

# *The 2019 Annual Meeting*



CHESTNUT RIDGE  
*Conservancy*

[www.ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org](http://www.ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org)



*Good Evening Members, Guests and  
Conservancy Directors.  
Welcome to the Chestnut Ridge  
Conservancy 2019 Annual Meeting.*

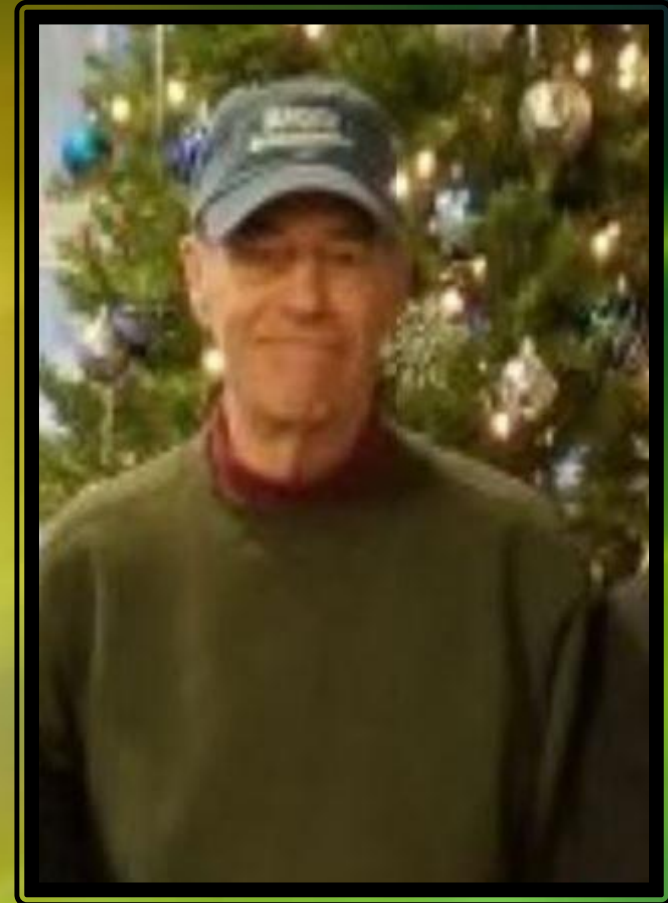




# *In Memoriam*

Peter Swartwrot—CRC Vice President  
February 26, 2019

*On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Conservancy lost a dedicated member of our Board of Directors and Vice President. Peter Swartwrot not only was an avid runner and advocate for the Park, he had served on the Board of Directors for nearly six years. Peter was our go to specialist for all matters relating to the CRC's insurance policy, corporate by-laws, governance, meeting protocols and new member recruitment. Peter will be sorely missed.*





# In Memoriam

Justine LeFauve—CRC past President, Secretary, Founding Trustee  
April 28, 2019

- President of the Orchard Park Garden Club
- Garden club judge
- Founder and president of the South Towns Garden Club
- Loyal member of the Orchard Park Class of 1958 reunion committee
- Director of the Orchard Park Chamber for several years
- Assisted the Niagara Region International Flower and Garden Show
- Secretary for Town of Orchard Park Ethics and Economic Development Committees
- Secretary for the board of Enterprise Charter School
- President of the Eggert Road Elementary School PTO
- Secretary Niagara Falls Charter School board
- Member of Zonta Hamburg/Orchard Park





# *Current CRC Board of Directors*

- The CRC Board of Directors is a 100% volunteer Board.
- But for our recording secretary, there are no paid board members or other paid executive positions.
- We strive to have our Board Members contribute their time and efforts on our community outreach events as well as coordinating our capital project initiatives.
- To this end we owe our board members much gratitude for their time and support of the Conservancy's mission.

