

the

Grapevine



June
2019
Edition



LIFE ENRICHMENT THROUGH RECREATION AND PARKS

WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

WRAPS Presidents Message—by Brian Gray

SUMMER.....while the majority of the Nation enjoys long nights, ocean swims, boat rides and hot hikes – we in the Parks and Recreation Field stress about which day the Health Inspector is coming to Day Camp and if we have our immunization records in order, stare at the radar in hopes to get the evening softball games in, set up for evening concerts in the 94 degree heat and worry if we will have enough Lifeguards to finish out the season. While I write this, I am thankful there are only 16 hours, 24 minutes and 57 seconds left in our Day Camp Season, 585 hours, 36 minutes and 48 seconds remaining until I can turn off the pool pumps, and 17 more Adult Softball Games until a 2019 Champion is crowned.



As hectic as our summers are, before we know it we will be lining soccer fields, buying pumpkins and corn stalks for Fall Festivals and preparing for a Tree Lighting. These are the times to reflect on our accomplishments, as most go without the “thank you” they are so deserving of. For me, my career is a labor of love and there is nothing I enjoy more than seeing smiling faces at the conclusion of a program. I urge you all to step back and take pride as you look at the positive experiences your efforts have brought to the countless individuals of all ages we serve through the programs we offer and facilities we oversee.

I hope you get some time away with family and friends over the next month to relax and recreate yourselves, as it is vital to recharge after our busy summer season. I personally thank each and every member of WRAPS for being committed to this great profession of Parks and Recreation and look forward to serving my second year as President.

SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars now for our Kick-off BBQ scheduled for Friday, September 20th! More details to come in the coming weeks.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

July/August

2019 Camps End!


August/September

Pools Close!



Inspector Choice Award Briarcliff Recreation Dept.




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BITS ~ N ~ PIECES

Congratulations to **Eileen Puleo** on her promotion to Sr Recreation Leader at the Town of Mamaroneck.

Congratulations to **Allie DePaolo** on her promotion to Recreation Leader at the Village of Sleepy Hollow.

Congratulations to **Michelle Ballantyne** on her appointment as a Recreation Assistant at the Town of Mamaroneck.

Congratulation to **Maria Gallagher** who is becoming a grandmother for the first time!!!

Congratulations to Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Mamaroneck **Jennifer Pollak** and her husband Wayne on the birth of their son, Brodie Nicholas!!!

WOW Pound Ridge Dress Code...



Vendor Lunch Raffle Winners!
By, Angela Thornton
Irvington Recreation

At the 2018 Vendor’s Lunch, I was the proud winner of the raffle prize offered by Super Soccer Stars- a soccer party! Between weather, finding a location, and scheduling, it took us over a year to actually make the party happen. On May 21, my daughter Bailey and seven of her “Girl Scout Sisters” reaped the benefits of that lovely raffle prize (baby brother Ryder had fun too!). Super Soccer Stars Coach Armondo lead an hour of soccer and giggles squeals for Juniors Troop 1535. Special thank you to Joe Lemischak and Westchester County Parks for helping us secure a permit to use the athletic field at Kensico. And a big thank you to Super Soccer Stars for an evening to remember!! As luck would have it, Kyle won the same raffle prize at the 2019 Vendors Lunch.



HARD AT WORK!



May's Healthy Initiative
WRAPS Meeting
Photos from Cortland's Cook Park



A True Champion Among Us!

Alyse Mackey

Alyse is a graduate of Lakeland HS. While there, she participated in their Special Olympics Pioneer league.

Alyse came to North East Special Recreation about 7 years ago. We were so happy to have her as part of our team. Alyse practices and competes in: Volleyball, Basketball, Floor hockey, Track & Field and Softball. I do believe Floor Hockey is still her favorite!

Not only is Alyse an amazing athlete, she is a kind, caring, dedicated young woman. Alyse is the person who always gives 110%. She is enthusiastic and encouraging with her team mates. Her dedication is outstanding. She is often the only girl on our first team. She has no fear in playing against some very big guys! This past year, while at our first-floor hockey competition in LI, Alyse went down in pain on the court. Turns out she had torn her meniscus and her ACL. While that's bad on any day, it was worse because Alyse was scheduled to attend the World Games in Abu Dhabi this year. Well, being the person that Alyse is, she was determined to work hard and get herself strong for the World games. She continued to come to practices and competitions even though she couldn't play. She was our helper and cheerleader for the team. This past March, Alyse went on to Abu Dhabi to compete in the Pentathlon. While there, her knee gave her a hard time, she twisted her ankle, but she persevered and came home with a Silver Medal!! Alyse is someone who never gives up. She sets her goals high and goes for them. All the while encouraging her team mates to do the same.

