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FORFP to Host Red Sox/Yankees Telecast Friday, September 30

Back by popular demand, FORFP will be hosting a telecast of a Red Sox/Yankee game on September 30th. All you baseball fans should come up to the park to cheer on the home town team as we go for another World Series title! 7:00 p.m.

If your company is interested in sponsoring this event or providing a matching gift, please contact Jen at jenjenroth@rcn.com. This is a tax deductible donation.



Shakespeare in the Park

Photo by Judy Leich

Robbins Farm Almanac . . . the newsletter of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park

Park Update: A summary of current events

Join FORFP for our Annual Field Day – Saturday September 10 (Rain Date, Sunday September 11) from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Come one, come all for FORFP's popular Field Day event! Usually hosted in the spring, this year Field Day will take place in the early fall. Join us for old-fashioned races (3-legged, egg on the spoon, sack race etc.), a moon walk, face painting, a park nature scavenger hunt, and yummy refreshments.

As always, FORFP is looking for volunteers to help make this event a success. Please contact Jen at jenjenroth@rcn.com to volunteer for a shift. This is a wonderful and fun way for you to give back to our park community. In addition, Arlington High School students can earn community service credits.

Summer Movie Nights Are Big Success!

The two summer movie nights hosted in July and August were both big successes! In July, a crowd of over 200 folks munched on popcorn and enjoyed the baseball flick "Sandlot." Our August movie night attracted another large crowd for "Because of Winn Dixie."

"We were really pleased with the turnout at both our summer movie nights," said Beth Girioni, a FORFP board member who volunteered at the events. "We were very lucky with the weather and it was great to see so many people out enjoying a movie under the stars."

FORFP is very grateful for the sponsorship provided by Assurant Healthcare which helped to fund our second movie night. The rental of the screen/sound system and the operation of the movie cost approximately \$1,000 to produce. We are pleased to report that we raised \$500 through refreshment sales and individual donations. A "big thanks" to all who contributed and allowed us to put on these fun events!

We have been working on a number of changes at the park over the summer months. Many of you probably noticed all the beautiful, newly planted trees around the park. There are a number of them down in the playground area and three up along Eastern Avenue adjacent to the ballfields.

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CHARITABLE GIVING AND OUR PARK....

The numbers tell a story...FORFP treasurer Jim Thompson's financial statement for January–July 2005 shows gift income of \$2,420. and dues income of \$790. Why the discrepancy? In addition to generous gifts from citizens, the Park has been the recipient of both cash gifts and

gifts in kind from corporate donors. More than one FORFP member works for a company with an excellent matching fund—Corporate P.A.C. (political action committee) donations can be directed to local charities, and the company will match them. One gift of \$1,000. from Assurant has been directed to covering movie night, a favorite August evening activity. A matching gift was

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Fall digging—spring bloom

Bring along your “heavy duty naturalizing tool” (shown below) or any other bulb digger to help with fall bulb planting. Bulbs such as this poet’s narcissus (above) are on order for fall planting on Oct. 22.



A Message from our President, Roly Chaput

Fall 2005

Thinking about the wonderful activities we’ve already had this Summer at Robbins Farm Park and of those yet to come, I’m quite impressed with the level of general town use and how the community takes advantage of such a great resource here in Arlington. There are movie nights. There is a Red Sox game. There is Shakespeare! And of course there is our July 4th celebration with a chance to see and hear the Boston Pops! How very different the audiences can be for each of these happenings! To me, that’s what’s so good about the Park. It’s a place for everyone with varied interests and desires. It certainly gives the Board of Directors a feeling of accomplishment and a desire to do more. So keep your eyes and ears open for other events at Robbins Farm Park during the year!

We may want to call this the “Year of the Trees at Robbins Farm”. Already we have planted eight new trees in key locations around the park. They were supplied to us in various ways such as part of the town’s “Adopt-a-Tree” program or from outright gifts from friends and members. In addition, we have spent time this spring and summer cutting down unwanted trees, especially behind the baseball backstop. Thanks to the efforts of several FORFP members, we have been able to control the unrestricted growth of invasives and better cultivate good, attractive plants in that area.

In addition, Oakes Plimpton and his “History and Landscape” Committee has been working on plans for some landscaping and signage up near the cement oval outlook area on top of “Boston Hill”. We look forward to the approval of this wonderful project by Arlington’s Park and Recreation Commission since it further enhances the beauty of the park and makes it a more attractive spot for those who come to enjoy the view.

As always, I want to ask readers to be aware of potential vandalism at the park and to report any suspicious activity to the local police department. A simple phone call will bring the cruiser up shortly and quickly puts a stop to activities that might be detrimental to the park.

Finally, a word about membership. Like any organization, the goal of the Friends is to keep growing and make the park more of a partnership between members and the community. Our membership is always open, quite reasonable (\$10.00 per year – with a special book bonus at Town Day) and welcoming to everyone. One of our core values states: “Robbins Farm Park is a special community resource. It should meet the needs of all of its citizens as a place for gathering, for solace, for peace and for recreation. It should serve the needs of all age groups and interests.” I strongly believe that this core value is better interpreted when an active, growing and diverse membership is participating in making the park available to the whole community. I trust you agree.

Have a great and glorious balance of the summer and look for other happenings at Robbins Farm Park. Also, look for our booth at Town Day this Fall. We will be there to tell you more about the Friends and all that is great about Robbins Farm Park!

NATURALIST’S CORNER – Fall Cleanup and Bulb Planting

Once, towards the end, farmer Nathan Robbins rented out his fields to a flower grower, who grew gladiolas. Now, the flowering crabapples that have been planted over the past two years intentionally remind us of the flowering apple orchard from Farmer Robbins’ time.

