



WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION,
INC.

WESTFIELD NEWS

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SPECIAL GUEST: SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS!

WRA's Spring Quarterly Meeting is April 15

Our Quarterly WRA meeting will take place on April 15th in the Friendship Hall of the Third Congregational Church. Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Patricia Charles**, the superintendent of the Middletown Public School System.

If, like WRA Executive Committee members, you would like to learn more about the state of the schools in our city, you won't want to miss this opportunity to ask Dr. Charles your questions. WRA members or not, every one is invited to attend.

THE MEETING WIL START AT 7 P.M.

THE PLACE: The Friendship Hall of
Third Congregational Church
94 Miner Street, Middletown

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**Westfield Residents
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 373
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Mail to:

MEMBERSHIP FORM 6

Shred Your Sensitive Papers ! April 13th

From St. Pius

The Peer Ministry Team of St. Pius announces a Community Paper Shred-it event, Saturday, April 13 from 9am – 12noon in the lower parking lot. Clean out your basement, closets, filing cabinets of paper with personal records and vital statistics! Bring all your un-

needed paperwork! Personally watch it get shredded up! Unburden yourself! Support Peer Ministry and enjoy a morning cup of coffee. There will be a \$5 Charge per box and per bag (a shopping bag worth). Middletown's Water Department on Berlin Street.

Your Executive Committee Continues To Follow Middle Street Violations

By Stephen Devoto

We have been following the apparent violations of zoning regulations at 275 Middle Street. This is an industrial property that borders the residential land on Boardman Lane.

The property is owned by Mr. Martorelli, owner of the Galleria, The original site plan for the property called for the installation of a buffer zone between the industrial development and the surrounding residential land.

This has not been done.

We sent a letter to the city last year, and in response the city issued a cease and desist order that should have compelled Martorelli to take action. He did not, and the WRA has sent another letter asking the city to initiate legal proceedings. .

Westfield Fire District Annual Meeting

By Stephen Devoto

The Westfield Fire Department held its 51st annual meeting on February 5th. Ross Andrew was re-elected Fire Commissioner last night, along with Ted Bysiewicz and George King. Andrew has served the Westfield Fire District for decades,

The community room of the fire station was packed with residents, about half were volunteer firefighters and the other half were residents grateful for the excellent service in the district. ID was checked at the door, only resident who are registered to vote were allowed to cast a ballot.



Andrew opened the meeting, starting with a report of the WFD activities. WFD responded to 1064 incidents in 2012, a drop of 13% compared to the previous year. Andrew subdivided the various responses: 4% of the responses were to fires, 7% were to auto accidents, and 8% were mutual aid responses in which the WFD assisted a nearby fire district.



The vice-chair of the Commission led the balloting for Commissioner

After the ballots were counted, Andrew returned to the table, thanked those who had voted for him, and proceeded with the remainder of the annual meeting. He explained that the station needed a new truck to replace a 23 year old rescue truck and a 26 year old pumper. The Commissioners asked those assembled to vote on whether they should proceed in that direction by investigating bonding or financing \$1.5M.

The vote was 78 to 10 in favor of investigating the financing for a new truck.

The Budget and the Superintendent of Schools

By Stephen Devoto

The Common Council will be voting in late April on a budget that includes increased funding for the school system. Dr. Charles will be addressing this and other issues about the schools at our April 15th meeting.

Dr. Charles became Superintendent of Schools late last summer. She is a former Keigwan Principal (1998 - 2002) and Farm Hill Elementary Principal (1990-1998). Charles was Superintendent of the Westbrook School System since 2006. Because she arrived after the budget decisions had been made, she has been working this school year with a budget crafted without any of her input.

The first budget under her administration proposed a \$5M increase in funding.

- Contractual increase in salaries (asking for 7% in-

crease)

- Increased cost of benefits (assuming a 20% increase in costs)
- A need to purchase critical technology infrastructure & hardware (asking for 23% increase)
- State mandates for the new Common Core State Standards, professional development, assessments, and reform efforts
- Tuition for out of district students (33% increase asked for - covers both special need services and magnet school participation)

Mayor Drew has proposed a \$3M increase for the schools. The common Council determines the final budget.

Meet Your WRA Directors

By Cathy Branch Stebbins

Without Arline, you might be wondering how the Westfield Residents Association will move forward and who will be providing the leadership. We want to let you know that the Board of WRA is here to continue leading Middletown's largest neighborhood association. Here's are some bio snapshots of your WRA Board; you may contact any of us through our WRA email address or the good, old-fashioned telephone book.

Hello my name is **Doug Turner**. I've lived in the Westfield section of Middletown my entire life. I currently live within walking distance to my parents house and have no intention of ever moving. I am a third generation owner of Turner & Sons Roofing & Siding, LLC, a Middletown based, family owned and operated company since 1956. I am married to my wife Sarah and we have two dogs, Maya & Casey. In my free time I enjoy working in the yard, splitting wood, fishing, skiing, riding atv's, and spending time with friends & family.

