



PROSPECT HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION

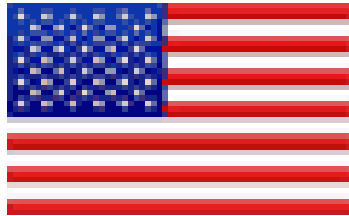


Milford, Mass 01757 ♦ www.prospectheightsmayors.com

Mayor
Alfred Andreola



1987—1988







Portuguese Picnic, Parade To Mark 55th Year This Weekend

By EILEEN VIGLIANTE
Daily News Staff

MILFORD — It's that time of year again for the Portuguese community to kick up its heels and welcome everyone to its annual picnic and parade this coming weekend.

Now in its 55th year, the two-day celebration will begin Saturday at 3 p.m. with a picnic at the Portuguese Club grounds at Prospect Heights. The picnic will run until 1 a.m.

Sunday activities will start at 2 p.m. at Town Hall with a parade that will cover a two-mile route down Main Street and Water Street back to the picnic grounds. The merriment will continue until 9 p.m.

No celebration is complete without a mayor to preside. This year's choice is Alfred Andreola of James Road in Hopedale.

"Every year we pick a mayor of a different nationality. This year we needed an Armenian, and Al qualified. His mother is Armenian," explained "Rod" Rodrigues, himself a former mayor.

Rodrigues said anyone who is chosen as mayor must have lived for

some time in "the Heights," a section of town with a mix of all nationalities.

Last year's mayor was Diego Chaves of Milford, and over the past few years the nationality of the mayor has ranged from a Portuguese to a Greek to an Italian to an Irishman.

All past mayors — there are 10 or

12 still living and in these parts — will ride on a float in the parade. The float, a decorated boat, will be preceded by a 1929 Model-T Ford which is the mayor's official car for the parade.

"We always have a lot of fun," Rodrigues said, adding a contingent

of children carrying Portuguese and American flags always march gaily in step to tunes played by a concert band.

The concert band will begin playing at 6 on Saturday night and will play continuous music for the enjoyment of picnic-goers following the parade.

The public is welcome, and those attending the two-day event can visit the many booths on the grounds and enjoy ethnic food which will include steaks, hot dogs, beef stew and tripe.

Soccer and bocce sporting events will be featured, and rancho dancers, children ages 8 to 12 dressed in native Portuguese costumes, will perform Sunday from 5 to 6 p.m.

Chairman of the event this year is Joseph Marco.



Al Andreola of Hopedale stands outside the former Draper Mill housing project in Milford where he was born. This weekend, he'll be inaugurated as "Mayor of Prospect Heights" for the annual Portuguese Picnic.

NEWS PHOTO BY JOHN McDONNELL

'His honor' has soft spot for the old neighborhood

By Jennifer Lord

MILFORD — When Alfred Andreola walks down the street of the Prospect Heights neighborhood he grew up in, neighbors call him "Mr. Mayor."

While the duties of the mayor of Prospect Heights involve little more than presiding over the opening of the annual Portuguese Picnic, Andreola is justifiably proud of his title.

MILFORD

"It's one of the proudest moments of my life to be nominated mayor by these people," Andreola said yesterday. "I can't say enough about the neighborhood. It was such an important link in my life."

Andreola, who now lives in Hopedale with his wife and three children, was brought up in the neighborhood, which was originally built in the early 1900s for the employees of the Draper Corp.

"Everything was designed so they could walk to work and come back. It was really ahead of its time, considering that condominium duplexes are now coming back," Andreola said.

"It's really a melting pot; people are from all different countries," Andreola said. Andreola's father, an employee of the Draper Corp. for 43 years, was Italian, while his

mother was Armenian.

Each year, when the Prospect Heights Association meets to elect a mayor for the annual picnic and parade, "they try to equalize nationality," Andreola said. Andreola is the 29th mayor of Prospect Heights.

"The neighborhood is very family oriented," Andreola continued. "One of the things about that place, none of the kids got into any trouble down there."

One of the things Andreola fondly recalls about living in the area was the food. "We had all kinds of food: Italian, Polish ... Mrs. Spelski's pickles. She made the most god-darn beautiful Polish pickles," Andreola remembered. "The food was just unbelievable."

"The neighborhood is like a family," Andreola said. "It's a funny thing. Everyone refers to each other by the number of their house. I was raised in 53."

Andreola begins his term as mayor Sunday, when the parade begins at 2 p.m. Before the parade, the new mayor's wife is required to serve breakfast to all of the past mayors.

As he rides past his subjects to the picnic grounds, Andreola plans to play the part of mayor to the hilt. Dressed in a full tuxedo with top hat, he will sit on the rumble seat of a classic Ford owned by a friend and wave to his crowd of admirers.