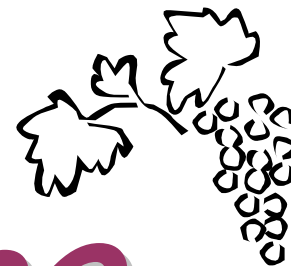




WESTCHESTER RECREATION  
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

June  
2009



the  
**Grapevine**

**Joe Curtis Challenge**

~by Sally Rogol, Superintendent Rye  
Recreation

**WRAPS** was challenged by longtime recreation professional Joe Curtis "to search out and identify one project, idea or technique, locally, that demonstrates the determination of the recreation and parks profession to help the USA meet the massive economic challenge we face".

Sally Rogol put together a group of WRAPS members, Bill Zimmermann, Joe Archino, Arne Abramowitz, Jen Fava, Karen O'Donnell & Kathy O'Connor to brain storm ideas and identify an area to concentrate on.

After several meetings, the group has been concentrating on Sustainable communities & recycling projects. In February, the committee went and visited with Joe at his home in New Rochelle and presented their findings. Joe was extremely pleased and overwhelmed by the many programs identified.

The list below is just some of the initiatives that are taking place throughout Westchester County:

- Camp program – recycling everyday initiatives, arts and crafts projects with recyclables
- Library events: green giving fair, green gardening, clean & green merchant initiatives; Antarctic Climate Change, Save Energy, save money, save the planet

(Continued on Page 3)

**WRAPS Sends Letter to Village of  
Croton –on- Hudson**

Below you will see a copy of the letter that was sent April 29, 2009 to the Journal News, Croton-Cortlandt Gazette, the Village Board, and their P and R Advisory Board from the WRAPS Board.

May 13, 2009

An Open Letter to the Mayor Leo Wiegman and the Croton-on-Hudson Trustees:

The Westchester Recreation and Park Society (WRAPS) Executive Board and its membership, just became aware of the abolishment of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation position and the relocation of the Parks Department into the Department of Public Works. Parks and recreation services are of vital importance to any community and are best served with a Superintendent position with the Parks Department under his/her purview.

Parks and recreation services create community among residents and are often stated as one of the top reasons people decide to live in a particular municipality. Our parks and programs provide opportunities for socialization, fitness, healthy lifestyles, and the experience of nature. Recreation programs are also credited with creating self esteem and team work among youth, and for providing opportunities for youth, keeping them out of the criminal justice system. Simply stated, recreation resources improve the quality of life for all residents.

(Continued on Page 5)

**WRAPS 52nd ANNUAL AWARDS  
and SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

**AWARDS:**

Public Service Award ~ Individual

The O'Hara Foundation ~ Irvington, NY

Voluntary Service Award ~ Organization

New Castle P.B.A  
Rye Presbyterian Church – Thrift Shop

E. Mario Cribari Voluntary Service Award

Patricia Belfi ~ Dobbs Ferry Recreation Dept.

Staff Associate Award

Nicole Fernandes ~ Westchester County Parks,  
Recreation & Conservation

Youth Sports Coaches Award

Carson Jacobs ~ Cortlandt Recreation Department

Mathew M. Dolan Innovative Program  
Award & Grant

White Plains Recreation Department  
~ "Taiko Drumming"

The Austin Welch PIERRE Award

Westchester County Parks, Recreation &  
Conservation – General Maintenance  
Division ~ "Camp Morty"

Peter J. Mayers Award for Merit

Kathy O'Connor ~ Westchester County Parks,  
Recreation & Conservation

Joseph E. Curtis Achievement Award

Robert Snyder ~ New Castle Recreation Dept.

**FELLOWSHIPS:**

Dr. Sal J. Prezioso Professional Fellowship

James Caponera ~ Westchester County PRC  
Brian Gray ~ Town of Yorktown  
Jennifer Fava ~ Town of Yorktown

Ruth M. Lederer Fellowship & Grant

South East Special Recreation ~  
"The Danielle Rinaldi Arts Program"  
Rye Recreation Department ~  
"Senior Golf and Pool"

E. Mario Cribari Scholarship

Kyle Peterson (Montrose)

As of press time, the following individuals are also  
being recognized with Professional Service  
Citations:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 45 Years | Peggy Payne                                   |
| 40 Years | Chip Matthews<br>Bill Simione                 |
| 35 Years | William Huestis                               |
| 30 Years | Rosanne Saracino<br>Jeff Main<br>Jerry Peters |
| 25 Years | Kim Sinistore<br>Joe Archino                  |
| 20 Years | Jill Fisher<br>Bill Gentry                    |
| 15 Years | Brian Gray<br>Matt Arone<br>Kellie Rizzi      |

