



Wee Play Community Project

www.weeplayproject.org

Volume No. 2

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June 1, 2006

April was a busy month for Wee Play!

Delayed by a week because of the weather, the official dedication of the Wee Play Children's Park took place on April 15, 2006 in conjunction with the Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt in Memorial Park. Mayor Clara Lou Gould and members of the Recreation Commission performed the ribbon cutting ceremony; over 300 children and their families attended. Former Beacon Recreation Director Kathy Juhasz was surprised and honored to learn that the playground was to be formally dedicated to her and her work with the children of Beacon during her tenure with the Recreation Department from 1984 – 2005. Congratulations Kathy – you have inspired us!



Wee Play volunteer Kristine Nesslar, honoree Kathy Juhasz, current Beacon Recreation Director and Wee Play Founder Julann Cobb, and... the Easter Bunny. *Photo courtesy of Claire Browne*

Ree-Play Sale

On April 29, the Wee Play Community Project held it's Second Annual Ree-Play Sale. It was a gorgeous day, and all of the work paid off! Thanks to our many volunteers who contributed their time to the success of the event. After much discussion at the post-mortem, the committee decided to do the event again in 2007. All proceeds will benefit Phase II of the playground build:

Total Income:	\$3,376
Total Expenses:	\$ 706
Total Profit/(Loss):	\$2,670
In-Kind Support:	
American Legion – Beacon Post 203 & Fritz Ohlloff	
Beacon Dispatch	
Beacon Self Storage	
Big Kahuna Consignments	
Dunkin' Donuts	
Key Food	
Kiki Heincke – khDesign	
Sam's Pizza	

“Baby Signs” Event at Wee Play Children's Park

Wednesday, June 14 at 10:30 am



Baby Signs® Sign, Say & Play™ Class

Meet BeeBo™ the Signing Bear and learn your favorite park signs with singing and fun with American Sign Language.

This free event is for families with children ages birth-3 years old! The theme will be “Park Signs.”

Visit www.signingfun.com for more information.

There's nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child. -Frank A. Clark

Contact Information

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We are interested in organizing group trips to Bear Mountain and other fun venues – e-mail Claire if you'd like to get in the loop ...

Please Welcome to the World the newest members of Wee Play!

7 lb., 8 oz. Olivia was born to the Del Castillo family on April 17. She's a beauty!

Matthew Sandison was born on May 2 – our heavyweight at 10 lbs., 1 oz.! Way to go Diane!

Jack Anthony Antalek was born on May 12, 2006 to Mary and Dave Antalek, weighing in at 8 lbs., 4 oz. Big Brother Riley can't wait to show him the playground!

Breaking news -- Ella Marie Cason was born to Meg and John Cason on May 26, weighing 8 lbs., 5 oz. We are thrilled for them!

Congratulations to all!



Phase II Update

The “This Area Under Construction” barricades are still up – so, “what’s up” you ask? Your answers follow – and if you have more unanswered questions or any comments or concerns regarding the playground, feel free to call or e-mail any time.

Sandbox: This is **the** burning question. In short, we are waiting on the right materials to enclose the space, similar to the rubber curbing that was recently installed around the perimeter of the Play Bounce surface. We are now looking at installation to occur sometime toward the end of June, courtesy of the Beacon Highway and Park Department. Until then, let the kids play in the dirt, but it would be great if we could keep it in that designated corner, or the Play Bounce surface will need to be vacuumed!

Stepping Stones: Have you returned yours yet? Have you actually created it? If not, you do still have some time – but not much. Call or e-mail Kelly to make arrangements soon. If you had trouble making yours, we can try to get you a new kit. Installation will be implemented by volunteers from the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers union, Local 5, New York.

Children’s Garden: Yes, three overflowing barrels of herbs and delightful sensory plantings do not exactly a children’s garden make. See the timeline opposite for details on implementation of this exciting component of the playground. If you would like to help with watering the planters this summer, please e-mail kelly@weeplayproject.org.

Shade: It’s definitely hot out there. And we are definitely working on some temporary and one or two permanent fixes for this very serious problem, including a very creative tent awning project, a ready-made pergola over the sandbox (when the sandbox gets done, of course), and at least two trees which are in the landscape plan. Meanwhile, always please bring sunscreen, a hat, water, and maybe even an umbrella! How about one of those little pop-up play tents? Any other suggestions?

You are worried about seeing him spend his early years in doing nothing. What! Is it nothing to be happy? Nothing to do but skip, play, and run around all day long? Never in his life will he be so busy again.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Emile*, 1762

Da Rules

Please -

- ☞ No Smoking
- ☞ No glass bottles or containers
- ☞ Children must be supervised at all times
- ☞ For safety's sake, only children age 6 and under
- ☞ Absolutely no dogs or other pets allowed
- ☞ Please shut the gate behind you
- ☞ Have fun!

Please also keep in mind that the swings & bouncers are for children only – including the red handicapped accessible swing.

Phase I (Completed):

- Site Prep
- Play surface - installed
- Large play equipment - installed
- Fence - installed
- Donated yard toys purchased

Phase II (In Progress):

- Sand Pit excavated and installed (materials on order!! – June)
- Install temporary shade structures
- Stepping Stone path installed (June/July)
- Site Preparation (fill, topsoil – July)
- Install “Crane” Sculpture (July)
- Move 2 benches (July)
- Install “Adventure Path” (July)
- Install climbing boulders (July)
- Install log circle (July)
- Plant trees (September)
- Plant Sensory Garden (Fall 2006/Spring 2007)
- Plant Memorial/Butterfly Garden (Fall 2006/Spring 2007)
- Install bridge in Memorial Garden (Fall 2006/Spring 2007)

Phase III (Pending):

- Install permanent signage
- Install permanent shade structure
- Develop and implement kids' programming

The Last Word: Keeping It Safe

The playground is a success! Every week it is used by hundreds of kids and their families, and often there isn’t a parking space to be had. People from Beacon, Wappingers Falls, Fishkill, Hopewell Junction and Cold Spring are all coming to play. A real community.

If you see older kids (7 years and older) abusing the equipment and/or abusing younger kids, don’t be afraid to speak up to whomever is supervising them, or to the culprits directly. Show them the door. It is unsafe and unacceptable. The signage supports you, and safety is our main concern.

If you don’t feel comfortable with confrontation, please report any out-of-the ordinary incidents to Kelly or Claire. Another suggestion to passively get the message across is to model appropriate behavior whenever possible. We do need to work on a solution to the after-school problem and the disrespect a handful of kids have shown to the beautiful playground and to the little ones. It really does take a village, for every child.