- Gordon Panek – President
- Jon Mugal – Vice President – Secretary
- Tom DiSimone – Treasurer
- Ron Michnik – Founding Trustee
- Dan Rizzo – Erie County Parks Commissioner
- Liz Cash
- Diane Morse

- Bernie Boinski
- William Thornton
- Toni Cudney
- Mona Lloyd
- Joseph Powers
- Ed Murphy
- James Lynch
- Lynn Buffamonti





## *The Conservancy's Mission Statement*

*The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy was formed in 2010 to support the restoration and preservation of the rich natural, recreational, and historic resources that comprise Chestnut Ridge Park.*





# *The Conservancy's Association with Erie County & Erie County Park's Department*

- In a collaborative relationship through a "memo of understanding" with Erie County, originally signed in 2011 and renewed for another five year period in 2016, the County and the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy have agreed the Conservancy shall assist the County with the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and enhancement of Chestnut Ridge Park.*
- A short summary of the Memo of Understanding states: "The CRC shall present to the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and forestry such projects it envisions will preserve, restore, rehabilitate, or enhance the Park and its use by County Residents. The Commissioner shall make the determination on a project-by-project basis as to whether the CRC takes a lead role or is a contributor to a County-led project. These projects shall be consistent with the vision of the County and the CRC. The CRC may build volunteer relationships to assist the County Parks Department with various projects through out the park."*
- To this end, the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy expresses it's sincere thankfulness to Erie County to be allowed the opportunity to be apart of and support the well being of Chestnut Ridge Park. We would also like to give special thanks to Commissioner Dan Rizzo, Superintendent JJ Thomas and his park staff for their support and the good working relationship we have achieved these past years.*





# *CRC Membership Information*

*Diane Morse – Membership Committee Chairperson*

- For the past four years our membership has been holding steady at around 160.
  - 2015 – 157
  - 2016 – 158
  - 2017 – 160
  - 2018 – 189
- We view membership as a key component to supporting our base revenue stream as well as informing the public about Chestnut Ridge Park and what the CRC does with it's member and sponsor donations.
- We are always looking for and in need of new members as well as friends that would be willing to support the CRC at it's various events throughout the year.





# CRC Financial Information

Tom DiSimone - Treasurer



2018 vs 2017	2017	% of Rev	2018	% of Rev	Change	%
<b>Revenues</b>						
Membership Dues	\$ 6,336.00	11%	\$ 7,145.00	22%	\$ 809.00	13%
General Donations	\$ 8,024.35	14%	\$ 3,620.60	11%	\$ (4,403.75)	-55%
Event Sponsors, Donations, Fees	\$ 1,830.77	3%	\$ 5,835.50	18%	\$ 4,004.73	219%
Grants	\$ 2,700.00	5%	\$ 500.00	2%	\$ (2,200.00)	-81%
Gala Gross	\$ 35,642.00	64%	\$ 13,405.00	41%	\$ (22,237.00)	-62%
Misc Sales	\$ 1,324.76	2%	\$ 2,227.58	7%	\$ 902.82	68%
Other Revenues	\$ 76.01	0%	\$ 80.14	0%	\$ 4.13	5%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 55,933.89</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 32,813.82</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ (23,120.07)</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>						
		<b>% of Exp</b>		<b>% of Exp</b>		<b>%</b>
Administrative - Marketing, Office, Ins.	\$ 15,595.34	27%	\$ 17,847.53	23%	\$ 2,252.19	14%
Professional - Consulting, Acctg, Taxes	\$ 15,633.72	27%	\$ 7,087.50	9%	\$ (8,546.22)	-55%
Capital - Park restoration/maintenance	\$ 10,332.06	18%	\$ 41,190.00	53%	\$ 30,857.94	299%
Events - Inc Gala	\$ 15,357.00	27%	\$ 11,816.45	15%	\$ (3,540.55)	-23%
Other Expenditures	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 56,918.12</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 77,941.48</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 21,023.36</b>	
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ (984.23)</b>		<b>\$ (45,127.66)</b>		<b>\$ (44,143.43)</b>	