Jennifer Mahr is a former U.S. Coast Guard officer who settled in Middletown in December 2002 when her husband, Timothy, switched careers. She loves gardening, scrapbooking, and walking her dog on Saw Mill Rd, Bell Street, and Boardman Lane. In addition to her WRA duties, Jennifer sits on the Executive Board at Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church, teaches Sunday School to

first graders, writes for the Middletown EYE, is involved as a parent leader at The Independent Day School, and takes care of her three children, Andrew (12), Allison (9) and Anthony (4).

Carolann D'Eon has been retired from Middletown Public Schools since 2002. Prior to retiring, she served on the City of Middletown Charter Revision Commission, the executive committees of Middletown Democratic Town Committee, Middletown Schools Association, and Moody School PTA, as well the first appointed member of the Middletown Board of Education Extern Program. She also volunteered with Girls Scouts of American for many years as a Troop Leader. Carolann began serving on Westfield Residents Association over 15 years ago when Arline Rich became Chairperson of the organization. Carolann is married to her husband Bobby and has two children, Jacqueline and Gregg.

Bill Dougherty moved to Middletown in 2000 and became actively involved with WRA during the Army Reserve Base location negotiation. Bill is an attorney and an expert in LEAN management transformation methodology primarily in knowledge-based businesses; he's also a certified diversity trainer and corporate innovation facilitator. His interests and experience include historical restoration & preservation, landscape architecture, poli-

(Continued on page 5)

Planning And Zoning:

By Stephen Devoto

The difficult economy has lead to a lull in both commercial and residential development proposals in Westfield. There were two significant applications that potentially affected Westfield properties that came before city commissions.

Riverbend and Habitat for Humanity.

Last year the Christian non-profit agency Habitat for Humanity proposed to build two houses on land within the Riverbend subdivision that had been donated to them. Riverbend homeowners protested the development of houses on what they considered protected open space. The homeowners association bought the land from Habitat for Humanity.

Dainty Rubbish

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved with conditions the application of Dainty Rubbish Service, Inc. for a special exception allowing it to condense its transfer station operations now spread over two abutting lots on Industrial Park Road (80 and 90) onto 80 IPR only. The two lots are each about 2.5 acres. The three conditions were a limit of 250 tons of waste per day (the applicant had sought 750), that trucks not be al-

lowed to back up onto Industrial Park Road, and that operations on 80 IPR not be allowed to interfere with ingress and egress to 90 IPR, a rear lot, over an existing easement connecting 90 to IPR.

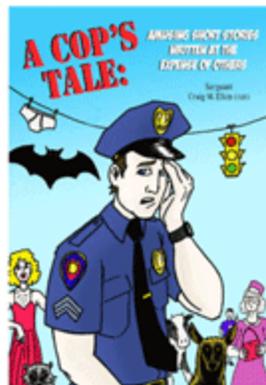
The WRA executive committee extensively discussed whether our organization should support, or oppose the application. We met with the applicants in December and decided to remain neutral. However, after reviewing the comments of the Planning Department staff, and touring the facility with the Planning and Zoning Commission members, we decided to support the application only if approval included the condition that the operation be limited to 200 tons per day. We confirmed that Dainty had been an outstanding neighbor for its entire existence in the neighborhood, We were concerned that companies do change hands, so it is important to tailor the special exceptions to the land and not its current owners.

The application was from the current owners of Dainty Rubbish. The approval has been challenged in court, by the former owner of Dainty Rubbish, who still owns the 90 Industrial Park Road land.

At Russell Library: “A Cop’s Tale”

From Russell Library

Craig Elkin, a retired sergeant from the Middletown Police Department, will discuss his recently published book *A Cop’s Tale: Amusing Short Stories Written at the Expense of Others* on Rescheduled to Thursday, April 18 at 7pm in the Hubbard Room. The book is about the lighter side of his 27 years in the city police department. The book describes some of Elkin's more memorable moments – some with rude or funny law-breakers, some about his ineptitude dealing with animal calls. Elkin was also a 15 year member of the Police Department SWAT Team and the chief accident investigator for Middletown.



Why Westfield!

By Jennifer Mahr

I love living in Westfield for many reasons: one of the most important is the wildlife I see on a regular basis. My family loves to spy foxes, swans, beavers, and wild turkeys. We especially love wild turkeys.

So imagine my surprise and delight when I encountered the fine specimen pictured above. He is not a wild turkey - I'm pretty sure he escaped from the farm near where I was driving. We never did see the object of his affection, but we stopped for a few minutes to admire his strutting and gobbling. Admittedly, the weather has not felt very spring-like, but that didn't seem to bother this guy. I know my children have been anxious to be outside in the warm spring sun, so here's to a warmer weather just around the corner!



