



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

November  
2008



the  
**Grapevine**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Golden Idol" a Success!**

*~by George Coniglio*

The lights of the Paramount Theater were shining bright on Friday, October 2nd, 2008. The audience waited in anticipation. This year the judges were taking longer than usual. They had just seen fifteen great performances.

The calculations were almost completed. The judges carefully rated each singer and totaled the scores. Who would be this year's winner?

While the judges may have been surprised by the level of talent, our WRAPS Senior Programming Committee expected top notch singers.

"Ok,...time for some audience participation!! Let sing New York New York! "

"Here come the judges! For the group competition, the Mt. Kisco Fox Center Entertainers for "Oklahoma"! For the individual competition, the third place winner is Cynthia Brown for "The Lord's Prayer" and the second place winner is Millie Morabito for "Cabaret".

And the year's first place winner is.....

Joel Turner for "My Girl"!!!!!!!

For our committee, headed up by Sia Tofano, the process of planning for this event was almost as much fun as the event itself. It's during our meetings where we get the opportunity to share ideas and resources which enhance programs and services. We find that while we work at various locations, the challenges each of us faces are identical. The common theme is continuing programs within limited and sometimes decreasing budgets.

We also find ourselves as advocates of bringing senior citizen programming to the forefront. It's our goal that Senior Programs are no longer be considered a "side

dish", but part of the "main course" of many municipal organizations

This year's 'Golden Idol' was made possible though the generosity and support of the Paramount Center for the Arts, WRAPS, City of Peekskill Parks & Recreation, Peekskill Senior Program, the Theodore D. Young Community Center, the White Plains Senior Center, Mt. Kisco Fox Center, the Town of New Castle, the Town of Mt. Pleasant and our new sponsor, C-Town of Peekskill.

Partnerships work.

The Senior Programming Section meets monthly. For more information call White Plains Center at 422-1423 or the Theodore D. Young Community Center at 989-3622.



*Can you guess who this lucky leprechaun is doing the Irish jig & why he's so happy?  
It's Bedford's Superintendent of Recreation & Parks, Bill Heidepriem getting ready to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 10<sup>th</sup>! Team Bedford wishes him a magical birthday as he dances his way into the next half century!!*

## Leisure Education for Recreation & Youth Service Providers

The Caverly Family Initiative will be holding a continuing education opportunity on December 2, 2008 at Westchester County Center in White Plains. The program runs from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and provides an opportunity to earn .5 CEUs. The presenter is Alison Link of The Leisure Link, Inc consulting service. She promotes leisure education for kids, teenagers, young adults, and adults.

Some reasons to attend:

- Learn the difference between leisure education and traditional recreation services.
- Gain knowledge of the goals, benefits and components of leisure education especially for youth and staff development.
- Learn how to develop a comprehensive leisure education plan for your program/agency

And much, much more.

For more information about this opportunity, contact the New York State Recreation & Park Society at 518-584-0321 or on their web site at [www.nysrps.org](http://www.nysrps.org).

This program is sponsored in part by: Caverly Family, donations to the Friends Foundation in Mary's memory, and the New York State Recreation & Park Society

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## DON'T MISS the 14th ANNUAL Downstate Recreation Conference

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**  
**Westchester County Center**  
**White Plains, NY**  
[www.nysrps.org](http://www.nysrps.org)



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## ***Patriot Skate Park Opens In Yorktown!!***

*~ by Brian Gray*

On October 4<sup>th</sup> the Patriot Skate Park which was funded through the Westchester County Legacy Program opened in Yorktown. The weather cooperated, as approximately 120 people showed up for the Grand Opening Ceremony, including about 60 skaters.

The event was very successful with presentations from Westchester County PRC Commissioner Joe Stout, County Executive Andy Spano and County Legislators George Oros and Mike Kaplowitz. Following the Grand Opening Ceremony, the skaters rode the ramps listening to DJ music and all had a chance to win items donated by the event sponsors: 44 Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature Skate Shop, Daydream Silkscreen, Solaris Sports Clubs and NY Pepsi.



The Patriot Skate Park was built through a joint effort of community members, the Town of Yorktown, and Westchester County. It was a grass roots effort and the skaters themselves were involved in the park design. This group of boys met several times with Ray Michael of Raymond Michael, Ltd to get the design and pieces of equipment just the way they wanted it.

While the park has only been open a short time, the response has been great. Kids have been lined up, waiting their turn to use this new facility. The Yorktown Recreation Department hopes the excitement and usage continues.



*Pictured Above: Local kids take advantage of their new found "playground!"  
The Patriot Skate Park is located near Town Hall,  
363 Underhill Ave, Yorktown Heights, NY.*

## ***Continuing Education Application Update --NYSRPS***

- Due to the newly established NRPA policies and changes in the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) standards, NYSRPS may no longer grant CEU credits to individuals. However, NYSRPS will continue to accept affiliated organizations program applications.

Individuals may petition NRPA for CEU credit equivalency. Additional information can be found at [www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=1675](http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=1675).

This credit is applicable to the CPRP certification only. Anyone holding a CTRS certification should apply for credit through NCTRC.

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

*~ by Dana Mayclim*

With the fall season upon us and the warm weather, active facilities and successful outdoor summer programs a distant memory, it is time for us to relax, revive and refocus our departments, staff and ourselves before the cold weather sets in and the summer months are upon us once again. I hope that you all had a great, safe and successful "busy" season both professionally and personally.

