

# KENT COUNTY DAILY TIMES

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## SENIOR NEWS

A listing of senior meals  
and activities  
for the area

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# Sandy Acres improvements planned

## The project also joins Whipple Conservation Area and Hope Meadows

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COVENTRY—With the help of three grants, the Sandy Acres Recreation area at Sandy Bottom Road will be developed and joined with two other open space areas in Coventry: the Whipple Conservation Area and Hope Meadows.

According to Guy Lefebvre, the director at Parks and Recreation Department, the project will total 56 acres of open space.

"This is property we have had for some time and acquired through other grant funding and town support," said Lefebvre. "The intention was always

to acquire it for public reaction."

The greater vision, he said, has been to amass the three properties together.

The town council recently approved resolutions that accepted three grants and agreements that will fund these projects. The Office of Waste Management at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) awarded the town \$50,000 in grant funding. The Office of Water Resource at RIDEM provided \$60,000 for the town in grants. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service granted the amount of \$143,000 for the use of Piccillo Farm assessments—all three will be used for the development of this project.

Construction will be performed by Urbane Construction Corporation at the cost of \$253,000.

Additionally, the town authorized agreements with Crossman Engineering for \$12,200 and Fuss & O'Neill for \$21,700 for the project's over-site.

According to Lefebvre, the over-site costs will be funded through both the Fish and Wildlife Service and RIDEM.

The project has four components that will be funded under the grants, according to Lefebvre.

The town will remove solid waste material left on the premises, he explained. They will also expand the floodplains of the Pawtuxet River storm water detention basins in order

to manage flood waters before it enters the wetlands.

The third component will be to remove phragmites from the area. According to Lefebvre, the invasive species of plant material continues to expand and poses a threat to the wetlands.

"The risk is that they would completely take over the wetland," said Lefebvre. The species will be eradicated through a three year plan, he said.

The last component of the project includes a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) which will remove the contaminating soil found on the premises. The soil will be removed in small

quantities, according to Lefebvre, and is likely to be encapsulated on-site.

The project will be completed under protocol by RIDEM, said Lefebvre.

These critical four pieces will be completed under the contract for \$253,000 through grants and Lefebvre stated that the town will seek additional grants to fund recreational improvements.

"[Right now], there is open space area in the Whipple property with hiking trails that lead to the river, bird watching and canoeing," said Lefebvre. "Turkey and deer frequent [Hope Meadow] particularly at dawn and

See RECREATION, Page A-3

# Recreation area to get makeover

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dusk which offer a great opportunity to observe wildlife in a natural setting."

Combining these areas with Sandy Acres will provide improved waterfront recreation, according to Lefebvre. He stated that they hope to expand the hiking trails and build a raised boardwalk that will connect the properties.

Nearby high school staff has also expressed increased interest in wetlands education for students, he said.

In order to receive the funding, the recreation department will apply for a grant that will

be announced Sept. 1, according to Lefebvre.

"We will hopefully be considered for some of the grant if not all," he stated. "We will address more as we know more about the project and the [degree] of funding as the project ensues."

This grant available will be a matching grant and even if Coventry receives no funding, Lefebvre expects that at minimum, half of the recreational plans will be carried out.

"Some recreational improvements can be made up to the value of what we would contribute," said Lefebvre.

He reiterated that the

\$253,000 in funding has already been granted and will fully fund the four initial stages of the project.

According to Lefebvre, the project is expected to be substantially complete by June 30, 2012, with the exception of the three year plan to remove phragmites.

Depending on the scope of the recreational improvements, the completion deadline could be extended further, he explained.

"It is a handsome piece of property to use for recreational uses and offers a number of opportunities for residents to use," said Lefebvre.

## BRIEFLY

A community calendar for events in West Warwick and Coventry, as well as events of interest statewide

### Blood Drive

A blood drive is being held tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a donor coach at the West Bay Retirement Living, 2783 West Shore Road, Warwick, from 1 to 5 p.m. at a donor coach at the Summit Technical Services, 355 Centerville Road, Warwick, and from 4 to 8 p.m. at a donor coach at Teamworks, 170 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick.

### Fr. John V. Doyle School Open House and Registration

The Fr. John V. Doyle School Open House and Registration

For more information, call 828-8382.

### Book Babies at Greene Library

The Greene Public Library, 179 Hopkins Hollow Road, is holding Book Babies beginning Friday. The program features puzzles, toys, stories, songs and movement. The program will be held on alternating Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. Stories take place at 10:30.

For more information, call the library at 397-3873.

### Steak Fry

The Knights of Columbus,

the age of 5. Make check payable to Mary Doran, K of and mail to Robert Parentea 15 Campbell St., West Warwick, RI 02893, by Sept. 1. For more information and to make reservations, call 828-8409.

### CHS Class of 1976 Reunion

The Coventry High School class of 1976 is planning its 35th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 8, in the West Valley Inn, West Warwick. Alumni who have not been contacted should call Ann at 822-4395 or e-mail momee59@gmail.com.