


the

Grapevine



March 2020 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

I hope you have all enjoyed the mild winter we have experienced. While I was in Alaska last week snow-mobiling in snow over my head, I was quickly reminded how mild our winter has been in the Northeast. As we have all experienced the late March/early April snowstorms don't forget things could change quickly, however, the long range forecast looks as if we are in the clear. Hopefully the weather will continue on this warmer trend through March offering our Parks crews the opportunity to get out on our fields early to perform maintenance they traditionally have not had the opportunity to accomplish.



The WRAPS Annual Holiday Luncheon was held in December at Crabtree's Kittlehouse in Chappaqua. "Thank You" to David Goldberg, Maureen Depauli and Donna Esperito who were all instrumental in putting together this fabulous holiday tradition.

I also would like to Thank Matt Arone who organized our annual Past President Luncheon held on December 4th at Hudson Social in Dobbs Ferry.

The WRAPS Vendors luncheon is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 18th at the Westchester County Center. Dave Goldberg has been hard at work securing vendors to make this program a valuable opportunity for all of our members. If you have not yet done so, please call or email Patty Marino at Pound Ridge Recreation 764-0947 or pmarino@townofpoundridge.com to sign up and attend to support our vendor and entertainer members.

Unfortunately with the good comes the bad as we have all been affected one way or another by the recent COVID-19 outbreak. When the Scarsdale School District announced Sunday evening their schools will be closed until March 18th due to a faculty members positive test results to the virus I knew we were heading into uncharted territory. What I have learned as a Park and Recreation professional, I have also carried into my personal life as I hope you have as well. What makes us successful in our careers is that through the lessons learned in the field of Recreation and Parks, we are forced to be competent planners, trouble shooters, and the individuals others seek to get things accomplished. As with previous state and national emergencies, this virus will eventually pass and we will be back to our daily grind with COVID-19 in the rear view mirror. In the meantime, I urge you to make smart decisions, both professionally and personally and use this as an opportunity to learn to best prepare ourselves for future storms, outbreaks and anything else this crazy world throws at us.

Keep planning for your camps, clinics and programs and get ready to open your fields, pools and tennis courts! I believe this summer will be a time our residents will seek recreational opportunities within their communities. Now will be an opportunity to attract and retain new program participants. This will be our time to shine!

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and healthy spring.

Community Spotlight– Briarcliff Manor by Kyle Peterson

The Village of Briarcliff Manor, New York is located in affluent Westchester County, nestled along the historic and scenic Hudson River. With 5 3/4 square miles of land, the Village offers a rustic residential environment within easy commuting distance to Manhattan and all that New York City has to offer. Less than thirty (30) miles north of Manhattan, Briarcliff Manor is easily accessible via Route 9, Route 9A, Route 100, Saw Mill River Parkway, and Taconic State Parkway. Metro-North railroad makes regular stops at the Village's Scarborough Train Station, providing many residents with the opportunity to commute to New York City by train.

The Village's population was 7,696 according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The Village of Briarcliff Manor is proud to provide a comprehensive, year-round recreation program for our residents. Our service area includes those who reside within the corporate boundaries of the Village of Briarcliff Manor, as well as those who reside in the Briarcliff Manor School District. The Recreation Department operates a multitude of programs for young & old. During the Summer the Village operates four camps for children entering Kindergarten – 9th grade. Tree Camp for K-1, Super Camp for 2-3, Camp Adventure for 4-6 and Camp Horizon for 7-9. Averaging around 400 campers per summer. The Briarcliff Manor Pool facility is truly the jewel of the Village. The facility consists of the main pool with 2 diving boards, a small kiddy pool for the youngsters, a bathhouse with locker room facilities for patrons and staff, a concession stand and our pavilion. Pavilion and pool pictured below.



As we all know after summer, programming does not stop. Fall

kicks off with our annual Community Day event which includes a full day of music, attractions, community groups, food trucks and fireworks. This event is the largest special event run by the department and consistently draws large crowds. Our Youth center operates from September – June and we start the year off with our annual Back with a Splash pool and pizza party with a DJ. Once school kicks off we offer an afterschool program with a variety of different enrichment classes that operates through April. Halloween is a time for special events. Our annual Halloween Window Painting brings families to the Briarcliff business district to paint the windows and our annual Ragamuffin parade follows the week after.

