



WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION,
INC.

WESTFIELD NEWS

Est. 1981

Westfield News

July 2008



WESTFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
MONDAY JULY 14th, 2008 EATING TIME 6:00 p.m.*
THOMAS G. SMITH MEMORIAL PARK PAVILION
COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, MIDDLETOWN

IT'S SUMMERTIME—TIME FOR WRA'S 11TH ANNUAL PICNIC
A NEW FEATURE HAS BEEN ADDED!

Hamburgers, hotdogs, rolls, condiments and beverages will be provided. The balance of the menu is pot luck and left to your culinary surprise contribution. Bring either a veggie, salad, casserole or dessert. The sampling makes for a tummy-busting feast and creates a party atmosphere and an informal way to meet other WRA members.

New Added Feature This year at our annual picnic, WRA will offer each member in attendance (with the exception of Executive Board Members) a chance at winning a \$50.00 cash prize! Just in time to defer some of those price increases at the pump and the market! Good Luck!

*At 7 p.m.—after dinner, we will have our mandated WRA Quarterly Meeting. Come one, come all. The business portion will be open to everyone concerned about the military center on Boardman Lane

Please Note: This is a rain or shine event. If it rains in only the second time in eleven years, the picnic location will be our usual meeting place: the Fellowship Hall at Third Congregational Church on Miner Street.

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PLANNING AND ZONING Westfield Update April 08 through July 08

Several years ago, Mr. Genarro Martorelli, owner of Stone Resources and The Galleria on Middle Street, applied for, and was granted, a zone change from Residential to Interstate Trade for his other property on 275 Middle Street. However, the two acres on the corner of Middle Street and Boardman Lane containing the home of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Zelek. was left Residential. This April, the Zelek's bought the two acres from Mr. Martorelli and Mr. Caposso. This necessitated a street number change. The IT zone number is now 241 Middle Street.

For those who are wondering about the current northern entrance to the IT property, that entrance will be in violation when the building construction is completed because it is through the 60 foot buffer. The only entrance will be located on the southern side of the property. To shield the residences abutting on the west and north sides of the IT property, the city's zoning code mandates that a 10' wide strip of conifer trees must be planted by the developers.

On May 28th, the agenda contained two proposed Zoning Text Amendments that apply to the entire city. Item 3.2 was to modify Section 46 Flood Area Managements Regulations in accordance with the new standards adopted by FEMA, Proponent PCD Dept. Item 3.3 was a proposed text amendment to add Section 55.1 0 Maintenance Landscaping. Proponent P&Z department. Both were approved.

Membership on Inland Wetlands

Board Members:

- Joe Carta (Chair)
- Phillip Nettis (Vice-Chair)
- Hector Bartoli
- John Coughlin
- Trevor Davis
- Nicholas Fazzino
- Joan Inglis
- Lewis Lukens
- Fred Terrasi

Alternates:

- Corrine Dorsey
- Joan Liska
- Ken McLellan
- Jack Pieper

INLAND WETLANDS

Westfield Update April 08 through July 08

An application for filling and relocation of an existing detention basin and small man-made wetland for the construction of 96,000 sq. ft. of commercial office condominiums with related parking, and utilities, to be located at 306 Industrial Park Road, Applicant/Agent Centerpoint Management LLC. The meeting was continued.



Courtesy of the Jonah Center for Earth and Art

Notes of Interest

UPDATE ON MIDDLETOWN'S PROPOSED MULT-USE BUILDING "THE COMMUNITY CENTER"

After a record number of public meetings, the location for the multi-use building has been chosen. It will be Veterans Memorial Park. WRA member, Mr. Ed Dypa, is a member of the project's Building Committee, so WRA is well represented in the planning process.

The May 29th meeting was held at the brand new, beautiful Parish Center at the St. Francis of Assisi Church. All divisions of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce saw and heard, in detail, the current proposed plans for the project. Planning is still on-going and public input is welcome.