We're all so proud of Alyse and her dedication and determination. She is one very strong spirited young lady. We happy to have her as a North East Knight!!

THANK YOU!

From Kevin O'Neill

2019 E. Mario Cribari Voluntary Service Award Winner



The ceremony was eye opening for me, as I was able to experience the breadth of Westchester's Recreation and Parks Services signified by the many towns represented; and the depth of services as we heard stories ranging from sports, special needs, gardens, senior citizens, community events, and many more. But perhaps the most touching was the depth of commitment from all of the attendees and their departmental colleagues. A very special group of people who are so caring and dedicated. It is wonderful that WRAPS honors and recognizes, honors, and provides a forum to share and inspire.

2019 Awards & Scholarship Luncheon

2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

55 Years Peggy Payne

35 Years Joe Archino, Kim Sinistore

30 Years Jill Fisher

25 Years Matt Arone, Brian Gray, Kellie Rizzi, Bob Kaczmarek

20 Years Scott Naylor, Karen Kuzio

15 Years Kevin Valentine, Vicky Laoutaris

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Linda Bellofatto

Fran Brunelle

Beverly Golisano

William Heidepriem

Daryl Sudlow

Dr. Sal J. Prezioso Professional Fellowship

Vicky Laoutaris, Town of Mamaroneck

Beth Bricker, Westchester County Parks

Public Service Award: Organization

Pleasantville Garden Club, Town of Mt. Pleasant

Public Service Award: Individual

Bryan Zirman, Village of Briarcliff Manor

Voluntary Service Award: Organization

Eastchester 5K Committee, Town of Eastchester

E. Mario Cribari Voluntary Service Award

Kevin O'Neill, City of Rye

Jose Ferreira, North East Westchester Special Recreation



Henry B. Funking Youth Award

Matt Crowe, SUNY Cortland

Staff Associate Award

Louise Paolicelli, Town of Pound Ridge

Ed Ubl, City of New Rochelle

Irwin "Red" Klein Commercial Recreation Award

Comizio Orthodontics, Town of Eastchester



Ruth M. and Bill Lederer Fellowship & Grant

Happy Tails Program, South East Consortium

Matt Dolan Innovative Program & Award Grant

SUP Yoga at Horan's Landing, Village of Sleepy Hollow

Chappaqua Orchestra, Town of New Castle

Future Mentoring Fellowship

Mentee: Jamie Corradina, City of Rye

Mentor: Angela Thornton, Village of Irvington

Peter J. Mayers Award for Merit

Sally Rogol, City of Rye

Austin Welch PIERRE Award

Inclusive Playground at Saxon Woods Park, Westchester County Parks

Photos from the 2019 March Vendors Luncheon

Westchester County Center



WRAPS members attending the Northwoods social at the 2019 NYSRPS Summit in Lake Placid



Above Photo: Dave, Matt, Mark, Brian and Bill visiting the vendors at the 1932 Olympic skating rink

To Reach the Executive Board

Brian Gray, President 722-1191
Dave Goldberg , VP 764-3987
Kim O'Brien , Secretary 864-3716
Sally Veltidi , Treasurer 771-3313
Matt Arone, Past President 366-5109

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Bill Camarra 734-4226
Bob Kaczmarek 722-1191
Brittany Neider 238-6391
Kyle Peterson 941-6560
Matt Trainor 273-3325

WRAPS WEBSITE

Since you are reading the Grapevine on the WRAPS website, why not explore the entire site! Check out our Vendor and Entertainer Members, our social/events page and our NEW Employment page! Have any idea for the website? Email Kyle Thornton at kthornton@yorktownny.org!

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Copy and paste the above address for our WRAPS Facebook Page! Be sure to like the page to keep up to date on what's happening within WRAPS.

CALL FOR GRAPEVINE ARTICLES!

The next issue of the Grapevine is scheduled to be printed in November 2019!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Wednesday, October 30, 2019**

Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:

Kyle Thornton ~ Town of Yorktown

176 Granite Spring Road

Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Fax: 914-245-1608

kthornton@yorktownny.org

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We Make It Happen.

Don Rhuda

Field Sales Representative

Phone: 845/628-4577

Mobile: 914/474-8194

E-mail: don.rhuda@musco.com

22 Chestnut D · Mahopac, NY 10541

David Kulis

Field Sales Representative

Mobile: 845/745-4423

E-mail: david.kulis@musco.com

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