

the

Grapevine



March

2023

Edition



LIFE ENRICHMENT THROUGH RECREATION AND PARKS

WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.

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

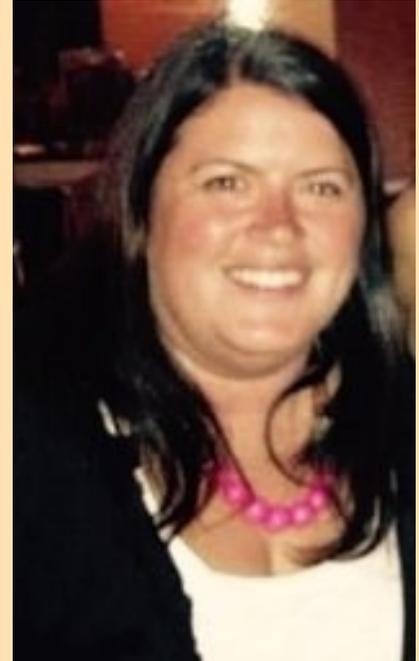
Presidents Letter

With our in-house Recreation and Travel Basketball Seasons winding down and the ever-popular WRAPS NCAA Elimination Pool beginning, that can only mean one thing... SPRING is near! As we all start to groom and line our fields and begin our Spring Clean-Ups, WRAPS has some exciting things to look forward to for our membership.

March 29th will be our Annual Department of Health Camp Workshop. This Zoom Workshop will be at 2:00 pm, and login information will be sent out over the next week. Please share this information with any of your Camp Staff who may benefit from the workshop.

April 3rd is the deadline for the Awards & Scholarship Nominations. This is a wonderful way to recognize each other in the field and receive scholarships to attend conferences or money for underfunded programs. Please get in touch with Mark Duncan at (914) 271-3006 with any questions and save June 9th on your calendar to attend the annual Awards & Scholarship Luncheon.

“Come Together” is the theme of this year's NYSRPS Conference, which will be held April 23rd-25th in Monticello at the Kartrite Hotel and Conference Center. Registration is still open, and in a few weeks, the Conference Committee will be asking for volunteers to moderate sessions at the Conference. If you are attending the Conference and interested in helping (which we know is what WRAPS does best), sign up when that email comes out. Another way to help out is to buy a duck(s) for the first Annual Duck Derby. On April 24th, at the Conference, hundreds of Rubber Ducks will be released into the Lazy River at the Kartrite Hotel. There are many prizes if your duck wins or places, including 1st place, receiving 30% of the “pot.” Be sure to purchase your duck(s) in advance at www.nysrps.org/ducks . When purchasing your duck(s), please indicate that you are from **WRAPS** and that our Duck King **Matt Arone** sent you!



On May 6th, the Poker Run is making its Triumphant Return! Thank you to Jamie Bucci and Brittany Neider for taking on this task and bringing back this fun-filled event. Save the Date of May 17th for WRAPS’ joint meeting with the Westchester Municipal Administrators Association and the Department of Health. This meeting will be held at Dunwoodie Golf Course—details to follow about both May Events.

With everything going on at work, WRAPS, and our personal lives, we sometimes forget to think of ourselves. National Self-Care Day is observed every year on April 5th across the U.S. In the hustle and bustle of life, we sometimes put our needs and well-being on the back burner. Attention to self helps to keep us healthy physically, mentally and spiritually. Our minds and bodies require adequate rest and care for optimal health and well-being. This day emphasizes the importance of self-care as the basis for good health. It’s also a day when individuals are encouraged to prioritize self-care and make it a habit. So, go for that walk, put your phone down, enjoy the outdoors, and do something nice for yourself because you deserve it!

Good Luck to everyone with the upcoming “busy” Season, and I look forward to seeing you (hopefully a bit more relaxed after April 5th) at one of the many upcoming events.

-Sally Veltidi

Community Spotlight— Westchester Parks Foundation

-Joe Stout, Executive Director

Imagine Westchester without its great County Parks!

