

Beautification News

Celebrating **40** Years!

Volume 27, Issue 1
Spring Flowers 2005

Calendar of Events

April 29
Arbor Day Dedication
9:30 am at White Plains High School

May 8
Cherry Blossom Festival

May 19
Adopt-A-Park Appreciation Breakfast

Blooming TV: Tune in to Channel 76 at 9 PM on Saturday nights.

Won't you help us tiptoe through the 8,400 tulips? Donations from sponsors like you make this city bloom! All of the bulbs planted last fall are all set to rocket through the earth this spring. When the time is right, maybe someone would like to tip toe through the tulips and count to make sure they all came up?



Hosta Garden at Maple Avenue and South Broadway. Adopt-a-Park Benefactors: New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Ballard-Durand Funeral Home.

Happy 40th Birthday Beautification Foundation

Once upon a time 40 years ago, there were few trees in downtown White Plains. There were no fountains or street clocks, no carillon to chime the hour and play concerts at noontime, no entrance gardens to welcome visitors into the city. You certainly could not see the 50 landscaped gardens we have today, nor the hundreds of pear and cherry trees that have been sprinkled all over town. There was no gazebo or summer house in the park, no artistic Welcome to White Plains sign over the railroad trestle. The Basket wasn't even a dream and over 100 park benches were nowhere around for people to rest upon.

Fortunately, today we have all of these. The 40th birthday of White Plains Beautification is truly a reason to celebrate. Wait until you see our cherry and pear trees in their pink and white blossoms and thousands of bulbs bursting in air in colorful profusion. The city will look like one giant birthday cake. We hope you will take the time to stop and appreciate all this beauty in our city and maybe think of helping us light the candles in our heart with a contribution to help keep us celebrating for the next 40.

LET'S ALL CLOSE OUR EYES AND MAKE A WISH. Your wishes for a beautiful city are ours to make come true. We remain an **ALL VOLUNTEER** organization, even after 40 years. With your support we will continue to dazzle you and make White Plains the City in a Park you want to come home to.



Our Blooming Mural

Take one last look at the mural on the wall at the entrance to the new City Center at the Main Street entrance. Designed and painted by our talented board members and friends in 1993, it was the last of three. The two earlier murals, dating from 1968 and 1980, were done by White Plains High School students. 37 years of murals during our 40 year history! Plans are afoot for new construction at the site.

This Blooming City on TV

As the WPBF celebrates its 40th year, our TV show celebrates its 15th. We try keeping you up-to-date on the work of our dedicated volunteers - the many projects, and the efforts of a caring community to make White Plains a wonderful place for all to enjoy.

We also like to show off residents flower gardens, as well, and we bring you helpful information from experts in many related fields.

Tune in to Channel 76 at 9PM on Saturday Nights

May 7	Cherry Blossom Festival
May 14	Adopt-a-Park
May 21	Spring & Summer in White Plains
May 28	Remembering Renoda Hoffman
June 4	Magda Bondy
June 11	The Parks of White Plains
June 18	Bluebirds Return to White Plains
June 25	Grassroots: Healthy Gardening

White Plains Beautification Foundation Board of Directors and Advisors

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Newsletter

Editors: Julie M. Trelstad, Renate D. Daly
Committee: Fran Keegan,
Marie Marich, Kathy Masterson,
Barbara Ramsdell,
Barbara Vrooman, Beth Wallach
Photos: Mary Soyeux, Roland Barnes,
Graham Trelstad, Nabel's Nursery

WPBF SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR 2004

Income 2004	\$176,226
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Adopt-a-Park	\$ 96,211
Bequests	\$ 15,000
Donations	\$ 35,357
Gala	\$ 29,658

In addition to the dollar donations to the Adopt-A Park Program, nine Major Sponsors provided **in-kind contributions valued at \$19,000**. The Foundation greatly appreciates the bequests from the estates of the following White Plains citizens who so believed in our mission: Virginia Mann, Geneva Parker and Blanche Sinauer.

