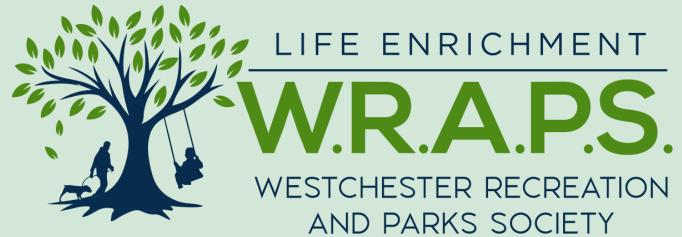


March 2024 Edition





Presidents Letter

Spring is almost here, and in the Parks and Recreation world we know that means the busy season is upon us! It is a busy time in WRAPS as well!

There is about a week left to order your WRAPS apparel! Be sure to order today through the website <u>www.theleaguebrand.com/wraps</u>. Also, in March we will have our Annual Elections, be on the look-out for an email with who is running for each position. Be sure to get your votes in on time!

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. Additionally, if you have reached 15 years of service, please be sure to reach out to the committee so we can start to recognize you. Please get in touch



with Mark Duncan at (914) 271-3006 with any questions and save June 14th on your calendar to attend the annual Awards & Scholarship Luncheon.

April 11th is the ever popular and highly anticipated Department of Health Camp Workshop. The workshop will be held on zoom again this year. The zoom will begin at 2:00pm and information with a link will be sent from the DOH in the upcoming weeks.

April 14th-16th is the NYSRPS Annual Conference in Glens Falls, NY. This year's keynote speaker is Annie Frisoli from Creating Community, LLC. Annie's mission is to serve those who serve others. The Keynote as well as many educational sessions, vendors and socials make this conference one you will not want to miss. Be sure to log onto the NYSRPS website <u>https://newyorkstaterecreationampparksociety.wildapricot.org/</u> to find out more information as well as register for the conference.

As busy as we are and as we are going to be for the next few months, remember to make time for the things that are important to you. We are always planning and organizing events, programs and leagues for our municipalities, be sure to remember to do something nice for yourself.

-Sally Veltidi



Community Spotlight— Peekskill Recreation



City of Peekskill

Let me begin with a brief history of Peekskill. New Amsterdam resident January Peeck made the first record-ed contact with the native tribal people of this area, identified at that time as the "Sachoes". The date is not certain (possibly early 1640s), but agreements and merchant transactions took place, which were formalized into the Ryck's Patent Deed of 1684. Peeck's Kil (meaning "stream" in Dutch) thus became the recognized name for our fair City.

European-style settlement took place slowly in the early 1700s. By the time of the American Revolution, the tiny community was an important manufacturing center from its various mills along the several creeks and streams. These industrial activities were attractive to the Continental Army in establishing its headquarters here in 1776.

Though Peekskill's terrain and mills were beneficial to the Patriot cause, they also made tempting targets for British raids. The most damaging attack took place in early spring of 1777, when an invasion force of a dozen vessels led by a warship and supported by infantry overwhelmed the American defenders. Another British operation in October 1777 led to further destruction of industrial apparatus. As a result, the Hudson Valley command for the Continental Army moved from Peekskill to West Point, where it stayed for remainder of that war.

Continued on next page...

Community Spotlight— Continued

Hawley Green, a resident of Peekskill during the Civil War era, was an African American citizen who voted, ran a downtown barber business, and owned several properties with his wife Harriet. Mr. Green was credit-ed before and during the war with "helping many a slave brother on his way to Canada." Active assistance given by AME Zion Church members, Reverend Beecher, local Quakers and the Greens were part of the fa-mous "underground railroad" of freedom in Peekskill during the 1800s.

The Village was incorporated within the Town of Cortlandt in 1849 and remained so until separating as a city in 1940.

Today Peekskill is a diverse and growing community, in just a 4 square mile area. The City has spent a great deal of time and energy to develop community recreation spaces along the Hudson River for everyone to enjoy. There is currently a 2-mile walkway from Annsville Park to Lents Cove that is busy all year long with walkers, joggers, and bicyclists. The City is working on improvements to both Charles Point Park and the Riverfront Green Park along the Hudson to increase opportunities for residents and tourist to enjoy all Peek-skill has to offer.



