



CHESTNUT RIDGE  
*Conservancy*

# *The 2020 Annual Meeting And Ten Year Anniversary Celebration*

# *Introduction*

*Good Evening Members, Guests and Conservancy Directors.  
Welcome to the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy 2020 Annual  
Meeting and Ten Year Anniversary Celebration Day!*

*My name is Gordon Panek, current President of the  
Conservancy. I am the producer and presenter of this Power  
Point Presentation on the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy's 2019  
year in review and Ten Year Anniversary Celebration.*

*Please feel free to make comments to me on the presentation  
and or the CRC operations information at  
[gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org](mailto:gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org).*





# *The 2019 Annual Meeting Call to Order*

*I now official call our Annual Meeting and Ten Year Virtual Celebration to order.*

*We appreciate your interest in the Conservancy and it's mission and hope you enjoy listening to and viewing our information and achievements here in.*

*Thank You.*





# Ten Year Anniversary

## 2010 – 2020



Sunday, November 1, 2020 – Official Day of Celebration

Tonight, not only are we reporting to you on the CRC's 2019 year in review, we are also taking this opportunity spread the cheer a bit and wrap up our official day of virtual celebration for the Conservancy's Ten Year Anniversary. Throughout the past ten years, a lot of time, effort and money has been donated to the Conservancy's cause by many businesses and dedicated people. The Conservancy owes an enormous debt of gratitude to all who have so selflessly given their time, resources and hard earned money.

At the conclusion of this presentation we will announce our 2020 Ten Year Anniversary on-line silent auction winners. Those who have won the highest bid will receive an e-mail from us to arrange for receipt of your winning item.



# *The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy*

- ☐ *In an effort to assist the County of Erie in preserving and restoring Chestnut Ridge Park in the midst of budget cuts and rising expenses, a dedicated group of concerned citizens came together in 2008 to form the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy.*
- ☐ *Incorporated in 2010 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization the Conservancy was established to support the restoration and preservation of the rich natural, recreational and historic resources that comprise Chestnut Ridge Park.*
- ☐ *The Conservancy is a all volunteer organization comprised of a non-paid Board of Directors. We work in partnership with Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry through a Memo of Understanding with Erie County.*
- ☐ *Our funding stream is based on memberships, general donations and a once a year Gala fund raiser.*



# *The Conservancy's Mission Statement*

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





# *Board of Directors*

- The CRC Board of Directors is a 100% volunteer Board.
- 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 with Erie County Parks and outside vendors.
- To this end we owe our board members much gratitude for their time and support of the Conservancy's mission.





# *Current Board of Directors*

- Gordon Panek – President
- Mona Lloyd – Vice President
- Tom DiSimone – Treasurer
- William Thornton - Secretary
- Ron Michnik – Founding Trustee
- Troy Schinzel – Erie County Parks Commissioner
- James Hornung, Sr.
- Barbara Hauser
- Liz Cash
- Toni Cudney
- Bernie Boinski
- Ed Murphy
- James Lynch
- Lynn Buffamonti
- Andy Gernold
- Jason Jaskula





# 2019 vs 2018 Financial Information

- ❑ 2019 gave us a better year revenue stream wise as well as a reduction in administrative expenditures.
- ❑ Revenues from memberships fees, general donations and grants improved over 2018 with the annual gala producing an additional \$12,800 over 2018's Gala.
- ❑ Expenditures in Administrative costs, professional charges, and Gala costs all declined in 2019 vs 2018.
- ❑ Capital project expenditures in 2019 were lower due to lesser costing projects being completed in 2019 vs 2018.
- ❑ Net fund balance usage was \$911 in 2019 vs \$45,127 in 2018. 2018's larger fund balance usage was mainly due to a significant decline in 2018 gala revenue and more costly park capital improvement projects.
- ❑ All in all, 2019 was a much better year financially for the CRC than 2018.



# 2019 vs 2018

2019 vs 2018	2019	% of Rev	2018	% of Rev	Change	%
<b>Revenues</b>						
Membership Dues	\$ 7,980.00	18%	\$ 7,145.00	9%	\$ 835.00	10%
General Donations	\$ 5,593.31	13%	\$ 3,620.60	5%	\$ 1,972.71	35%
Event Sponsors, Donations, Fees	\$ 250.00	1%	\$ 5,835.50	7%	\$ (5,585.50)	-2234%
Grants	\$ 2,500.00	6%	\$ 500.00	1%	\$ 2,000.00	80%
Gala Gross	\$ 26,215.00	60%	\$ 13,405.00	17%	\$ 12,810.00	49%
Misc Sales	\$ 475.00	1%	\$ 2,227.58	3%	\$ (1,752.58)	-369%
Other Revenues	\$ 80.23	0%	\$ 80.14	0%	\$ 0.09	0%
Reserve Usage	\$ 911.49	2%	\$ 45,127.66	58%	\$ 44,216.17	4851%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 44,005.03</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 77,941.48</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 54,495.89</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>						
		% of Exp		% of Exp		%
Administrative - Marketing, Office, Ins.	\$ 3,453.29	8%	\$ 17,847.53	23%	\$ (14,394.24)	-417%
Professional - Consulting, Acctg, Taxes	\$ 4,240.12	10%	\$ 7,087.50	9%	\$ (2,847.38)	-67%
Capital - Park restoration/maintenance	\$ 25,416.25	58%	\$ 41,190.00	53%	\$ (15,773.75)	-62%
Events - Inc Gala	\$ 10,895.37	25%	\$ 11,816.45	15%	\$ (921.08)	-8%
Other Expenditures	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 44,005.03</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 77,941.48</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ (33,936.45)</b>	
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 110,124.14</b>		<b>\$ 111,035.63</b>		<b>\$ (911.49)</b>	
<b>Reserved</b>	<b>\$ 32,500.00</b>		<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>		<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>	
<b>UnReserved</b>	<b>\$ 77,624.14</b>		<b>\$ 86,035.63</b>		<b>\$ (8,411.49)</b>	





