

the

Grapevine



November

2024

Edition



LIFE ENRICHMENT

W.R.A.P.S.

WESTCHESTER RECREATION
AND PARKS SOCIETY

Presidents Letter

Dear Members of the Westchester Recreation and Park Society,

As we look ahead to another exciting year, I want to take a moment to warmly welcome everyone to the start of our new membership year. I hope that each of you had a chance to enjoy the beautiful and unseasonably warm fall that we've had, and that the summer season was filled with great experiences in our parks and recreation facilities.

Reflecting back on this past summer, it was certainly a busy and productive season for our community. We saw countless programs, events, and activities bring people together, and it was inspiring to witness the hard work and dedication of our staff and members in making these experiences possible. I hope that many of you had the chance to step away from work and engage with your own recreation interests and take time for yourself, family and friends.



Looking ahead, we are exactly one-year away from the New York State Recreation and Park Society Conference, which will be held in White Plains, NY. This will be an exciting opportunity for our region to showcase the great work we do, as well as to connect with fellow professionals and advocates in the field. I'm sure the conference will continue to be a great source of learning and inspiration for all of us.

A special thanks to our Vice President, Kim, who has put together a wonderful program lineup for this year. From educational opportunities to networking events, we have much to look forward to in the coming months. Be sure to keep an eye out for details and mark your calendars for what promises to be another fulfilling year.

Lastly, I'd like to express our collective appreciation to Kyle Thornton for his dedication and hard work in producing the Grapevine newsletter three times a year. This issue will be his last, and we thank him for his valuable contributions to the Society. His work has kept us all informed and connected, and we wish him all the best.

As we wrap up the year and head into the holiday season, I want to wish each of you a joyful and peaceful time with your loved ones. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Westchester Recreation and Park Society. We look forward to another fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,
Erin Mantz
President, Westchester Recreation and Park Society

Community Spotlight - Sleepy Hollow

-Matt Arone

There's no better season to showcase the Village of Sleepy Hollow, NY than the fall. The small little village of 11,000 people becomes a tourist destination each September and October. It is estimated that over 100,000 people visit during Halloween season. There's also not a better year to showcase Sleepy Hollow, as 2024 is the 150th Anniversary of the village's incorporation. But before we talk about what has been going on recently, we need a brief history lesson.

The village is known internationally through "[The Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#)", an 1820 short story about the local area and its infamous specter, the [Headless Horseman](#), written by [Washington Irving](#), who lived in Tarrytown and is buried in [Sleepy Hollow Cemetery](#). Currently, the village is home to the [Philipsburg Manor House](#), The [Hudson Valley Writers Center](#) and the [Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow](#), as well as the aforementioned Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.



Before known as Sleepy Hollow, the village was referred to as North Tarrytown. North Tarrytown's claim to fame was the General Motors Corporation plant down by the river. GM eventually became the biggest car manufacturer in the world. From 1915 to 1996, the plant was the region's largest employer, running three shifts at its peak and fueling the local economy. The plant ultimately churned out more than 11 million cars and trucks. When General Motors closed the plant in New York in 1996 for cheaper property elsewhere, the Village of North Tarrytown lost more than 4,000 jobs and its main source of tax revenue.



To avoid letting their hometown fall into destitution, locals decided to think like marketers and voted to rebrand North

Tarrytown as Sleepy Hollow in honor of Washington Irving's short story. This wasn't unanimous as some old-timers still hold on to the North Tarrytown name in protest, but the change successfully transformed the industrial town into a spooky destination and a beautiful fall attraction for people from all over the globe.

Community Spotlight— Continued

Due to the large number of tourists in September and October, the village hosts special events every weekend. It kicks off with an all-day block party on Beekman Ave. in September and continues with an Oktoberfest, a Pop-Up Shop, a Glass Pumpkin Festival, a Street Fair, the Make-A-Wish “Walk For Wishes”, an international film festival, a stand-up paddleboard festival on the Hudson River where the participants dress up in costume, a 10K Halloween themed road race and finally a two-day haunted hayride which is featured on the New York State’s Tourism TV commercials. All these events co-inside with the programs geared for the local families such as pumpkin decorating, “Truck or Treat” and kid’s costume parades.

As previously mentioned, 2024 is the 150th anniversary of the village’s incorporation. To celebrate this milestone, a year-long slate of events was planned. It all started with a giant illuminated “Pumpkin Drop” (in lieu of the Times Square ball drop) on New Year’s and continued with a showcase event each month. Some of those days to remember included an outdoor ice-skating party, a car show, a mermaid festival, a carnival and a music festival. The village also held a tree planting initiative challenging resident to combine efforts to plant 150 trees over the year.

Sleepy Hollow has six parks now and that number is going up. The former General Motors site is being redeveloped into a mixed-use community called Edge-on-Hudson. This joint venture was announced in 2014 and construction began in 2016. The development includes 1,177 housing units, a 140-room hotel, retail space (DeCicco’s being built as we speak) and over 16 acres of parkland. The village dedicated a new waterfront park to the community in October 2022. The development also includes a project called Sleepy Hollow Common on the East Parcel of the site. This project will include a baseball/lacrosse/soccer field, tennis/pickleball courts, a skatepark, a performance amphitheater and more.

So, with all those events and all that development, it doesn’t appear Sleepy Hollow is sleepy after all!



WRAPS Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Holiday Luncheon** - December 11th, Mt Kisco Kittle House
- ◆ **Vendor Expo** - January 22nd, County Center
- ◆ **Entertainers Showcase** - February 18th, Mount Pleasant

WANTED

★ OLD GRAPEVINES ★



GRAPEVINE

WESTCHESTER RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY

June 1992

1992 Award & Scholarship Winners

E. Mario Cribari
Voluntary Service Award

Organization
Rye Little League
Individual

Eleanor Krupl
Joseph DeChristopher
Staff Associate Award

Amanda "Red" Braggier
Patrice Gaddy

Irwin "Red" Klein

Commercial Award

Carol of Bedford

Professional Service Awards

35 Years
25 Years

25 Years

James Arles
Donald Papa
Stephen Nickerson
Barry Sennel
Frank Magallana
Kathleen Burleson

Peter J. Mayers
Award for Merit

William V. Zimmermann

E. Mario Cribari Scholarship

Dawn Simonson

Dr. Sol J. Prezioso Fellowship

Maureen Esposito
Ron Kellman
Bruce Nield
Suzanne Serik

Invergon
Mt. Pleasant
Mt. Pleasant
Scarsdale

Presidents Message

by William Rodriguez

Changes are taking place all around us. Every municipal, private and public agency that is charged with the delivery of recreation services is being impacted by the economic climate that currently exists. Recently two municipalities in the sound shore area eliminated positions within the recreation operation. Short term projections do not offer brighter days ahead at least on the

immediate horizon. Pressure on the local, state and national levels to avoid tax increases will determine to what extent recreation functions will be funded. As professionals we can be better prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Instead of fearing the future we can allow it to stimulate our creativity and develop opportunities that may not exist. Those professionals who become visionary in their approach will continue to be successful. Cutting services should not be the only option to budget cuts. Rather, as professionals, we should be exploring alternatives to providing those services that are in demand. Associations

like WRAPS become more vital during difficult times. Sharing ideas, resolving conflicts, discussing trends and exploring options are all part of the intangible services that WRAPS can offer. I encourage all members to stay involved or get involved in WRAPS. Your active participation will benefit the entire membership and keep you in touch with your own operation. There are many committees and programs that need your assistance. Give me a call at 907-2535 to discuss how you can help WRAPS. Together we can meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

MAIL OR EMAIL THEM TO KYLE THORNTON

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE OLDER
PAPER GRAPEVINES FROM THE PAST
TO PUT ON THE WEBSITE!

WRAPS Welcome Back BBQ

Crawford Park - Rye Brook

[More Photos on Facebook](#)



Tarrytown Recreation Happenings

- Dan Walczewski

Tarrytown Halloween Parade October 26th

Winner of the "Best of Westchester: Best Parade" award by Westchester Magazine for the 8th consecutive year, The Tarrytown Halloween Parade, a beloved annual tradition, returned in 2024 for its 22nd year under the guidance of the Tarrytown Recreation Department. An estimated 15,000 Tarrytown residents and visitors alike converged on Broadway and Main Street on Saturday, October 26th for an evening of spooky costumes, creative floats, live music, and Halloween fun. The parade began at 5:00 PM at Patriots Park and proceeded along Broadway and down Main Street.



The event has grown significantly over time, with safety remaining the top priority. Preparations for the parade each year begin as early as February, involving collaborative meetings between the Recreation Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works, Village Administrator's office, and Halloween Parade Committee. This year, in an effort to enhance spectator safety, the Village of Tarrytown acquired 400 new interlocking barricades to line the parade route. Immediately following the parade each year, a block party takes place on Main Street featuring outdoor dining, music, a beer truck, food trucks, and vendors.

Trunk or Treat & Movie Night October 18th

Celebrating Trunk or Treat for the 6th year! All 13 trunks screamed HALLOWEEN FUN! Children had their fill on CANDY, sponsored by Tarrytown Honda & CVS on Broadway. Posh Pretzels donated prize pretzels to our best trunk winner, The Ghostly Garden!

The night concluded with a movie in the park, Disney's "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The age old question....Is it a Halloween movie OR a Christmas movie???



Tarrytown Recreation Happenings

Halloween Window Painting

October 15th

Another family favorite, our Halloween Window Painting!!! A huge THANK YOU to the 32 businesses that participated in this year's event. We had over 60 families decorate windows and make spectacular creations. The village looked Halloween-tastic!



Scarecrow Making

October 5th

Piles of hay, sunshine & cooler temperatures.....what a great kick-off to October festivities!!! Scarecrow Making was a BLAST with 100 scarecrows decorating Broadway, Main Street & the Rec Center. The scarecrows ranged from cute & spooky to clever & classic.



Tarrytown Recreation Presents

Trudy Dunbar Memorial
5K Turkey Trot & 1 mile Gobbler Trot

Race on the riverwalk, towards the lighthouse!!
Sunday, November 24, 2024
Start & Finish in Pierson Park
Kid Race (1mi.): 9:30 a.m. start
Adult Race (5K): 10:00 a.m. start

Pre-registration Fees:
Now until October 31st- \$30
November 1st to November 22nd- \$40
Pre-registrants will receive a t-shirt

Race Day Fee & Registration Times
\$50 from 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
T-shirts are not guaranteed race day

Gobbler Race is \$25 from now until race day

DIVISION WINNERS RECEIVE A TURKEY!!

Registration Link:
<https://admin.chronotrack.com/r/81796>

Age Divisions:
7-9
10-14 15-19
20-29 30-39
40-49 50-59
60 & up
1 mile Gobbler Trot

Tarrytown Recreation
238 W. Main Street,
Tarrytown NY 10591
(914) 631-8347

To Register:
<https://admin.chronotrack.com/r/81796>
More Information:
<https://www.tarrytownny.gov/parks-and-recreation-department>



Photos from the 2024 Awards & Scholarship Luncheon



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Photos from the 2024 Awards & Scholarship Luncheon



Bits ~ N ~ Pieces

Congratulations to **Chris Madera** on their new position as Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Mount Pleasant Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Daniel McGarry** on their new position as Recreation Supervisor for the Village of Port Chester Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Laura Meza** on their new position as Recreation Supervisor - Seniors Citizens for the Town of Mount Pleasant Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Sydney Burlingame** on their new position as Recreation Supervisor - Seniors Citizens for the Village/Town of Mount Kisco Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Zach Frank** on their new position as Recreation Leader for the Town of Mount Pleasant Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Allie Herskovitz** on their new position as Recreation Leader for the Village of Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department.

Congratulations to **Kevin Thompson** on their new position as Recreation Attendant for the City of Rye Recreation Department.



Photo Above: Congratulations to Jamie (**Bucci**) Fahey, Recreation Supervisor for New Castle Recreation. and Tommy Fahey on their wedding! They were married on July 6th, 2024.



Playland

the POOL & SPA show

powered by the Northeast Spa & Pool Association

It's that time of year again and registration has opened for the 2025 Pool & Spa Show running from January 27th - January 30th in Atlantic City!

As a NESPA/APSP member, WRAPS members and our associates are entitled to free registration which includes entrance into the Exhibit Hall as well as access to a 4-day Technical Session Pass. In order to take advantage of the FREE REGISTRATION you must register for a show badge by November 20th. If you are unsure if you want to attend but haven't ruled it out, you should register for the badge anyway. Once the deadline passes, free registration will expire. I have attached the show link below.

<https://www.thepoolspashow.com/nспа2025/Public/enter.aspx>

Registration Tips

- If you have attended before, click new registration and scroll to find your name to proceed. Our Member ID is: 223032
- If you are registering for the first time, select new registration and enter "Westchester Recreation and Parks Society" as the company name, use the same member ID# as above.
- Make sure to double-check your personal information, the system might default to the Town of Cortlandt's info. Adjust these details to your own.
- On the next page you will find the section that has certifications/classes with fees associated with them. Skip past these registration options.

When you reach the section labeled "Registration Categories," choose the "4-day Technical Pass" this will give you access to the free educational sessions and show floor pass. You will have to choose which classes you want to attend each day or you can indicate that you will not be attending sessions.

If you get stuck, or have any questions about the show feel free to reach out!

Lesley Popkin, Deputy Director

Town of Cortlandt Department of Recreation and Conservation

lesleyp@townofcortlandt.com

(914) 734-1057



Greenburgh Parks & Recreation Seniors

-Andrea Jacoby

Greenburgh Parks and Recreation Seniors have had a busy November. Our seniors visited Fishkill Farms where they picked apples, played corn hole and did some shopping at the market store. They participated in our Flower Arranging class, went to the Tenement Museum, Bryant Park, NYC to see The Great Gatsby and received Vaccines on site from Westchester Community Health center. We will end the month with our Thanksgiving Luncheon which is sponsored by Sprain Brook Manor.



News & Notes

Exciting news!

The NYSRPS Conference will be held in Westchester in 2025.

New season: Fall

Site: Sonesta Hotel in White Plains

Programs, events, trips and exhibitors expected from November 11-November 14th

Awards ceremony and dinner scheduled for The Westchester County Center

Save the dates in your calendar now. Budget for your staff to attend. More specific details will become available as we get closer.

Contact Co-Chairs Sally Veltidi and Matt Arone for more details.



SAVE THE DATE – HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
More information to follow soon

Make sure you have filled out your Membership information and sent WRAPS your payment.
Use the link to update your information.
We still need approximately 75 members to update their 2024/25 membership.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Reminder that many of the full time employment opportunities are posted on the WRAPS website and Facebook. Check weekly to see new postings!

WRAPS VENDOR & ENTERTAINER MEMBERS

More listed at wrapsny.com

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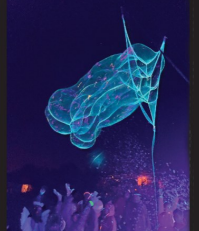
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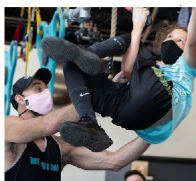


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WRAPS WEBSITE

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



Find us on Facebook

<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 March 2025!

Anyone interested in submitting materials must do so by **Thursday, March 6, 2025**

Send in anything you'd like to share with your fellow Recreation Professionals!

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