The building will have 68,000 square feet of interior space. Within the building, space will be generously provided for:

1. The expanded health and recreation needs of a Senior Center
2. The Veterans Museum
3. Public Meeting Rooms
4. Sports facilities for youngsters and adults and more

Outside will be more public spaces:

1. 240 parking spaces, including 10 handicapped
2. A number of picnic areas, one sheltered
3. Rest rooms
4. Canoe launching and fishing area
5. Hiking trails
6. A scenic drive through
7. An Ice skating pond
8. Two playgrounds
9. A community recreation field
10. A walking loop and more



The new entrance to the park will be off of Rt. 3 (Newfield St.) with Gateway signs, and, for traffic safety may need a turning lane and traffic signal.

Because of the state of the economy and other public money drains, Mayor Guiliano asked that the completion date for the project be delayed until next year and that the project's financial referendum vote be put on the November ballot.

In summary, when this much needed building and its grounds are completed, Middletown will have a stellar, state of the art complex that everyone can be proud of and enjoy.

New Proposal for "Pistol Creek" Golf Course Land

Because the State again denied Pistol Creek Associates, LLC's zoning application to change Pistol Creek Golf Course land from rural to growth, the Associates decided to sell a major portion of the land to the Town of Berlin. On June 3rd, the Berlin Town Council unanimously voted to appropriate \$5,625,000 to buy 78 of the 98 acres. With Middletown's Planning and Zoning Commissions approval, the donation of the 12 lot subdivision and of 43 acres, on the east side of Atkins Street now belong to Middletown. Pistol Creek Associates retained 20 acres for future development.

Notes of Interest (continued)

FARMLAND UPDATE

At WRA's last October's Farmland and Open Space Meeting, it was announced that the city was to receive a Farm Study Report. The study has arrived but it is so lengthy and detailed that it is still being reviewed by the city's planning departments. As soon as the review is complete, it will be available to the public.

“WESTLAKE PARK”

At our April Quarterly meeting, Bill Maune from the Board of Directors of Trolley Crossing Condominiums spoke of the area property known as “Westlake Park”, located on Westlake Drive. The area consists of tennis courts, a ball field, an island pond with bridges and a picnic area. With the area being so close to the new Middletown Bike Path, Bill and other volunteers have begun circulating a petition in the Condominium and Apartment associations near the Westlake property, seeking support for the possibility that the City could take over the property for public use.

Anyone seeking to sign the petition or for more information can contact Bill Maune at 860-635-6007.

THE P.O.C.D.

The Plan of Conservation and Development, which influences everything that is done in Middletown, is being changed. Bill Warner had said that the public hearings on this would not start until September. Evidently, he changed his mind. Public hearings allowing citizens to comment on the first 5 chapters of the P&Z Commission's revised Plan of Conservation and Development has been scheduled for July 9th at 7 o'clock in the Common Council Chambers.

MANY THANKS!!

Our WRA wishes to thank Kim O'Rourke, Middletown's Recycling Department for an interesting and informative presentation. When Wendy Goodfriend, who was scheduled to be the guest speaker at our WRA April Quarterly Meeting, had to cancel due to a family emergency, Kim stepped in on short notice as our guest speaker. Kim's presentation was very animated. She explained the four recycling issues pending at the CT legislature and, if approved, what it would mean to us in Middletown and Westfield. The “trash talk” was so enlightening—and clean! Again, Thank you Kim. You made the meeting so enjoyable.



Ronald Bartlett

After a long illness, Ronald Bartlett passed away on May 25th, 2008. He was an active early WRA member and served on WRA's Executive Committee when the organization was known as Westfield Residents for the Rational Development of Middletown, Inc. WRA members unite in expressing sympathy to his family and friends.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT THE ARMY TRAINING CENTER

See page 6 for description of the Army Training Center. If you wish to help change the Army's decision to build a huge facility on Boardman Lane, contact your elected officials to give them your opinion of the Boardman Lane site as an Army Training Facility. Request that they persuade the Army Corps of Engineers to relocate the facility to a more suitable location. Here are the addresses of Middletown's federal, state, and town elected officials; the most important to contact are the federal. To locate your representative, go to www.votesmart.org and type in your zip code.

FEDERAL

Most of Westfield is in the 3rd Congressional district, some is in the 1st. Other parts of Middletown are in the 2nd district. All three should care about what happens in our town.

