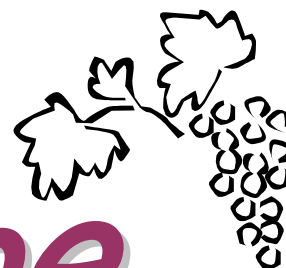




WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARK SOCIETY, INC.

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

November
2016



the Grapevine

President's Message

By: Matt Arone

Another summer season has come and gone. In the parks and recreation profession, we all know how difficult the summers are. While everybody else seems to be out enjoying the good weather and their vacation times, we are all working our hardest in an attempt to make sure all our residents are having fun, staying active and being safe. Now that fall has arrived, the swimming pools are closed and the adult softball trophies have been handed out. We change gears once again and focus on a new recreation season. WRAPS is doing the same. The executive board continued to meet over the summer, and has already met in the fall with many new thoughts and ideas on how to improve our society, assist our members and advocate for our profession.

We have changes and turnover as far as our executive board members as well. Nobody has put more time and effort toward our society than Past President Daryl Sudlow over the past few years. She is a tremendous leader and has helped guide the entire board with her organization and dedication. I have big shoes to fill. Special thanks to outgoing executive board members Karen Kuzio (former secretary) and Kevin Cook (former Past President) for all they have done to represent WRAPS over the years. Their service is much appreciated. It's time to welcome Sandy Korkatzis and Sally Veltidi as our two newest board members. They both already have been hard at work on some of the projects and items we have been working on. We are lucky to have both of them aboard. All the current and past members of the board and all our committees deserve recognition for helping keep WRAPS as strong as it is today.

It was good to see many of you at our annual Kick-Off BBQ back in September. WRAPS Vice-President Brian Gray picked an awesome spot to gather when he chose Rye Town Park. I thought the views from Senasqua Park


in Croton last September were beautiful. Looking over the Long Island Sound this year was just as nice. It's really important for all of us to gather after the long summer season so we can all catch up on what we've been up to both personally and professionally. The food and the beverages aren't too bad either!

I'm excited about what lies ahead for all of us involved in our professional society. I feel that we have been able to maintain our strength and stay focused on our goals over the past few years even while some of our staff numbers and resources may have diminished in our individual communities. We are starting to see some of our municipalities "trending up" again. This has translated into our society as well. The energy is up. This is apparent to me when I look at our recent accomplishments and events. We had an impressive amount of members nominated for our executive board elections. Participation in our Camp Cares For Kids program has been high for two summers now. Our 59th Annual Awards and Scholarship luncheon was very well attended. We are financially sound and are able to contribute sponsorships and donations when we see fit. Members have been reaching out to the WRAPS executive board with ideas for educational sessions and roundtable meetings because they are looking for support. Opportunities for all of us to get together at socials and fundraisers such as the ever-popular Poker Run have started to become traditions. Vendors have been seeking us out trying to get involved with our society because they know we are loyal and will give them business. We've organized a Certified Pool Operator Course the past few springs and it has had full attendance each time. All of this tells me that WRAPS is highly regarded, well-respected and successful in our accomplishments.

One of the most important things we can all do is help get our young or new recreation professionals involved in WRAPS. Give them the information on civil service exams and canvas letters. Encourage them to attend conferences and rec professional sessions. Push them to become more involved in our committees and remind them that focusing solely on recreation in the community they work in isn't enough. Have them tag along with you to one of the social gatherings. Tell them how getting more involved will assist them both personally and professionally. I regret not becoming heavily involved with WRAPS during my first few years in the profession. I recently interviewed some young rec professionals who are just starting out in our field. One of them said they had never heard of WRAPS. That seemed odd to me. It's hard for me to think back to a time where I was unfamiliar with our society. I quickly gave this applicant background information on who we are and what we do in hopes to convince this individual to become a member. We have a lot to offer and we should want people to be part of it all.

