

THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

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

January, 2009 Vol. 2 NO. 81 Circulation: 850

Westerleigh Improvement Society

holds



49th



Council District Candidates Forum



Thursday, Feb. 12th, 2009

Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue

7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The economy will be pressing in on all of us in the coming months. The mayor is readying a budget that will offer less in the way of services and Westerleigh residents have already felt the impact of tax increases on our homes.

But through all the dire warnings of cutbacks, I believe we must urge our city leaders not to slash essential services that would endanger public health and safety.

I am writing this message two days after a horrific fire on Jewett Avenue took the lives of two young men. This occurred despite the fact the FDNY responded quickly and with a full complement of equipment. Almost two years ago a fire also threatened to destroy one of Westerleigh's oldest and most stately homes. Quick action by the fire department prevented a disaster.

Essential services such as fire and police must be maintained no matter what the fiscal climate. In Westerleigh I am sure all of us rest more easily knowing that we have Engine 163 and Ladder 83 on Jewett Avenue. In addition, patrols by the 120 Pct. are vital to keeping all of us protected.

We have heard of reductions of essential services being planned for other parts of the city to cut spending. The Westerleigh Improvement Society will be monitoring public safety spending in the coming months and will support efforts to maintain our present level of protection.

If you feel there is any issue that the Society can assist you with, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Focus On:

The NYC Department of Transportation

Of the large number of city agencies that we have contact with in our day-to-day lives, none has a more influential role on how we move about than the New York City Department of Transportation.

According to its mission statement, the Department of Transportation is:

“to provide for the safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible movement of people and goods in the City of New York and to maintain and enhance the transportation infrastructure crucial to the economic vitality and quality of life of our primary customers, City residents.”

The DOT states further that it is a customer-driven agency and will respond to inquiries and complaints from public officials and citizens alike.

It is charged to improve traffic mobility and reduce congestion throughout the city and to rehabilitate and maintain the city’s infrastructure, including bridges, tunnels, streets, sidewalks and highways.

One aspect of DOT’s responsibilities that has resulted in some concern here in Westerleigh has been the problems caused by sidewalks pushed up by tree roots in front of

residential homes. Homeowners are troubled by the responsibility to repair what they feel is a problem caused by a city tree. The DOT website offers specific instructions on how to address the tree root problem:

If your sidewalk problems are caused by tree roots, dial 311 and request an inspection by asking for the Trees and Sidewalks program. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will receive the request and arrange for a tree inspection. DPR will let the property owner know if the sidewalk is eligible for repair under their Trees and Sidewalks program. To repair the sidewalk using a private contractor, you should hire a licensed contractor who will obtain a work permit from DOT. DPR can assist you and your contractor with repairs to sidewalks around street trees free of charge. This work must be coordinated with DPR by dialing 311 and requesting a Root and Sidewalk Consultation. Please note that no street tree roots can be cut without written permission from DPR.

If you have received a Notice of Violation from DOT and DOT repairs the sidewalk, the tree-damaged flags of the sidewalk are non-assessable and the property owner will not be charged for those flags.

The sidewalk defects that are caused by other factors (age, poor drainage, etc.) are still the responsibility of the homeowner and should be repaired promptly.

The NYC DOT website offers

more extensive information on this and other issues dealing with this agency. The website address is www.nyc.gov/dot

49th Councilmanic District Candidates Forum Set for February 12

Community residents will get a chance to meet and question all individuals seeking the City Council seat vacated by Michael McMahon Feb. 12 at the Immanuel Union Church.

A Candidates Forum, hosted by the Westerleigh Improvement Society, will feature several of the current candidates. Topics will focus on the major issues confronting our neighborhoods.

The special election has been set by Mayor Bloomberg for Tuesday, Feb. 24. Since the election is a non-partisan affair, normal party affiliations will not apply. The winner of the February special election must run in the general election in November once again.

Since much of Westerleigh is represented by this Council seat, many of our residents will be able to vote in the election. We urge as many of our residents to attend this important meeting.

The forum is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

This and That.....

The NYC Department of Transportation has advised the Society that the traffic signal at Jewett Avenue and Victory Boulevard has had its timing adjusted to allow for a better flow of traffic along Victory Boulevard at that intersection....

Residents who would like to request a street resurfacing should contact the Society as soon as possible.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Membership Chairman Richard Cirbus is currently in the process of sending out renewal notices to all current members. The Westerleigh Improvement Society needs your support in order to speak out on many important community matters.

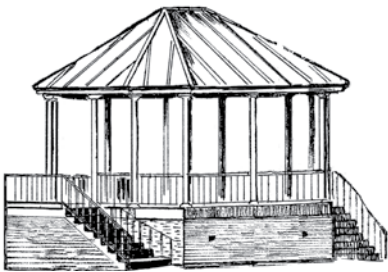
All our current members are urged to return their renewals to the Society as soon as possible. Membership cards will be sent to those who renew.

The Society has a paid membership of more than 600 families in Westerleigh and is eager to maintain and increase its membership each year.

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

(718) 556-7370

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)