



THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY
P.O. Box 140-043 Staten Island, NY 10314 www.wisonline.org

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**Westerleigh
Improvement Society**

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 20th, 2009

Guest Speaker:

**Councilman 50th CD
James Oddo**

Election of Directors



Reports of Officers



Refreshments will be served



Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue

8:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The cool, rainy weather that we are experiencing as I write this message is the forerunner of the beautiful, sunny days that are in the forecast for Westerleigh. Our homes and streets are wonderful displays of the spring season.

The opening of the Westerleigh Little Guys and Gals baseball season on April 18 was the beginning of the spring athletic season for our young people. We also look forward to many activities planned in Westerleigh Park by the Friends of Westerleigh Park and other groups.

The Westerleigh Improvement Society has scheduled its Annual Meeting for May 20 at the Immanuel Union Church. Council Member James Oddo will be our guest speaker. Please plan to attend this important meeting in which many issues concerning our wonderful community will be addressed. It promises to be an interesting evening.

Once again, I invite all residents to attend our monthly Board of Directors meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Immanuel Union Church. The Society also urges all residents to join our organization. It makes our voice stronger when speaking out on issues regarding Westerleigh.

I look forward to greeting you personally at the Annual Meeting or at a monthly Directors meeting in the future.



President Morrell throws out first pitch at opening of the season for Westerleigh Little Guys and Gals at Northerleigh Park on Saturday, April 17th.

Society testifies at Water Board Hearing

Westerleigh Improvement Society President Michael Morrell testified in opposition to the proposed rate increases on residential water bills at the Water Board Hearing April 27 at the College of Staten Island.

Each year for the past several years the Water Board has increased rates for water and sewer usage. Residents on fixed incomes are especially affected by the annual increases.

This year the Board is justifying its new request for a 14% hike because water usage has dropped to levels not seen in many years. This logic-defying reasoning means we pay more to use less! In this era of conservation awareness the city is punishing residents for saving one of our precious resources. There seems to be no end in sight to these increases. President Morrell emphasized the irrationality of the ongoing increases

and the effect they have on homeowners in the current financial climate.

ESCO (Energy Service Company) Marketing

Many residents have reported representatives of energy supplier companies selling their services door-to-door in the Westerleigh area. The Society has been advised by our City Council representatives and the New York City Comptroller's office that utilities (e.g. National Grid, etc.) do not conduct marketing in this manner. The technique is being conducted by independent, unregulated companies known as ESCOs, or energy supply companies.

Under an ESCO, your local utility would continue to deliver the service to your home but the electricity or gas would be provided to the utility by

another company. Please be sure you ask the representative at your door to show identification and do not give out any account information if you are unsure about any offers.

If you desire more information as to rates and comparisons with your current utility's costs, ask the ESCO to provide them in writing. Read all information carefully, especially the fine print. Note your cancellation rights with the energy supplier. You have three (3) business days to opt out of a contract.

Further information can be obtained from the Public Service Commission's ESCO hotline at 1-800-679-7728.

Councilmatic Candidates Forum followup

Community residents had an opportunity Feb. 12 to meet and question most of the candidates vying to become the new City Council representative in the 49th Council District.

The two-hour forum, which was sponsored by the Westerleigh Improvement Society and held in the Immanuel Union Church, drew a sizable crowd to hear five of the six candidates on the ballot discuss why each was qualified to succeed Michael McMahon, who is now the Island's congressman.

On hand were Kenneth Mitchell, Debi Rose, Rev. Tony Baker, Donald Pagano and Paul Saryian. Each candidate was allowed to give an introductory presentation, and then respond within a limited time span to a series of questions asked by moderator Lou Bergonzi. At the conclusion of the evenings, members of the audience were able to ask a limited number of

questions of their own.

Although Mitchell would go on to win the special election by a narrow margin over Ms. Rose, the debate gave those in attendance an insight into many of the problems facing our city in general, and our community in particular, and how some of those problems could be addressed in the future.

The Society wishes to thank the candidates and all those who attended the forum for their participation.

NYC DOT Street Resurfacings on Tap for Westerleigh

A number of Westerleigh streets are slated for milling and resurfacing in the coming months by the NYC Department of Transportation. Some streets were specifically requested to be repaved by the Westerleigh Improvement Society and others are part of the agency's own repaving schedule.

The streets that are tentatively listed for resurfacing are:

WESTCOTT BLVD. (Victory Blvd. to Margaretta Ct.)

WATCHOGUE RD. (Victory Blvd. to Willow Rd. East)

WARDWELL AVE. (College Ave. to Markham Pl.)

LATHROP AVE. (Fisk Ave. to Dead End)

DAKOTA PL. (Waters Ave. to Markham Pl.)

BRYSON AVE. (Lathrop Ave. to Victory Blvd.)

VEDDER AVE. (Willow Rd East to Willowbrook Rd.)

AUBURN AVE. (Crafton Ave. to Dead End w. Cambridge Ave.)

The Society asks residents who feel a street is in need of repaving to let us know and we will forward it to DOT for evaluation.

Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.
P.O.Box 140-043
Staten Island, NY 10314

www.wisonline.org

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Borough Hall Helpline:

(718) 816-2000

120th Precinct:

(718) 876-8500

Congressman Michael McMahon

(718) 351-1062

State Senator Andrew Lanza:

(718) 984-4073

Assemblyman Matthew Titone:

(718) 442-9932

49th District Councilman Ken Mitchell

(718) 556-7370

50th District Councilman James Oddo:

(718) 980-1017

Public School 30:

(718) 442-0462

CommunityBoard #1:

(718) 981-6900

**Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.
Officers:**

President... **Mike Morrell**

Vice President... **Mark Anderson**

Treasurer... **Joe Ficara**

Secretary... **Evelyn Otten MacDonald**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of

Westerleigh Improvement Society Inc.

P.O. Box 140-043, Staten Island NY 10314

Annual Dues:

Regular Membership **\$10** Associate Membership **\$20**

Membership # (3 digit number from upper left of mailing label).....

Name

Address

Phone# (optional)

email (optional)