



Wee Play Community Project

www.weeplayproject.org

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 6

October 15, 2005

Playground Breaks Ground

Eight months worth of dreaming, planning and fundraising started to develop a realistic look as construction began on the Wee Play Children's Park at Memorial Park on September 27. Although it can be truthfully said that many of the kids who will benefit most from the Park have been waiting half their lives for it to take shape, getting our Park funded in only eight months of fundraising efforts is an amazing accomplishment. Major kudos to everyone who helped to make this happen!

What we can expect to see as the Park takes shape is that the work will be completed in two phases, with the Grand Opening occurring in the Spring of 2006. Our original plan to hold a "soft" opening on October 29 in conjunction with the Recreation Department's Halloween Parade will not be possible after all. A week's worth of rain took its toll on our already tight construction schedule. Our revised plan is that Phase I will be the installation of the major pieces--the play structure, swings, safety play surface and fence. Phase II will be sand area, the smaller moveable play pieces and landscaping. The installation of the stepping stones was originally planned for Phase I; however, that can be put off until the spring if we run out of time before it gets too cold to work with masonry.

While we would have liked to be able to complete the project in one shot, by the time we reached our fundraising goal and ordered the playground equipment we were set up to have an autumn installation. Waiting until spring to complete a total installation put us at risk of having costs go up. We decided to do what we can to make the Park take shape as soon as possible by breaking the project into two phases. Besides, the two-phase plan will give us the opportunity to put the finishing touches on our design after we get a chance to see what our play area looks like. We'll have plenty to look forward to after the snow melts! Volunteers are needed to help design the play-friendly landscaping and implement our Youth Gardening Project. The gardening team will be planning throughout this winter for the spring planting season. Contact Kelly Ellenwood at 831-4318 or kelly@weeplayproject.org to put your green thumb to good use!

Pediatric CPR/First Aid Offered

In cooperation with Alamo EMS, Wee Play Community Project is offering non-certification courses in pediatric CPR and pediatric First Aid. The first course will teach how to recognize choking emergencies and how to administer CPR to infants and children up to 8 years old. The second course will focus more generally on pediatric first aid. Each course will last 2 to 2 1/2 hours and the fee for each course is \$25; if you sign up for both classes the total fee is \$45. Classes will be held in the Community Room of the Howland Public Library, 313 Main Street, Beacon. The CPR course will be held Saturday November 5, at 9:30 a.m. and the first aid course will be held on Saturday, November 19, at 9:30 a.m. To reserve a space in one or both of these classes, or for more information, contact Lorraine Festa at 831-7174.

You will always be your child's favorite toy.

--Vicki Lansky

Wee Love Lowe's

It's exciting to find out that all of the grant-writing effort Kelly has put in is earning a favorable response from someone who just *might* give us a smidgen of what we asked for. You can imagine how extraordinarily thrilling it was for Kelly to get a call that the response is so favorable that they would like to give us even more than we asked for! That's exactly what happened when Kelly applied to Lowe's for a grant of \$5,000. Lucky for us, Lowe's liked our project as much as we do! Kelly's grant application was based on our goal to be able to afford a solid safety play surface, which is more expensive than wood chips but safer and wheelchair accessible. The call that Kelly received from Lowe's was to ask how much money did we need to meet that goal (\$13,000) and did we mind if they gave us more than the \$5,000 applied for so that we could finish our fundraising and start to build (heck, no!). They gave it to us. Thanks to Lowe's Board of Directors for their generosity in helping us afford the best play surface for our kids! By the way, Lowe's in Newburgh is our neighborhood supporter, and so much easier to get to than any other home building center in Wappingers!

Oh, Baby!

Kelly Ellenwood, Tim Parsaca and daughter Rhiannon (5) are pleased to announce the birth of the newest addition to their family. Rowan Faith Ellenwood Parsaca was born on August 5, 2005 at 10:10 a.m. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 11 oz., and measured 19.5 inches long. She's a sweetie! Congratulations, Kelly, Tim and Rhiannon!