# *Special Presentation*

*Noah Beiter*

*Mitzvah Project & Conservancy Fund Raising Effort*





## *CRC Accomplishments*

*In the following screens we will present the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy 2018 and prior accomplishments.*





## ***CRC Capital Projects Accomplishments Pre-2018***

***Since it's incorporation in 2010 the CRC has invested over \$150,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in Chestnut Ridge Park***

- **New main entrance signs & eternal flame trail sign: \$29,000**
- **Hamilton Ward Memorial Plaque: \$1,200**
- **Binocular viewer at the casino: \$1,200**
- **Casino murals restoration: \$40,000**
- **Wildflower gardens: \$10,000**
- **Park benches & swings: \$5,000**
- **Portable bicycle / sled racks: \$3,000**
- **Tennis court wind screens: \$2,500**
- **Dog waste collection stations: \$1,000**
- **Blue Star Memorial Garden: \$1,000**
- **Planting of 10 oak trees at Eternal Flame parking area \$3,000 donation.**





## *CRC Capital Project Accomplishment 2018*

*In 2018 the CRC employed DMR Masonry to conduct stonework restoration on four needed areas. The sites were suggested to the CRC by the Parks Department. The restoration cost \$15,000. The results were a dramatic improvement.*

- **Decorative wall stonework repair near the casino parking lot**
- **Tennis courts water fountain stonework pad and seat**
- **Main entrance bathroom shelter stonework.**
- **Two Beehive monuments at the entrance to the park.**



# *Casino parking lot guide wall stone restoration*



# *Tennis courts water fountain stonework repairs*



## *Rest room shelter at park entrance stonework repairs*





*Beehive Monuments at Park Entrance stone work repair*





## ***CRC Capital Project Accomplishments 2018***

*Also in 2018, with another donation of five oak trees from Schichtels Nursery, the CRC, Schichtels and Parks Staff planted the five oak trees at the Eternal Flame trail head Parking Lot area making a full compliment of fifteen oak trees along the front side of the parking lot significantly improving the barren look of the trail head parking area.*

*Many Thanks to George Schichtel and his help for the donation of the Oak trees and to Jim & Toni Cudney and the Parks staff for planting them.*





## The 2018 Oak Tree Planting @ the Eternal Flame Parking Area





# Community Outreach Events

- **The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy also plays a role in bringing people to the park for various events and recreational happenings.**
  - Artify the Park - a special event where various artists stationed at various locations throughout the park do their paintings of park scenes for all to watch.
  - Annual Summer Tennis Tournament – Highly competitive WNY tournament bringing over 180 tennis players together in a 4 day event.
  - USTA Regional Tennis Championships
  - Annual Kite festival – now becoming a favorite for the young and old alike.
  - Outdoor movies on the hill - big screen movies located on the hill facing down from the casino brings hundreds of kids and family members to the park.
  - United Way day of caring – bringing together volunteers from all around to do various spring cleanup and maintenance projects within the park.
  - Santa Land & Winterfest – Winter events for kids held around the casino.
  - Working with local boy scout troops on Park projects, Legacy 11 fishing peer, Eternal Flame Trail Rest Area
  - Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts – Our 2016 concert brought over 10,000 people to the park for the event.





*The following slides show our 2018 sponsored or co-sponsored events as well as park maintenance efforts.*



# Taking Care of the CRC Wild Flower Garden May 2018



# Sponsor to the Walleye Association Fishing Derby June 2018



# Oak Tree Planting @ Eternal Flame Trail Head Parking June 2018





# *Cleaning the Courts for Upcoming Tennis Tournaments July 2018*



# USTA Eastern Section Regional Championships August 2018



# United Way Day of Caring - Staining the Commissioners Cabin & Peer August 2018



# Movie Night @ the Casino Overlook Sledding Hills August 2018



# The 2018 Summer Classic Tennis Tournament

## September 2018



# CRC Booth Setup at the Orchard Park Arts Festival September 2018



# The 2018 Annual Kite Festival October 2018



# The 2018 Annual Gala @ the Park Casino October 2018





# Santa Land @ the Park Casino December 2018





*See many more pictures on our web  
site under “galleries”.*

*[www.ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org](http://www.ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org)*





