



Wee Play Community Project

www.weeplayproject.org

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 3

April 9, 2005

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

Volunteers Hop Into Action

Wee Play Brings More Fun To Egg Hunt

After a couple of very stressful weeks of hoping for the snow to melt, followed by some nerve-racking days of weather watching, March 26 was a glorious day for the Beacon Recreation Department's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

This annual event consists of the Egg Hunt and Bike Raffle—all donated by the Alps Sweet Shop, and a petting zoo. This year, Wee Play volunteers added an Easter egg craft and face painting to the fun, and were able to meet more Beacon parents and let them know about our group.

Christine Galbo organized the event to make this a fun day for the kids and a successful outreach event for our group. There were over 100 crafts made by the kids, and the face painting continued until the Easter Bunny and petting zoo were long gone. The Recreation Commissioners were so impressed with our volunteers and the work they did for the kids. They were thrilled with what our group added to the event and hope we can participate again in the future.

The turnout for the event was huge. While there wasn't an actual count done of all of the children who participated, each child under the age of eight was given one free raffle ticket for the bikes—there were 321 raffle tickets at the end of the day. Adding all of the parents, grandparents, and older children, you could guesstimate that there were approximately 1,000 people at the Easter Egg Hunt!

Many thanks to the entire team—Christine Galbo, Claire Browne, Chris Dennehy, Kippy Dennehy, Laura Elisofon, Alison Lewis, Christine McDonald, Kristen Rigney, and Gail Robinson—for doing such a terrific job. All of the happy faces we saw that day were the best measure of success that anyone could ask for.

Letterboxing at Stony Kill

The Wee Play Community Project will be on hand to celebrate Earth Day at Stony Kill on April 24.

Stony Kill Farm will be hosting a special Earth Day treasure hunt, called "letterboxing." Participants use natural objects as stamps or design their own nature stamps, and go on a hunt in the forest for Stony Kill's own letterbox. Using your stamp, you leave your mark in the letterbox to show that your hunt was successful. This activity is for adults and children eight years and older. Letterboxing is a fun family activity that combines hiking, local history, orienteering, nature sleuthing, and art.

In addition to assisting with the letterboxing activity, Wee Play volunteers will offer a special Earth Day craft for kids younger than eight. We will also be on hand to distribute information about the Wee Play Community Project. We will also be collecting used laser cartridges, ink jet cartridges and cell phones for the FundingFactory Recycling Program.

We need help to assist with the Letterboxing event and to organize and manage the children's craft. To volunteer, contact Kelly Ellenwood at 831-4318 or kelly@weeplayproject.org.

Spring For Swings

Karen Donohoe, owner of Echo—the coolest toy store we know—launches raffle to benefit the Wee Play Children's Park.

Karen joined us at our Coffee House get-together on February 26 to announce her plan to raise money for the Park. Her fundraiser, called Spring for Swings, is a raffle for Hopper, an adorable 3-foot tall kangaroo, with her joey, Pocket! Both are ready, willing, and able to spring into action for a successful fundraiser. You can meet Pocket and Hopper and purchase your chances at Echo for only \$1.00 each between now and May 14. The drawing will be held on May 14 at 7 p.m. at Echo, located at 484 Main Street. In addition to this grand prize, a second place prize of a \$20.00 gift certificate and a third place prize of a \$10.00 gift certificate will also be awarded. Good luck!

Wee Play Hosts Community Day July 2

Volunteers Needed For Planning & Event

The Wee Play Community Project will be hosting an old-fashioned Community Day fair at Memorial Park on July 2. This will be a big fundraising event for us and a community building event for all. We will coordinate the fair, with Beacon's many community groups participating to provide food, games, and entertainment. The final touch to the day's events will be the fireworks display at Memorial Park.

We need LOTS of volunteers to make this a successful event. We are starting from the ground up to create the fair, and need help with planning the various events and keeping everything organized as we go. We will also need volunteers to help out with various activities on the day of the fair. The first step we need to take is to promote the event and sign up groups to participate, and this is where we need help now!

There are many tasks that need to be taken care of between now and July 2—You don't have to be at the fair July 2 to help, and you don't have to volunteer for planning to work the fair! Let us know your availability and we'll put you to work on this great event. This will be a fun and rewarding project for everyone! To volunteer or for more information contact Pam Seegler at pam@weeplayproject.org.

Hat Parade May 14

May 14 will be a day dedicated to Beacon's hat making history, beginning with a Hat Parade on Main Street and events and Dorel Hat Factory tours throughout the day. Anyone who wears a hat may march in the parade... and we'll be there!