I grew up in this field with the philosophy that our co-workers in recreation are like family. We spend so many hours per week running programs and organizing events with these people. We fight, we laugh, we disagree and we share ideas and feelings. WRAPS has a family atmosphere to it as well. I love the camaraderie and teamwork whether it's chairing a conference or attending a social event. And the enjoyment comes from doing things together. Working together or playing together. That's why I am so honored and excited to be WRAPS president for the next two years. Because we've established more than just a professional society, we've established a team and a family.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."—Phil Jackson



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DATES TO REMEMBER!

December 6th

Past President's Luncheon
Casa Rina ~ Thornwood

December 14th

WRAPS Holiday Luncheon
Crabtree Kittle House ~ Chappaqua

January 18th

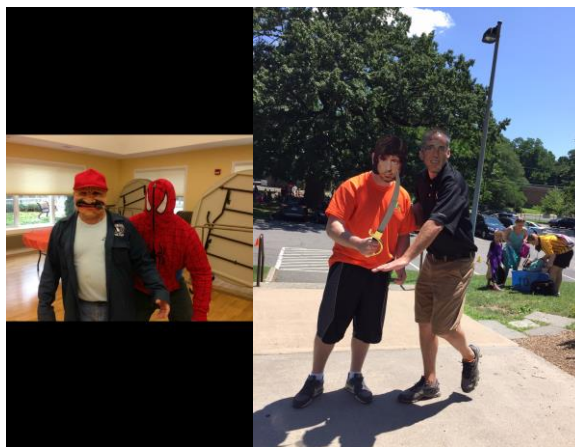
WRAPS Meeting

January 31st

Summer Auditions
Midland School ~ Rye

February 8th

Vendor Luncheon
Westchester County Center ~ White Plains



Pictured Above: Rye Recreation got into the Halloween Spirit and wished a Happy Halloween to all of WRAPS!



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2016 CAMPS CARE ABOUT HUNGER CAMPAIGN

By Bob Kaczmarek, Greenburgh Recreation

In a continued effort to fight hunger in Westchester County, the Westchester County Recreation and Parks Society (WRAPS), held its 2nd Annual “Camps Care About Hunger” campaign.



Pictured Above: Town of Greenburgh takes part again in the WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger Campaign.

Once again the campaign was huge success with nearly half of all of the municipalities in Westchester County participating in its sophomore year.



Pictured Above: Town of Eastchester takes part in the WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger Campaign.

The following recreation day camps took part in the program this year: Town of Greenburgh Parks & Recreation Department, Town of Greenburgh

Department of Community Resources at Theodore D. Young Community Center, Village of Irvington, City of Rye, Village of Mamaroneck, Town of Lewisboro, Town of Pound Ridge, Village of Briarcliff, Village of Scarsdale, City of New Rochelle, Town of Bedford, Town of New Castle, Town of Yorktown, Town of Eastchester Village of Dobbs Ferry and the Village of Ossining.



Pictured Above: City of Rye takes part in the WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger Campaign.

WRAPS would like to thank all of the communities that took part in this year's Camps Care About Hunger campaign, and we are looking forward to a bigger and better turnout in 2017.

If you would like to participate in 2017, information will be distributed at the Annual Mandatory DOH Camp Workshop in April or you can reach out to Bob Kaczmarek at rkaczmarek@greenburghny.com



Pictured Above: Town of Yorktown takes part again in the WRAPS Camps Care About Hunger Campaign.

***WRAPS Goes to bat for
Comic Relief's RED NOSE DAY
By Bob Kaczmarek, Greenburgh Recreation***

Westchester Recreation and Parks Society (WRAPS), decided to go to bat for the Comic Relief's RED NOSE DAY public awareness campaign this past softball season.



Pictured Above: Town of Greenburgh takes part in the WRAPS Goes to bat for Comic Relief's RED NOSE DAY Campaign

Municipalities were asked to simply draw awareness to the Comic Relief's Red Nose campaign by asking their adult softball teams to wear a red nose in support of this great cause. As you can see it was not hard to get them to join in.