I am sure we all think that something like that could never happen, and you know, it would take some kind of catastrophic event, or series of events for that to actually happen. But, whether they will always stay the wonderful, safe, clean and affordable oasis's that they are can be subject to the winds of political changes.

Only robust, nonpartisan citizen engagement can prevent that from happening. That's where the Westchester Parks Foundation comes in.

We believe that public parklands should be well looked after and well kept.

We believe that we all have the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible parks.

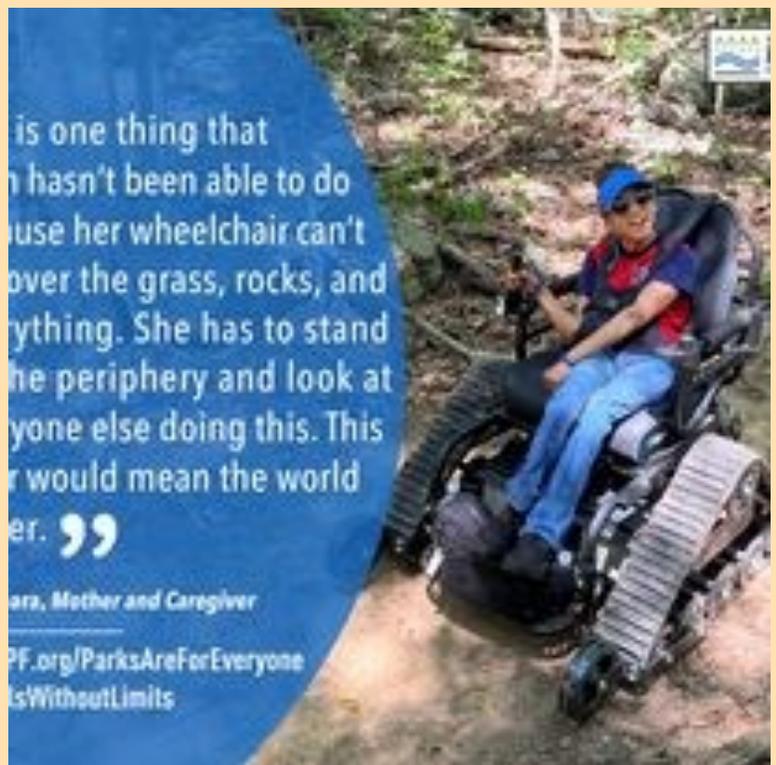
We Believe that parks and programs make Westchester County a great place to live, work and play.

We Believe that parks are for all people.

We Believe that parks need our passion.

We Believe that philanthropy is critical to the long-term health and sustainability of our park system.

I like to say the WPF is not Blue, it's not Red. We are green! We have one beneficiary. The award winning, Nationally Accredited, Westchester Park System.



Our Mission

Westchester Parks Foundation invests in, advocates for, and enhances the 50+ parks of the Westchester County Parks system.

Continued on next page....

Community Spotlight— Continued

Core Values

Passion – our enthusiasm for and commitment to the people and places we serve is evident to all those who interact with us.

Community – We support access and opportunities for all to share the benefits of Westchester County Parks

Growth – We believe in creativity, innovation, and learning for ourselves, our organization, and our community.

Sustainability – We make thoughtful and forward-looking decisions that support the environmental and organizational sustainability of the Foundation and the Westchester County Park system.

Our Impact

Founded in 1977, our dynamic and diverse Board of Trustees has guided the donation of more than \$20 million dollars in projects, program sponsorship and professional development funding support to the park system. Since January 1, 2019, alone, support for County Parks is over \$2,600,000.

Our dedicated volunteers have donated nearly 45,000 hours of sweat equity valued at \$1.35 million dollars* that translates into 21 full time equivalent positions since 2019. * calculations from theindependentsector.org

We operate a sleepaway camp for the County's most vulnerable children. Camp Morty hosts hundreds of kids in foster care, homeless shelters, child protective services or other public services. We are one of the few camps in the country to reunite siblings who have been separated in the foster care system. A very emotional week. New this year will be a leadership program for the Tweens. Kids that out grow the little kids camp but aren't old enough to work yet. They will get leadership and job training skills, interpersonal relationship coaching and a focus on personal responsibility in addition to the traditional camp experience. We are so excited to get this program started.



