



# ***The 2021 Annual Meeting***

***Thursday, July 15th, 6:00pm Chestnut Ridge Park Casino***

# *Introduction*

*Good Evening Members, Guests and Conservancy Directors.  
Welcome to the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy 2021 Annual  
meeting.*

*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 2020  
year in review.*

*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 2021 Annual Meeting Call to Order*

*I now officially call our Annual Meeting 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.*



# *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
- Barb Hauser – Treasurer
- William Thornton - Secretary
- Ron Michnik – Founding Trustee
- Troy Schinzel – Erie County Parks Commissioner
- Liz Cash
- Toni Cudney
- Tom DiSimone
- Andy Gernold
- James Hornung, Sr.
- Jason Jaskula
- James Lynch
- Ed Murphy
- Tim Sands





# 2020 vs 2019

2019 vs 2020	2019	% of Rev	2020	% of Rev	Change	%
<b>Revenues</b>						
Membership Dues	\$ 7,980.00	18%	\$ 5,647.00	2%	\$ (2,333.00)	-29%
General Donations	\$ 5,593.31	13%	\$ 2,573.92	1%	\$ (3,019.39)	-54%
Event Sponsors, Donations, Fees	\$ 250.00	1%	\$ -	0%	\$ (250.00)	-100%
Grants ( Playground Grants & Donations)	\$ 2,500.00	6%	\$ 213,868.00	92%	\$ 211,368.00	8455%
Gala Gross	\$ 26,215.00	60%	\$ 10,345.00	4%	\$ (15,870.00)	-61%
Misc Sales	\$ 475.00	1%	\$ -	0%	\$ (475.00)	-100%
Other Revenues	\$ 80.23	0%	\$ 57.15	0%	\$ (23.08)	-29%
Reserve Usage	\$ 911.49	2%	\$ -	0%	\$ (911.49)	-100%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 44,005.03</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 232,491.07</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 188,486.04</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>						
		% of Exp		% of Exp		%
Administrative - Marketing, Office, Ins.	\$ 3,453.29	8%	\$ 6,320.41	9%	\$ 2,867.12	83%
Professional - Consulting, Acctg, Taxes	\$ 4,240.12	10%	\$ 23,440.21	34%	\$ 19,200.09	453%
Capital - Park restoration/maintenance	\$ 25,416.25	58%	\$ 33,488.68	48%	\$ 8,072.43	32%
Events - Inc Gala	\$ 10,895.37	25%	\$ 6,630.18	9%	\$ (4,265.19)	-39%
Other Expenditures	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 44,005.03</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 69,879.48</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 25,874.45</b>	
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 110,124.14</b>		<b>\$ 272,735.73</b>		<b>\$ 162,611.59</b>	
<b>Reserved</b>	<b>\$ 32,500.00</b>		<b>\$ 246,100.00</b>		<b>\$ 213,600.00</b>	
<b>UnReserved</b>	<b>\$ 77,624.14</b>		<b>\$ 26,635.73</b>		<b>\$ (50,988.41)</b>	
<b>Gala Net</b>			<b>\$ 4,164.82</b>			
<b>Playground Consulting</b>			<b>\$ 15,737.26</b>			





# 2020 Community Outreach Events

- ❑ *The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy also plays a role in bringing people to the park for various events and recreational happenings.*
- ❑ *Due to the 2020 COVID restrictions, many of the CRC outreach events were unfortunately not held, except for the 2020 Chestnut Ridge Summer Classic Tennis Tournament which brought in a record number of participants as Tennis was deemed a safer outdoor sport to play.*
- ❑ *2021 however, is once again a less restricted year and the Conservancy will be engaging in it's sponsorship of the 2021 Summer Classic Tennis Tournament, The Orchard Park Art Festival, The Kite Festival, Movie Night in the Casino in December, SantaLand at the Casino and WinterFest.*





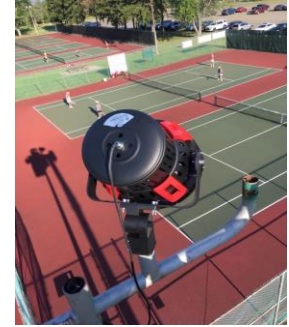
## *2020 Park Restoration & Improvement Projects*

Despite the limited activity in 2020, the Conservancy still accomplished the funding and replacement of the upper four tennis courts lighting fixtures at a cost of \$27,000. After twenty five years of no lights, the tennis courts finally have state of the art 500 watt LED fixtures illuminating the upper four tennis courts with extra hours of tennis playing time for those Chestnut Ridge Park tennis enthusiasts.





