

**Your Village  
Your Paper  
Your News**  
  
Tel: 914-939-6864  
Fax: 914-939-6877  
Mailing address:  
38 Broad Street  
Port Chester, NY 10573

# PORT CHESTER Westmore NEWS

[Click to subscribe or renew!](#)

[HOME](#) [DIRECTORY](#) [SEARCH](#) [WEATHER](#) [OBITUARIES](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [PHOTOS](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#) [ABOUT](#) [CONTACT](#)

[IBD Online Newspaper](#) Get Tomorrow's Newspaper Today Take A Free Trial To Check It Now! [www.investors.com](http://www.investors.com)  
[Post Free Classified Ads](#) Advertise for Free. Reach 1000s Instantly! [www.SaleSpider.com](http://www.SaleSpider.com)  
[Free Obituary Search](#) Find Out Almost Anyone's Obituary, Cemetery Listing or Death Record! [Obituaries.Archives.com](http://Obituaries.Archives.com)

[AdChoices](#) ▶

September 02, 2011  
Edition (rss)

Email Address

Password

Welcome. You are logged in.  
[\[account\]](#) [\[logout\]](#)

## PCHS Band perfects Civil War tribute

[Recommend](#) 0

BY CLAIRE K. RACINE

Port Chester High School Marching Band members just spent two weeks-one at the high school and one at Crawford Park-out in the hot sun marching and learning the basics for their annual field show-and this was part of their summer vacation.

"As first [band camp] is brutal, but eventually it gets to be really fun," said sophomore Samantha Franco. Franco plays the xylophone in the "pit," or front ensemble, and therefore does not march during performances. She said she was glad she doesn't have to march around because it is so tiring.

Lanasha Robinson, a freshman flautist, tries not to focus on how tiring it is, but instead just thinks about getting better at marching, she said.

"I feel like I'm part of the Pride of Port Chester," Robinson said. "I'm excited about my first band competition."

Before the students perform at any competitions, they first have to satisfy their director, Bob Vitti.

"It takes the whole season to perfect [the show]," Vitti said. While the season does not end until mid November, the band's first performance will be at the first home football game on Sept. 10.

"We're booked solid on weekends with competitions and football games," Vitti added.

Vitti has been directing the band for almost 20 years and every year he comes up with the theme of the field show. This year's is a tribute to the start of the Civil War, which began 150 years ago, in 1861. Songs incorporated into the show include "Johnny Comes Marching Home," "Dixie" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

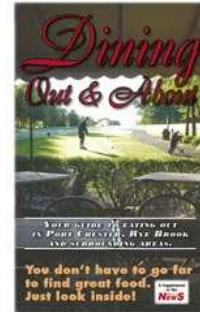
As the show draws to a close, the band will stage a "battle" where they all fall. Next, a huge banner showing the Battle of Gettysburg will be unfolded stretching 90 feet long. After that, the band will rise back up behind the banner in sections playing the melodic line of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The band will only barely be visible through the banner and is supposed to invoke the idea that they are the spirits of fallen soldiers, Vitti explained. Then, at the very end of the show, a giant American flag will open in front of the drum major, Kim



The Port Chester High School Band practices playing the music in place before trying to march and play simultaneously during the second week of band camp at Crawford Park Tuesday.

PRINT SUBSCRIBERS...  
register here to receive:

**FREE**  
ONLINE ACCESS



Still looking for a hotel in  
**Houston, TX**  
RATES FROM **\$55**  
**BOOK NOW**  
LQ.COM LAQUINTA INNS & SUITES

Community FYI

[Links to Government Sites](#)

[View all](#)

Maguire, the junior who conducts the band, and she will salute the flag.

"Every year I try and do something a little different," Vitti said. "In the Battle of Gettysburg, we lost from the North and South tons of people and I want to try and simulate the graveyard effect with the banner."

The banner was designed by Sharla Kaufman, self-described as an old band parent. While her children have already graduated, she still helps out with the band.

"We have a strong band parents association," Vitti said. "They put in a lot of time."

Vitti also puts in a lot of time, usually planning out the field shows a year in advance. The plan for next year is to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, featuring, of course, the 1812 Overture.

Vitti said he tries to pick music the crowd enjoys rather than esoteric music.

"I want people to go home tapping what we're playing and to remember what we're playing," he said.

Getting to that point takes a lot of work on the part of the students. The band drills for two weeks, usually practicing marching in the morning when it's not as hot before moving on to making sure they're note perfect in the afternoon.

This year the band consists of 140 students, only 12 of whom are seniors.

Two of those seniors play in the drum line and took the time to make their experience a little more fun by donning hats and sunglasses each day.

"Why do we wear the hats?" said Chris Mott, in 12th grade.

"And don't forget the sunglasses," added Christian Cruz, in 11th.

"Cause we're the best drum line ever," Mott answered himself.

"Cause we're the coolest," added Cruz.

"And the best-looking," finished Stephen Greto, also in 12th.

To see the best drum line, the coolest drum line and the bestlooking drum line, be sure to attend the first Port Chester High School home football game on Saturday, Sept. 10 against Hendrick Hudson High School at 1:30 p.m.

**Recent Activity**

[Login](#) You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' recent activity.

No recent activity to display.  
Put some like buttons on your website to engage your users. Details can be found [here](#).

Facebook social plugin

**Still looking for a hotel in**

Houston, TX

RATES FROM **\$55**

**BOOK NOW**



LQ.COM



[Site Map](#)  
News content published by Port Chester Westmore News. Internet Edition managed using [First Day Story](#).  
© 2011. All Rights Reserved.

### Add New Comment

Required: Please login below to comment.

Type your comment here.

Post as ...

### Showing 0 comments

Sort by

blog comments powered by [DISQUS](#)

This is part of the [September 2, 2011](#) online edition of Port Chester Westmore News.

Have an opinion on this matter? We'd like to hear from you. [Click here.](#)



**Fall is just around the corner  
and so is FALL FLING!**

**Saturday, September 24th  
9:30 am - 4:00 pm**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
King Street & Comly Ave Rye Brook**

**Flea Market Vendors  
Awesome Jumping Castles  
Games for all Ages  
Arts & Crafts  
Car Wash  
Food  
FUN for the ENTIRE FAMILY**

**Vendors please call 914.939.8170**

**Other Local News Headlines:**

Villages weather Tropical Storm Irene  
Sanitation schedule for Labor Day week  
Second Circuit shoots down village's right to appeal  
P.C. schools will open with new teachers and programs  
Corrections