Expenses 2004	\$170,735
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Programs (Cost of Gardens & Trees)	\$ 143,422
Fund raising (Adopt-a-Park, gala)	\$ 12,865
Communication (cable TV, newsletters)	\$ 6,161
Administration	\$ 8,287

The Foundation Board takes pride in the fact that we have been successful in holding administrative costs to under 5% of total expenditures by being an organization of volunteers.

Letter from the President

Spring 2005



Dear Friends,

May I beg your indulgence for a few seconds to write an open thank you letter to all the past presidents of the White Plains Beautification Foundation on the beginning of our 40th anniversary year.

Past Presidents

Brian Wallach	1965-1971
Marjorie S. Priestley	1971-1984
Hon. Robert E. Ruger	1984-1987
Beth Wallach	1987-1990
Barbara Vrooman	1990-1996
Ann Edwards	1996-2001

Dear Brian, Marjorie, Robert, Beth, Barbara and Ann,

There are times when words do not say what one's heart feels. There is no way to thank all of you for what it must have taken of your time, energy and love for our city that has brought us to what it really means to live and work in White Plains, truly "A City in a Park." What we see, smell and admire when the spring, summer and fall plantings appear in the 50+ of your favorite gardens are all unique and have been carefully planned under your management over these 40 years. The fountains, teak benches, clocks, sculptures, gazebo and summerhouse were added and given to our city for all of us to admire. What a joy!!!

I would like to dedicate this first color issue of our newsletter to all of you who made it come together for all of us lucky enough to live in White Plains.

Sally G. Coe
President 2001-2005

We are blessed by contributions from those who feel, as we do, that the beautification of our city lifts the spirits of all who live here, work here, or are just passing through. The Foundation gratefully accepts contributions large and small. Gifts of stocks and bonds are also welcome.

Correction Autumn 2004 Issue

Julie's Garden is in honor of Julie Scatena. The gift was given by her daughter, Tommie Scatena Petrone and her husband, Paul Petrone.

White Plains Beautification Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1614
White Plains, NY 10602

A Non-Profit Organization of Volunteers
Inquiries to the President: (914) 761-1857, Fax (914) 761-1857 *51
A copy of our last financial report filed with the State may be obtained by writing to:
NYS Attorney General's Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271

Adopt-A-Park Program 2005 Over \$90,000 Raised to Beautify White Plains as of April 12, 2005

Would you like to join this generous, civic-minded group who provide funds for the creation and maintenance of all our gardens and parklets? If so, or if you wish further information, please call:

BARBARA T. VROOMAN, Chairman, Adopt-a-Park Program (914) 949-5790, btvrooman@yahoo.com

Thanks to this group of contributors, White Plains IS BEAUTIFUL.

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*denotes in-kind contribution

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Our Lady of the Landscape: Patricia Terhune



Our very good friend and Landscape Chairman Pat Terhune died recently. We mourn her loss as one of our dear friends, Vice President, and longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Beautification Foundation. Pat was responsible for overseeing the creation, planting and maintenance of our gardens, and under her tenure we grew from 10 gardens to today's 50 gardens. She was one of the great forces behind the beauty we enjoy in our city today, and in her memory, we thought these words adapted from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn," might be very appropriate.

"O what a glory this world puts on for her, who with a fervent heart, goes forth under the bright and glorious sky, and looks on duties well-performed, and days well spent! For her the wind, ay, and the yellow leaves, shall have a voice, and give her eloquent teachings..."



Jan Silverman Garden: Adopt-a-Park Major Sponsor Syd & Joan Silverman (triangle garden at the north end of Tibbits Park on North Broadway).

Joseph H. Russo

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Jan McNally Silverman

Helga Williams Strowbridge

Patricia Terhune

Marian E. (Betty) Weinstock

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Elaine and Martin Weiss

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Matching Gifts - 2004

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Thanks to our generous contributors in 2004. You Beautify White Plains!

