

# Breezes

THE WOODRIDGE LAKE P.O.A. NEWSLETTER

SPRING • 2017

## Torrington Pipeline Still On Hold

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It has been a while since the Sewer District has offered an update on the status of the pipeline project that was approved by the taxpayers in April of 2016. At that time, Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLSD) taxpayers approved the appropriation of sufficient funding, in the form of a grant and a loan, from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to cover the expense of constructing a pipeline from our current facility to a point in Torrington where it would merge with the their sewer system and would direct the flow to the city's wastewater facility for treatment.

The project has since received approval from the Inland Wetlands Commissions of both the Town of Goshen and the City of Torrington. It has likewise received approval from the Town of Goshen Water Pollution Control Agency (WPCA). The project also has the blessing of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment (DEEP), the state agency that has oversight and permitting authority with regard to managing wastewater.

Challenges to the proposed route of the pipeline were raised at both the Goshen and Torrington Inlands Wetlands Commission hearings by the Torrington Water Company (TWC), which objected to a part of the route entirely contained within the Route 4 right-of-way but crossing through a small portion of TWC watershed. Although the project had won the approval of both Commissions, the TWC has taken their complaint to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), which has jurisdiction over public drinking water. The DPH has initiated an investigation which, up until now, has brought the project to a standstill.

The TWC states that it is not opposed to the project, only to the route of the pipeline through its watershed. Its challenges rely on speculation and supposition of what the result of a pipeline failure might be on its water supply. The WLSD has countered with professional testimony to the effect that the risk of a failure is minimal and, even in the event of such a failure, the mechanisms for remediating the situation would be timely enough to prevent any effect on their resource.

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The effects of the TWC challenges and the DPH investigation have been to stop progress on the project with the WLSD incurring significant legal and engineering costs as the WLSD seeks to convince the DPH, as well as the public that the project does not pose a threat to any public drinking water supply. An adverse finding by the DPH will put the project in jeopardy and, if an alternative route is required, will add millions of dollars to the cost of the project. Our hope is that the DPH will issue a ruling sometime this spring. We will keep you posted.

The Board of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District

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PAUL J. BENNETT

## Social Committee

By Charlene Dutka

Happy Springtime!

The members of the Social Committee continue to plan summer events as we celebrate our community at Woodridge Lake!

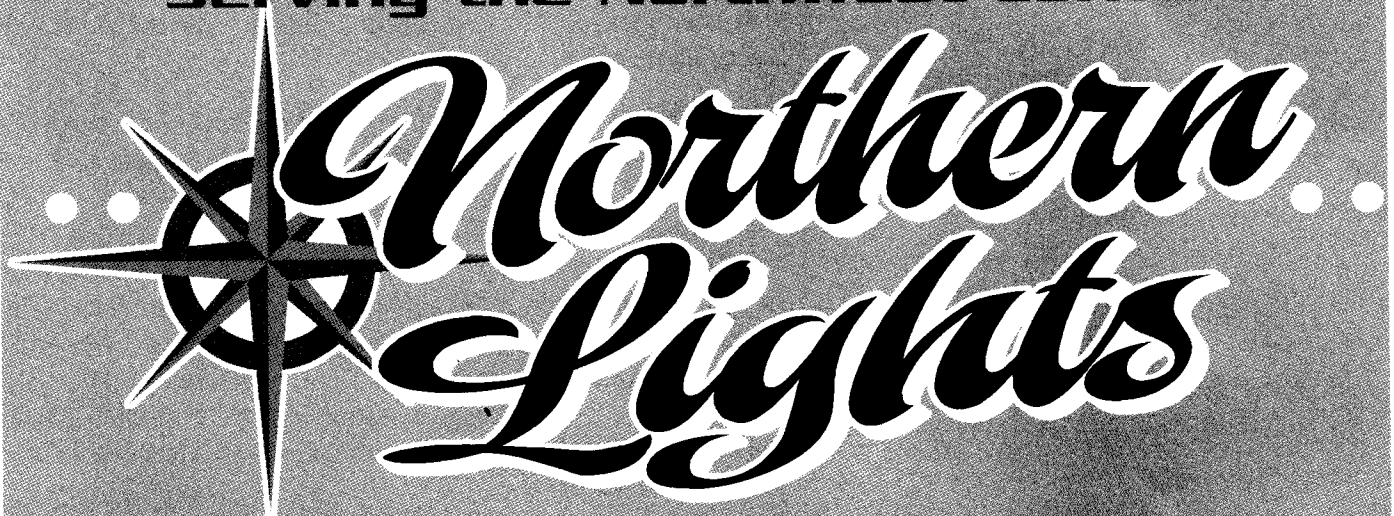
This winter, the Meet and Greet, and Annual Holiday Children's Party were filled with smiling faces! Follow the Social Committee Activities on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/WLSocialPage/>.

The season kickoff will take place on May 27th with our second annual beach front sing-along!

Join us this summer for cook-offs, the second annual cardboard boat race, a wine tasting, swing dancing by the lake, an ice cream social, a t-shirt design contest, and more!

Be sure to read "The Laker" when it's delivered to your inbox to find out the latest happenings. We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer!

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