

the

Grapevine



November

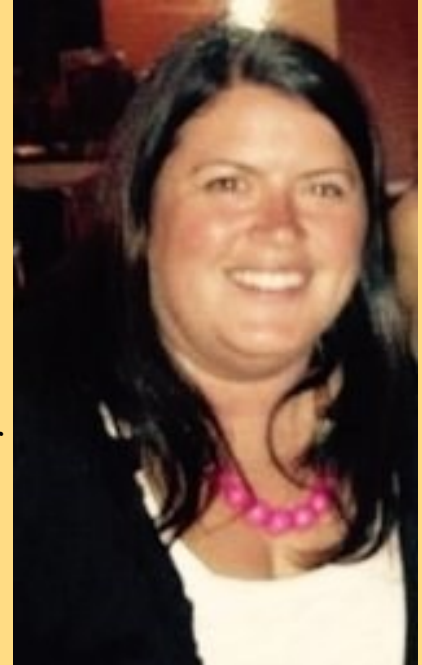
2023



Presidents Letter

After 8 weekends of rain and many cancelations of programs, games and outdoor events we have finally made it to the end of the Fall Season and the start of the Winter!

Thank you to Erin Mantz for the meetings that she has been planning. They have been informative and fun! Thank you to Lewisboro for hosting the Welcome Back BBQ, the venue and food was top notch! Thank you to Jamie Bucci, Michael Newman, and Kathy Laoutaris for their idea and follow through of the 1st Annual WRAPS Softball Game! A wonderful time was had by all, and everyone made it through the day injury free (sore but injury free). Thank you to Bob K. for color commentary for the afternoon. I would also like to recognize Dontae Harris for his idea for a WRAPS Basketball game, hopefully we will be able to play one in the future.



Thank you, Matt Arone, for organizing and running the Jets vs. Giants fundraiser. Be on the look out for the upcoming Super Bowl Boxes at the December Holiday Luncheon. Speaking of the Holiday Luncheon, it will be on Thursday, December 14th at Noon at Crabtree and Kittle House. Be sure to RSVP by December 8th to Liz at elinsalato@mtpleasantny.com. You do not want to miss this fun and festive event and who knows you may be the next recipient of the Coveted Lancer Bottle.

As we start the Holiday Season I just wanted to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Holiday and an even better start to the New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events and Holiday Celebrations.

-Sally Veltidi

Community Spotlight— Rye Recreation

Come one, come all!

Did you hear about the opening of Rye Recreation’s incredible new Amphitheater at Rye Recreation Park??

Officially opened in November 2022, the City of Rye Community and all of their friends & family experienced tons of new events that were organized by the industrious Recreation Department Staff in this uniquely designed amphitheater.

Using an overgrown and otherwise unused part of the park (adjacent to the rear of the Damiano Center) City staff conceived the idea of an outdoor amphitheater. Using a technique created in Scotland to replace golf bunkers, City Engineer- Ryan Coyne, created a multi-tiered amphitheater following the contours of the rock. The tiers were constructed utilizing recycled/repurposed astroturf. The area was further sculpted and landscaped using natural grasses, multiple new trees, outdoor lighting, outdoor speakers and crushed stone pathways. This is only the second application of this technology in the United States, and the first non-golf application.



Continued on next page...

Community Spotlight— Continued

Rye, for sure, does rock!

You haven't been rocking this year if you never attended Rye Recreation's inaugural "Rye Rocks" Amphitheater Spring/Summer Concert series. This highly anticipated series featured a variety of cover bands who was scheduled to perform every other Friday night at 6-8pm from April to June. In addition, there was a bunch of different food trucks that were also on-site to satisfy those hungry cravings.

The series was kicked off by Hazard County who performed on April 28th. Even though there was gloomy, rainy weather on the first night, the party didn't stop as everyone stepped, twirled, spun, and danced to the country rhythm together underneath the rain clouds. Rain, rain go away? No way, Jose!

"Who's going to drive you home, tonight?" The Side Cars (a Cars Tribute Band) was the next performance act on May 12th as the crowd was taken back to 'The Cars Era' of the late 70s and 80s. Pokemotion food truck was also on-site. It was the perfect May-spring night to take a musical drive with The Cars.

Before getting away for Memorial Day weekend, the Wood Vibrations gave an acoustic twist to today's top hits & classic hits to get the whole family moving on May 26th! The very popular Leila's Crepes & Empanadas food trucks filled everyone's appetites too.



With the final two concert performances, we had to continuously battle Mother Nature who forced us to cancel The Scott Wenzel Big Band once and the River of Dreams twice!! When it was all said and done, we were able to make up both concerts and the turnout was vastly impressive.