Pictured Above: Village of Irvington takes part in the WRAPS Goes to bat for Comic Relief's RED NOSE DAY Campaign

The following municipalities took part in the program this year: Town of Greenburgh, Village of Ardsley & the Village of Irvington. As you can see

enthusiastic participation was not limited to just softball teams.



Pictured Above: The Sam's team from Ardsley takes part in the WRAPS Goes to bat for Comic Relief's RED NOSE DAY Campaign



Pictured Above: Town of Eastchester Town Hall employees takes part in the WRAPS Goes to bat for Comic Relief's RED NOSE DAY Campaign

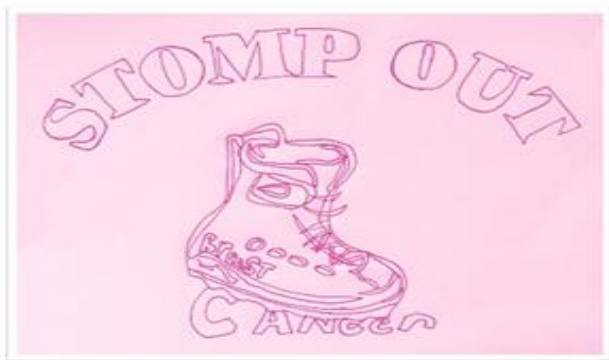


Pictured Above: Dave Goldberg, Daryl Sudlow & Frank Bernabei paddle for the WRAPS Goes to bat for Comic Relief's RED NOSE DAY Campaign

If you would like to participate in 2017, please reach out to Bob Kaczmarek at rkaczmarek@greenburghny.com.

"The Power of Youth"
***By Katherine Sclafanie, Town of Cortlandt,
Youth and Recreation Center***

The Town of Cortlandt Youth and Recreation Center's A.S.A.P. (Always Striving; Always Positive) Leadership Club members and friends spent two months fundraising for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Westchester 5 mile walk, which took place on Sunday, October 16th at Manhattanville College. Over 20 youth in grades 6th – 9th from five different schools collaborated to get the community involved with the hope to raise \$3,000!



They quickly came up with their slogan "Stomp Out Breast Cancer" and used it to create their team name and two different logos; both of which were illustrated by one of the youth himself. (See photos in article). The logos were used for all marketing pieces, their team t-shirts and hand-made coasters. After school the youth came to the YC and called local businesses asking them to put out donation bins as well as donate gift certificates to be used as raffle prizes at their "Think Pink" DJ Night and Movie Night Fundraisers. Over 20 businesses were more than happy to assist for their cause! The youth also set-up a table at community events and facilities to raise awareness, collect donations and sell breast cancer merchandise. But they didn't stop there! A handful of them created their own music video to spread awareness and continue their fundraising efforts. The lyrics, beatboxing and singing was done all by one of the youth. To check out the video go to:

<https://youtu.be/tHRvUQayPL0>.

In addition to the team effort, some also took on the task of fundraising individually as many of them, like many of us, have a personal connection to this disease. One 7th grader shared his story of losing his babysitter to the disease when he was just five years old and individually raised \$1,770!



In the end the Cortlandt YC Cancer Stompers (team name) surpassed their fundraising goal of \$3,000 to bring in a total of \$4,734; proving to themselves the power they hold as youth is always magical and can make a difference!



***Farewell and Best Wishes
To Karen McIntyre***

The Town of Cortlandt and WRAPS would like to wish Farewell and Best Wishes to Karen McIntyre – Office Staff, on her upcoming retirement at the end of January 2017 after 33 years of service with the Town of Cortlandt Recreation Department! Congratulations and everyone wishes you well in your future endeavors!

