



WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION,
INC.

WESTFIELD NEWS

Est. 1981

Edition #32 Volume 1

October, 2013

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2013

COMING UP: MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

OF THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

94 MINER STREET

Not a debate, WRA's Meet The Candidate Night is a opportunity for the public to hear and talk personally with people seeking their vote. This year there are many official terms expiring. To invite all 19 candidates from each party 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.

Each of the two major parties will have ten minutes to introduce their slate of candidates, and then there will be 20 minutes for you to ask questions of any candidate. .

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

Mail to:

An Arline Rich Pavilion in Smith Park?

By Stephen Devoto

Arline Rich was the single person most responsible for the current success of WRA. She was the chair of the WRA executive committee for many years, she set an example of commitment and dedication that the current and all future executive committees will have to work hard to match.

She was a decades long observer of municipal boards and commissions, and unafraid to do what she could to influence their deliberations. Her dedication, knowledge, and participation certainly influenced every decision that impacted Westfield in the last 20 years..

Arline died in July of 2012, and the WRA executive committee has suggested to the city Parks and Recreation Commission that the pavilion in Smith Park be named the Arline K. Rich Pavilion. This seems entirely appropriate, because Arline served on the Building Committee for what became Smith Park, and because Arline organized so many of the WRA annual potluck picnics in Smith Park just after Independence Day.

We have raised \$200 of the needed \$1800 to pay for a sign with gold leaf lettering. Please consider making a donation to keep the memory of Arline fresh at the Smith Park Pavilion.



Please consider making a donation towards a sign for the Arline K. Rich Pavilion. We will collect donations at the Annual meeting on October 21st, or you may mail a check to Westfield Residents Association, P.O. Box 373, Middletown CT 06457

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

By Stephen Devoto

Country Club Road 15-lot subdivision

The Inland Wetlands Agency approved drainage plans for a new residential subdivision on Massa Tom Road, at the intersection of Country Club. Massa Tom is an old dirt road heading south from Country Club, at the base of Mt. Higby. Massa Tom would be improved for a short distance, and then a new road would access the new houses. The application will be heard at the October 23rd Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting.

Middle Street Office Subdivision

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved a change in the zoning code text which will allow an environmental remediation company, True Blue, to build its headquarters in the IOP zone. True Blue would store some of its equipment at its headquarters, but assured P&Z that there would be no storage of any contamination. Prior to the public hearing, The WRA executive committee met with the CEO of True Blue, reviewed his plans, and spoke in favor of the zoning code text change.

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Meet The Candidates!

(Continued from page 1)

The minor parties and the petitioning candidate will also have a chance to introduce themselves.

Candidates running for Elected Office are listed below, asterix indicates confirmed attendance on October 21.

VOTE NOVEMBER 5th!

Mayor

- *Dan Drew (D)
- John Kilian (Real. Bal.)

Treasurer

- Quentin Phipps (D)
- Molly Salafia (R)

Board of Assessment Appeals

- *David Greaves (D)
- Salvatore Micciulla (R)
- *Aristia Partiss (D)
- *Jon Pulino (R)

Common Council

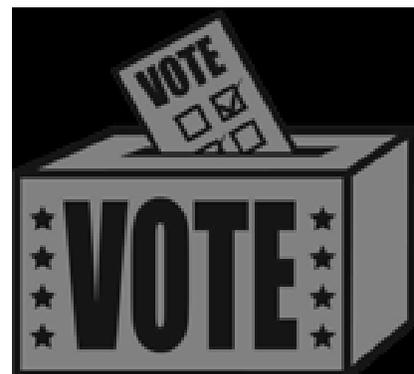
- Mary Bartolotta (D)
- *David Bauer (R)
- Joseph Bibisi (Petition)
- Fred Carroll (Real. Bal.)
- Carl Chisem(D)
- *Gerald Daley (D)
- *Grady Faulkner (D)
- *Nick Fazzino (R)
- Angel Fernandez (R)
- *Sebastiano Giuliano (R)
- *Hope Kasper (D)
- Ryan Kennedy (R)
- Deborah Kleckowski (R)
- *Phil Pessina (Work. Fam.)
- *Sandra Russo-Driska (R)
- *Linda Salafia (R)
- *Robert Santangelo (D)
- Thomas Serra (D)
- *James Streeto (D)

Planning and Zoning

- *Robert Blanchard (D)
- *Jeremy Clark (R)
- *Stephen Devoto (D)
- Daniel Russo (D)
- *Stephen Smith (Real. Bal.)
- *Robert Simpson (R)
- Vinny Szyrkowicz (R)

Board of Education

- Franca Biales (D)
- *Sheila Daniels (R)
- *Richard Kagan (D)
- *Brian Kaskel (R)
- Steven Kovach (D)
- *Vincent Loffredo (D)
- *Linda Szyrkowicz (R)
- *Bill Wilson (R)



BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

By Jennifer Mahr

This year's election cycle will see two familiar faces depart the Board of Education: Republican Ryan Kennedy is leaving the Board of Ed to run for a Common Council slot, and former BOE Chairman Ted Raczka is returning to his life as a private citizen and lawyer. Raczka and Kennedy's departure will devastate the Budget Committee as Raczka was the Chair and Kennedy was one of the other two board members on the committee. If the current government shut down continues, the BOE budget will be impacted when certain federal grants cannot be administered and funds won't be available for the district to use as planned.