Peekskill is also in the process of renovating Pugsley Park in downtown Peekskill. This small pocket park has been a quiet passive park, but has become the location for several events in downtown Peekskill and is getting a facelift to enable it to provide even better programming opportunities. The downtown has played host to some of our yearly festivals including: Holiday Tree Lighting, Hanukkah/ Kwanzaa Candle Lighting Ceremony, New Years Eve Ball Drop, Juneteenth, National Night Out, Cinco de Mayo, and Peekskill PRIDE Festival.



Continued on next page ...

Community Spotlight — Continued

Depew Park is in the final stages of a much-needed facelift and major overhaul. Thanks to Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, we received a SAM grant to redo our main sport field with upgrades to the irrigation and drainage systems, and layout of the field to allow for better

and increased usage. The cinder track around the field has been replaced with an asphalt track to allow for an increase in usage with no wait time after rain and foul weather. Small kids can also ride their bikes on the track while Mom and Dad walk or run their laps. We were also able to add in Ecu-Volleyball courts at one end of the field and are looking forward to getting community teams out on the courts and playing this spring.



The other addition to Depew Park, are 4 pickleball courts where we once had one clay tennis



court at the opposite end of the park. The court had become unused in the past few years, and with the growing interest in pickleball we are excited to see residents take to the courts this spring. We are currently working on grants that will help us do upgrades to our Veteran's Memorial Pool infrastructure and refurbish the 3 tennis courts.

We are currently working on upgrades to our playgrounds thanks to a grant from Assembly

Speaker Carl E. Heastie and Assemblymember Dana Levenberg. We will be upgrading our playgrounds to not only be ADA accessible, but truly inclusive for all Peekskill youth. We will begin with McKinley playground that was closed in the Fall due to issues with surfacing and wear beyond affordable repair to the playground. We are also looking to improve playgrounds at Tompkins Park, Lepore Park, Franklin Park and the Riverfront Green in the next year.



Continued on next page...

Community Spotlight — Continued

We are looking forward to another wonderful summer of family entertainment at the Riverfront Green Park this summer. The Riverfront has been the host of our summer concerts for over 30 years as well as family shows and walk in movie nights. All free of charge to anyone who wants to join us over the summer. The Riverfront also plays host to various celebrations including: 4th of July Concert and Fireworks, Ecuadorian Festival, Hispanic Heritage Festival, Irish Festival, Jazz Festival, Peekskill Rotary Country Fair and Cherry Blossom Festivals, and coming back this summer the Italian Festival. The park also is a much sought after location for family events, as well as small gatherings by local churches, school reunions, and more.



Last but certainly not least, we have an excellent swim program that has programs from infants up to Senior Citizens all year long. Programs are always full and kids come back every season and improve their skills until





many are on our summer swim team. We also have youth basketball, youth soccer, flag football, dance, pre-school program, youth and adult tennis lessons, and summer camps for our residents, with staff working on adding programs for baseball, pickleball, and more.

Peekskill, "The Friendly Town",always growing and looking to improve what it has to offer the community.



Bits ~ N ~ Pieces

Congratulations to **Maureen DePaoli** on their new position as Superintendent for the Village of Irvington Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Kimberly Williams** on their new position as Recreation Assistant for the Town of Mount Pleasant Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Kelly Vasta** on their new position as Recreation Assistant for the Village of Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Joni Ehlrich** on their new position as Senior Adult Coordinator for the Village of Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department.



Cheers and Happy Retirement to Jim Gilchrist, Town of Carmel Recreation, who has retired after 33 years! Enjoy!

Happy Retirement to Cathy Montaldo, City of Peekskill Recreation, who recently announced her retirement! Enjoy your new found Recreation time!