Our Trails without Limits program will be launching shortly whereby individuals who have mobility disabilities will be able to reserve one of two adaptive trail chairs that traverse all terrains. I believe it will be the first program of its kind in a County Park system.

Continued on next page....

Community Spotlight— Continued

You may have heard about Westchester’s Winter Wonderland light show at Kensico Dam Plaza. A terrific partnership between the great Westchester County PRC Department, Founding Sponsor Westchester Medical Center and the WPF, the program has hosted over 300,000 visitors the last three years bringing affordable family recreation to the region while promoting tourism visits from all over the tri-state area.

Bike Sundays, another partnership with Westchester PRC and leading sponsor Con Edison, has been rolling since 1974 and the WPF has been financially supporting it since 2012.

Through the efforts of a very generous private donor, we are restoring one of the original structures in Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers. Originally built in 1927, the Bandshell alongside Tibbetts Lake will be fully restored to its historical beauty and become the keystone for a multi-year endeavor to return the lake to full recreational use.

This does not happen without that army of donors, advocates, volunteers, board, and staff that are all dedicated to making sure that our irreplaceable Westchester County Parks stay as great as they are and get even better.

To find out more information, donate or get involved, visit our website at thewpf.org



WRAPS Holiday Party

-Crabtree Kittle House





DUCK DERBY

Monday 4/24

Kartrite Water Park Duck Pond

Race Starts at 5:45 SHARP!

\$10
EACH



Purchase your Duck at:

- www.nysrps.org/ducks
- With Conference Registration
- The Conference Information Table
- Directly from a NY Regional Duck Rep
(They will have a duck hat on, carrying a backpack full of ducks at the conference!)

3 DUCKS
\$25



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2nd Place - 20% of the Nest Egg

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THIS FUNDRAISER WILL HELP SUPPORT THE NEW YORK STATE RECREATION AND PARKS SOCIETY

Bits ~ N ~ Pieces

Congratulations to Beth Bricker on their new position as Deputy Commissioner for White Plains Recreation!

Congratulations to Marissa Lieto on their promotion to Assistant Superintendent for Yorktown Recreation!

Congratulations to Kevin Blanden on their new position as Recreation Supervisor/Pool Manager for Scarsdale Recreation!

Congratulations to Andrea Russo on their new position as Recreation Supervisor for Pound Ridge Recreation!

Congratulations to Daniel McGarry on their new position as Recreation Supervisor for New Castle Recreation!

Congratulations to Tim Zephyr on their new position as Senior Recreation Leader for White Plains Recreation!

Congratulations to Katie Coluccini on their new position as Recreation Leader for Lewisboro Recreation!

Congratulations to Ben Becker on their new position as Recreation Leader for White Plains Recreation!

Congratulations to Melissa Trail on their new position as Recreation Leader for Pound Ridge Recreation!

Congratulations to John Palmiotto on his retirement from the Town of Cortlandt Recreation Department. John has worked in the Town of Cortlandt for 36 years, but as he likes to say “more importantly I have 44 years in the system!” We wish John all the best as he and his wife Sharon will be expecting their first grandchild in early Spring!



We are excited to share that Diane Campbell is our new Recreation Supervisor. She has been working in recreation part time in Westchester for 20 years running afterschool clubs and summer camp. She created, directed and developed incredible waterfront programs for Grades 7-9 and now will enhance our programs.

She has hit the ground running putting together dozens of new programs for this upcoming Fall. Her camp expertise will really come into play as she steps in to oversee our multiple beach camps this summer for the City of Norwalk, CT.

We are very excited to have her on our team!

Always go where it will lead to growth!

Congrats!!

Sandy Korkatzis
Superintendent of Recreation



Bits ~ N ~ Pieces Continued

GREENBURGH RECREATION NEWS:



Photo Above: Greenburgh Recreation offers the TIPS (Telehealth Intervention Program for Seniors) program every Tuesday from 10:30 – 12:30 pm at our Multipurpose Center in Anthony F. Veteran Park. It is free to all Westchester Seniors 60+. Seniors get their Blood Pressure, pulse, oxygen, and weight taken. Social Services are also available to those who need it. This program is provided by Westchester County Department of Senior Programs/Services.



