



FRIENDS OF STARK PARK

Volume 4 Issue 1 Spring 2008

OUR MISSION:

To develop, revitalize, maintain and protect the heritage and recreational use of Stark Park as an historic asset of the City of Manchester.

FRIENDS OF STARK PARK

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P.O. Box 1485

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Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, June 22nd at 4:00 pm at Stark Park

The Windham Community Band

The 45-member Concert Band entertains audiences with a wide range of music: traditional, contemporary, and Pops. The band plays a full summer concert schedule at venues such as the Hampton Beach Sea Shell, York Beach in Maine, and Nashua's Greeley Park. We are thrilled that they will be making their first appearance in Stark Park and hope this will be the first of many.

Bring your lawn chairs and come join us.

RAIN DATE Sunday June 29th at 4:00 pm

Next Garden Tour June 2009

Those of you who enjoyed our Friends of Stark Park Garden Tour last year will be disappointed to know that we have reached a decision to hold the tour every second year. Therefore, our next tour will be in 2009. We have some exciting new gardens which will be ready next year. We will keep you advised of our plans and hope to provide you with a wonderful tour next summer.

Update on the Bandstand

We continue to have very positive responses to our Bandstand proposal. A site has been selected (hopefully, the red flags will remain in the park outlining the spot, which you can see as you drive by on River Rd...between 3rd & 4th entrance), we have met with the neighbors to make sure they are happy with the plan, have submitted our plan to the Board of Mayor and Alderman for their final approval, and are having specs drawn up so we can go out to bid for the construction. A committee is being formed to oversee and manage all the steps to this exciting project. A committee to manage the Bandstand and the Summer Bandstand Program and work with the City of Manchester is also being formed. If you are interested in serving on either of these, please contact us at kitr2124@comcast.net.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Deborah Grant, a founding member of The Friends of Stark Park.

Most of you have seen our wonderful Mounted Unit in Stark Park or on the streets of Manchester. The Mounted Unit has been with the Friends of Stark Park right from the beginning. When we were working on the Master Plan for the park, Sergeant Kevin Kincaid, then head of the Mounted Unit, and Officers Scott Tardiff and Todd Boucher attended our meetings and offered their wisdom and suggestions on how to make Stark Park a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

The Mounted Unit was formed in 1999. The officers in the unit now are Scott Tardiff and Marc Lachance with their trusty steeds Shorty and Valor. What most of us in Manchester do not know, is that although the salaries of the two police officers in the Mounted Unit are paid for by the City, most of the other expenses for the horses, and to maintain the unit must be raised through donations. Grain and shavings for the stalls, as well as vitamins and other necessities are donated by generous benefactors. The stable area at YDC is also donated and is a great fit for the horses as it is near the city center and has the security and safety needed. The Mounted Unit will soon be a S. 501 (c)(3) Not for Profit Corporation, known as the Friends of the Manchester Mounted Patrol. If you or anyone you know is in a position to make a donation, either financial or "in kind" please contact the officers by email at officers@mpdmountedunit.com or by telephone at (603) 668-8711. Also visit the excellent website at www.mpdmountedunit.com. There is even a section "From the Horse's Mouth" which children and other horse lovers will enjoy.

Thank you, Kevin Kincaid

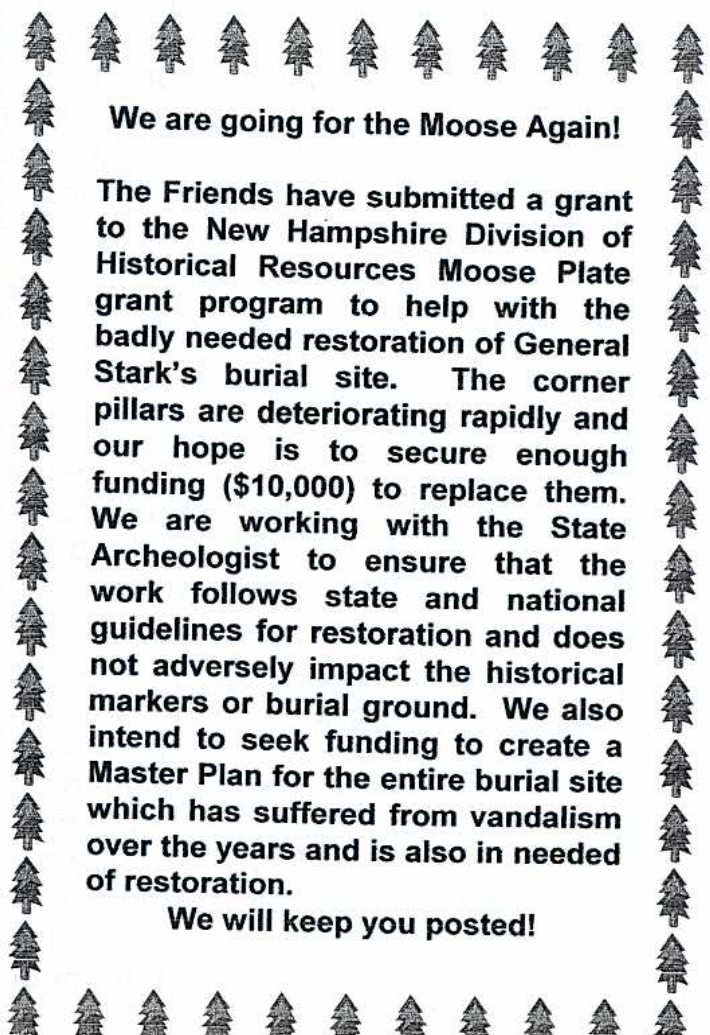
We also want to wish Sergeant Kevin Kincaid all the very best on his retirement. We know that he won't be far away and we hope to see him often. Thank you, Kevin for all that you have done for the Friends of Stark Park and the City of Manchester.

