



WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.

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

JUNE 2007

the

Grapevine



Westchester Athletes Invited To World Class Competition, Again!

~by Janet Riley, Director

North East Westchester Special Recreation

North East Westchester Special Recreation, Inc. was recently notified by Special Olympics, New York that their softball team has been selected to compete at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China from October 2nd through 11th, 2007!

The North East Knights will be the only softball team representing the United States at this event which will host competition for 7,000 athletes from around the world. Special Olympics athletes of all ability levels will compete in more than 20 different Special Olympics and Olympics-type sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cricket, Cycling, Dragon Boat Racing, Equestrian, Football (Soccer), Golf, Gymnastics, Judo, Kayaking, Powerlifting, Roller Skating, Sailing, Softball, Table Tennis, Team Handball, Tennis, and Volleyball.

North East Westchester Special Recreation, Inc. is a community based therapeutic recreation program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Recreation activities include training for Special Olympics competitions as well as art and music therapy, horticulture, weekend trips, a myriad of social activities, six weeks of summer day camp and much more. Activities are designed to allow these individuals to be successful in a recreation setting. Established in the early 1970's, North East is the second largest agency of its kind in New York and has gained local and state-wide attention for the quality and novelty of programs and services.

The North East Knights will be coached at the games by Joe Bellini, Nancy Troiano, and Donna Asher, all full-time staff members from North East Westchester Special Recreation, Inc. Representing the North East Knights Team will be Max Maksimyadis, Frank Ragusa, Will Smith, Becky Smith, Andrew Stawicki, Katey Weltzien, Sam Powell, Mousey Lewis, Paul Ryder, Mike Danko, Rich Bouman, Joyce Kim, Ricky Hunt, Billy Seide, and Tim Angi.

A comprehensive training program for this competition has begun for these athletes at Mt. Kisco Community Center. Weekly training and on-going competition for this group will be scheduled over the next several months. After all, they have dreams of winning the gold medal in their sport. It is possible, they know. In 2005, North East sent a team to the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. There, sixteen athletes from North East competed in Floor Hockey. They returned with the gold medal.

CONFERENCE 2008 LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS!

The Conference Committee for the 2008 NYSRPS Conference is looking for speakers. Take this opportunity to share your knowledge and great ideas with your fellow professionals. Don't wait! Contact Donna Esperito, New Castle Recreation, at 238-7287 right away or you may miss this great opportunity.

INSIDE :

Awards & Scholarships

Bits and Pieces

President's message & more...

WRAPS 50th ANNUAL AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

AWARDS:

Public Service Award ~ Organization

New Rochelle Campership Fund, Inc.

Public Service Award ~ Individual

Douglas Carey, City of Rye

Voluntary Service Award ~ Organization

White Plains Beautification

E. Mario Cribari Voluntary Service Award

John Giglio ~ Croton Recreation Department
Colleen Wagner ~ Pleasantville Recreation Dept.

Staff Associate Award

Kim Perlongo ~ North East Recreation Dept.
Sandy Price ~ Lewisboro Parks & Recreation Dept.

Youth Sports Coaches Award

Richard "Rippy" Philipps ~ Scarsdale Recreation Department

Mathew M. Dolan Innovative Program Award & Grant

Peekskill Recreation Department ~ "Children's Theatre Company"

Henry B. Funking Youth Award

Robby Angilletta ~ Rye Recreation Department

The Austin Welch PIERRE Award

Andrew J. Spano ~ "Legacy Program"

Peter J. Mayers Award for Merit

Joan Armstrong ~ Irvington Recreation Department

Joseph E. Curtis Achievement Award

Gerry Byrne ~ Greenburgh Recreation Department

Irwin "Red" Klein Commercial Recreation Award

Jerry & Martha McGuire ~ Post Road Market & Kelly's Sea Level

FELLOWSHIPS:

Dr. Sal J. Prezioso Professional Fellowship

Elaine Donnelly ~ Scarsdale Recreation Department
Aaron Podhurst ~ New Castle Recreation Dept.
Beth Bricker ~ Lewisboro Recreation Department
Scott Naylor ~ Mt. Pleasant Recreation Department
Joanne Aquilino ~ Town of Mamaroneck Recreation Department

WRAPS wishes to thank the following members for their service on the Awards and Scholarship Committee:

Brian Gray, Chair
Donna Esperito
Matt Arone

Kevin Cook
Amy Maltese
Lesley Bornstein

Congratulations also, to this year's local award winners from the NYSRPS Annual Conference in April...

