

## Say yes to Mahackeno

Westport is still a relatively small town, so it's no surprise that we recently became aware of a flyer that is being placed in the mailboxes of Old Hill Road residents by one of the most vocal opponents of the Family Y at Mahackeno.

With the information contained in this flyer, it's apparent that the opposition is once again engaging in a disinformation campaign. We'll leave it to the well-informed and well-known Family Y consultants to provide accurate and factual testimony at the upcoming P&Z hearings. But the claim that the Family Y is pursuing plans for the new facility just "... so that they can have their 50-meter pool at Camp Mahackeno" is just not true.

And yet the opposition continues this drumbeat, despite the fact that they have attended just about every meeting on this subject, they have scrutinized the

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plans for the better part of two years and they know full well that this new facility is way more than a swimming pool.

It is an expanded Gymnastics Center that will accommodate girls who are taller than 61 inches, which the present facility cannot do. (Did you know that the Showtime Gymnastics team participated in the 2007 world gymnastics competition in Dornbirn, Austria and that they were the only YMCA team in the United States chosen to compete in this international competition?)

It is two high school basketball courts with spectator seating; courts that can also be used for volleyball, badminton and fencing.

It is an above-ground Child Care Center with a playground. (This is of particular interest to us since our children currently have to be bused to the Mahackeno Outdoor Center for outdoor play and parade up-and-down Main Street just to get some fresh air.)

It is an enhanced and enlarged fitness center to accommodate the various programs and services that the Family Y provides to improve the health and well-being of the members.

It is more room for the Dance and Performing Arts Center. (In 2006, the Senior Dance Company traveled to Walt Disney World in Orlando where they auditioned for and were chosen, over thousands of other dancers, to participate in a Dance Workshop taught by a senior level Disney choreographer and perform in the 500-seat Galaxy Theater in the Magic Kingdom at Tomorrow Land.)

It is a warm-water pool with a lazy river and a slide for family fun, plus a zero-entry section to accommodate members with physical disabilities or physical therapy needs.

It is co-locating the new Family Y and Camp Mahackeno to provide a full complement of Family Y programs and services, an improved summer camp and expanded access to the open space of the Mahackeno.

If you oppose the new Westport Weston Family Y at Mahackeno, you are entitled to your opinion.

But you really shouldn't play fast and loose with the facts.

*Melissa and Craig Carnahan  
Members and Child Care Parents  
Westport Weston Family Y*