Fortunately, the district is in much better financial health than this time last year. At the October 8th Board of Education meeting, there was a projected balance of \$113,876. Of course, it is very early in the year to project a balance, especially when the out-of-district tuition line is already approaching its budgeted amount. The number of students attending magnet schools is at an all time high (285 students), and more students are expected to move to magnet schools as the year progresses. Middletown is already contracted to pay \$720,000 for the 120 students who attend Thomas Edison Magnet School (TEMS) in Meriden, and it costs the District \$5500 for each student who leaves to attend a magnet school. Interestingly, while exit interviews show that parents leave to put their children in STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing, Mathematics), children who attend magnet schools don't have significantly higher test schools than children who stay in their home public schools.

Speaking of CMT scores, Middletown had a significant increase in the Connecticut Mastery Test scores at Bielefield Elementary School this past year, especially for the Hispanic sub-group that has struggled in the past few years. The astonishing rise in test scores has been attributed to the after-school program that ran last year, serving more than 100 children. The district received a \$25K grant for the program and DATTCO donated the busing home. The program was primarily for non-native english speaking children who were able to receive homework help that they were not getting at home. Unfortunately, the program was cut this year for lack of funds, but Superintendent Pat Charles was encouraged by the demonstrated success of targeted help to the sub-groups who struggle.

Unfortunately, Middletown is now transitioning to the new Common Core State Standards, and this curriculum is much different than the curriculum that CMTs test. In some cases, CMT scores dropped for the 2012-13 year because K-2 has had fully implemented Common Core curriculum for the last two years, but last year's third graders had to take the CMT, which measures standards those students had not been taught. The district expects to administer the Smarter Balance test this year,

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

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Riverfront Planning. The city hired a non-profit city planning firm, Project for Public Spaces, to solicit input from the public and to help with the planning for the riverfront that will be available when the city sewage treatment is moved to the regional facility in Cromwell. There have been several public meetings, and the city is awaiting a report from Project for Public Spaces. The next step will be public input on the report, and then action by city commissions on implementing a plan. Westfield Residents Association members Stephen Devoto and Ed Dypa participated in the public sessions.

Mile Lane, 14-lot subdivision

An application has been submitted for a residential subdivision on Mile Lane. The application is scheduled to be heard at the November 6th meeting of the Inland Wetlands Agency.

East Street, 3-lot subdivision

A 2.5 acre lot on East Street, across the street from the Fire House, will be the site of 3 new houses if an application for a subdivision is approved by P&Z.

Neighbors and the Fire Department expressed serious misgivings about the impact of the subdivision on the safety of traffic.

In an unusual move, the Westfield Fire Department retained a lawyer, Mike Dowley, to express its concern about traffic. Dowley said the Fire Department uses 10 large trucks, and during an emergency call, the volunteer fire fighters arrive rapidly at the station, park their vehicles and rush the trucks out for the call. The intersection with Miner Street contains a large green in the middle, which the trucks must use when turning. Dowley urged the Commission to postpone a decision until the impact of the subdivision on traffic could be studied.

P&Z postponed its decision in order to learn more about impacts on traffic safety of this proposal.

HIGBY MOUNTAIN GUN RANGE NOISE

By Stephen Devoto

Those living on the east side of Mt. Higby often hear loud gunfire. The noise comes from the Dingwall Horan Joint Training facility, which both the Police Department and the FBI use for firearms training.

The Training Facility was built in 1982 on the shore of the lower of two city reservoirs at the base of Mt. Higby in Westfield. For 27 years there were few, if any, complaints about noise, this changed after about 2009. This was when the FBI paid \$250,000 to upgrade the facility, building a small building to serve as a classroom, as well as very modestly expanding the length and width of the shooting range.

Captain Moriarty and Sergeant Fuchs, the former and current shooting instructors, said that they suspect that something about the FBI upgrade caused the noise to travel into the neighborhoods. The city has hired an engineering firm, AI Engineering, to determine the cause of the noise increase, and to determine

the feasibility of reducing it. The engineering firm has retained Bennett Brooks, of [Brooks Acoustics](#), to help with the noise analysis.

Mayor Drew expressed optimism that the AI Engineering feasibility study would find the answer to why Westfield "sounds like Beirut or Baghdad." When the study is complete, Drew said the information would be shared with the public in an open forum at the Westfield Fire Station, as well as in meetings of the Public Safety Commission.

The Common Council can approve bonding of up to \$750,000 without holding a referendum, and the three elected officials all agreed to support funding for the noise abatement up to that level. Mayor Drew said that he would ask the FBI to contribute additional money towards the cost of any changes to the facility.

The WRA executive committee will continue to follow developments.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By Stephen Devoto

WRA's fiscal year begins on October first. We are looking forward to another year of effective monitoring to keep Westfield a delightful blend of residential and controlled industrial development.

There are several significant residential subdivisions planned, including East Street, Mile Lane, and Country Club Road. There will be a new business subdivision application on Middle Street. Westfield residents are concerned about the gun noise from the firing range on Higby. And what will happen to the giant Aetna property?

We need a strong and vibrant Westfield Residents Association to monitor all of these plans (and more!). Together can we keep Middletown a great city.

As you know, it is the size of our membership that makes the positive difference when a representative from this thirty-two year old organization speaks for or against an issue at city meetings. To maintain this leverage, we remind you that dues are due for the 2013-2014 year. Your continued membership is of vital importance. Please complete the renewal application below so that we know that we can count on your continued support.

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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
- Deputy 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: _____