The Scott Wenzel Big Band performed a repertoire of songs on July 7th (originally scheduled for June 9th) that ranged from atmospheric background music to floor stomping dance anthems, accompanied by Anthony's Hot Dogs Food Truck.

The River of Dreams, a Billy Joel Tribute Band, showcased their talent on August 11th (originally scheduled for June 23rd) and the wait was so worth it! Billy Joel once said "We Didn't Start the Fire," but the stage definitely was being lit on fire with a bunch of kids moving and grooving to the beat! Arthur Ave Wood Fired Pizza Truck was on-site and couldn't have been a better combo with River of Dreams!

Continued on the next page...

Community Spotlight — Continued

Who doesn't have fun on Friday's?

And you thought that was it? Absolutely not! The fun continued into the heart of Summer with a couple “Friday Fun Nights.” This was kicked off by “We Are a Game Night,” who hosted the first ever Family Game Night on July 21st. Battling Mother Nature once again, the event had to be moved indoors, but the fun definitely was not lost. Teams battled against each other in a round robin style tournament where they played in Speed Trivia, Quiz Show (similar to Jeopardy), and ended with Friendly Feud! Actual game podiums and a host made it feel like everyone was on a real-life game show! The winning team walked away with SWAG items, donated by a variety of local sponsors, and, of course, their own medals! Road Grub and Grey's Donuts Food Trucks were on-site.

The final “Friday Fun Night” performance ended with a bunch of “ha ha ha's” & “ohh's & ahh's” as John Pizzi, a talented Comedian/Magician/Ventriloquist/Mentalist, put on a terrific show that left everyone in awe. There was plenty of audience participation that made the show that much more incredible & Kinwich Food Truck filled everyone's bellies to top off the night.

The popularity of the Amphitheater blew up this year and it can even be reserved now for private parties (in addition to our newly built Picnic Pavilions) or other community events. There's much more to come and we can't wait to show the extent of what we can do with our Amphitheater.

Make sure to follow us on Instagram (@rye_recreation) and Facebook (@Rye Recreation) for more news, announcements, and highlights of all of our programs & events!

#CountonRyeRec #RyeRocks

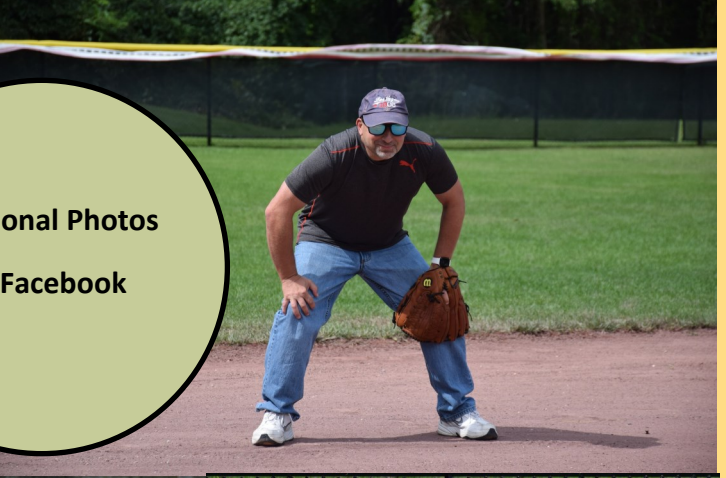


Annual WRAPS BBQ - September Kick-Off

-Lewisboro Town Park, South Salem



Additional Photos
On Facebook



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ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023
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Reservations cancelled after the RSVP deadline will be billed

Each attendee will have a chance
to win a holiday favor.

Annual Lancers Bottle Presentation
given by last years recipient Greg Bean

Cash Bar

Bits ~ N ~ Pieces

Congratulations to **Brittany Neider** on their new position as Assistant Superintendent for the Town of Mount Pleasant Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Daniel George** on their new position as Recreation Attendant for the City of Rye Recreation Department.



Above: Greenburgh Rec Seniors Halloween Bingo! 55 seniors played bingo for prizes while enjoying pizza and dessert!

The Village of Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department announces the retirement of our beloved **Recreation Assistant Stephanie Rossi** as of December 29, 2023. Stephanie has been with the BMRD for the past 20 years as Recreation Assistant happily helping out in the office, coordinating senior transportation as well as planning senior adult programs and trips for the seniors to enjoy. One of her greatest accomplishments has been baking over 4,000 sweet treats a year for their annual Holiday Sing Along and Bonfire as well as preparing over 350 cups of hot chocolate and hot cider. She also received the honors of being one of the 2023 Westchester County Senior Adult Inductees to their Hall of Fame from Briarcliff. While we are sad to not have her in the office on a daily basis, we are happy for her to start the next chapter of her life.

