



WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION,
INC.

WESTFIELD NEWS

Est. 1981

Edition #27, Volume 1

October, 2009

COMING: MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009

**IN THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

94 MINER STREET, MIDDLETOWN

**Starting with a WRA Business meeting at 7 p.m.
Followed by Meet The Candidates at 7:30**

Not a debate, WRA's Meet The Candidates Night is an opportunity for the public to hear and talk personally with the people seeking their vote. This year there are many official terms expiring. To invite all the candidates for every office to speak, would make the meeting intolerably long. However, all candidates are invited, if they would like to meet and talk informally with attendees before, during the brief refreshment break, or at the close of the meeting.

The 3 mayoral candidates: Rep. Sebastian Giuliano, Dem. Daniel Drew, and Realistic Balance Party Ruthann Johnson. Each will be allowed five minutes. Mrs. Johnson thanked us for the invitation, but unfortunately she has a scheduling conflict and regretfully she won't be able to join us.

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**Westfield Residents
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 373
Middletown, CT 06457**

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Mail to:

CITY OPEN SPACE PROPOSED TO BE LEASED

In 2005 the state deeded to Middletown open space land in Maromas located in the southeast portion of the city. Now the city wants to lease for agricultural and recreational use up to 250 acres of the Maromas open space. Six proposals have been received. Of the six proposals, three are from groups already using the land and have for years. They are the Middlesex Aero Modelers, who use a portion of the land for a radio-controlled air field; Millane Nurseries to grow pine and spruce trees; and Hills Farm that harvests hay to feed its animals. The three new proposed uses are from the Forest and Park Association to add and extend blue blazed hiking trail; ArtFarm to combine arts, environmental education, and small scale agriculture; and a nine hole golf course.

On Monday, September 14th, the city's Economic and Development Committee had the proposals on the agenda. Arline Rich, once an avid and competitive golfer, attended the meeting and presented her analysis of the plan for the proposed golf course, a plan that could only be considered conceptual, because it lacks such things as a distance scale, topographical information and accuracy. Called a nine hole golf course, 18 holes of play would be provided through the use of dual fairways and greens, and, also by having parallel, or near parallel, fairways that converge to the same green.

Arline stated that whether golfers play nine holes or eighteen, the plan as presented will undoubtedly have multiple aggravating playing tie-ups, tie-ups that will turn many golfers off. All dual fairways will have two different fairway numbers, each numbered fairway to be played in sequential order over exactly the same ground using exactly

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Brian M. Silva Inc. - Golf Course Design

Meet the Candidates Night

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Common Council: All Council seats are open. Running for the seats are Democrats Gerald Daley, Grady Faulkner, Hope Kasper, Ronald Klattenberg, Vincent Loffredo, Robert Santangelo, Thomas Serra, and James Streeto; and Republicans David Bauer, Joseph Bibisi, Anthony Gaunichaux, Deborah Kleckowski, Michael Marino, Philip Pessina, Matthew Scarrozzo, and Robert Stefurak, Jr. These parties will each have ten (10) minutes to use as they like. The chairmen may speak collectively for their members, or, they can introduce their members and let them talk as long as they stay within their allotted ten minutes. No other parties have a candidate for Common Council. Independent candidate Earl Roberts Jr. will have three (3) minutes to address us.

Planning & Zoning: Has three open seats and 8 candidates. Reps Les Adams, Ronald Borelli, Nicholas Fazzino, Kenneth McClellan, Alternate. Dems David Boyce, Quentin Phipps, Daniel Russo; Working Families Michael Johnson, Alternate. Each will have three (3) minutes to address us.

Note: Because of minority representation rules, Democrats can only fill one of the three open seats on P & Z.

After all of the speaking candidates have spoken attendees may ask questions of any of them. Be sure to circle the date, October 26, on your calendar and take advantage of this great opportunity to personally meet and evaluate the candidates. Join WRA for Meet The Candidates Nights. Admission, like the refreshments, is free. We'll be looking for you.