*Any Questions for our 2018 projects  
and events?*





# 2019 Capital Projects Overview

- In 2019 the CRC is engaging in four capital project initiatives for the Park
  - **Establishing Eternal Flame Trail Head Rest Area (Nearly completed)**
    - Estimated project cost \$10,000
    - CRC commitment to project \$5,000 (County Parks provided \$5,000 of crushed stone)
    - Collaborative project with Erie County Parks & Boy Scout Troup 285 of Orchard Park
  - **Casino Floor Refinishing Project**
    - Estimated project cost \$18,000
    - CRC commitment \$19,000
  - **Tennis Court relighting project**
    - Estimated project cost \$30,000 – \$40,000 (Replacing all fixtures)
    - Estimated project cost \$15,000-\$20,000 (Replacing fixtures on upper four courts only)
  - **“All Inclusive Playground” project**
    - Estimated project cost \$360,000 - \$450,000
    - CRC commitment - \$25,000





# Eternal Flame Trail Head Project





# *Eternal Flame Trail Head Project*

Before cleanup, excavation and crushed stone

After clean up efforts & crush stone layout



**Thank you Troop 285!**



**ON MY HONOR**  
**TIMELESS VALUES**

# TROOP 285

**HILLCREST FIRE CO. 1**  
**ORCHARD PARK N.Y.**

**Orchard Park, NY**





# *Casino floor refinishing project*

- Received \$18,000 quotation for floor refinishing and repair spots.
- CRC financing entire cost of refinishing.
- Park superintendent JJ Thomas – coordinating with vendor on timing and oversight of work.
- Anticipated completion by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

