

the

Grapevine



June
2021
Edition



**WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.**

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

WRAPS Presidents Message—by Dave Goldberg

I hope this letter finds you all well and planning your programs is going well. It is amazing to me that it had been 15 months since we have really been able to run programs and hold in-person meetings. It was great seeing some of you at our May healthy initiative, as always Sally did a great job of putting that together.



I am happy to announce the WRAPS executive board has worked with some of our members in the formation of IDEA committee! Inclusion, Diversity, Equality for All. Their mission is to promote and foster inclusion, diversity and equality for all within our profession and our communities.

Their goals are;

- Advocate establishing safe, supportive and open minded environment for the exchange of thoughts and ideas within the WRAPS community.
- Promote the growth and development and development of underrepresented populations in our field.
- Develop and influence professional development and training within the areas of IDEA for local programming and conferences.
- Actively promote the creation of productive work environments within our field.

I am proud to welcome the IDEA committee at our executive board meeting and working closely with them to realize their agenda and promote this growth with in or organization and beyond.

Stay safe, healthy and sane!

David Goldberg,

WRAPS President

Chick Galella Update

By Matt Arone

In March, I told you all of the Gold Star Mother's statue project that was being planned in Sleepy Hollow at Horan's Landing. It was all spearheaded by our 100 year-old WW II vet (and Pearl Harbor survivor) Chick Galella (pictured).



The village held the unveiling on Mother's Day 2021. As you can see, the statue is beautiful and is a welcome addition to the park and was included in our Memorial Day services. Chick said he was proud that his community was recognizing Gold Star Mothers and his hope is that more local municipalities will do the same. So on his behalf, I encourage you to consider adding a Gold Star Mothers plaque or a statue in one of your parks one day. Chick will gladly help you and be there the day you first display it!

For more information about Gold Star Mothers, please visit:
www.goldstarmoms.com

North East Gets Away!

North East Westchester enjoyed a Spring get-away to Lake George May 6 – 9. It was so great to be able to get away with our friends and enjoy the Beautiful Lake George. The weekend was packed with many fun activities: A visit to Fort William Henry, candle making, Bowling, Souvenir shopping and an exciting time at the Great Escape amusement park.

Toro demonstration day A wonderful time was had by all!



Toro Demonstration Day



Turf Products Demo Day!

Rye Recreation Department



WRAPS In Person Meeting Muscoot Farm Photos

WELCOME BACK WRAPS!!!!



Bits ~ n ~ Pieces

Congratulations to **Matt Trainor** on their new position as Superintendent of Recreation at North Castle Recreation!

Congratulations to **Kyle Thornton** on their new position as Superintendent of Recreation at Mount Kisco Recreation!

Congratulations to **Dan Walczewski** on their new position as Assistant Superintendent of Recreation at Yorktown Recreation!

Congratulations to **Dale Haas** on their new position as Recreation Supervisor at Scarsdale Recreation!

Congratulations to **Deanna Peterson** on their new position as Senior Recreation Leader at Yorktown Recreation!

Congratulations to **Jene Davis** on their new position as Recreation Assistant at Scarsdale Recreation!

Congratulations to **Marissa Lieto** on their new position as Recreation Assistant at Yorktown Recreation! Marissa came to Yorktown from “Nature of Things”!

Congratulations to **Beth Bricker** (Westchester County PRC) and **Liz Linsalato** (Mount Pleasant Recreation) for being elected to the WRAPS Executive Board!

Dates to Remember

September

WRAPS Awards & Scholarship
Luncheon—9/17



The Most Unique Program in the Country 2021 Challenged Youth Basketball Camp Comes to Westchester County NY

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Camp is non-competitive and seeks to empower each child through motor skill development, confidence building, fun challenges, and our special blend of positive reinforcement. Personal attention is given to EVERY child.

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So Do Their Parents.*

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and Yes, Basketball**



Visit our Social Sites and Read Parent Reviews



**Limits Will NOT Define Me,
My WILL Defines My Limits.**

Founder "Mighty Mike" Simmel

Camps Care

By Bob Kaczmarek, Scarsdale Recreation Asst. Superintendent

Dear Colleagues, I hope this message finds you and yours safe and well.

Now that we are starting to see the return to some sense of normalcy after the year we have all just experienced, it is time to get our youth back at camp where they can be kids once again. For many this will be a welcomed break from the 15" screen they have been forced to sit in front of to learn, socialize and be entertained. More than ever our camps are needed to help our youth grow and flourish.

The COVID-19 pandemic not only impacted how many of our youth learned and socialized but also how they eat, as it is estimated there has been a 40% increase in the number of food insecure people now living in Westchester County. This increase is most troubling as so many are children that missed meals due to school closures where breakfast and lunch are essential to their daily food intake. While the pandemic has begun to subside, the lasting effects of food insecurity will remain for some time to come.

If there was ever a time for your camps to get behind the WRAPS "Camps care About Hunger" campaign it is NOW! WRAPS is, once again, asking each of you to support the program by getting your camps involved in this rewarding endeavor. Remember that it is designed for your camps to be able to help provide needed food to your community by giving back or paying it forward. It is highly likely that the efforts of your camps involvement will possibly help provide a nourishing meal to some of your very own campers or someone they know and love.

The program is designed to be as easy as possible to administer.

To participate simply:

- Pick a date(s) that work best for you
- Select a food bank, pantry or soup kitchen you wish to support (list attached)
- Insert your departments name and the benefactor of your choice to the attached flyer
- Copy and distribute the flyer
- Collect the items
- Deliver them to the benefactor of your choice.

Everything you need has been placed on the WRAPS website to help make this program as turn-key as possible. You will find a copy of the flyer you can personalize (through Microsoft Publisher) along with a banner and drop box sign, a partial list of food banks/pantries in Westchester as well as several rainy day coloring activities to help further promote the campaign. For additional assistance or information please contact Bob Kaczmarek at rkaczmarek@scarsdale.com. For further inspiration please visit the WRAPS website at <http://www.wrapsny.com> then click on the Camps Care tab for a PowerPoint presentation that explains the program along with examples of the complete Camps Cares kit. Our goal is to help those in need while promoting our departments and profession. Hopefully through all of our efforts, we will help make an impact in someone's life that goes well beyond the fields or gyms.

Thank you all for your understanding and support in making this worthwhile effort a continued success. Be well & stay safe.

WRAPS VENDOR & ENTERTAINER MEMBERS

More listed at wrapsny.com



Tim Bracken

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Are you an Entertainer or a business looking to reach a Parks & Recreation audience? Please check out: www.WRAPSNY.com for more information on how to become a member of WRAPS!

To Reach the Executive Board

Dave Goldberg, President 764-3987
Sally Veltidi , VP 771-3313
Kim O'Brien, Secretary 864-3716
Matt Trainor, Treasurer 273-3325
Brian Gray, Past President 722-1160

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Beth Bricker 231-4645
Bill Camarra 771-3342
Jennifer Giusti 273-3000
Bob Kaczmarek 722-1160
Liz Linsalato 742-2380
Brittany Neider 238-6391

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@mountkisco.ny.gov



Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WRAPSNY/?fref=ts>

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 posted online in November 2021!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Wednesday, November 3rd 2021**

E-mail Information to:

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