Inside This Issue

BayCoast Bank Donates To Basketball Courts .......... 2
‘Free Fitness in the Park’ A Huge Success ................. 2
Meet Our New Board Members .......................... 2
Operation Clean Sweep Partnership ..................... 2
Friends Pay Tribute To Board Member ................... 3
Friends Attend Downtown Basketball Event .............. 3
Maintenance of Park An Ongoing Project ............... 3
Fay’s Fundraiser Report .... 3
Artist’s Rendition ......................... 4
Board of Directors ................. 4

I read these words not too long ago and realized that, in fact, the Friends have been doing this since their formation in 1986.

Little by little, we are renewing Buttonwood Park as a haven where people can enjoy active and passive activities in a safe and natural setting. We follow our Master Plan that is based on design principles expressed in the original 1895 Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot Plan that are as relevant today as they were then.

Our park is thriving. Over the years we’ve raised millions of dollars through grants, donations, and thousands of hours of volunteer maintenance services for landscape improvements. Now we are concentrating on the active, recreational needs of our community with our ‘Buttonwood on the Move’ campaign. Our first phase of this campaign is to rebuild the basketball courts, and we are well on our way to seeing new courts next spring.

None of this would be happening without the outstanding support of all our members, friends, the city of New Bedford, and generous sponsors. We all make a difference, and for this I am eternally grateful. Thank you for trusting our vision of the future!

Anne Eades
President

STUDENT’S DESIGN BRINGS VISIBILITY TO ‘BUTTONWOOD ON THE MOVE’ FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

This past spring, Friends of Buttonwood Park placed a ‘donation barometer’ sign in the park at the head of Union Street— bringing greater visibility to the Buttonwood On The Move fundraising campaign to rebuild the park’s three basketball courts.

The design was submitted by Autumn Cyr, an award-winning student in the Visual Design Department at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. It was one of ten excellent proposals by students in the class.

The selection of only one design by the Friends was a difficult process, as all of the entries displayed immense talent and creativity.

The students, who are “encouraged to think like designers in the real world” by their teachers, worked under the guidance and supervision of art teacher, Nancy Ford, and Guy R. Shepherd, Coordinator of Arts, Communication, and Consumer Services.

Our thanks to the students and teachers at GNB Voc-Tech, Friends board member, Sharon Pinho, for initiating the project, board members Richard Leary, Louis Garibaldi, Frank Farrell, and Fred Beaumont for its completion, and the New Bedford Park Board for its approval of the placement of the sign.
For eight weeks this past summer, over 200 exercise enthusiasts of all ages enjoyed the benefits of physical exercise in a beautiful, natural environment at Buttonwood Park. The free classes included Hula Hoops, Boot Camp, Tai Chi, and Yoga. ‘Down to Earth Natural Foods For People and Pets’ in New Bedford was the main sponsor.

Friends’ board member, Jean Bennett, participated in the Tai Chi class and commented that “it was fun, very effective, and good for balance.” She is looking to join a regular class.

Organizers Catherine O’Berry and Laura Caton Broekel, owners of ‘Down to Earth,’ were delighted by the popularity of the program which involved partnering with the City of New Bedford’s Parks, Recreation & Beaches and the Friends of Buttonwood Park. Mary S. Rapoza, Director of the Parks Department, is hoping that this program can be replicated at other parks next summer.

After deducting expenditures, ‘Down to Earth’ will donate $2,000 to the ‘Buttonwood on the Move Campaign’ which is promoting healthier lifestyles through regular exercise. The Friends are grateful to the organizers and sponsors of the program, and are looking forward to a repeat of this success story.

Susan Grace has owned EncorENTERTAINMENT, an entertainment and event planning company, since 1986 which has expanded to include EncorEVENTS. She is also the Sales and Marketing Manager at Spinner Publications in New Bedford. Susan loves being in nature and bird watching, reading biographies and historical novels, and spending time with her family. She also started the Bartleby Scrivener Poetry Group that has met monthly for almost 20 years. As a former board member, and as the daughter of Ann Beaumont and step-daughter of Fred Beaumont, Susan is no stranger to the Friends or the park. She lives in Fairhaven with her husband, Rich Taber.

Dianne Logan has been a Dartmouth resident since 2002, when she moved to Bristol County from Pembroke, Mass. Dianne has been an avid gardener for years, is a former member of the Walnut Hill Garden Club, a one-time exhibitor at the New England Flower Show, and a confirmed ‘tree-hugger.’ Dianne works as an attorney with South Coastal Counties Legal Services in Fall River. She makes baskets and hangs out with her dog, Stella, in her spare time.