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CITY OPEN SPACE PROPOSED TO BE LEASED

(Continued from page 2)

the same green. Which means golfers playing dual fairways will have to wait before teeing off until all golfers ahead of them, playing either of the two fairway numbers, are safely far enough away or off their common green. This, even if the other golfers aren't on their next fairway number.

With this proposed plan additional playing tie-ups, rarely, if ever, found on standard golf courses, are certain to happen each of the many times when golfers have no option and must load their clubs and any pull-behind-carts onto a motorized cart, board it, and be shuttled to distant tees, tees that might be located on dual or converging fairways, where they will be effected

by the waiting times mentioned above.

Whether golfers might be able to rent motorized carts is questionable. Foreseeable negatives might make rentals impossible.

Arline feels that if Middletown is to have a golf course, it should be one that the city can be proud of and all golfers would enjoy playing. In her opinion, what is now being proposed does not meet that criteria.

(Arline Rich is a past president of the Southern New England Women's Golf Association and one of the founders of the state's annual Women's Golf Championship Tournament.)

What Do YOU Want for Middletown and Westfield?

The Middletown Planning Office is developing a new Consolidated Plan, which is a document that helps determine how money is spent to improve our city. As part of preparing this, the Planning Office has asked the WRA what our goals are for the community.

The Consolidated Plan documents the state of City, and its assets and needs. It describes a vision of the future, and shapes the spending of money the city gets under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG program is managed by the Citizens Advisory Council, which consists of members of various city commissions and agencies, as well as appointed members.

According to the Planning office:

The primary objective of the CDBG program is to primarily benefit persons of low and moderate income; by funding projects and programs that provide decent housing; a sustainable living environment; and expand economic opportunities.

What do we want for Westfield? Do we want sidewalks which make it possible for our children to walk to school? Do we want more open

space, especially with the loss of Cucia Park in Westfield? Do we want preservation and recognition of Westfield Falls? Do we want studies which provide information regarding the ledge, wetlands, endangered species, so that we can properly guide any future development? Do we want the many small historical sites in Westfield, such as cemeteries, stone walls, barns and silos, and historic homes documented and protected?

Members of the WRA executive committee, including Stephen Devoto (vice-chair) and Arline Rich (chair), will be meeting with Deputy Planner Michiel Wackers in mid-November to tell him what is important to Westfield. Please contact a WRA executive committee member to give your input.

You can also email your thoughts to:
WestfieldResidents@gmail.com

The report summarizing Middletown statistics and trends is available here:

http://www.middletownplanning.com/documents/Primer_on_Middletown.pdf

PET INFORMATION

Up to 50% of dogs and up to 70% of cats that enter shelters will end up dying there, because no one comes to adopt them. Thinking of getting a pet for yourself or someone? Save money, save lives. Check the Connecticut Humane Society in Newington or your nearest animal shelter in Greater Middletown. You will find some wonderful animals yearning for a forever home in exchange for their devotion and love

Are you aware that hypothermia (below normal body temperature), unless quickly and properly treated, doesn't just claim human lives? It can also kill domestic animals. When the outside weather temperature turns brutally cold, outdoor pets need to be brought inside and provided dry bedding material. It could be a matter of life or death. Don't put your pet(s) at risk. Bring them in...please.

Good news: On July 8th, Gov. Rell signed into law the Puppy Lemon Law Bill that now provides greater protection for consumers and animals sold in pet stores. CT pet stores are now required to purchase out-of-state animals from USDA and state licensed breeders. Also, stores are now required to provide consumers with information as to the source of the animals they sell. Which, hopefully, will help reduce the number of cruel puppy mills. In addition, the Puppy Lemon Law increases the potential veterinary reimbursement from \$200 to \$500 for animals with congenital defects without the need to return them. The law also increases the window for this reimbursement from 15 to 20 days.

Update on the Army Base in Westfield: Construction Contract Awarded

The Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$51.5M contract for construction of the Army Forces Reserve Training Center to be built at Cucia Park. The contract was awarded to KBE Ventures, which is a joint venture of KBE Building Corporation (formerly Konover Construction) and Derita Construction of Middletown.

