

the

Grapevine



November
2018
Edition



WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

WRAPS Presidents Message—by Brian Gray

What's the song... "Rain Rain Go Away – Come Again Another Day"? Lately it has seemed the lyrics have been "Rain Rain Here To Stay – Here Again EVERY Day"! This fall, we as Recreation and Park Professionals have been inundated with the following question: "Are the fields open?" As our primary focus is to get our youth and adults alike on the fields playing their respective sports, the answer is never easy. Closing a field based on probable field damage, and more importantly potential athlete injury, is not always met with understanding from our residents. Thankfully, the fall season is coming to an end and I trust you all made every effort under the circumstances to provide your program participants the opportunity to get their practices and games in – not to mention getting the grass mowed! I hope your fields did not sustain irreparable damage prior to going dormant for the winter and look forward to a warm and dry spring!



I would like to thank Dave Goldberg, WRAPS Vice President, for putting together a fantastic September BBQ kick-off picnic at Peekskill's Riverfront Green Park. I always look forward to reconnecting with our colleagues at the September BBQ as we talk about the good, the bad and the ugly we experienced throughout the crazy summer months. We had a beautiful day on the shores of the Hudson River with plenty of comradery, good food, and great live music. Thanks, Dave!

Dave is currently researching monthly meeting topics relevant to our profession and would love to hear from you if you have a particular subject you would like to learn more about. If you are thinking about it, more than likely someone else is as well. Please reach out to Dave (dgoldberg@townofpoundridge.com) with your ideas and PLEASE make every effort to attend our monthly meetings which is a great way to stay on top of relevant industry subjects, not just locally but nationally as well.

I was very excited when the WRAPS Board was approached by the New York State Recreation and Parks Society in July in an effort to bring the 2020 NYSRPS Conference and Business Expo back to Westchester! The last time the State Conference was held in Westchester was in 2004 and it is quite an honor to know I will be the sitting WRAPS President when it returns in 2020. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to attend a NYSRPS State Conference, start lobbying now! You will not find a better venue to attend quality educational seminars, network with fellow Park and Recreation Professionals from throughout New York State, and gain exceptional hands-on experience by volunteering for one of the numerous sub-committees. More information will be presented as it comes!

Please mark your calendars now for Thursday, December 13th as we will be holding our annual Holiday Luncheon at the Kittlehouse in Chappaqua. Invitations will be arriving soon and I hope you take the time to kick back, enjoy a great meal with colleagues and who knows – maybe go home with the esteemed (cough cough) Lanser Bottle!

Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve as the WRAPS President for 2018-2020. Additionally I would like to thank the entire WRAPS Executive Board for investing their time and dedication in keeping WRAPS as vibrant as ever. Your efforts are much appreciated and I look forward to working closely with each of you over the next two years.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

December 4th

Past President's Luncheon

December 13th

WRAPS Holiday Luncheon

February - TBD

Summer Auditions

March 6th

Vendor Luncheon

Updates From North Salem Rec!

Here are some pictures of our Counselors-In-Training at our camp this summer – North Salem Day Camp at Mt. Lakes – they collected 168 lbs of food with the WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger Food Drive. Food was donated to the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah.



There's also a video some of our CITs made asking for donations on our camp website if you're interested in including the link: <https://www.northsalemdaycamp.org/food-drive>

Additional pictures:



Archers practicing their skills



A little rain won't stop our fun! Assistant Directors Lauren Rosasco and Chris Patton, Nurse Susan Solenberger and the Outdoor Skills staff prep the fire for campers to make smores!



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iMatter

By -David M. Reggina, *Assistant Commissioner*, Town of Greenburgh- Department of Community Resources

In the Winter of 2017, Greenburgh's Department of Community Resources located at the Theodore D. Young Community Center (TDYCC), introduced a new youth development initiative called iMatter. The program was created to provide personal and professional leadership development to local high school students. iMatter is an innovative program where participants receive an introduction to the workforce as well as the opportunity to discuss personal topics that are imperative for them to become positive role models in today's society. Throughout the program, students are exposed to a panel of successful guest speakers that discuss topics such as healthy relationships, building good personal and professional habits, understanding finances, and resume building. During the iMatter sessions (two per week), students interact with hands on activities as well as self-reflective methods. By the end of the program, each student walks away with a completed resume as well as a plethora of information that will be useful for each student to navigate through the world of employment. Our Department has tied iMatter to our Summer Camp Experience by offering students who complete the program the first opportunity at our summer jobs. For many, the opportunity has grown from seasonal work to a secure part-time job with our recreation and educational programs. In 2018, progressions to iMatter have been added; iMatter II and iMatter III.

iMatter II expands on the original program by highlighting specific careers that include but are not limited to law enforcement, law, athletics, municipal and local government, graphic arts, finance, engineering, coding/cyber security, nursing, etc. The goal of iMatter II is to get our students thinking about what career(s) they would like to explore as they continue through high-school.

iMatter III provides students with specific work opportunities that directly relate to their career interests. By utilizing the Departments professional connections with local businesses and organizations, students begin to intern in the field of their choice. iMatter III allows students to re-examine their original resumes by adding valuable work experience, training and community service efforts. As students get closer to the college experience, our staff conducts mock interviews to prepare them with the best tips and practices for their future college and employment interviews. As an additional resource to the local high schools, we assist all students with their personal essays as well as the common application process.

