



ARE YOU "MAKING LIFE BETTER" IN MIDDLEBURY?

by Marla Krider

Our Middlebury parks probably play a significant role in your enjoyment of our lovely community: riding your bike or walking along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, the Memorial Day program in Memorial Park, Riverfest in Riverbend Park, a wedding in Krider World's Fair Garden, a picnic, family reunion, senior pictures, fishing, swimming, festivals and/or the Christmas Tree Lighting.

We are fortunate to have so many parks programs in our town. Did you know, however, that many of the activities provided in our parks must be funded by individual donations? Our taxes provide funds for the parks' Operating Budget, but many of the park activities you enjoy do not qualify as an operating expense. Some examples would be Riverfest, decorating the Christmas tree in Memorial Park, art work and other special items for the parks, as well as supplies and speakers for educational programs. These items, and many others, are made possible through generous donations from businesses and individuals like you!

Would you like to support our beautiful parks with your time and your monetary gifts? You might be interested in joining Friends of the Middlebury Parks. You might wish to make a donation to a specific program, or a specific park, or the town Flower Fund. There are several opportunities for supporting the Middlebury Parks by visiting the webpage www.middleburyin.com, clicking the Parks and Recreation tab under the Departments header, and then click the Volunteer and Giving Opportunities tab.



Bundle up, breathe some fresh air, and enjoy some nature sleuthing in beautiful Riverbend Park:

- Find the biggest "tree cookie" in town; read all about it.
- Seek out the wood duck house along the river.
- Look for the bird blind along the Villas Boardwalk Trail.
- Take your binoculars—what can you find?
- Count the bee houses throughout the park. Did you find the one with the bird's nest built on top?
- Pay a visit to the "Water Bars"; pull up a log and learn how it protects the trail from eroding.
- Don't forget to read the January installment of Trail Tales!
- Look up to find the bat house, currently being renovated by some woodpeckers!

SAVE *the* DATES IN 2021

- May 21** Zoo animals in Memorial Park (Middlebury Then and Now)
- June 18** Movie in the Park at Riverbend Park
- June 26** Pasture Performance featuring "The Bergamot" in Riverbend Park
- July 23** Movie in the Park in Riverbend Park
- Aug. 13-14** Summer Festival in Memorial and East Parks
- Aug. 20** Movie in the Park in Riverbend Park
- Aug. 29** Riverfest in Riverbend Park
- Sept. 10-11** Fall Festival in Memorial and East Parks
- Sept. 17** Live Raptors in Riverbend Park (Middlebury Then and Now)
- Nov. 12-13** Mini Golf at the Middlebury Community Public Library
- Dec. 4** Christmas Tree Lighting in Memorial Park

(All programs are tentative due to the pandemic.)



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