Photo Above: A Master Gardener from Cornell University Cooperative Extension came and gave a talk on “Gardening in Small Spaces”. It was very well attended and informative.

NORTH EAST WESTCHESTER SPECIAL RECREATION NEWS:

The North East Knights floor hockey team and skills athletes participated at our Special Olympics State games competition in Syracuse the weekend of February 24. Our 7 skills athletes brought home a variety of medals.



Our floor hockey team was seeded 2nd in the first division and won the GOLD medal. We beat Manhattan! There are not many teams in the state that can say that. This year makes 7 years of winning the gold medal at State games but, the first time in division 1. What a great weekend. We’re so very proud of all our athletes and thankful for our wonderful coaches.



Lancer Bottle Presentation

-Winner: Greg Bean, Rye Recreation



Past Winners

Matt Arone - 04

Joe Lem - 05

Brian Gray - 06

Sally Rogol - 07

Ken Sherman - 08

Bob Snyder - 09

Harry Canniff - 10

Bill Heidepriem - 11

Henry Jamin - 12

Rosanne Saracino - 13

Frank Bernabei - 14

Donna Esperito/Maureen DiPaoli - 15

Dr. Glasser/Dave Goldberg - 16

Daryl Sudlow - 17

Lesley Popkin - 18

Mark Duncan - 19

Sally Veltidi - 20

Kevin Cook - 21

Past Presidents Luncheon - Mardino's Restaurant, Mount Kisco



WRAPS VENDOR LUNCHEON

-Mount Pleasant Community Center



2022 Special Olympics Outstanding Coach for all of North America!

We here at North East Westchester Special Recreation are bursting with pride. Out of 147,000 Special Olympics coaches, our one and only, Joe Bellini (Program Coordinator, Summer Camp Director), has been named the 2022 Special Olympics Outstanding Coach for all North America!

This award recognizes the coach who best demonstrates the true ideals of the coaching profession by helping their athletes to set, strive, and reach their goals, while demonstrating an exceptional commitment to both their athletes and to the Special Olympics movement.

Since 1993 Joe has worked with thousands of athletes and his teams have competed in basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, track and field, soccer, softball, and swimming at every level of competition: local, regional, state, national, and even two World Games. Joe has dedicated himself to making our North East athletes the very best they can be, both on and off the field.

What an accomplishment!



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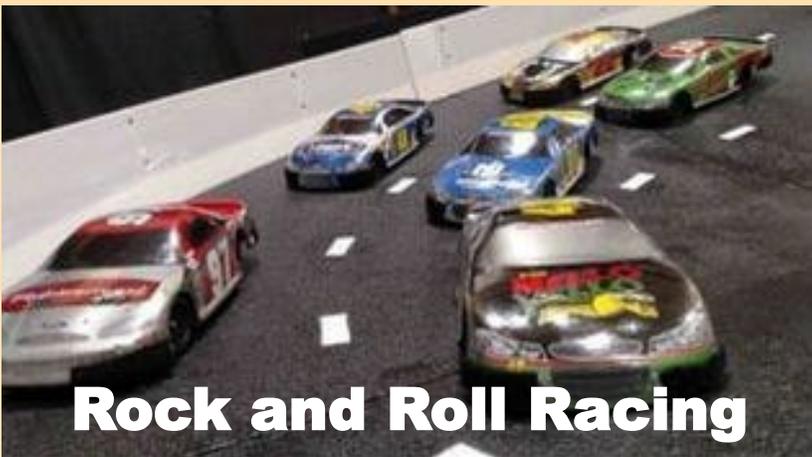
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Dave Goldberg, Past President	764-3987

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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 June 2023!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Thursday, June 1, 2023**

E-mail Information to:

Kyle Thornton ~ Mount Kisco Rec
kthornton@mountkisco.ny.gov



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