I would like to take a moment to thank Fran Brunelle and Joe Lemischak for putting together a great WRAPS kick off picnic on the Hudson River for our September luncheon. How lucky we all were for a beautiful day, great sights and a well received and attended event! What a wonderful way to get reconnected with each other after our summers.

Don't forget the Downstate Conference will be taking place on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Westchester County Center. This is a great opportunity for our entire membership to attend beneficial educational sessions and network with others especially those out of our own WRAPS community to bring back ideas, programs and policy changes to our communities to improve what we already do.

I would like to thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve as your new President. I look forward to continuing the great traditions of WRAPS and the challenge (especially in these tough economic times) to leave the President position in two years in an overall better state than when I took over.

Happy Holidays to you and yours and here is to a Happy, Healthy 2009!

Dana

## ***WRAPS 3 Hour Cruise Aboard The M/V Commander***

What a way to reunite with your fellow WRAPS members after another busy summer! A big Thanks to Joe Lemischak and Fran Brunelle for putting September's BBQ together.

We could not have asked for a better day, the weather was perfect; the river was smooth as glass, with great food provided by Powell's Catering and plenty of refreshments on board!



*Pictured Above: The 68 lucky WRAPS members that came out to enjoy a beautiful day cruising the Hudson River on The M/V Commander!*

*Pictured Below: President Dana Mayclim and Vice President Joe Lemischak (enjoying one of those refreshments) posing for a picture aboard The M/V Commander. In the background Harrison Superintendent Ron Belmont.....disappointed he wasn't allowed to use his Spiderman fishing pole while on board.*



## ***BITS & PIECES***

*Condolences, welcome, and congratulations . . . .*

**Congratulations to Sally Rogol, the new Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Rye.**

**Rye's new Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Recreation is Karen O'Donnell.** Karen has her SSRS degree from the University of Ohio, and her MPA from Mercy College.

**Eastchester Recreation welcomes John Swick as the new Recreation Leader.** John previously worked for the Village of Rye Brook.

Congratulations to **Kyle Thornton** who was appointed to the position of **Recreation Assistant for the Village of Rye Brook.** Kyle has his undergraduate degree in Sociology from SUNY Stony Brook and his Masters Degree in Recreation from Lehman College. Kyle has some big shoes to fill and has already planted his feet firmly on the ground.

**Westchester County PRC** would like to wish **Amy Maltese** the best of luck with her new position in Falls Church, Virginia.

**Westchester County PRC** would also like to welcome **Sally Veltidi** as the new **Recreation Supervisor at Saxon Woods Pool.** Sally joins Westchester County after spending the last 5 years with Eastchester.

### **The Stork has been Busy!!!!**

**Angela Shaw of Irvington Recreation and Parks** along with her husband Jeremy welcomed their first child, daughter Bailey Rose, on May 22, 2008 at 11:21pm. She weighed 7lb. 14 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

**Christine Grey, Assistant Superintendent of Lewisboro Recreation,** along with her husband Mike welcomed their first child, daughter Mackenzie Patricia at 8:08pm on September 23, 2008. She was 7lbs. 13 oz. and was 21 inches long.

**Brian Gray, Assistant Superintendent of Yorktown Recreation** and his wife Melissa are expecting a beautiful baby girl on December 22, 2008.

**Ike Kuzio of Westchester County PRC and Karen Kuzio of Briarcliff Recreation** are expecting their first child sometime around October 29, 2008.

**Gia Lemerise, Director of New York State Parks & Recreation Society** along with her husband Shawn welcomed their second child, daughter Madelyn, on October 2, 2008 at 9:28 am. She weighed in at 7lbs. 3 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Best wishes and Congratulations go to **Jason Gallo, formally of Briarcliff Recreation and Kim Gallo, formally of Peekskill Recreation** as they are expecting their second child.

*Pictured Below: **Sue Snyder of Croton-on-Hudson Recreation & Parks.** She competed in the USA Track & Field National Masters Championships held in Spokane, WA in August and won bronze medals in both the 800 meters and 1500 meters.*



“We do not cease playing because we are old; we grow old because we cease playing”

--Joseph Lee

## ***DATES TO REMEMBER!***

### **November 19**

Annual Downstate Conference  
Westchester County Center ~ White Plains

### **December 12**

Holiday Luncheon  
Crabtree Kittle House ~ Chappaqua

### **January 21**

Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

### **February 11**

Vendors Luncheon ~  
Westchester County Center, White Plains

### **March 11**

Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

### **April 19 - 22**

NYSRPS Annual Conference  
Hyatt Regency Long Island ~ Hauppauge, NY

### **May 13**

Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

### **June 5**

Awards & Scholarships Luncheon



## **WRAPS HOLIDAY PARTY**

Friday, December 12, 2008

At Crabtree's Kittle House

11 Kittle Road, Chappaqua

12 noon to 3:00 PM

**\$32 per member / \$36 Non Member**

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## ***TO REACH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD***

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Christine Grey	232-6162
Ike Kuzio	864-7057
Sally Rogol	967-2535

### ***CALL FOR GRAPEVINE ARTICLES!***

The next issue of the Grapevine is scheduled to be printed in February 2009.

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

**Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:**  
Ike Kuzio ~ Westchester County PRC.  
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Fax: 864-7129  
[Iak2@westchestergov.com](mailto:Iak2@westchestergov.com)