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“You all have done a beautiful job throughout the City. We especially love the “basket” at Mitchell Place and South Broadway. Keep up the good work.”
—Winslow Road

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**Keep up the good work!
Soon White Plains will be so beautiful that it will be a tourist destination as well!”**
—Main Street

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*Triantafyllu Fountain in Tibbits Park at Main Street & North Broadway. Adopt-a-Park
Major Sponsor: the George Sakier Foundation.*

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**“We wish you much success
 with your
 beautification projects.”
 –Hawley, Pennsylvania**

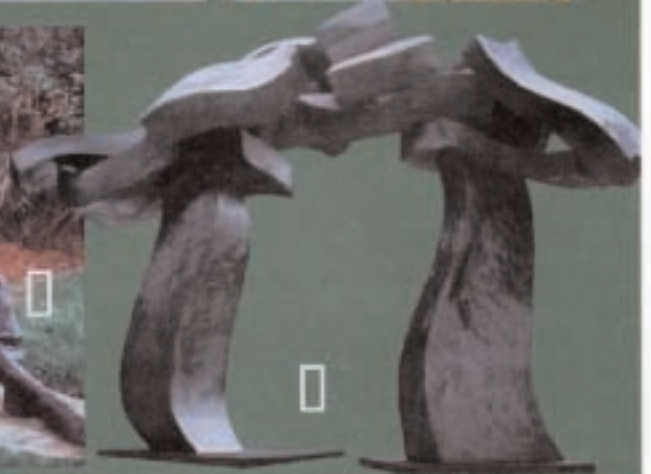
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**‘I just had to tell you
 how much I enjoyed seeing
 the beautiful plants
 and flowers that you provided
 to enhance our city.
 Please keep it up.
 Thank You!’
 –Davis Avenue**

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Library Plaza Sculpture Garden



Music In the Sculpture Garden

These wonderful sculptures, as well as others, can be seen in front of our White Plains Library. Working along with the City of White Plains Parks and Recreation Department last fall, The White Plains Beautification Foundation helped to establish this fabulous cultural attraction featuring world-renowned artists in conjunction with the Sculptors Guild and the Schonberger Foundation.

Now, it gets even better: once a month on Tuesday afternoons you can enjoy live musical performances outdoors at the Sculpture Garden located in front of our library on Library Plaza and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

In addition to the musical events listed at right the Sculpture Committee developed a program where trained docents will give scheduled tours of the artwork to the community and school groups.

We expect to expand our exciting sculpture garden throughout the inner city to make it a walking garden tour of sculptures. We hope you enjoy the music and sculptures as well as our beautiful plantings and visit the gardens often!

Thanks to Christina Cirillo and the White Plains Parks & Recreation Department for the sculpture photos.

Key to Sculptures

1. Three Up/Clement Meadmore
2. Tightrope Acrobats/Chaim Gross
3. Amaranthe I/Robert Michael Smith
4. After Shopping/Bruno Lucchesi
5. Sagg Portal/Hans Van DeBovenkamp

The Summer Musical Schedule

(raindates: same time on the following Wednesday.)

Tuesday, June 14, 12pm- 2pm
Calming Japanese Koto Players

Tuesday, July 12, 12pm - 2pm
Babes on Broadway

Tuesday, August 9 from 12pm - 2pm
Smooth Jazz Sounds



The Basket at South Broadway & Armory Hill. Adopt-a-Park Major Sponsors: Barbara & Richard Dannenberg.

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**"Your work is beautiful
 and appreciated!"
 —Main Street**

Thank you to our generous contributors in 2004.

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**"Enjoyed all the flowers- can't
 wait till Spring. Thanks."
 —Heatherbloom Road**

Gloria & Louis Losi
 Harold & Janet Lovins
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 Bertram U. Lynn



Top: Gardens at the Container Store. Adopt-a-Park Major Sponsor The Container Store. Below: Triangle Garden. Adopt-a-Park Major Sponsor: Crowne Plaza.