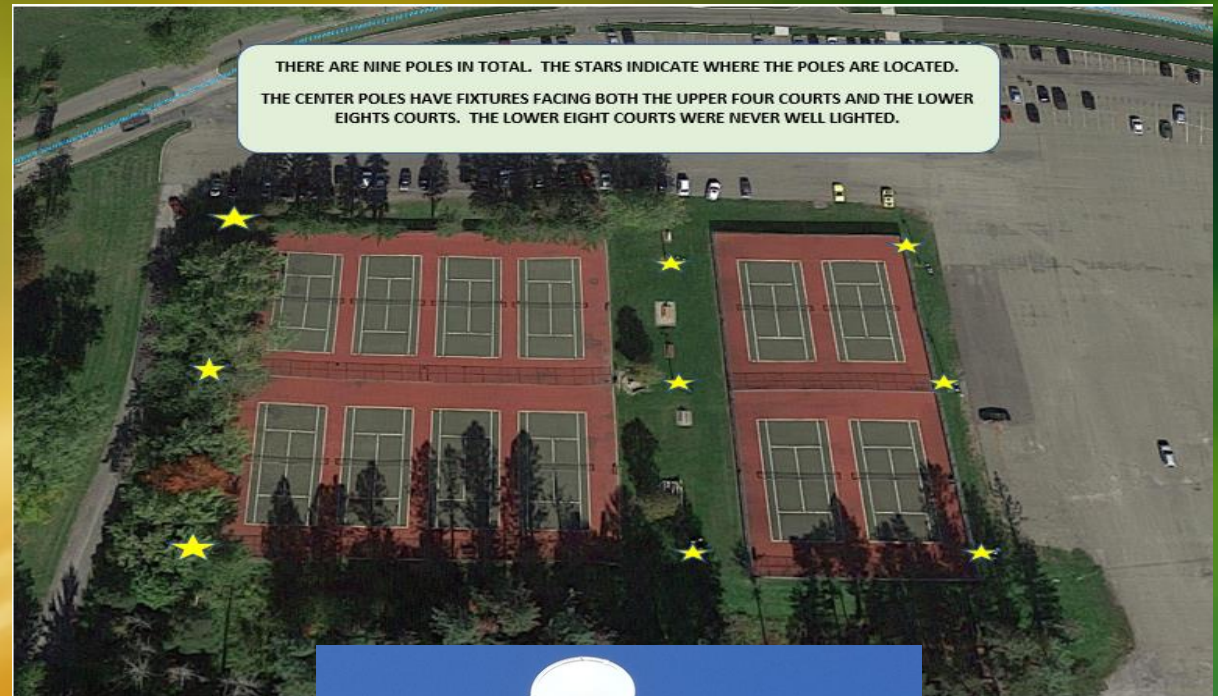






# Tennis Court Re-lighting & fixture replacement project

- CRC Budget - \$15,000
- Potential project costs with all courts \$30,000-\$40,000
- Potential project cost with just the upper four courts: \$15,000 - \$20,000
- Potential additional funding source USTA – Very Competitive \$3,000 perhaps.
- Will seek other funding sources – John Mills, County Legislature, other private funding.
- Awaiting more detailed quotes from M & M Electrical, Frye Electrical & Ferguson Electrical.





## *Playground for all project*

- Possible likely cost - \$360,000 - \$400,000+ range – depending on many variables. Eg... community installation which could save \$60,000.
- CRC Commitment - \$25,000
- Settled on Parkitects, Inc. – Local playground developer. Ben Fraiser, project manager.
  - Parkitects has done “all inclusive “playground builds in Hamburg, Orchard Park and with Masons Mission in Pembroke to name a few.
- Erie County & Erie County Parks has given us their thumbs up on the project.
- The Park’s department has also identified a site location and has committed to preparing the site location for installation as well as future maintenance.
- The CRC has employed a grant writer (Mary Simpson) to help seek out foundation funding for the project and build community support and other avenues of funding.
- So far, we’ve received very positive feedback from initial meetings with Erie County legislature representative John Mills, State Senator, Chris Jacobs and other County Administration officials.
- Please see information at the Playground table.
- With that said, I would like to introduce to you Ben Fraiser of Parkitects who will walk us through a video, and the next four screens on the playground concept design and equipment possibilities.



# *Video from Parkitects, Inc.*





## *Playground for all design concept*





## *Playground for all design concept*





## *Playground for all design concept*



# All Inclusive Playground Project

## Playground Equipment





# *All Inclusive Playground Project Community feed back?*

*Also see our playground information table for  
more information on the project design and  
equipment possibilities.*







# *CRC Sponsors & Supporters*

*All of what we do through the CRC is made possible by support from our sponsors, donors, members and volunteers. We wish to recognize the generosity and support of the following:*

- ▶ *The hundreds of members and volunteers who have donated their money, time and talents to the CRC. They are the backbone of the CRC!*
- ▶ *The Penfold Family*
- ▶ *West Herr Automotive Group*
- ▶ *Blue Cross/blue Shield of WNY*
- ▶ *Nan Ackerman*
- ▶ *Entercom Communications Group*
- ▶ *Key Bank*
- ▶ *Lawley Insurance*
- ▶ *Mentholatum*
- ▶ *Polymer Conversions, Inc.*
- ▶ *Praxair Foundation*
- ▶ *The Krog Corporation*
- ▶ *Try-It Distributing*
- ▶ *Noco, Inc.*
- ▶ *Schichtels Nursery*
- ▶ *M & T Bank*

*A special thanks again to Erie County Parks Department for all their support and staff help throughout the years!*