# *Tennis Courts New Fixtures & Re-Lighting*





*Current Project in the Works*

# A Playground for All





# *A Playground for All coming in August*

- ☐ *A playground for all children of all abilities to be located in Chestnut Ridge Park to the right of the Park Casino and set to be installed this August!*
- ☐ *The grand total price tag for the playground, base and excavation work is approximately \$770,000.*
- ☐ *This is a joint project we are working on hand in hand with Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry and would not be otherwise achievable!*
- ☐ *We have engaged with Wendel Architects and Rodriguez Construction Company to do the architectural drawings and needed excavation work.*
- ☐ *The site excavation work is currently in progress and will be completed within the next two weeks.*
- ☐ *Parkitects, Inc. is the vendor providing the equipment and rubber base installation.*
- ☐ *August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> are the Community build days.*
- ☐ *Mary Simpson will speak about the community build days and personnel needs after the next series of picture slides.*



# ***“Playground for All” Donors & Support Help An Enormous Thank You!***

- ☐ ***The Junior League of Buffalo & The Buffalo News***
- ☐ ***The Shoemaker Family Trust – Ruth Shoemaker***
- ☐ ***Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry***
- ☐ ***The Bertsch Charitable Trust – Jack Bertsch***
- ☐ ***The Ralph Wilson Legacy Foundation***
- ☐ ***The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation***
- ☐ ***Shawn & Amy Connolly***
- ☐ ***The Kiwanis Club***
- ☐ ***Judith Travers***
- ☐ ***Lawley Insurance***
- ☐ ***Polymer Conversions***
- ☐ ***American Legion OP Post 567***
- ☐ ***The many individual private donors***
- ☐ ***Wegmans***
- ☐ ***Tops***
- ☐ ***Mills Distributing***
- ☐ ***Concrete Company***
- ☐ ***M & T Bank Community Build Volunteers***
- ☐ ***Junior League of Buffalo Community Build Volunteers***
- ☐ ***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!***











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# Community Build

## WHAT WE NEED -

*Captains for tents and food.  
Someone to pick up food.*

## TENTS

- Registration tent (make sure liability form is signed, people checked in, T-shirt if needed)
- Water/snack tent (make sure H2O is cold, tables bussed)
- Tool tent (managed by Parkitects, need assistant)
- Food tent (Most of the food will be in the casino. We will grill hot dogs/hamburgers so we need some outdoor chefs! Begins 11 - 11:30am)
- Food is being donated by John Mills, Wegmans and TOPS Markets to date.
- Grateful Grind is allowing us to use their cooler in the casino.

## Other things you should know

*Grand Opening/ribbon cutting is being pushed to September 24 because of delay in equipment delivery for Sensory Walk. this is subject to change again.*

*We are still looking for donations of concrete (in a truck, not bags) Ed Murphy secured one donation for us.*

*I have signed up CRC for Give 716 Day, sponsored by the Bills and Sabres. It begins tomorrow night at 7:16PM. It's giving through a digital platform(we have done this before successfully). You can find out more here -*

<https://give716.org/GIVE716/2021/giving-day/charities/chestnut-ridge-conservancy-inc>





# ***Community Build***

## **Tuesday, August 3**

We will need about 15 volunteers to sort playground pieces on this day from 9am - 5pm. This is NOT on Sign Up Genius, so please consider volunteering for a portion of this day. Parks has promised a few people, too.

On these two days, we are looking for about 50 people per shift. You can sign up for more than 1 shift. M&T Bank is reaching out for Friday volunteers, and Junior League is working on Saturday ... there are more folks actually signed up, then appears on Sign Up Genius.

## **Friday, August 6**

Sign Up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c44aac23a7ffc07-community>

**Hours: 8:30am - 12:30pm**

**1:00pm - 5:00pm**

**4:30pm - 7:00pm**

## **Saturday, August 7**

Sign Up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c44aac23a7ffc07-community>

**Hours: 8:30am - 12:30pm**

**1:00pm - 5:00pm**

**4:30pm - 6:30pm**





## *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 Erie County and the Parks Department and look forward to many more years of continued partnership for the benefit of Chestnut Ridge Park.





# *Special Proclamation*



It is a distinct pleasure to introduce the Honorable John J. Mills, Erie County Legislator for District 11 and Orchard Park to present a special proclamation to the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy.





# Presentation by the Honorable John J. Mills



## STATE OF NEW YORK LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY BUFFALO, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

### *Chestnut Ridge Conservancy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions of Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, Chestnut Ridge Park consists of 4,213 acres of park land, named after the Chestnut Trees on its hills. Chestnut Ridge Park was one of the first parks established by Erie County in 1926, and is the largest park operated by the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy members volunteer and raise money to assist various park events and projects including the annual youth fishing clinic, the Blue Star Memorial Byway marker, Santa Land and Winterfest, and the Eagle Scout Project to restore bleachers at the baseball diamond, among other events; and

WHEREAS, The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy has worked together with the county and other groups to improve the park in many ways including the installation of a wildflower garden, tennis court wind screens and benches, pet waste collection stations, memorial benches, fishing pier, long-range binoculars, casino mural restoration, park signage, extensive stone work restoration, casino floor refurbishing, and more;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize members of The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy for protecting and improving the treasure of Chestnut Ridge Park to be enjoyed for generations.

*John J. Mills*  
JOHN J. MILLS  
Erie County Legislator - 11<sup>th</sup> District





# *Thank You!*

On behalf of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Board of Directors, Thank you Legislator Mills and the Erie County Legislature for this recognition. It is heart-warming to receive some level of recognition like this from elected government and the Community for the many, many years, and thousands of hours of time, effort and talent that so many good people have contributed to helping Chestnut Ridge Park's preservation & restoration efforts.





## *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

Go to our website and click on the "Join us" tab and select from the drop down menu.

If your interested in becoming a Conservancy Director please email me and your resume to

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

Thank you for your interest in the Conservancy.





# *Annual Meeting Conclusion*

This concludes our 2021 annual meeting.

Can I have a motion to dismiss?

Thank you very much for attending our meeting and your continued interest in the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy.

