

the

Grapevine



June
2024
Edition



LIFE ENRICHMENT

W.R.A.P.S.

WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARKS SOCIETY

Presidents Letter

It is hard to believe that we are already in June! What a ½ of a year it has already been. We accomplished a lot this past year, and I am so proud of us as a Society. A new logo, cool merchandise and bringing the NYSRPS Conference back to Westchester are just a few of the really impressive accomplishments we have achieved together.



I would like to Thank You all for your support over the last 2 years during my presidency. I had to chance to email and chat with a lot of the society. I know you might not miss my emails, but I will miss communicating with everyone so much.

I know the new slate of Officers are excited for their positions and to continue to lead WRAPS to new heights. Congratulations to new President Erin Mantz, Vice President Kim O'Brien, Secretary Brittany Neider, returning Treasurer Vicky Laoutaris, new Board Members Mike Newman and Allison Herskovitz and returning member Liz Linsalato. They will be joining current Members at Large- Austin Cunney, Bill Camarra & Kathy Laoutaris.

As the busy season approaches make sure to take some time for yourself, your family and loved ones. Enjoy some relaxation when you can and I wish you all a happy and safe Summer!

-Sally Veltidi

Nor-West Special Recreation

The past two years have been an incredible time for Nor-West! In 2023, we celebrated our organization's 50th anniversary. The mayor of Peekskill attended our gala and honored many of our long-time participants, including Harold Bloom – who earned Nor-West's Lifetime Achievement award for attending our programming for all 50 years! It was an opportunity to reflect on five decades of dedicated service to the community, and we feel immense pride and gratitude towards all those who have contributed to making Nor-West a truly exceptional organization.

Entering 2024, we were notified of another big change – a complete and total upgrade to the Nor-West offices! Thanks to the efforts of the Cortlandt town board, our office was moved into the heart of the community – the Cortlandt Town Center. They provided Nor-West a brand new office space for us to continue serving the individuals who attend our programming in a fresh, modern facility. Thanks to their efforts, we have been able to expand our programming, including a brand-new children's program in Ossining.

Here's to Nor-West – and another 50 years!

To learn more about us, please visit our website: <http://nor-west.org/>

South East Consortium Special Recreation

South East has started 2024 with a bang! This past January we continued with our initiative to provide more overnight weekend opportunities. We went up to the Kartrite Water Park for MLK weekend! Our Spring season is currently winding down. We enjoyed some amazing trips including a Yankee game where we got to watch our team win! We also took the trip over to We are excited to begin the Summer Camp season, introducing our Life Experience Program for individuals looking to develop life skills for post-graduation. This Summer we will be heading down to Universal Studios in Orlando where we will spend a week enjoying all the chills and thrills! Our yearly SEC Formal was this past Saturday, June 1st. We danced the night away at Bronxville School where we were joined by amazing student volunteers who made the night very special for us all. We look forward to the second half of 2024 and know that it will be even better!

North East Westchester Special Recreation

The North East Westchester Special Recreation floorball team have been on the move. In April our unified floorball team headed out to Salt Lake City Utah to participate in the team trails for the 2025 Special Olympics World Games in Italy. We all had an outstanding time. Our team was able to show off their amazing skills with this new sport. During our training, local floorball athletes from Utah joined the athletes and ran through some drills. They provided coaching to help develop our skills on the court and created some lasting memories for us.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we're incredibly grateful for. We're eagerly looking forward to continuing our training, as it was not only beneficial for skill development but also served as a bonding experience for athletes and unified partners alike.



AUGUST 1ST
First annual



BUY YOUR DUCKS HERE!



DUCK DERBY

Tibbetts Brook Park Pool

355 MIDLAND AVE, YONKERS, NY

5:30PM - 7:30PM

Support our mission to invest in, advocate for, and enhance the 50+ parks of the Westchester County Parks system.

Duck Prices:

1 Duck	3 Ducks	1 Flock (10)
\$20	\$45	\$125

Sponsorship Levels:

Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000

Exclusive Sponsor Banner / Press Release Recognition / Exclusive Recognition through Social Media

Duck Sponsor - \$2,500

Exclusive Sponsor Banner / Press Release Recognition / Logo Featured on Social Media

Event Sponsor - \$500

Shared Event Sponsor Banner / Logo Featured on Social Media

Community Sponsor - \$250

Shared Community Sponsor Banner / Logo Featured on Social Media



Games, prizes and music! Food & drink available for purchase, alcohol for 21+! Free ice cream for kids!

You do not need to be present to win. All adults must purchase at least one duck to enter, kids are free.

RAIN DATE
AUGUST
7

FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION CONTACT:
EVAN@THEWPF.ORG | 914-231-4600

theWPF.org/DuckDerby

2024 Awards & Scholarships Luncheon

List of Award Winners

Professional Service Awards

Jill Fisher: 35 Years

Matt Arone: 30 Years

Brian Gray: 30 Years

Bob Kaczmarek: 30 Years

Jim Whiting: 30 Years

Scott Naylor: 25 Years

Karen Kuzio: 25 Years

Kevin Valentine: 20 Years

Vicky Laoutaris: 20 Years

Tim Fisher: 20 Years

Jason Marra: 20 Years

Kyle Thornton: 15 Years

Dan Walczewski: 15 Years

Lifetime Membership Awards

Joseph Archino

Gerard Byrns

Elaine Donnelly

Cathy Montaldo

Public Service Award– Individual

Dr. Laurence “Larry” Lonky, Irvington

Public Service Award– Org.

