



WESTCHESTER RECREATION  
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.

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

the

November  
2007

# Grapevine



***Paramount Center Hosts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golden Idol  
~by George Coniglio***

Last year the WRAPS Senior Citizen Programming Section committee wanted to have an "American Idol" type singing competition. In contrast to the popular television show, we would welcome singers over 50 years and our judges would be silent. No "Simon" types allowed! The event which attracted over 200 people and 18 singers was held at the Theodore D. Young Community Gym. The goal of providing seniors and older adults with a competition just for them was accomplished.

This year the City of Peekskill's generosity made it possible to expand the event to the Paramount Center of the Arts. The Paramount Center is a historical Landmark. Recent renovations have restored its interior to its original 1930 style. High ceilings. Red velvet curtains. Murals on the walls. They don't make theaters like the Paramount any more. Yes sometimes "newer" isn't always better. (But as professionals who work with seniors, we are constantly reminded of this fact.) The Paramount would be the perfect venue for "Golden Idol".

Sia Tofano, Director of the White Plains Senior Center who restarted the Senior Citizen Programming Section 8 years ago, was given the task of coordinating our efforts. This was no easy task as each of us as Directors or Supervisors are used to taking in the reigns of programs and activities at our respective Centers and Programs. Think about a group of Mayors working in cooperation to manage *one* City. So for this event, all of us became "Co-Directors" This partnership made it possible to have an event none of us could have matched without a combined effort. Partnerships work. There are benefits to sharing our

resources. These benefits are not only for our senior population, but for us in exchanging ideas and information. The planning of the Event was almost as much fun as the Event itself due to the positive energy and euphuism of the Committee members. We often come away from the Monthly WRAPS meetings feeling recharged and with new prospective on enhancing the lives of seniors.

The singers, I can only think of one word to describe them..... Amazing!!! What a variety of talent. What diversity. We had Opera, Chinese Folk Music, Rock and Roll, Broadway, Rhythm and Blues. It *wasn't* just a Singing Contest!! No the Singers provide us with a workshop on healthy aging. The lesson? Stay involved. Try new possibilities. And most of all have FUN!!!!



Above photo: WRAPS members at the NRPA Conference social at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

## INSIDE :

***WRAPS Holiday Party  
2008 NYSRPS Conference  
2007-08 Dates to Remember  
Bits & Pieces, and more!***



## SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMMING

The next meeting of the Senior Citizen Programming Section will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Rustico Restaurant in Scarsdale at 12:30 PM. 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. For more information and directions, please call Sia Tofano at 422-1424.

## CONFERENCE 2008 LOOKING FOR MODERATORS!

If you are planning on attending the 2008 NYSRPS conference in Saratoga, your services are needed to moderate sessions. Moderating is fun and easy. The committee has scheduled many exciting subjects already. Contact Matt Arone (Dobbs Ferry Recreation) at (914) 693-0024 to offer a hand. Represent Westchester at Saratoga in 2008.

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## DON'T MISS the 68th ANNUAL NYSRPS Conference & Business Exposition

*Health, History, Horses !*

*Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> –  
Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008*

*The Saratoga Hotel  
Saratoga Springs, NY*

*In cooperation with NYSRPS, the  
Capital Region Park and Recreation  
Association & the Westchester  
Recreation and Park Society*

*For additional information visit  
[www.nysrpsorg/conference.shtml](http://www.nysrpsorg/conference.shtml) or  
contact NYSRPS at (518) 584-0321 x 14  
with any questions.*

*Brochures should be mailed to NYSRPS  
members in January 2008.*

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## **CITY OF RYE RECREATION OPENS A SKATEPARK**

*~ by Sally Rogol*

The Skatepark at Rye Recreation Park is open for business!! On July 2, 2007, the ribbon was cut on this newly constructed 5400 square foot park. As the expression goes, we've come a long way. Rye Recreation originally opened a temporary skate park back in 2001 after being petitioned by over 100 resident children asking for a skate park. The park opened with 6 pieces of portable equipment. Since that time, interest grew; additional equipment was purchased, but the department found it was still inadequate as there was no permanent home for this park. The park was only open 2-days per week and took away play from 2 tennis courts. It was also a labor intensive effort as a pallet jack and front end loader needed to be used to move the equipment on and off the court each day of operation.

Over the past two years, funding was secured from a variety of sources namely, the Westchester Legacy Program, Friends of Rye Recreation and a matching grant from the City Of Rye. A group of teens and the department met often during this time to discuss design ideas for the new facility. From this input, companies were contacted and drawings submitted. The kids were brought back into the process to select the park that they felt best suited their interest and needs. The original design of the park was designed by True Ride (MN); the builder of the park was Rampage of Bridgeport, CT.