From Joe Archino, now retired Superintendent of Recreation & Parks for the Village of Irvington: "Today (2/28/2024) is my last day as Superintendent of Recreation and Parks. It has been an amazing journey the past 37.5 years serving the Irvington Community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to work with some of the greatest staff anyone ever had. They are all Family. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteer who always answered the call. God Bless you all!"

YOU WILL BE MISSED BY SO MANY JOE! YOU'VE TOUCHED THE LIVE OF COUNTLESS RESIDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO WILL FOREVER REMEMBER WHAT YOU'VE DONE DURING YOUR CAREER!

Camps Cares Turns 10!

Dear WRAPS Nation,

Can you believe that the WRAPS "Camps Care About Hunger" campaign is 10 years old? Imagine how many meals were served because of our past efforts!

June of 2023 an extensive study was initiated to get a clear picture of hunger in Westchester. The report for that 2 in 5 households are at risk, 66 % said a food pantry is their main source of food, 44% skipped a meal because there wasn't enough food, 50% worried they wouldn't have enough to eat and finally, there is a 20 to 30% increase in food pantry visit since March due to funding cuts. Once again, with the summer upon us, those children who rely on breakfast and lunch from their schools will have a challenging summer. WRAPS has been there in times past, and we can continue to make a difference.

If there was ever a time for your camps to get behind the WRAPS "Camps Care About Hunger" campaign it is NOW! WRAPS is 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 added to our WRAPS website to help make this program as turnkey 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

Please visit the WRAPS website at <u>http://www.wrapsny.com</u> then click on the Camps Care tab for a Power-Point presentation that explains the program along with examples of the complete Camps Cares kit.

Our goal remains to help those in need while promoting our departments and profession. Hopefully through all of our efforts, we will help make an impact on someone's life that goes well beyond the fields or gyms.

Thank you all for your understanding and support over the past 10 years in making this worthwhile effort a continued success.

Respectfully,

Bob K

WRAPS Holiday Party

Crabtree's KittleHouse - More Photos on Facebook



And the Lancer goes to.....

Jamie Bucci, North Castle Recreation



Past Winners

Matt Arone - 2004 Joe Lem - 2005 Brian Gray – 2006 Sally Rogol - 2007 Ken Sherman – 2008 Bob Snyder – 2009 Harry Canniff - 2010 Bill Heidepriem - 2011 Henry Jamin – 2012 Rosanne Saracino - 2013

Frank Bernabei - 2014 Donna Esperito/Maureen DiPaoli - 2015 Dr. Glasser/Dave Goldberg - 2016 Daryl Sudlow - 2017 Lesley Popkin - 2018 Mark Duncan - 2019 Sally Veltidi – 2020 Kevin Cook - 2021 Greg Bean - 2022

New WRAPS Logo!

-Courtesy of Michael Newman, Pleasantville Recreation







"Tree City"



Photo on left: Bebop and Rocksteady proudly show off the Tree City USA flag after Mount Pleasant was named a "Tree City" by the Arbor Day Foundation



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WRAPS Vendor Expo -Westchester County Center - More Photos on Facebook