# *Membership and friends base*

- ☐ *The CRC 2019 year end membership count was 227. An improvement of 29 members over 2018's membership count.*
- ☐ *We are actively responding to lapsing members to keep our previous base and continuously seek new members to our base.*
- ☐



# *2019 Park Restoration & Improvement Projects*

In 2019 the Conservancy funded two very notable capital projects in the Park and coordinated a very successful United Way Day of Caring park maintenance projects list with M & T Bank Volunteers.

In Spring of 2019, the Conservancy, together with Boy Scout Troup 285 and Erie County Parks Department, established an Eternal Flame Trail Head rest area. Clearing of brush and debris, landscaping, adding a crushed stone walkway together with the purchase and installation of six stone benches provided for a much needed trail head rest area and tremendously improved the entire trail head area.

In Summer of 2019, the Conservancy funded the first time ever repair, cleaning and refinishing of the Casino interior stone flooring. The \$20,000 project took over a month to complete replacing broken slabs of sand stone, caulking cracks, diamond etch scrubbing of the floors and applying three coats of sealant.

See the following slides for pictures of these outstanding park maintenance and improvement projects.







2019 Eternal Flame Trail Head Team Work – Troop 285







2019 Eternal Flame Trail Head Project Completion - Thank you Troop 285







2019 Casino Flooring Repair & Refinishing







2019 Casino Flooring Repair & Refinishing Completion





2019 United Way Day of Caring Teams Thank you Ron Michnik, Mona Lloyd, Toni Cudney and M & T Bank volunteers!!





# 2019 Community OutReach Events

- ❑ *The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy also plays a role in bringing people to the park for various events and recreational happenings.*
- ❑ *Co-Sponsor to the Annual Summer Classic Tennis Tournament – Highly competitive, but friendly WNY tournament bringing over 180 tennis players together in a six day event.*
- ❑ *Supporter of the USTA Regional Tennis Championships at the Ridge bringing 400+ participants from Binghamton, Rochester, Batavia, Syracuse areas to name a few*
- ❑ *Pitching the CRC canopy up at the Orchard Park Arts festival for some interactive rock painting and CRC public awareness.*
- ❑ *Sponsor of the Annual Kite festival – now becoming a favorite for the young and old alike.*
- ❑ *Outdoor movie(s) 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.*





# *A Look Forward*

## *2020 Park Restoration & Improvement Projects*

The Conservancy had planned a very ambitious project restoration and improvement lineup for 2020.

- 1.) First up is a \$10,000 Casino interior stone work restoration project replacing broken step slabs around the two fire places, cleaning and remortoring stonework cracks above and around the two fire place hearths. The project has been completed in August.
- 2.) Second is a \$25,000 project to replace forty year old (non-working) light fixtures and relight the upper four tennis courts. The tennis courts have not be lighted since 1995. This project is in the works and has a completion date for around the end of September.
- 3.) Third up and our biggest , most ambitious project ever undertaken by the CRC is the purchase and installation of a “PLAYGROUND FOR ALL” to be located to the right side of the casino. This project carries a \$450,000 price tag. The CRC has already sourced over \$300,000 in capital funds and in-kind contributions for the project. We are in need of a couple more big contributions to take us over the finish line to get the project started. We had thought 2020 would be the year until the COVID 19 pandemic came about, but we are very confident if we don't get it done in 2020 it will happen in 2021. It will be a Playground for All children of all Abilities.

See the following slides for some pictures of our 2020 Park improvement initiatives.





