


*the*

# Grapevine



*November*  
*2019*  
*Edition*



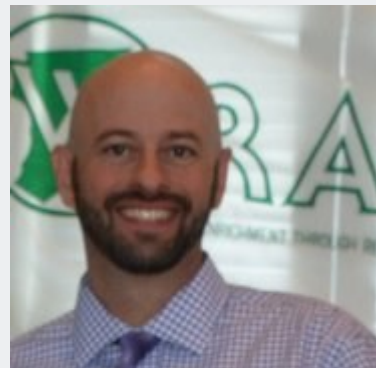
**WRAPS**  
LIFE ENRICHMENT THROUGH RECREATION AND PARKS

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

## WRAPS Presidents Message—by Brian Gray

Early in my career I always appreciated how as the seasons turned, so did my job responsibilities, making the years seemingly move faster. I've heard the phrase "Time flies when you're having fun" but I feel like just yesterday we were celebrating Labor Day at the pool. It is hard to believe Fall Festivals have ended, Halloween Window Paintings have been cleaned from merchant windows, Fall Soccer has ended and Thanksgiving is only a few days away. Where has the time gone?

I would like to welcome in our new Board Members, Bill Camarra and Brittany Neider, both voted in as Members-at-Large and began their 3-year term in September. I would also like to thank Jennifer Guisti for her time served as a Member-at-Large on the WRAPS Board. Jen's commitment to the Board is extremely appreciated and I trust she will remain involved as an active member of the Society in years to come.



Over the next month, our WRAPS Family will have many opportunities to come together and celebrate the past year and look forward to the next. I would like to thank Matt Arone who has arranged for our annual Past Presidents Lunch scheduled for Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at Hudson Social in Dobbs Ferry.

Also, a special "THANK YOU" to Dave Goldberg, Donna Esperito and Maureen Depaoli for organizing our annual WRAPS Holiday Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Kittle House in Chappaqua. This event is always a highlight of the year as most of our membership joins together for great company, conversation and food in a festive atmosphere. To top the day off we are also treated to the annual Lancer's Bottle presentation which has taken on a life of it's own and I always look forward to see how each recipient tries to outdo the previous year's presentation. Who will it be the "LUCKY" recipient this year???

I hope you all have your calendar's marked for the V2020 NYSRPS Conference scheduled for April 26-28, 2020 at the Westchester Marriot. For the first time since 2004 the NYSRPS Annual Conference is returning to Westchester and WRAPS is planning quite the party. A committee of over 40 Recreation and Park Professionals have been meeting frequently, under the guide of Co-Chairs Matt Trainor and Bob Kaczmarek, who have been planning a fantastic conference for Park and Recreational Professionals from throughout New York State.

I am proud to announce, in an effort to entice new recreation professionals to attend the V2020 Conference, WRAPS has committed \$5,000 to sponsor new professionals, in the field 3 years or less, with subsidizing conference registration fees. As a professional who benefitted tremendously from attending conferences early in my career, I employ each new professional in the field to take advantage of this opportunity as well as Superintendent's, to make available to your staff, the opportunity to attend the V2020 Conference in April. More information on this initiative will be forthcoming from NYSRPS within the next month or so.

As time seems to be moving quicker, I find it more important to take time for yourself and family. I can't stress enough to practice what we preach and take time to recreate! Enjoy your friends and family, find time for yourself, and rest up because the summer will be here before we know it!

**Wishing you and yours a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!**

## Community Spotlight– Pleasantville by Matt Trainor

All new things take some getting used to. At the end of February, I made the leap from being responsible for a parks system covering 26 or so square miles to one that contains less than 2. However, as we all know – bigger does not equal better. Or worse. Or easier. Or harder. Just...different. One of the reasons I love what I do as a Parks and Recreation professional is the variety of people, events and personalities that different communities provide. And Pleasantville is no different; it's truly remarkable community that not only lives up to – but far surpasses – its name.