**Ossining Recreation & Parks Department created an amazing Camps Cares Video!
You can find it on Youtube:**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm61hHi9epo



Above: Chris Madera & Danielle Fairweather aka: Bebob & Rocksteady enjoying iFLY with the Mount Pleasant Teen Time off Program.

Bits ~ N ~ Pieces *Continued*



Left: Photos of Erin Mantz, Superintendent of Recreation for Rye Rec, and her daughter Mackenzie who got to go to Rye Camp this past summer! Erin was feeling lucky to be able to bring her to her own camp and watch her enjoy all that Rye Rec has to offer!

We're Not Your Mother's "Senior" Center: 60+ Programming Sia Tofano, White Plains Recreation

When I turned 60 I really started to look at my "senior" recreation programs and said to myself "Is this a program that I would want to come to"? Then, when I also realize that 'Sex and the City' characters are now the same age as the 'Golden Girls' in current times, I was blown away. I said to myself "what a change in our society". Where am I going with this?

The roughly 74 million baby boomers currently in the United States are redefining what aging looks like and what it means to be a "senior".

Years ago, "senior" centers catered exclusively to the bingo, congregate lunch and the card playing sets. They're still there...but they may also be in **Zumba classes, stretching and toning fitness classes, yoga/ meditation, fine art classes, dancing, playing tennis, pickle ball, traveling, attending cultural events, or listening to live music performances.**

Since the stigma of aging persists, some recreation centers and programs are re-branding, removing the "senior" from their posts and publications. People don't want to be labeled, whether it's baby boomers or older adults. Programming is beginning to move away from creating stigmatizing labels...even down to how the phone is answered at your programming site when a patron calls. Our language, lingo, and perceptions are shifting.

Because of this stigma, "senior" programming centers are making changes to attract the "baby" baby-boomer population and shifting their approach on how they are going to accommodate their range of interests and their focus on staying mentally fit, physically fit and socially active.

60+ programming is now redefining that a "senior" center can be so much more. It is definitely evolving. Now when a 60+ walks through the door, they not only have opportunities to make new friends and socialize with old ones, but they have access to a range of services and programs that are in harmony with the latest trends.

Continued on the next page...

We're Not Your Mother's "Senior" Center: 60+ Programming *Continued from last page*

Creativity promoting activities have long been part of the 60+ lifestyle. Creative expression is something that is not limited by age. Celebrated painter Grandma Moses began her career in the arts at the age of 78. Betty White acted until the age of 98. Laura Ingalls Wilder published her first Little House book at the age of 65.

At a Recreation Center a 60+ can explore and create works of art in a fine art studio. They can create a propelling prose in a memoir-writing workshop or create beautiful handy work while connecting with others in the knitting and crochet program. The arts help us to make connections and share our knowledge and thoughts with others. Art allows us to express ourselves creatively through meaningful activities that reflect on our lives and experiences, increasing morale, improving mood and fostering personal growth and lifelong learning.

Technology and the digital age is large part of the 60+ lifestyle. More than ever 60+ are relying on smartphones, tablets, smart TVs and smart watches. They are more active in social media and are streaming content. They are using home technology like voice-activated home assistants, smart speakers, paying their bills and shopping online. The 60+ is more comfortable with technology than ever before and will continue to learn new technology.

A 60+ also **LOVES** to celebrate good times! Recreation center 60+ programs are also not all about classes and meals. They like to celebrate! Hosting a variety of social activities, holiday and culturally diverse events are key to promoting socialization and building connections. Promoting a **socially supportive environment** influences successful aging. Creating social opportunities successfully counteracts isolation, loneliness and worry about the future. Celebrations build social networks and ego integrity and feelings of self-worth.

So I say it's time to start asking the important question. "Where is your mind set and how do you perceive a 60+? Is your program following the rising trends? I say, if have some of those 60+ "ers" encourage them to stop by their local Recreation Center where they can create more energy, laugh more, party more, learn more and connect more!



Southeast Consortium Featured!

COMMUNITYCONTENT

SOUTHEAST CONSORTIUM

for Special Services

By Jennifer Spenner-Kind

As the fall season is upon us and the holiday season approaches quickly, it is important to look to our community for inclusive opportunities for our loved ones. One of Mamaroneck's jewels is the South East Consortium for Special Services Inc. operating in the town and Village of Mamaroneck and the surrounding communities. South East Consortium (SEC) offers unique opportunities for recreation, leisure, and creative arts therapies for the I/DD (Intellectual/Developmental Disabled) community. For over 40 years, SEC has provided community integration programs with local businesses and recreation centers in Mamaroneck, Larchmont and other local communities. With a dedicated core of staff and volunteers, SEC continues to offer over 40 programs each season and a variety of opportunities for day trips and vacations. Serving 350+ individuals from the age of 5 to 70, SEC annually raises funds from the community and families to support the programs and services they offer to the community. To find out more information about programs, services or ways to support please visit our website at secrec.org.