Comm. Spotlight Cont.

In the winter the Village sets up a temporary ice rink and when the weather permits residents are able to enjoy skating both day and night since its set up on one of our lighted tennis courts. Our Basketball and Ski & Snowboard program “Hitting the Slopes” are popular amongst the residents. Around the holidays the Village hosts our annual community bonfire and sing along in the pavilion. The event consists of caroling, arts & crafts, light refreshments and the bon fire.



Spring has sprung which means “are the fields open” or “are the tennis courts up and running”. But first we host our annual Egg Hunt in the pavilion which includes, candy guessing and entertainment followed by the Egg Hunt itself. The village has 4 parks that consists of ballfields that are used for soccer, baseball, softball, & lacrosse. Our parks also include playgrounds and basketball courts. Our newly constructed playground at Law Park is pictured below. Each Spring both recreation and community based sports groups utilize all the fields that we have to offer. The Village has seven clay tennis courts. Five red clay and two har tru and we host three adult tennis teams and offer lessons for youth & adults.

Well now that we have covered all the seasons in a nutshell we cannot forget about our Sr. programs. Sr. programming has been booming over the years with more being offered than ever.



During the weekdays we offer line dancing, mahjonn, bridge, chair yoga and tai chi. Each month a special event or trip is planned. This March our seniors will be going to the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT for the annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration.

The Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department strives to enrich our residents' lives by offering and providing quality recreational opportunities, parks, facilities and services that are safe, provide value and promote community spirit, participation and fun. Looking ahead the department will continue to grow its programming and we are excited to show the residents what we will have to offer.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

March 18th

Vendors Lunch, Westchester County Center

April 1st

2020 DOH Camp Workshop

Westchester County Center

April 26-28th

2020 State Conference, Tarrytown

May 25th

Memorial Day

June 12th

Awards & Scholarships Lunch

GUESS THE PARK!

So many of our parks have trees, benches, ballfields and other items dedicated in memory of local residents. Here's a few examples. Can you guess what park and municipality they are from?

Photo Credit: Matt Arone, Sleepy Hollow Recreation



Answers on Last Page

Extreme Weight Loss—Recreation Edition

By Kyle Thornton - Yorktown Recreation & Editor of the Grapevine/Website

Ok ‘extreme’ might be a little much for this, but in the 16 months of sacrifice, the extreme part was making the lifestyle changes needed to complete this goal felt extreme. In November of 2018, I made a tough decision: I was tired of being overweight and needed to do something about it. We had a very young son at the time and an active 10 year old, so being tired and unhealthy wasn’t an option anymore. No more excuses for me as I wanted to see them grow up! My amazing wife, Angela (Irvington Rec) & I set up an appointment with a nutritionist and got to work. Our changes? What we ate. Simple right? Sure! No magic pills, no working out at the gym 7 days a week, no miracle creams. Just flat out eating better. I married an Italian woman so cutting out breads and pastas wasn’t going to be easy. My wife helped pick out the food, research better options and worked with me to meet my goal no matter how much I complained. The goal was to lose weight. No specific number was written down, just lose the weight. Pound by pound things got easier. I hit plateaus but kept chugging along. When I hit 50 pounds lost it felt as if I won...my family won. I’m a former D1 Swimmer who trained 20,000-30,000 yards a day, but this was winning. Throughout this lifestyle change, I gained a new goal, share what I’ve learned with anyone who wants to hear about it. I don’t work for a weight lose company or sell anything that will make you lose weight. Just a Father, Husband & Recreational Professional who needed to get healthier and accomplished it. I’m always here for anyone who needs a little kick and wants to talk about my journey. We all have journeys and sharing those might encourage someone else to start theirs. If anything, enjoy life, get out and enjoy recreation in your own life!