One of the biggest things that attracted me to Pleasantville was that at the time of my hiring, the Village had made the decision to bring the Parks Department back under the supervision of the Recreation Superintendent after being under the DPW since 2004. As we are all aware, there is a trend towards the reverse going on. In a time where municipalities are attempting to save costs by “consolidating” services, Pleasantville had made the realization that this was not the path forward and had taken the steps to remedy this by putting Parks back where it belonged. Since my taking over, we have improved communications with the local Sports Organizations, drastically reduced costs in our operating budgets and have noticeably enhanced the quality of results in areas like field conditions, safety of facilities and Village beautification. Services that were being outsourced are now performed once again in-house by our own professionals. Please – don't misunderstand me; these positive impacts are not a direct result of anything I've done alone. They are the product of a collective result of good choices, knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff (led by Parks Foreman Mario Sansotta), experience at work and a genuine realization that Parks are an important and imperative component in the quality of life.

We have, so far – reconditioned the two baseball fields and rehabbed the natural turf using blankets and smart seeding at Parkway Field, cleaned up ten years' worth of overgrowth and (with the help of a local Eagle Scout) re-established the walking path at Nannahagen Park, took back over operations of the Village Pool (from an outside company) – significantly reducing operating costs and improving mechanical functioning, and have improved the beauty of the Village while reducing manpower needs by replacing old planters with self-watering versions that only need attention once every 4 weeks. Hopefully, this is only the beginning.

In addition to our fantastic Parks system and Staff, there's plenty to do within the Community by way of Events and Happenings! One Saturday every year in May, Memorial Plaza is the scene of Pleasantville Day, complete with rides, games, food and music! You may also have heard of a little event called the Pleasantville Music Festival, operated by the Village in conjunction with the Peak radio station! Over the years, this one-day concert has featured the likes of Blues Traveler, Soul Asylum, Everclear, Living Colour, and Fastball – just to name a few. Having seen the festival this past July from a behind the scenes vantage point for the first time, it was impressive to see this event come together and truly involve all our staff from Village Departments. If you have to work all day on a Saturday in July in the scorching heat, it might as well be at a concert!

On top of some of the programming many of us may consider standard – such as Camp, after school classes and Friday night socials, one of the more unique elements in our department is Panther Club at the Bedford Road School. This is an after-school childcare program for students from K – 5 that runs until 6:30pm every day Monday – Friday; it holds 130 children daily, and employs about 30 part-time staff under the supervision of our Full Time Recreation professionals. Mike Newman and Mindy Rodgers are truly amazing at administering this hugely successful and multifaceted program. Their commitment to working with Parents, Participants and fulfilling the requirements of the Childcare Council is exemplary, and as a Superintendent am extremely fortunate to have them running that show!

Moving forward, there's also plenty more to look forward to in the coming years in the Village of Pleasantville. A major rehabilitation project for Manville Road and Memorial Plaza (including a recreational Civic Space), a pool renovation, and a merging with our Senior Services department are all in the works. The Future is Bright in Pleasantville – and I'm thrilled to be a part of it!



## DATES TO REMEMBER!

### November

Thanksgiving - 11/28

### December

Holiday Luncheon - 12/11



Photo: Mike Wisniewski (Tarrytown Rec), Jamie Corradina (Rye Rec), Liz Linsalato (Mt. Pleasant Rec) & Matt Crowe (Eastchester Rec) having a blast at the 2019 Poker Run!  
More photos can be seen on our Facebook Page.



Photo: Matt Arone (Sleepyhollow Recreation) making a new friend.

## BITS ~ N ~ PIECES

Congratulations to **Jim Martorano Jr.** on his new position as Superintendent of Parks & Recreation at Yorktown Recreation.

Congratulations to **Chris Soi** on his new position as Superintendent of Parks & Recreation at Bedford Recreation.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Guisti** on her promotion to Assistant Superintendent of Parks & Recreation at North Castle Recreation.