The contract is for construction of administrative, educational, weapons simulator, physical fitness areas, learning center, library, and vault areas. The facility will have 164,000 square foot main building, and a 35,000 square foot maintenance shop, along with acres of parking, walkways, and access roads. It will serve about 100 soldiers from 4 Army Reserve and 6 Connecticut Army National Guard units.

KBE Ventures expects to complete construction at Cucia Park by September of 2011.

Before this announcement, neighbors on Boardman and Bell Lanes, were alarmed by the presence of engineers investigating the wetlands on the 88-acre farm where the Army had initially

proposed to build, on Boardman Lane. This activity turned out to be related to the Cucia Park site.

In order for the Army to build their facility at Cucia, they need to have a permit for some work which will impact wetlands. In their report announcing that Cucia Park was the "preferred site," the Corps said:

The Army has evaluated the impacts at this site and has determined there is no practicable alternative to avoid new construction in wetlands and that the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use. In making this finding the Army has taken into account the economic, environmental and other pertinent factors of other alternative sites."

Part of the environmental review requires a determination that the Cucia Park site is the least damaging practicable alternative. This requirement led the regulators of the EPA and the Corps of Engineers to visit Boardman Lane.

Molasses Crinkles: An Old-time Autumn Favorite

A WRA member sent this recipe, which she said her mom made for her after school on chilly days.

3/4 c. soft shortening
1 c. brown sugar
1 egg
1/4 c. molasses
—
2 1/4 c. flour
2 tsp soda
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 tsp cloves
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp. ginger

Mix the first 4 ingredients together thoroughly.

Sift together the remaining, dry ingredients,

Stir this dry mix into the shortening/sugar/egg/molasses mix.

Chill dough. If you do not chill the dough, the cookies end up too thin. The chilled dough can be saved for a few days, allowing for fresh-baked cookies every afternoon after school.

Preheat oven to 375.

Roll dough into balls the size of large walnuts. Dip in sugar. Place 3 inches apart on baking sheet. Bake just until set but not hard, about 8 minutes.



WRA Executive Committee Continues to Follow Municipal Matters

Your executive committee monitors several city agencies as they consider decisions which impact Westfield. This includes all the applications for Westfield developments being considered before Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning, as well issues relating to the schools in our neighborhood which come before the Board of Education.

sions to the Plan of Conservation and Development, which will guide land use in Middletown for the coming decade.

Inland Wetlands approved a permit to construct a house very near wetlands on Country Club Road west of Atkins Street.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the historic adaptive reuse of a house at 861 Middle Street, from vacant office to three one-bedroom apartments. They also approved the abandonment of an "old road" in Cucia Park. P&Z is currently spending time discussing revi-

The Board of Education will consider a recommendation regarding school district boundary changes from the JCJ architecture consulting firm. JCJ has been told to address over-crowding in the biggest elementary school in the city,, Moody Elementary.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The Westfield Residents Association is not only the oldest of the continuously active neighborhood associations in Middletown, it is also the most influential. This is in large part because of the size of our membership. The WRA represents the interests of all who care about of life in Westfield, and all who care about the reasonable development of Middletown. We hope we can count on your continued support. Please use the renewal application below.

2009 Officers

Chairperson
Arline Rich

Vice Chair
Stephen Devoto

Secretary
Carolann D'Eon

Treasurer
Ron Goodrich

Committee Members
Ann Loffredo
Cathy Branch Stebbins
Jennifer Mahr

Alternates
Lori Toussaint
Sandi Foster

WESTFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Address:
P.O. Box 373
Middletown, CT 06457

WRA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2009-2010

Please Circle One: **NEW** **RENEWAL** **DONATION**

Make checks made payable to **WRA**. Mail to: Treasurer, Westfield Residents Association, Inc., P.O. Box 373, Middletown, CT 06457.

Name(s): _____ E-mails: _____

Address: _____ ___ \$10.00 per person
 _____ ___ \$15.00 per couple
 _____ ___ Amount of Donation

Middletown, CT 06457

Telephone: _____