To date, five successful sessions of iMatter were completed. In 2017, 108 Students completed the first series of iMatter. Out of those 108 students, we successfully employed 100 of them at our Summer Camp. In 2018, the original students began their iMatter progression and 50 new students were introduced to the program.

iMatter and the Department of Community Resources' programs have seen impressive recognition and success in 2018. Additional funding for the program has been secured through NYS Legislative Grants as well as the Westchester Recreation and Park's Society (WRAPS), *Matt M. Dolan Innovative Program Award and Grant*. As 2018 comes to a close, iMatter students will be taking local college tours in addition to an overnight tour experience in Boston, Massachusetts. The "New England College Tour" includes visits to Boston College, Springfield College, Western New England University, Northeastern University and the Edward M Kennedy Institute.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with the program director, Claudio Valenzuela, as well as our entire team to successfully offer a program that continues to meet the educational, social, culture and recreational needs of our community.

Making Strides against Breast Cancer!

Jamie Bucci—Town of Cortlandt Youth Center Assistant Director

On October 21st the Cortlandt Youth Center participated in Making Strides against Breast Cancer by completing a 5 mile walk held in Purchase, NY.



The YC Cancer Stompers raised over \$2,000 and enjoyed a day of raising awareness through exercise!



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Bits ~N~ Pieces

Congratulations to **Jamie Bucci** on her new position as Assistant Director for the Town of Cortlandt's Youth & Recreation Center.

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Graniero** on his new position as Sr. Recreation Leader at Eastchester Recreation Department.

Poker Run 2018!

The WRAPS Poker Run once again was a huge success. Special thanks to Brother Jimmy's BBQ, Brazen Fox, Ron Blacks, Lazy Boy and O'Connors Pub of White Plains for hosting. We had over 60 participants at this year's event. WRAPS was able to raise some money and have a bit of fun at the same time.

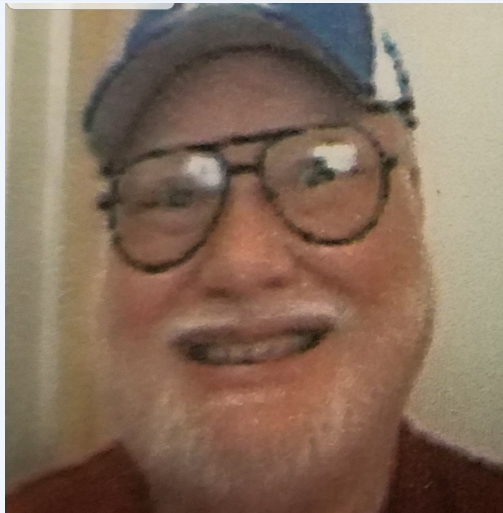


WRAPS would like to thank DeCicco & Son's for graciously donating a Peroni sponsored bike made by Martone Cycling Co (a total value of \$760) as one of the many raffle prizes. Also, thank you to Westchester Parks Foundation, Frank Bernabei, North East Special Recreation, Bedford, Pound Ridge and Irvington Recreation Departments for supporting us by donating an endless amount items to this year's event.



To view more pictures from the 2018 Poker Run along with keeping up to date on current and future WRAPS events please visit www.wrapsny.com.

Condolences



WRAPS lost Longtime Recreation Assistant for Dobbs Ferry Rec, Kevin "Mumsy" McCarron .

Started working in Dobbs Ferry as a high school student in the mid 1970's and retired in 2011.

Worked under Frank Magaletta, Bob Snyder, Chuck Gubleman, Anthony Giaccio and Matt Arone during his tenure.

Was responsible for the municipal pool and day camps run out of Gould Park. Was a role model, supervisor and friend to all the young kids in the community.



Community Spot Light!

This issue will feature Scarsdale! If you would like to be featured in the next issue of the Grapevine please reach out to the editor.

Written by Bob Kaczmarek, Asst Superintendent

The Village of Scarsdale played an important role in the American Revolution as both the British & Continental armies passed through several parts of Scarsdale. Many of the historic buildings throughout the village can be traced all the way back to the early 1700's. Scarsdale remained a small land-locked village hovering around a population of 280 until around 1850 when the New York & Harlem Railroad started to service the Hudson Valley. As New York City grew and became more crowded many who could afford the cost of commuting began to move north. Establishing a post office, a livery, a school & several churches, Scarsdale became a regular stop on the rail line. At the start of the 1900's the population grew to almost 900. Fast forward from the first census in 1712 with a count of 12 to now where over 17,000 residents are served.