Street Sale Extravaganza II

Remember that amazing street sale back in Sept, 2005? FSP raised \$5,000 for the National Register Project, people cleaned their houses and incredible deals were had by many. Thayer Street was awash with furniture, tables and people Well, we are back at it and hoping to raise another \$5,000 for the bandstand. It is scheduled for late September so start your tidying.

Winter in Stark Park meant sledding this year! With all the snow, families dressed in snow gear hunted for the perfect spots for sledding. One of those spots was Stark Park. At any given time parents and children could be seen flying down the hill towards the lower field. We thank City Year for their work last summer in clearing that area of the park.

It was exciting to meet parents sledding with their children and to find out that they used to sled at Stark Park as children. So next year on those snowy days, remember to try Stark Park for sledding.



We are going for the Moose Again!

The Friends have submitted a grant to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Moose Plate grant program to help with the badly needed restoration of General Stark's burial site. The corner pillars are deteriorating rapidly and our hope is to secure enough funding (\$10,000) to replace them. We are working with the State Archeologist to ensure that the work follows state and national guidelines for restoration and does not adversely impact the historical markers or burial ground. We also intend to seek funding to create a Master Plan for the entire burial site which has suffered from vandalism over the years and is also in needed of restoration.

We will keep you posted!

Spring Egg Hunt

On March 22nd, the day before Easter, we welcomed approximately 1000 people into Stark Park for our Third Annual Spring Egg Hunt. Over 6000 plastic eggs were filled with candy by our volunteers and hidden in the snow. We are getting used to these snowy egg hunts, and it doesn't seem to slow the children down at all. We had the Central High School Key Club and their mentor Todd Libby, as well as Boy Scout Troop # 91 to help us in so many ways. They hid the eggs, roped off the 'hiding areas' and guided the children to the proper areas. It was cold and windy, but very sunny, and a good time was had by all. The Mounted Unit was there and they were surrounded by admiring children and adults. Our "special guest" the Easter Bunny was there, too. This is really becoming a wonderful tradition in Manchester, and is free to all. We realize that there were a few problems with making sure that each child got enough eggs. We will post some guidelines next year to make sure everyone has a good time and the eggs are shared by all. We want to thank our generous sponsors Fairpoint Communications, Pappy's Pizza, The Wine Studio, Hannaford's, The Puritan Back Room and Citizen's Bank.



Boy Scout Troop - 91
Assists
FSP Easter Egg Hunt

front: Tommy Anderson,
Aidan Manning, Tony
DiBiasio, Ryan Nichols, Nick
Boire
back: Mike Anderson, John
Magnuson, Drew Anderson,
Tyler Carlisle

Below
Central High School
Key Club
At the Easter Egg Hunt

Holiday Paperwhite Sales

This was a HUGE success Thank you to those who purchased our bags of Paperwhite bulbs. So far, we have had great feedback on the quality, price and delivery process. We netted just under \$1,000, which we have allocated to start our Bandstand Fund. We intend to do this again this November and December and hope for your continued support.



FRIENDS OF STARK PARK
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A WELL HEAD AND FRONT DOOR-STONE ON RIVER ROAD EXPLAINED

All that remains of the John Stark farmhouse, built in 1768 just north and next to Stark Park are the well and the door-stone. On the night of Dec. 20, 1865 some of the boy inmates at the Reform School set fire to one of its buildings. The old Stark Mansion, then empty, was used to house many of the boys and not long after the year 1866 dawned they proceeded to burn it down.

-Researched by Dick Duckoff

Park Street entrance to Park Closed

In keeping with our Master Plan, FSP worked with the city and Alderman Mark Roy to close the lower park entrance off Park Street. This cuts down on the traffic on this residential street and will be an additional discouragement to unseemly lower park activity. We see many more people picnicking and walking in that area. Many thanks to Alderman Roy and the City of Manchester Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Dept.



**Pat Howard with Shorty and Valor
and
Officers Scott Tardiff and Marc Lachance
at the Annual Spring Egg Hunt**