There will be prizes awarded for various 'hat'egories... smallest, largest, most stuff, most colorful, and most edible. While participating in the parade is free, there is a \$1.00 registration fee to participate in the judging.

In order to prepare for the Hat Parade, Karen Donohoe will be hosting a hat-making workshop on Saturday, May 7 from 9-11 a.m. at Echo, 484 Main St. This is a walk-in event and registration is not required. There is a \$5 materials fee, and the project is suitable for children ages 3 and up.

Karen has invited us to set up a bake sale table in front of her shop to help us raise money and give out information. Hopper and Pocket will learn of their new home that day as well! It will be a lot of fun and a great outreach opportunity for us. We'll need a supply of baked goods and volunteers for the day. Contact Julann Cobb at 831-7254 or julann@weeplayproject.org to volunteer or donate baked goods for this event. We will have our monthly meeting before the parade and march together.

FundingFactory

Used printer cartridges and old cell phones raise money for Wee Play Children's Park. Help us collect!

Used cartridges and cell phones can be refurbished for reuse. Recycling the items in this manner helps keep them out of landfills and benefits the Wee Play Community Project by earning cash for the items we collect. Help the park—and the earth—by collecting used ink jet and laser cartridges and old cell phones for our recycling program.

The cartridges and cell phones are sent to FundingFactory where the cartridges are inspected and then sold to reputable recycling companies to be remanufactured. These cartridges are later sold to secondary markets, including retailers and office-supply stores. Cell phones that enter the FundingFactory warehouse are either donated to nonprofit markets such as women's shelters, sold to refurbishers who sell them back into the domestic market or sold to foreign markets.

Cartridges and cell phones can be dropped off in our collection boxes at the following locations: Beacon City Hall Main Entrance; ChThonic Clash Coffee House, 416 Main Street; Howland Public Library; Wee Play Meetings at Kid's Place; and on Earth Day, April 24, at the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center.

Help us raise money by promoting this recycling/fundraising program on our behalf with your family, friends, and co-workers. This will be an ongoing fundraising activity that only needs people to spread the word and bring in the goods!

For more information or for fliers about this program, contact Kelly Ellenwood at 831-4318 or kelly@weeplayproject.org.

Stepping Stone Orders Being Taken

A great way to get your hands dirty building the park is to create stepping stones! For your contribution of only \$20, you will receive a kit to make a 10" stepping stone that will be installed in the park at a later date. Your kit has to be pre-ordered, so return your order form as soon as possible so that you, too, can create your own personalized addition to the Park. Stepping stones are great for handprints or paw prints, inscriptions, mosaics...let your creativity show! Forms are available at meetings, Echo, Howland Library, www.weeplayproject.org, or can be requested via email to kelly@weeplayproject.org.

Be gentle with the young.

—Juvenal (55 A.D.-127 A.D.)

Volunteers Needed!

Check your calendar and sign up for...

Earth Day at Stony Kill—planning & day of event-4/26. Contact Kelly Ellenwood at kelly@weeplayproject.org or 831-4318.

Hat Parade—Hat Wearers March! Also need people for info/baked goods/drinks table and to sell Spring for Swings raffle tickets. 5/14. Contact Julann Cobb@ julann@weeplayproject.org or 831-7254.

The ReePlay Sale—planning & day of event-5/21. Contact Mary Antalek at mary@weeplayproject.org or 838-9782.

Community Day—This is our biggest event-we need lots of help planning & day of event-July 2. Contact Pam Seegler at pam@weeplayproject.org.

More For Your Calendar

Coffee House Meeting is back! We will be meeting at the **ChThonic Clash** on Saturday, April 23 at 8:00 p.m. The focus of this get-together will be organizing the Community Day event. A fun night out. See you there!

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The next Wee Play child-friendly gathering at **Kid's Place** will take place on **Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m.** Come and play! For info contact Julann Cobb @ 831-7254. Quick get-together before Hat Day parade.

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Girl's Softball -- For info Contact Bill DiNapoli @ 831-5959.

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Soccer's Spring Season may still have openings! For more information contact Mrs. Robertin @ 831-8069.

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Beacon Hoops registration through 5/16. Forms are available at the Recreation Department and Beacon schools. Info contact Beacon Rec. @ 838-5024.

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Baby and Me at Howland Library began new 6 week session on April 4. Baby and Me is geared for the littlest patrons up to 24 mos. This is a great program, with much reading, singing, playing and socializing. Everyone has lots of fun! Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Free. Contact Ginny Figlia at 831-1134 x103.

Contact: Julann Cobb @ 831-7254 or julann@weeplayproject.org for more information about the Wee Play Community Project.



Face Painting at Easter Egg Hunt

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