

Town of Greenburgh  
**ASSISTANT  
TOWN HISTORIANS**



— felicia barber + riley wentzler —

*“Like a long lost friend”: The story of  
how summer recreation has evolved  
in Greenburgh*

*By: Riley Wentzler & Felicia Barber*

“Summertime is finally here, that old Ball Park Man is back in gear... school’s out the nights roll in and just like a long lost friend you ain’t seen in a while, you can’t help but smile-” Kenny Chesney in “Summertime” (2006). Picnics, baseball games, concerts, hotdogs and hamburgers...some things about summer never change. However, often just as the nature of education, technology and business change, so too does the nature of leisure. What follows is the story of how summer recreation has evolved in Greenburgh.



**The roaring '20s, a time of swimming, fishing and archery:**

In the 1920s, as the economy boomed Greenburgh residents had more money to spend on their various recreational activities. The most common recreational activities included: swimming (at the Greenburgh Public Pool, at various parks, and at the Lyndhurst Estate) fishing, and archery.



*Photo-: M-852*

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The good times were rolling, but these high spirits and seemingly endless recreational activities would not last. As the decade ended and The Great Depression occurred, recreational activities began to dry up. However even during these hard times some people still engaged in archery to take their mind off economic woes.

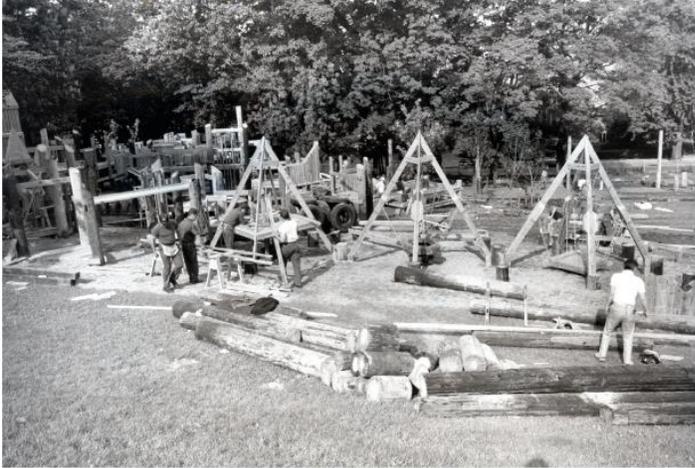


*Photo: G-512*

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### **The 1950s- a time of boredom and Frustration:**

In addition to the economy recreation was impacted by racial segregation. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Greenburgh's village of Fairview, home to the majority of the town's African American Community. For instance, the headline of a February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1955 article in the Reporter Dispatch read, "Recreation Needs of Fairview not Being Met, Council Says" (Reporter Dispatch February 6, 1955). However ten years later, with the Civil Rights movement in full swing, a headline from the same paper read, "Town Nearing Completion of Fairview Playground" (Reporter Dispatch July 7, 1965).



*Photo: G-6442*

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While the 1950's were known for their lack of recreational activities in Greenburgh, the next decade brought a recreation boom.

### **The '60s- The Great Tennis Explosion:**

Just like in the 20s' swimming, fishing and archery were popular, but the 60's also marked an explosion in the popularity of tennis. On July 24th 1963, Beaver Hill Camp in Edgemont and Virginia Road Camp in Hartsdale held tryouts for the Junior Olympic: baseball, tennis, basketball and soccer teams (Reporter Dispatch July 24<sup>th</sup>1963). As a result of the widespread interest in these games, 191 children attended these camps that year (Reporter Dispatch July 24<sup>th</sup>1964). These Junior Olympic Games were held at Edgemont High School exactly one year later. The success of these games greatly increased the popularity of the camps, and therefore, in 1966 attendance at these camps hit a record high of 1,000 students attending (Reporter Dispatch August 13<sup>th</sup>1966). In 1968, the County Tennis Club in Hartsdale held its first annual Singles Tournament for Senior Men& Women and

its first annual Doubles Tournament for Senior Men (Westchester County Department Parks & Recreation 1968, p.7). After the enormous success of these events, the town decided to start a Junior Tennis Development Program in 1969 (Westchester County Department Parks & Recreation 1969, p.7). From May 14<sup>th</sup>-August 13<sup>th</sup> of 1969 the Sky Top Tennis Courts in Elmsford held the Industrial Tennis League Tennis Tournament (Westchester County Department Parks & Recreation 1969, p.7)

We had hoped to trace the evolution of summer recreation in Greenburgh from 1920-2004, but we were unable to find any written documentation of summer recreation in Greenburgh during the: 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, or 2000-2004. If anyone has such written documentation, please feel free to send it to us at [assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com](mailto:assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com).



