

## Radburn Getting to know your Neighborhoods Series:



### Do you know Rick Hampson?

Life has magical footsteps to lead us in the right direction that we were meant to travel ~ That's what happened in **1987** to Rick and his beautiful wife Lindy Washburn. Lindy is a reporter for The Record and while she was expanding her education at the Graduate School of Columbia University, she met classmate, Ray Orlando. (Sound familiar?)



Ray helped lead the way with a **class** field trip to - where else.... the one and only Radburn Community! Ray Orlando just happened to be the son of a resident, Louis Orlando, who was also the community manager at the time.

Lindy (Deitelind) was taken aback by this hidden gem of a community. Within two years, they were saying goodbye Manhattan and hello to RADBURN. The family started to write their own piece of the Radburn story with their amazing sons Jack and Nick. With a very proud gleam in his eyes, Rick shared that they were always a part of the community activities from Tot lot, to Playgroup, to being counselors, and the swim team (just to name a few).

I (Rene) initially knew Rick from passing by the office on his way up to play some basketball. He always waved with a smile as he passed by. He was (and is) always very kindhearted and gracious. I also got to know him as he began to be active in the Historical Committee and began sharing his passion of writing in The Radburn Community.



If you haven't already, you can check out some of his articles by clicking on the link! <https://www.radburn.org/radburn-history.html>

You may be saying to yourself that Rick's name sounds so familiar. Besides being your neighbor, well here's a few reasons why. He graduated from the Boston College Law School. While there, Rick worked summers at a local newspaper and was inspired by (as he states) "Chasing fire trucks" and "Breaking News". After he graduated - once again, life's magical footsteps lead him down another path. Rick started to work for The Associated Press and is a former national reporter for USA TODAY. During our interview, I asked Rick what was one of the most memorable stories that he covered. He responded, "covering the murder of John Lennon." He remembers it like it was yesterday. He was working the overnight shift at the AP New York bureau and around 11 pm, he remembers the night editor "came running - practically airborne" and he shared what happened. Rick was appointed as lead reporter on this story.

As we have all been dealing with these uncertain times, I asked Rick, what his life has been like over the past few months. Rick answered without hesitation that he is trying to give back. Two to three times a week, he goes to an outreach location called Family Promise of Bergen County, a Bergen County shelter, <https://www.bergenfamilypromise.org/> with locations in Hackensack and Englewood. Since the pandemic this shelter has run emergency food programs for the poor and homeless. Rick stated, "it's a great privilege to bring food to those that have been displaced." We would like to thank Rick for supporting those that are less fortunate.

Fun Facts about Rick:

- Favorite Restaurants: Home Cooking
- Favorite Movie genre: Alternative Movies
- Favorite Music: Folk / Irish Music

I will be posting our entire Zoom interview so that you can view the whole story. Although Rick and I could have continued to speak for hours -- probably the gift is his ability to communicate very interesting life stories. Towards the end of the interview, he shared a perfect statement: That one of the things that he believes Radburn is best known for, including the Historical Landmark designation, beautiful parks and other things, is its sense of community. So true!

If you would like to recommend someone to be interviewed - feel free to let us know!  
Enjoy the moments!