Scarsdale's Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation consists of 6 recreation professionals, 2 office support staff and 3 full-time parks employees. The Village of Scarsdale has an extensive inventory of playing fields to meet all of our resident's needs. There are 39 properties in the inventory which includes facilities to accommodate 8 ballfields, 26 tennis courts (15 all-weather & 11 Har-Tru), 6 platform tennis courts, 9 playgrounds, multiple multi-use natural fields for soccer-lacrosse-football & field hockey.. Several of our smaller parks are identified as passive community based parks which serve the residents of the community. In addition to our park system, the Village's Weinberg Nature Center has been a destination in our community for decades providing nature and conservation programming to school age children through adults.

Continued on page 7...

Community Spot Light! Cont.

A unique relationship between the Scarsdale School District and the Scarsdale PRC allows both of our maintenance departments to work collectively together to provide the best opportunities to the community we both serve. By having such a quality collaborative relationship both organizations benefit by pooling our resources to work as effectively and efficiently as possible.

One of its jewels of the community is the Scarsdale Memorial Pool Complex. Celebrating its 50th year in the summer of 2018, the complex features 4 pools designed to meet the needs of all who patronize the facility each season. A kiddie pool and intermediate pool are available for our littlest residents for both free swim/play and instructional programming. For the masses there is an Olympic sized swimming pool that hosts multiple swim meets throughout the season including the Westchester County Swimming and Diving Championships in August. To round out the facility, the Scarsdale Municipal Pool Complex has one of the few dedicated dive tanks in the area. In addition to the aforementioned pools, amenities of the complex include; 1 basketball court, 1 regulation sand volleyball court, 1 gaga pit, a playground with apparatus designed for children ages 2 through 12, a full concession and plenty of open grass areas to relax with friends and family.

One of the less know facts about Scarsdale is that the sport of Platform Tennis was born in Scarsdale 1928 by James Cogswell and Fessenden Blanchard. They had been trying to develop a sport that could be played outdoors during the winter. The original playing surface was dictated by Cogswell's property which had a steep slope and a large stone which limited its size. Too big for volleyball and too much of a canopy to play badminton the men started playing a form of Paddle Tennis. The drawback was that they were constantly losing balls so a fence was then added, however, was not in play until they expanded the court surface where then play off the fence was introduced and now best resembles the sport of Platform Tennis that is played today. The first national championships were held in 1935 at the Fox Meadow Club located in Scarsdale.

In addition to the aforementioned facilities overseen by the Department of PRC, Recreation Staff plan, implement, and oversee approximately 150 programs annually contributing to the annual revenue projections of approximately \$2.8 million dollars. Scarsdale continues to plan and supervise in-house youth recreational leagues for soccer, softball, football and basketball. In 2017/18 the Department saw a total of 1,650 youth, grades K through 8 register for these leagues with the highlight being the Scarsdale Youth Recreation Basketball League for boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 which hosted over 85 teams.

A hallmark of the Department's program offerings is our annual 15K/4M road races. 2018 marked our 48th race making this event the longest running race in Westchester County. Registration numbers average 450 participants combined for the 2 races which occurs either the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April each year.

The Department of PRC is currently undertaking the following Capital Projects during fiscal year 2018/19; Drainage improvement at Winston Field, renovated Har-Tru Tennis Court and NEW playground at Wynmor Park, implementation of a New Recreation Management Software System on November 1, 2018, and the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The times and landscapes of what Scarsdale was in the 1700's until today have definitely changed, however, one thing has not changed – that being the residents demand the highest quality programs, facilities and staff. To that point – the Scarsdale Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation always delivers!

Thank You Scarsdale Recreation!

To Reach the Executive Board

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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 March 2019!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Wednesday, February 28, 2019**

Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:

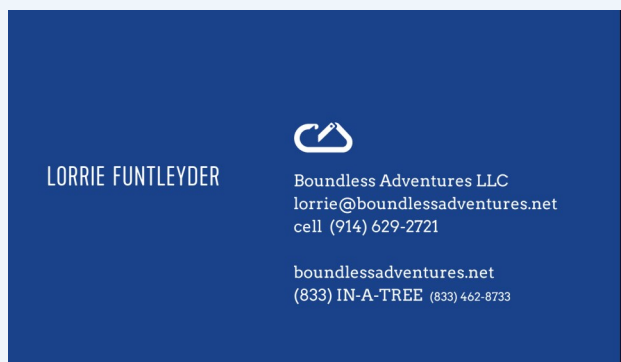
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WRAPS Kick-Off BBQ! Peekskill's River Front Green Park

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