

WESTFIELD NEWS

Wake and Funeral Mass for Ann Loffredo

Founding WRA member and longtime Middletown activist Ann Loffredo passed away on Thursday evening, May 28th. The wake will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd from 5-7pm at D'Angelos Funeral Home on S. Main Street in Middletown. The Funeral Mass will be held at 10am on Thursday, June 4th at St. Pius Church on Westfield Street. The WRA will greatly miss Ann - her lifetime of community service made Middletown a better place to live. Our deepest sympathies to her husband Vic and the family on their loss.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

WRA'S ANNUAL PICNIC IS EXTRA SPECIAL THIS YEAR!

MONDAY, JULY 13th

START TIME: 6 P.M.

Look for your invitation in June for a special BBQ and dedication ceremony to be held in the pavilion at Smith Memorial Park on Country Club Road in Middletown.

Recent and Upcoming Construction In Westfield

The Interstate Trade Zone along Middle Street and Industrial Park Road remains a very active zone for businesses to relocate.

You have probably noticed the WinWholesale building on Middle Street. The 200,000 square foot regional distribution center replaced one in North Haven, it serves the Northeast. WinWholesale is one of the nation's largest suppliers of residential and commercial construction and industrial supplies and materials.

True Blue Environmental Services secured approval for a new building on Middle Street near the I91 southbound exit. They plan to build a new corporate headquarters, moving from Wallingford.

Further out on Middle Street, near the Berlin Border, Clean Slate Environmental is planning to build a new facility on about 10 acres of land. The new facility will have 1800 square feet of office and almost

10,000 square feet of warehouse space.

Neither of the environmental services companies will transport or store hazardous waste in our city.

Another location of new construction is Liberty Commerce Park, a multi-lot industrial subdivision developed on Bysiewicz Drive, off of Middle Street. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved site plans for new buildings on two of the lots, at its 2nd meeting in October.

Ted Bysiewicz is building new residential housing on Congdon Street West, near the corner of Ridgewood Road. In addition, he has applied for a permit to build 20 homes for active adults, on Ridgewood Road between Congdon Street West and Poplar Road.

FEDEX Ground appears before the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Agency on June 3rd regarding a proposed package distribution facility on the Aetna site.

What Is Happening At The Corner Of Atkins And Bradley?

Farming will continue, but one of Westfield’s oldest homes will not, as a new farming family settles on the Schiemann family property.

Artie Schiemann died in 2012, having spent virtually his entire life as a farmer in Westfield. He grew up on the Bradley Street land his father purchased in 1920; his only time away was when he served his country during World War II in North Africa and Italy. It was a farm where Artie kept a dairy herd of 25 cows, and sold milk commercially from 1950 to 1981. He grew hay, potatoes, turnips, and kept bees, among other agricultural enterprises.

Schiemann farmed the land into his 90s, many Westfield residents bought turnips, young kids got tractor rides, and anybody who stopped to speak with him learned about the life of a farmer. In 2009, Schiemann was honored by the city for having arranged the permanent protection of his family farm. When he was asked why he wanted to preserve the land, he said, “I did it because I thought about my mother and father and how much they loved the farm, And I did it because it made me feel good.”

Schiemann died in 2012, and his property was sold. The new owners are making dramatic changes. They have erected an enormous, steel sided horse barn, big enough for a large riding arena. In addition, they have dismantled Schiemann’s house. Although modest, the house was one of Westfield’s oldest, built in 1747 and listed on the city’s historic registry.

use of the land to agriculture. Michiel Wackers, the Director of Planning and Zoning, reviewed the horse barn proposal, and concluded that this was consistent with the deed, since keeping and training horses is considered an agricultural use. It will be quite different from potatoes, turnips, and hay, but the land will continue as a farm.



There are no deed restrictions on the home, however, as a registered historic property, it was reviewed by the Greater Middletown Historic Preservation Trust prior to dismantling. The Trust considered that it was not prudent or feasible to keep and restore a small, modest house on this property, and gave permission to the new owners to dismantle the house and build a new one. The new owners have hired a well-known architectural salvage company to remove the original floors and paneling, these are being installed in other Connecticut historic homes.



The deed restrictions on the property restrict the

Westfield Residents Association

The WRA executive Committee consists of the following volunteers:

Chair	Jennifer Mahr
Vice-Chair	Cathy Branch-Stebbins
Secretary	Leah Meyers
Treasurer	Doug Turner
Member	William Doherty

The Executive Committee monitors municipal decisions that impact Westfield. This includes land use decisions by the Inland Wetlands Agency and the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as the Parks Department, Public Works, and the Police.

We host an annual potluck picnic in Smith Park in early July, a “meet the candidates” night during election season, and other public meetings in January and April.

If you are concerned or curious about something in Westfield, let us know.

If you would like to become more involved, please speak to any of us, we are always looking for more volunteers.

Westfield Residents Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 373
Middletown, CT 06457

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