Congratulations to **Todd Orlowski** on his new position as Superintendent of Parks & Recreation at North Castle Recreation.

Congratulations to **Bill Camarra** on his new position as Assistant Supervisor of Parks & Recreation at Eastchester Recreation.

Congratulations to **Liz Linsalato** on her promotion to Recreation Supervisor at Mt. Pleasant Recreation.



Photo: Joe Arduino & Mike Wisniewski (Village of Tarrytown Recreation) and their old friend "Bone Head" at the Tarrytown Halloween Parade. This was Bone Head's 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Appearance!

Joe has since seen a doctor and his left hand has healed.

**-David Reggina, 29, town of Greenburgh Department of Community Resources.**

David Reggina embarked on his path to civil service early on. At age 15, he stated working for Westchester County's Parks and Recreation Department, doing everything from office work to staffing their seasonal sports camps. He stayed involved throughout his time at Manhattanville College, where he made the dean's list and hosted free recreational clinics for at-risk youth. In 2016, his dedication and commitment led him to become, at age 26, one of Westchester's County's youngest ever commissioners. He now oversees all five divisions of Greenburgh's Department of Community Resources, made up of 25 full-time employees and up to 250 seasonal part-timers. Allocating the department's \$4 Million annual budget also falls under his purview. Reggina's specialty is promoting health and wellness for every citizen, from babies to elders. His "Be Fit, One Day at a time" initiative, launched when he was 23, served between 200 and 300 county residents through active fitness boot camps at county parks such as Tibbetts Brook in Yonkers, Kensico Dam in Valhalla, and Glen Island in New Rochelle. "My passion is contributing to every community and helping others achieve their goals", says Reggina, who hopes to progress his career toward county- and state-level government service. "My everyday goals are twofold and very simple: Treat everyone with respect, and encourage and equip everyone with positive tools to turn their dreams into reality".—Westchester Magazine Wunderkinds 20 under 30, Summer 2019.



# 2019 WRAPS



**Holiday Luncheon**  
**Wednesday, DEC. 11**  
**Noon to 3:00p.m.**  
**Crabtree's Kittle House**  
**11 Kittle Road**  
**Chappaqua, NY 10514**  
**914-666-8044**

**Enjoy the company of fellow  
Recreation Professionals**  
Be part of  
**"The Annual Lancers"  
Bottle Presentation**

Receive a holiday favor!

**Cost:**  
\$32 Members  
\$38 Non-members  
Includes gratuity  
Cash bar

**Payable to:**  
**WRAPS**  
P. O. Box 152  
Valhalla, NY 10595

**Optional Grab bag**  
**Limit: \$15.00**  
Women bring a gift for a woman  
Men bring a gift for a man

**Please RSVP by:**  
**Friday, December 6**  
Town of New Castle  
Donna Esperito  
238-7287  
[desperit@mynewcastle.org](mailto:desperit@mynewcastle.org)

**Menu:**  
**Cold Salad Station**  
Classic Caesar Salad  
Black Bean Salad  
Dried Cranberries  
Vinaigrette  
Cheeses  
Vegetable Crudite, Dip, Crackers

**Pasta Station**  
Penne ala Red Vodka  
Eggplant Rollantine  
Roasted Garlic Orrecchiette

**Carving Station**  
Norwegian Salmon  
Roast Sirloin  
Roast Breast of Turkey  
Honey Glazed Ham  
Casserole of Market Vegetables  
Roasted Fingerling Potatoes  
Whipped Sweet Potatoes

**Variety of Bread**

**Dessert Buffet Service**  
Chocolate Kittle Kat Torte  
Cheesecake  
Pecan Pie  
Tea/Coffee Service





## Downstate 2019

Dear WRAPS Members,

As part of our ongoing effort to raise funds for NYSRPS's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference & Expo, the Westchester Parks Foundation has organized a *Cash Prize Raffle* with a grand prize of **\$10,000!**

Tickets are \$100 each and **only 250 tickets will be sold.**

**1ST PRIZE: \$10,000**

**2ND PRIZE: \$1,000**

**3RD-5TH PRIZE: \$500**

\*\$500 Bonus for seller of winning ticket

The drawing will be held April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Exhibitor Social at the conference. Winners do not need to be present.