Brochures

Class I Rye Recreation - **Fall Brochure 2006**
Class II White Plains - **Spring / Summer Brochure 2006**

Flyers & Posters

Class II White Plains - **"The Sounds of Summer"**

Special Events

Class II White Plains - **City Lights Bright Holiday Nights**

Robert W. Miner Good Guy Award - Ray Gomes, Hasting-on-Hudson

Robert W. Miner Good Gal Award - Sally Rogol, Rye Recreation

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President's Message
~By Jennifer Fava

Our busy time is once again upon us. While we are busy within our own communities providing key opportunities for our residents, there are events that we can all pitch in to help.

The Empire State Games will be held here in Westchester! The opening ceremony will be held July 25th at Kensico Dam Plaza and the events themselves will take place throughout the County. Lots of volunteers will be needed to pull this off in true Westchester fashion. Contact Bob Del Torto at rld6@westchestergov.com or 864-7054 if you are interested in helping out and thanks to all of the communities providing venues for this big event.

For the second year, we are looking to help fundraise for the Ronald McDonald Family Room at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. WRAPS is looking to put together a group of volunteers to work in a concession stand at the Barclay's Classic Golf Tournament at Westchester Country Club on Friday, August 24th. The locations are on the 1st and 11th tees and we will be running 4 hour shifts. A few hours selling food can make a huge difference to families going through very difficult times. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at jfava@yorktownny.org or at 245-4650 ext 26.

This past April a number of our members attended the New York State Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference in Buffalo. It was again a wonderful opportunity to expand our horizons, network with fellow recreation and park professionals, and pick up a few new tips. If you are not already a member of NYSRPS I urge you to join and become an active member. This organization provides many great professional opportunities. To find out more about what NYSRPS has to offer check out their web site at www.nysrps.org or contact them at (518) 584-0321.

As you may have heard, WRAPS will be co-hosting the 2008 NYSRPS Annual Conference, which will take place in Saratoga Springs. I hope many of you will get involved, whether being a member of the conference committee, helping out during the event

or being a presenter for a session or two. If you are interested in participating, contact Joe Archino at Irvington Recreation Department.

There is a lot going on, especially this time of year. While you will be running around taking care of everyone else's recreational needs, remember to breathe in the fresh air, enjoy the sun and warm weather, and take a moment or two for yourself.

Best of luck to everyone for a fun, safe, and successful season!

Jen

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BITS & PIECES

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our members...

The Stork has arrived!!! Kathy & Kevin Cook welcomed their first child, Reagan Madden Cook, pictured below. She was born on Thursday, April 5, 2007 weighing 7 pounds, 7 oz and 21 inches long. The Cooks both work for Westchester County PRC.



Congratulations to **Wayne Bass** in his new job as **Assistant Superintendent of Recreation & Parks for the Town of New Castle.** Wayne, formerly of White Plains Recreation, has the good fortune to work with Bob Snyder. Also working at **New Castle Recreation & Parks, Donna Esperito** has been promoted to **Supervisor II.** You deserve it Donna!

Rye Recreation would like to welcome **Matt Trainor** as their new **Senior Recreation Leader.** Matt transferred from the Town of Mamaroneck in February.

Good Luck to Phil Foley in his new position with **Anaconda Sports.**

What's happening at Scarsdale Recreation: **Brian Grey, Assistant Superintendent,** was married to **Melissa Becker.** Also, **Elaine Donnelly** is a new **Recreation Supervisor.**



Recently several WRAPS members joined Lesley Bornstein in Las Vegas to renew her wedding vows. Pictured left to right are: Karen McIntyre, Colleen Anderson, ELVIS, Lesley Bornstein, Ike Kuzio, Karen Kuzio, Rebecca Bell. All are from the Town of Cortlandt Recreation Department, except Ike (Westchester County PRC) and Karen Kuzio (Briarcliff Manor Recreation.) Where is Lesley's husband? Or did she marry Elvis?

TO REACH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jennifer Fava, President	245-4650 x26
Dana Mayclim, Vice President	232-6162
Daryl Sudlow, Secretary	666-7004
Kevin Cook, Treasurer	864-7064
Fran Brunelle, Past President	734-7275

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Fran Croughan	422-1336
Kevin Donnelly	864-7056
Brian Gray	722-1160
Joe Lemischak	864-7036
Susan Snyder	271-3006
Sally Rogol	967-2535

THERE'S STILL TIME!

As you know, Westchester County is hosting the Empire State Games this July. We expect 12,000 people to converge on the Kensico Dam Plaza for the opening ceremonies on Wednesday evening, July 25, 2007. Recreation professionals are needed to help with transportation, staging, parking, the athlete's BBQ before the ceremonies, V.I.P. tent, etc. Cool hats and shirts for all volunteers. It's not too late...to fill out the application enclosed in this issue of the Grapevine and send it to Bob DeTorto at Westchester County PRC. For more information contact Bob at 864-7054 or rld6@westchestergov.com.