Rosa DeLauro—Congresswoman 3rd District
For email, go to: <http://www.house.gov/delauro/IMA/issue>
59 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(860) 344-1159; (203) 562-3718

John Larson—Congressman 1st District
For email, go to: <https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 278-8888

Joe Courtney—Congressman 2nd District
For email, go to: <http://Courtney.house.gov/email/>
2 Courthouse Square, 5th Floor
Norwich, CT 06360
Phone (860) 886-0139

Chris Dodd—US Senator
Email: Go to Contact Senator Dodd at <http://dodd.senate.gov>
30 Lewis Street Suite 101
Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: (860) 258-6940; (800) 334-5341

Joe Lieberman—US Senator
For email, go to <http://Lieberman.senate.gov/contact/>
One Constitution Plaza, 7th floor
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(860) 347-0119

Paul Doyle—State Senate
Email: Doyle@sanatedems.ct.gov
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100
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Phone: (860) 240-2558

Jodi Rell—Governor
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Executive Office of the Governor
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Richard Blumenthal—Attorney General
Email: Attorney.General@po.state.ct.us
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 808-5387

Susan Bysiewicz—Secretary of State
Email: susan.bysiewicz@po.state.ct.us
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 509-6209

MIDDLETOWN

Mayor:
Sebastian N. Giuliano
348 Maple Shade Road

Common Council
Thomas J. Serra
251 Sisk Street

Vincent J. Loffredo
90 Dora Drive

Robert P. Santagelo
11 Prospect Street

Gerald E. Daley
1478 Bartholomew Road

Ronald P. Klattenberg
222 Round Hill Road

Joseph E. Bibisi
124 Highmeadow Lane

Hope P. Kasper
30 Anderson Road

Philip J. Pessina
140 Maple Shade Road

Grady L. Faulkner, Jr.
35 Snow Ridge South

James B. Streeto
519 Westfield Street

Earle V. Roberts, Jr.
785 Bow Lane

David P. Bauer
174 George Street

WESTFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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2007-2008 Officers

Chairperson
Arline Rich

Vice Chair
Carolann D'Eon

Acting Secretary
Stephen Devoto
and Carolann D'Eon

Treasurer
Ron Goodrich

Committee Members
Kathleen Smythe
Ann Loffredo
Stephen Devoto
Charlotte McCoid
Cathy Branch Stebbins
Richard Graham

THE ARMY TRAINING FACILITY

The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to put a huge Training Center on Boardman Lane. Your WRA executive committee had a special meeting with the commanders of the Connecticut Army Reserve and Army Guard, and Ms. Diane McCartin, who is the manager for this project. This training facility will accommodate up to 9 different military units, and will consist of 4 acres of building and 15 acres of parking lots. Federal Legislation mandated that it be built in Middletown, "if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities."

The WRA executive committee feels that the Boardman Lane site is unsuitable for this purpose, for several reasons. First, there will be no economic benefit to Middletown from a base located at this site, the cafes and hotels of Cromwell, Berlin, and Meriden are closer than those of Middletown. Second, Boardman is a small

country lane that will not foster any interactions between soldiers and the community, beyond the increase in cars and trucks and the likely traffic congestion that will result. Third, this site has extensive ledge and poor drainage, and construction may require extensive blasting. Finally, a base on this site will result in the loss of 88 acres of prime IT zoned land, resulting in a significant decrease in tax revenue for the City of Middletown.

The WRA board does not believe that the Boardman Lane site meets the intent of the legislation, which was to provide economic benefit to Middletown. It is unfair for Middletown to bear a loss of tax revenue and an increase in the need for city services such as fire protection, while suffering a decrease in the quality of life for our residents. The WRA is sending letters to our elected officials asking them to work with the Army to select a site that is suitable, as the law mandates.

WESTFIELD NEWS ON THE INTERNET!

A new blog, called The Middletown Eye, is covering news, government meetings, culture, etc. in Middletown. It is written by Middletown residents. There have been two articles about the Army Training Facility, articles about climbing hills in Westfield, as well as numerous articles about other news and events in our City. Go to the following address in your browser:

<http://middletowneyenews.blogspot.com/>

Westfield Residents Association email

If you wish to receive occasional email about news relating to Westfield, please send an email to:

WestfieldResidents@gmail.com