

The New Y

To keep the "Y" local was something we all wanted! Where were all our voices when our prior first selectman (woman) vetoed the Y on the Baron's South Property!

This was vetoed because of much the same complaints as today. Residents not wanting the traffic, etc., etc., etc.

We Westporters are very spoiled! Wilton, New Canaan and Darien's Ys are just a few not located "downtown!"

Now let's address the environmental issues. The Westport Y has spent millions redoing their plans to suit Westport's demands. They have spent millions coming up with every solution possible to make sure they will be green, and have no impact on the Saugatuck.

The Darien Y is on the Long Island Sound, the Wilton Y has a brook running by it. These towns have not had an issue.

The term "pick your battles wisely" we should all consider. The pollution from run-off of lawn

chemicals and fertilizers is more detrimental to our river than the Y will ever be; and it is something most are guilty of. Perhaps "let he who has not sinned cast the first stone" is something we need to think about.

The new Y has taken every worry and have done their best to address it. The fact is ... there is no other property for the Y! This is not the Y's decision. This is it ... Mahackeno or no Y!

We have put this wonderful facility through the ringier. They have spent millions trying to "make us happy." They are not in this for profit, they are doing this for the people of Westport and Weston. Personally, I cannot imagine not having a Y. How many of our children have learned to swim, dance, play basketball, have grown up at the Y? Actually, here is another little aside, how many of our children skipped out of class to hang around "downtown;" while we thought they were safely ensconced in the gym! Mahackeno sounds much better!

This Y will be something Westport can be proud of. Realtors used to show the YMCA when they were taking people around town; I think this would happen again.

Westport tends to not recognize so many of its most wonderful assets, and it ruins many in ignorance or for the wrong reasons.

Longshore, one of the most beautiful landscaped properties, is now a nothing, as a matter of fact it is getting rather unattractive with all the magnificent trees being cut down. The unique qualities of our downtown is now just "Mall Street." Large buildings are allowed where the land is too small. Open space and farmland are turned into vacant fields for soccer. (Am I crazy, that I find those more valuable to our children than fields?) The charm of our small downtown movie theaters ... gone. And most important, our river. Yes the pollution from pesticides but more important than any other issue ... we are losing the river. This is huge ... fight for that!

If you really don't care if there is a Y in Westport keep pushing. We will all be traveling to Darien or Wilton for our fitness center or to swim. And our children, what about our children?

A "Y" is a great gift for a town. I, for one, thank them for not giving up, for trying to please us, for caring for us when we have made it so difficult! I hope the Town of Westport will come around to see this wonderful gift and realize that in years to come — it was all so worth it ... keeping the Y and having it at Mahackeno!

MARISOL LAUX
WESTPORT