Thank You!

Jane & Ted Peluso
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 Barbara & John A. Ramsdeil, MD
 Louise Rand
 Linda & Steven Rasch

“Thanks for making White Plains a prettier place to live in.” —Ethelridge Road

Arbor Day Program to be held at WPHS

On Friday, April 29th at 9:30 a.m. there will be an Arbor Day Program held in the front of White Plains High School to plant a tree donated by the WPBF.

Every year, the WPBF celebrates Arbor Day by donating a tree to one of the public schools in White Plains – a tradition that has been going on since 1984.

This year, The Advocates for the Earth, a group of high school students who work on environmental activities both in the school and community, will be leading the program with presentations and poetry and have chosen to plant a cherry tree in front of the school.

The State Forester will be in attendance, as will city and school officials and members of the community. Please join us in celebrating Arbor Day!

Hon. Tom & Beth Roach
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 Vivian E. Rooks
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Thank you to our generous contributors in 2004.

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 Frederick & Christine Sigona
 Doreen Silano
 Syd & Joan Silverman
 Gregory & Beth Smayda
 Stanley & Judith Sokol
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 Eleanor Spangler
 Berkley & Deborah Speed
 Angela F. Spina
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 Susan Steeg
 Mr. Arthur Stein
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Stern
 John & Betsy Steward
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 Eleanor Stillman
 Theresa Stratta

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 Janice K. Swaner
 Dennis & Katharine Swanson
 The Tabakman & Rhodes Family
 Stephen & Cathey Taft
 Fred & Marie Tancredi

"We saw White Plains in the fall and it took our breath away. Especially impressive were the improvements on Mamaroneck Avenue and all the new restaurants and stores. Wow! Congratulations to the City fathers and of course, WPBF. What a team!"
—Dee and Rudy Nabel

Robert & Bonnie Taylor
 Eleanor M. Tegtmeyer
 Pat* & Guy Terhune
 George & Patricia Thorsen
 Patricia Tobin
 Susan & Lawrence Tolchin
 Bill & Eileen Tompkins
 Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Trippett
 Alice B. Trout
 Susan L. Turnbull
 John & Suzanne Vorperian

Above: Exit Garden on Westchester Avenue. Adopt-a-Park Major Sponsor: The Westchester

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 Nick & Aileen Wolff
 YMCA of Central and Northern Westchester
 Alphons Yost
 Laurette Young
 Janet Younklin
 Madeline & Sanford Zevon
 Terry Zuckerman
 Anonymous - two
 *deceased

Special Care for a Special Beech Tree

The Care of Trees will generously donate their services this year to the care of the Eugene E. Russell Memorial copper beech tree. This tree is located within the Theodore Malmud Parklet on Quarropas Street (the south side of the County Office Building). The tree was planted in 1908 and, according to Pat Laidman of The Care of Trees, it is actually a European Beech or Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica -purpurea*) also known as a Purple Beech for its dark purple leaves. The Care of Trees has already completed crown cleaning of the tree (pruning out all dead branches one inch in diameter or larger). Future care will involve a soil care program with the goal of improving the health of the soil.

During the spring and summer several compost tea solutions will be applied to reintroduce the natural microorganisms missing in the soil. A vertical mulching treatment will be done in the spring and fall with the objective of aerating and changing the soil profile to benefit root growth. These treatments will begin a process to improve the health of the soil. Science has shown that trees prefer a soil biology that is fungal and full of billions of microorganisms. The job of these microbes is to break down organic material resulting in essential nutrients and elements being available to the tree roots. Essentially, we need to make up for the breakdown in the nutrient recycling chain. Since this tree is not growing in the forest, the leaves that surround it are raked up and removed each fall. This means that no organic material is available to be naturally decomposed by the the microbes and replenish the soil. We thank The Care of Trees for all that will be done to increase the health of this beautiful tree.



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