Sleepy Hollow Sprint Triathlon

Voluntary Service Award-Org.

Lewisboro Playground Improvement
Project

E. Mario Cribari Voluntary Service Award-Individual

William Tackler, Lewisboro

&

Pete Beasco, Bedford

Staff Associate Award

Daina Adorno, Lewisboro

&

Anthony Corradina, Dobbs Ferry

Awards & Scholarship — Continued

Matt Dolan Innovative Program Award & Award Grant

Trails without Limits, Westchester
Parks Foundation

Ruth M & Bill Lederer Fellowship

Breakthrough Fit Club
&

South East Consortium Garden Club
&

North East Special Recreation

Henry B Funking Youth Award

Samantha Arone
&
Brendan Wilingham

Austin Welch Pierre Award

CJ Reilly, The Irvington Woods Park

Joseph E. Curtis Achievement Award

Sally Veltidi, Eastchester

Peter J. Mayers Award for Merit

Gerard Byrne, Greenburgh

**Thank you to the
Awards & Scholarship
committee for putting
on another great
luncheon. See you all in
2025!**

Committee:

- ♦ Mark Duncan, Chair, Croton
- ♦ Erin Mantz, Rye
- ♦ Mike Newman, Pleasantville
- ♦ Vicky Laoutaris, Mamaroneck Town
- ♦ Lauren O'Connor, New Rochelle
- ♦ Kyle Peterson, Westchester PRC
- ♦ Jamie Bucci, New Castle
- ♦ Matt Trainor, North Castle
- ♦ Sia Tofano, White Plains
- ♦ Donna Esperito, Lifetime Member





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 attached 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

For further inspiration please visit the WRAPS website at <http://www.wrapsny.com> then click on the Camps Care tab for a PowerPoint 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

Bits ~ N ~ Pieces

Congratulations to **William Bland** on their promotion to Deputy Commissioner for Westchester County PRC

Congratulations to **Danielle Fairweather** on their new position as Assistant Superintendent for Rye Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Martyn White** on their new position as Supervisor I for White Plains Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Joan Hernandez** on their new position as Recreation Supervisor for Westchester County PRC.

Congratulations to **Chris Madera** on their promotion to Senior Recreation Leader for Mount Pleasant Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Allie Herskovitz** on their promotion to Senior Recreation Leader for Mount Kisco Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Danny George** on their new position as Recreation Leader for Eastchester Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Samantha Arone** on their new position as Recreation Attendant for Rye Recreation Department.

The Village of Briarcliff Manor would like to announce the hiring of Kelly Vasta as Recreation Assistant replacing the retired Stephanie Rossi.



Photo Left: On a recent trip to The Villages, Florida Kevin Cook (Westchester County) got together for lunch with WRAPS Legend, Dan Miller



Thanks New York State Recreation & Park Society for another great conference in Queensbury NY. It was a great celebration of the amazing NY recreation professionals. We connected, learned and were re-inspired. *Photo on front page is also from the conference.*



Congratulations to Gerry Byrne on his retirement and the dedication of the multi-purpose facility in his name.

Additional Photos of Gerry Byrne's Retirement Celebration



WRAPS VENDOR & ENTERTAINER MEMBERS

More listed at wrapsny.com

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

CLOSE TO
3 DECADES
OF
FAMILY MEMORIES
EVENT PLANNING
EVENT RENTALS
AT YOUR PLACE
OR OURS
JV MALL
650 LEE BLVD
YORKTOWN NY 10598

PIT STOP
GAMES • RIDES • FOOD

Play Connection
Family Fun Party Center

LLI
LARGER
THAN LIFE

Get Your Kids Moving & Grooving With Zach Alexander Magic



ILLIS
DIGITAL SOUND

FESTIVALS • CORPORATE • CONCERTS • PRIVATE • LIVE EVENTS

YOUR SOLUTION FOR AUDIO & VIDEO

Essence Willis
347-839-0847
WillisDigitalSound@gmail.com



Mike Stankina • Design Consultant

mstankina@mrcrec.com

cell 215.300.8396

ph 732.458.1111

www.mrcrec.com

MRC

Brook 35 Park, 2130 Route 35

Building B Suite 222

Sea Girt, NJ 08750

800.922.0070 x1033 • f 732.974.0226

SUPERHERO FUN ADVENTURE
THE MOST FUN KIDS ACTIVITY CLASS AND MULTI-SPORTS CLASS

SUPERHERO CLASSES
CLASSES FOR AGES 2-6 YEARS

WETSCHESTER
OPEN CLASSES
PRIVATE PODS
BIRTHDAY PARTIES
CAMPS

In these classes, children will act as superheroes on a mission to get their energy out! They will work through fun superhero obstacle courses or a superhero multi-sports class that will test and improve their coordination.