This spring, look for naturalized plantings of daffodils, tulips, chionodoxa (“Glory of the Snow” and grape hyacinths, all selected from the top quality grower and wholesaler, Van Engelen, Inc. Come out on October 22 to help plant bulbs and do some fall clean-up.

Send an email to:

Vanderspek@comcast.net

for more information.

There is the possibility for community service credits for high school students—inquire with the AHS community service coordinator to confirm that it’s OK.

Thanks to our volunteers!

Thanks to the Following Volunteers!

A warm “thank you” to the following individuals who have generously donated their time at our many summer events including the 4th of July, Friday Night Flicks, and Shakespeare in the Park:

Lisa Antonecchia, Susan Bernhard, Lillian Coles, Marianne Comeau, Will Dramstad, Aimee Fox, Sara Galantowicz, John Gould, David Greene, Sue McHugh, Doug and Joan McCalmont, Rob McInnes, Diane Meirowitz, Leslie Ouellette, Judy Petrie, Marlene Rockmore, Jack Rogers, Joel Sachs, Stephen Scott, and Melanie Wisner.

Thanks for all your hard work!

Thanks to All our Board Members!

Board members are on hand at many events and do much behind the scenes work arranging for events, food, publicity, vendors, donors, police details, park maintenance, T-Shirts, newsletters, web site, etc.—the list is long and varied!

Sandy Carmichael, Kim Cayer, Roly Chaput, Sharon Days, Beth Girioni, Liza Gleason, Don Kalischer, Christian Klein, Judy Leich, Helene Newburg, Jim Miller, Oakes Plimpton, Jen Rothenberg, Mike Smith, Jim Thompson, Corinna Vanderspek, and Marianne White.

And a special note of thanks to outgoing Board Member Kim Cayer and outgoing Membership Secretary Helene Newburg for all their hard work.

Park Update, cont'd. from page 1

Thanks to our many FORFP board members who have been watering the trees throughout our hot summer months. They all look very healthy and happy.

There is one tree in the median along the path that didn't survive from the original renovation two years ago. The contractor should be replacing that tree sometime this fall.

Where is the see saw?! Our board had many discussions about the safety of this see saw and concluded that it was unsafe based on its size and the fact that it was located in the “tot lot” section of the playground. Therefore, we recommended to the Parks and Recreation Department that it be removed. The FORFP board voted and decided to purchase a new, 4-seat, spring based see saw. It was delivered recently and we are making arrangements to have it installed this fall.

We have also purchased two new trash receptacles which will be installed on either side of the playground entrance off Eastern Avenue. Please remember to use them!

And last but not least we have two new literature racks up on the kiosk. Check them out!

FALL SCHEDULE of EVENTS:



Cut out and post on your refrigerator!

DATE: **EVENT:**

Sept. 10 (Sat) Field Day 2:00 TO 4:30

Sept. 11(Sun) (Rain date for Field Day)

Sept. 17 (Sat) Arlington Town Day visit the FORFP Booth—for updates, hats and t-shirts

Sept 30 (Fri) Watch the Red Sox play the Yankees outdoors on the big screen, under the stars.



7:00 p.m.

**Oct. 22 (Sat) Fall Clean-up and Bulb Planting
10:00 to 2:00**

Oct. 23 (Sun) (Rain date)

BECOME A FRIEND OF ROBBINS FARM PARK!

™

Receive the newsletter mailed to your home and support the events, activities and projects that make the park a great place in all seasons. See the booth at Town Day or contact the membership secretary by email at:

friends@robbinsfarmpark.org

YOU CAN WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

™

Stories, suggestions or brief letters are welcome in this newsletter. Please e-mail: friends@robbinsfarmpark.org with your ideas.



P.O. Box 750013
Arlington, MA 02475

Robbins Farm Almanac . . . the newsletter of the
Friends of Robbins Farm Park, Inc.

email: friends@robbinsfarmpark.org

website: www.robbinsfarmpark.org

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received from a member who works for Gillette.

If your company has a charitable or matching program, FORFP can provide a letter stating that we are a 501-C-3 non-profit corporation.

Additionally, many companies donate in kind. Staples had donated printing, asking only that we credit their contribution in fine print on the bottom of posters or flyers. Dunkin Donuts has donated boxes of hot chocolate.

And the jumbo screen that we enjoy fourth of July fireworks on has been a donation. These companies deserve our recognition and thanks for contributing to our community!



Robbins Farm Almanac is a quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of Robbins Farm Park. We welcome and encourage your suggestions for articles. Please write or email to the attention of the editor. If you would like to become a member, write or email the membership secretary at friends@robbinsfarmpark.org

Officers 2004-2005

Roly Chaput, President

Christian Klein, Vice-President

Jim Thompson, Treasurer

Sandy Carmichael, Clerk

Mike Smith, Membership Secretary

Oakes Plimpton, Founder/Historian

The Friends of Robbins Farm Park, Inc is a community organization formed to promote the beautification, restoration, improvement and maintenance of Robbins

Farm Park in Arlington Heights, Massachusetts.

FORFP is a charitable, not-for-profit 501-C-3 corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

We sponsor and promote cultural, educational, recreational and other community activities throughout the year. We invite active membership in the organization and seek to represent the Robbins Farm Park community.

Monthly meetings of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Jefferson-Cutter House in Arlington Center. Anyone may attend.

Don't forget to renew your membership to keep receiving the Almanac. Our fall issue contains the Fall Events Calendar.