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June 19, 2009  
Edition (rss)

## Many people to thank for 65th Band Night

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On Wednesday evening, June 10, an event took place at Port Chester High School's John Ryan Stadium that has made Port Chester School District residents "Stand Up and Cheer" and be proud of what our school district music program has to offer. Not only did our elementary and middle school bands and the "Pride of Port Chester" High School Band perform with power and precision, we had past band members, well over 250 of them, celebrate the 65th anniversary of Band Night. This was truly a memorable evening which has had everyone talking and looking forward to the next one, hopefully in 2014.

As the Band Parent Association president, I would like to thank all who were involved in this undertaking, and if I forget anyone, please forgive me: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Carlisle and his administration and staff, Board of Education President James Dreves and board members, Mr. Ray Renda, superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Anthony Lunde and his staff, Joe Durney, director of Health, Phys. Ed & Athletics, High School Principal Dr. Mitchell Combs along with his administrators and staff, Middle School Principal Carmen Macchia and his assistant principals and staff, elementary school principals Dr. Eileen Santiago, Louis Cuglietto, Dolores Obuch and Rosa Taylor, Gil Gordon and the PCHS custodial staff, Mario DeLio and the PCMS custodial staff, Mr. Richard Pepe, security staff of PCHS, Port Chester School District faculty, Band Night Committee, PCHS Band Parents Association, PCMS Band Parents Association, Tamarack Tower Foundation, Donna and George Maldonado, The Esposito Family and REFURBCO, Inc., Costco, the Maggi Family, Greenwich Music, Jeff DeVico of Westchester Tees, Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group, Terry and Ralph Vellone of Vellone Promotions, the Westmore News, The Journal News, Harrison High School Band, The Westchester Brassmen, Port Chester Police Department, Rye Brook Police Department, elementary school instructors, elementary school band directors Anthony Sabia and Michael Micelli, PCMS Band Director Linda McDermott, PCHS Band Director Robert Vitti and his staff, guest directors Capt. Kenneth R. Force and Bert Hughes. Lastly, thank you to Ken Kraut for his foresight and dedication which made this a truly memorable community event.

In conclusion, a story written by Chelsea Mitamura of The Journal News entitled "Port Chester District's Band Night celebrates 'spirit of a community,'" read: 'The Band Parents Association, originally organized by Force, holds fundraisers and events to contribute more than a quarter million dollars annually to school district band funds, a good amount of which comes from the barbecue.' While the Band Parents Association does actively raise funds for the band program, we fall far short of the quarter million dollars stated, often less than \$100,000. This makes it very difficult to sustain the program to its full potential.

Brian Sury  
9 Sunset Rd.  
Rye Brook

*The writer is president of the Port Chester High School Band Parents Association.*

This is part of the **June 19, 2009** online edition of Port Chester Westmore News.

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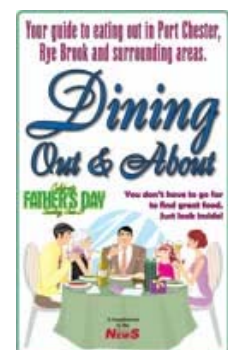
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