

An interview with...

# Matt Veronesi

Director  
of parks, recreation, buildings and  
grounds for the Town of New Windsor



Matt Veronesi.

## Michele Starkey

There is a small brick building located at 244 Union Avenue just over the railroad tracks and about a quarter of a mile down the road from the Quick Chek. Do not let the size of the building lead you astray; it houses the Director of Parks, Recreation, Buildings and Grounds Matt Veronesi, as well as his staff for the Town of New Windsor. This is just part of their Mission Statement: "To improve the quality of life for all residents by providing a wide variety of leisure and cultural activities, special events, excellent facilities, trips and services that encourage health, fitness, relaxation, enjoyment and learning."

Veronesi's journey to this position in New Windsor has been a long, winding and interesting journey. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sport and Recreation Management and interned with the Florida Marlins in 1997 in Player and Media Relations. The Florida Marlins were the youngest team in baseball history to win a World Series in 1997, but the interns did not get a World Se-

ries ring. Veronesi adds, "I did get to sit next to Joe DiMaggio in Game 7 though."

When the Marlins were sold in 1998 and Veronesi's position eliminated, he returned to the Hudson Valley and became an Assistant Baseball Coach for Dutchess Community College. In 1999 he took a position as Clubhouse Manager of Tampa Bay Devil Rays Affiliate the Hudson Valley Renegades and the Renegades won the New York-Penn League championship in 1999. Veronesi would get a championship ring this time around!

When he made a move to Atlanta, Georgia in 1999, he accepted a position as a consultant with Planet Studio to produce the DVD for the PBS Documentary Ken Burns History of Baseball. The position was elevated to Associate Producer and eventually to Executive Producer of the one million dollar project where Veronesi stayed until 2001 when he decided it was time to return to his New York roots.

Veronesi first saw the ad in the New York Times for the Town of New Windsor Director of Recreation and decided that if he were going to interview, he

would bring a video of his vision along with him. Veronesi attributes the success of all of the recreational activities to excellent team work and admits, "I have an amazing staff. We provide activities for seniors all the way through to the little kids. There is a tremendous amount of variety in this position."

Veronesi is a member of the Hudson Valley Leisure Services Association (HVLISA) and meets regularly with the other directors of recreation to exchange ideas and foster relations between communities. With a smile he added, "We want to offer free or affordable recreation activities for families and seniors now more than ever and we are doing just that. I love my job."

The Recreation Department also provides a food pantry that helps about 40 New Windsor families at any given time. Donations are always welcome and can be dropped at the Recreation Department. You can contact them at (845) 565-7750 and they will be happy to help you.

To see a full list of programs the New Windsor Recreation Department offers visit [nwrecisfun.com](http://nwrecisfun.com).