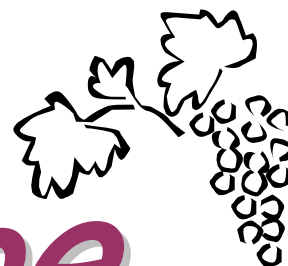




WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

June
2011



the Grapevine

President's Message

By: Joe Lemischak

It seems like the kick off barbeque wasn't that long ago but we are actually winding down another Westchester Recreation and Parks Society season. This past year has seen a lot of change in the world of recreation throughout the county. We have seen the passing of some of the old guard. We have seen several retirements of colleagues that have been the backbone of our Society and the municipalities that they have served. We have seen many new young faces that are the future of our profession. Along with the changes, all of us have been facing the many challenges of a weak economy. During difficult times it is extremely important to let our government officials know how important the services are that recreation departments offer. Remind them that residents look for fun, safe and affordable activities whether it is camps, sports, senior programs, the arts, or just relaxing in a park. We provide all of these things. Sometimes this is forgotten.

I would like to thank the Executive Board members for their commitment to our organization. We have a good group of people that truly care about keeping WRAPS on the right course. I would like to thank Kevin Cook for putting together a full slate of luncheons with very informative topics. I would also like to thank Wayne Bass for taking on the roll as Treasurer. Lastly, a big thanks to the committee chairs for their work in the specific areas that make up our society.

As we all head into our busy season make sure that you take time to spend with friends and family. I wish you a happy and safe summer.

Seventh Annual Friends of Parks Gala

The Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc. held its seventh annual Best Friends Awards Reception on **Wednesday, April 13, at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle, NY.** The event, "An Evening with Friends," recognized the contributions of people and businesses who have been great supporters of Friends and the County Parks Department.



Picture Above L to R: Liz Bracken- Thompson (Chair of the Board of Trustees), Thomas F. Secunda ("Best Friend") and Joseph A. Stout (Friends of Parks).

"Our Best Friends Awards event is the highlight of our year and our most important fundraiser," said Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson, chairman of the Friends Board of Trustees.

Continued on Page 3

**WRAPS 54th ANNUAL AWARDS
and SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

**WRAPS 54th ANNUAL AWARDS
and SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
cont.**

AWARDS:

Public Service Award ~ Organization
Eastchester Beautification Foundation

Voluntary Service Award ~ Organization
White Plains Little League

E. Mario Cribari Voluntary Service Award
Robert Munigle – Irvington Recreation Department

Staff Associate Award
William Cradle – White Plains Recreation Dept
William Ackerman – Lewisboro Recreation Dept

Youth Sports Coaches Award
Robert Kelleher – Cortlandt Recreation Department

Mathew M. Dolan Innovative Program
Award & Grant
New Castle Recreation Department & New Castle
Library – “Teen Zone”

Public Service Award - Individual
Peter DeLucia, Town of Lewisboro

Peter J. Mayers Award for Merit
William Heidepriem – Bedford Recreation Dept

Joe Curtis Achievement Award
Joe Stout – Westchester County Parks

Irwin “Red” Klein Commercial Recreation Award
New Castle Physical Therapy & Personal Training

Lifetime Membership Award
Ron Belmont – Harrison Recreation Dept
Anthony Zaccagnino – Harrison Recreation Dept
Thomas Hroncich – Port Chester Recreation Dept
Gary Cahill – Peekskill Recreation Dept
Rosalyn Robinson – New Castle Recreation Dept
August Cambria – Yonkers Recreation Dept

FELLOWSHIPS:

Dr. Sal J. Prezioso Professional Fellowship
Dana Mayclim – Lewisboro Recreation Dept
Matt Nordt – New Castle Recreation Dept

Ruth M. Lederer Fellowship & Grant
Yorktown Senior Advisory Committee – Senior
Computer Lab

E. Mario Cribari Scholarship
Briona Foulke – York College, PA

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

35 Years William Zimmermann

30 Years Gerry Byrne
Robert Snyder

25 Years Nancy Bellini
Matt Hanson
Dave DeLucia

20 Years Suzanne Busby
Fran Croughan
Joseph Lucasey

15 Years Wayne Bass
Ken Sherman

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

Kevin Cook, Chair
Matt Arone
Mark Duncan
Lesley Bornstein

Brian Gray
Wayne Bass
Donna Esperito
Sally Veltidi

Friends Gala Cont.

“I am happy that this year’s reception broke all previous records for both attendance and funds raised to support the County Parks Department. Best of all, we had a roomful of people who understand and appreciate that their contributions to Friends really do go a long way to make the county parks great.”