**WRAPS wishes to thank the following members  
for their service on the Awards and Scholarship**

<b>Committee:</b>	Brian Gray
Matt Arone, Chair	Kevin Cook
Mark Duncan	Donna Esperito
Leslie Borenstein	Sally Veltidi

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## *Curtis Challenge Cont....*

*~by Sally Rogol*

- Youth program titled “Recycled Masterpieces.” Children will create works of art out of household items that have finished serving their original purpose. They will learn interesting and important facts about preserving our natural resources. Parents will learn easy tips to go green, and lessen the footprint we make. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Utilize extra copies of flyers, etc. for scrap paper
- Community Days – have County Shred Mobile and Veggie Mobile on site. Have various environmental groups involved in event providing information (Green Yorktown, Sierra Club, Environmental Conservation Department, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, Yorktown Conservation Board)
- Create list serve or make use of school e-news to notify residents of important information, flyers, etc.
- Utilize computers and email more frequently instead of hard copy memos, notices, etc. to department staff
- In 2006 Yorktown established an Open Space & Conservation District. \$30 per lot assessed each year as part of Town taxes to purchase open space
- New Rochelle – Marina shrink wrap recycling program for boats & special sewer pump out for boats so sewage in not released into the sound

A special thanks to everyone on the committee who accepted this challenge and looked at there own community and neighboring communities to develop such an extensive list of sustainable activities. Also thanks to those department heads who completed the committee’s on-line survey. It’s been a rewarding journey taking on this challenge on behalf of the members of WRAPS.

We hope the information shared can help each department in Westchester County “think green and be greener”.

## *Get Involved in 2010*

*~by Jen Fava*

WRAPS is hosting the New York State Recreation and Park Society 2010 Annual Conference and Business Expo being held in Saratoga Springs, March 21-March 24.

The Program Committee is currently seeking new ideas and presenters for the upcoming conference. We are interested in any topic you may be interested in speaking about.

If you are interested in speaking, please email Donna Esperito, [desperit@town.new-castle.ny.us](mailto:desperit@town.new-castle.ny.us), by Friday, June 26, 2009.

The conference committee is working hard to put together a rewarding and educational opportunity that we hope will be highly attended by our membership. As we get closer to the conference, we will keep the membership updated about the exciting offerings and you can be sure we will be looking for volunteers to help with things like session moderating, registration and much, much more.

We look forward to a great conference!  
Jennifer Fava  
Conference Chair

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**PLAYLAND PREMIERES NEW PAY-ONE-  
PRICE ADMISSION IN 2009**

~ by Joe Stout

**Playland Park in Rye** opened on **Saturday, May 9** with our new “pay one price” admission, which allows for unlimited rides all day for patrons who purchase Fun Band wristbands. Like we would do for any other major operational change, we planned for the best but prepared for challenges. I’m happy to report that so far the new system is working well and patrons are discovering that Playland still offers outstanding value for their recreational dollar.

Fun Bands are sold for \$25 for Westchester residents and \$30 for non-residents. Twilight Fun Bands, sold after 6 p.m., are \$20 for Westchester residents and \$25 for non-residents. Junior Fun Bands, which allow unlimited free access to select park rides for children under 36 inches tall when accompanied by an adult with a Fun Band, are free with the purchase of any adult Fun Band (maximum two Junior Fun bands per adult Fun Band.) Non-riders entering the amusement section of the park to walk, watch the park’s entertainment or as chaperones pay a modest entrance fee of \$3 for Westchester residents and \$5 for non-residents. If they later choose to go on rides, holders of non-rider wristband can upgrade to a Fun Band during their visit or use leftover Fun Card points from the prior season or purchases ride cards at \$1 a point.

All Westchester-resident Fun Band purchases also cover the fees for miniature golf and Playland Beach and Pool; visitors from outside the county pay extra for mini-golf and beach and pool

entrance. Schedules for these amenities vary; check [www.RyePlayland.org](http://www.RyePlayland.org) for hours.

Acceptable proof of Westchester County residency is a Westchester County Park Pass; a valid New York State driver’s license or NYS-issued non-driver I.D.; a Westchester County school photo I.D. or a credit card with ZIP code verification.

As in the past, there is *no charge* for going to the boardwalk (including Big Band concerts and boardwalk arcades and shops), the pier, the ¾-mile Seaside Walk, museum, Fountain Plaza and its adjacent food court, fireworks viewing, lake boating or Read Wildlife Sanctuary.

Parking fees have been lowered this year to \$4 per car weekdays and \$5 weekends and holidays.