Meet Your WRA Directors

(Continued from page 3)

tics, marketing segmentation and business development & growth.

Stephen Devoto moved to Westfield (the old Bacon house on Country Club Road near Smith Park) in 1998 after one year living on the Wesleyan campus and several decades living in a wide variety of other towns and cities on both the east and west coasts of the U.S. He is married with two children, who both graduated from Moody Elementary school. He works as a biologist at Wesleyan, teaching and studying fish, and is a journalist for the Middletown EYE, attending many public meetings to cover the stories of Middletown and its government. In his spare time you can find Stephen riding his bicycle and managing his family's farm, where they keep a garden, bees, and livestock.

Hello, my name is **Cathy Branch Stebbins**. I was born and raised in Westfield and now live in the house across the street from the house I grew up in (where my mother Helen Rogalsky still lives). I'm the executive director of a public housing membership association called CONN-NAHRO and I'm very involved in Middletown community service organizations. Recently I've served on the boards of the Indian Hill Cemetery Association, Middlesex County Historical Society, the Middletown Rotary board, and I've been on WRA for a long time. In my spare time I sometimes write articles for the Middletown Patch. I take care of my daughter Lauren and my husband Dan Stebbins. We love hanging around in our

backyard gardening, watching the honey bees fly, caring for hens, and visiting the koi and turtles in our ponds.

My name is **Ann Loffredo**. My family's lived in Middletown for three generations and I moved to Westfield in 1970. I raised two children Dina and Andy, and my husband is Victor Loffredo. When my children were younger, I was active in the Moody School PTA and was one of the original members of the Middletown Schools Association (MSA). I became active in forming WRA in the early 1970s (even before Arline was involved); we wrote the first set of bylaws for the organization. I had become interested in the need for an association of neighbors when we learned that most of the land surrounding our home had been zoned Industrial. I also served on the Middletown Planning & Zoning Board for about 8 years in the 1980s. My hobbies now are reading, caring for my grandchildren, and I like to go to the movies.

Ron Goodrich has been a Westfield resident since 2002 and a member of the board and Treasurer of WRA for the past 10 years. He's a retired military Sergeant First Class from the Army. Ron's also been Treasurer to the Shiners Hospital "little cars" organization and Chief Aide to the Potentat of the Shrine. He additionally spent 30 years as an ambulance attendant and served as pump engineer for the Windsor Fire Department. Ron now spends his time gardening, splitting wood, and can be seen standing behind the grill for the WRA annual picnic. His goal for 2013 is to stay healthy.

Westfield Fire Department Raised Over \$7000 For Sandy Hook

By Stephen Devoto

Drivers donated over \$7,000 to a fundraiser for the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. The money was donated in a "Stuff a Helmet" event organized by The Westfield Volunteer Fire Department on East Street.

Firefighters and their family members set up signs and several pieces of apparatus outside the firehouse and placed cones down the center line of East Street. Volunteers held out helmets for contributions. Many of those donating were emotional. Some had tears in their eyes - a reflection of the magnitude and brutal rawness of what happened two days earlier and miles away. Darrell Ponzio said it was a meaningful experience for everyone

at the WFD, "We were quite proud to say that we live in a community of such caring and generosity."

The Westfield firemen are going to connect with the Sandy Hook fire chief to ask him for his recommendation for a charity in Newtown that will make the most effective use of the money raised.



Want To Know What Is Happening? Want To Exert Some Influence?

You are getting the newsletter because you care about Westfield and Middletown. The newsletter is just one of the ways you can keep informed.

Read about local news in the newspapers, and in the on-line newsblog, The Middletown Eye (search for it with Google).

Maintain your membership in the WRA, we have accomplished many things in our 32 years of existence, but our continued influence depends on your membership. When City Hall knows that there are a large group of dedicated Westfield residents paying attention to their actions, the government is going to be responsive to our concerns.

If you have any questions about what is happening in Westfield, please contact a member of the executive committee by phone or email. We will be happy to make inquiries at City Hall or elsewhere.

Because we E-mail the newsletter to those who have the service, we have kept the membership cost unchanged: just \$10 for a single membership, \$15 for a couple living at the same address. If you prefer a hard copy, please let us know.

Please renew your membership if you have not done so already.

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.

- 2013 Officers
- Chairperson
Jennifer Mahr
 - Vice Chair
Stephen Devoto
 - Secretary
Carolann D'Eon
 - Treasurer
Ron Goodrich
- Committee Members
- Ann Loffredo
 - Cathy Branch Stebbins
 - Doug Turner
- Alternates
- Bill Dougherty
 - David Brainard

WESTFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.	Address: P.O. Box 373 Middletown, CT 06457
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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: _____