

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 17, 2006 8 P.M

IMMANUEL UNION CHURCH
693 JEWETT AVE.



Special Guest:

CHRISTINE QUINN
SPEAKER, NYC COUNCIL



**Recipients of
Awards of Appreciation:**

Council Member
MICHAEL MCMAHON

Council Member
JAMES ODDO



**The meeting will include
annual reports by officers
and the election of directors**



Refreshments will be served

NASCAR Update

Despite a flurry of new proposals and promises, the International Speedway Corporation's proposed NASCAR racetrack is still receiving a cool reception by our elected officials as well as strong opposition from a number of civic organizations on Staten Island.

The Westerleigh Improvement Society continues to receive support from our membership on our stand opposing the track. Traffic and other quality of life issues are most important to our members and the Society believes the track will only worsen many of these concerns in our community.

The Society will continue to be vocal in its opposition to the proposed NASCAR track and will keep its members informed of any new developments on this important issue.



Police Activity in Northerleigh Park

The presence of police in and around Northerleigh Park, once rare, has become more and more frequent as this once quiet and peaceful slice of our community has turned into a favorite hangout for youths.

During the past few months the police have been called to the park on numerous occasions to quell disturbances by unruly young people who congregate in the park. Nearby residents have

had property vandalized and their peace disturbed during the late night hours. Large groups of teens have been dispersed by police, only to return later or the next night.

The Society has been meeting with the representatives of the 120 Precinct on a regular basis in an effort to control the situation. Summonses have been issued for disorderly conduct and the park has been given special attention by the Conditions Unit, which monitors the area on an ongoing basis.

Residents who observe criminal activity are urged to call 911 and report the incident immediately. The Society has been represented at the 120 Precinct Community Council, where members have informed Inspector Richard Bruno of the quality-of-life issue.

Ingram Avenue Sewer Project

Forget the flowers; a surer sign of spring in our community is the beginning of another sewer project.

This season's undertaking (officially known as SER-002280) will include storm and sanitary sewer installation on Ingram Avenue, beginning at Victory Boulevard and extending north toward Marble Avenue. It will continue across to Iowa Place, turn onto Seward Place and then proceed down Neal Dow Avenue to Watchogue Road.

Halcyon Construction Corporation will be doing the work, and residents of the affected areas will be notified of the official starting date by flyer. Some preparatory work, however, has already been completed by Keyspan Energy. Halcyon promises the project will be completed as rapidly as possible.

Residents are advised to contact the

Westerleigh Improvement Society should any problems arise during construction

Growth Management Taskforce

The Staten Island Growth Management Taskforce continues to review a series of items involving planning in Staten Island's residential and commercial areas.

The Zoning subcommittee has begun an analysis of the town centers on Staten Island. The Department of City Planning is mapping the location and size of each town center so that zoning appropriate to these commercial areas is developed.

Westerleigh has two main commercial corridors: Forest Avenue and Victory Boulevard. However, smaller centers such as Watchogue Road and Jewett Avenue also exist as commercial overlays in residential zones.

Results of the study will be reported in the Voice of Westerleigh as they are completed.

The next full Growth Management Taskforce meeting is scheduled for May 2006.

Westerleigh Rezoning Update

The Westerleigh Improvement Society's efforts to rezone most of Westerleigh to allow only single family homes on a minimum 40 feet of frontage (R2 designation) has received significant support from one of the borough's most influential elected officials: Borough President James Molinaro.

In a forceful letter to Amanda Burden, director of the Department of City Planning, the borough president writes:

“As you know, the residents of the Westerleigh section of the Borough have been working with your Agency to develop acceptable parameters to rezone portions of their neighborhood from R3-X to R2.

“ ... the reasoning and intentions of this effort are unique and understandable. Most of Westerleigh is currently zoned R2 or R3-X, with smaller sections zoned R3-2 and R3-1. It is the larger R3-X sections that have become the focus of this application.

“While there are two-family homes located throughout the Westerleigh area slated for rezoning, I understand that detached two-family homes represent less than 18% of all the existing building types. Detached one-family homes, conversely, make up almost 76% of the zoning lots.

“I understand your concern for rezoning such a large North Shore area that is adjoining an established transportation corridor. However, the existing R3-X district, while permitting two-families and bolstering the compliance to 94, offers nothing else with regard to protecting the character of Westerleigh. This neighborhood is home to the country’s oldest tennis club, Prohibition Park and has been home to heiress Amy Vanderbilt, poet Edwin Markham and Isaac Funk, co-founder of Funk and Wagnalls. It is the timeless quality of life that this collective neighborhood offers to its residents.....

“The community of Westerleigh wholeheartedly supports this endeavor. The constituency has also garnered the support of Council Member Oddo and McMahan.

“I support this rezoning because I know that in spite of common land use practices, and the notion the R3-X regulations might ‘fit

the mold’ of the built Westerleigh environment, the residents of Westerleigh and the Borough of Staten Island have a lot more to lose if we remain idle.”

The Society thanks the borough president for his efforts on our behalf and will continue to pursue



Patriotic Sunday in Westerleigh Park

Mark your calendar! Patriotic Sunday in Westerleigh Park – one of the community’s most popular events – will take place on Sunday, June 25 at the bandstand.

Once again, the program will feature a performance by the South Shore Band. The group will entertain our guests with rousing patriotic selections and a medley of show tunes. The festivities get under way promptly at 2 p.m.

More information about the program and the afternoon’s planned events will appear in the next newsletter



I.S. 51/P.S.30 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

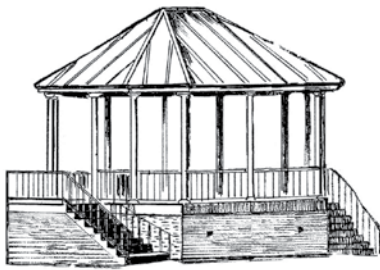
In recognition of outstanding youth in our community, the Westerleigh Improvement Society is awaiting the names of our annual Community Service Awards to graduating students from Intermediate School 51, The Edwin Markham School and P.S. 30, The Westerleigh School.

This awards will be presented in June at each school to a student who exemplifies the ideals of the Westerleigh community. These

Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.
P.O.Box 140-043
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ideals include: character, citizenship and service to the community.

The Award winner will be presented with a handsome wood plaque to proudly display at home, and his/her name will be inscribed on a plaque which can be viewed in the main lobby of the school.

Information on these fine young community members will be forthcoming in a future issue of The Voice of Westerleigh.

(Maine and Willard Avenues) for walking route of historic neighborhood sites which will lead us to Immanuel Union Church (Maine and Jewett Avenues) for 2:00 PM viewing of a new, spectacular DVD presentation –over an hour long—of a virtual retrospective, showing Westerleigh’s significance to us all. Delicious refreshments. Rain or shine..



**Annual
Barrack Memorial Walk**

ALL WELCOME

Sat. May 20, 2006 -1:00-3:00^{PM}

Meet at the Gazebo in Westerleigh Park

**Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.
Board of Directors:**

President... **Mike Morrell**

Vice President... **Rick Wexler**

Treasurer... **Lucille Geller**

Secretary... **Evelyn Otten MacDonald**