This year’s honorees were:

Thomas F. Secunda, “Best Friend.” Secunda, of Croton-on-Hudson is a founding partner and Global Head of Financial Products and Services with Bloomberg. He has been a member of the Friends Board of Trustees since 2003 and has been integral to Friends’ success.

Hudson Valley Bank, “Best Business Friend.” Friends has been the recipient of a number of grants from the Bank’s foundation.

Entergy Corporation, “Best Green Friend.” Entergy’s recent donation of 17 trees helped Friends and County Parks take a major step forward in a reforestation project at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

The Miracle League of Westchester, “Best Volunteer Friends.” The league provides volunteers whose work enables hundreds of children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities to play baseball on the county’s specially designed Miracle Field at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale.

Co-chairs of the event were Christopher Cawley of Sleepy Hollow and Linda Carrington of Mount Kisco. Both are members of the Friends Board of Trustees.

For more than 30 years, the Friends of Westchester County Parks has continued its tradition of helping to bridge the budget gap, raising thousands of

dollars to buy equipment, fund children’s programs, provide amenities and support the Westchester County Parks system.

For information about Friends go to www.friendsofwestchesterparks.com or call Friends at (914) 864-7048.

Legacy Field Grand Opening

By Jen Fava



After many years of planning and construction, the Woodlands Legacy Fields were officially opened on May 5th. The complex, located in Yorktown has a natural grass 60 foot baseball diamond and a synthetic turf all-purpose field along with a building containing rest rooms and a concession. Both fields are lit for night use.

This new facility built through the Westchester County Legacy program was a true collaboration between Westchester County and the Town of Yorktown. Unique to the usual Legacy projects, the Town was responsible for the removal of trees and bringing everything to grade at which point the contractors hired by Westchester County took over.

The 14 acre facility is proving to be a real asset to the Yorktown community. Use by the local youth athletic clubs is extremely high. This new park is also allowing the Yorktown Parks and Recreation department to offer additional programming.

Use of the facility is by permit only. If interested in using the facility, people should contact the Yorktown Parks and Recreation Department at 245-4650.

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BITS & PIECES

Congratulations and good luck to **Karen O'Donnell, former Assistant Superintendent for Rye Recreation Department** and WRAPS Board Member on her new job in Commerce City, Colorado as the Recreation Division Head Manager.



Congratulations to **Kyle Peterson** on his new job as Recreation Assistant with the **Lewisboro Recreation Department**.

Congratulations to **Sally Veltidi** on her hiring as the new **Supervisor of Recreation for the Village of Eastchester**.

Congratulations to **Bill Gentry** on his recent retirement after spending 22 years with the **Rye Recreation & Parks Department**.

Ike Kuzio of Westchester County PRC and **Karen Kuzio of Briarcliff Recreation** are expecting their second child in September 2011.

Chris Soi of Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department and his wife Jessica welcomed their first child, daughter Jacqueline Ann born on May 30, 2011 at 2:17pm, 7 lbs 2 oz and 20 ½ inches.

Sandy Korkatzis, Yonkers Recreation Department along with her husband Pete welcomed their first child, son Lucas Angelo (pictured below), on April 12, 2011 at 11:19am. Lucas weighed in at 7lbs 12 oz.



On Friday, April 15th – the Honorable William Heidepriem crowned the new King (Robert O. Snyder) and Queen (Susan Snyder) of the Castles (New and North Castles respectively). All Hail the Recreation Monarchy!

2011 NYSRPS Conference



Pictured Above: Proud members of "The WC" trivia team following their 2nd place finish at the annual NYSRP State Conference at Turning Stone Casino. From L to Right; Ron Belmont, Karen O'Donnell, Gerry Byrne, Aaron Podhurst and Chris Soi.

Pictured Below: A group of WRAPS members enjoying themselves at the State Conference.



*Please Join the Curtis Family and Friends
as we celebrate the dedication of "Joe
Curtis" Five Islands Park*

When: Sunday June 12th (rain or shine)

**Where: Five Islands Park
1 Lefevre Lane
New Rochelle, NY 10801**

**Time: 11:00am Dedication
** Light refreshments to follow****

TO REACH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Joe Lemischak, President	864-7036
Kevin Cook, Vice President	864-7064
Daryl Sudlow, Secretary	666-7004
Wayne Bass, Treasurer	238-7291
Dana Mayclim, Past President	232-6162

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Brian Gray	245-4650
Matt Arone	693-0024
Kevin Donnelly	864-7056
Ike Kuzio	328-1542
Christine Grey	

CALL FOR GRAPEVINE ARTICLES!

The next issue of the Grapevine is scheduled to be printed in November 2011.

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by Wednesday October 19, 2011.

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