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, which included 19 events, were held over the weekend of Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23, 2010. For the twelfth year the Annual Parade was a spring event rather than, as in the past, a fall event. For the first 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 2010 theme being **"The 65th Anniversary of the End of World War II – Honoring The Greatest Generation"**. We had as our guests 56 men and women, who were WWII veterans, aged from 83 to 99, who were collectively this year's Grand Marshals of the Parade and who travelled along the Parade Route in special trolleys to the great delight of parade attendees and enjoyed a front row seat in Wellesley Square as the Parade descended upon them, with each band playing to them the hymns of the varying military services.

After the Parade was over a collation was held at The Milestone Restaurant, where each of the honorees was presented a memento of the occasion.

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, 12 floats were entered, 10 of which received award recognition, with the Best School float going to the Hunnewell School for the second year in a row, which will hold the school trophy until the next Parade. A fly-over of the line of March by a World War II aircraft added to the success of the event.

The 19 events under the umbrella of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend actually started on Saturday May 15th with the 2010 Wellesley Kitchen Tour hosted by the Wellesley Hills Junior Woman's Club and on the afternoon of Friday My 21st 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 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 Wellesley Middle School. A Bike Safety Day was held at the Tailby Parking Lot, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley. A "Tots and Tails on Trails" Walk and mini dog contest were coordinated by the Board of Health, Wellesley Animal Control and the Natural Resources Commission at Wellesley High School Football Field.

For the tenth year, the Wellesley Trails Committee hosted a walk, which was held this year on the Crosstown Trail.

From mid morning through late afternoon, numerous Open houses were held throughout town: for the eleventh year at the Wellesley Police Station, hosted by the Wellesley Police Department and for the ninth year at the main Wellesley Fire Station #2 on Route 9, hosted by the Wellesley Fire Department. For the fifth 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, "A Black Sea Salsa Concert" was held, hosted by The World of Wellesley and the Wellesley Free Library.

All day on Saturday the Annual Society Row Plant Sale was held at Elm Bank, sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

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

At 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 23, the Wellesley Celebrations Committee with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80's, started the 42nd 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.

After the collation honoring the Wellesley World War II Veterans was completed the 51st 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 that were topped off with free ice cream for all, donated by the Hood's Ice Cream Company.

Then at 6:30 the Annual concert, this year featuring "The Reminisants" along with "The Wellesley High School Jazz Combo", continued throughout the evening until dusk.

At dusk, the Piece de Resistance of the evening, the final celebration of the 12th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend was the annual spectacular Fireworks display at Hunnewell Field, that finally went off, without a hitch under perfectly clear skies.

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1. **Grand Marshals**-----World War II Veterans
2. **Distinguished Service Award**— Dr. Robert L. Evans, Director of the Human Relations Service, Inc. for 35 years.
3. **Community Appreciation Award**—Mary A. Duffy (posthumously), dedicated volunteer activities to Wellesley over many years.
4. **Chief of Staff**— Dr. Joseph Murray, Nobel Prize winner for first kidney transplant
5. **Special Recognition Award**—The Middlesex Savings Bank, for providing banking services in surrounding communities and Wellesley for 175 years.
6. **Special Recognition Award**—Tenacre Country Day School, for 100 years serving the youth of Wellesley.
7. **Special Recognition Award**—The Wellesley Country Club, for 100 years of service to Wellesley.

Donations were received from citizens, local merchants, civic groups and service clubs and from many along the parade route and at Hunnewell Field, which amounted to \$33,956.99 from over 290 donors. A town appropriation of \$4,700.00 plus the donations were all used toward the \$44,517.56 cost of conducting the 12th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the 2010 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, Jim Bishop, Cathy Brauner, Ted Coates, Carmen Cortese, Marcey DeChristofaro, Salvatore "Tory" DeFazio, Diane Duddy, Lindsay Ellms, Rowie Gray, George Johnston, Laurie Lizak, 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.

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