July 2 was an exciting day as over 200 children, teens and parents of all ages came out for the Grand Opening Celebrations. Many dignitaries were on hand – but the excitement was all about getting on the new ramps and rails. After the speeches were done, the ribbon cut, the kids took over. A "Jam Session" was held for different age groups. Prizes were donated by & sponsored by Pedigree Ski Shop and 44Board of White Plains, New York and included t-shirts, boards, trucks and helmets. The kids were also treated to an exhibition by the Substance Skateboard Team.

recreation day camp during the day and open to the public, both residents and non-residents from 4 – 8 p.m. during the week and 12 – 5 p.m. on the weekends.

The response has been terrific with more than 20 skaters per session. Recreation will be offering skate parties, lessons and other "jam sessions" during the fall season as well as open skating 6-days a week.

For more information, please contact Sally Rogol or Matt Nordt @ 914.967.2535



*Pictured above: Rye's Superintendent Bill Rodriguez & Assistant Superintendent Sally Rogol receive a check from Peter Neglia as part of the Westchester County Legacy Program for their newly developed Skate Park at Rye Recreation Park. Pictured below: Rye's new skatepark.*





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

*~ by Jennifer Fava*

It seems as though a long time has passed since my last message. Summer has come and gone and fall will be over before we know it.

The Downstate Conference, held at the Westchester County Center, was once again a success. It is a great opportunity to take in new ideas and share your ideas with others in a local setting. If you were not able to attend this year, I urge you to think about attending next year.

The Senior Citizen Programming Section held the second annual Golden Idol in September at The Paramount in Peekskill. It was a fun event where seniors could belt out a few good tunes and really enjoy themselves. Congratulations to all involved!

Before you know it the Holidays will be upon us. Once again we are very lucky to have Roseanne Saracino putting together our holiday luncheon. This fun event will be held on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at Crabtree's Kittle House Restaurant. Mark your calendars now!!

I was fortunate to be able to attend the National Recreation and Park Association Congress in September and attended a session that served as a great reminder about what we do as professionals. When you think about what we do on a daily basis we strengthen our communities' image and sense of place, we support economic development, we promote health and wellness, we provide recreational facilities and much, much more. These are things that we do all of the time, often without realizing it. It is our responsibility to get out the message that providing parks and recreational activities should be considered an essential service of our communities. I encourage you to think about the impact that you have on the lives of every resident and urge you to get involved and be a part of furthering our profession.

While at this moment it still seems far away, I wish you all the very best for a happy holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!

Jen

## ***FAMILY CAMPOUT VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK***

*~ by Roseanne Saracino*

The campout has become a Village favorite. Families register for a fee of \$60 per family and set up their tents on Saturday night at 5pm until Sunday morning at 11am.

Dinner and breakfast is served by the Recreation department and several volunteers. A share table is made available for participants to put gastronomic goodies on for all to enjoy. Fireplace liners and wood are provided for camp fires and Fresh Direct supplied the products for making smores; McDonalds provided 200 egg McMuffins as part of breakfast. Once again one resident made over 200 pancakes for breakfast using a propane grill. Entertainment is provided by the participants some play guitar, bring flashlights to play man-hunt or just talk around the camp fire. Lots of really good jokes were told for sure. The camp out is held in Harbor Island Park on the water where there are restroom facilities and a lighted field for the youth to play soccer or softball during the event.

The only challenge with the program is the **Adults** never want to go to sleep!!!!!!





## ***BITS & PIECES***

*Condolences, welcome, and congratulations . . .*

On a sad note, **Irving Danzig** of Ocala FL, formerly of Rye and North White Plains, NY, passed away on Monday, August 13, 2007 after a sudden illness. He was 83 years young. Prior to his long and successful career in the Valhalla School District where he taught Phys. Ed., Irv worked for the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Mount Vernon and was a member of NYSRPS during that time. On June 11, 1946 he married Eleanor Bogrow, who predeceased him in 1981. Irv is survived by his wife Ruthie, daughters, Amy of Ocala and Beth Boettigheimer (Tom) of North White Plains, two grandchildren, his brother, Fred, and sister-in-law who reside in Eastchester as well as nieces, nephews and countless friends.

**Scarsdale's new Assistant Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation is David Z. Freedman.** David has a B.S. in Recreation Resource Management from Lyndon State College in Vermont and an M.S. in Business Management from Lesley College in Cambridge, MA. Most recently he was the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Town of Ridgefield, CT.

**Elaine Donnelly has joined the staff at the Town of Mount Pleasant as a Recreation Supervisor.** She most recently held that position in the Village of Scarsdale.

