

1969-1979

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

OF NEW ROCHELLE

HISTORY



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OF NEW ROCHELLE



1970

In 1970 the Remington Branch's started groundbreaking on their much anticipated expansion.

1970

Willie Lucia was named Feeney Park Clubhouse Director after longtime director Frank "Hank Deck" Declemente retired.

Both Lucia and Declemente were one of the first members of the Feeney Park Branch.

Feeney Boys Club names new leader

Willie Lucia, a native of New Rochelle, has been named branch director of the Feeney Park Boys' Club in New Rochelle.



WILLIE LUCIA

Lucia's association with the Boy's Clubs goes back to his childhood when he was one of the first members of the Boy's Club of New Rochelle. He later was assistant director of the Feeney Park Club and, after serving with the Army Air Force for two and a half years, returned to New Rochelle to serve as branch director of the South Side Boy's Club, which was then being organized.

After six years at South Side, Lucia left to work for a photo engraving firm in Long Island City. His most recent job was with the Rogers Neo-Gravure in Union City, N.J. where he served as assistant superintendent.

LUCIA is married to the former E. Jane Justice and they have three children. He completed a special course at New York University on the supervision and direction of boy's clubs.

In addition to working with the Boys' Clubs, Lucia was a Little League manager in Seaford, N.J. He is a member of the Rye Golf Club and a member of the New York Lithographers and Photoengravers Union.

On accepting the Feeney Park position, Lucia, who is returning to New Rochelle after a 21 year absence, said, "It is a wonderful feeling to come back home again after all these years to do the work I have always loved best, and with the people I have always loved the most."

New Boys' Club Branch Set For Dedication

Actor Ossie Davis of New Rochelle will be guest speaker at the dedication Monday of the Remington Branch of the Boys' Club of New Rochelle.

The building, completed recently after six years of planning, will include a gymnasium, gymroom, library and

exercise room for boxing, wrestling and weight-lifting, according to August E. Mascaro, executive director of the Boys' Club.

He added that two outdoor basketball courts with flood lights are being built as part of the new facility.

At the ceremony Boys' Club National Director A. Boyd Hines will present Bronze Key-stone Awards to several members of the auxiliaries and alumni associations of the local club.

New Rochelle School Superintendent Dr. Robert R. Spil-

lane will install new members of the board of directors.

According to Mascaro, 200 persons have accepted invitations to the dedication.

The general public and school children will be able to visit the building on a later date, Mascaro said, pick up coupon. 1/2

1972

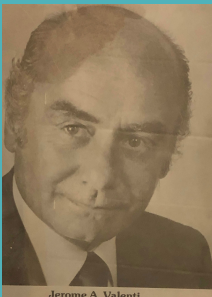
The new Remington Branch building was dedicated in 1972 with a new gymnasium, library, games-room and weight room.

1976

In 1976 longtime Executive Director, August "Gus" Mascaro announced his retirement from the Boys Club of New Rochelle. He was replaced by Jerome Valenti, who started as a member in 1936.

Will retire from Boys Club

Mascaro ending long career with youth



Jerome A. Valenti

Help us restore the club

To the Editor:

As I approached the Feeney Park Boys' Club after the fire which just about destroyed the club building, a feeling of extreme sadness struck me. In but a few moments, I relived in my mind the many hours, days, months, and years of joy, relaxing programs and activities, but mostly, the sound guidance extended to me throughout the most important days of my adolescence.

But other things came to my mind. How quickly and naturally people criticize and condemn. I thought about the firemen from Fire Companies 1, 2, and 4, and above all, I thought of Fire Chief Walter Bell who personally led the operations. How I wish there were a movie or television camera



1977

In 1977 an electrical fire set blaze to the Feeney Park Clubhouse, the original house that housed the club.

1978

In 1978 Mayor Frank Garito used a bulldozer to start tearing down the old Feeney Park Club to make way for the new building.



First blow

Boys Club alumnus and former Mayor Frank J. Garito, whose wrecking firm is demolishing the Feeney Park Boys' Club strikes the first blow with his bulldozer

Thursday as other alumni, Councilmen Leonard Paduano and Don Zaccagnino, look on with others prior to groundbreaking ceremonies for the new clubhouse. Staff Photo by Jim Hardy

"IT IS BETTER TO BUILD BOYS THAN TO MEND MEN"