CALL FOR GRAPEVINE ARTICLES!

The next issue of the Grapevine is scheduled to be printed in November 2007.

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by Monday, October 8, 2007.

Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:

Susan Snyder ~Croton Recreation Dept.
1 Van Wyck Street
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
Fax: 862-3497

E-mail: Snyder@crotononhudson-ny.gov

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Once again WRAPS is looking to help the Ronald McDonald Family Room at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. We will be working in one of the concession stands at either the 1st or 11th tees during the Barclay's Classic Golf Tournament at Westchester Country Club. The event runs from August 20th-26th and we are scheduled to work on Friday, August 24th in shifts lasting 4 hours. If you are interested, please contact Jen Fava at jfava@yorktownny.org or at 245-4650 ext 26.

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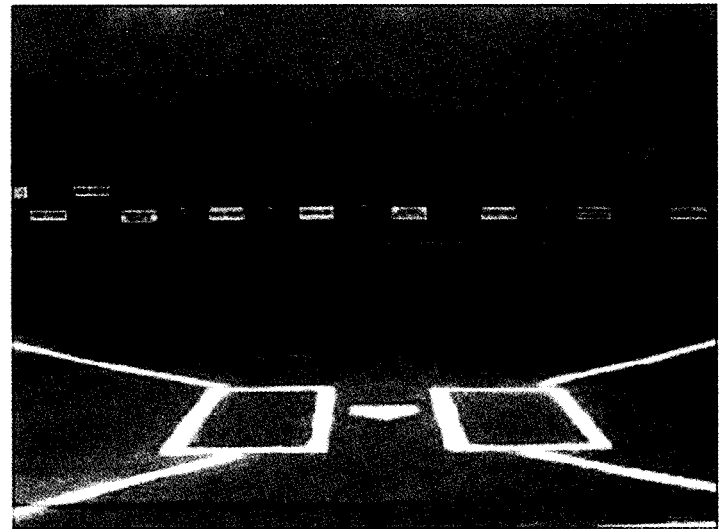
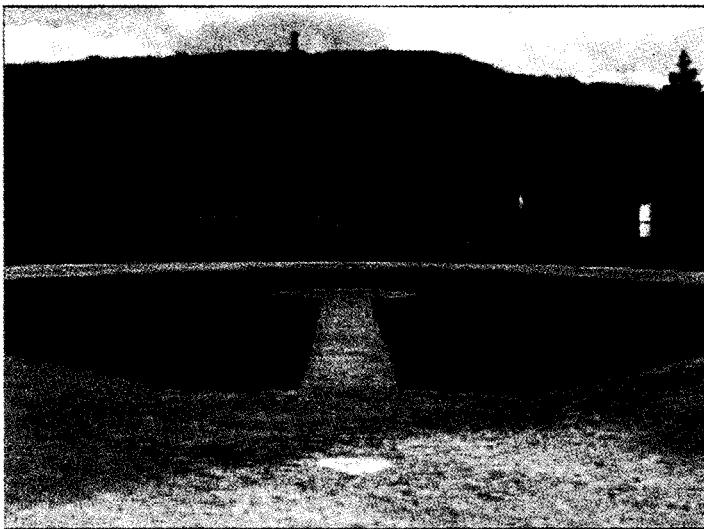
Pictured above: Past WRAPS members Eileen Lohner (Turk) and Andrea McGuire at Andrea's retirement. Eileen's husband Steve is also pictured. Andrea retired from Newport Beach Rec. Dept.



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- Safer Playing Surface**

DR. PREZIOSO TURNS 94 YEARS YOUNG

Past Presidents Ken Batchelor, Jim Arles, and Joe Curtis recently celebrated Dr. Sal Prezioso's 94th birthday. The four are pictured below.



13th ANNUAL DOWNSTATE RECREATION CONFERENCE

The 13th Annual Downstate Recreation Conference will be held **Thursday, October 11, 2007** at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. The conference is co-hosted by NYSRPS, Hudson Valley Leisure Service Association, WRAPS, NYSTRA, Long Island Leisure Service Association, and Metropolitan Recreation & Parks Society. Save the date!

SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMMING

The next meeting of the Senior Citizen Programming Section will be held on **June 19th** at the Division Street Grill in Peekskill. You are invited to collaborate, network, and share your ideas on senior citizen programs. This section of WRAPS will address the needs and interests of professionals working in this growing field. Bring a copy of your current programs newsletter to share. Lunch can be ordered off the menu. For more information, call Sia Tofano at 422-1424.



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Below: Photos from NYSRPS Annual Conference, including Niagara Falls, courtesy of Sally Rogol.