Why are we reaching out to our WRAPS Members?

We are asking all WRAPS Members to assist in promoting the raffle and selling tickets.

If all members sold or purchased just \_1\_ ticket, we would complete our fundraiser goal.

WRAPS has a great reach across Westchester County and beyond. Together we can sell tickets to many people in differing industries and locations.

There is a \$500 Bonus for the seller of the winning ticket.

If you're interested in purchasing or helping to sell tickets please reach out to Ike Kuzio at (914)238-7266 or via email at [ike@mynewcastle.org](mailto:ike@mynewcastle.org).

Raffle is officially registered with the NYS Gaming Authority.

Thank you for your continued support of Parks and Recreation programs in our greater community.



The annual NYSRPS Downstate Conference was held on Tuesday, November 12th. This year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event and therefore was held at The Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown instead of its usual site at the Westchester County Center. As usual, the event was hosted by the New York State Recreation and Park Society, the New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association, the Hudson Valley Leisure Services Association, the Metropolitan New York Recreation and Park Society and of course WRAPS. Committee members representing our society this year were Elizabeth Linsalato of Mt. Pleasant, WRAPS Secretary Kim O'Brien from Bedford and WRAPS Past-President Matt Arone from Sleepy Hollow.

Presenters included Katherine Scalfani from Cortlandt, Kellie Rizzi from Mt. Pleasant and representing White Plains was Fran Croughan and Sia Tofano.

The Downstate Event offered 25 concurrent sessions, an exhibit showcase and lunch for 180 delegates, 27 presenters and 23 vendor exhibitors. Planning for the 2020 Downstate will start soon.



Photo: Members of the 2019 Downstate Committee.



Sponsored by the Westchester Parks Foundation to  
Benefit NYSRPS's 80th Anniversary Conference & Expo

# CASH PRIZE RAFFLE

\$100 per ticket  
Only 250 Tickets Sold  
5 Winners (up to \$12,500 in cash prizes)

---

**1ST PRIZE: \$10,000**  
**2ND PRIZE: \$1,000**  
**3RD-5TH PRIZE: \$500**

\*\$500 Bonus for seller of winning ticket

DRAWING HELD APRIL 27TH AT EXHIBITOR SOCIAL  
(NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN)

For further information, please contact Ike Kuzio at  
(914) 238-7286 or via email at [ike@mynewcastle.org](mailto:ike@mynewcastle.org).

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE NAMES DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



*Vin Parise, Deputy Commissioner,  
New Rochelle Department of Parks & Recreation*

**New Rochelle, NY – June 21, 2019** – Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Zimmermann, has named Vin Parise the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Parks & Recreation in the City of New Rochelle.

“Vin holds impressive credentials and will be a valuable addition to our Parks & Recreation team,” said **Commissioner Bill Zimmermann**. “His passion for the people of New Rochelle, his in-depth knowledge of youth sports, athletics and public relations, along with his municipal experience certainly will be an asset to the department and we look forward to working with him.”

A New Rochelle resident for nearly two decades, Parise arrives from the local government of the City of Yonkers, where he was the Deputy Director of Communications. Under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano, Parise worked in an administration that oversaw a \$1.1 billion dollar city budget for nearly 200,000 residents, including the 27,000 students of the Yonkers Public Schools. Parise has also served in the Division 1 Athletic Departments of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rutgers University and Iona College.

“I look forward to working with the terrific Parks & Recreation staff and rest of the City Hall team for the residents of our great City of New Rochelle,” said **Vin Parise**. “I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am proud to be a part of the city’s bright future.”