Scarsdale, Eastchester and New Castle all had Seniors inducted, in addition to many other Towns and Villages throughout Westchester

and WRAPS, into The Westchester Senior Hall of Fame! Photo (L to R): Brian Gray - Scarsdale, Sally Veltidi - Eastchester, Ike Kuzio - New Castle, Kevin Cook - Westchester PRC & Christine Grey, New Castle were in attendance.

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Congratulations to **Sandy Korkatzis** on her new position as Superintendent of Recreation at the City of Norwalk Recreation & Parks Department.

Congratulations to **Veronica Roche** on her new position as Recreation Supervisor at the Ossining Recreation & Parks Department.

Congratulations to **Angela** (Irvington Recreation) & **Kyle Thornton** (Yorktown Recreation) on the birth of their daughter, Harper Michelle, born on January 2, 2020!



Congratulations to **Jessica & Kyle Peterson** (Briarcliff Manor Recreation) on the birth of their daughter, Hailey, born on January 7, 2020!



**We had more fun at our jobs today than you!
Great Entertainment Showcase. Thank you to all
the entertainers who came and dazzled, mystified
and rocked out ... it is going to be a full filled up-
coming year for many Westchester Towns.**



Past Presidents Lunch 12/4 Hudson Hills - Dobbs Ferry



2020 State Games By: Nancy Bellini, NorEast



We had a team that competed at the Special Olympics NY State Winter Games in Rochester, in Floor Hockey. The team came in 1st place in the 2nd Division !

They were coached by Joe Bellini, Nancy Bellini and Kim Perlongo.

This is the 5th straight year that our floor hockey team came in first place at the State Winter Games.

We are so proud of all their hard work and dedication. They are some amazing athletes!!

Winter Break Fun at Grand Central

By: Katherine Sclafani

Looking for an easy, affordable, fun trip to do with the youth in your community? Are you near a Metro North Train Station? If so, this trip idea is for you! For the third year in a row the Town of Cortlandt Youth and Recreation Center took a handful of their youth to Grand Central over winter recess. After arriving and getting their Starbucks fix, the youth broke up into smaller groups with a staff member and did the audio tour. While walking around the terminal on both the upper and lower levels the youth learned about Grand Central's history as they traveled to the twenty-two different stops on the tour.

The one hour audio tour is fascinating and holds a wealth of information and secrets, almost too much to remember all at once! The youth's favorite "stops" and facts included: the glass walls which



staff use to get from one side of the building to the other, the hidden spiral staircase in the famous Clock information booth, the specially designed ceiling of the whisper corner which is how this mysterious and very cool communication hot spot is possible, the square patch of smoke residue left on the ceiling to show how filthy the

ceiling had become when indoor smoking was allowed and of course how Grand Central is responsible for creating "Eastern Standard Time"! After the tour the youth enjoyed some lunch and then had some time to wander through the shops and markets to purchase goodies and souvenirs. This experience has sparked an interest in the youth who are now asking if we can plan another trip for the private guided tours so they can visit other "secret" places within the busiest train station in the world!



The WRAPS February luncheon at North Castle with the Westchester County Health Department as guest speakers



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VISION 2020 STATE CONFERENCE THANK YOU!

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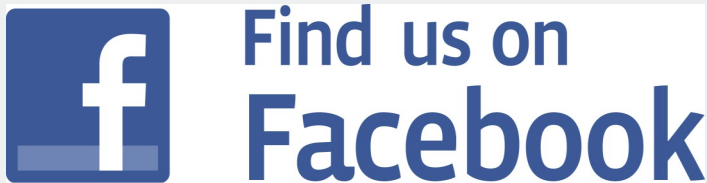
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Since you are reading the Grapevine on the WRAPS website, why not explore the entire site! Check out our Vendor and Entertainer Members, our social/events page and our NEW Employment page! Have any idea for the website? Email Kyle Thornton at kthornton@yorktownny.org!



Website: MadHatterMB.com
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<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 printed in June 2020!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Wednesday, May 27, 2020**

Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:

Kyle Thornton ~ Town of Yorktown

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