# *Vintage Chestnut Ridge Pictures*





*View From Casino - Chestnut Ridge Park.*



*Toboggan - Chestnut Ridge*



Log Lean-to - Chestnut Ridge Park







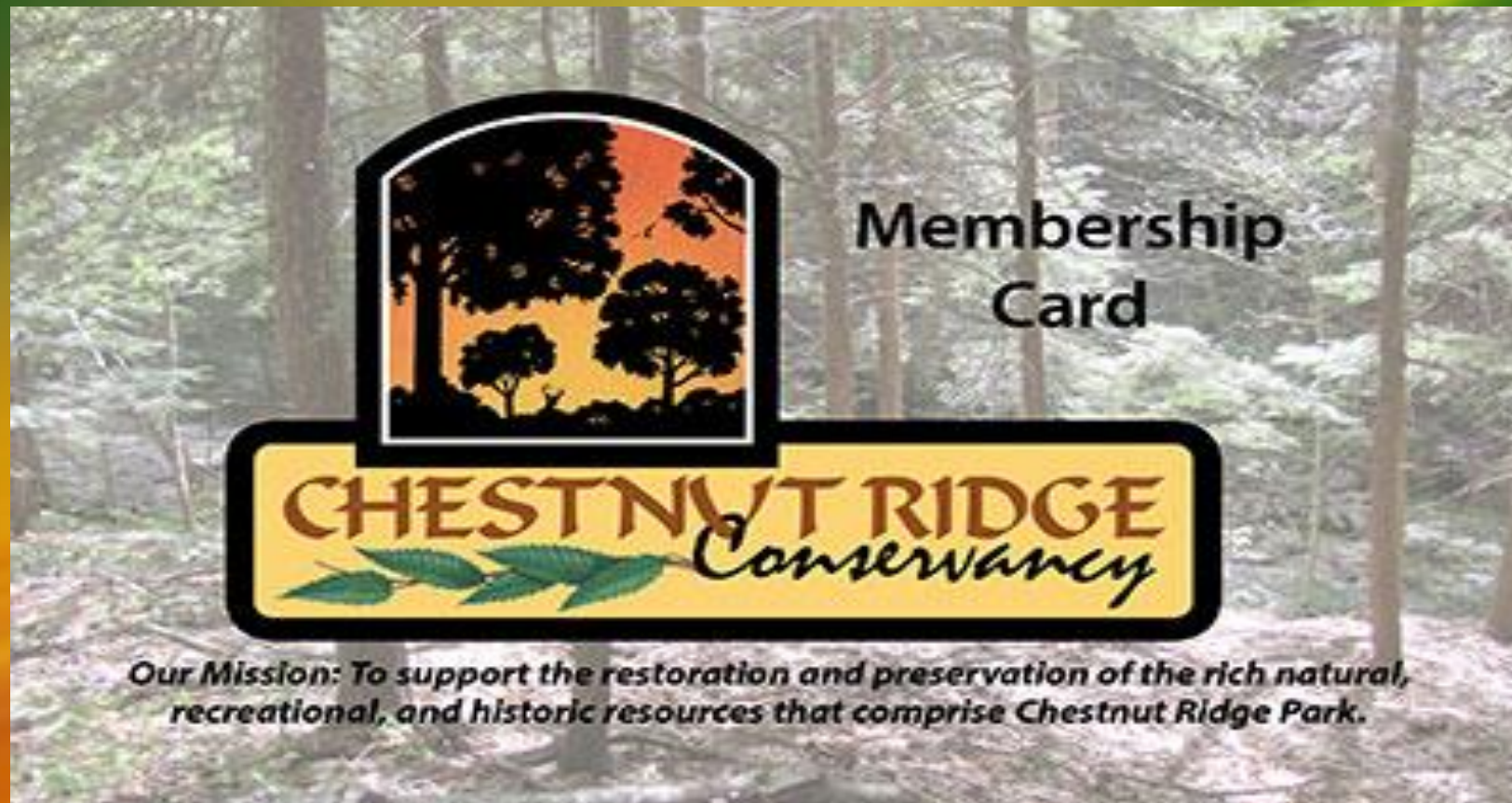
*Visit our Web-site for more  
of these nostalgic photos.*







**What you can do...** Join us, become a member, renew your membership, make a donation, make a memorial donation, join our volunteer list, join our board.



[www.ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org](http://www.ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org)



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*Thank you for attending our Annual Meeting and  
your continued interest and support in our mission  
for Chestnut Ridge Park.  
Please join us for some snacks and refreshments.*