# *Casino Interior Stone Work*

## *Completed in the Summer of 2020*





# ***Tennis Courts New Fixtures & Re-Lighting***

***Currently in the works – Expected completion October 2020***



**When completed, it will be the first time  
in over twenty five years the lights will be  
back on at the tennis courts.**





# *A Playground for All*

- ☐ *A playground for all children of all abilities to be located in Chestnut Ridge Park to the right of the Park Casino.*
- ☐ *The price tag for the playground and foundation is in the \$425,000 - \$450,000 range.*
- ☐ *The Conservancy has already committed nearly \$38,000 in funding. \$25,000 toward capital equipment and \$13,000 in fund raising consulting.*
- ☐ *This past summer the Conservancy secured a \$50,000 grant from the Ralph Wilson Legacy.*
- ☐ *To date the Conservancy has raised over \$325,000 in capital and in-kind donations.*
- ☐ *We are continuing a very active campaign to closing the gap possibly in 2020 and if not this year, for sure in 2021.*
- ☒ ***You can contribute directly by Texting "PLAYGROUND2020" to 44-321***
- ☐ *Please see the following slides for pictures of the possible playground equipment and playground layout.*



**TEXT "PLAYGROUND2020 TO 44-321**





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# ***Our Sponsors & Supporters Thank You!***

*All of what we do through the CRC is made possibly by support from our sponsors, supporters, members and volunteers. We wish to recognize the generosity and support of all*

## ***2019 Gala Sponsors***

- ☐ ***Polymer Conversions, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Try-It Distributing***
- ☐ ***West Herr Automotive***
- ☐ ***Richard & Karen Penfold***
- ☐ ***APEX Corporation***
- ☐ ***M & T Bank Charitable Foundation***

## ***2019 Gala Program Advertisers***

- ☐ ***Litwin Castle Insurance***
- ☐ ***United States Tennis Association  
USTA Eastern***
- ☐ ***XOAR Communications***

## ***2019 Gala Program Advertisers***

- ☐ ***Brown & Stromecki Agency, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Images in Glass, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Pace & Pace Law Firm***
- ☐ ***Lockwood's Garden Center***
- ☐ ***Grateful Grind Café***
- ☐ ***Susan Panaro Senior Personal  
Training***
- ☐ ***Thomas J. Johnson Homes, Inc.***
- ☐ ***Southtowns Ear, Nose & Throat, LLP***
- ☐ ***Great Erie Federal Credit Union***
- ☐ ***Nino's Pizza***
- ☐ ***FB Brown & Sons Funeral Home***
- ☐ ***Illo DiPaolo's Restaurant***

*Finally to the hundreds of members , supporters and volunteers who have donated their money, time and talents to the CRC, you are the backbone of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy!*





## *Special Acknowledgement*

The Conservancy, it's board members would like to give a sincere nod of appreciation and thank you to Commissioner Troy Schinzel, and all the Ridge Park staff who have helped and supported the CRC over the past year. The Conservancy accomplishes good things for Chestnut Ridge Park with the blessing and help of Commissioner Schinzel and Erie County Department of Parks, Forestry and Recreation. We are grateful to have a good working relationship the Parks Department and look forward to many more years of continued partnership for the benefit of Chestnut Ridge Park.







# Ten Year Anniversary

## Celebrate for us!



You can continue to support the Conservancy through our current “Virtual Gala” fund drive. It’s running right now. We have four ways you can choose from.

- 1.) For a \$100 donation, you can receive a \$25 dinner gift certificate to one of five area restaurants of your choice plus a commemorative CRC T-shirt or a CRC Cap or a CRC etched wine glass set. Your choice.
- 2.) You can also advertise in our commemorative program booklet. A Full Page ad is \$500, a half page ad is \$250 and a quarter page ad is \$150.
- 3.) You can choose to be a major sponsor. We have sponsor levels at \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1000.
- 4.) Finally, we will be hosting an online silent auction through our website [www.chestntridgeconservancy.org](#) on October 30<sup>th</sup> ending November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.







# Ten Year Anniversary

## Celebrate for us!



For Sponsorships and/or Advertising in our  
Commemorative Program

Email or Call Gordon Panek at:

[gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org](mailto:gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org)

770-757-9240







# Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Online Silent Auction



October 15th through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 6:00 pm.  
Auction items can be viewed and bids entered at:

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

Through the "2020 Virtual Gala Page"

Bidding opens October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020





## *Conservancy Memberships, Directorships & Volunteers*

We are always looking for new members as well as new directors that can help out with the Conservancy's mission. If you would like to only occasionally volunteer, we have needs for you as well!

For Memberships and Volunteers please email  
**[admin@chestnutridgeconservancy.org](mailto:admin@chestnutridgeconservancy.org)**

For director positions, please email  
**[gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org](mailto:gpanek@chestnutridgeconservancy.org)**

Thank you for your interest in the Conservancy.





# *Official Meeting Information*

Thank you for taking the time to view and review our power point presentation.

Our actual date of the Annual Meeting is **Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 6pm** coinciding with our Ten Year Anniversary official date of celebration.

Please join us online for the Annual Meeting and Celebration.  
You may check in n video via google meets or call in on your phone.

**[meet.google.com/afe-gfhj-ngf](https://meet.google.com/afe-gfhj-ngf)**

**(US) 1-617-675-4444**

**PIN: 607 182 690 9820#**







# Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Silent Auction Winners



Bidding officially closes at 6pm on Sunday  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020Upp

Upon conclusion of the Annual meeting we will  
name the 2020 Virtual Gala Silent Auction Winners.





## *Closing*

I motion to adjourn our 2020  
Annual Meeting

Can I have a Second?

Meeting Adjourned.

Have a good night everyone.  
Thank you for attending and stay  
safe!