WHO WE ARE

The South East Consortium for Special Services, Inc. (South East) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing year-round therapeutic recreation programs, leisure-related activities and respite opportunities to children and adults with various developmental disabilities and special needs who reside in the component municipalities/communities of: Town of East-



chester, Village of Bronxville, Village of Tuckahoe, Village and Town of Mamaroneck, Village and Town of Harrison, Village and Town of Scarsdale, City of Rye, Village of Port Chester, Village of Rye Brook, Village of Larchmont and Town of Pelham.

South East Consortium for Special Services, Inc. is located at 740 West Boston Post Road, Suite 316, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. 914.698.5232

SUPPORT US

The primary mission of South East is to effectively maintain and improve the lives of those it serves by developing and implementing a comprehensive calendar of programs, activities and services that will support an individual's personal growth and health (physically, emotionally, culturally and socially) while enjoying meaningful relationships with family, friends and others. South East is committed to providing programs, activities and services that are age-appropriate, adaptable to differing abilities, safe, fun, and fully community-inclusive to the fully extent possible. It is South East's hope the skills learned will serve an individual for a lifetime.



Southeast Consortium had an article featured in the following:

- Mamaroneck Living Magazine
- Larchmont Living Magazine
- Pelham Examiner Paper

Save the Date!



APRIL 14TH -16TH
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Nor-West's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Nor-West Regional Special Services recently celebrated its golden anniversary with a joyous gala at Traveler's Rest on October 7th. We were thrilled to commemorate 50 years of serving the community with pride and passion! Our organization has always remained committed to providing exceptional services and programs to individuals with developmental disabilities in collaboration with Cortlandt, Peekskill, Ossining, and Yorktown. At Nor-West, we strive to create a warm and welcoming environment where people can connect with others, develop valuable skills, and engage in social activities. We take pride in knowing that we have made a positive impact on countless lives over the past five decades.

The Town of Cortlandt recognized Nor-West's dedication by presenting us with a proclamation that praised our work. In the picture, Wendy Greenfield (Nor-West Director), John Palmiotto (former Nor-West Board President), Lesley Popkin (Cortlandt Deputy Director of Recreation), and our special guest of honor, Chris Morabito, who served as Nor-West director for 26 years, can be seen.



The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Howard Bloom, who has been the longest-remaining participant since the start of Nor-West in 1973. Howard received a special proclamation from the City of Peekskill for this honor, presented by Peekskill Mayor McKenzie and Peekskill's Recreation Director Cathy Montaldo.

It was an unforgettable evening that reminded us of the incredible impact Nor-West has had on so many lives. We look forward to continued success and growth, serving the Nor-West community for many more years to come.

Mount Pleasant's Fall Foliage Festival

Held on Sunday, October 22, was a complete success this year! Over 1,500 attendees enjoyed live music, local vendors, Rock N Roll racing, a pumpkin patch, hay rides, inflatables, and live animals!



WRAPS VENDOR & ENTERTAINER MEMBERS

More listed at wrapsny.com



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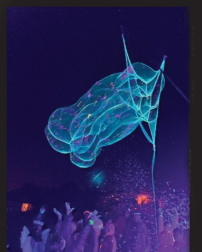
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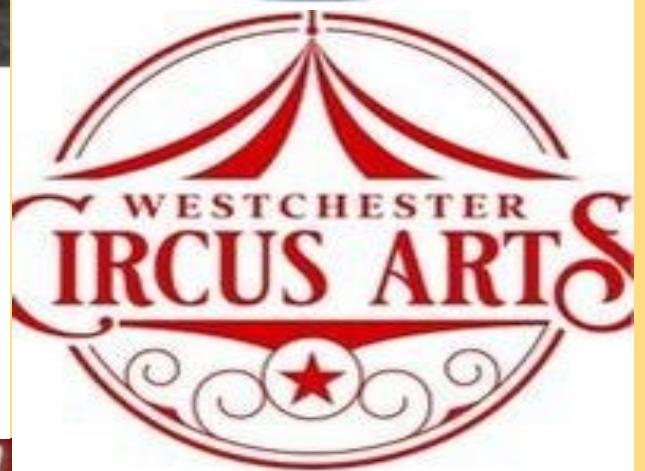
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CHECK THE WRAPS WEBSITE FOR CURRENT:

JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES

To Reach the Executive Board

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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@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 March 2024!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Thursday, March 7, 2024**

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

E-mail information to:

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