Raymond Castino is a life-long resident of New Bedford and worked in industry as an attorney and human resources executive for most of his career prior to retirement. As an avid gardener, he has enjoyed caring for the Lawler Library Reading Garden for several years. Ray says he is “honored to join the Board of Directors in assisting an organization of dedicated volunteers working to ensure the continuity of Olmsted’s vision for Buttonwood Park.” Ray has been married for 37 years and has 2 children.

The collaboration of the Friends of Buttonwood Park with Operation Clean Sweep on Saturday, May 18th was a great success. Both the Park and the West End Neighborhood were cleaned up due to this community effort. Volunteers were transported by two vans between St. Luke’s Hospital and Buttonwood Park. Refreshments were served, including Domino’s Pizza. Our thanks to the organizers and sponsors of Operation Clean Sweep. The Friends plan to partner with them again next spring.
At our September meeting, the Board of Directors paid tribute to board member, Thelma Baxter, in appreciation for her 7 years of service. Under her 'fearless leadership,' 90 trees have been planted. Thelma will continue to be responsible for the Commemorative Tree Program. Next spring, the board will plant a tree in her honor, and a plaque will be placed at the Lawler Library.

The Commemorative Tree Program is an eco-friendly way to donate in memory of a loved one, or to honor a special person. For more information, please email friends@buttonwoodpark.org

On August 10th, a group of Friends attended the 1st annual ‘Greater New Bedford 3-on-3 Summer Basketball Classic’ which was held outdoors in Downtown New Bedford.

The event was hosted by TrueBounce, Inc., a New Bedford-based manufacturer of the perforated basketball backstop, and organized by Downtown New Bedford, Inc. and the City of New Bedford. Among the participants were young people from the Greater New Bedford area and celebrity players that included Mayor Jon Mitchell’s team playing against city police officers and firefighters.

It was a great opportunity to support this event and the city while promoting our ‘Buttonwood on the Move’ campaign to rebuild the basketball courts.

The Board of Directors thanks the Friends and community volunteers who were hard at work this past spring and summer as weather conditions favored invasive weeds that threatened to take over some of the loveliest areas throughout the park.

Board members Susan Barnet, Thelma Baxter, Jean Bennett, Frank Farrell, Richard Leary, Lorraine Perry, and Sharon Pinho purged weeds in the Buttonwood Brook Buffer Garden. In the Lawler Library Outdoor Reading Area, board member Ray Castino added new plantings and continues to maintain this lovely spot. Board member Andrea Harrison added hostas to the base of the Arboretum sign. She and Susan look after the Holocaust Monument plantings. Several board members and Maureen Fanning, one of our most dedicated volunteers, have worked on the new, hydrangea bed west of the Greenhouse. Thelma and Andrea also weeded at the corner of Brownell Avenue and Route 6, while Anne Whiting generously donated additional plantings to this visible area. Marilyn Saint-Aubin and Chuck Cotter annually prune the forsythia bushes.

Once again, the Whaling City Festival crew cleaned up the Warming House beds, trimmed the plantings, and spread new mulch. Workers from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court Community Service Program spruced up the Lilac Garden, and board member Cecelia Porche lined up Tree Keepers from the District Attorney’s office to water newly-planted trees. Thank you, all, for your community involvement.

Join us for the fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie as we work to keep Buttonwood Park beautiful!

Our thanks to Peter Grace who initiated the fundraiser to benefit the Friends of Buttonwood Park at Fay’s Restaurant in Dartmouth this past June in memory of his mother, Ann ‘Dinny’ Beaumont. A musical performance by ‘Peter & Friends’ contributed to the evening’s entertainment. Peter also donated the proceeds of the sale of his CDs. We also thank Fay’s for hosting the event and generously donating a portion of the day’s proceeds to the Friends.
Friends of Buttonwood Park is a 501 (c) (3) all-volunteer non-profit organization established in 1986

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- President.....Anne Eades
- Recording Secretary.....Sharon Pinho
- Corresponding Secretary.....Lydia King
- Treasurer.....Laura McLeod

Susan Barnet, Thelma Baxter, Fred Beaumont
James Beauregard, Jean Bennett, Danielle Calaway
Ray Castino, Frank Farrell, Marie Fontaine
Louis Garibaldi, Susan Grace, Andrea Harrison
Richard Leary, Dianne Logan, Florence Novick
Lorraine Perry, Cecelia Porche

**MISSION/PURPOSE STATEMENT**
The mission of the Friends of Buttonwood Park is to serve as stewards of the park in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted. In this capacity, our purpose is to provide recreational activities amidst premier horticultural and zoological displays in keeping with the Olmsted vision of open spaces for the relaxation and healthful enjoyment of our urban population.

**www.buttonwoodpark.org**
friends@buttonwoodpark.org

**GREAT PARKS MAKE GREAT CITIES**