

Town of Greenburgh  
**ASSISTANT  
TOWN HISTORIANS**



— felicia barber + riley wentzler —

# *From Fixing Cars to Building Infrastructure: How Massaro Park Got Its Name*

*By: Riley Wentzler & Felicia Barber*



Residents of Greenburgh's Village of Elmsford are very familiar with Massaro Park located on 50 Cabot Avenue, which is known for its: swimming pool, baseball field, basketball courts, tennis court and beautiful picnic area ([http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=10&TPID=2419#Massaro\\_Park](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=10&TPID=2419#Massaro_Park)) However not many know how this lovely park got its name. Here is that story.

The land the park now occupies was empty from 1888-1962 when the park was established. It was named for former councilman Patsy Massaro.



Patsy was the councilman's nickname; his birth-name was Pasquale which he later anglicized to Patrick. Pasquale/Patrick Massaro was born in 1908 in New Rochelle according to the 1940 US census (<https://www.archives.com/1940-census/patsy-massaro-ny-55702106>). As recorded in his marriage certificate, Patsy's father was an Italian immigrant, Dominick Massaro, and his mother was a Swiss immigrant, Lena Herberdier (Patsy Massaro 1926). A newspaper from October 12, 1951 records he moved to Elmsford in 1926 (Westchester County Archives Records). His marriage



**Previous Slices of History include:**

**From Chasing Rabbits to Setting Records: The Amazing Story of Larry James (4/7/2019)**

**<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com5.pdf>**

**Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and Movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part II (3/29/19)**

**[http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com\\_Redacted2.pdf](http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted2.pdf)**

**From Insurance to Symphonies: The Home of Charles Ives**

**(3/16/19) [http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com\\_Redacted1.pdf](http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted1.pdf)**

**Oh, The Places Your Mail has Gone: A History of The Hartsdale Post Office**

**(3/9/2019) [http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com\\_Redacted.pdf](http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted.pdf)**

**Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part I (2/23/19)**

**<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%202-23-19.pdf>**

**The Power of Wealth and Humility: A Reflection on Two Highly Influential African Americans (2/18/19)**

**[www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com4.pdf](http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com4.pdf)**

**A Beautiful View for the Perfect Event: The Belvedere Estate (2/9/19)**

**<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com3.pdf>**

**An Unspoken Promise of Redemption: How Hartsdale Got its Name (1/31/19)**

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Greenburgh%20is%20one%20of%20the%20few%20communities%20anywhere%20that%20provides%20residents%20with%20frequent%20history%20bytes%20about%20their%20community.pdf>

**Lost History: The Tragedy of Malkasten(1/26/19)**

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com2.pdf>

**The Intersection of Banking, Ballet, and School: Greenburgh's Warburg Estate (1/18/19)**

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Memo%20Style2.pdf>

**A Small House, an Important Meeting, a Huge Victory: The Story of the Odell House (1/12/2019)**

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com1.pdf>

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

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com.pdf>

**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-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-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-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).**

## References

Archives.com. (2018, (NOT GIVEN) (NOT GIVEN)). *1940 U.S. Census*.

Retrieved from Archives.com: <https://www.archives.com/1940-census/patsy-massaro-ny-55702106>

Neale, H. (1951 , Septemper 16). 500 Attend Massaro Testimonial Dinner. *The Westchester Gannett*, p. (Not GIVEN) .

'Patsy Massaro' (1926) certificate for marriage for Patrick Massaro August 7 1926  
Application No: 2964

Town of Greenburgh . (2013, (NOT GIVEN) (NOT GIVEN)). *TOWN PARKS/FACILITIES/DIRECTIONS*. Retrieved from Town of Greenburgh:  
[http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=10&TPID=2419#Massaro\\_Park](http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=10&TPID=2419#Massaro_Park)