



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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William Schorkopf Memorial

Patriotic Sunday

June 28, 2 p.m.
at Westerleigh Park

featuring the South Shore Band

Refreshment will be served,
free bicycle raffles, bring folding chairs
and picnic lunches.



...and arriving shortly!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has arrived in Westerleigh. Our gardens are blooming and the grass is lush from the spring rains. It is so enjoyable to walk through our streets and see the handiwork of so many residents in our community. We should all be proud of the beautiful homes and yards in our neighborhoods.

This month promises to be a busy one in Westerleigh Park. The calendar of events printed elsewhere in our newsletter gives you an idea of what performances and activities are taking place in the park. The summer-long schedule offers something for young and old alike. The month marks the 24th year the South Shore Band has performed in Westerleigh Park. Renamed in memory of our former president, William Schorkopf, the Patriotic Sunday festivities offer stirring performances of traditional favorites as well as light tunes from Broadway.

Many of our streets were resurfaced in the past few weeks. Residents have been forwarding us the locations of other potential resurfacing locations. If you have any additional requests, please send them to us.

Our monthly Board of Directors meetings are suspended for the summer but will resume on Sept. 1. If you have any issues you feel the Society can assist you with, please email us at wis_si@yahoo.com.

Councilman Addresses Annual Meeting

City Councilman James Oddo was the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Westerleigh Improvement Society May 20 at the Immanuel Union Church.

Mr. Oddo informed the well-attended gathering of the many issues facing the Council this spring, primarily the new city budget and the loss of significant tax revenues due to the recession. Mr. Oddo took numerous questions from residents about city services and offered solutions to many problems in the community.



In addition, the Society presented a check to the PTA of PS 30 in support of the annual book fair at the school.

The Society also made a \$2500 contribution to the Immanuel Union Church in recognition of the outreach the church has made over the years to the Westerleigh community.



President Morrell presents check to IUC Rep Charles Kramer

Preservation League Award Given to Society

The Westerleigh Improvement Society was the recipient of the Barnett Shephard Award from the Preservation League of Staten Island in recognition of its efforts to downzone large portions of the community.

The successful effort was a multi-year task and requires the building of single family homes for new construction in the rezoned areas. The new zoning goes a long way to preserve the character of the Westerleigh community.

In addition, the owners of residences at 269 College Ave. and 11 Woodbridge Pl. were given awards by the League for preserving their homes.

The Preservation League award was made to President Michael Morrell at a luncheon held on May 2.

Think Green - Collaboratively!

Educating our community about

our past and present is part of the mission of the Westerleigh Improvement Society. To that end, “The Victoria Barrack Westerleigh Walk” each spring presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase our neighborhood’s themes, people and architectural points of interest. This year was certainly no exception.

Held in conjunction with Earth Day, this year’s offerings featured a venue for adults on one day, and an outreach, age-appropriate program for eight kindergarten classes from PS 30 on several other days during the week of April 22-May 1.

Adults were treated to a virtual walk during a rainy April 22 program at Immanuel Union Church. Led by Chuck Curiazza, the group was guided through a carefully crafted Westerleigh street map that highlighted dates, street names, historical places and site information reaching back to the days of our community’s Prohibition origins. Campground boundaries of the Park, the Great Auditorium, the Fountain, the significance of the Boulevard, the Deems Chapel and the Villa Hotel mixed with the names of Ella Boole, Edwin Markham and James Whitford to spark the conversation. Grace Motola oversaw refreshments during the question-and-answer session that followed.

The children’s programs featured field trips to Westerleigh Park designed to enhance sensory perception as well as identify shapes and colors. Under Sharon Heule’s tutelage, the teachers, students and parent volunteers were able to experience the fun of a scavenger hunt while at the same time adding new words of discovery to their vocabularies.

Our park’s classroom-without-walls was the perfect place for the youngsters to exercise their imagination and

work, then to imitate a “dance of the wind” by hops, skips and jumps around the gazebo. After all, is there a better location to learn about the “Song of the Squirrel” as the group watched them scamper all around? Or to match filigree fences and peek-a-boo lace that the sun patched with shadows on the ground? Or to count triangle rooftops and octagon signs along the roadways?

Each child was given a green logo bag for the team scavenger hunt — important, indeed, to take home interesting finds of tree bark scraps that looked like cloud shapes, fallen blossoms that displayed color nuance and fragility, loose seedpods and sticky balls. And what about finding such “treasures” as a stranger’s lost marble in the mud, or an old red bottle cap that did not make it to the trash?

As the groups shared snacks, hugged a tree, drew pictures of favorite perspectives (a new word!) of the park, and examined the grid patterns on the soles of their sneakers, the youngsters were urged to imitate the sounds of the frog, the crow, and the owl. A fat, courageous caterpillar crawling on multiple furry legs was an unexpected but delightful surprise.

In the end, a discussion about what parks are good for yielded such answers as ballgames, bike riding, walking pets, and listening to concerts — fun things all. But the most votes went to “just hangin’ out in a friendly place.”

In all, more than 150 folks participated in the events focusing on Earth Week and preservation of our neighborhood resources. Thank yous are in order for the many parents’ friendly smiles and digital photos, and for Fran Curiazza’s able assistance in handling objects and supplies.

Let’s hope we keep growing green — collaboratively, of course!

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



Serving the Community for 116 years

IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES IN WESTERLEIGH PARK

June 20 - 2nd Annual Westerleigh Park Folk Music and Art Festival 11:30AM -7:30 PM

June 28 – Westerleigh Improvement Society Patriotic Sunday in Westerleigh Park 2 PM

July 7-14-21-28 - Young Artists in the Park (COAHSI)

July 7 – Rock Fest 7-9 PM

July 26 – Bob Kaiser Band – Tribute to Duke Ellington (COAHSI)

August 4-11 Young Artists in the Park (COAHSI)

August 6 – Borough President Molinaro’s Starlight Concert

August 8 - Hope Nunnery 7-8 PM

August 15 – Stolen 7 PM

Save the date

Saturday, October 10, 2009

7th Annual Community Bus Trip to Ocean Grove NJ
Harvest/Craft Festival with Autumnal High Tea

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)