info@superherofunadventure.com
superherofunadventure.com
718 - 559 - 0464

Magical Memories
Entertainment
Making Memories That Will Last A Lifetime

Bubble Show Plus



Rick Moore

Insured/Certified Bubbleologist

201-819-3769 : Cell

201-529-4384 : Office

e-mail - rick-m@msn.com



bubble show plus



[rick_twistedcreations](https://www.instagram.com/rick_twistedcreations)

www.bubbleshowplus.com



WRAPS VENDOR & ENTERTAINER MEMBERS

More listed at wrapsny.com



Macaroni the Clown

www.macaronitheclown.com
845-856-6829

Comedy Magic! Juggling!
Unicycling! Balloon Sculpting!

Fully Insured ~ Reasonable Rates
Guaranteed Funny!

Professional Entertainment
for ALL AGES!

**CROSS
COURT**
PICKLEBALL
• HAWTHORNE •

WWW.CC-PICKLEBALL.COM

5 BROWNS LANE, HAWTHORNE, NY 10532 | 914-662-8200

NEW YORK

IMPROV THEATER



**Advantage
Emergency
Devices, Inc.**



ADA Compliant Accessibility Matting
and

IPEMA Certified Playground Surfacing

US Playground Surfacing

Michael McGuffie CPSI 860-309-9901

mmcguffie@usplaygroundsurfacing.com

www.usplaygroundsurfacing.com



**CHILD'S PLAY
CHALLENGE COURSES**

DIAMOND BACK
SPORTSWEAR



AC FURIA PUMPS AND MOTORS

SINCE 1944



GILLID SYSTEMS

WRAPS VENDOR & ENTERTAINER MEMBERS

More listed at wrapsny.com



"NINJA WARRIOR" STYLE OBSTACLE COURSE BASED FITNESS

ERIC MELTZER
OWNER
ERIC@THEGRITNINJA.COM

CARLO PUNZALAN
GRIT ON THE GO MANAGER
CARLO@THEGRITNINJA.COM

404 Irvington Street Pleasantville, NY 10570
914.747.1115
www.thegritninja.com

WE CATER ALL EVENTS!

WWW.ICECREAMEMERGENCY.COM



914-370-4770

ICE06@ICECREAMEMERGENCY.COM

ICE CREAM EMERGENCY WESTCHESTER NY

ICECREAMEMERGENCYWCNY

ED & CAROL LACHTERMAN
CHIEF SCOOPOLOGISTS



THE BICYCLE TOUR COMPANY
BICYCLETOURCOMPANY.COM

SAL R. LILIENTHAL, Director

9 Bridge Street, PO Box 381
KENT, CT 06757 USA

888-711-KENT (5368) Office
860-309-1449 Mobile

ADVENTURE@BICYCLETOURCOMPANY.COM



THE
LEAGUE
BRAND

FLY YOUR FLAG

- SCREEN PRINTING
- EMBROIDERY
- UNIFORMS
- BANNERS & SIGNS
- CUSTOM ONLINE STORES
- FUNDRAISING
- CUSTOM PACKAGING
- DIRECT-TO-BUYER

357 ADAMS STREET, BEDFORD HILLS

hello@THELEAGUEBRAND.com | 914.763.1003 | THELEAGUEBRAND.com



Mad Science!

We offer:

- After School Clubs
- Camp Shows
- Week long camps
- Family Fun Fairs
- Summer evening entertainment
- ...and more

Call 914-948-8319
westchester.madscience.org



Danicka Russo

Direct Sales Representative

Downstate NY

danrus@kompan.com

914-714-8396



KOMPAN Inc. | kompan.us | +1 800 426 9788 | 605 W Howard Lane, Suite 101 Austin, TX 78753

Sparklicious

Rock and Roll Racing



To Reach the Executive Board

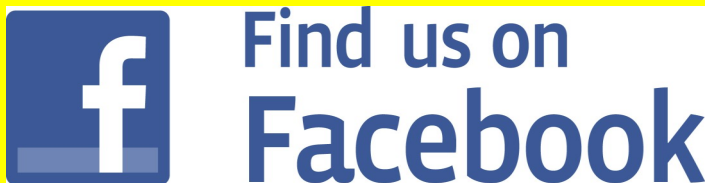
Erin Mantz, President	967-2535
Kim O'Brien, VP	864-3716
Brittany Neider, Secretary	607-5562
Vicky Laoutaris, Treasurer	381-7865
Sally Veltidi, Past President	771-3313

Members-at-Large

Bill Camarra	771-3342
Austin Cunney	698-5232
Allison Herskovitz	666-3059
Kathy Laoutaris	939-3235
Liz Linsalato	742-2380
Mike Newman	769-1746

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



<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 November 2024!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Thursday, November 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



COMPETITION SWIMWEAR
LIFEGUARD GEAR
SWIMMING ACCESSORIES

GET THE QUALITY YOU DESERVE!

203.790.0800