Happy Halloween from Rhiannon and Rowan

FundingFactory Ads Up

Old cell phones and used printer cartridges are piling up in our boxes all over town...and we love it! So far we have been credited \$168.20 for our FundingFactory returns. Every little bit helps--If we continue along this trend of earning about \$25 a month, the \$300 a year can go pretty far towards new items for the park or other projects. You can keep track of our FundingFactory earnings on our website's home page.

Help us raise even more money by promoting this recycling/fundraising program on our behalf with your family, friends, and co-workers. Help them collect items and bring them to our collection boxes for recycling. 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 Laura Hecker at 831-3129.

Come & Play Thursdays

Howland Public Library and Wee Play Community Project are teaming up to start "Come & Play Thursdays" at the Howland Library's Community Room. Beginning on November 3, the Community Room will be open from 10:30 to noon as a large playroom where moms and kids can meet to play and socialize. Everyone is asked to help provide playthings by simply bringing at least one toy to share while you are there. The purpose is to provide a fun destination during the winter months for active play. Come & Play is open to all babies, toddlers, and young children accompanied by an adult. There is no cost, although a donation of \$1.00 is suggested. All donations received will be shared 50/50 with the library and used to purchase playthings for Come & Play. There is no registration required--come and go as you please.

Come & Play is intended to be an open play date and doesn't have activities planned. As the group evolves, more structured play dates may be in the future--or maybe it will just be fun to have a place to run around like a three-year old! Having a place to go and meet friends is a great place to start. For more info, contact Julann @ 831-7254.

Local Artist Donates Sculpture

Beacon artist Insun Kim has generously donated her Crane sculpture to the Wee Play Children's Park. The Crane is the traditional symbol of a long and happy life, and Japanese folklore tells us that if we fold 1,000 paper cranes, our wish will come true. The Crane will serve as a focal point of the Children's Garden.

Insun has been a Beacon resident since 1987; she is a Korean born naturalized U.S. citizen who came to New York in 1979 to study art. Since 1983, she has been employed at the Tallix Art Foundry and has been a part of some of the most notable works of metal sculpture in recent years, all the while developing her own style and a body of work in metal sculpture. Her work combines cast and fabricated techniques and is her poetry. It is based on her life experiences, relationships between man and woman, person to person, nature, earth, sun, moon, tree to apple to little habenero pepper. Insun likes to create sculptures that people can relate to their lives. Form, space, color, texture and how she uses each of these elements in each sculpture depends on each story and how she would like to show it. She uses objects that on the surface have no relationship with each other and composes them in harmony. Her most recent project is a 12' tall "Tree of Life,"

composed of over two thousand nails of varying sizes representing the multicultural, eclectic nature of our society.

A man's work is from sun to sun, but a mother's work is never done.

—Author Unknown

Kelly's Fundraising Update

We did it! My grateful thanks to everyone. We exceeded our goal of raising \$25,000 towards the Park!

Total Wee Play Income Received to Date: \$29,748

Grants: \$14,500

Community Day: \$ 2,294

Individual/Business Support: \$ 9,032

Stepping Stones: \$ 2,680

Fundraising Events/Outreach: \$ 1,242

Government Support: \$59,000

Total Income for Project: \$88,748

Recreation Department's Annual Halloween Parade October 29

Beacon Recreation's annual Halloween Parade will take place on Saturday, October 29. Parade will leave from the Rombout Middle School parking lot at 10:00 a.m. and travel on Wilkes Street to Memorial Park where there will be judging of costumes. Prizes will be awarded for the best child, teen, and adult costumes. The Lion's Club will provide refreshments, and there will also be free candy for children under the age of 8. Raindate is Sunday, October 30 at 1:00 p.m. Call Beacon Recreation at 838-5024 for more information. FREE.

Meetings, Etc.

We decided to drop the monthly meeting format in favor of using our email newsletters and getting together as the need arises and projects evolve. Currently in the works are children's CPR/First Aid courses, Play Day Thursdays at Howland Public Library (and further playgroup development), and plans are underway for the landscaping of the Wee Play Children's Park and the Youth Gardening Project.

Yes, the Website needs updating! A volunteer is needed to help re-design the site for a more streamlined format that is easier to keep current and to add some local-interest features. Contact Julann Cobb @ 831-7254 if this is something you'd like to do.

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