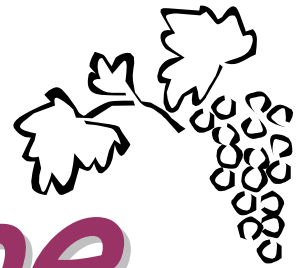




WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

March
2015



the Grapevine

President's Message

By: Daryl Sudlow

Dear Fellow Professionals,

Spring Greetings! While it may seem as if winter, with its bitter cold and relentless snow will never end, the warmth and welcome of spring is on the horizon! It can not come fast enough! Halleluiah!

Right about now we are revving up and getting ready for a busy season ahead of us – hoping the snow melts soon so fields will be ready for opening day; praying our pools & pumps have made it thru this harsh winter; planning trips and special events; organizing softball & sports leagues; ordering equipment and supplies; working on projects; hiring staff for camps, pools and parks; preparing bids; brochures and for some budgets. (and this is just our short “to do” list)!

The spring and summer in our profession, equals crazy & chaotic. Like the endless winter we find ourselves working endless hours to get it all done. We stress, we sacrifice and we do what we have to do so that others can enjoy life and have a quality recreational experience. We call this a strong work ethic yet often we neglect our own personal lives and leisure needs. We go 100 mph and do not yield the signs and take a much needed rest. We are constantly in motion, moving at warped speed and rarely come up for air. Occasionally we get an opportunity to “breathe” but as we’ve found over the last 5-10 years, with reduced staffing and a heavier work load, our “breathing room” window has decreased dramatically.

So this spring and summer as we head down the recreation road and put the pedal to the medal, let's

not crash and burn. Don't forget to fuel up your own engine and take time to cruise along the highway of life. Go for a swim, take a hike, have a catch, go fishing, enjoy a concert, take a walk on the beach, play tennis, dust off your golf clubs, go to a park, read a good book, ride a bike, go to a ball game, enjoy your family, your friends, your life because, “**These are the ‘good old days’ you’re going to miss in the years ahead**” – **Anonymous**

“**One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it's worth watching.**”

- **Gerard Way**

2015 Camp News

Mark your calendars! The 2015 mandatory Camp Workshop for Camp Operators will be held on Wednesday, April 15, at the Westchester County Center, Little Theater. The program will include a morning in-person session as well as a mandatory on-line session to complete on your own. A few things all camp operators/directors and recreation professionals should be aware of this camp season:

***REFERENCE CHECKS** – All staff – *new & returning* – will need to have 2 current (within the last year) reference checks on file. Staff returning to work with you this summer, can use their 2014 summer employment evaluation as one but they will need another current reference. References cannot be relatives and all references should be verified with a phone call and documented. Every year is a new permit cycle hence every year new references need to be acquired.

Camp News Continued on Page 2...

2015 Camp News Cont.

***ATTENDANCE AT MANDATORY WORKSHOP** – the camp operator is required to attend the mandatory camp workshop. For most recreation departments the operator is a full-time recreation professional. Because your front line people (directors/assistants) are responsible for knowing and implementing everything you have written in your safety plan, you are encouraged to send your camp director(s) or at least have them view the on-line material. If this is not possible it is your responsibility as the camp operator to make sure the information is filtered down, understood, and implemented by the appropriate staff. Please note, **IF YOUR CAMP WAS CITED AND BROUGHT IN FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING IN 2014 YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SEND 2 PEOPLE TO THE WORKSHOP. It must be either the Camp Director and/or Asst. Director in addition to the Camp Operator.**

***SELF-INSPECTION OF YOUR CAMPS** – any camp that was cited and brought in for an administrative hearing *will not be allowed to do a self-inspection* of their camp this spring. **Those camps will be required to be pre-inspected with a representative from the health department.** In addition, some camps may be pre-inspected even if they were not brought in for an administrative hearing because it just may be “your turn” in the cycle. **Please Note: If your camp was documented for legal action in 2014 you should have received a letter from the DOH detailing workshop attendance and restrictions on self-inspection. If you did not receive this letter please contact your district office.**

***HEALTH INSPECTORS** – Health Inspectors are shifted around so they stay fresh and we stay fresh. Each of us has a different view, perspective and management style. The same is true for health inspectors. While one inspector may focus on one specific area of the code that never came up before in any of your inspections, that doesn't mean it is not required to be followed - you are still required to follow code. While the code is cut and dry (ex: ratios; fire drills need to be completed within first 48 hours of each

session) certain aspects of each item may be up to interpretation/best practice suggestion. If you find yourself in a situation where, what you have done in the past was approved, & is now being questioned by a new inspector – talk it out, explain why it works for your camp and try to come to an agreement. If all else fails you should contact your district office or camp advisory committee member:

Dana – dmayclim@lewisboro.gov

Kevin – krd3@westchester.gov

Daryl – dsudlow@bedfordny.gov




WRAPS Music Jam




On February 27th WRAPS held the first ever Music Jam featuring former Rec Professional Anthony Giaccio's Band 'Bad Art' with special guest performances by Superintendent of Yorktown Brian Gray and Superintendent of Pound Ridge Dave Goldberg!

The event was held at the Southside Club in Hastings, NY. WRAPS members, friends, family and Southside Club Members had a great time at the event! The event raised about \$600 for WRAPS. Look out for more musical events in the future where Brian, Dave and other WRAPS members can rock out and show off their amazing talents.

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Above: Fellow WRAPS members Jim Caponera (Westchester County Parks) and Sally Veltidi (Village of Eastchester) get their picture taken with Santa and his unusual cast of helpers.
Below: WRAPS Past President's luncheon held on December 3, 2014 at La Fontane located in Somers, NY.



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Pictured Above: Brian Gray, Superintendent of Recreation for the Town of Yorktown, takes part in Yorktown's "Do you wanna build a snowman- get out and play" program.



Pictured Above: Westchester County Park's Dave Reggina and Kevin Cook with former New York Knick All – Star Allan Houston.

Congratulations to **Peter Thomas** on being hired as the new **Superintendent of Recreation for the Village/Town of Mount Kisco.**

Congratulations to **Bill Garrison** on being hired as the new **Assistant Superintendent of Recreation for the Town of New Castle.**

Congratulations to **Chris Soi** on his new position as **Superintendent of Recreation for the Village of Ossining.**

Congratulations to **Dr. Marilynn Glasser** who wrote a chapter in the new 2015 text book "Leadership in Recreation and Leisure Services".

Leisure Leaders

Erin Riedel

MY PREPARATION

- MS in recreation education—Lehman College, New York, NY
- BS in liberal studies (three minors: management, psychology, and wellness)—Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT
- National Recreation and Park Association, member
- New York State Recreation and Park Society
 - Region 1 representative: 2012/2013
 - Young Professional Award: 2011/2012
 - Fundraising conference co-chair: 2011/2012
- Westchester Recreation and Parks Society

Photo courtesy of Wilma Riedel

I started in recreation as a child participant and an employed teen, learning. When I was a graduate with my bachelors degree, I thought, "What's really going to do with me of my life? I called my supervisor and asked if she got into the field of recreation. She put me with the recreation program at Lehman in the Bronx, and I would get my masters in recreation. While at Lehman, I started part-time for the City of Rye, New York, in the recreation department as well as in several local recreation departments. After six

Making a cameo in Dr. Glasser's chapter is **Erin Riedel, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation for the Town of Yorktown**



Pictured Above: The before and after shots of John Swick, Recreation Supervisor for the Village of Eastchester. John collected \$305 in donations and donated just under 10" of his hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths.