

Westchester County PRC Annual Staff Conference Day

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024

Westchester County Center, White Plains – Main Hall

Program begins at 8 a.m. – CE speaks 8:05 a.m.

Podium and microphone will be set up on a riser with big screen set up on stage.

Electronic ribbon will read PRC Conference 2024, and Stronger than ever!

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:15 a.m. – 8 a.m. | Arrival - staff registration and breakfast refreshments
<i>During this time a no-sound photo loop will run on monitors. Loop stops when Peter goes to the mic.</i> |
| 8:00 a.m. | Pledge/announcements with Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia |
| 8:05 a.m. | CE Latimer greetings |
| 8:10 a.m. | Welcome by Commissioner O'Connor
<i>Commissioner's PowerPoint and Erin's Power Point</i> |
| 8:30 a.m. | FINISH – Everyone either stay here for Gigi's presentation or proceed to Little Theater for mandatory training. Both begin at 8:35 a.m. |
| 9:45 a.m. to EOD | Breakout sessions - details on attached schedule |

- Good Morning everyone....who is here for the first time? Welcome everyone! Fulltime and hourlys! And welcome back to the County Center! We have been gone since 2020. As you know the building was used as a testing and vaccination center handling 400,000 people.
- Our department never closed during the pandemic and I believe our staff and facilities gave the public a most needed positive experience physically as well as emotionally. Thank you to the County

Center staff who lived through life altering experiences and have come back stronger than ever! Fully staffed, with every inch of the building having been cleaned repaired and painted.

- If I am repeating myself from our last conference in 2020 I apologize....but I feel very strongly how important this conference is to the continued success of PRC.
- **P.R.C. – Performance, Respect Commitment** - words to live by! Get the basics accomplished every day and keep our “performance, respect, commitment” mantra top-of-mind so that you will naturally do a great job every day.

After 13 years as Commissioner and 40 years with the County... I do believe very strongly in this acronym. P R C!

- Your **job**...no matter what it is....doing it well is critical to the success of the

department as a whole...no job is unimportant!

- Your **facility**...from curb to back parking lot...concession stand to the recycling area.
- **Customer service**... are you always helpful to all patrons, even when they may not be “charming?”
- **Role Model**....are you being a positive one for the staff members around you, below you.... especially the new hires
- **Decisions**....we give you the tools...so MAKE them
- Most importantly...**Take care of yourself!**
You will not be successful at your job if you don't!
- It's all part of taking pride in what you do to make our facilities the very best they can be.
- We are a 62 **million dollar** corporation and you... and what you accomplish daily,

contributes to what makes up this nationally accredited corporation since 2003..we are now 254 fulltime and hundreds of hourly's. This is up from our lowest number of 225 just a few years ago. We are back stronger than ever and it is because each and everyone of you contribute daily to the success of the department.

- We are weeks away from submitting our 5th bid from National Reaccreditation through the NRPA. For those of you who don't know, we are the Only Parks Organization accredited in New York and one of 3 organizations in the tristate area...NY, NJ, Conn. Since 2003...having to be done every 5 years. It is a complete analysis of our department having to answer 154 questions in detail. The end result, now digital, a new group of people could come into the department and by following the submission, they would be able to run the department...not as well as us!! LOL but it is all there in detail how and why we do what we do. A tremendous effort has been

put forth by a committee within the Parks Dept. Please stand and give them an applause for taking on this effort on top of their regular demands of work. Hopefully, we should know by October if we have passed. Fingers crossed.

What a year 2023 has been! What we have accomplished as a team is outstanding and here are some of the highlights!

- Complete rebuild of Willson's Woods pool in Mt. Vernon
- Lighthouse reno and seawall rebuild at Kingland Pt Park
- Croton Point Bathhouse renovation
- Maple Moor maintenance building built
- Mohansic cart barn built
- Tibbetts Brook Park site work almost complete

- Pickle ball courts built at Tibbetts
- Healing Garden built at Ridge Rd Park
- Now Manage Hilltop Hanover Farm
- Now Manage Scout F and new irrigation ponds;
- Main house at Muscoot farm has been renovated
- Main house at Lasdon Park n Arboretum has been renovated.
- **Westchester's Winter Wonderland** went off without a hitch in its 10th year. Attendance was great 22,000 cars and our Parks staff worked alongside the Parks Foundation to set up and take down for the event in a way that gets more streamlined every year. Thank you to Tim Wilson, Russ Argila, Wilman Mo, Jonathan Jorge, Dominic Gangemi John Hernandez ,Gary Metz and Mike Rooney from Parks Foundation just to

name a few of the staff who were instrumental in the set-up running the event and the breakdown.

- Another huge benefit we receive from our partnership with the Parks Foundation has been volunteer service. Mary Benjamin now coordinates a troop of nearly 3,000 individual volunteers who volunteered a total of more than 7,300 volunteer hours last year. The statistics are staggering – here are some highlights: PIX of WPF's sheet

We also have a lot to look forward to in 2024:

- Working closely with all our Friends groups...Lasdon, Hilltop Hanover, Muscoot, Marshlands Read, Trailside and Parks Foundation

Let's work together to make 2024 our best year ever.

- Think about **OWNERSHIP**– **showcase** your facility in its best light and not just because of PIP scoring! It's not just about being on the job, but rather how you make the most of your job... every day!