



WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION,
INC.

WESTFIELD NEWS

Est. 1981

Edition #28, Volume 3

April, 2011

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATT LESSER

WRA'S QUARTERLY MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 25

*In the Fellowship Hall of
3rd Congregational Church
94 Miner St., Middletown*

**Brief Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Speaker at 7:30 p.m.**

What is happening at the State legislature these days? Does the Governor's statewide visits with citizens seem to be having any effect on the atmosphere in the legislature?

For answers to questions like these, and any you may have, don't miss our WRA quarterly meeting next Monday. STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATT LESSER WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER AND GIVE US A BEHIND-THE-SCENES REPORT OF WHAT'S GOING ON NOW.

(Continued on page 3)

In this Issue:

Hear from Matt Lesser! 1

The City Budget 2

Changes in Social Security 2

Pet reminders 2

Municipal Actions in Westfield 3

MEMBERSHIP FORM 4

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

Mail to:

The City's 2011-2012 Budget

The Mayor delivered his proposed budget to the Council two weeks ago. For the first time in many years, Council Democrats praised the Mayor's efforts. The biggest news was that he proposed a \$2.4M cut in what the Board of Education requested for funding the schools next year. With this cut, and due to the increase in the value of taxable properties in the city, there will be a small decrease in the mill rate charged to property owners.

The Board of Education budget request was for \$72M, which was a nearly \$5M increase in funding. The in-

crease in funding was not for anything new, it was solely to keep existing programs and personnel level (it was a "level services" budget request). The Mayor cut the budget to \$69.6M.

The Board of Education has not indicated what programs or staffing they will cut if their budget is not fully funded.

The Common Council will hold a public hearing on all aspects of the budget on **Thursday, April 28, at 7PM, in Council Chambers.**

Social Security News

On or after May 1, 2011, baby boomers coming of age, or anyone, applying for Social Security benefits will be required to meet the new federal direct deposit requirements. Paper checks will no longer be issued. People already receiving benefits via paper checks can continue to do so for a while longer. On March 1, 2013 ALL federal benefits--new and existing--will require direct deposits.

The choice is to have the benefits paid directly into a local bank or credit union, or made to an established Direct Debit Express Master Card account, an option of the U. S. Treasury Dept. to facilitate the electronic pay-

ment of benefits. Direct deposit of federal benefit payments can be established by visiting godirect.org or by using the U.S. Treasury's Direct Deposit Sign Up Form 1199A available at a local Social Security office, or, by going on line to socialsecurity.gov

then enter Form 1199A in the search box in the upper right hand corner of the page.



RAILROAD MAN and friend AT MIDDLETOWN STATION LATE 1800'S

Pet Tips

As summer approaches and vacations are planned, check to make sure your pets' I.D. is correct in case you have to leave them in someone else's care while you are traveling. Update Micro chip registry information too.

June is the start of the hurricane season. Be sure you have a safe way to transport your pets and a place to take them in case you have to evacuate.

Never let your dog put its head out an open window. Flying insects and road grit can severely damage its eyes.

Fire works can scare animals. Be sure to keep them somewhere safe when you and your neighbors celebrate Independence Day.

State Rep. Matt Lesser To Speak to WRA on Monday



(Continued from page 1)

This is a rare opportunity to learn facts not covered by the news media. So come one, come all and be prepared by what may lie ahead.

Matt is a Middletown resident. He once served on the city's Planning & Zoning Commission and he now sits on the state's Energy and Technology Committee. Should sudden state business prevent Matt from being our speaker, a person very few WRA members have had the

opportunity to meet personally, has graciously agreed to substitute.

That person is **Michiel Wackers, AICP, the city's Deputy Planning & Zoning Director.** He will tell us of any proposed and developments going on in Middletown, especially Westfield--like the Modspace construction on Ken Dooley Drive and the unique Center Point Connecticut business condominiums on Industrial Park Road.

Municipal Meetings Regarding Westfield

Planning and Zoning

Ken Dooley Drive. The plans for a office and the storage of modular buildings was approved for the end of the Ken Dooley Drive cul de sac, at the April 13th meeting (more details below, under Inland Wetlands).

Inland Wetlands

Sawmill Road and Bell Street. At their May 4th meeting, Inland Wetlands will hear an application for drainage work on these two streets.

Congdon Street West. An application for a subdivision and a new house near the corner of East Street was approved at the April 7th meeting.

Ken Dooley Drive. An application for construction of a 7,100 s.f. office building, a 8,400 s.f. maintenance building, bituminous concrete access drive storm drain system, underground utilities, site grading and gravel surfaced modular storage area to be located at Kenneth Dooley Drive, generated numerous questions from agency members, including in-depth questions by Robert Whitney, who served on Inland Wetlands when the original application for this property was approved years ago. The plans do not call for the construction of a huge building, and the traffic will not be great. The WRA executive committee examined these plans and supported the application. Inland Wetlands approved the plans at their March 2nd meeting, with some conditions.

Atkins Street. A 5-year extension to a wetland permit

was granted to the Pistol Creek subdivision January 6th meeting.

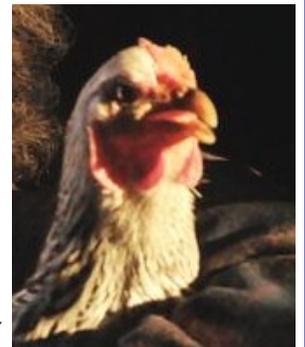
Design Review and Preservation Board

Middle Street. Gerry Martorelli, owner of the Galleria Design Center, wishes to put a large, L.E.D. lighted Billboard near the Country Club Road exit on I91. These billboards can display a new image every 6 seconds, although Martorelli says he does not plan to change it that often. The Design Review and Preservation Board considered the Martorelli application at their March 10th meeting, they are likely to make a decision at their next meeting, April 27th.

Common Council

Livestock Ordinance. The Common Council approved a modification to the ordinance on keeping livestock, proposed by the Board of Health. The new ordinance relaxes the restriction on how far livestock must be kept from dwellings, and adds new restrictions on how far they must be kept from property boundaries.

It also defines the procedures for applying for an exception to the ordinance.



Hey Dude, What's Happening in Westfield?

The Westfield Residents Association is Middletown's oldest, continuously active neighborhood organization; we have monitored land use, working for good developments (and occasionally against bad ones) in Westfield for 30 years.

What's happening in Westfield in the coming year? The new Army Base is on track to finish this summer. Its completion will bring new visitors: the soldiers who train there, to our neighborhood.

The Aetna building is nearly completely demolished, and will be up for development in the coming years.

Meanwhile, there are always ongoing issues of importance to Westfield. Many small and medium sized developments are proposed every year, getting public hearings at Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning. Various City Departments, such as Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and the Police routinely make decisions which impact life in Westfield. And of course the quality of schools serving Westfield children is of great importance to all of us.

Thank you for your membership, and your support. Rest assured that the WRA executive committee will continue to monitor all of the facets of Middletown which impact the Westfield area..

.....
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP (IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY)!

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. If there is a sticker on the newsletter, it means that you have not renewed for this year.

2011 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
Bill Dougherty
i

**WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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

WRA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Middletown, CT 06457 _____ Amount of Donation

Telephone: _____