WRAPS Poker Run

By Ike Kuzio, Rye Recreation

The WRAPS Poker Run once again was a huge success with over a 100 participants this year. Special thanks to Brother Jimmy's BBQ, Brazen Fox, Ron Blacks, Black Bear and Whiskey Creek of White Plains for hosting our group again this year. WRAPS was able to raise some money and have a bit of fun at the same time.



Congratulations to Mike Dominici's team (Above) for taking home the top prize with the best poker hand (3 Queens). Rounding out the top 3 were Doug Scott's team (2 pair, Aces & tens) and Matt Nordt's team (pair of Aces).



Pictured Above: Half of the team that took home this year's "Best Team Uniform" prize. The team consisted of Sally Veltidi, Christine Grey, Emily Kehoe and Beth Bricker.



A big THANK YOU to all those that helped make this year's event a success, including Matt Arone, Kim O'Brien, Daryl Sudlow, Frank Bernabei, Erin Mantz, Angela Thornton, Sandy Korkatzis and Dave Goldberg.



For more pictures from this event along with pictures from other 2016 WRAPS events please visit www.wrapsny.com or the WRAPS Facebook Page

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Bits ~N~ Pieces

Congratulations to **Jennifer Pollak**, Recreation Supervisor Town of Mamaroneck, on the birth of her son Cole William, 7lbs 1oz, born on August 29th!



Congratulations to **Todd Orlowski** on his promotion to **Superintendent of Recreation** for the Town of Yorktown.

Congratulations to **Brian Gray** on his new position as **Superintendent of Recreation** for the Village of Scarsdale.

Congratulations to **Matt Arone** on his new position as **Assistant Superintendent of Recreation** for the Village of Scarsdale.

Congratulations to **Vicky Laoutaris** on her new position as **Recreation Supervisor** for the Town of Mamaroneck.

Congratulations to **Kyle Thornton** on his new position as **Assistant Superintendent of Recreation** for the Town of Yorktown.

Congratulations to **Liz Linsalato** on her new position as **Recreation Leader** for the Village of Mamaroneck.

Congratulations to **Jason Pinto** on his new position as **Recreation Assistant** for the Village of Mamaroneck.

Condolences



Our condolences to the family of WRAPS member and Village of Rye Brook Recreation Senior Office Manager, Carmella Swick, who passed away in June. The life-long Port Chester resident was a full-time staff member in Rye Brook for 18 years. Carmella's son John is a Recreation Leader for the Town of Eastchester.



Above: (L to R) Joe Archino (Irvington), Bob Kaczmarek (Greenburgh), Matt Trainor (North Castle), Rich Massaroni (Scarsdale) and Todd Orlowski (Yorktown)

The WRAPS October Luncheon brought together a veteran group of Recreation Professionals (above) to share their experiences with Field Reservations and Field Use Policies in their respective municipalities. The panel shared their experiences with the crowd at the James V. Harmon Community Center located in Hastings-On-Hudson, NY.



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Recreation Wedding



Angela (Shaw) Thornton (Recreation Supervisor Irvington Recreation) and Kyle Thornton (Assistant Superintendent Yorktown Recreation) were married on February 13th, 2016 in Eastchester, N.Y.

To Reach the Executive Board

Matt Arone, President	722-1165
Brian Gray, Vice President	722-1191
Sandy Korkatzis, Secretary	777-7784
Erin Mantz, Treasurer	245-4650
Daryl Sudlow, Past President	864-3715

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Dave Goldberg	764-3987
Bob Kaczmarek	693-8985
Ike Kuzio	967-2535
Kim O'Brien	864-3716
Kyle Thornton	245-4650
Sally Veltidi	771-3313



Above: Participants from North Salem Recreation at their Ski Program last winter at Thunder Ridge are excited for the winter and more skiing!



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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 printed in March 2017.

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Wednesday, February 22, 2017**

Mail, Fax or E-mail Information to:

Kyle Thornton ~ Town of Yorktown
176 Granite Spring Road, Yorktown Heights, NY
10598

Fax: 914-245-1608

kthornton@yorktownny.org