Get the full park schedule and learn about upcoming entertainment and shows at [www.RyePlayland.org](http://www.RyePlayland.org). or call (914) 813-7010.

See you at Playland.

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“If you watch a game, it’s fun. If you play it, it’s recreation. If you work at it, it’s golf.”

~ Bob Hope



## *WRAPS Letter to Croton Cont...*

The position of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation plays a pivotal role in the management of the department. The Superintendent is responsible for budgeting, planning, organizing, managing, solving problems, facility management and community relations.

It is our opinion that the movement of the Parks Department into the Department of Public Works will culminate in a lack of attention to the parks and playgrounds resulting in dissatisfaction among your user groups in regard to facilities that are so vital to the community. The departments of Parks and Recreation go hand in hand and need to work seamlessly under the direction of someone who is trained and has expertise in the field.

While we understand the difficulties of these economic times and staying within budget constraints, the loss of the position of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and the movement of your Parks Department will have a detrimental effect. Now more than ever, the residents of your community need the free parks and cost effective programs that the department has to offer.

Sincerely,

The Westchester Recreation and Parks Society (WRAPS) Executive Board

### ***TO REACH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD***

Dana Mayclim, President	232-6162
Joe Lemischak, Vice President	864-7036
Daryl Sudlow, Secretary	666-7004
Kevin Cook, Treasurer	864-7064
Jennifer Fava, Past President	245-4650 x26

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Kevin Donnelly	864-7056
Brian Gray	245-4650
Christine Grey	232-6162
Ike Kuzio	864-7057
Sally Rogol	967-2535
Fran Croughan	422-1336

## *Celebrity Corner!!*



*Pictured above (from left to right) is Kevin Cook of Westchester County PRC, former Syracuse basketball star Gerry McNamara, and Matt Nordt of New Castle Recreation.*

## *Bits & Pieces*

Congratulations to **Matt Trainer of Rye Recreation** who, along with his wife Kathy are expecting their first child this September.

**Lewisboro Recreation welcomes Joe Muia** as the new **Recreation Leader**. Joe spent the last 13 years working in Recreation Therapy. Most recently as a Recreation Director for a Long-term facility.



### *Going Out in Style!!*

Good Luck to **Chris Osterhoudt** as he leaves **Scarsdale Recreation** to pursue a career in Physical Education

## Presidents Message

~by Dana Mayclim

June is already upon us and what a year it has been for all of us! I sit here reflecting on the past year as President of WRAPS, it definitely has been a challenging year for our profession and society.

This past year we have seen a slumping economy, one not seen in generations. We have endured deep budget cuts and witnessed jobs being eliminated in our profession. Many Parks and Recreation Departments are losing their "parks" departments to other municipal entities, such as the Department of Public Works, Maintenance or Highway Departments in order to consolidate services and save money. It is a trend I think all of us can agree on, that we don't want to see continue. Amongst all of the challenges we have and will persevere through it all to continue providing quality programs and parks to our communities.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> I was accompanied by eight other WRAPS professionals, as we spoke out at the Croton on Hudson Village Board meeting regarding the loss of the Superintendents position as well as the loss of the parks department to the DPW. The focus of our comments to the Village Trustees revolved around the pivotal role that the Superintendent plays. This position is in charge of budgeting, planning, organizing, managing, solving problems, facility management and community relations just to name a few things. My statement to the Village Board was that losing the parks department is like losing the jelly on a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or not having milk when you are eating those Oreos. Just having one of those things without the other does provide you with something but the quality isn't the same as when they are put together. Hopefully our elected officials will be able to recognize this and make sure that we do not continue handing our precious parks, playgrounds and fields to other departments who, as one retiree stated to me, "treat them like the unneeded step sister".

On a positive note, WRAPS has started gearing up to host the State Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY in March of 2010 under the experienced leadership of Jennifer Fava. Our congratulations go

out to her and her hard working, dedicated conference team for accepting and running with this challenge. Another kudos goes out to Jennifer Fava who was recently been elected to serve as Secretary for the New York State Recreation and Park Society.

As we get ready to acknowledge our colleagues and friends at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon on June 5<sup>th</sup>, I would like to congratulate all the winners and recognize all the nominees for their accomplishments this past year, what a truly talented group of people we will be toasting. I would like to personally thank the Awards and Scholarship Committee headed up by Matt Arone for their service presiding over the Luncheon and awards.

I would like to wish the best of luck for a fun filled, safe and successful summer for you, your families and your agencies. Try to take a moment or two to stop and enjoy the season and all it has to offer. It truly is a wonderful time of the year . . . warmer temps, barbeques, swimming, lemonade, carnivals and fairs.



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