A former member of the Westchester County Youth Board, Parise was named to the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle’s Board of Directors in 2018. He resides in the City of New Rochelle with his wife Amy and three sons Dylan, Cole and Ryder.



## To Reach the Executive Board

**Brian Gray, President** 722-1191  
**Dave Goldberg , VP** 764-3987  
**Kim O'Brien, Secretary** 864-3716  
**Sally Veltidi , Treasurer** 771-3313  
**Matt Arone, Past President** 366-5109

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

**Beth Bricker** 231-4645  
**Bill Camarra** 771-3311  
**Bob Kaczmarek** 722-1191  
**Brittany Neider** 238-6391  
**Kyle Peterson** 941-6560  
**Matt Trainor** 273-3325

## 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@yorktownny.org](mailto:kthornton@yorktownny.org)!

*Don't Worry Be Very Happy*  
**Funtime**  
A·M·U·S·E·M·E·N·T·S Inc.  
Serving The Tri-State Area  
[www.FuntimeAmusements.com](http://www.FuntimeAmusements.com)  
(914)773-1320 Fax (914)773-1322



# 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 printed in March 2020!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:

Kyle Thornton ~ Town of Yorktown

176 Granite Spring Road

Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Fax: 914-245-1608

[kthornton@yorktownny.org](mailto:kthornton@yorktownny.org)

 **CommunityPass**  
Recreation Management Software

Tim Bracken

[www.communitypass.net](http://www.communitypass.net)  
[tbracken@capturepoint.com](mailto:tbracken@capturepoint.com) • 201.689.2323 ext. 202  
P.O. Box 628, Ridgewood, NJ



**ANIMAL EMBASSY**  
Bringing Life To Education  
[www.animalembassy.com](http://www.animalembassy.com)

P.O. Box 4461  
Stamford, Connecticut 06907

**203.655.5404**  
[info@animalembassy.com](mailto:info@animalembassy.com)

# WRAPS VENDOR & ENTERTAINER MEMBERS

More listed at [wrapsny.com](http://wrapsny.com)



We Make It Happen.

**Don Rhuda**

Field Sales Representative

Phone: 845/628-4577

Mobile: 914/474-8194

E-mail: [don.rhuda@musco.com](mailto:don.rhuda@musco.com)

22 Chestnut D · Mahopac, NY 10541

**David Kulis**

Field Sales Representative

Mobile: 845/745-4423

E-mail: [david.kulis@musco.com](mailto:david.kulis@musco.com)

50 Saw Mill Road Unit 5216

Danbury, CT 06810



**Patrick (Paddy) O' Mara**

OS Account Executive

Portable restrooms...Restroom

trailers...Waste/Fresh water

tanks

tel: 800.724.4125

cell: 845.214.6682

[pomara@ur.com](mailto:pomara@ur.com)

**United Rentals**

Reliable Onsite Services

14-20 All Angels Hill Rd

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

[ros.ur.com](http://ros.ur.com)

## The Meaningful Magic of David Reed-Brown

David Reed-Brown

[david@reed-brown.com](mailto:david@reed-brown.com)

[www.reed-brown.com](http://www.reed-brown.com)



**Dillon Faulkner**

P: 914.304.4052

C: 914.409.5408

F: 914.304.4053

E: [dillon@byardsports.com](mailto:dillon@byardsports.com)

75 South Broadway, Suite 453

White Plains, NY 10601

[www.byardsports.com](http://www.byardsports.com)



**Quality Family  
Entertainment  
by Macaroni & Co.**

Comedy Magic

Juggling

Face Painting

Balloon Sculptures

Unicycling

Stilt Walking

Private Parties • Schools

Picnics • Promotions

Call Macaroni at:

**(845) 856-6829**

[www.macaronithetclown.com](http://www.macaronithetclown.com)

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