**The Town of Mamaroneck Recreation Department would like to welcome Jennifer Williams as their new Senior Recreation Leader.** She will be overseeing the department's Aquatic Programs and Facilities. Jen comes to Mamaroneck from the Rye YMCA where she was the Assistant Aquatics Director. Also, congratulations to **Maria Gallagher, Assistant Superintendent/Senior Citizens** for the Town of Mamaroneck, who was recently presented with a proclamation from Assemblyman George Latimer for her work with the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Senior Citizens.

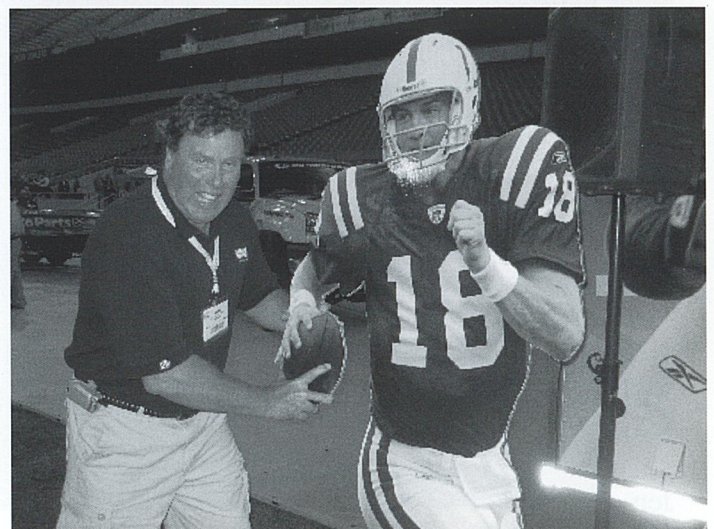
**Matt Nordt of the City of Rye Recreation** and his wife, Pattianne, are expecting their first child in February. Speaking of babies, **Beverly Golisano, Superintendent of North Salem Recreation**, is happy to announce the birth of her

4<sup>th</sup> grandson on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Welcome Bryce Morris Golisano.

Several WRAPS members competed in the 2007 Empire State Games held in Westchester. **Gerry Byrne, Commissioner of the Town of Greenburgh Recreation** stated, "I was able to break the meet record twice and finish with a clearance of 12' 10 1/2". It was the highest vault of the day and I was also able to beat the younger vaulters too (youngest was 40 and I was in the 50 - 54 age group)".

Also competing in this summer's Empire State Games Track and Field events was **David Goldberg, Superintendent of Recreation for the Town of Pound Ridge** and **Sue Snyder, Superintendent of Recreation & Parks for the Village of Croton-on-Hudson.** David competed in the 400 meter hurdles winning a gold medal and in the steeplechase winning a bronze medal in the 45-49 year age group. Sue raced in the 400 meters and 800 meters, winning gold medals in both events for the 45-49 year age group. A week later Sue traveled to the University of Maine at Orono to compete in the USA Track & Field National Masters Championships. This time she raced the 800 meters and 1500 meters and picked up a fourth place ribbon in both events.

Speaking of athletes, check out **Past President Fran Brunelle** playing a friendly game of football with Indianapolis Colts 2007 Super Bowl Champion quarterback, Peyton Manning. This action packed photo was captured by **Past President Sally Rogol** at the NRPA Annual Conference in September.





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

### **December 12**

Holiday Luncheon  
Crabtree's Kittle House ~ Chappaqua

### **January 16**

Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

### **February 13**

Annual Vendors Luncheon ~ County Center

### **March 19**

Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

### **March 30 - April 2**

NYSRPS Annual Conference  
The Saratoga Hotel ~ Saratoga Springs

### **April 9**

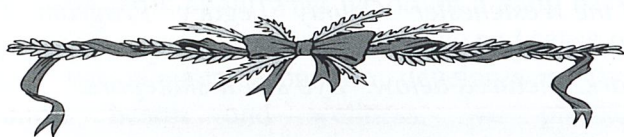
Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

### **May 14**

Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
Holiday Inn, Mount Kisco

### **June 6**

Awards & Scholarships Luncheon



## **WRAPS HOLIDAY PARTY**

Wednesday, December 12, 2007  
At Crabtree's Kittle House  
11 Kittle Road, Chappaqua  
12 noon to 3:00 PM

\$30 per person, plus cash bar  
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Joe Lemischak	864-7036
Susan Snyder	271-3006
Sally Rogol	967-2535

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

The next issue of the Grapevine is scheduled  
to be printed in February 2008.

Anyone interested in submitting materials  
must do so by Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

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](mailto:Snyder@crotononhudson-ny.gov)