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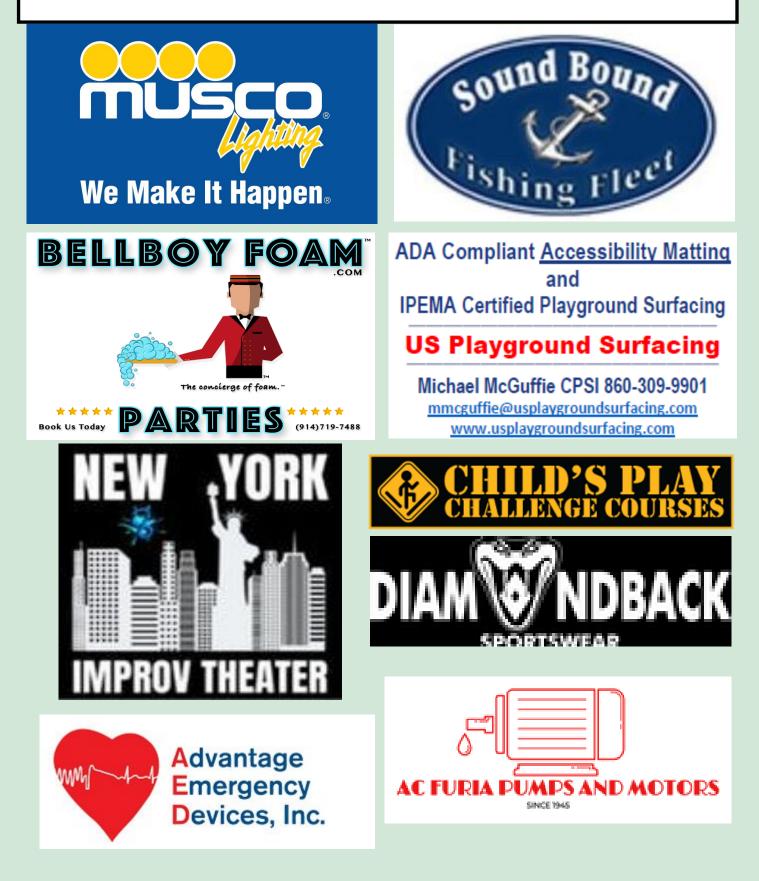
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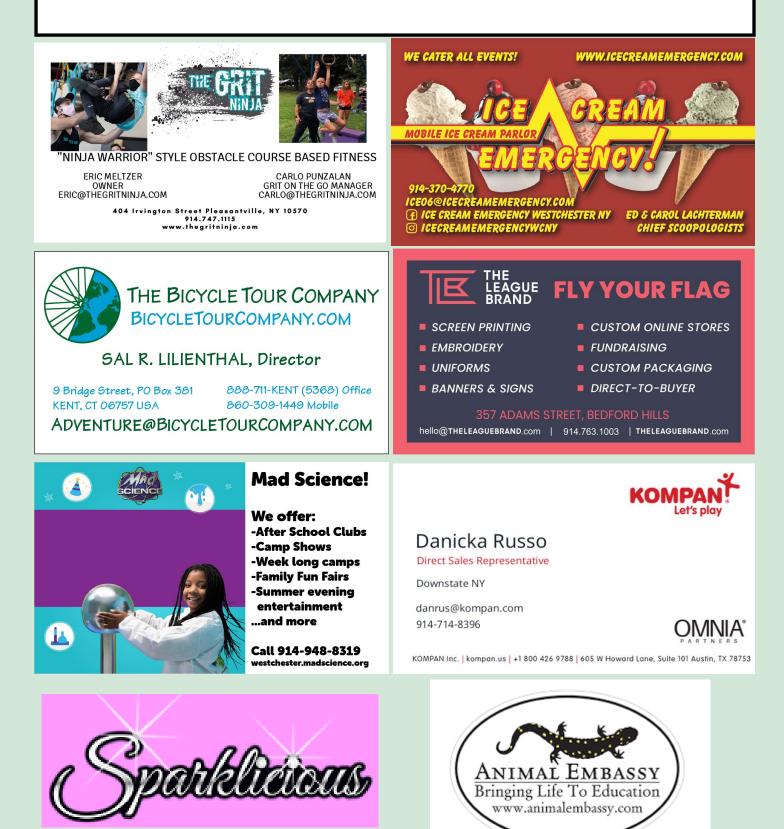
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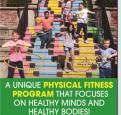
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Sally Veltidi, President	771-3313
Erin Mantz, VP	967-2535
Kim O'Brien, Secretary	864-3716
Vicky Laoutaris, Treasurer	381-7865
Dave Goldberg, Past President	764-3987

Members-at-Large

Beth Bricker	422-1339
Bill Camarra	771-3342
Austin Cunney	698-5232
Kathy Laoutaris	939-3235
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@mountkiscony.gov



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 <u>June 2024!</u>

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Thursday, June 6, 2024**

Send in anything you'd like to share with your fellow Recreation Professionals!

E-mail information to:

Kyle Thornton ~ Mount Kisco Rec kthornton@mountkiscony.gov



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