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**The Guardians of History: Greenburgh's Historical Societies (1/6/19)**

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**How a Flat Tire led to a Happy Escape: The Story of Carvel in Greenburgh**

**(12/11/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Carvel%20History.pdf>**

**A Thousand Words Which You Never Knew: The Forgotten Story of the Seal of Greenburgh. (11/17/18)**

**<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20A%20Thousand%20Words.pdf>**

**"The Disappearing Railroad Blues" in Greenburgh: The Fate of the Putnam Railroad Line and the old Putnam Trail ((11/6/18)**

**<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20%20Railroad%20Blues.pdf>**

**A Different Kind of Rebel: Greenburgh's Contributions to the Underground Railroad (10/27/18)**

**<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/GREENBURGH.pdf>**

**Greenburgh at The Great American Crossroads: Greenburgh's Civil War Story (10/19/18) [http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47461&TID=10&jump2=0)**

**[Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47461&TID=10&jump2=0](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47461&TID=10&jump2=0)**

**Greenburgh's Hall of Heroes: Ferncliff Cemetery Where Memories Live Forever (10/12/18) [http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47403&TID=10&jump2=0)**

**[Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47403&TID=10&jump2=0](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47403&TID=10&jump2=0)**

**A Final Resting Place for "Man's Best Friend": The Peaceable Kingdom (9/29/18) [http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47331&TID=10&jump2=0)**

**[Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47331&TID=10&jump2=0](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47331&TID=10&jump2=0)**

**Greenburgh and The Arts (9/22/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47278&TID=10&jump2=0>**

**Greenburgh's BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUTH: A History of The Freemasons in Greenburgh (9/12/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/archnews.cfm?NID=47212&TID=10&jump2=0>**

About the Authors:

We are both Assistant Town Historians at Greenburgh Town Hall and we are engaged to be married and are currently looking for permanent employment.

**Riley Wentzler:**

I was born and raised in a small rural town in central Pennsylvania. In high school, I took every honors course available including four years of Spanish. I received A's in all of them. I graduated third in my class of 146 students. This brought me to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Once there, I continued my trend of academic excellence. I graduated summa cum laude in Political Science with a minor in Spanish and a Master's in Communication Studies, with a G.P.A of 3.94. It was also there that I met my lovely fiancée, Felicia Barber. My Master's in Communication has promoted public speaking, teamwork, and customer service. My Political Science degree has developed my research skills using computer-based tools and provided me with experience using the Microsoft Office products. My minor in Spanish has facilitated my bilingual capabilities. During my internship at Greenburgh, I created the petition for the State Roads project using website tools. My diverse education and areas of interest have provided me with a wide range of skills. I look forward to finding a career opportunity in business or government. **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at [assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com](mailto:assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com), or to help me find employment, you can contact me at [rjwentzler413@gmail.com](mailto:rjwentzler413@gmail.com)**

**Felicia Barber:**

I was born in New York City and raised in Hartsdale, New York. I graduated from Ardsley High School. I recently earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. It was here that I met my fiancé, Riley Wentzler. As a result of my academic excellence, I won a scholarship every year. I learned and applied many graphic design skills to projects during my summer internships and at school. I am proficient in using Adobe graphic design applications including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. For my Identity/branding course at Edinboro, I created logos to appear on the tee-shirts of Physical Education majors. For a veteran's upcoming event, I used a typeface to focus the reader to the soldier in the poster. For the State Roads Legislative Campaign project, I created the embedded graphic-photo that accompanied the petition I am looking for a job to utilize my skills as a Graphic Designer in an agency, print shop, company or government **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at [assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com](mailto:assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com). To learn more about my artwork or to help me find employment you can contact me at [feliciadbarber@gmail.com](mailto:feliciadbarber@gmail.com).**

**Two Interviews with the authors:**

<https://riverjournalonline.com/around-town/a-love-of-history-and-each-other/13708/>

<https://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/news/stories-main-street-couple-cerebral-palsy-brings-manytalents-town-greenburgh>

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